Evening Telegraph

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1866.

John Van Buren-His Political Career. THE death of John Van Buren removes a man who, without holding high office, or being a great leader, had still achieved a more than ordinarily prominent position among the politicians of the country. His biography is briefly told :- A son of the late ex-President Martin Van Buren, born in 1810, graduated at Yale in 1828; Secretary of Legation to his father, who was Minister to England in 1881-2; elected Attorney-General of the State of New York in 1845, and since that time occupying a high position in his profession as a lawyer.

It was in the political field, however, that "Prince" John; as he was familiarly called. achieved his greatest distinction. The rejection of Martin Van Buren in 1844 by the Democratic Presidential Nominating Convention, on account of his supposed unsoundness upon the question of the annexation of Texas, laid the foundation for the organization of the free-soil Democracy of the North. The rupture came in 1848, when, upon the distinct platform of "no more slave territory." Martin Van Buren was nominated for the Presidency by the Buffalo Convention. Into this contest John Van Buren, then in the height of his powers and his popularity, the idol of the young men of New York, entered with all the enthusiasm of a knight going forth to battle. He stumped the State of New York from Lake Erie to the Hudson, and from the St. Lawrence to the Delaware, addressing immense assemblages of the people, and making a series of speeches which, for brilliancy, power, and true eloquence, have few equals in the whole range of political oratory. He boldly struck the key-note of that "irrepressible conflict" which a few years later was to shake the nation to its centre, His utterances during that memorable campaign read now, in the light of later facts,

like the words of inspiration. The result of the tree-soil movement was the division and overthrow of the Democratic party, and the consequent election of General Taylor to the Presidency. John Van Buren was now at the flood-tide of popularity. He was idol'zed by the people of his native State, having, in addition to his brilliant talents, a personal manner and address most engaging, and was recognized throughout the country as the rising leader of the great revolution that was even then gathering strength for the final onset between treedom and slavery in the nation. Had he remained true to the principles he then avowed, and the position he then occupied, there is hardly a doubt that he would have been called to one of the first offices in the gift of the people. But he failed. Some fatal defect of character-some want of faith in truth-blinded his eyes to the true path of honor and power, and he threw away the finest prospects ever enjoyed by any young man in the country. He went back to the fold of the Democratic party, abjured the glorious principles with which he had inspired the hearts of the people, and sunk to the rank of an ordinary though brilliant politician, never more to rise from it. He frequently appeared upon the stump during political campaigns, but he had lost his hold upon the popular heart. He was witty, argumentative, eloquent even, but the people had lost all confidence in his sincerity. They laughed at his stories, enjoyed his sparkting "good things," cheered his fine passages, and then went away and voted the opposition ticket. In 1856, during the Fremont-Buchanan campaign, he was announced to speak at a great Democratic mass meeting in one of the western counties of the State. The day before the meeting the local Republican papers republished one of his most impassioned free-soil speeches of the great campaign of 1848. The result was, that instead of making one of his usual sparkling efforts in behalf of the Democratic party, he consumed his whole speech in a vain and necessarily feeble effort to reconcile the consistency of his course.

When the Rebellion broke out he had a chance to regain something of his former position, but it was not in him. He vacillated, hesitated, and the current swept by forever.

He dies early, being but a few months over fifty-six years old.

Facis in Regard to the Unseaworthiness of the Lost Steamship "Evening Star," As all the facts respecting the recent loss of the steamship Evening Star are made public, they seem to reflect with great severity upon the company by whom she was owned and run. She appears to have borne the character of a very strongly built and trustworthy boat, so that she was quite a favorite with travellers between New York and New Orleans; but instead of deserving this reputation, she was really a weak boat, had been badly damaged on previous occasions, and only some four months ago "broke her back" by running upon a reef. As soon as she encountered this severe storm she began to behave badly. working and straining to such a degree as finally to break the connecting pipes of the engine and disable it. She was rigged with only a single steering apparatus, which got out of order in the height of the storm, and left her at the mercy of the sea. She had life-preservers for her cabin passengers, but not for the others, nor for the crew, and those she did have proved to be worthless when they came to be tried. She had a shorthanded crew, many of whom were "greenhorns," the company having refused to pay the prices demanded by competent hands.

This is a bad recital of facts for the steamship company, and makes them responsible, to a great extent, for the lives of the nearly three hundred passengers who were lost. A rigid investigation into all the circumstances of this appalling calamity should be made. and if the facts prove to be as reported, no punishment hardly can be too severe for those who, for the sake of gain, so recklessly trifle with the lives of their fellow-men.

Work Well Done.

THE detection and apprehension of criminals is a task the difficulty of which is equalled only by the delicacy which is necessary in administering such punishment as will best tend to secure the ends in view-prevention of future offenses and reformation of past offenders. In both of these respects we think the city of Philadelphia can lay claim to great good fortune. It would be entirely superfluous for us to go into any specification of the qualifications of the judges of our principal criminal court. During the political contest which has just closed, their merits as lawyers and as citizens were fully discussed, and the result of the election showed the estimation in which they were held by a large majority of the law-abiding people of the city.

But perhaps the best evidence that can be brought forward to show their zeal in the protection of the lives and property of those to whom they are indebted for their high judicial positions, is afforded by a glance at the results of one month's work in the Quarter Sessions. During the August term seventy-nine convictions took place in this court. One of the prisoners was convicted on two separate indictments; to three a new trial was granted; and in three cases the sentence was deferred. The seventy-two cases in which sentence was pronounced are classified according to the following table, in which the terms of imprisonment are reduced to the uniform standard of months :-

F		Convicts.			100	45	જ માં	40 %
	CRIME.	Male.	Fernale,	Total.	Total Sentence	Averng	Longes	Shories
,	Arson Perjury Assault and Battery. Violent Assault Mayhem Riot. Burglary Hobbery Larceny Intent to Steal Receiv'g Stolen Goods	1 1 4 1 777 4 32 22 1	1.0000000	111417744222	69 35 12 61 35 96 324 129 520 17 21	60 36 12 50% 36 14 46 30 12% 85 10%	36 94 60 48 35 9	6 36 12 6 8 9
	General Totals	61	11	72	1303	18	60	6

The original hearings in thirty-one cases were before Alderman Beitler, at the Central Station; and nearly every one of these cases was worked up by Chief Detective Franklin and his assistants. Surely no better proof of the efficiency of our Detective Corps of Police could be desired. It should furthermore be remembered that many of these cases required the most persistent and delicate manœuvring before they could be brought to a successful issue. The cases of George S. Roberts and John Mason afford a striking illustration of this fact. Some weeks since we gave a sketch of these two notorious burglars, and of the ingenious machinery, the like of which was never before seen in this country, by means of which they were enabled to carry on their nefarious calling. After months of careful and uninterrupted tracking, they were at last apprehended, and a day or two ago their trial commenced, the indictments against them being taken up, one by one. When placed in the dock, they exhibited that brazen-faced imoudence for which the English "ticket-of-leave man" is notorious throughout the world. They were without counsel, and Mason conducted his own cross-examinations with a coolness that was certainly refreshing. But his shrewdness did not go far with the jury, who were abundantly satisfied of the guilt of the parties, and rendered their verdict accordingly. To-morrow morning their trial on another indictment will be commenced, when a scene very edifying to the lovers of law and order will probably be enacted. Not the less interesting part of it will be the exhibition by the detectives of the engines of burglary which were found in the possession of the prisoners at the time of their capture. Before detectives and judges are done with them, they will be convinced that fortune served them an ill turn when she led them all the way from Van Dieman's Land to the United States.

The Italian Opera.

DEBUT OF SIGNOBA CARMEN POCH IN "IL TRO-VATORE,"-A very large and fashionable audience was present at the Academy of Music last evening, to grace the occasion of the debut of the greatest prima donna attached to Max Maretzek's Opera Troupe-Signora Carmen Poch. This lady is very pretty, plump, and carries herself with ease upon the stage. She is a clever actress and an excellent vocalist. Her voice is a strong and sweet soprano, which has scarcely ripened into the acme of its utility and force. Her rendition of the role of "Leonors," last evening, stamped her as a great artiste, however, and showed plainty that most respectable triumphs are yet in store for her.

As on the first night of the opera, the applause was both generous and general-the encoring being carried rather beyond the usual bounds at the "Italiens," Signora Poch achieved her first victory last evening in the aria concluding the first act, which she executed with great feeling and fine judgment. She repeated it for an encore, and was again called from her hidingplace behind the scenes to receive the plaudits her many and enthusiastic admirers. Throughout the opera her execution was excellent, but in the last act occurred the crowning feat. We allude to the Miscrere duet between Poch and Mazzoleni. This was vociferously encored and repeated.

Signora Natale-Testa (Miss Heron) made a

perfect "Azucena." Her vocalization was ad. JAMES MCMULLAN, BURNS & ATKINSON, DO BBINS have seen. She sang with great spirit and feeling, and made quite a hit. She received a stunning ovation in the fourth act, and already ranks as a favorite artiste. The applause was given in the best style, and Testa has cause to be proud of her achievements.

Mazzoleni sang with much spirit, and was in excellent voice. He was the especial favorite of the ladies, who appreciated fully all of his beautiful and splendidly executed songs. His acting was even better than usual.

Bellini, Fossatti, and Banfi were each very acceptable in their roles, and received a fair share of the applause. Altogether, It Trovalore was a great success, and will bear a repetition. This evening Auber's new version of Fra Piavolo will be given, and Ronconi will assume his most renowned role.

-The Munster Express deplores the great falling off in the Irish flour trade since 1847. There were then 744,000 acres under wheat, producing nearly 3,000,000 quarters. In 1865 the breadth of wheat was reduced to little more than one-third, the produce being something more than \$800,000 quarters. Twenty years ago a large amount of fine flour was exported, almost every stream having its flour mills. Now all this is changed; the mills are deserted, the premises are surrendered to the leadlered as premises are surrendered to the landlord as not being worth the tent, and the water runs to waste. This is especially the case in Tip-perary, where, from being more than 91,000 acres, the land under wheat is now slightly less than

SPECIAL NOTICES.

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CORN EXCHANGE NATIONAL BANK. Philadethella, October 16, 1863.

The Vice-President of the Bank, Alexander Whiliden, Esq., having in May last I i view of a protonged absence in Europe resuned his position, the Board of Directors to day elected J. W. Torre, Esq., Vice-President, and H. F. schetky, Esq., ashies. H. F. schetky, Esq., ashler. 10 17 ALEXANDER G. CATTELL, President.

THE MENDELSSOHN MUSICAL SOCIETY'S First Behearsal will take place WEDNESDAY, October 17, at 7% P. M., No 1011 CHESNUT Street.
For particulars see circulars in Music Stores 1t

NATATORIUM AND PHYSICAL IN-

BROAD Street below Walnut. The exercises for the Winter Season of the Institution MONDAY, October 15.

For reference to Dancing Classes, see circular of M'me MARTIN or Mr RFILLY for reference to Light Gymnastics, Misses' and Ladies' Classes, see circular of M iss HO: KINS.

For reference to Gymnastics for little Boys and Masters, or Parlor Shating, see circular of Dr. Janson, First Class for Boys, ruesoay, the 18th of October, at 4 P. M.

CENTRAL SKATING PARK, FIFTEENTH and WALLACE Streets.

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The circular for the Skating Park, with a new Programme for the coming season, will be out and ready for distribution on Thursday, the 18th Instant.

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