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## AT THIE EVENINQ TKLEGRAPH BUILDINO. 

 \begin{tabular}{c} FRIDAY, NoVEmBER 2, 1866. <br>
\hline The Equalization of Taxation. <br>
$\begin{array}{c}\text { That every dollarts worth of property, of } \\
\text { Whatever chatacter it may be, should bear its }\end{array}$ <br>
\hline
\end{tabular} Whatover clantacter it may be, should bear its different branches of the Goverament, is a

maxim so selfevident as scareely to need
matter to the attention of the public will be maxim so seil-vident as scarcullic will be
matter to the attention of the puble
repetition. Yet the necessity for bringling the clearly percelved by any one who will take
time and trouble to glance at the manifold time and trouble to glance at the manifold
abuses which have crept into our legisiation
on this aubject, and especially into the manon this subject, and especialy into the man-
ner in which the provisions of this legislation
We do not pretend to question the honesty
or intelligence of our local assessors, at least or inteliggence of our local assessors, at east
not as these terms pass current in transac-
tions in which the body politic is one ot the tions in which the body politic is one of the
parties, in such aalairs honesty and intelli-
gence, we regret to say, have received from gence, we regret to say, have received from
time immemorial an interpretation which has
never been and never will be tolerated in the ordinany businese stransactions of private
Individuals. But we think we shall not fall far short of the truth when we say that in placing a valuation upon property of all
kinds for purposes of taxation, a system prevails in this and in in all the other great cities
of this country whicl, to say the least, is extremely loose. There is, of course, no
pressing neeessity for phacing presing necessity for placing upon every
item, real or personal, its actual mar-
ketable value, although to do so in all item, real or personal, its actual mar-
ketable value, although to do so in all
cases would bs the wisest course that
could be pursued. The same purpose will be saswered, however, and precisely the same
sum exacted from each taxpayer, if the tas-
sessment ts based upon a unitorm standard of sessment is based upon a unitorm standard of
one-half or two-thirds or the actual value.
What is needed, and all that is needed, is uni-formity-equality. Nothing short of this is
justice; and yet this is the one thing that is
most visibly lacking. It would serve no purmost visibly lacking, It would serve no pur-
pose to go Into detals. Every taxpayer is
intereated in this matter, and every taxpayer interested in this matter, and every taxpayer
is eatirely familiar with the various influences of a political, social, and business character
wwich lie at the root of the evil of which we
compiain.
That a speedy reform in this one respect
is to be looked for, or hoped for, we gravely doubt. At the present day there is too much
selfishness in poitics and business to permit
us to have such a delightful foretaste of the milleanium. But there is another branch of the subject which calls as loudly for reform,
and to which we desire particularly to refer in this connection. This is the subject of the
total exemption of certain classes or pro-
perty from all the burdens of taxation. The total exemption or certain classes or pro-
perty from all the burdens of taxato. The
Board of Revision have been at work upon
this branch of their labors for a long time past, and they are far from being through
with it as yet. The total assessed valuation of
the real catate which they bave thus far been the real estate which they have thus sar been
obliged by existing legislation to rellieve from
taxation is, in round numbers, $\$ 12,000,0001$ taxation is, in round numbers, $812,000,0001$
When their labors are completed, we do not
doubt that the figures will be nearer doubt that the figures will be nearer
fifteen millions than twelve. Assuming
the larger figures as correct the amount of money which the city loses by this opera-
tion, the present rate of taxation being four tion, the present rate of taxation being lour
dollars in the hundred, is $\$ 600,000-$ a very
considerable sum in times when the treasury runs low. To be sure a large proportion of
the property thus exempted is owned by the the property thus exempted is owned by the
city, and the payment of taxes upon it would
result merely in the transier of figures from one column of the Treasurer's book
another. But even this complication of counts would be worth the whilice for the sik When we come to a comparison of
assesed value of the property exempt fo tassation, with that which is obliged to bear
the burden of suprorting the Government, the burden of supporting the Government,
the necesaity for a wholesale reform will be even more apparent. Owing to the delay
caused by the action of the Boaft of Revision,
it will be impossible, for some weeks yet to caused be impossible, for some weeks yet, to
it wive the valuation of all the property within
git the city limits. The last valuation was ixxe t
at $\$ 162,046,583$. Giving a liberal margin for the increase of the past year, the
new valuation will certainly not exceed new valuation
$8175,000,000$. amount of taxes to be raised under the pre-
sent system, will be $\$ 8,000,000$. But if to the $8175,000,000$ at present subject to taxation
we add the $815,000,000$ now exempted by law, the rate of taxation required to produce
the $\$ 7,000,000$ necessen iy for municipal the $87,000,000$ necesseny for municipal pur-
poses will be weduced from four dollars in poses will be reduced from four dollars in
the hundrei To three dollars and seventy-five
centapt the most. These are the figures, and they need no comment to bring their force to
bear upon the mind and pocket of the tax
payer.
No plausible argument in support of the No plausible argument in support of the
present system of exemption can be brought
forward that will not be more than counterforward that will not be more than counter-
balanced by the necessity for the simple fustice of equality. At present the list of ex
empted property embraces churches, school houses, eegine houses, public halls, cemete-
ries, benerolent institutions, public property Oo, all kinds, and the real estate of rallroads. in particular, should be exempted from taxa
tion, we are at a lose to divine. With regari po, cluurches and benevolent institution



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