

Evening Telegraph

SUPPLEMENT.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1866.

Homes for the Laboring Classes.

We are heartily rejoiced to see that the subject of affording cheap and convenient accommodations for the laboring classes of the population of our large cities is receiving marked attention at the present time. It is a matter which lies at the very root of our national prosperity, in a social, moral, and sanitary point of view. The ignorance, vice, and misery in which the lower classes of the great European capitals are born and bred are owing more directly to their cramped and unhealthy lodgings than to any other cause. This fact is beginning to be appreciated by the philanthropists and economists of the Old World, and many of them are now engaged in a laudable effort to better the condition of the masses of the people in this respect. Although we are, in this country, in a great measure free from the evils which prevail to such a fearful extent in the larger European towns, there is nevertheless a great and pressing necessity for our moving immediately and earnestly in the matter.

This holds true more especially with regard to New York city. Owing to the peculiar configuration of the land on which the commercial metropolis is built, the greatest need, and the one which it is the most difficult to supply, is that of room. It is in such demand for the purposes of business, and for the erection of dwellings for the more wealthy and aristocratic classes, that the laboring man has been forced to go to the very outskirts of the city, if he would enjoy the comforts of a home restricted to his own family, without being compelled to expend in the single item of rent the greater portion of his earnings.

But where, as is the case in New York, the rural districts are situated at a distance of

from three to eight miles from the scene of his daily labors, the inconvenience of such a residence is so great as to render it almost an impossibility.

For this there is but one remedy, and that is, to supply the deficiency of room by going upwards in the air. The reeking tenement-houses of Pearl and Mulberry streets afford an example of the disastrous results of the remedy thus far. The tenements themselves are hotbeds of disease and crime—nothing more and nothing less.

And their proprietors, one would think, as a general thing, are men who are actuated by the single idea of extortion. But certain men, possessed of ample means, and of a still more ample supply of true philanthropy, are about erecting in the more populous portions of the city an immense number of model lodging-houses, in which some attention will be paid to the health, comfort, and morals of those who are dependent upon such as them for shelter, as well as for employment. The plan for the erection of these model tenements that is being discussed is the only one that is feasible. It is absolutely necessary, for the reasons which we have already stated, that the deficiency of room should be met by going upwards.

The laboring population of New York will, therefore, in good time be supplied with comfortable and comparatively cheap residences in buildings similar to the model lodging-houses now so numerous in Paris, many of which are six and even seven stories in height.

While in our own city there is a grand opportunity for improving the lot of the laboring class, there is happily at our command sufficient room to avoid the necessity of erecting suitable houses for them of inconvenient height. Philadelphia is, indeed, world-renowned for the number of small and comfortable tenements intended for and occupied by single families. And we believe that there is within the limits of our city but one locality in which can be found a tenement-house to be compared, in size and corresponding unfitness as a habitation for human beings, to those wretched structures which supply New York with an undiminished stock of imbeciles in body, mind, and morals.

Notwithstanding the number of dwellings which have been erected on our borders within the past few years, there are still, within easy reach of the centre of business, numerous vacant blocks of ground on which lodging-houses for the poorer classes can be erected. This abundance of accessible land makes it possible for us to still supply the demand for small houses. The only difficulties in the way are the high price of building materials, and the exorbitant profits on their investments which at present will alone satisfy the cravings of owners of real estate.

Owing to the combination of these two causes, houses of a class which a few years ago could be rented for a sum that was within the reach of every sober and industrious laborer, are now held at such exorbitant rates as to be utterly beyond the means of many such. The increase in our population, having likewise been far in excess of the increase in the number of dwellings, the holders of real estate are thus enabled to demand, from enough who are able to pay, such rents as they may see fit to establish. We can see but one remedy for the difficulty, and that is the immediate erection of a large number of tenement-houses, which shall accomplish the two-fold purpose of affording decent accommodations for a reasonable rental, while they will return to those making the investment a reasonable percentage on their outlay. If there are any moneyed men in our midst who will be satisfied with a reasonable percentage, it is time that they had commenced to move in the matter. Unlike the philanthropic

capitalists of New York, they have some choice about the character of the buildings which they may erect. While we think it much preferable, as far as the moral and social training of children is concerned, that every family, no matter how humble it may be, should enjoy an entire building to their exclusive use, the erection of tenements of the larger class, such as are common in Paris and are now proposed in New York, might be undertaken here with profit to the projectors and with benefit to the laboring poor. Without doubt, many families would prefer the kind of hotel-life which these would enable them to lead; and at any rate, they would create a wondrous improvement upon the squalid and miserable existence which is led in Bedford street and similar localities.

As far as we are aware, there is now under discussion but one project which partakes of the latter character. A gentleman, well known in this city, has for some past been endeavoring to organize a stock company for the erection of a large tenement-house on a block of ground within half a mile of the Exchange. The intention in this case is to make the building of a substantial character, and, to some extent, of a handsome outward appearance; with the view of securing as tenants those who are able to live with some pretense to ease, and yet are unable to pay the rents demanded for single dwellings which are in accordance with their tastes. Although this movement is not strictly in the interests of the poorer classes of laborers, whose comfort and happiness we have particularly discussed, it cannot fail of accomplishing much good, and we therefore bid it all possible speed.

SPECIAL NOTICES.**COURSE OF LECTURES**
OF THE
S. C. AND S. A.

The Executive Committee of the Social, Civil, and Statistical Association, of the United States, having arranged for the course of Lectures this season, take pleasure in announcing that the

HON. GEORGE S. Boutwell,

of Massachusetts, will deliver the opening address, in the Auditorium, on Friday evening, above Twelfth on RUEY & VENING, November 29, 1866. Subject—“Policy and Justice in Public Affairs.”

The second Lecture will be given by the

HON. FREDERICK D. SAYLOR, Esq.,

on THURSDAY EV. NING, January 3, 1867. Subject—“Sources of Danger to the Republic.”

The remaining Lectures will be continued on each successive Thursday evening until the series is ended.

The Course is to consist of Eight Lectures.

The Orators that have been engaged or invited for the course, independent of the above named

Major-General O. HOWARD,

Major-General F. BULLER,

Senator J. W. NYE,

Mr. F. P. BARBER,

Hon. WILLIAM D. KELLEY,

Hon. W. G. BONN of Md.,

Hon. JOHN A. BIGHAM,

Hon. W. W. COOPER,

THE CELEBRATED BLACK SWAN,

has kindly consented to appear and furnish occasional Season tickets, \$2. Single admission, 25 cents.

Lectures open at 7 o'clock. To commence at 8.

Those who have had a place in the Pier-Market, Seventh and Chestnut streets, and at the door on the evening of each Lecture.

WILLIAM STILL, Chairman.

No. 126 Washington (Coast Office).

J. C. WHITE, Esq., Vice-President.

J. H. BARTHOLOMEW,

G. G. Gillett, Esq., Secretary.

1126 54 Committee of Arrangements.

HANDEL AND HAYDN SOCIETY.

THE SEASON OF 1866-67.

The arrangements of the Society for the coming season being announced as follows:

The three Concerts will be given in the

ACADEMY OF MUSIC,

on TUESDAY EVENING, November 27, at 7½ o'clock.

Addressed to the Hon. Alexander W. Dill, Esq.,

PHILADELPHIA, November 15, 1866.

The remaining Lectures will be continued on each successive Thursday evening until the series is ended.

The Orators to be produced are

ST. PAUL,

DAVID,

The first Concert will take place

on TUESDAY EVENING, November 27, 1866, with

DR. GUILMOTTE, the celebrated Bassoon from Boston.

GEORGE SIMPSON, Tenor of New York.

Mrs. CAROLINE McCARTHY, and

Miss MARY E. DEER, Philadelphia.

Gwin, to the impossibility of assembling a who wish to a ten, and the great expense incurred in originating and preparing the concert, it is proposed for the choice seats to be reserved for the three Concerts.

The solo parts will be sustained by the best professional talent to be obtained. The liberal patronage last season warrants the Directors in the increased expenditure.

The Oratorios to be produced are

ELIJAH,

DAVID,

The second Concert will take place

on TUESDAY EVENING, December 4, 1866, with

DR. GUILMOTTE, the celebrated Bassoon from Boston.

GEORGE SIMPSON, Tenor of New York.

Mrs. CAROLINE McCARTHY, and

Miss MARY E. DEER, Philadelphia.

A great number of solo parts will be sustained by the best professional talent to be obtained. The liberal patronage last season warrants the Directors in the increased expenditure.

The Oratorios to be produced are

ELIJAH,

DAVID,

The third Concert will take place

on TUESDAY EVENING, December 11, 1866, with

DR. GUILMOTTE, the celebrated Bassoon from Boston.

GEORGE SIMPSON, Tenor of New York.

Mrs. CAROLINE McCARTHY, and

Miss MARY E. DEER, Philadelphia.

A great number of solo parts will be sustained by the best professional talent to be obtained. The liberal patronage last season warrants the Directors in the increased expenditure.

The Oratorios to be produced are

ELIJAH,

DAVID,

The fourth Concert will take place

on TUESDAY EVENING, December 18, 1866, with

DR. GUILMOTTE, the celebrated Bassoon from Boston.

GEORGE SIMPSON, Tenor of New York.

Mrs. CAROLINE McCARTHY, and

Miss MARY E. DEER, Philadelphia.

A great number of solo parts will be sustained by the best professional talent to be obtained. The liberal patronage last season warrants the Directors in the increased expenditure.

The Oratorios to be produced are

ELIJAH,

DAVID,

The fifth Concert will take place

on TUESDAY EVENING, December 25, 1866, with

DR. GUILMOTTE, the celebrated Bassoon from Boston.

GEORGE SIMPSON, Tenor of New York.

Mrs. CAROLINE McCARTHY, and

Miss MARY E. DEER, Philadelphia.

A great number of solo parts will be sustained by the best professional talent to be obtained. The liberal patronage last season warrants the Directors in the increased expenditure.

The Oratorios to be produced are

ELIJAH,

DAVID,

The sixth Concert will take place

on TUESDAY EVENING, December 29, 1866, with

DR. GUILMOTTE, the celebrated Bassoon from Boston.

GEORGE SIMPSON, Tenor of New York.

Mrs. CAROLINE McCARTHY, and

Miss MARY E. DEER, Philadelphia.

A great number of solo parts will be sustained by the best professional talent to be obtained. The liberal patronage last season warrants the Directors in the increased expenditure.

The Oratorios to be produced are

ELIJAH,

DAVID,

The seventh Concert will take place

on TUESDAY EVENING, December 29, 1866, with

DR. GUILMOTTE, the celebrated Bassoon from Boston.

GEORGE SIMPSON, Tenor of New York.

Mrs. CAROLINE McCARTHY, and

Miss MARY E. DEER, Philadelphia.

A great number of solo parts will be sustained by the best professional talent to be obtained. The liberal patronage last season warrants the Directors in the increased expenditure.

The Oratorios to be produced are

ELIJAH,

DAVID,

The eighth Concert will take place

on TUESDAY EVENING, December 29, 1866, with

DR. GUILMOTTE, the celebrated Bassoon from Boston.

GEORGE SIMPSON, Tenor of New York.

Mrs. CAROLINE McCARTHY, and

Miss MARY E. DEER, Philadelphia.

A great number of solo parts will be sustained by the best professional talent to be obtained. The liberal patronage last season warrants the Directors in the increased expenditure.

The Oratorios to be produced are