Evening Telegraph

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1866.

The Citizenship and Suffrage of Free Colored Persons During the Revolu-

tionary Era. WE showed yesterday that free colored persons were citizens of the United States at the adoption of the Constitution, and possessed the elective franchise in five, at least, of the original thirteen States. The Articles of Confederation, which were the law of the land from 1778 to the adoption of the Federal Constitution, expressly recognized as citizens "all free inhabitants" of each of the States in the Union. The delegates from South Carolina had attempted to procure the insertion of the word "white" between the words "tree" and "inhabitants," so that the clause might read "all free white inhabitants," but the proposition had been summarily and overwhelmingly voted down, thus showing beyond a doubt that free colored persons were intentionally included in the enumeration of citizens. It hence followed that every slave who was emancipated became at once a citizen of the United States, so that the abolition of slavery included the consequent citizenship of the freedman. In a good portion of the country it also meant his endowment with the elective franchise. Thus we find Governor Morris of Pennsylvania significantly saying, in the Convention that framed the Constitution, when debating the clause fixing the basis of representation :- "Upon what principle is it that the slaves shall be computed in the representation? Are they men? Then make them citizens, and let them vote." This was the logic of the times. The freeman was to be a voter. Accordingly, we find that, in addition to the five States in which, at that time, the free colored man possessed the elective franchise, it was subsequently conferred upon him in Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Vermont, and other States.

This recognized status of the free colored man as a citizen of the United States, and endowed in so large a portion of the country with the elective franchise, is a very important fact, and should be specially kept in mind as we refer to this sentiment of the leading statesmen of that era upon the subject of slavery itself. It they favored the treeing of the slave, they did so knowing full well that it made him a citizen and, in many cases, a voter. The modern "Democratic" idea of a great disfranchised class of free inhabitants, subject to taxation without representation; obeying laws which they have no voice in making; owing allegiance to the State, and bound to defend it with their lives, if called upon by the constituted authorities, and yet deprived of the most sacred franchises of citizens,-this monstrous conception does not seem to have entered into the mind: of the founders of the republic.

That the leading statesmen of the Revolutionary era were opposed to slavery is well known. The impressive utterances of Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Jay, Hamilton, Adams, Franklin, Laurens, Mason, Morris, and, indeed, of almost every man of note of those times against slavery, are only paralleled by the denunciations of Garrison and Phillips of our own day. As early as 1774 Jefferson had published to the world sentiments like these: - "The abolition of domestic slavery is the great object of desire in these colonies where it was unhappily introduced in their infant state. But previous to the enfranchisement of the slaves we have, it is necessary to exclude all further importatious from Africa." In the original draft of the Declaration of Independence, he charges the King of Great Britain with "waging a cruel war against human nature itself" in "captivating and carrying into slavery a distant people who had never offended him." In his "Notes on Virginia" he speaks of slavery at lengthi in terms of the most fearful import-words which, in the light of recent events, read like the inspired utterances of a prophet.

In 1774 Washington reported a series of resolutions to a public meeting in Virginia, one of which reads as follows:-"Resolved. That it is the opinion of this meeting that, during our present difficulties and distress, no slaves ought to be imported into any of the British Colonies on this continent; and we take this opportunity of declaring our most earnest wishes to see an entire stop forever put to such a wicked, crael, and unnatural trade." In 1786 he wrote to Robert Morris in such terms as these :- "I can only say that there is not a man living who wishes more sincerely than I do to see some plan adopted for the abolition of it" (slavery); "but there is only one proper and effectual mode by which this can be accomplished, and that is by legislative authority; and this, as far as my suffrage will go, shall never be wanting .

Franklin's sentiments on this subject were similar to those of Washington, as may be abundantly seen in his writings. He was President of the Penusylvania Abolition Society at the time of his death, and his last public act was the signing, in his official capacity, of a memorial to Congress praying that body to abolish slavery.

John Jay, the first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, and appointed by Washington, as early as 1777 urged the insertion of an article in the Constitution

of the State of New York, adopted in that 1 slavery, "so that in future ages every human being who breathes the air of this State shall enjoy the privileges of a freeman," one of which at that time in New York was the elective franchise. These were the opinions of the first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court at the very time when, according to Taney and his disciples, the opinion was fixed and universal in the civilized portion of the white race," that the "negro had no rights that the white man was bound to

respect!" We might multiply similar extracts indefinitely, but we have sufficiently shown that the sentiment of the great men of the Revolutionary era was almost unanimously in favor of the abolition of slavery. We have also shown that the abolition of slavery at that time involved the national citizenship of the freedmen, and, in many States, his possession of the elective franchise. It can bardly be a matter of doubt that, had slavery been abolished at the time of the adoption of the Constitution, the freedmen would geneally throughout the country have been endowed with all the franchises enjoyed by the white inhabitants. This peculiar, dehumanizing hatred of the colored race is a thing of more recent growth. It is the offspring of that blunted moral sensibility, that deadened sense of justice and right, that political atheism which marked the later years of the rule of the slave power in our land. Even in Tennessee free colored men continued to vote down to within a comparatively recent period. They voted in Pennsylvania until our sham Democracy, in base subserviency to the slave power, disfranchised them.

Slavery has left us this legacy of unjust and unreasoning prejudice, which would determine a man's rights by his physical characteristics. We have not yet escaped from the miasma which that rank and poisonous growth of evil throws off even in its decay. But we are rapidly ascending into a purer and better atmosphere; the sunlight of freedom is chasing away the no some and deadly vapors, and the nation itself is awakening to a grander and nobler life.

A Good Thing out of Nazareth. THE extract we publish below, from the Mobile Times, is one of the few utterances which come to us from the South which recommend themselves to us by common sense. It is a strong argument in favor of the building up of the Southern section of our land by means of emigration from the North. If, instead of one isolated instance, all of the Rebel journals should adopt the tone of the Times, we would hope that speedily the South would arise, Promix-like, from its ashes, and have a glorious future :-

"We shall in a few days be able to place before our readers the charter of a powerful association of capitalists from the very heart of apolitionism, organized for the purpose so often and so strenuously advocated by us, of making large advances to Southern land owners on the plan of the Credit Mobilier of France, and with a view to secure the management and disposal of the crope.

"Such an association would-no matter where it springs from - do more towards practical reconstruction than all the Constitutional amendments or proflers of negro equality ever devised. We bave said, and still insist, that of all the races ever proposed as fit to invite among us, we prefer the American—ray, the Yankee himself, We ask for no better stock to populate the South than that Yaukee himself, and from the moment be shall have deposited in the furrow, watered by the sweat of his brow, the seed which must fractify and supply the bread of his family, we are ready to admit him to all the franchisespoor as they are—which the South ever hopes

"When a poet said that a man's country is where his heart first beat with love, he should have added that it is also where his interest binds him; and it is that feeling, becoming more and more refined as family ties add their charm to material inducements, which threw in the ranks of the Southern armies the tens of thousands of brave Northern men who laid down their livein defeuse of what were then the constitutional righis of sovereign States.

"We want them in our midst, with even their worst prejudices, if they will but bring with them that stubborn and persevering spirit before which at last the brilliant heroism of the South finally fell exhausted-though not van-

'We want their energy and their capital, and the benign influence of Southern society, combined with the balmy atmosphere of the Southern clime, will soon assimilate their nature to "Thea, and not until then, will harmony and peace be restored to our land."

GOVERNMENTS FOR THE TERRITORIES. -The tollowing important resolution, offered by Mr. Broomall, of this State, was adopted in the House of Representatives yesterday, by the overwhelming vote of 107 yeas to 37 ваув:-

"Resoived. That the Committee on Territories be instructed to inquire into the expediency of reporting a bill providing Territorial Governments for the several districts of country within the jurisdiction of the United States, formerly occupied by the once existing States of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Texas, and giving to all adult male nhabitants born within the limits of the United States, or duly naturalized, and not partici-pants in the late Rebellion, full, equal political rights in such Territorial Governments.

AN IMPORTANT MEASURE,-Mr. Colfax is said to have prepared a bill creating the Department of Internal Revenue, of which the present Commissioner of Internal Revenue is to be the head, holding his office for five years, and appointing his subordinates subject to the confirmation of the Senate. The President may temporarily, during a recess, remove the Commissioner for cause, but, the case, with the reasons, must be reported to the Senate within ten days of its reassembling, and, if the Senate refuse to concur in the removal, the Commissioner shall resume his office. The Commissioner may, with the consent of the Senate, remove his subordinates.

AN ABLE SERMON .- We publish on our second page to-day a sermon delivered by Rev. Dr. Nadal, at the Trinity Methodist Church, on the subject of "The Church a Power in Great Cities." It will repay

A SENSIBLE MESSAGE,-Governor Pieryear, providing for the early abolition of pont, in his annual message, gives some very sensible advice to the people of Virginia. He tells them that they will never get better terms than those offered by the proposed Constitutional Amendment, for the Republican party embraces the flower and strength of both the old political parties, and will grow stronger in the future. He reminds them that the South acquired no political power by the surrender; of the Contederate armies. He avers that there can be no disgrace incurred by an acceptance of the terms proposed, and says that the disqualification in Virginia will fall chiefly on that class of persons who were detailed or exempted from serving in the Confederate

RAILEOAD COMMUNICATION BATWEEN CHICAGO AND OMAHA -Railroad communication between Chicago and Omaha is now complete across the State of lowa, except a short gap of thirty-five miles, between Council Bluffs and Woodbine, which is expected to be filled by the first day of January next. When that is done, there will be an unbroken line of railroad, except at the crossing of the Missouri river, from Chicago to the crossing of the North Fork of the Platte, about one hundred miles west of Fort Kearney, in Nebraska, and within forty-eight hours of Denver by stage. The California Overland Mail, between New York and San Francisco, has recently been changed to this

MARTIAL LAW IN MISSOURI,-Governor Fletcher, of Missouri, has declared martial law in Platte and Ray counties-two most detestable plague-spots, Rebel and pro-slavery to the core. The telegraph reported a few days since the breaking-up of a court in Platte county by a conservative mob. The State of Missouri is strong enough to repress these exhibitions of lawlessness, and she should do so with an iron hand. The counties above named are directly east of Leavenworth, Kansas.

THE RECONSTAUCTION COMMITTEE REAP-FOINTLD .- On motion of Mr. Stevens, the House of Representatives yesterday reappointed the Committee on Reconstruction which was appointed last session.

A GOOD CHANGE.- We are glad to see that Senator Cattell, of New Jersey, displaces Cowan on the Finance Committee. The former is a practical financier, as well as sound politically.

N. P. WILLIS, the noted literatteur, is said to be lying at the point of death. He recently sustained a paralytic shock.

SPECIAL NOTICES

Have taken thirty-five First Primums at the principal Fairs held in this country within the last ten years, and also were awarded a First Prize Weda, in competition with 258 Flands from all parts of the world. That, the great superiority of these instruments is now universally conceeded is proven by the Facer that heesers Steinways, sea es improvements and peculiarities of constitucion, have been copied by the great majority of the manuscruter with the manuscruter in the manuscruter Lvery Plano is cons ruc ed with their "Patent Agraffa Arrangement" APPLIED DIRECTLY TO THE FULL IRON

FRAME.
SILINWAY & SONS direct special attention to their stead of the series of the ser The sound-bear is supported between the two frames by an apparatus regulating its tension so that the greatest possible degree of sound-producing capacity is obtained, and regulated to the nicest desirable point. The great volume and exquisite quality of tone, as well as elasticity and promptness of action of hese new Upright Pianos, have elicited the unqualified almiration of the musical profession and all who have heard them. STEINWAY & SONS confidently offer these beauti-

STEINWAY & SONS confidently offer these beautitul'instruments to the public, and invite every lover of
nusic to call and examine them
LETTER FROM THE CELEBRATED EUROPEAN
PLANIST,
ALEXANDER DREYSCOOK,
Court Planist to the Emperor of Russia.
ST PETERSBURG, September 29, 1845.
MESSES STEINWAY & SONS:—I caunof refrain from
expressing to you my undisgrisal admiration of your
nevery respect ma othless orand Planics (which I used
at my last concert in Brunswick) and I desire nothing
in the world so much as to be able to petform upon one
of these masierplaces here. Send me, therefore, (care

at my inst concert in Brauswick). And I desire nothing in the world so much as to be able to perform upon one of these masierplaces here. Send me, therefore, (care of Johann David Heerie & Co., in St. Petersbarg), one of your Concert evand Planos-of course at most moderate artist's price-and inform me, without dela, in which manner I can best remit the purchase-money to you.

Respectfully yours.

ALEXANDER DREYSCHOCK.

LETTER FROM WILLIE PAPE,

Court Planut, o the Royal Family of England.

LONDON England, February 4, 1886.

Mresus Steinway & Sons:-I am much pleased to see the rapid advances you are maxing, and the numerous certificates you have so deservedly ob almed. Should my humble ontolon be of any weight, you may add that I give my foom nux Darboth Plano-forie recital, at Cheltenham on the 18th of this mouth since my arrival here; that during my four annual visits to Paris, I have used the Grand Planos of all the first Europeau manufactures but I have cound no instruments Equal to the one I Putchiased of you. In fact, I consider one of your finest Square Planos equal to any one of the Grand Flanos manufactured here. Truly yours,

Plaulst to H. E. H. the Princess of Weilet.

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And is the most delightful and wonderful article the world ever produced. Ledies will find it not only a certain remedy to Restore, Darken, and Beautify the Hair, but also a desirable article for the Toilet, as it is highly perfumed with a rich and de icate perfume, independent o. the tragrant odor

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work when published. PHILIP A. HIGGINS, our General Agent, is now in the city so iciting advertisements, subscriptions, etc. All communications addressed to him at Box 1480,

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STEINWAY & SONS' direct special attention to their newly invented 'Upright' Planos, with their 'Patent Resenter" and double from Frame. Patent dume 5, 1896. This invention to the fron resme in front in the strainest (in addition to the fron resme in front of the soundboard), with an iron brace trame in the rear of it both trames being case in the five. thereby imparting a solidity of construction and expective is standing in time never before a trained in that class o instrument.

The soundboard is supported between the two frames by an appearant reputating its tension, so that the stockest possible degree of sound producing capacity is obtained and regulated to the nicest desirable point. The areat volume and exquisite quality of tone, as The great volume and exquisite quality of one, as well as clasticity and promptness of action, of these new Upright Hanos have effected the unqualified admiration of the musical profession and all who have heard them.
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\$2 25 Filk meed Corded Poplins, reduced to \$1 50. \$1.37% Empress Cloth Poplins reduced to \$1 \$1.75 Empress Cloth Poplins reduced to \$1.25. Handson e bright Plaid Pop'ins, 81:25, cost \$1:75 Happsome briggt Piald Poplins, 82, cost 82:75,

GREAT BAR TAINS In every variety of DRESS GOODS, as almost all the Dress Goods we are selling are not bringing more than 50 cents on the dollar to the importer.

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Have Received (by Steamer "Peruvian,") Ladies' English, Merino Vests, 81-40. Ladies' English Merino Vests, \$1-60. I adies' English Merino Vests, \$2 00. Ludies' English Merino Vests, \$2 50. Gents' English Merino Vests, 82-87. Domestic Vests and Pants, greatly reduced. Gen's' Vests, reduced from \$1.25 to 87 cents. Gents' Vests, reduced from \$1-87 to \$1 50. As all our FOREIGN GOODS are made for us in

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Works Von Brewen,
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The paintings are now open for exhibition, free, until the evening of sale. 12 3 414p) THOMAS BIRCH & SON, Anctioneers.

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Brokers, is this day dissolved by mutual consent.
The business will hereafter be transacted by B. FRANK
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WATCHES JEWELRY, SILVER, AND SILVER-PLATED WARE, Suitable for the Christmas Holidays.

A call is respectfully solicited. [123 Imra THEODORE SMITH. PERDINAND J. DREER, JR FRANKLIN MILLS

SELF-RAISING BUCKWHEAT.

A new and very choice article. Every family should use it. Directions-When ready to commence aking, mix

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Street have opened a New Rubber Depot, for the sale of Rubber Goods of every description.
Patent Cork Rubber Shoes and Boots.
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Also, Guns, Pistols Ladles' and Gents' Skates, Paried Croquet and Parior Base Ball. Parior Skating, Skating Muffs, Skating Jackets, by PHILIT WILSON & Co.
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No. 409 CHESKUT Street

the batter to the usual consistency.