THE DAILY EVENING THISTOCHERS PHILADILITIES, WEDNISDAY, VERRITARY 13, 1887.

4 HEREMUNA

PUBLISHED EVERY AFTERNOON (SUNDAYS EXCEPTED). AT THE EVENING TELEGRAPH BUILDING,

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1867.

How to Purify the Corruption at Harrisburg.

WE suppose that we may take it for granted that our State Capital is an Augean stable which needs cleansing. If any of our readers have had occasion to visit Harrisburg during a session of the Legislature, they will well remember the mysterious beckonings into corners, the whispered questions as to' what he wants "put through," and the assurance that it can be done "if he will only make it all right." If there is anything calculated to disgust our honest men with elective government, it is a visit to that centre of small corruption, and an interview with the jobbers and lobbyists who throng the halls of legislation. There is no use of pretending virtuous indignation, nor yet of shutting our eyes against that which, however much to be regretted, exists. What we now need is a remedy, and a remedy which will be effective and permanent is a difficult matter to secure.

There seems, however, to be a way of escaping from the power of these corrupt Representatives. The class who indulge in this sort of business-for there are many who make it a business—is divided into the lobbyists or outsiders, and the legislators or officials. The size of our Legislature is such as to hold forth a powerful inducement to bribery. The House consists of one hundred members and the Senate of thirty-three. On every question on which there is any difference of opinion, the Senate must be tolerably equally divided, so that three or four votes will either pass or defeat any public or private bill. The consequences are, that if there be two corrupt members of the Senate, they have a full opportunity of plying their trade of black mail utterly regardless of truth or decency, and almost certainly escape deteteion. In the House of Representatives the same is true to a greater extent, and as the price of a vote is lower, it is easy to purchase a greater number. The result is, that to be a member of the State Legislature is to expose yourself to unjust suspicions, and to be brought in contact with the lowest and vilest kind of political chicanery. The corruption at Harrisburg is seldom sufficiently large in any one instance to reach any show of respectability, but is so petty, so small, as to be only denominated thieving. We think that all this evil can be remedied by increasing the number of members of the Legislature. If, instead of having one hundred and thirty-three, we were to have five or six hundred, there would be no chance for corruption, or, at least, the reward for the purchase of one vote would be so small as to remove all inducements to bribery.

This idea is acted upon in nearly all the New England States. The Legislature of New Hampshire numbers over five hundred, and that of Vermont and Maine almost as large a number. In Massachusetts every town is entitled to a delegate, and we never hear of corruption to any extent being practised. If for every county there were to be five or six, instead of one or two members, we would hold out the strongest inducement to honesty by removing all hoped-for benefits from crime. It may be answered that the expense of such a cumbersome body would be enormous; but let it be considered whether it does not cost the people more to engineer 'all the bills through the present corrupt organization, than it would to honestly pay a larger number for doing their legitimate duty. We are strongly in favor of this reform. "In the multitude of counsellors there is safety," and we hope to see the day when our Legislature will be of such a size as to render all purchasing of votes futile.

We have proposed a remedy, so far as the prevention of bribery is concerned; let us now aim at its detection. As our laws now read, both he who offers and he who receives a bribe are amenable to punishment. The consequence is that a league is established between them, and an inducement held out to both to profess ignorance. If pressed to the wall, either can refuse to testify for fear of crimimating himself, and the matter is forever hushed up. We propose that the law be so amended as to make it criminal for a man to receive a bribe, but not for a man to offer one, We grant that any one who would attempt to influence a public servant by such means deserves punishment; but if the punishment was reserved for one party, it would make him suspicious, and enable the public to detect the guilty representative, either by inducing the briber to turn State's evidence, or by securing proof of complicity by means of such a decoy as is used in the Post Office to detect thieves. Under any circumstances, we think that the result would be beneficial. If the proposed reform were to be adopted, we cannot but believe that much of the corruption which now disgraces our State capital would be remedied, and an honest man not be obliged to hesitate before he takes a seat in a body with an almost disreputable reputation.

A Test Measure. THE prompt passage by the House of Representatives, yesterday, of Mr. Eliot's bill for the organization of a State Government in the State of Louisiana, promises to bring the reconstruction question to a head very soon. The bill will doubtless pass the Senate without delay. We shall then see whether the acting President intends to co-operate with Congress in restoring peace and order to the country,

or whether he intends to keep things in their present unsettled and threatening condition. If he shall sign the bill, all will be well. Should he, however, veto the bill, it will doubtless be promptly passed over his veto, and then he must either back square down, and execute the law, or, by refusing to do so, make a clear and imperative case for impeach-

We welcome the passage of this bill, therefore, not only as right and wise in itself, but as just the thing to bring matters to a distinct and unmistakable issue. We may as well know at once whether our Government is a Government of the people, through their Representatives; in Congress assembled, or whether the arbitary will of one man is to usurp the place of constitutional law.

"Nigging."

MEMBERS of Congress, finding that the process of coining ideas is entirely to trivial for their mighty intellects, have secured the mantle of Ben. Jonson, and intend to supply the language with a new set of words. The following colloquy is found in yesterday's debate on the Eliot bill:-

"Mr. Spalding remarked that there was altogether too much nigging in Mr. Le Blond's ob-Mr. Le Blond retorted that there was little else than sigging done in this Congress, in which his colleague had performed a conspicu-

It is fortunate for our reputation that we were not in Mr. Le Blond's place, for the charge of nigging (?) would have been to us like O'Connell's epithet of "quadilateral" to a fishwoman, it would have utterly overwhelmed us with the vastness and vagueness of insult. With a laudable desire to acquaint ourselves with the new-coined word, we have consulted Webster and Worcester, but by a strange accident this elegant phrase has entirely escaped them. We are accordingly left at sea in regard to what Congress has been guilty of. The mind recoils with horror from the prospect opened by a speculation as to what "nigging" may mean. What can it be? "Congress has done nothing but nigging." Is it the duty of Congress "to nigg?" Can nigging mean robbing? Or is some other yet greater crime insinuated? We find each side uniting in the accusation that the other does not only "nigg" occasionally, but that during the entire session it has been in the habit of indulging in that diversion. Now the only things that are habitual to Congressmen are talking, smoking, and drinking. It may mean any one of these customs, but then Mr. Spalding drags us away from this happy solution by stating that "there was too much nigging in Mr. Le Blond's observations." Now, then, may there not be too much drinking in his observations, or too much smoking, for they were all smoke. We must therefore infer that "nigging" means talking. And if that be the result, we perfectly agree with both Messrs. Spaulding and Le Blond in stating that there has been too much "nigging." Yet this solution is not final, and we still leave our columns open to any one who can answer the question, "What does 'nigging' mean?"

THE GREAT REFORM DEMONSTRATION IN LONpon,-The great Reform demonstration in London on Monday was a splendid success. No cheers for the Prince of Wales, none for Prince Alfred, each of whom witnessed the display, but nine cheers, from twenty thousand men, with uncovered heads, as they passed the American embassy; no "God save the Queen" from the various bands, but "Yankee Doodle," the "Marseilles," "John Brown," and the "Garibaldi" hymn,-these, together with such mottoes as "Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity," "Manhood Suffrage," "Taxation without Representation is Tyranny," sufficiently indicate the character and animus of the great demonstration.

The English nation is fast approaching a crisis whose only issues will be radical reform, or a tremendous revolution. Meanwhile the Government palters, and apparently fails to comprehend the gravity of the situation.

PROGRESS OF LIBERIA .- As Americans, we cannot fail to feel an interest in the progress o the young Republic of Liberia, founded by colored settlers from the United States, in West Africa. A few months since one of the citizens of Liberia, J. L. Crusoe, sent to the United States for a vessel to be built and named "Edina," after the place of his residence, at the mouth of the St. John's river. On Thursday next, another vessel will be launched in New York, to be called the A. Lincoln, built for the enterprising firm of McGill & Brother, at Monrovia. The Edina cost \$10,000, and the A. Lincoln, \$15,000. The latter will sail for Liberia on the 20th of this month. The trade of Liberia in palm off. camwood, sugar, coffee, ginger, ivory, etc., is steadily increasing. Would it not be well to have a line of vessels running from Philadelphia to Liberia?

A SOUND AND LOYAL DECISION.-The Supreme Court of the District of Columbia has unanimously decided that Rebels cannot practise before it. They hold that the late decision, by a bare majority of one, of the Supreme Court in the Garland case, does not apply to or bind the Court in the District. The able opinions read by Chief Justice Cartter, and by Associate Justice Wylie, not only enunciate good sound law, but they are in harmony with the feelings and judgment of the loyal masses of the land. Let us rejoice that there is one United States Court, at least, where the spirit of the infamous Dred Scott decision does not bear sway.

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John C. Allen, No. 238 S. Twelith street,
John M. Whitall, No. 40 Race street,
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Richard Richardson, No. 528 Arch street,
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Samuel Morris, Isar Olney,
E. P. Morris, Germantown, and 805 Market street,
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David Scuil No. 818 Arch street,
W. Kinsey, S. W. cov. Third and Vine streets,
William B. Cooper, near Camden, New Jersey,
S. Emlen, Germantown, and 827 Market street,
Howard Yarnall, No. 822 Mount Vernon street,
Francis R. Close, Germantown, and No. 1 Walnut
street,

OFFICE OF THE NORTH PENNSYL-WALNUT Street. RAILROAD COMPANY, No. 407

WALNUT Street.

PHILADELPHIA, January 10, 1867.

The Board of Directors have this day deciared a Dividence of Five Febr Cast, out of the net earnings, in Scrip, bearing no interest, and convertible into the veven her cent Morigane Bonds of the Company, in sums of Five Hundred Boilars, on and acter MAY 1, 1867, on presentation at the Office of the Company. The Scrip so issued will be delivered to the stockholders, of their legal representatives, on and after the list of FEBRUARY Dext.

The Transfer Books of the Company will close at 3 o'clock this P. M., and remain closed until the 21st metant.

1 15 lm Treasurer.

OFFICE OF TREMONT COAL COM-CHANGE, No. 15 PHILADELPHIA EX-PHILADELPHIA, February II, 1867.

The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the Tre-mont Coal Company will be held at No. 16 Philadel-phia Exchange, in the city of Philadelphia, on TUE'S-DAY, the twenty-sixth day of February, at 12 o'clock M., at which time and place the Annual Election for President and Directors, to serve the ensuing year, will be held. 211 12t GEORGE H. COLKET, Secretary,

OFFICE PENNSYLVANIA RAIL-ROAD COMPANY.

PHILADRIPHIA, January 28, 1861.

NOTICE TO STUCKHOLDERS.

The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of this Company will be held on TUESDAY, the 19th day of February. 1867, at 10 o'clock A. M., at the Board of Trade Rooms, No. 505 CHESNUT Street.

The Annual Election for Directors will be held on MONDAY, the 4th day of March 1867, at the Office of the Company, No. 235 S. THIRD Street.

1 28 194

EDMUND SMITH, Secretary.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE Stockholders of the DARK HOLLOW OIL
AND MANUFACTURING COMPANY will be held
on MONDAY, February 18, 1867, at 40 clock P. M., at
to 2185 WALNUT Street Reem No 4, Second Story.
PHILADELPHIA, JANUARY 30, 1867.

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AN ACT TO CREATE A LOAN FOR THE REDEMPTION OF THE OVERDUE BONDS OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

Whereas, The bonds of the Commonwealth, and certain certificates of indebtedness, amounting to TWENTY-THREE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS, have been overdue and unpaid

for some time past; And whereas, It is desirable that the same should be paid, and withdrawn from the market;

Section 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House Section 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same. That the Governor, Auditor-General, and State Treasurer be, and are hereby, authorized and empowered to borrow, on the faith of the Commonwealth, in such amounts and with such notice (not less than forty days) as they may deem most expedient for the interest of the State, twenty-three millions of dollars, and issue certificates of loan or bonds of the Commonwealth for the same, bearing interest at a rate not exceeding six per centum per annum. rate not exceeding six per centum per annum, payable semi-annually, on the 1st of February and 1st of August, in the city of Philadelphia; which certificates of loan or bonds shall not be which certificates of loan or bonds shall not be subject to any taxation whatever, for State, municipal, or local purposes, and shall be payable as follows, namely:—Five millions of dollars payable at any time after five years, and within ten years; eight millions of dollars payable at any time after ten years, and within fifteen years; and ten millions of dollars at any time after fiteen years, and within fifteen years; and the millions of dollars at any time after fiteen years, and within twenty-five years; and shall be signed by the Governor and State Treasurer, and countersigned by the Auditor-General, and registered in the books of the Auditor-General, and to be transferable on the books of the Commonwealth, at the the books of the Commonwealth, at the Farmers' and Mechanics' National Bank of Philadelphia; the proceeds of the whole of which; loan, including premiums, etcetera, received on the same shall be applied to the payment of the bonds and certificates of indebtedness of the Commonwealth.

Section 2. The bids for the said loan shall be opened in the presence of the Governor, Auditor-General, and State Tressurer, and awarded to the highest bidder: Provided, That no certificate hereby authorized to be issued shall be negotiated for less than its par value.

Section 3. The bonds of the State and certificates of indebtedness, now overdue, shall be receivable in payment of the said loan, under such regulations as the Governor, Auditor-General, and State Tressurer may prescribe; and every bidder for the loan now authorized to be issued, shall state in his bid whether the same is payable in cash or in the bonds, or certificates of indebtedness of the Commonwealth.

Section 4. That all trustees, executors, adminsection 4. That all trustees, executors, admin-istrators, guardians, agents, treasurers, com-mittees, or other persons, holding, in a fidu-ciary capacity, bends or certificates of indebt-edness of the State or moneys, are hereby authorized to bid for the losh hereby authorized to be issued, and to surrender the bonds or certificates of loan held by them at the time of making such bid, and to receive the bonds authorized to be issued by this act.

Section 5. Any person or persons standing in the fiduciary capacity stated in the fourth section of this act, who may desire to invest money in their hands for the benefit of the trust, may, without any order of court, invest the same in the bonds authorized to be issued the same in the bonds authorized to be issued by this act, at a rate of premium not exceed-ing twenty per centum. Section 6. That from and after the passage of this act, all the bonds of this Commonwealth shall be paid off in the order of their maturity.

Section 7, That all loans of this Commonwealth, not yet due, shall be exempt from State, municipal, or local taxation, after the interest due Fabruary 1st, one thousand interest due Fabruary lst, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-seven, shall have been Section 8. That all existing laws, or portions thereof, inconsistent herewith, are hereby re-

Speaker of the House of Representatives.
L. W. HALL,
Speaker of the Senate.
Approved the second day of February, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-seven.
JOHN W. GEARY. JOHN P. GLASS,

In accordance with the provisions of the above act of Assembly, scaled proposals will be received at the Office of the State Treasurer in the city of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, until 12 o'clock M., of the let day of April, A. D. 1867, to be endorsed as follows:—"Proposals for Pennsylvania State Loan," Treasury Department, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, United States of America. America.

Bids will be received for \$5,000,000, reimloursa-

ble in five years and payable in ten years; \$8,000,000, reimbursable in ten years, and priyable in fifteen years; and \$10,000,000, reimburs the in fifteen years and payable in twenty-five years. The rate of interest to be either five or six per The rate of interest to be either five or six per cent, per annum, which must be explicitly stated in the bid, and the bids most a ivantageous to the State will be accepted. No bid for less than par will be considered. The bonds will be issued in sums of \$59, and such higher sums as desized by the loaners, to be free from State, local, and municipal taxes.

The overdue bonds of the Common vealth of Pennsylvania will be received at par in pay-Pennsylvania will be received at par in pay-ment of this loan, but bidders must state

whether they intend to pay in cash or in the everdue leans aforesaid. No distinction will be made between bidders paying in each or overdue loans JOHN W. GEARY, Governor of Pennsylvania.

JOHN F. HARTRANFT,

W. H. KEMBLE, N. B.—No newspaper publishing the above, unless authorized, will receive pay. 27

REMOVAL.

EMOVAL. To accommodate our continually increasing busi-

ness, we have taken the commodious room, SECOND STORY, NEW LEDGER BUILDING, S. W. Corner SIXTH and CHESNUT Stay

(Entrance on Sixth street). Into which we have removed, where we shall be pleased to see our many patrons and trimeds.

J. M. RRADSTREET & SON. J. B. BROOK E. Superintendent Philadelphia Ottica. Philadelphia, February 2, 1887.; 2 2 tm EMOVAL

E. H. THARP, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, REMOVED TO No. 32 South THIRD Street.

COLLECTIONS made on all parts of the Unite States. 221m4p DEER & SEARS REMOVED TO No. 413
PRUNE Street.—DREER & SEARS, formerly or
Goldsmith's Hall, LIBEARY Street, have removed to
ho. 413 PRUNE Street, between Fourth and Fifth
streets, where they will continue their Magnitactory of
Gold Chains, Bracelets, etc., in every variety. Also the
sale of fine Gold, Silver, and Copper. Old Geid and
Silver bought.
January 1, 1863