THE DAILY EVENING TELEGRAPH .- PHILADELPHIA, TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 1867.

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TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 1867.

The Spoils System and its Results. It is now nearly forty years since Andrew Jackson introduced into the poilties of this country the spoils system of appointments to and removals from office. We say introduced, for that system was unknown during the earlier and purer days of the Republic, Washington made but nine removals during his entire term of office of eight years, and these were all "for cause." Politics had nothing to do with them! John Adams made but nine removals of subordinate officers, and none of them on political grounds. Jefferson, elected after a bitter and exciting contest, removed, during his whole administration, thirty-nine persons; but he declared that not one of these removals was for political opinion's sake. Madison made but five removals: Monroe but nine; and John Quincy Adams but two.

In those days the civil service stood on the same ground that the military service stands upon now. Men who entered it made it a life-long business. They studied to perform their duties to the satisfaction of the Government, and to attain distinction and promotion by intelligence and fidelity in their several positions. They measurably stood aloof from partisan politics, their duties remaining the same under various administrations. The consequence was that the public was well served. The interests of the Government were carefully protected. The civil service was filled with intelligent and high-toned gentlemen, all of whose interests were in the line of fidelity and honor.

Jackson changed all this, and introduced a totally new and different system. Under it the offices were to be regarded as only so much plunder, which of right belonged to the conquering party, on the corrupt maxim that to "the victors belong the spoils." We have tried this system under all parties, now, for nearly forty years; and we suppose the judgment of all intelligent men is pretty nearly unanimous, that another so fruitful source of corruption and debauchery, of national demoralization and disgrace, does not exist in our Government. All the services that Jackson ever rendered to his country-and they were great ones-are hardly of a grain's weight compared with the fearful evils that have sprung from the spoils system, which he left as his most important political legacy. It has introduced the most base and sordid elements into our political contests. It has made the civil service redolent of fraud and corruption. The plunder idea has permeated everywhere where a Government office is to be lound. The incumbent, unless better than the system, looks upon his position not as a trust, but as a reward for services renderedone of the spoils of victory; and not knowing how soon he may be ousted by another victor, steals as much as he dares to. Corruption is the rule, honesty the exception. But even a greater evil, perhaps, than this demoralization of the civil service, has grown up under the spoils system. It has become the potent instrument, in the hands of unscrupulous Presidents, of attempts to debauch Congress, control the legislation of the country, and mould the politics of the nation. A President who has determined to carry any particular policy through Congress has every office in the country as a reserve fund with which to influence the people's representatives. We saw how unscrupulously this dangerous power was used by President Buchanan, when he endeavored to force the niamous Lecompton Constitution through Congress. We have lately seen the same power used with equal unscrupulousness by President Johnson, in his efforts to force his unconstitutional reconstruction policy upon the country. It is true that in both instances the attempt has proved abortive. But the danger to our free institutions is nevertheless apparent. It puts in the hands of the Executive a power which the Constitution never meant that he should wield. In some critical hour of the nation's destiny, it might work the overthrow of the Government. Its use to any extent in controlling the action of Congress, or that of the people, is of the most corrupting character. The Tenure of Office bill, in restricting the President's power of arbitrary removal, has struck a powerful blow at some of the worst abuses of the spoils system. But the system itself is bad, and its legitimate fruit is abuse. The true remedy is to lay the axe at the root of the entire system, and to go back to the practice of the Government in its earlier days. Mr. Jenckes' Civil Service bill, defeated last session, was a movement in the right direction. It should not be allowed to slumber, for it is by far the most important reformatory measure now before the American people HARVARD COLLEGE .- The report of the Trea surer of Harvard College gives us some idea of the immense wealth of this corporation :-"The several funds now held by the College amount to \$1,999,505.06. Those separately invested amount to \$2\$2,824.44; the incomon these was \$21,880.94, during the year end ing August 31, 1866. The income on th funds of the College, other than those sepa rately invested, was \$125,230.87. The fund received within ten years past, not paid in cash, amounted to \$654,131.18, including th Bussey trust of \$410,181-18."

Governor Genry and the North Carolina Legislature. THE Provisional Legislature of North Carolina not long since adopted a series of resolutions inviting "all the States, North, South, East, and West," to a National Convention, for the purpose of proposing amendments to the Constitution of the United States. As the gentlemen who passed these resolutions have no legal standing whatever, and are more provisional legislators, their conduct in proposing a convention of all the States to amend the Constitution is, to say the least, somewhat cool. Their proposition comes with the same force that the recommendation of a North Carolina mass meeting would have, and no

more. These resolutions were forwarded to Governor Geary, and by him laid before our Legislature, accompanied by a sensible message, in which the North Carolina gentlemen are properly reminded that it is not the place of defeated traitors "to ask the loyal men of this country to meet them upon equal terms in convention to amend the Constitution they repudiated and attempted to destroy." Governor might very properly have refused to take any notice whatever of resolutions emanating from such an irresponsible source; but, noticing them at all, his comments are eminently just and appropriate.

The Case of Mr. Thomas.

The credentials of Mr. Philip F. Thomas, Senator elect from Maryland, were presented in the Senate yesterday, whereupon a spirited debate sprung up, covering the entire ground of that gentleman's eligibility to a seat. The fact that the Legislature by which he was chosen was itself elected in good part by illegal votes, was brought to the attention of the Senate, as also was the letter of Mr. Thomas resigning the office of Secretary of the Treasury under President Buchanan, on account of the attempt to reinforce Fort Sumter, and in which he denied entirely the power of coercion by the general Government. A recent speech of Mr. Thomas, in which he stigmatized the Senate as a body of men who always had been and were now traitors to the Union, was also brought to notice. The Senate adjourned without coming to a vote upon the motion to refer the credentials to a committee.

We suppose there is no doubt in the mind of any intelligent man who has studied the case, that Thomas gave all the aid and comfort to the Rebels he could, without actually participating in the Rebellion. If he did, or if his election was corrupted by the trampling under foot of the laws of his State, exduding Rebels from the polls, the case is certainly one which requires the careful attention of the Senate. It has been a favorite idea of President Johnson's that Congress could protect itself from disloyal members by simply refusing their admission, and telling their constituents to send up better material. Perhaps a better case for trying the experi-ment will not occur than this of Mr. Thomas,

The English Reform Bill.

THE Government of Great Britain introduced yesterday, so the telegraph informed us, a Reform bill considerably enlarging the number of those enjoying the right of suffrage. The right is now proposed to be conferred upon rate-paying householders of ten years' residence, to men paying one pound yearly taxes. or having thirty pounds in a savings' bank or fifty pounds in the funds, and to all members of the learned professions and graduates of the universities. The bill also provides for a fifteen-pound franchise in the counties. This, of course, is a very long way from manhood suffrage as advocated by John Bright and the advanced Liberals generally. It follows strictly, however, in the line of reform precedents in England, which are for the ruling classes to hold on to their exclusive power just as long as possible, and then to yield just as little as they can. This is the essence of "conservative" philosophy with regard to the subject of reform. Whether this kind of strategy is going to prove as successful in the future as it has in the past may well be doubted. The masses of the Figlish people are becoming daily more intelligent, more conscious of their power, and more clamorous for their rights. The teachings of such men as Mill and Bright are permeating the popular mind. The trade organizations are showing the people their power when combined, and are familiarizing them with organized action. A point may soon be reached-perhaps has already been reachedwhere the opening of the gates of the citadel of aristocratic power ever so slightly shall prove the signal for such a simultaneous rush of the masses as shall overwhelm the keepers, wide open the doors, and faiel

SPECIAL NOTICES. NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING,-JOY.

田 COE & CO. Agents for the "TELEGRAPH" and Newspaper Press of the whole country, have HE MOVED from FIFTH and CHESNUT Streets to No 148. SIXTH Street, second door above WALNUT, OFFICES-NO. 144 S. SIXTH Street, Philadelphia TRIEUNE BUILDINGS, New York. 7 70 241

SOUTHERN FAMINE 13 RELIEF FUND.

CALL FOR INFORMATION.

At a meeting of the "Committee of Distribution, appointed in pursuance of resolutions adopted at a Public Meeting of Citizens of Philadelphia, called for the purpose of raising a Fund for the relief of the day titute and familaning people of the south, on motion

of the Hon, WILLIAM STRONG, h was Resolved, That, by publication in the newspapers of this city, an invitation be extended to all persons who have knowledge of particular | eints in the South where destitution exists, to give immediate information to the Committee.

The Secretary of the Committee of Distribution will be in attendance dally, between the hours of 12 M. and SP. M., at the BOARD OF TRADE ROUMS, No. 505 CHESNUT Street, to receive the information requested by the above resolution. JOHN WELSH.

Chairman Committee of Distribut E 18 Bt NATIONAL BANK OF THE REPUBLIC

PHILADELPHIA, March 12, 1987. In accordance with the provisions of the Nations urrancy act, and the Articles of Association of thi onk, it has been determined to increase the Capita ook of this Bank to one million dollars (\$1,000,000 descriptions from Stockholders for the shares allotte Subscriptions from Stockholders for the shares allows to them in the proposed increase will be payable or the second day of May hext, and will be received a any time prior to that date. A number of shares will remain to be sold, applications for wild in will be re-ceived from persons desirous of becoming Stock holders. By order of the Board of Directors, 3157w JOSEPH P. MUMFORD, Cashier.

CITY TREASURER'S OFFICE. NOTICE.—The Pensions due the Soldiers of FICE, PHILADELPHIA, March 14, 1807, NOTICE.—The Pensions due the Soldiers of the War of 1812 will be paid on and after MONDAY, Barch 15, in the following order:—Names alphabeli-ally iron A to H, on Mondays and Thesdays; from I to R, on Wednesdays and Thursdays; from R to Z, n Fridays and Saturdays. The provisions of the act granting the Pension will estricity enforced. By order of the State authorities

HENRY BUMM, City Treasurer. 3 15 6* POST OFFICE, PHILADELPHIA, PA. Mails for VENEZUELA, by Brazilian steamer leaving New York on the 22d of each month, will close at this office on the 21st day of every month, at 9 o'clock P. M. Postage locents, prepaid, A. N. ZEVELY, Third Assistant P. M. General, 3 18 3t And Special Agent P. O. Department, DON'T BE ALARMED-IF YOU HAVE THE THE ITCH-TETTER-SALT RHEUM-ANY SKIN DISEASE. ITCH-TETTER-SALT RHEUM-ANY SKIN DISEASE. SWAYNE'S OLINTMENT SWAYNE'S OLINTMENT SWAYNE'S OLINTMENT SWAYNE'S OLYMENT Is warranted a quick and sure cure. It allays all liching at once: is purely vegetable; can be used on the most tender intant. SWAYNE'S OLNTMENT" Cures ITCH! ITCH! ITCH! SWAYNE'S OINTMENT "SWATNE'S OINTMENT Cures TETTER! Cures SALT RHEUM! Cures ITCHING PILES! Cures SCALD HEAD! Cures BARBER'S ITCH! 'SWAYNE'S OINTMENT' 'SWAYNE'S OINTMENT' 'SWAYNE'S OINTMENT Cures RING WORMS! CUTES ALL SKIN DISEASES "SWAYNE'S OINTMENT" | COURS ALL SKIN DISEA CURES ITCH IN FROM 12 TO 48 HOURS.

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PHILA The Abnu he Le Mont Gas (DELPHIA. MARCH 19, 1867
The Annu- the PHILADEL FROLEUM COM 0.5. THIRD SU o'clock A. M. and held for efficients to	DELPHIA, MARCH 19, 1867,
the ENTERPRI	DELPHIA, MARCH 19, 1867 ual Meeting of the stockholders of SE PETROLEUM COMPANY will mee. No. 40 S. THIRD Stret. on 1.2. at 9 o'clock A. M. at which time will be held for officers to serve the
3 19 101*	GEORGE W. WAKEFIELD. Secretary and Treasurer.
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