

Evening Telegraph

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MONDAY, APRIL 8, 1867.

The Effort to Stop Reconstruction. We cannot but regard the attempt that is being made to procure an injunction from the Supreme Court restraining the execution of the Reconstruction law recently passed by Congress, as a most ill-advised and unfortunate movement.

In ordinary times we should have no fear of the improper interference of the Supreme Court; but that body has so forfeited the confidence of the people by its partisan action and language, in some of the late cases before it, and has so evidently been controlled not by legal, but by political considerations, that we could scarcely be astonished at any step it might take.

We regret that this question has been raised at all, because the Congressional plan of reconstruction is now in the full tide of successful execution. It is proving itself daily a measure of peace and reconciliation. Its influence upon Southern society in breaking down the old antagonisms of race and color, is almost magical.

Just at this moment, when all of these bright prospects are dawning before the country, an effort is being made to put a stop to the whole work, and to remand us to a fiercer agitation than any through which we have passed. Is this wise? Is there any valuable practical end to be reached by it?

There are many public demands for this movement! None. Considerate men of all parties unite in deprecating it. Even the South, or those who are enabled to speak for her, does not desire it. Said Governor Orr, in his recent great speech before the Charleston Board of Trade:—

"The act of Congress recently passed has assumed that this country is a conquered territory, a conquered people, and consequently that that body has a right to dictate terms. The power exists in that body to dictate those terms; it is secure for the next two years, and when they place themselves squarely and broadly upon that platform, I, for one, do not propose to go to the Supreme Court, or anywhere else for the purpose of disputing that power; but in good faith I will accept the terms, humbly as they may be, and openly, fairly, and squarely urge their adoption before our people."

Our own opinion has been, and is, that "the hand of Job" is in this matter. Sharkey, who makes the application for the writ, was one of Johnson's Provisional Governors. We have no doubt that he acts in accordance with the suggestions of his superior officer. The whole movement is of a piece with that obstinate contempt of public opinion, and disregard for the good of the country, which has become so characteristic of the author of "My Policy."

BELLEVILLE.—Richmond must have an atmosphere which is calculated to produce collisions between fellow-citizens. On Saturday no less than three contests took place:—One between the Hon. Joseph Segar and Collector James, in which the former endeavored to strangle the latter; another between a Captain Roche and a merchant named Harvey, in which the former was knocked down; and the last, of course, was an affair in which the redoubtable Pollard was concerned,

and which ended in that "Chevalier's" arrest. We do not wonder that Northern men have some little hesitation about returning to the South, for what are their chances if the Southerner cannot even feel sure of safety from assault.

The Value of Russian America. It seems that the popular impression of the comparative worthlessness of the Russian possessions is not shared in by some of our most intelligent military officers. Thus Quartermaster-General Meigs says that "he can conceive of no greater boon to our Pacific States" than the acquisition of that territory would be.

Commodore Rogers says of the southern part of the Russian possessions, that "we should get a strip of shore much like Norway, which supplies Europe with immense quantities of timber. The shore being an eastern coast as regards the ocean, is much warmer than a western one. The first is a minor consideration, but the fisheries and timber may be very valuable, the timber particularly so to a coast so bare as that of the Pacific."

General Halleck telegraphs from San Francisco that the value of the country is greater than has been supposed, and that the rejection of the treaty would cause great dissatisfaction on the Pacific coast, and especially in California.

Growth of Musical Taste in America. We think that it is the Rev. Sidney Smith, who divides a nation's progress into the days when the citizens strove only for subsistence, the days when they labored to accumulate money, and finally, the time when they learned how to spend it. Writing, as he did, in the early part of the century, he explained the absence of fine arts in the United States by asserting that they belonged to the third period, and that America had not yet completed the money-making epoch in her history.

The old theatre-goers may have cause for regret that the days when Macready was in his prime, when Mrs. Charles Keen was Ellen Tree, and Junius Brutus Booth, Sr., had not yet lost his genius and his health by dissipation, are gone by. It may be anything but complimentary to compare the actors of the present with Forrest as a young man, or Barry Sullivan, or Kemble before they wore themselves out. But in contemplating the opera in America we see only cause for congratulation.

Although it requires no great stretch of memory to look back over all the companies which have been in our midst, yet it is pleasant to run over the names of the "prime donne" who have, in the few short years since the Academy has been opened here, visited us. The announcement of the arrival of another troupe, and the commencement of the season, recalls vividly those who have previously filled the walls of the Academy. Madame Gazzaniga and Madame Coulson were once the theme of universal admiration. The name of Patti Strackosh recalls the unrivalled Adelaide Patti, now reigning as autocratic queen in Paris, and holding her musical court in all the capitals of Europe.

Coming down to later days, we all remember the troupe which was with us in the winter of 1862, all of whom have now separated, and the voices of many have ceased to be attractive. Karl Formes, as "Plunkett," was our ideal; Frederic, now Madame Himmer, and Madame Johann, and Habelman, and Himmer, and all their able support, making by far the best German troupe that has ever visited our city. But we cannot dwell upon their names. But a few years ago the advent of a company was an event; we now naturally expect at least two every season, and feel surprised and alighted if they do not appear. We believe at the present time there are four companies in the United States—one German, in the Southern States; two Italian, one under Maretzek, in New York, and one with Parepa, in our city; while the Richings Opera Troupe, when we last heard of them, were drawing crowded houses in Richmond. That the musical taste of the country is sufficient to support four expensive organizations, is the best proof that our hopes of seeing a permanent opera are not chimerical. There are few more pleasant topics of conversation than to look back, after a lapse of some twenty years, and recall and compare the merits of the various troupes which have visited our city. Those who have seen all the prime donne of the past will be enabled to compare them with those now claiming our admiration, and form that original judgment for which Philadelphia is renowned.

MEMOIR OF MR. STEVENS.—We are deeply sorry to hear of the continued illness of the Hon. Thaddeus Stevens, who has been lying seriously indisposed in Washington for the past week. At Mr. Stevens' age every malady becomes dangerous, and we feel that profound solicitude which all the loyal people of the land entertain for his speedy recovery. The country could ill afford, at the present critical moment in her history, to lose so true a servant as the venerable member from Lancaster. He has been for more than a third of a century devoting himself to the public good, and since the war has risen to be the leader of that public sentiment which demands no indemnity for the past, but insists on security for the future. His last great speech in the House proves that, though weakened in body, his intellect is as clear as ever, and we hope that the vigor of his frame will enable him to successfully overcome his present attack. He is suffering from disease of the heart.

DRATH TO HORSE-THIEVES.—The Legislature of North Carolina has passed a law punishing horse-stealing with death. The invitation for time to roll backward seems to have been complied with, so far as the old North State is concerned. Why should not a horse-thief be placed in a hurdle, drawn and quartered, and hung in chains, as they did in the days of Guy Fawkes? It seems that the North Carolinians think that it is better to deter evil-doers by terror than to form companies, like our farmers do, for mutual protection, and in case of loss, for repayment for the animal stolen. We of Pennsylvania, however, think it good policy to spare human life, and here a kind of insurance company compensates for thefts which vigilance cannot prevent.

A NOVELTY IN THE ART OF NAVIGATION.

A Miniature Vessel to Cross the Atlantic Without either Sails or Steam. Yankee skill is perpetually at work devising and perfecting ingenious contrivances, both useful and ornamental, at which the world marvels and stands aghast with admiring awe; and when it is supposed they have reached the acme of their sublime inventing power, the entire universe is again startled with the announcement that the insatiable Yankee has discovered something, a thousand-fold more wonderful than was ever before dreamt of in man's philosophy. The latest invention of this kind that it is our province to chronicle is of the nature of a piece of marine machinery, but which will obviate the necessity of steam, and will at the same time do away with the masts, thus discarding the sails proper, and yet receiving the motive power from four fans or sails of canvas; in short, the invention is nothing more nor less than a windmill ship, the machinery of which is very simple and easily kept in repair. An upright tower, seven feet in height from the deck, composed of wood, and hollow in the middle, after the fashion of a windmill, contains an iron rod, which is attached to a revolving head on the top of the tower, and running through this pump or tower to a crossbar resting across the keelson, where, by the means of two mitre wheels, working at right angles, a direct acting shaft is made to turn an ordinary propelling wheel. The rod is connected to its proper place in the centre of the tower by means of journals. Capping the tower are two mitre wheels, working on the revolving head, and through this head passes the counter shaft to which the windmill is attached. These fans furnish the motive power, and are composed of four oak frames, in the form of a common window frame, the space in the centre being occupied by canvas, working an iron rod, which, by means of half-yards leading to the decks, can be reefed at will. A reversing motion is obtained from a double wheel on the propelling shaft, and working by a clutch leading at right angles, a direct acting rod leading from the revolving head to the deck, and held there by a set screw, and working on a segment of a circle on the deck, enables the navigator to lay her as close to the wind as any ordinary sailing vessel.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

[For additional Special Notices see the Second Page.]

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GRAND FESTIVAL IN AID OF THE HOME FOR LITTLE CHILDREN. To be held at the Home, corner of TENTH and SHIPPEN STREETS. On THURSDAY EVENING, APRIL 11, Singing by the Children. Doors open at 7 o'clock. TICKETS, \$1.00. For sale at the Home and at the door on evening of entertainment. Donations received for Festival on Thursday morning.

CURTAIN GOODS. We have on exhibition newly imported English, French, and German Goods, which we are selling at GREATLY REDUCED PRICES. LACE CURTAINS, Reps, Damasks, Plushes, Cornices, Gimps, Tassels, and everything pertaining to the Curtain Trade, together with Piano and Table Covers, of great variety. We also have our usual large stock of WINDOW SHADES. Comprising many new and beautiful designs, at prices to suit the most economical.

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