## Evening Telegraph

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TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 1867.

The Encouraging Prospect of Business Matters.

THERE has been a great deal of croaking about business during the last few months, much more, in our opinion, than the facts of the case warranted. In passing from the high prices and immense expenditures of all kinds incident to the late war, it was inevitable that business should sustain more or less of a shock; but we contend that the actual derangement, the losses and failures, have been less than there was reason to anticipate. There have been no general failures, there has been no panic, no sudden and violent contraction of values, but a gradual and natural return from the inflation of war towards the normal condition of trade in a time of peace.

Many persons say business is dull and times are hard, simply because they contrast the more quiet movements and the slower gains of the present with the unnatural activity and the inordinate profits of war times. The man who made one hundred thousand dollars in the year 1864 thinks times are very dull now. because he makes this year, perhaps, only half that amount; when very probably in any year before the war he would have been amply content with such a business as he is now doing. The fact is, there was so much speculation during the war, fortunes were made so rapidly and easily, and business of all kinds was transacted on such an inflated scale, that men have hardly yet regained their senses, and find it extremely difficult and irksome to return to the old order of things. Their dissatisfaction finds vent in complaints about the condition of trade.

In no year before the war do we believe that the people of this country were so generally out of debt as they are at the present time. The profits of business during the war enabled the most of the farmers to clear off their store debts and old mortgages, and as a class they are to-day in a sound and solvent condition. Moreover, during the war, the credit system was very generally abandoned or greatly restricted, and, fortunately, has not yet had time to inflict a new crop of evils upon the

The great industries of the country are in a comparatively prosperous condition. Manufacturers, of course, are not making such immense profits as they did during the war, when everything had an upward tendency, and their stock often doubled or trebled in value on their hands. There is, too, some embarrassment growing out of the unwise efforts of operatives, in some instances, to secure an advance of wages in opposition to the general downward tendency of everything else. But these are ephemeral things. They will soon right themselves. On the other hand, we read almost daily of the building of manufacturing establishments on a large scale in various and widely separated parts of the

Farming is being prosecuted more extensively than ever before. The scarcity of labor during the war stimulated to a wonderful degree the introduction and use of labor-saving implements, so that we estimate the productive power of the farming population to be much greater to-day than it ever was before in this country. We shall be much surprised if this fact does not reveal itself in the crops of the present year. The present high prices of wheat are exceptional, and due to a very light crop last year. We find butter, cheese, pork, and wool, however, much cheaper than for several years past. Fair crops this year, such as now seem probable, will bring the cost of the great staples of life back pretty well towards the old standard.

The political outlook, too, is much brighter. There can be no doubt that the business of the country has suffered severely from the tremendous political agitation which the President forced the country into by his foolish and almost insane warfare upon Congress. The prospect last summer, when he was stigmatizing the highest and most important department of the Government as a "so-called Congress," "a body hanging on the verge of the Government, as it were;" and, through his Secretary of State, was asking the people whether they preferred "Andrew Johnson as President or as King," was not such as conduced to business activity. Nobody knew where such consummate folly might lead to. Visions of a coup d'état, and of a general breakup, loomed before the timid eyes of capital. Nor did the fierce contests of the earlier part of the late sessions of Congress between that body and the President serve to improve matters much.

The final triumph, however, of that most wise and conciliatory measure of sound statesmanship, the Congressional plan of reconstruction, with the President's submission thereto, has changed the aspect of affairs wonderfully. The long and dangerous conflict between the Executive and the Legislative Departments of the Government has finally been settled upon a proper basis, and the President's execution of the Reconstruction law is a practical abandonment of that usurpation of legislative powers which furnished the chief ground for his proposed impeach ment. The practical effect, too, of that great measure in conciliating the South, in harmonizing its people, and in adding to the body politic several millions of loyal and attached

citizens, is well calculated to inspire renewed confidence in the public mind. If the plan shall be wisely and honestly carried out, we shall probably behold all the States in the Union and the whole great work completed before the Presidential election of 1868.

From this brief but comprehensive survey of the situation we draw encouragement for the future. We believe the transition from war prices and war habits of trade, from inflation and extravagance back to the prices of peace, will be accomplished without any general financial crash or disaster. We believe the country is in a comparatively sound and healthy condition, and will successfully outride all the gales that may blow upon it. Economy, prudence, and industry will carry us safely through.

THE WORLD MOVES .- The New York World, the leading organ of all the Northern Democracy, publishes a letter to-day from William Howard Day to the colored voters of New York, which says:-

"Go, therefore, to the polls on Tuesday next, and vote only for men who are pledged to vote to remove all distinctive clauses against us in that to remove all dis Constitution."

On which letter the World says, edito-"The mistake which Mr. Day makes is in supposing that there will be any serious con-test in the Constitutional Convention on the subject of restrictions upon the suffrage fran-

chise based upon color.' Had any one told the Democratic party five years ago that it would have thus deserted all the established tenets of its leaders since the days of Jefferson, he would have received the indignant reply, "Is thy servant a dog that he should do this thing?" Yet now we find that party, North and South, eager to shake the much despised Sambo by the hand, so that they can thrust a ballot into his palm while they wring it with brotherly affection. Who can doubt, with such a proof before us, that

CHOLERA. - Surgeon-General Barnes has issued a circular letter of direction to each of the surgeons under his command, giving them specific directions in regard to the anticipated visit of the cholera. After detailing what practice is best, he directs that a record of the symptoms in each case, with the results of the autopsies, be forwarded to the office of the Surgeon-General. We will thus have in the control of the Government a reliable collection of cases and the result of their treatment, which may aid in solving the nature of that mysterious and fatal epidemic.

the world moves !

New York votes to-day for members to a convention to revise her State Constitution. Both parties have nominated their best men, but the lines of partisanship are, happily, not very tightly drawn. It is probable that, notwithstanding all the exertions of the journals, a very light vote will be polled. Our State Constitution needs revision quite as much as that of New York. We see, however, no chance of getting a convention called, as other provision is made for amendment, which is not less effective.

The last European news is decidedly warlike. France is reported to be attempting to purchase arms from the United States. Prussia is arming, and the tone of the foreign journals and the depression of the Rentes all indicate probable strife. Such is the talk to-day. To-morrow we will probably be told that everything has been amicably arranged. The stories told remind us strongly of the juvenile game of "Now you see it and now you don't."

THE mind of the Princess Charlotte is said to be hopelessly darkened. Her physical health is good, but the animated expression of that unfortunate lady's face has gradually vanished, until there is but the blank stare of vacancy in place of that smile which so charmed the Mexican people.

The Academy of Fine Arts. THAT there is something singularly appropriate in the selection of this season of the year for the opening of annual art exhibitions, seems to be understood in all countries where the love of the beautiful is fostered and encouraged-Late in April, or in the beginning of May, the academies and institutes devoted to the display of painting and sculpture open wide their doors to those anxious to see the latest works of their favorite artists, or to others indulging in the

vague expectancy of seeing collections that will cast the memory of former ones into a shadowy insignificance.

If there were any of the latter category among the elite of our city who attended the private view at the Academy of the Fine Arts on Saturday night, their ideas were surely realized, for we have never before seen so many fine works, and so few of an inferior character, in any preceding exhibition. A special reason for this result is to be found in the fact that most of the Philadelphia artists have withdrawn their support from the Academy, in order to advance the interests of the Artists' Fund Society. whose avowed object is to encourage and assist in every manner the progress of the painters living in our midst-an object for which the Acadamy was originally founded, but, according to the opinion of those qualified to judge, this laudable motive has been altogether neglected and lost from view by the last-named

institution. In consequence of the feeling engendered by this state of affairs, the "Fund Society" have now on exhibition at their galleries a collection of works painted by the members of the society; and although the display is not large, yet it has the merit of showing the great progress art is making in our midst, notwithstanding an array of most discouraging circumstances. The Directors of the Academy, knowing that they would be thus deprived of the contributions of those gentlemen, set to work energetically to gather all the best foreign and New York pictures they could procure; and their individual and united efforts have had a good result, as far as the character of the exhi-

pition is concerned. We yield to none in an appreciation of a fine picture or statue, and are glad to give our praise to any true art production, be it foreign or native. Yet, at the same time, we feel that the fashion of almost worshipping any and every pleture (daub or masterplece) that bears a foreign name, is a prevalent mania that de-

serves vigorous and hearty deprecation. That there are many noble works imported from Europe to gladden the hearts of connoisseurs, the walls of the Academy at this moment abundantly testify. At this fact we rejoice, and all true artists will give such works a hearty recognition; but can anything be more preposterously absurd than to see men, of a certain class of would be dilettanti, gravely looking for the artist's name in the corner of the picture before they pronounce their feeble opinions thereon, but who, when well assured that the picture is of foreign origin, form themselves around it, and, figuratively speaking, swing clouds of incense and chant pleans in its honor. This Cretin-like peculiarity received, through certain circumstances, an astonishing impetus the past winter. Would that we could record the decline of such a feeling; it would indeed be welcome intelligence to American artists.

As far as our own sympathies are concerned, we frankly confess that they are cordially extended to the painters and sculptors of our own land, and particularly those who reside in our own fair city; for although the position of many of them is most prosperous, yet the greater number of them have many and great difficulties to surmount before they find favor in the eyes of a public afraid to trust its own judgment in art, but who prefers to follow the beaten track of popular prejudice.

At the beginning of the present article we alluded to the appropriateness of the exhibition opening in the spring time, our idea being that the pictures there exhibited may be considered in a certain sense the flowers of many studios, and that there is a sort of poetic fitness in displaying them at a time when nature is sending forth her violets and primroses; and yet, on entering the galleries this impression of ours wears quite away, for even if it were boisterously wintry outside, does not eternal summer smile at us from many sides? For instance could we not turn to that fine work marked No. 33 in the catalogue, and in imagination transport ourselves at once to meadows like those through which the tired cattle are homeward tramping? How suggestive of the long summer day is the color of the tufted grasses in the foreground; how full of suggestiveness the greyish trees in the background! This is indeed a picture that will command a merited admiration. Those patient cows have no doubt just been roused from that quiet contemplation they seem to indulge in while resting beneath the shadow of some widespreading tree, and now they come one after another, following the half-beaten path. It is a work full of merit, that appeals to the imagination, and at the same time commands praise for the splendid technical ability of the execution.

No. 82, "Covetousness," by Bouguereau, is a large and imposing canvas, that is distinguished by many fine qualities of painting. In fact, the great merit of this artist is his wonderful ability in rendering the modelling of forms. That he himself seems conscious of this, is evidenced by the fact that he introduces the nude figure as much as possible, Babes, innocent of drapery, abound in his pictures, and although there is nothing more charming than these little creatures in their simplicity, yet any one familiar with Bouguereau's works for the past few years, feels constrained to exclaim "Toujours baby!" In the subject under consideration, the head of the Italian woman is most noble and womanly in expression. She looks all love with her dark eyes, and if the rest of the painting were mediocre (which is not the case), this splendid rendition of this feature of the work would stamp it as a masterpiece. The accessories (landscape, etc.) are not so well given.

No. 59, "The Villa Morena," by Calame, Jr. nows great realistic ability in the artist. a contribution that we specially admire. How poetically the weird-like trees fling out their grey old branches, binding and interlacing with each other in close embrace! What breadth of shadow in the receding pathway! and how broad the flood of light that pours over the tops of the tangled foliage! Vigorous in handling, yet having the effect of careful finish, it is much to be commended as a strong rendering of a natural effect.

A very large picture, by Bierstadt, is catalogued No. 74, entitled "Mount Hood." Although we consider the picture to be a very good one, we cannot reconcile ourselves to call the work great, simply because much canvas is covered.

We do not derive, in looking upon it, any impression of uncommon ability in the treatment of the subject, such as was evidenced by the same artist in his "Storm in the Rocky Mountains." The painting of the water in the middle distance is positively poor. The right-hand corner of the foreground gives some indication of the real strength of Mr. Bierstadt's handling.

No. 89, a large and ambitious subject by Mr. Joseph Johns, is entitled "When the War was Over." There can be no doubt that this picture will give great pleasure to very many people, and, indeed, the artist deserves credit for the progress that he evinces in the treatment of his light and color. He has excelled in imparting a most agreeable ione to many of the figures and parts of the landscape, at the same time giving a most agreeable variety of light and shade. The drawing throughout is somewhat weak, especially in the figure of the young soldier who is seated in a chair to the right of the principal group. From an artistic view, the picture is painted with too much desire to make things look extremely respectable. For instance, the soldier, with his bride leaning lovingly upon his arm, looks as if he thought himself, like "Turveydrop," a model of deportment, and seems to be indulging (mentally) in a train of self-laudatory remarks similar to those the well-known John Horner, Jr., gave expression to after extracting the plum from the ple. Apart from these drawbacks, Mr. Johns may be sincerely congratulated upon the successful results of his labors.

Among other Philadelphia artists who have contributed to this year's exhibition, and whose works shall receive our attention in a future article, may be mentioned Hamilton, Lambdin, Richards, Galvan, Moran, Bensell, Cresson,

and others. Those who have seen the display of which we write, must have been impressed with its superiority over any yet held at the Academy. At the same time, it may be asked, is there anything flattering to our self-love or patriotism in the fact that the only institution of an established prestige that Philadelphia possesses should serve as an asylum for foreign pictures, and show only, not the progress of our artists, but the advances that are being made in the painting schools of Paris, Dusseldorf, Antwerp, or Brussels? Knowing this, we cannot help asking, Is it just or generous to give the advantage to those whose Governments have already extended all possible aid and encouragement, and to treat with contumely another class whose welfare should especially interest the directors of the Academy of the Fine Arts?

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APRIL 23 1807.

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PHILADELPHIA, April 22, 1867. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, That all Horses, Cows, Sheep, or any description of cattle whatsoever, or Hog, Sow, Shoat, Pig, or Goat found going at large in any of the highways of the city, or in any of the public squares or parks thereof, or upon any uninclosed field, common, or piece of land therein, will be taken up and disposed of as provided by ordinance of March 1, 1855.

By order of the Mayor.

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