# THE DAILY EVENING TELEGRAPH .- PHILADELPHIA, MONDAY, APRIL 29, 1867.

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#### MONDAY, APRIL 29, 1867.

#### Public Demoralization and Official Corruption.

Is discussing the great evil of legislative corruption, we must not forget to enumerate among its less obvious but more powerful causes the wide-spread materialism of the day. The worship of wealth was never so prevalent as now; and there seemingly never was a time when it made so little difference in the popular estimation how wealth was obtained. Honest poverty, or even competency, is jostled aside on the street by ill-gotten affluence. Men whose hands are polluted with bribes, and every dollar of whose wealth represents an act of dishonor and moral degradation, hold their heads as high, and, apparently, are treated with as much respect, as though their honesty and honor were above question. The moral tone of the whole community upon the subject of the dishonest acquisition of wealth seems fatally weakened and lowered. The haste to be rich, the dissatisfaction with the old and tedious paths to affluence, the constant examples of sudden and inordinate acquisition, the immunity from punishment enjoyed by those notoriously guilty of corrupt practices, the general deference paid to wealth, the extravagance and luxury of living on the part of the rich-all these things are evidences of a state of society which ought to make us wonder, perhaps, not that our legislatures are as corrupt as they are, but that they are as pure as they are.

There is, however, on the part of the corrupt legislator a baseness which is peculiar. The position he occupies is a fiduciary one. He has solicited and accepted a public trust. He is bound to conduct himself in it, not for his own private ends, but for the public good. When, therefore, he turns aside from the legitimate path of a popular representative, and is controlled in his actions by motives of personal gain-when he pollutes his hands with a bribe, he descends to a very ignominious depth of crime. He has outraged the rights of society far more grossly than does the ordinary thief, the burglar, or the counterfeiter, for he has violated a most sacred trust, and has prostituted an honorable public position to the most dishonorable ends.

And just here is the inconsistency of society, that while the thief, the burglar, and the counterfeiter are kicked out of all decent companionship, and made to feel that they have lost all standing among the virtuous and the respectable, the corrupt legislator, notorious as such, apparently loses nothing socially by his dishonorable and debasing

The Late Earthquake at the West. THE local journals from Kausas and Western Missouri are full of accounts of the late earthquake in that quarter. Its effects in jarring buildings, upsetting crockery, and frightening the people generally, were very manifest. A private letter from Kansas City informs us that after the first shock the people rushed from their houses and stores like bees from a hive. No damage, however, was done.

It is said that in Nemaha county, Kansas, there are eighty thousand acres of land that were donated by the general Government for the benefit of the sufferers by the great earthquake at New Madrid, Missouri, many years

DEATH OF MR. BENEDICT .- We regret to announce the sudden death of Mr. A. W. Benedict, Clerk of the Pennsylvania Legislature, and one of the Secretaries of the Republican State Committee. Mr. Benedict was a faithful officer and a courteous gentleman. He performed the onerous duties of Secretary of the State Committee with the utmost fidelity. He thoroughly understood the political feeling of the State, and has ever lent the weight of his influence to promote the success of the Republican party. In his death we have lost an earnest worker in a common cause, and the Legislature has been deprived of one of its most amiable and reliable officers.

THE CITY PULPIT .--- On our sixth page to-day will be found the eloquent sermon on "The End of Gospel Teaching," delivered yesterday morning at the Arch Street M. E. Church, by the Rev. Thomas M. Griffith, the newly appointed pastor; as well as the afternoon discourse, by the Rev. John Chambers, on "The Duty of Husbands."

#### The Academy of Fine Arts.

To our appreciation, there is in the quietness of a picture gallery an attractiveness that few other places possess; there is so much that is suggestive of lives passed in the calmness of peaceful studies. There, for example, hangs a little unpretending landscape: you glance upon it as you pass, and probably content yourself with some such observation as "Very pretty," or "A nice little effort," or some other half indifferent remark, without once thinking that he who limned the bright-edged sumach blending so gracefully with the yellow of the "golden rod," adorning the foreground, may have placed high hopes upon the success of the work you so patronizingly survey. A fond mother, or may be an affectionate sister, too proudly sanguine to anticipate failure on the part of one whom they regard as the very embodiment of artistic talent, gave that work a parting look of admiration before it was taken from the painting-room to be nearly, if not quite, negatived in the neighborhood of larger or better Canvases.

We admit that a knowledge and a sympathy for these things cause us to think tenderly of much that we cannot conscientiously praise. Many an ardent lover of the beautiful lacks power to express in pictorial representation the thoughts that may animate his heart. Let us, then, be charitable to all, when the exercise of that feeling does not interfere, in too great a degree, with the faithful discharge of our duties. It is very much the fashion to affect a fearfully satiric tone in art criticism, and if we fail in attaining the standard of bitterness usually displayed in essays of this nature, we shall rely upon the indulgence for this our shortcoming, that our faith in the kindly feeling of our readers leads us to expect. An artist, when he paints something very bad, is certainly to be commiserated, but we cannot believe that the misfortune should render him a butt and laughing stock for half-fledged withings. There are men of vast reputation who have produced much that is both weak and silly; and, reasoning from this, when we see a work that jars against our feelings of artistic propriety. let us assume that in the mind of him who produced it may be lying dormant the genius of a Paul Veronese. On the other hand, nothing is more prejudicial to the true interests of art than general and indiscriminate praise-entering the first gallery with catalogue in hand and pencil ready to make such comments as: "No, 1 is good." "No. 2 is better," "No. 3 is sweet," and so on. until the expressions of "beautiful," "charming," "perfect" are exhausted, only to be recommenced and applied until the last number in the catalogue is dismissed. This style of critique soon renders the writer thereof bankrupt, so far as the value of his praise is concerned, and makes him poor indeed. In connection with our subject, it may be remarked, as a peculiarity, that very few of the really best works of the French and English schools are imported into the United States. The Germans, as we all know, are fully represented, but how often do we see the chefs d'œuvre of such men as Gerome, Cabanel, Hebert, or Paul Baudry? Certainly, a few paintings, signed by these names, are to be seen in some collections, but they are generally of inferior quality, and give no idea of the superlative merits of the authors. Again, where shall we see the compositions of Millais, Maddox, Brown, Stangfield, or Landseer, who are eminent in the English school of painting? The answer is to be found in the fact that the people of those countries take too much pride in the encouragement of their artists, and pay such prices for their works, that American dealers are debarred from the chances of obtaining them. Would that Americans were actuated by the same amour propre ! for, although we profess to be thoroughly cosmopolitan in all things connected with art, yet even that feeling is not incompatible with the desire to see American artists encouraged and liberally protected in their pursuits. As a proof of the poor opinion that is generally entertained in France concerning our culture as a people, we may perhaps allude to the enterprise inaugurated by a well-known picturc-dealer of the Rue de Richelieu, Paris. It appears that the members of an artists' club of that city, having a number of their early pictures lying in disorder around their studios, and for which they could not find purchasers, on account of the decided inferiority of the material, determined to send them to America, being, as they supposed, just the articles to suit the taste of "Messicurs les Savages." They formed a very shabby collection when brought together, but it was leavened here and there by pictures of Barron, Diaz, Chaplane, and a hurried shetch or two of Troyon's. The majority of the pictures were very bad, but then the Americans are an uncultivated people, and will be only too gind to have a chance of buying. So reasoned our French friends, but they were doomed to bitter disappointment, for after hawking them from city to city, and making sham sales under the hammer an immense

number of times, the great majority of them were sold for scarcely more than the price of the frames. The dealer from the Rue de Richelieu, who managed the entire affair, found that the Americans possessed more taste than he gave them credit for, and he has returned to the gay city of the Franks a wiser, if not a better man.

Mr. Fredericks, of New York, has placed before the Philadelphia public a very fine picture of "The Death of Ty balt," from Romeo and Juliet. It hangs in the northwest gallery of the Academy, and deserves the most careful study. and may be classed as one of the best American pictures in the exhibition. The rendition of the scene is intensely dramatic, and at the same time free from affectation. In specifying the good points of the composition, we may instance the beautiful grey tones, and the massive breadth of shadow in which the foreground is plunged, admirably conveying the sentiment of the story, while in the far distance the old tower receives the blaze of rich sunlight, and gives brilliancy to the ensemble. In one word, the effect is rich in the extreme, No. 215 is from the easel of James Fairman, of New York. The painter has taken for his subject a scene in "The Valley of the Audroscoggin," and we unreservedly commend the landscape as being full of the highest order of merit. To ourselves this charming transcript of nature commends itself for other considerations than the superiority displayed in the manipulation. Many pleasant days have we spent in the meadows that Mr. Fairman so ably depicts lying in the golden sunlight of an October afternoon. We fear that our predilection for the charming country of which the work before us is so truly characteristic, may lead us to express ourselves with with too much enthusiasm, and, feeling this, we desist, "A View in the Alleghenies," by Sontag. Mr. Sontag may be instanced as one most successful and fortunate in the pursuit of his profession. He commenced his career by producing two or three very pretty and pleasing landscapes. The reception they met with at the hands of the public have induced him to continue reproducing the same with very slight variation. A quiet grey tone that distinguishes No. 234 is to be admired. yet we cannot help thinking that there is too much conventionality in his treatment of foliage; besides this, there is a lack of nature in his foregrounds. Dogberry tells us that "Comparisons are odorous," and we agree with him. Yet for once we shall be guilty, and direct the attention of the amateur to James Hart's 'Woodland Lake," in the southeast gillery, and see the difference between a merely conventional landscare and one where delicacy of sentiment is blended with a study of woodland beauty. Two small genus, by W. T. Richards, of this city, give much pleasure to judges of good painting and unpretending ability of execution. They bear the numbers of 132 and 148 We like the former number the best, on account of the tenderness of the feeling evinced in the treatment of the early morning light. The tree trunks are exquisite in texture and effect. A "Stormy Day at Niagara," by Jas, Hamilton.

bears the impress of the freedom of touch and effect that essentially distinguishes Mr. Hamilton's paintings. E. B. Bensell's "Wild Waggoner of the Alleghanies" is very striking and effective, and merits a much better place than the one it occupies, the action and grouping of the figures are excellent, No. 282, "The Sacking of Altamura" by Camarara. A large at .. striking picture of manifold merits, so far as vigorous and energetic handling is concerned. Subjects of this order, although affording ample scope for the display of fine technical power, are destined to remain unpopular.

No. 210, by Mr. Jones, is a very racy production, and some extensive smiling is indulged in by those who examine it. There is a very



career. We say apparently, for there must be in every honest man's bosom a feeling of infinite contempt for the wretch; but to all external appearance he comes and goes among his fellow-men as much respected and honored as ever.

This thing ought to be changed. Society ought to put the seal of its public disapprobation upon such villany, and make it socially as disreputable as are the more ordinary and less guilty class of crimes. But to do this society itself must be more pure, and must cease its idolatry at the shrine of Mammon. As long as wealth atones for everything in the publiceye, the root of the difficulty will remain to throw up new shoots as fast as we cut down the old ones.

More Peaceful News from Europe, THE news from Europe would seem to indicate that the Luxembourg affair may, after all, be settled without resort to war. At the instance of the English Government, Prussia has agreed to a conference of the Great Powers, to be held at London on the 15th of May, to settle the Luxembourg dispute on the basis of the neutralization of the Grand Duchy, guaranteed by all the powers represented at the conerence. Meanwhile the fortress, it is said, will be dismantled.

We shall rejoice, in the interest of humanity, if this quarrel can be settled without a resort to war. A contest between Prussia and France would be exceedingly destructive of human life-a consideration which kings and emperors apparently do not greatly take into account, but which must ever be of great weight with the philanthropist.

### The Dear Old Flag.

GENERAL SIGKLES is bound to have the American flag outwardly honored, even if inwardly spurned, by the Rebels of his district. At a great parade of firemen, a day or two since, in Charleston, it had been quietly arranged that the United States flag should not be displayed -whereupon General Sickles informed those in charge that their procession could not move without the Stars and Stripes at its head. This is the right doctrine. The flag of the republic must be honored South as well as

Iron-clads in Payment for Territory. As intimation comes from St. Petersburg that the Russian Government will be glad to take its pay for the late sale of territory to the United States in iron-clads. Russia is about the only foreign Government to which the United States would be willing to sell irou-clads, and there may be doubt in her case. Ironclads are now, by common consent, the measure of naval strength; and, in the present oritical state of Europa, it is perhaps the part of prudence for us to keep all the vessels othat kind that we have ourselves.

faint indication of good color in the floor of the apartment where the wretched crowd of grotesque-looking creatures are congregated but it is very slight, and we mention it only in order to discharge impartially our duties as critics.

An exquisite little gem, by Meyer von Bremen, is delightfully treated. The subject is known as "Returning from Market." The greyish light in the morning sky is most beautiful, and the sweet simplicity of the composition is destined to render it an especial favorite with many.

"October in the Kaatskills" is one of McEutee's charming autumnal landscapes. The forest trees, in their garb of crimson and gold, are excellently portrayed. In the rendering of the misty effect in the distance we recognize many qualities of fine manipulation.

Mr. V. de V. Bonfield's snow scenes are very much admired. They are certainly very pleasing in subject and style.

We notice that Messrs, Fussell and T. H. Smith are well represented in the southeast gallery. If portraits had any particular attraction to call for the exercise of our criticism, we should have long before this called attention to Mr. Fagan's fine production. This artist will be remembered for his painting of the head of Thaddeus Stevens, that received so much admiration a few weeks ago when on exhibition at Earles' Gallery. The portrait of a "Lady," from this artist's studio, hangs in the southeast room, and merits attention.

There are a large number of paintings on exhibition whose subjects and treatment are so very similar that it would be useless to attempt critical descriptions of each. We cannot conclude this present article without making honorable mention of A. M. L

excellent portraits. This lady gives great evi-dence of ability. At the time we are now writing the dying At the time we are now writing the whow light of day is fading in the west, and we know that the pictures of which we speak are losing themselves in the obscurity of twilight. No-thing, then, can be more natural than that we should be inspired to imitate their example, and, without further ceremony, disappear for the present.

#### SPECIAL NOTICES.

[For additional Special Notices see the Second Page, ] NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING,-JOY. COE & CO. Agents for the "TELEGRAPH" and Newspaper Press of the whole country, have HE-MOVED from FIFTH and CHESNUT Streets to No. 144 S. SIXTH Street second door above WALNUT, OFFICES:-No. 144 S. SIXTH Street, Philadelphia: TRIBUNE BUILDINGS, New York. 7 30 Mp OAKDALE SKATING PARK AND Por. OAKDALE SKATHO FARE AND PHYSICAL INSTITUTE. a meeting of the stockholders of the "OAK & EKATING PARK AND PHYSICAL INSTI E OF PHILADELPHIA." held at the office, No TUTE OF PHILADELPHIA," held at the office, No 523 MINOR Street, on the 25th instant, pursuant to the act of incorporation granied by the Legislature o Pennsylvania, on March 26, 1807, the following-named were elected as Directors:-JACOB HYLAND. 

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All that lot of ground, with the messuage thereon erected, situate on the west side of Richardson's couri (being No. 4), 135 feet 3 inches north or Race street containing in front on Richardson's court 27 feet 3 inches, and extending of that width 19 feet 10 inches, with the use and privilege of the privies on the north end of said Richardson's court.

The north end of said Richardson's court. Business Stand, 2½ story brick building, Front street, north of Noble, -Ait that lot of ground, with the 2½-story brick building thereon erected, situate on the east ide of Front street, 42 feet 5½ inches north of Noble street, in the Elseventh Ward; containing in front on Front street 21 feet 5 inches, and extending in cepth 62 feet. in gepth 52 feet.

In depth 52 feet. No. 2. Lot, corner South and Carbon streets, Twenty-sixth Ward,—All that lot of ground, situate on the S. E. corner of South and Carbon streets, in the Twenty-sixth Ward; containing in front on South street lo feet, and extending in depth along Carbon street 20 feet.

sixth Ward: containing in front on South street in feet, and extending in depth along Carbon street 20 feet. No. 3.
Two-and-a-half-story frame building, Front street, north of Noble.-All that lot of ground, with the two-and-a-half-story frame building. Front street, in the Eleventic Ward, 64 feet 35 inches north of Noble street, in ence extending northerly 21 feet 93 inches; thence extending westerly of reet 15 inch to Front street. and thence extending southerly along Front street 25 feet and 36 of an inch to the place of beginning.
Trues Cash-or, at the option of the purchaser, twenty per cent, of the purchase money may be paid in cash, and the balance secured by bond and mortage of the premises, payable in five years, with interest at the rate of six per cent, per annum, payable semi-annually on the first days of July and January in each year, with the usual stipulation to be inserted in said bond and mortgage, that in case of default in anyment of interest to first days of July and January in each year, with the usual stipulation to be of ground bond and mortgage to secure the balance of the purchase in annually on the first days. The value of the of start days of the start in a secure the bol of ground hereby authorized to be sold is unimproved and vacant, the purchaser, this option, in lie of the addition of the start days of the purchase in only and there and recoverable by law. Provided, That where the lot of ground hereby authorized to be paid is caused build and any acant, the purchaser, and is ground rent deed or deeds, in the usual form. The said ground rent sthereby authorized to be mestioned, may have the said balance of he first of July and January in each year, and the ground by round rents thereby in the first of years, starter of making the conveyance from the city to the purchasers. And the street we deal sectored is the pay all expenses for deeds, bonds, morigages, stamps, acitone-tended in the days of t

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public fale, without reserve, by order of the Commissioner of City Property. On TUESDAY, May 27, 1807, at 12 o'clock, Noon, at the Philadelphia Exchange. All the for a ground situate on the north side of Cheenatistreet, beginning at the northwest corner of Twenty-third street, and extending along said Chee-nut street 260 feet to Twenty-four feet street called Simes street. Bounded on the north by Simes street, on the cast by Twenty-third street, and on the south street, lately occupied by the Philadelphia Cas Works. The above will be divided into 40 lots, and sold ac-trona the adjoining each other. Terms-20 per cent, of the purchase money shall be puid in cash at the time of the delivery of the deed, and the balance may be seen at the printies by mort he cash by the purchase money shall be puid in cash at the time of the delivery of the deed, and the balance may be seen at the printies by mort age or ground-rent deed are may be paid in cash, at the otion of the purchase. At the balance were the seen at the paid in cash, at the otion of the purchase.

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