## Evening Telegraph

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FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 1867.

The Dynamics of the Suffrage Question. THE late Henry Winter Davis declared in one of his speeches, not long before his untimely decease, that the question of suffrage for the colored citizens of the United States was not merely a question of philanthropy, but one o f "political dynamics" as well. Our Republican friends in Maryland have already found it so, and to their cost. Had they, during the period while they possessed political control of that State, been wise enough and bold enough to have enfranchised the colored citizens, they might still have maintained undisputed possession of the State. They voluntarily fought the battle with only part of their forces, and hey lost their State in consequence.

The Republicans of Tennessee have been wiser. Rising to a more correct appreciation of the tendencies of the times and the exigencies of the situation, they have summoned their colored fellow-citizens into the political field, and have reinforced themselves for their contests with disloyalty and retrogression by a phalanx of faithful allies. We look upon Tennessee as safe to the Republican cause for a long time to come.

But there is a broader sense than that of mere State control, in which the enfranchisef ment of the colored citizens is likely to prove an important element in political dynamics. The present probabilities are that the late Rebel States will be admitted to the Union in season to participate in the next Presidential election. Throughout those States the colored citizens have been enfranchised by act of Congress. They are hereafter to participate in all elections. Where they do not themselves constitute a numerical majority in the State, they will at least hold the balance of power. The probability is that, unless the Democratic party can manage to secure a pretty large portion of the colored vote, it will find itself in a minority in each of those States. It would be a strange sight, we confess, to see South Carolina represented in Congress by a thorough Republican delegation, yet such a result is by no means impossible, and would be but typical of the great revolution through which the country has passed.

But Republican Congressional delegates from the late Rebel States may play an important part in political dynamics. It is the opinion of many shrewd politicians that in the next Presidential election there will be no choice by the people, and that the election will thus be thrown into the House of Representatives. In such a case each State, without reference to population or extent, casts a single vote. ith Carolina will count for as much as Penn sylvania. Here is where the "dynamics" come in. Moreover, the House of Representatives which would have this question to decide is the present one-not the one to be elected in 1868.

In the Presidential election of next year. the colored citizens of the South will, for the first time, vote for a Chief Magistrate of the country. They will, doubtless, vote much in accordance with the bias which they may acquire in their first elections, to be held this fall. They will still be influenced more or less by the desire of fortifying and assuring themselves in their political position as citizens. They will watch with jealousy the position of parties with reference to their enfranchisement. They will scan closely the attitude of parties on this question in those States where the colored citizen is deprived of his vote. The disfranchisement of the colored citizen in Pennsylvania is a perpetual threat of his disfranchisement in the late Rebel States. The party which perpetrates so unjust a measure in Pennsylvania cannot expect to receive the support of that class of citizens anywhere in the country. It is in this view of the subject that the action of the late old-fogy Democratic Convention of this State becomes of some importance dynamically considered. We know of no better campaigning document for Republicans all over the South than the platform adopted the other day by the Democrats at Harrisburg. It is full of the bitterest hatred against the colored citizens of the United States. Its spirit would wrest the ballot from every such citizen from one end of the country to the other. It is an open declaration of war against the rights and liberties of four millions of our fellow-citizens, which they would be foolishly criminal did they not take notice of and resent. It is the pretense of the Democratic party at the South that it is the best friend the colored citizen has. To expose the falsity of this assumption, the Republicans have but to point to the Democratic platform in Pennsylvania. That tells how much regard the Democratic party has for the rights of the colored citizen.

The Democratic party has never in its past history shown much regard for abstract justice. It has never been able to see the ethical element in politics. But it has generally shown a pretty fair comprehension and respect for the dynamics of politics. It could understand the power of votes, and has shown a good degree of shrewdness and zeal in getting them. It has respected force, if not principle. We would, therefore, suggest to its leaders whether this warfare upon the few colored citizens in such States as Pennsylvania, New Jersey, etc., is likely hereafter to pay? We make no appeal to justice, but merely to vulgar shrewdness. Is it best to sacrifice, almost surely and

hopelessly, the entire South for the sake of excluding a few hundred honest citizens from the ballot-box in a few of the Northern States?

We see signs that this view of the subject is forcing itself upon the more intelligent members of the party. They see where this thing is leading to, and they begin to feel that there is no sense in pursuing a line of policy which promises nothing. It is foolish to serve the Devil when he can't pay. The old Bourbon leaders who met at Harrisburg the other day have not the first particle of political shrewdness, or they would have preserved a discreet silence upon the suffrage question. They had nothing to gain by their gratuitous assault upon the colored citizens. All the votes they can hope to make by paudering to a fading prejudice are already theirs by right of preemption and immemorial occupancy and use. They have not strengthened their position at home any by their action, and they have furnished a powerful weapon to the opponents of their party at the South. They might, at least, have consulted dynamic considerations a little, if they could not the nobler principles of justice and abstract right.

Honor the Office. Councils yesterday had the proper sense of propriety when they passed a resolution extending the hospitalities of the city to the President of the United States, and we are surprised that any three men could be found who were so wanting in becoming respect as to vote against the measure. Those of our readers who have watched the policy of this journal, can bear witness to our opposition to the personal conduct and political career of Mr. Johnson; but because we do not agree with the views of the gentleman who at present happens to be in the Presidential chair, is no reason why we should slight the Chief Executive of the United States of America. It is not to Andrew Johnson, a citizen of Tennessee, that Philadelphia extends her hospitalities, but it is to the President of the United States. The office, upon whomsoever conferred, covers the holder with a dignity which, if we respect our nationality, we should acknowledge. The American people, in their earnest faith in universal equality, are almost inclined to Jacobinism. There is a great difference between a proper respect for office and a cringing subserviency to the occupant. One is found in the conduct of every right-thinking citizen, who, conscious of his equality with the individual, does not scruple to pay that respect which the position of the officer demands. The other is the obtrusive indecencies of an ill-bred coward, who fears that people may deem him inferior, and continually pushes his equality before all others, to prevent them forgetting that he is legally their peer. A manly consciousness of the rights of a citizen, and the possession of that common sense which dictates that order is best preserved by showing respect to authority, teaches every man to deferentially

approach the representative of our nation. Whoever insults the President insults the nation. Suppose Mr. Johnson was to visit Canada, and the British forts should refuse to honor him with a salute, or pay him any deference, would there be a man in the States who would not be deeply indignant at such a reception of the President? We hope not. We feel sure that an insult offered the Chief Executive by a foreigner would be repelled by all the nation, without distinction of party. Yet if such would be our conduct then, why should we show that very disrespect which we would not tolerate from others? Are we like the Irishmann who would not let anybody knock his friend down except himself? What a ridiculous attitude we assume before Europe, in affording a precedent which we will not allow others to follow It is due to our self-respect, if not to our respect for Mr. Johnson, that we extend to him the hospitalities of our city; and we feel confident that when the bitterest radical calmly thinks over the question, there will be a unanimous assent to the action of Councils. Colonel Page, who, although opposed to us in politics, possesses a vast fund of that rare article in Councils-common sense-well expressed the whole subject when he said that he "was sorry that there had been any discussion on the subject. We owe respect to the office, irrespective of the person who may fill it." We are glad to see on the passage of the resolution there were but three votes in oppositionthose of Messrs. Fox, Shermer, and Stokley.

How to Recover Funds.

It is positively instructive to see how Common Council gets out of doing the right thing in the right way. It will be remembered that it was recently discovered in the returns made by the Aldermen and Committing Magistrates that, with but a few exceptions, none had turned over to the City Treasury the fines collected by them, which belonged to the city by law. This process of pocketing has been going on for years. When the election of these officers came up yesterday, Select Council passed a sensible bill, making all those who had failed to pay up ineligible to re-election, and directing the City Solicitor to institute proceedings against them. By this law much good could be accomplished. In the first place, our city would be rid of dishonest officials, and at the same time the strongest inducements would be held out for the officers to hand over the funds, in order to be eligible. which, if they did not, the Solicitor would commence suit. This law was eminently sensible and efficient; when it reached Common Council it was laid on the table, and the fol-

lowing adopted:-"That the City Solleitor be and he is hereby Instructed and directed to institute an inquiry as to the amount of fines, penalties, and costs due and unpaid by the police or committing magistrates to the City Treasurer for the year 1868, and that legal proceedings be taken against all such del'inquent magistrates to recover the penalties and costs collected by them respectively."

An inquiry is first in order, and then legal

proceedings. Meanwhile, the men who are to be sued as dishonest are refflected to their old positions! A man who is so far false as to have to be sued is yet worthy of a continuance in officet Such is the logic of Common Coun. cil. It adopted the weakest half of the Select Council ordinance, and had it sent back to the other chamber, where it will not be acted on until next week. And this, in the estimation of the members, is the most effectual way of recovering embezzled funds! To complete the farce, it should have been referred to the Committee on Law.

How It Is Done.

WHEN some member of Councils is so far forgetful of the customs of those bodies as to introduce a bill really demanded for the public good, and which in its action does not tend to enrich the favorites of any of our city fathers, the majority are placed in a remarkably unfortunate condition. They are determined not to sacrifice their personal feelings for the public benefit, yet at the same time they dare not vote against the bill, because of the meddling interlopers of the press, who do not hesitate to let their constituents know all about their actions. In this dilemma, a ruse is adopted, which saves their feelings and wards off the indignation of the people they are supposed to represent. It is discovered that the bill must be investigated on some legal points, and so it is moved that it be referred to the Committee on Law if its death is necessary, or to some other legislative cometery if it is not of vital importance that it be killed. When once in the hands of the Committee, we never hear anything more of it. If the mover of the resolution calls for his offspring, the Chairman reports progress, and the bill is thus omitted without attracting too great attention from the public. Now this plan is worse than a deliberate defeat, because it shows that the members are not only untrue to their constituents, but also that they are cowards. They dare not defend their own actions, yet have not public spirit enough to yield their bitter personal prejudices to the requirements of the city.

As long as this device was used in an exceptional case we did not object, but when we see it not only a daily but an hourly practice, and when all legislation is transferred from Councils, where the press is admitted, to a Committee which sits with closed doors, we do most earnestly protest against such a shirking of responsibility. Within a few weeks we have had too many instances of this choking off of bills. The Board of Health appropriation was sent to a special committee which failed yesterday to report. The motion was merely another way of defeating what is imperatively demanded, and we brand such legislation as false and cowardly. The city is in danger of disease, and her Councils, because of personal spite against the Board of Health, refuse to supply the money to render us safe. They dare not defeat the bill, so they send it to a committee, and that is the end of it. The case of F. A. Van Cleve, two weeks since, was treated in the same manner. Without a shadow of legal right to his ill-gotten place, he is allowed to hold it, because Mr. Wagner, or some other accessory, is unwilling to report the bill. Yet the Committee on Law signed a report ten days ago, and there have been two meetings since. It is time that we have some reform in this mode of legislation. It is proper to send a legal question to a committee, in order to prevent crude and illegal action, but it is not necessary to send such a motion as the Board of Health appropriation. Let the law be so amended that every committee is compelled to report at the next meeting. If it requires more time, let the question be referred once more to it, if Councils think more time is necessary. But let us do away with this cowardly committee system now in vogue. It is quite time some new device be invented to kill good bills. The old one has worked too long. Let Wagner and Van Cleve concoct something new, for the present plan has grown to be offensive to the people.

OUR MODERN BARBARISM .- The disgraceful and disgusting prize-fight which came off yesterday between two roughs, near Aquia creek, Virginia, is another instance of the barbaric tendency of a certain class of our people, and the utter laxity of law. The details of this bloody affair we published as a matter of news. But there are some facts which need investigation. It was well known all over the country that this affair was about to come off, and an amphitheatre was erected to accommodate three thousand people. An Alderman of our city, William McMullen, was referee, and the performance was witnessed by a number of the officials at Washington. No attempt was made to interfere with the exhibition by the authorities of Virginia. The affair had a semi-legal aspect, and was as safe and uninterrupted as a Spanish bull-fight. It is time that such exhibitions be stopped. It is necessary that an example be made of some few of those who engage in or countenance such evasions of law and decency, and we hope that the Governor of Virginia will see that the combatants and some of the witnesses are punished, and that severely.

FMIGRATION TO LIBERIA.-While the tide of immigration is bringing thousands from Europe to the United States, a new impetus has been given to the emigration of blacks to the prosperous young republic of Liberia, in Aftica. N ne hundred and thirty-four emigrants have let the United States for Laberia within seven months. They went from seven States, Penn sylvania, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. About twenty trades were represented. There were 5 engineers, 5 coopers, 10 blacksmiths, 15 shoemakers, 19 carpenters, 14 bricklayers, and 109 farmers, etc. Of the emigrants 217 were memhers of different churches, Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Episcopalian, etc. The packet ship Golconda left Charleston, S. C., May 30, with 320 emigrants. Many others expect to follow in November next.

Cosvar Inquining, -- England has spe 85,000,000 since 1830 in "Commissions of quiry." The commissions now existing are the Children's Employment, the English Schools Inquiry, the Scottish Education, the Marriage Laws, the Paris Exhibition. Pollution of Rivers, the Courts of Justice Concentration, the Oaths, the Coal, the Law Digest, the Water Supply, the Neutrality Laws, and the Trades' Union, to which will be added the Ritual Commission. The Education Commissions have been expensive; down to the end of 1866 that for Scotland had cost £8264, and that for England £12,900. The estimate for the current year is £3420 for the former and £2000 for the latter.

## SPECIAL NOTICES.

REFRIGERATOR BAZAAR, -B. S. HARRIS & CO. have, in addition to a fine assortment of Refrigerators of best quality, three new patents, viz.; Harris' Patent, Ross & Tovis' Patent, and Wright's Patent Ice-Water Refrigerator; all valuanted to pre-erve ment, etc. etc., dry and sweet, and to be more economical in ice than any other Refrigerators. B. S. HARBIS & CO., 5163m4p No. 149 North Ninth street, near Race

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"Borus....."Love at Home.

Thorus....."Beyond the Smiling and the Weeping.

"Gloria in Excelsia."

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Miss G. Blackburne 

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Local and Travelling AGENTS WANTED through-out the United States. The Association have appointed as Raceivers Mesers, GEORGE A. COOK IS & CO. Bankers, No. 53 S. THIRD Street, whose well-known integrity and busipess experience will be a sufficient guarantee that the money entrusted to them will be promptly applied to

the purposes stated. PHILADELPHIA, Pa., May 20, 1687. To the Officers and Members of the Washington Library, Compuny, N. S. EEAD, Secretary, Company, N. S. READ, Secretary.

Gentlemen:—On receipt of your favor of the 18th instant, notifying us of our appointment as Receivers for your Company, we took the 1th rity to susmit a copy of your Charter, with a plan of your enterprise, to the highest legal anthority of the State, and having received his favorable opinion in regard to its legality, and sympathising with the benevolent object of your association, viz., the education and maint mance of the orphan child en of our soldiers and skilors at the Riverside Institute, we have concluded to accept trust, and to use our best efforts to promote so worthy an object.

an object. Respectfully, yours, etc., A. COOKE & CO.