

# Evening Telegraph

PUBLISHED EVERY AFTERNOON,  
SUNDAYS EXCEPTED.

AT THE EVENING TELEGRAPH BUILDING,  
NO. 108 S. THIRD STREET.

Price, Three Cents Per Copy (Double Sheet), or  
Eighteen Cents Per Week, payable to the Carrier, and  
mailed to Subscribers out of the city at Nine Dollars  
per Annum; One Dollar and Fifty Cents for Two  
Months, invariably in advance for the period ordered.

FRIDAY, JULY 5, 1867.

**Our National Position and Prospects.**  
History has its perspective as well as art. It  
is only as we drift away from great events that  
they begin to stand out before us in their true  
magnitude, and we commence to see the relation  
they bear to the welfare and progress of the  
human race.

Our late great war is already commencing to occupy something of this historic perspective. Doubtless, we do not even yet realize to its full extent the true position which it held with reference either to the destinies of our own country or to the larger movements of the human race. But we can begin to see that it was, so to speak, the decisive point in the progress of republican principles both in our own country and throughout the world. It was the culmination of the "irrepressible conflict" between the eternally antagonistic principles of human equality and inequality—or, in other words, between the forces of freedom and slavery, which had been waged in our own Government from its foundation down to the hour of physical conflict, and whose dying embers still cast a fitful though fading glare over our national politics.

When our fathers, ninety-one years ago yesterday, in this city, proclaimed those immortal truths of the equality of all men, their inalienable right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and the consent of the governed as the only true basis of rightful human government, they started a movement which was destined to revolutionize the fate of society throughout the world. The doctrine of human equality, which is really the basis of the entire declaration, is not only an affirmation of the human reason, as our fathers maintained when they asserted it to be a self-evident truth, but it is equally a tenet of the Christian religion; so that in founding the Government upon this principle, the heroes and sages of the Revolution were but applying the fundamental doctrines of Christianity to the problem of civil rule. Now, the war of the Rebellion was simply a contest to determine whether this principle, the only possible principle of free government in our own country, or in any other, should be given up as the basis of American society. Philosophical minds upon both sides comprehended this instantly, and it was the instinctive appreciation of this fact by the loyal masses that inspired them to such noble displays of patriotism, and that imparted to the struggle its moral grandeur and its highest glory. Our opponents themselves conceded that it was against this vital principle of free government that they had revolted. Mr. Stephens, of Georgia, in his celebrated "cornerstone" speech, avowed this fact with equal boldness and candor. "Those ideas," said Mr. Stephens, referring to the ideas in vogue among the framers of the Constitution, "those ideas, however, were fundamentally wrong. They rested upon the assumption of the equality of races. This was an error. It was a sandy foundation, and the idea of a Government built upon it was wrong; when the storm came and the wind blew, it fell."

The Business Prospects of the Autumn. Since the autumn of 1866 the business interests of the entire country have been languishing. Various causes have combined to produce this stagnation. A feeling of general insecurity in the finances, an anxiety on the question of reconstruction, as well as the pressure of a large supply of goods on hand, all joined to keep down that activity which is so earnestly desired by the business portion of our citizens. We do not belong to the class of which Mrs. Gummidge is the type, nor are we advocates of the Seward optimism; but, looking at the prospects of the country from a disinterested point of view, we see a much brighter path for mercantile transactions directly ahead of us. Many of the oppressive causes have been or are about being removed. The dread of a financial crash, which has been so prevalent, is now speedily disappearing. The people see that, although our currency is inflated, there is no immediate sign of a crash. The Government's credit is never better, and the unanimous declarations of all political parties in favor of the sacredness of the national debt, as well as the union of so many interests of the masses with those of the Government, all tend to remove an unexpressed fear that the day of a panic was not far off. The removal of this dread will put in circulation funds heretofore lying idle, and tend greatly to resuscitate the activity of our business marts. Then, again, the supply of goods laid in in 1866 has grown gradually smaller, until, by the arrival of the fall, it will be almost exhausted. The fabrics bought at high figures two years ago have been sold for less, the purchasers finding it impossible to carry them longer, and hence new stock is called for. Thus, by the simplest rule of supply and demand, we may anticipate an active fall season. The anticipation of this is already causing our business men to feel more hopeful.

The principles of 1776 triumphed. The truths of the Declaration of Independence were hallowed by the blood of an innumerable multitude who fell in their defense. The Government founded upon the idea of human equality proved to be founded on a rock, and not upon the sand, as its enemies had predicted. The rains had descended and the floods had come, and the house had not fallen. But the structure founded upon the great "physical, philosophical, and moral" falsehood of the natural and essential inequality of the members of the human family, had fallen, half-erected, into complete and irremediable ruin. And with it had gone the whole system of American aristocracy. The revolution inaugurated to overthrow freedom had swept away slavery. The nation was at last freed from the incubus that had, for almost a century, weighed down its energies. The spot upon the national escutcheon had been wiped out. The long-standing impediment to the potency of our example had at last been removed. No longer could

foreign nations reproach us as a land of slaves. The rule of the slave-lords was over at home.

Our recurring National Anniversary finds us, therefore, occupying high vantage ground. Never before did the United States stand so high in the respect of all nations. Never was our influence upon the world in favor of free institutions and popular government so powerful as now. Never before was the nation so well fitted to go forward and, under God, to achieve a sublime and beneficent destiny. We have done much in the past, but greater achievements await us in the future. The United States is destined to be the leader of the nations in all the great works of reform. Christian civilization is here to accomplish its greatest triumphs, and to bestow its richest blessings upon man.

## Congress and its Work.

Congress takes hold of its work promptly, and shows a disposition to confine itself entirely to the subject of reconstruction. The bill already introduced by Senator Wilson covers the main points upon which the present law has been practically nullified by the President. It provides in terms for the definite overthrow of the unconstitutional and usurpatory organizations called State Governments in the late Rebel States. This we prefer to simply calling them "provisional" governments, and leaving them to be set aside at the will of the commanding officer. They are in the way of a genuine reconstruction, and should be removed. Moreover, we think that, as totally illegal organizations, a part of the unauthorized and unconstitutional work of Mr. Johnson, they should be overthrown. Every day they exist, even though it be as provisional organizations, compacts and strengthens them as *de facto* organizations. Remove them, and there will be no opportunity for manufacturing bogus Senators to be sent up to Washington to claim seats. The very essence of the contest between Congress and the President has related to these organizations, and as long as they are suffered to exist they strengthen his position and weaken that of Congress. They should, therefore, be at once extinguished. Hence we trust that the feature of Senator Wilson's bill which provides in express terms for the termination, at a specified time, of these illegal organizations, will be preserved in whatever bill may finally be passed.

The other vital point is in regard to registration. Under Stanyer's interpretation of the present law, there is no going behind any man's oath, even though it may be known to the Register, and to everybody else, that he is committing the foulest perjury. Such was not the intention of Congress, and is not a fair interpretation of the law; but since it is made, Congress should guard the point with plain and specific provisions. Certain classes of those who were prominent participants in the Rebellion should be excluded from the work of reconstruction, and the provisions of the law should be made sufficiently explicit to admit of no evasion.

**GEORGETOWN COLLEGE.**  
Commencement Exercises at Georgetown College—President Johnson and His Daughter, Mrs. Patterson, Present Speech of the President to the Scholars. WASHINGTON, July 3.—The annual commencement at Georgetown College occurred to-day, and the interest of the occasion was heightened by the attendance of President Johnson and his daughter, Mrs. Patterson, who were warmly received by Father Maguire and of the College by the students and by the audience. At the distribution of premiums President Johnson handed the prizes to the scholars, and on the termination of this interesting scene, Father Maguire made a short address, thanking the President for his gracious attendance.

He said there was a little incident which he would relate which probably went a good way to show the goodness of heart of the President, and to vindicate the conduct of his daughter, who was spoken of yesterday as having been unkind to him. He said that the President, if he (the President) had failed to come here to-day the boy would have been angry and not voted for him if he ran for the Presidency again. (Lang.) The boy, he said, was the son of his parents who only partially educated his sons. He spoke of the influence of the mother over her boy in her early religious teachings, and continued for some time with interest on the subject.

President Johnson, in response, said, in addressing the young men who graduated, as well as the other students of the college:

"After what has been so eloquently and comprehensively said by your worthy President, I doubt, even though I am not qualified to say anything further, and in fact at such a time not having been fitted out in early life with the erudition and classic lore, an abundance of which you young men have, to speak with any degree of confidence in an honored and ancient institution, I feel that it is almost a presumption on my part to attempt the decking of many a glorious creation with effort at rhetoric, or in a community such as ours making up the mass, however, my young friends, bear in mind how many there are who cannot, by force of circumstances, attend our schools, and how many of the less fortunate, and less affluent parents, employ the great privileges which have been denied to your lot, of which you as we know it are indeed most to be proud. But there is another class of whom we are not so well informed, and that is the colored race, in colleges, nor in books, and that is the education learned by experience. You have learned logic—yet nothing further, and in fact at such a time not having been fitted out in early life with the erudition and classic lore, an abundance of which you young men have, to speak with any degree of confidence in an honored and ancient institution, I feel that it is almost a presumption on my part to attempt the decking of many a glorious creation with effort at rhetoric, or in a community such as ours making up the mass, however, my young friends, bear in mind how many there are who cannot, by force of circumstances, attend our schools, and how many of the less fortunate, and less affluent parents, employ the great privileges which have been denied to your lot, of which you as we know it are indeed most to be proud. 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