Evening Telegraph

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1867.

The Southern Lawmakers.

If anything is calculated to shake one's faith in the doctrine that the world not only never moves backward, but does not so much as pause in its onward career towards a political and social millennium, it is the course pursued by some men who have, by the merest accident, obtained the ear of the Southern people. Mr. D. H. Bingham, a member of the Alabama Constitutional Convention, is a fair specimen of this class. He is a native of Vermont, but having resided in Alabama for more than thirty years, it is reasonable to suppose that he has had time to become sufficiently identified with Southern interests to desire to promote them in every possible way. Yet we regret the necessity which compels us to say that Mr. Bingham is nothing more nor less than a fire-brand in the midst of very inflammable materials. He appears to have conceived the idea that every other white man in the State is on the high road to perdition, and will be vastly benefited by a little purgatorial experience before he enters into final and unceasing torment. Therefore, he does all that he possibly can towards fomenting ill-will between the two races which must dwell together in the Southern States for a few years, if not for all time. Mr. Bingham goes about the matter systematically, and by the most inconsiderate and nonsensical harangues endeavors to foster and perpetuate in the minds of the freedmen a feeling of antagonism towards the white portion of the population. In the same spirit he speaks and votes, as a member of the Constitutional Convention; and if its labors are to be based altogether upon his platform, then woe to the unhappy men who have elevated him and others of like spirit to power.

This Alabama Convention, in which Mr. Bingham at present figures so conspicuously, is overstepping the bounds of propriety in more ways than one. Impressed with an idea that its powers are altogether sovereign and unlimited, it has undertaken to legislate upon the subject of divorces and similar matters, thereby simply holding itself up to the ridicule of the country. There are likewise in the Louisiana Convention some men who are afflicted with a sense of their own supreme authority and wisdom; and they have proposed—although the Convention has not as yet had the foolishness to declare—that no other Convention for the further revision of the Constitution shall be authorized by the Legislature within seventy years. If such a ridiculous measure is approved of by this body, it will insure to Louisiana, in all probability, a repetition of scenes similar to those which transpired in Rhode Island during the Dorr rebellion. Wise as the law-makers of Louisiana may be, they should not attempt to legislate so far into the future, for fear their grandchildren may have good cause to doubt their claim to the honor of statesmanship.

The task confided by Congress to the Southern Conventions is the greatest and the gravest that has devolved upon any similar body since the days when our Federal Constitution itself was framed. In the words of Abraham Lincoln, "With malice towards none, with charity for all, and with firmness in the right," they should "strive on to finish the work they are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, and to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace." It is their province to decide the degree of prescription which is necessary to their own safety and the welfare of the whole country. Yet, by giving loose reins to their animosity, they will more than counteract all the good they can possibly achieve, will bring themselves into antagonism with almost the entire white population of the Southern States, and will, moreover, render it necessary for Congress to administer to them a severe rebuke, by returning for material revision the Constitutions in the framing of which they are now engaged.

An Insurance Fund for Naval Officers. Senator Grimes, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Naval Affairs, yesterday introduced a bill into that body which is founded on sound policy and common sense. It contains a plan for the establishment of a fund for the insurance of the lives of our naval officers, the basis of which is to be the surplus interest of $150,000 on the annual pension, and the growth of which is secured by a compulsory levy on all officers, except Midshipmen and Third Assistant Engineers, of sums ranging from $90 to $20. By this means a handsome sum will be received, the interest on which will be continually increasing its capacity, and a provision be made for the comfort of the widows and orphans of our sailors should any disaster overtake them in the discharge of their duty. Considering the extreme hazard they continually run, we are only surprised that some such plan has not been suggested before. The risk is too great for them to secure an ordinary insurance, and it is quite time that the Government should found a fund which will remove most of the anxiety to which those who have families dependent upon them are continually subjected. We have no doubt that it will be carried into successful operation. The policy of insuring life is so apparent to those who have others relying on them for support, that it is becoming extremely general. It is a sort of perpetual means of subsistence, and is one which every father and husband ought to secure for his family. Why, then, should our sailors be excluded from the benefit of this latest improvement of our civilization? It is the duty of the Government, in whose defense they continually risk their lives, to see to their protection; and the bill of Mr. Grimes will receive the hearty assent of both Congress and the naval service.

The Question of a Century at Rest. On the 21st of January, 1769, there appeared in the London *Public Advertiser* the first of the famous series of letters by "Junius," the last being given to the public on the third anniversary of that day. During this short period they appeared at irregular intervals, to the number of forty-four; in addition to which were fifteen signed "Philo-Junius," evidently by the same author, but devoted to his support and defense. At this day, when the common resort of politicians, as well as of some who can lay claim to the high dignity of statesmanship, both in this country and in England, is unstinted abuse of their opponents, it is scarcely possible for us to appreciate the consternation which these celebrated productions created. The author had a thorough command of the most elegant and classical diction, while for bitter, biting, and inconsiderate sarcasm the century which has since elapsed has produced few who could equal and none who could surpass him. This "mighty boar of the forest," as he was styled by Burke, respected neither age, nor birth, nor official dignity; and at last, on the 19th of December, 1769, he addressed a letter to the King which filled all England with positive terror, and, according to his own confession, caused the blood of Edmund Burke to "run cold." Its withering scorn and downright malignant ferocity were more than the Government could bear up under, without making some effort at discovering and punishing the daring perpetrator. But the only thing that could be done was the prosecution of Woodfall, the publisher of the *Advertiser*, for libel, whereupon "Junius" promised to recompense him for any pecuniary loss which he might sustain in consequence. To the assistance of the Government came a multitude of minor foes whom he had aroused by his attacks, and systematic and persistent efforts were made to entrap the terror of the realm. The only occasion on which his enemies succeeded in getting upon his track was when a tall man, arrayed in a light coat, and carrying a sword and a bag, was seen to throw a letter from "Junius" into the door of Woodfall's office. He was at once pursued, but he soon stepped into a hackney coach, and in a few minutes was lost to sight. "I am the sole depositary of my own secret, and it shall perish with me," he wrote, in his final dedication to the English nation; and such were the precautions taken that a century may be said to have elapsed before the mystery was clearly and definitely solved.

During the period in which the famous letters appeared, and since then, their authorship has been ascribed to no less than forty-two of the most prominent personages of that day, among the number being Edmund Burke, Col. Barré, Lord Chesterfield, Lord Ashburton, Edward Gibbon, Viscount Sackville, Earl Temple, John Horne Tooke, Horace Walpole, John Wilkes, Lord Loughborough, and Sir Philip Francis. The first attempt to fix the authorship authoritatively upon the latter was made in 1816, by John Taylor, in a very elaborate work; and, altogether, no less than one hundred volumes and pamphlets have been written, in attempts at solving the mystery. Of late years it has been generally conceded that Francis was identical with the "mighty boar of the forest" whose anonymous productions created such a stir in the political world of the last century, the case against him, according to Lord Macaulay, resting "on coincidences sufficient to convict a murderer."

Still, the whole subject was invested with doubt, until the matter was finally taken up by the late Joseph Parkes, Esq., an indefatigable researcher, who, after devoting years to the collection and arrangement of the proofs, passed away from earth just as he was prepared to present them to the public. To Mr. Herman Merivale, a ripe scholar, well known to the world of letters by his valuable historical labors, was assigned the difficult task of completing the work, and the result has just been given to the world in two handsome volumes by the London publishing house of the Longmans. We have not the space at our command to enter into an elaborate examination of this interesting work, but must content ourselves with a summary of the incontestable proofs upon which Mr. Parkes relied for establishing the identity of Sir Philip Francis with the renowned and vindictive "Junius." They may be stated as follows:—

The manuscript of Sir Philip Francis shows a striking resemblance to the hand in which the letters of "Junius" were written. They were likewise written on the official paper used in the British War Department, in which Sir Philip was at the time employed; and were folded in precisely the same manner which the latter's letters written to Lady Francis at the same period displayed. No person who was without official sources of information could possibly have obtained a knowledge of the facts in connection with the action of the Government of which "Junius" made such forcible use; and Sir Philip, by his connection with the War Office, had ready access to the records and movements of the various departments. All the books and pamphlets, the latter in bound volumes, from which "Junius" quoted, were found in Sir Philip's library at his death. He practically admitted to Lady Francis that he was the author of the letters, his first gift to her after their marriage being a volume of "Junius," which she was commanded to take to her room, with a caution never to speak upon the subject; and after his decease a copy of Taylor's work, already referred to, was found in his bureau, sealed and addressed to his wife. Lady Francis has likewise stated that her husband always exhibited the greatest anxiety concerning a secret in connection with his contributions to the press. Added to this is the testimony of several persons who claimed to possess more or less information on the subject, all tending to sustain the fact which the above arguments would appear to render indubitable.

The volumes of Messrs. Parkes and Merivale will hereafter prove of great service to the student of English history, and we trust that they will soon be reproduced in this country. The letters of "Junius," as they were the foundation of a school of political discussion which has now become almost universal, must forever remain a model to be studied, by reason of their brilliant, logical, and sarcastic character.

A Distinction.—Although the New York Convention has been in session long enough to have furnished first-class constitutions for every State in the Union, with a few over for distribution abroad, the end is not yet. It has at last reached the delicate subject of official corruption, and ex-Mayor Opdyke, of New York city, has presented a report embodying, for the consideration of the Convention, an article which aims at its suppression. By the proposed change in the fundamental law of the State, it is clearly intimated that official bribery is a crime upon which the Legislature, as such bodies are usually constituted in New York, is not qualified to act. It provides that those who participate in bribery are to be subjected to an imprisonment of at least three years. But just here the ex-Mayor draws a very neat distinction. In case the bribe is accepted, the official who receives it will be liable to the punishment, while the tempter is not to be molested in any way. But if the bribe be refused, the vengeance of the law is to fall with equal severity upon the one who offers it. Some of the New York papers are delighted with this novel arrangement, and prophesy a return of the good old days when Peter Stuyvesant administered the law among their great-grandfathers. Under the present system, both parties to a bribe are punished equally, so that neither dare appear against the other. It is, therefore, not a matter of surprise that a proposition to permit the one who tenders a bribe to go scot free when it is accepted meets with a decided opposition. The New York Constitutional Convention, although it embraces many men of ability and strict integrity of both parties, is not made up exclusively of political saints.

Horace, when he gave to the world his famous odes, said, "*Exegi monumentum ære perennius*"—which, being interpreted, means, "I have completed a monument more durable than brass." The peripatetic Weston has created quite as great a sensation, for the moment, as did the polished flatterer of the Court of Augustus, and it is meet that his achievement should be handed down to posterity. With this object in view, the enthusiastic citizens of Cleveland have procured one of Weston's shoes, "at *enormous* expense," and this has been duly forwarded to Portland, the starting point of the great tramp. There it is to remain to the end of all time, "a monument to the enterprise of one of its citizens." For the sake of that numerous class which has gone crazy over the subject of pedestrianism, we hope that the material is stout enough and tough enough to warrant the application of the boast of the old Latin poet. And we will take the liberty to suggest to the enterprising citizens of Portland that a most excellent thing might be made of a plan to erect similar monuments to the great feat of Weston at every city, town, and hamlet through which he passed. A certificate to the effect that each and every monumental shoe is the identical one in which Weston failed to make one hundred miles in twenty-four hours, might be appended, thereby enhancing the interest and value attached to them.

Italian Unity received a strong and lasting impulse on Thursday. The cable this morning informs us that, at the opening of the session of the Italian Parliament, Menabrea, the Prime Minister who recently succeeded Ratazzi, made a speech, in the course of which, while justifying the arrest of Garibaldi, he declared that the temporal power of the Pope was as inconsistent as the occupation of Rome by a foreign power. On the same day, M. Rouher, the leader of the Ministerial party in the French Corps Législatif, delivered an elaborate defense of the course pursued by the Emperor on the Roman question, in which he admitted that Italian unity was desirable, although he deprecated the accomplishment of it by force. By these two significant speeches the Governments of both France and Italy, as at present constituted, are committed to the *idea* of Italian unity, and its realization in a peaceful way is rendered merely a question of time.

LEGAL INTELLIGENCE.

COURT OF QUARTER SESSIONS—Judge Brewster.—In the case of George L. Black, convicted during the week of burglary, the Warden of the Eastern Penitentiary testified that he was Warden of this institution in 1860, and then had George L. Black, this identical man, in custody under a sentence of two years and six months, upon a conviction of burglary, and on the night of March 3, 1861, the prisoner escaped.

Black said he did not deny that fact, but thought he could not be blamed for it, since his keepers had gone away and left his cell door open; under the circumstances he thought any man would have walked off.

At the close of our report the sentence of the Court had not been imposed.

COURT OF QUARTER SESSIONS—Judge Peirce.—In the case of the Commonwealth vs. Charles S. Johnson, convicted last summer of the forgery of a deed transferring property from James Harper, Judge Pierce read the opinion of the Court overruling a motion for a new trial, and imposed upon the prisoner the sentence of five years' imprisonment in the Eastern Penitentiary, to date from July 10th last.

SUPREME COURT—Chief Justice Thompson, and Judges Strong, Read, and Sharswood.—The commission of Judge Sharswood was read by direction of the Court.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS.—The ordinary Saturday business was before the Court.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT—Judge Cadwalader.—In the case of the United States vs. John W. Cullen, before reported, the jury rendered a verdict of guilty.

The United States vs. Brown. A criminal prosecution on a charge of removing liquors to a place other than a bonded warehouse. The United States did not identify the defendant with the man who was seen engaged in the transaction, and a verdict of not guilty was rendered.

NISI PRIUS—Judge Sharswood.—Cochrane vs. Washington Library Company. Before reported. Judgment taken *pro confesso* set aside.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

[*For additional Special Notices see the Sixth Page.*]

AMONG THE ARTICLES TAKEN into the Far West last year by one or two Indian traders, were a few gross of Phalon's "Night-Blooming Cereus," with which some of the red ladies were so delighted that they would immediately look at the other notions as long as it lasted. Even in the savage state woman is tasteful.—*Rahway Democrat.* 1t

RELIGIOUS NOTICES.

THE THIRTY-SECOND ANNIVERSARY of the "HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF PHILADELPHIA" will be held on Tuesday Evening next, Dec. 10, 1867, at 7:30 o'clock, in the First Baptist Church, corner of BROAD and ARCH Streets. Addresses by
REV. RICHARD H. ALLEN, D. D.,
REV. A. J. KYNETT, D. D.,
REV. J. SPENCER KENNARD.
Music by the Choir of the Church. 12 6 3t*

MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH.—The services of this Church, until the completion of the Chapel, will be held in ATHLETIC HALL, THIRTEENTH Street, above Jefferson. Preaching To-morrow, at 10½ A. M. and 7½ P. M., by the Pastor, Rev. P. S. HENSON, D. D. Subject of morning discourse, by request—"Baptist usage in respect to the Lord's Supper." All cordially invited to be present. *

NORTH BROAD STREET UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BROAD Street, above Poplar.—Services will be conducted by the Pastor, Rev. LAFAYETTE MARKS, at 10½ A. M. and 7½ P. M. Children's church at 2½ P. M. Sermon by the Pastor appropriate to the occasion. Strangers are cordially invited. Subject for the evening—"Daniel's Deliverance." *

THE FIFTH OF THE SERIES OF sermons to Medical Students, by the Bishops and Clergy of the Protestant Episcopal Church, will be delivered by the Rev. PHILLIPS BROOKS, at SAINT STEPHEN'S CHURCH, TENTH Street, below Market, on Sunday Evening next at 7½ o'clock. The seats in the middle aisle will be reserved for Students. *

WEEK OF PRAYER.—A MEETING will be held in the Hall of the YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION, No. 1210 CHESNUT Street, on Monday, December 9, at 1 o'clock P. M., to make arrangements for the Week of Prayer. Clergymen and Laymen invited. *

THE SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH will for the present worship in HORTICULTURAL HALL, BROAD Street, between Locust and Spruce. Preaching To-morrow at 10½ A. M. and 7½ P. M., by the Pastor, Rev. E. R. BEADLE. *

LUTHERBAUM CHAPEL, TWELFTH and OXFORD Sts.—Rev. NOAH M. PRICE, Pastor. At 10½—Christian's Object, 7½—Did Jesus die for a few or all men? Pews for the masses! Come. *

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BROAD and FITZWATER Sts.—Sermon at 10½ A. M., to Children, and at 7½ P. M., to Young Men, by the Pastor elect, the Rev. B. L. AGNEW. All invited. *

REV. G. A. PELTZ WILL PREACH To-morrow Morning and Evening at the TABERNACLE BAPTIST CHURCH, CHESNUT Street, west of Eighteenth. Services at 10½ A. M. and 7½ P. M. *

WEST SPRUCE STREET CHURCH, corner of SEVENTEENTH and SPRUCE Streets.—Sermon on Sabbath Evening next, at 7:30 o'clock, upon "The Resurrection of the Body," by Rev. WM. P. BREED, D. D. *

"THE VOYAGE OF LIFE."—FOUR Sermons by Rev. JOHN WALKER JACKSON, GREEN STREET M. E. CHURCH, commencing To-morrow at 7½ P. M. *

CALVARY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, LOCUST Street, above Fifteenth.—Preaching To-morrow at 10½ A. M., by Rev. J. W. SCHENCK, of this city; at 7½ P. M., by Rev. L. PRATT, of Washington, D. C. *

NORTH BROAD STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.—Preaching To-morrow by Rev. Prof. MATHER, of Amherst, at 10½ A. M. and 7½ P. M. Strangers invited. *

"THE EARTH SHALL TEACH THEE."—A Sermon on this subject To-morrow evening, at 7½ o'clock, by Rev. Dr. MARCH, in the CLINTON STREET CHURCH, TENTH Street, below Spruce. *

GERMANTOWN SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, TULPEHOCKEN and GREEN Streets.—Preaching by the Pastor elect, Rev. Mr. IJAMS, To-morrow at 10½ A. M. and 7½ P. M. *

UNITARIAN CHURCH, GERMANTOWN.—Rev. JOSEPH MAY will preach To-morrow at 10½ o'clock, Morning, and 7½ o'clock, Evening. *

REV. NEWMAN HALL.—SERMONS preached in this country for sale at No. 1018 ARCH Street. 6 cents a copy. 8 cents sent by mail. *

GRACE CHURCH, TWELFTH AND CHERRY Streets.—Service To-morrow Evening at 7½ o'clock. Sermon by Rev. Dr. MORTON. *

REV. J. F. M'CLELLAND WILL preach in TRINITY M. E. CHURCH To-morrow at 10½ A. M. and 7½ P. M. *

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