

Evening Telegraph

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 1868.

Education in the South—Action of the Louisiana Legislature. The educational system of the Southern States before the war was, like everything else under the control of their Governments, framed to promote the interests of the slaveholders and their families. The general policy was to build up a few colleges or universities at the expense of the respective States, where the planters could educate their sons, and to make no serious effort to establish an effective common school system. The result is well-known. The colored population remained in a state of enforced ignorance. Not only was no pains taken to educate them, but severe penalties and punishments were imposed upon all who dared to teach slaves to read and write. The annals of the world scarcely afford a parallel instance of this species of barbarity. If the pro-slavery leaders had been guilty of no other crime than this infamous offense of seeking to dwarf the intellect of four millions of human beings, they would deserve the execration of all just and enlightened men. In spite of their execrable laws, however, it occasionally happened that negroes gained knowledge as they gained freedom, by stealth; and it is probable that one of the causes of the intense desire to enjoy the blessings of education which pervades the entire mass of the freedmen, may be found in the natural reaction against the former restrictions, and in the recollection that, under the old regime, knowledge was to them a forbidden fruit.

The mass of the poor whites fared but little better than the slaves. It was, indeed, necessary on account of their political power, that a pretense of providing for the education of their children should be made, for the crying injustice of providing liberally, by State aid, for the education of the offspring of the rich and aristocratic planter, would have been too evident and too unpopular, if the common school system had been totally neglected. But nothing more conclusively proves the failure of the South to disseminate educational facilities among the masses of her white population than the ignorance which habitually prevailed among them. The census returns show that a very large proportion of her white adults, of native birth, can neither read nor write, and a contrast of these statistics between the natives of Northern and Southern States shows an overwhelming preponderance of ignorance in the latter. Meanwhile, the Southern States were much more liberal in granting aid from their treasuries to colleges where planters' sons could be educated, than the States north of Mason and Dixon's line.

These features of the old educational system of the South present a marked contrast to the policy which has been foreshadowed by the reconstructed governments in their constitutions and in the action of their Legislatures. The disposition has constantly been shown to prize education above all things except Freedom. The question is repeatedly asked and discussed, how shall we obtain the means for establishing an effective common school system? and some of the constitutions have specifically provided that a certain tax shall annually be levied for this purpose. However much the Republicans of the South may differ on other and minor questions, they all agree that the people, without distinction of circumstances or color, shall henceforth enjoy the opportunities for securing an education which have hitherto been cruelly denied to them. And the freedmen have displayed a thirst for learning and an earnest desire that their children shall be educated, which is at once highly commendable and indicative of their rapid intellectual progress. The schools established under the auspices of charitable societies in the South, and protected by the Freedmen's Bureau, have spread the seeds of knowledge broadcast, and an incalculable amount of good has already been done, despite the antagonism of the desperate class of Rebel ruffians, and their repeated attacks upon school-houses and school teachers.

The Legislature of Louisiana, impressed with the importance of establishing universal education on a secure and permanent foundation, has under discussion a bill which has been bitterly denounced in some quarters. Judged by itself, and without reference to past errors, or to the peculiar circumstances prevailing in that State, some of its provisions might be deemed highly objectionable. It proposes to make education compulsory, and thus to take a step in advance in accordance with the example of other countries and the recommendations of many of the most devoted friends of education in the Northern States. Special objection is also made to a clause providing that the schools shall be open to all children between the ages of six and twenty-one years, without distinction of race or color. In towns and cities common agreement would probably soon lead to a system of classification that would separate the races, but in the rural districts of the South it is evident that without some such clause, it would be impossible to maintain effective common schools, on account of the intolerable burden of supporting duplicate schools in sparsely settled districts. A small population is scattered over a very large territory, and if the resources of both races are not combined for a common benefit, neither can

become educated. In the rural districts of Pennsylvania where there is a small colored population, we have known many instances where colored children were admitted to the common schools, and of no case where they were denied admission. It is only in large towns or cities of this State that classified schools become practicable, and it is probable that in practice the proposed Louisiana system would become similar to that prevailing here.

The Inner Life of Thaddeus Stevens. A HYPOCRITICAL man is apt to attempt by means of his will to cover the sins of his life. A man thoroughly honest, to whom even his bitterest enemies cannot impute a dishonest action, is apt to let the public see by his will what were the real mainsprings and motive powers of his career. Mr. Thaddeus Stevens, with all the faults of his imperious temper, was most strikingly disingenuous in his conduct, and we may safely look into the inner thoughts of the man when we read his last testament. It lifts the veil with which his coldness and reserve have covered his thoughts and feeling, and lets us see for ourselves what manner of man he was. And a very touching insight it gives us into the life of that stern old man. It reveals him to us not as the cold statesman, resolute and determined, unscrupulous in the pursuit of his end and unbending in his principles, but as a tender-hearted, loving son he stands before us looking back with all the affections of his nature to his mother, and clustering around her all the sympathies and sweet affections of his life. He said on his deathbed that of all the successes of his life, that which gave him most satisfaction, was when he was able to give his mother a farm of two hundred and fifty acres, and a dairy of fourteen cows. No one, friend or foe, will say that in speaking this Thaddeus Stevens was a hypocrite. That filial affection so marked towards his earthly end, stands out in bold relief in his will. From his grave he bears his testimony to his mother's worth, and at the age of seventy-seven, speaks of her with all the affection of a boy of fourteen. Twice does he show how earnest was his love. Among the first of all the bequests of his will, we find one which provides for the perpetual embellishment of her grave. He directs:— "I give and bequeath to the trustees or trustees of the graveyard in which my mother's remains are buried, in the town of Pottsville, Vermont, five hundred dollars, to be put at interest perpetually, and the interest to be paid annually to the sexton, on condition that he keep the graves in good order, and plant flowers and other cheerful flowers at each of the four corners of said graves every spring."

Who is it that can dare to pretend to read the nature of a man? What seer would have given that stern, cold, old man credit for, amid all the cares of state, making a provision for the almost poetical wish that his mother's grave should always be surrounded by "cheerful" flowers. As the warm heart of Governor Andrews, of Massachusetts, flashed out in his directions to "send home the dead soldiers tenderly," so the warmth of Thaddeus Stevens' heart is revealed in the directions to keep his mother's grave perpetually surrounded with cheerful flowers. But as though desirous of preventing all mistake of the love he bore her, he takes another opportunity of reiterating his feelings. Belonging to no church himself, yet for her sake he leaves a legacy to a peculiar denomination. He says:— "Item—If within five years after my death the Baptist brethren should build a house of public worship in the city of Lancaster, for the purpose of worshipping according to their creed, I direct that one hundred dollars be paid towards its cost. I do this out of respect for the memory of my mother, to whom I owe what little of prosperity I have, and as it is, I desire emphatically to acknowledge."

In all this there is something very touching, and calculated to exalt the man despite whatever faults he might have had.

In addition to other private bequests he makes a provision which shows how earnest and sincere were his convictions. He provides for the establishment under certain contingencies, of an orphan asylum, and into it are to be admitted all of the needy who can be accommodated, without any distinctions whatever. There is something partaking of the highest order of Christianity in the directions given:— "I give it all to my trustees to erect, establish and endow a house of refuge for the relief of the homeless and indigent orphans. There shall be deemed orphans who have lost either parent, I owe twenty thousand dollars to be expended in erecting suitable buildings, the residue to be secured in Government securities, bearing not less than six per cent interest. The orphans who cannot be bound out may remain in the institution until the age of fifteen years, and longer, if infirm, at the discretion of the trustees. They shall all be carefully educated in the various branches of an English education, and in all industrious trades and pursuits. This must be left to the discretion of the authorities. No preference shall be shown on account of race or color in the admission or treatment. Neither poor Germans, Irish, or Mahomedans, nor any others on account of their race or to religion or their parents must be excluded. All the inmates shall be educated in the same classes and manner, without regard to color."

We believe there is no other will which has taken such broad grounds. Recognizing the universal brotherhood of men, he does not allow birth or race, religion or nationality, to interfere with his benevolent views. With such words and feelings as these a multitude of sins can be covered. In his heart was a love and fellow-feeling for all mankind, and when we remember the wide-spread charity he practiced, we cannot but place him ahead of those who profess more but keep their sympathies shut up within the narrow space of their own little circle. With the broad and orthodox sympathies of Thaddeus Stevens, posterity can afford to slight small foibles or sins. Remembering the cardinal principles for which he lived, and the evidence of them after death, we cannot but award to him a tender heart, as well as a sincere and steadfast adherence to the doctrines which he professed, and up to which he lived and died.

The Responsibilities of Our Minister to England. HON. REVERDY JOHNSON, the new Minister of the United States to the Court of St. James, has arrived in London, and will probably be presented in the course of a few days. He enters on a task of great delicacy, and one which he may well view with the greatest anxiety. Our relations with England at the present time, though seemingly cordial, are, beyond doubt, of an exceedingly unsatisfactory

nature. They are in the condition of a highly explosive material, needing but an accident to produce a rupture. At present there are two grave questions which it is the duty of the Minister to bring to a settlement. The one relates to the long-vaunted Alabama claims. Diplomacy seems almost to have exhausted itself in endeavoring to secure a satisfactory solution of the difficult question, Who is to pay the millions of losses borne by the United States commerce from the depredations of British-Rebel cruisers? A tedious series of litigation is still as far from settling the question as when the suit was first commenced. Each higher court seems to have reversed the decision of the court below. Of the exact condition at present, we are not qualified to say. But the diplomatic correspondence has come to a yet more complete dead-lock than the legal issue of the case. The question of arbitration has led to an abandonment of negotiations, so that, as far as the public is concerned, for nearly a year things have remained in statu quo. Out of this intricate confusion, it is the duty of Mr. Johnson to lead the nations, to the satisfaction of the dissatisfied people of the United States. But akin in difficulty to the question of claims, we have the not more exciting question of expatriation. By resolution of Congress, the people of America have declared that even at the point of the bayonet they will resist the obnoxious doctrine of once a subject always a subject. For four hundred years this doctrine of inalienable allegiance has been the recognized creed of the British Government. On it it has based its assumption of rights, and its claims have been recognized by most of the nations and denied by none. We now call upon Great Britain to abandon this cherished principle, and threaten, in case of refusal and the application of it to any of our adopted citizens, to declare it an act of war. With these two difficulties before him Mr. Reverdy Johnson presents his letters. To their settlement our Minister brings ripe learning and an urbanity of manner (no small acquisitions in the person of a Minister), a long experience, and clear head. We believe that he will succeed in keeping the peace. His speech upon leaving Baltimore was extremely conciliatory, breathing only of good will, and it is earnestly to be hoped that the British Government, recognizing the propriety of united action between the two great Anglo-Saxon nations, will do its share towards promoting that harmony which is so requisite to the advancement of civilization and the peace of the world.

What is Murder in the First Degree? A CASE, peculiar in many of its aspects, is at present before the public, and is one in which it would be well for the Governor of the Commonwealth to act with mercy and circumspection. The facts can be briefly stated. A colored man named Alfred Alexander, in a fit of jealous rage, stabbed Phillis Proctor, and indirectly from the effects of these stabs she died. Alexander was tried, convicted of murder in the first degree, and has been sentenced by the Governor. This looks, as stated, like a very plain case, and one which does not require Executive clemency; but there are other incidents connected with it which puts a different phase on the whole action. Alexander, as soon as he heard of his victim's death, came to the city and surrendered himself to the authorities. This fact is admitted by the prosecution, and has not been developed until now. This is clearly in his favor, and does not indicate malice. On the contrary, it rather implies an absence of all premeditation, and is always considered a next-penitence in a prisoner's favor. In the next place, Phillis died only indirectly from the effects of the wounds inflicted. The surgeon at the Pennsylvania Hospital positively swore that she could have been saved had she not refused to allow an operation to be performed, and insisted on being removed to the Almshouse. This removal and refusal were the immediate cause of her death. She died only indirectly from the wounds, which were not in themselves vital, but only became so through her own obstinacy and folly. Can this be termed murder in the first degree? On technical grounds it may possibly be so construed. On grounds of humanity and common sense it certainly can not. While therefore, the jury and court were probably correct in verdict and sentence, yet after-discovered evidence and the testimony of the surgeon naturally alter the moral guilt of the case and lead to a powerful appeal to Executive clemency. The woman died, not by the hand of Alexander but by her own act, a semi-suicide. Shall he then die as though he had with malice aforethought, caused, directly, her death? We know that he is without friends or influence, and for this reason we call attention to the facts of the case. It is a nice one of justice, and we think the Governor should hesitate before, under all the circumstances, he lets the full punishment of the law be inflicted on this man. We do not write in the interest of Alexander or any one, but only that attention may be called to the question, What constitutes murder in the first degree?

AMUSEMENT NOTES. AT THE CHESNUT STREET THEATRE last evening the crowd was as great to witness the White Fawn as on the opening night, and even in a short time a marked improvement in the workings of the scenery and those on the stage was noticed. The piece, though closing at a little after 12 o'clock on Monday night, which was far in advance in point of time of its first production in New York, was concluded at a more seasonable hour last night.

THE WALNUT STREET THEATRE, notwithstanding the immense gains at the Chesnut and the American, had a good house on the occasion of the fourteenth performance of the *Back O' the Moon* at this establishment. Everything in the play is now working smoothly, and it is given with much eclat on each production. The dancing of Dian and Leah was perfectly captivating, and each received an encore.

AT THE AMERICAN THEATRE, with new faces, still continues, and the houses are crowded each night. The play, in addition, the usual olio entertainments.

SPECIAL NOTICES. SCENTED SHOWERS.—WHILE a drop of Florida Water keeps the skin white and beautiful, use WRIGHT'S ALCOHOLIC D'ARNYE TOILET SOAP. It is sold by all druggists.

FOR THE SUMMER.—TO PREVENT Sunburn, Freckles, and keep the skin white and beautiful, use WRIGHT'S ALCOHOLIC D'ARNYE TOILET SOAP. It is sold by all druggists.

UNION LEAGUE HOUSE. PHILADELPHIA, August 19, 1868. A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE UNION LEAGUE will be held at the LEAGUE HOUSE, ON WEDNESDAY, August 26, at 8 o'clock P. M.

SIXTEENTH WARD, RALLY! RALLY! GRANT, COLPAX, AND MYERS. The Union Republican Citizens will meet at Headquarters, RACHAEL and LAUREL Streets, on THURSDAY EVENING, August 28, at 7 1/2 o'clock, to organize a Campaign Club.

PHILADELPHIA AND READING RAILROAD COMPANY. OFFICE NO. 27 S. FOURTH STREET. PHILADELPHIA, May 27, 1868. NOTICE.—To the holders of bonds of the PHILADELPHIA AND READING RAILROAD COMPANY due April 1, 1870.

PHILADELPHIA AND READING RAILROAD COMPANY. DIVIDEND NOTICE. The Transfer Books of this Company will be closed on THURSDAY, August 28, and reopened on FRIDAY, July 15, 1868.

BACHELOR'S HAIR DYE.—THIS is the only true and perfect dye; harmless, reliable, instantaneous; no disappointment; no redness; no itching; no irritation; and leaves the hair soft and beautiful, black or brown, and by all druggists and Perfumers, and prepared at Bachelor's Hair Factory, No. 150 1/2 Street, New York.

EDUCATIONAL. CRITTENDEN'S COMMERCIAL COLLEGE, No. 67 CHESNUT Street, corner of Seventh. ESTABLISHED 1846. INCORPORATED 1853.

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ST. FRANCIS' COLLEGE, IN CARE OF St. Francis Brothers, LORRETO, Calabria, Italy. For particulars, apply to the Superior, No. 28 S. THIRD Street, Philadelphia, or above.

ACADEMY OF THE PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH, LOCUST and JUNIPER Streets. The Autumnal Session will open on MONDAY, September 7.

SIG. F. RONDINELLA, TEACHER OF SINGING, English, French, Italian, and Spanish. Residence, No. 28 S. THIRTIETH Street. 8 1/2 1/2 m

PIANO.—MR. V. VON AMBERG WILL resume his lessons September 14, No. 24 South FIFTEENTH Street. 8 1/2 1/2 m

HATS AND CAPS. JONES, TEMPLE & CO., FASHIONABLE HAT AND CAP MAKERS, First door above Chesnut Street. 4 1/2

WARBURTON'S IMPROVED VENTILATED and easy-fitting Dress Hats (patented), made in England, and sold by CHAS. W. NUT Street, next door to the Post Office. 12 1/2 1/2

GROCERIES, ETC. CRIPPEN & MADDOCK, No. 115 South THIRD Street, (LATE W. L. MADDOCK & CO.) HAVE JUST RECEIVED THEIR NEW MESS MACKEREL, THE FIRST OF THE SEASON

Luncheon for Excursions, Travellers, Parties, and Tables, as follows:— DEVILED HAM, DEVILED TONGUE, DEVILED LOBSTERS, SPICED SALMON, SPICED MACKEREL, SPICED SARDINES.

Tourlet's Preserved Game, such as FATTIE WOODCOCK, SNIP, QUAIL, PHEASANT, GROUSE, FLOVER, PARTRIDGE, REED BIRDS, DUCK, VENISON, ETC. ETC. ETC.

OUR (W. G.) FAMILY FLOUR, THE CHOICEST MADE IN THE COUNTRY, ALWAYS ON HAND.

NOVELTY HOOP SKIRTS. GORED BALMORAL SKIRTS.

PARIS LA BELLE, THE HANDSOMEST GORED BALMORAL SKIRT EVER OFFERED.

COFFIN & ALTEMUS, No. 220 CHESNUT Street, PHILADELPHIA.

DRY GOODS. FOR THIRTY DAYS I WILL SELL AT A GREAT SACRIFICE THE SURPLUS STOCK,

ROCKHILL & WILSON'S GREAT BROWN STONE CLOTHING HALL, Nos. 603 and 605 CHESNUT STREET, PHILADELPHIA.

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SOAP. QUEEN OF ENGLAND SOAP. For doing a family washing in the best and cheapest manner. Guaranteed equal to any in the world. Has all the strength of the old rosin soap, with the softness and lathering qualities of genuine Castile. Try this splendid soap. SOLD BY THE ALDEN CHEMICAL WORKS, No. 48 NORTH FRONT ST. PHILADELPHIA. [25 1/2 1/2

PIANOS. STEINWAY & SONS' GRAND Square and upright Pianos, at BLASINSKI'S, No. 106 CHESNUT Street. 8 1/2

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The rates of premium, being largely reduced, are made as favorable to the Insurers as those of the best Mutual Companies, and avoid all the complications and uncertainties of Noises, Dividends, and the misunderstandings which the latter are so apt to cause the Policy-Holder. Several new and attractive tables are now presented which need only to be understood, to prove acceptable to the public, such as the INCOME PRODUCING POLICY and RETURN PREMIUM POLICY. In the former, the policy-holder not only secures a life insurance, payable at death, but will receive, if living after a period of a few years, an annual income equal to ten per cent. (10 per cent.) of the par of his policy. In the latter, the Company agrees to return to the assured the total amount of money he has paid in, in addition to the amount of his policy.

The attention of persons contemplating insuring their lives or increasing the amount of insurance they already have, is called to the special advantages offered by the National Life Insurance Company. Circulars, Pamphlets, and full particulars given on application to the Branch Office of the Company in this city, or to its General Agents.

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CLOTHING. IMMEASURABLY SIMPLE! A nice-looking young lady came into a Photographer's shop the other day, arrayed in her Sunday-get-to-meeting clothes. She was a shy-looking young lady. She looked at the photographer man, and the photograph man looked at her. Finally she spoke:— "I want to get my measure taken for a photograph, sir. Will you please to tell me how soon I can have the photograph after I get my measure taken, sir?"

And the man of photographs was taken with a fit of laughter at the nice young lady, and she was afraid the measure wouldn't be a good fit; and she went to her home in the country, and she hasn't any photograph yet, she is so simple. We don't get measured for our photographs, but ROCKHILL & WILSON are the folks who will take your measure for CLOTHES. Come and get for a new suit while the warm weather still lasts, ready-made, or made to order; certain to suit you.

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