## THE DAILY EVENING TELEGRAPH-PHILADELPHIA, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1868.

## STEWART'S NEW STORE.

Twelve Acres of Dry and Fancy Goods-

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The Promenade - The Dome - The Workshops, On the first of May, 1867, excavations were

commenced for the foundations of Mr. Stewart's new store, on Tenth street, and to-day he opens to the public the largest retail dry goods establishment in the world. To one passing through Broadway or the Fourth avenue, the exterior of the building, with its long rows of Corinthian columns, presents a grandeur of proportions not to be seen in any other structure in this city, and the impression left on the mind of the spectators is rather oue of solidity, harmony, and symmetry of proportions than of striking beauty or magnificence. As the additions, now nearly completed, are but a carrying out of the original design of the architect, and are greater in extent than the original building, any description of the edifice as it will appear when completed, must embrace equally the o d part and the new. The entire building, then, has about 200 feet front on both Broadway and Fourth avenue, 325 feet front on Tenth street, and is six stories above the street, with basement and sub cellar. The superficial area of each floor is nearly two acres, and of all the floors, including the basements, more than twelve acres. Descending to the sub-cellar, the foundations of the building are laid 22 feet deep; and the abutments are of the most solid masonry, some of them being 6x7 feet, and the others  $5\frac{1}{2}x6$ feet. Of these there are at least one hundred. The sub-cellar is to be used for the storing of carpeting and oil cloths before they are opened to the public, and is connected with all of the upper part of the building by four large elevators. Here, also, under the sidewalk on Ninth street, are four large boilers for generating steam, by which the entire building is to be heated, and also the engine for raising the elevators. Wandering through this dark and cave-like vault. lighted only here and there by a single, dimlyburning gas-jet, and walking around the immense abntments, the visitor almost expects to meet behind one of them the Troll who might well preside in such a dismal place, and by whose magic power alone, it would seem, could these massive foundations have been laid.

The basement is amply lighted from the street, and when temporary partitions shall have been taken down, the whole room thrown into one, and filled with all the varieties and descriptions of carpets known in the markets of the world, it will be one of the most attractive departments of the store. This room is but little different from the sub-cellar, except that in place of the heavy abutments plain, Equare, iron columns, each weighing from 8 to 10 tons, rest on the stone-work, and support the upper part of the building, and that the walls and ceiling are more fluely fluished. Here, also, the long lines of Doric columns commence, and are continued through all the stories above.

The first story, used as the general salesroom for every kind of dry and faucy goods, except carpets, cloaks, shawls, etc., will surpass in grandeur and beauty any other portion of the edifice. In the centre of the building a broad promenade will extend from Broadway to the Fourth avenue, which, when the store has been filled with the rich tabrics of the Old and New Worlds, when the most costly silks are displayed by the side of real Cashmere and camels'-hair shawls woven by hand in India, the products of the Jacquard loom, Jouvin's gloves, and the snowy Irish linen, it will be the most gorgeous on this side of the Atlantic at least, and will doubtless be patronized and appreciated by the ladies. The immense room is to be divided into sections, each of which will be devoted to some particular department, and all the shelves and counters strength in her husband, on whom she leaned are to be so arranged that the goods will be | for assistance in all she undertook, whether it displayed and yet not obstruct the view of every part of the room. Five hundred salesmen and assistants are now employed, and when the new part is opened, at least twice as many will be needed. But by far the grandest feature of this room is to be the great rotunda or dome which rises near the centre to the height of more than 100 feet from the floor. This dome is oblong or oval in shape, and is about 60x100 feet in size; the topis of tesselated glass, and, with the immense windows at the sides and ends of the building, throws a and not necessarily better pleased with his flood of light into every nook and corner of the edifice. For one not versed in architecture, a description of this dome is impossible. It is supported on the lower floor by 16 immense iron columns, weighing at least 20,000 lb. each, the capitals of which are highly ornamented, and support a beautiful architrave and cornice. The sides of these pillars are elaborately embossed, having on two of their faces, just below the capital, two Cupids, and below them beautiful designs of leaves and flowers; on the other sides, in addition to these ornaments, each pillar contains the coat-of-arms of the Stewart family, bearing the monogram "A. T. S." Surrounding these pillars and at a distance from them, on sixteen similar columns somewhat smaller in size, but as elaborately ornamented, and thence through the whole length of the building, extend the graceful Doric shafts, which, when painted and polished, will appear like a forest of marble. Standing beneath the dome and gazing up through story after story till the eye reaches the top, one is made dizzy and bewildered by the sight. Column rises on column, floor above floor, until the workmen in the uppermost story appear like little boys, while the bright light from above brings out the beauties of the architecture. The sides of the dome in each story above the first are surrounded by heavy balustrades, which add much to its beauty. The windows of the building are all of the most costly plate glass, those on the first floor fronts being each composed of single plates. These plates, of which there are at least 100, are about 6x16 feet, and could not have cost less than 8600 anices. At wight the have cost less than \$600 apiece. At night the entire building is to be lighted with gas, innumerable jets projecting from every part of the dome, and by gorgeous chandeliers pendant from the ceiling in other parts of the building. Every light in the building is to be ignited at once by the use of an electric battery of about 80 cups. To see the building lighted will be a grand and startling sight, when, as by a flash, light shall break in upon the darkness. The stairways leading to the upper stories are very broad and of easy ascent, and at the Bides are heavy balustrades similar to those surrounding the sides of the dome. The second story is like the first, with the exception of the opening of the dome, and that the architecture is not so heavy. This floor is to be used for the closk and shawl department. Here are to be displayed an acre and a half of cloaks, ladies' travelling suits and shawls of every variety, from the most common to those that are woven in India by hand, and are sold at from three thousand to four thousand dollars. This floor and those above it are fitted up with wash-rooms and saloons for the use of customers. Climbing one story higher, the visitor is ushered into the cutting department, where a great number of women and girls are employed in outting out the garments manufactured in the establishment, and in cutting also for families and other shops. This room occupies the whole size of the building, and is similar in every respect to the one below. It is well lighted and ventilated, and in every

the health of the operatives. The fourth and fith stories are to be used as workshops, where dress-making, embroidery, and in leed every department of the manufacture of ladies' and children's clotting is performed, except the cutting. In these departments more than seven hundred persons are employed. The sixth story has been added to the whole building, and will be used for storing purposes. Standing at the side of the dome on this floor, the view of the lower part of the building is as grand as that obtained from the first floor. The pillars, too, that support the dome proper, are of more elaborate workmanship than those in the lower stories; the capitals of the columns rest upon the shaft lower down, so as to allow a longer span for the arches. The cornices have also been highly ornamented, and especially in the gas-light must present a very brilliaut appearance. In the sixth story are two tanks for supplying water to every portion of the building; one of them is about 5x8x19 feet, and the other 4x8x11 feet, so that both may contain about 700 gallons. The roof is of tin, and has an inclination of about 10 or 12 feet from the dome in the centre towards Broad way and Fourth avenue.

No other building in the world used for the retail dry goods trade can in any way be compared with Mr. Stewart's, either in size or magnificence. European companies may some of them do as extensive business as is to be transacted here, but it is done in several shops, many of which have received addition after addition, each one totally different from the others in style of architecture and in dimensions. The largest similar building in Europe is two and a half times smaller than this .- New York Tribune.

## WEAK SISTERS.

The line at which a virtue becomes a vice through excess can never be exactly defined, being one of those uncertain conditions which each mind must determine for itself. But there is a line, wheresoever we may chose to set it, and it is just this fine dividing mark which women are so apt to overrun. For women, as a rule, are nothing if not extreme. Whether as saints or sinners, they carry a principle to outside limits, and of all partisans are the most theroughgoing, whether it be to serve God or the Devil, liberty or bigotry, Bible Communism or Calvinistic Election. Sometimes they are just as extreme in their absolute negation of force, and in the narrowness of the limits within which they would confine all human expression either by word or deed-and especially all expression of faminine life. These are the women who carry womanly gentleness into the exaggeration of selfabasement, and make themselves mere footstools for the stronger creature to kick at his pleasure; the weak sisters, who think all selfreliance unfeminine, and any originality of thought or character an offence against the ordained inferiority of their sex. They are the parasitic plauts of the human family; creatures which live by and on the strength of others; unable to stand alone, and, when deprived of their adventitious support, falling to the ground in a ruin perhaps worse than death. It is sad to see one of these weak sisters when given up to herself after she has lived on the strength of another. As a wife, she was probably a docile, gentle kind of Medora-at least on the outside, for we must not confound weakness with amiability -- suffering many things because of imperfect servants and upprofitable tradesmen, maybe because of unruly children and encroaching friends, none of whom she has so much moral power as will enable her to hold in check; but on the whole drifting through her days peacefully enough, and, though always in deficulties, never quite aground. She had a tower of was to give a dose of Dalby to the child, or a scolding to the maid, or to pronounce upon the soundness of two rival sects each touting for her soul. While he lived she obeyed his counsel-not always without a futile echo of discontent in her own heart-and copied his opinions with what amount of accuracy nature had bestowed on her; though it must be confessed more often making a travesty than a fac-simile, according to the trick of inferior translators; opinions than with his counsels. For your weak sister is frequently peevish, and, though unable to originate, is not always ready to obey cheerfully; cheerfulness indeed being for the most part an attribute of power. Still, there stood her tower of strength, and while it stood, she, the parasite growing round it, did well enough, and flourished with a pleasant semblance of individual life into the hollowness of which it was no one's business to inquire. But if the tower falls, where is the ivy? Take away the husband, and what becomes of the wife, when one has been the life and the other only the parasite ? Abandoned to the poor resources of her own judg-ment, she is like one suddenly thrown into deep water, not knowing how to swim. She has no judgment. She has been so long acoustomed to rely on the mind of another that her own is paralyzed for want of use. She is any one's tool, any one's echo, and, worse than that, if left to herself she is any one's victim. All she wants is to be spared the hardship of self-reliance, and to be directed free of indi-vidual exertion. She is utterly helpless — helpless to act, to direct, to decide; and it de-nerds on the man shows of the state of pends on the mare chance of proprietorship whether her slavery will be degradation or protection, ruin or safety. For she will be a slave, whosoever may be her proprietor, being the pabulum of which slaves and victims are naturally formed. The old age of Medora is Mrs. Borradaile, who, if her husband had lived. would have probably ended her life in an honorable captivity and a well-directed subserviency. We often see this kind of helpless weakness in the daughter of a man of overbearing will, or of a termagant mother fond of managing and impatient of opposition. During the plastic time of her life, when education might perhaps have developed a sufficient amount of mental muscle, and by a course of judicions moulding she might have been somewhat fairly set up, she is snubbed and suppressed till all power is crushed out of her. She is taught the virtue of self-abnegation till she has no self to abnegate, and the backbone of her individuality is so incessantly broken that at last there is no back-bone left in her to break. She has become a mere human mollusk, which, when it loses its native shell, drifts helplessly at the mercy of chance currents into the maw of any stronger creature that may fancy her for his prey. One often sees these poor things left orphans and friendless at forty or fifty years of age. They have lived all their lives in leadingstrings, and now are utterly unable to walk alone; they are infants in all knowledge of the world, of business, of human life; their youth is gone, and with it such beauty and attrac-tiveness as they might have had, so that men who might have liked them when fresh and gentle at twenty do not care to accept their wrinkled helplessness at forty; they have been kept in and kept down, and so have made no friends of their own; and then, when the strong-willed father dies, or the termagant similar in every respect to the one below. It mother goes to the place where the wicked is well lighted and ventilated, and in every cease from troubling, the mollusk they have way arranged to give comfort to and preserve hitherto protected is left defenceless and alone. A gainst undue slavery goes very near to a re-

the social sharks always on the lookout for fat morsels are very small indeed. It is well if she falls into no worse hands than those of legitimate priests of either section, whether enthusiastic for chasubles or crazy for missions; and if her money is put to no baser use than supplying church embroidery for some Brother Ignatius at home, or blankets for converted Africans in the tropics.

It might go into Agapemones, into spiritual Athenaums, into Bond street back parlors, where it certainly would do no good, take it any way one would; for, as it must go into some side-channel dug by stronger hands than hers, the question is, into which of the innumerable conduits offered for the conveyance of superfluous means shall it be directed i This is the woman who is sure to give in to religious excesses of one kind or another, and for whom, therefore, the convent system would be a godsend past words to describe. She is unfit for the life of the world outside. She has neither strength to protect herself nor beauty to win the loving protection of men; she cannot be taken as a precious charge, but she will be made a pitiable victim; and under the gloomiest aspect possible, surely the nar-row safety of a convent cell is a better fate for her than the publicity of the witness-box at the Old Bailey. As she must have a master, her c ndition depends on what master she has; and the whole line of her future on whether she is directed or "exploited," and used to serve noble ends or base ones.

As a mother, the weak sister is even more unsatisfactory than as a spinster left to herself with funds which she can manipulate at pleasure. She is affectionate and devoted; but of what use are affection and devotion without guiding sense or judgment? Even in the nursery, and while the little ones need only physical care, she is more obstructive than helpful, never having so much self-reliance or readiness of wit as to dare s remedy for one of those sudden maladies incidental to children, and dangerous just in proportion to the length of time they are allowed to run unchecked. And if she should by chance remember anything of present value, she has no power to make her children take what they don't like to take, or do what they don't like to do. In the horror of an accident she is lost. If her child were to cut an artery, she would take it into her lap tenderly enough, but she would never dream of stopping the flow; if it swallowed poison, she would send for the doctor who lives ten miles away; and if it set herself on fire, she would probably rush with it into the street for the chance of assistance from a friendly passer-by.

She never has her senses under command and serviceable; and her action in a moment of danger generally consists in unavailing pity or in obstructive terror, as she herself is safe or involved, but never in useful service or in valuable suggestion. But if she is useless in her nursery while her children are young, she is even more helpless as they get older; and the family of a weak woman grows up, unassisted by counsel or direction, just as the old Adam wills and the natural bent inclines. Her girls may be loud and fast, her sons idle and dissipated, but she is powerless to corcect or to influence. If her husband does not take the reins into his own hands, or if she is a widow, the young people manage matters for themselves under the perilous guidance of youthful passions and inexperience. And nine times out of ten they give her but a rough corner for her own share. They have no respect for her, and, unless more generously compassionate than young people usually are, scarcely care to conceal the contempt they cannot help feeling. What can she expect ? If she was not strong enough to root out the tares while still green and tender, can she wonder at their luxariant growth about her feet now ? She, like every



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one else, must learn the sad meaning of retri bution, and how the weakness which has allowed evil to flourish unsubdued has to share in its consequences and to suffer for its sin.

Unsatisfactory in her home, the weak sister does not do much better in society. She is there the embodiment of restriction. She can bear nothing that has any flavor or color in it. Topics of broad human interest are forbidden in her presence because they are vulgar, improper, or unfeminine. She takes her staud on her womanhood, and makes her womauhood to be something apart from humanity in the gross. There must be no cakes and ale for others if she is virtuous, and spades are not to be called spades when she is by to hear. She is the limit beyond which no one must go, under pain of such displeasure as the weak sister can show. And weak as she is in many things, she can get to a certain strength of displeasure: she can condemu, persistently, if not passionately. Nothing is more curious than the way in which the weak sister exercises this power of condemnation; and nothing much more wide than its scope. If incapable of yielding to certain temptations, because incapable of feeling them, she has no pity for those who have not been able to resist; yet, on the other hand, she cannot comprehend the vigor of those who withstand such influences as conquer her. If she is still under the shadow of family protection, safe in the power of those who know how to hold her in all honor and prosperity, she cannot forgive the poor weak waif-yet no weaker than herself-who has been caught up in the outside desert of desolation, and made to subserve evil ends. As for the woman who is able to think and act for herself, she has a kind of superstitious horror of such a person, and shrinks from one who has made herself notorious, no matter what the mode or me thod, as from something tainted, something unnatural and unwomanly. She has even grave doubts respecting the lawfulness of doing good if the manner of it gets into the papers, and names are mentioned as well as things; and though the fashion of the day favors feminine notoriety in all directions, she holds by the instinct of her temperament, and languidly maintains that woman is the cypher to which man alone gives distinctive value. Griselda and Medora are the types to her of womanly affection, and the only strength she tolerates in her own sex is the strength of endurance and the power of patience. She has no doubt in her own mind that the

ordained purpose of woman is to be conve-nient for the high-handedness and brutality of man, and any woman who objects to this theory, and demands a better place for herself, is flying in the face of Providence, and forfeiting one of the distinctive privileges of her sex. For the weak sister thinks, like some others, that it is better to be destroyed by orthodox means than saved by heterodox ones; and that if good Christians uphold moral suttee, they are only pagans and barbarians who would put out the flames and save the victim from the burning. So far she is respectable, in that she has a distinct theory about something; but it is wonderfully eloquent of her state that it should only [be the theory of Griseldadom as womanly perfection, and the beauty to be found in the moral of Cinderella sitting supinely among the ashes, and forbidden to own even the glass slipper that belonged to her. Fortunately for the world, the weak sister and her theories do not rule; indeed, we

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