

Evening Telegraph

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1868.

Universal Suffrage by Constitutional Amendment.

It is generally believed that among the first and most important measures brought before Congress at the approaching session, will be one looking to the amendment of the Federal Constitution in such a way that the right of suffrage will be secured to all men throughout the length and breadth of the land, without any regard to the color of their skins or the comparative sensitiveness of their skin-bones. In other words, it is proposed to dispose at once and for ever of the vexatious suffrage question by so amending our fundamental law as to specify clearly and unmistakably the classes which are to be entitled to the franchise, or to place in the hands of Congress the sole and exclusive jurisdiction of the subject. In all likelihood the movement will assume the former bearing, and the proposed amendment will explicitly declare that the ballot is an inherent right of manhood, coordinate with the other rights which are enumerated in the Declaration of Independence as "inalienable." As matters now stand, but few of the most extreme men who act with the Republican party dispute the claim of the States to regulate the franchise within their own limits, without dictation or interference by Congress. The case of the States which engaged in the nefarious attempt to destroy the life of the nation, it is generally conceded, does not come within the scope of this principle, Congress having acquired jurisdiction over the suffrage question in reference to them by virtue of that constitutional provision which requires "the United States"—meaning Congress and the executive branch of the Government, if it mean anything at all—to "guarantee to every State in the Union a republican form of government." But if a black man be entitled to a vote in Rhode Island or South Carolina, he is certainly, according to the common sense view of the case, entitled to the same privilege in Pennsylvania or Maryland. Yet, while the franchise is regulated and controlled by each State for itself, this uniformity, which is so desirable, will for years remain impracticable, since the prejudice of color will continue to linger in some benighted corners of the country, long after the last vestige of it has disappeared from others.

So much for consistency and uniformity, but whenever we come down to the inherent justice involved in the issue, we maintain, as we have long done, that the color of a man's skin should not have anything more to do with his political privileges than with his right to breathe the air of heaven and enjoy unimpeded the fruits of his own toil. For this reason, as well as for the sake of consistency and uniformity, we should rejoice at any practicable solution of the pending question. Beyond all doubt, the most practicable of all imaginable solutions would result from the adoption of such an amendment as is proposed—either the incorporation of the doctrine of universal suffrage in the Constitution itself, or the clothing of Congress with exclusive jurisdiction over the subject. Continued and systematic opposition to the principle involved in this issue can spring only from a lingering adherence to the pernicious doctrine of State sovereignty, which was the curse of the nation from its foundation up to the attack on Fort Sumter, and from that day forward the entering wedge which came near resulting in its disruption. As opponents of the proslavery dogma of State sovereignty, and of all its infamous offshoots, therefore, if for no other reason, we advocate the adoption of such an amendment to the fundamental law of the land as will either remove the suffrage question forever from the arena of politics by a final and impartial settlement, or will consign it to Congress, where it properly belongs.

Yet, desirous as we are of seeing one or the other of these results brought about, we cannot conceal from our readers the doubts of its success at the present time which we are forced to entertain. As the political complexion of the lower house of the Fortieth Congress now stands, the Republican majority will fall a little below two-thirds, and consequently, if the proposed amendment, in either shape, is to be submitted to the Legislatures of the States, according to the forms provided in the Constitution, it must be done by the present Congress, which has still a three months' lease of power, and the Republican preponderance requisite to accomplish the object in view. But, even if Congress should, at the approaching session, perform its portion of the work, the proposed amendment would still have to encounter the ordeal of the State Legislatures, a ratification by three-fourths of the number being requisite. When we look over the list of States, from Alabama to Wisconsin, we are inclined to the belief that the dream of universal suffrage through the instrumentality of a constitutional amendment is not destined to witness a very speedy fulfillment. Indeed, of the twenty-one Northern States we can count with certainty only on the following:— Maine, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Iowa, and Vermont, Minnesota—7. Massachusetts, and with all the prestige of the war in favor of the movement, Connecticut, Ohio, Kansas, and Missouri, all of which were carried for General Grant by

respectable majorities, have refused to enfranchise the blacks living within their borders, and public sentiment does not take such rapid strides as would justify us in believing that they were not in earnest in so doing. With only seven Northern States assuredly in favor of the change, it certainly appears to be in a hopeless plight at present. And when we remember that the adverse votes of ten States will defeat the measure for several years to come, and glance over the following list:—

- Connecticut, Georgia, New York, Kentucky, New Jersey, Arkansas, Pennsylvania, Missouri, Delaware, Indiana, Maryland, California, and Virginia, Oregon—

fourteen in number, we lose all hope and expectation of seeing justice to all men brought about in the manner contemplated. Therefore, while it may do no harm for Congress to propose an amendment looking towards the enfranchisement of all the citizens of the United States, we must patiently await the action of each State by itself, trusting that the principles of justice will yet win to their advocacy the whole united American people.

The Capture of Cuba.

We place no reliance whatever on the rumors so industriously circulated in regard to an invasion of Cuba by an organized band of "filibusters" for the purpose of annexing it to the United States. The source of the information heretofore made public warrants a belief that it is nothing but a New York canard, started for excitement, kept alive by credulity, and which will die out as soon as some new occasion for a sensation arises. Just now our startling New York contemporaries are having a hard time to secure the proper amount of excitement for the appetites of their readers. The election is over and Congress has not met. Grant is silent as to his intentions, and people will not believe the rumors as to his Cabinet. In fact, there is an hiatus, and it must be filled up. Therefore Cuba is selected, and Hemmingen chosen as the leader of the buccanniers. General Hemmingen is well known in Philadelphia, having been here with Kosuth, whose secretary he was, and having also resided here about the time of the other filibustering expedition in which he was identified with the late General Walker. At present he is said to be in New Orleans, and has acquired a fortune. If this be true, it seems highly improbable that he will again risk his head in chimerical expeditions such as the one proposed. Cuba is a desirable object of accession to the United States, but the present feeling is so strongly in favor of a legal acquisition that it is not probable that the invaders will meet with much encouragement at home. Looking at their conduct calmly, we are at a loss to understand what they expect to realize by the attempt. They land and get to the mountains. What then? Granting that they are so successful as to escape the men-of-war and the batteries which will attempt to resist them, what will they gain after getting to the mountains? The New York World says they will have sufficient provisions to hold out until the republicans of the island rise and come to assist them. We have heard a little of any general dissatisfaction in Cuba among the people that we doubt if there exists any to a sufficient extent to make it formidable. It requires that the community should be in a state of semi-combustion, and that the arrival of these foreigners must apply the match. If, however, the native ardor is dampened, then there can be little or no hope for anything like a general insurrection, and, as a consequence, the band of adventurers must either retire—a proceeding decidedly difficult; or surrender—a proceeding which means death; or become a band of robbers, which is by far the most probable result that will follow an invasion. All these facts are perfectly well known to those who talk of getting up the expedition, will be calculated on by them, and fully considered. For these reasons we believe that the time has not come when any serious attempt will be made on Cuba, and the Captain-General of that island might as well save his telegraph bills, and rest in quiet, so far as the contemplated invasion is concerned.

A CHANCE FOR SEWARD.—There must be a little "unpleasantness" between Secretary Seward and Raymond, "the little villain" of the New York Times. If not, why should the Times give place to such an editorial paragraph as the following?—"We have lately heard the theory that the United States proposed to annex the Sandwich Islands, and that the Secretary of State had been visited by a great 'tidal wave' which had deluged Hawaii and an earthquake had visited Hilo? We pause for a reply." The announcement that a tidal wave, an earthquake, or an iceberg has visited any out-of-the-way place in all the wide world is but the precursor of the announcement that the Secretary of State is negotiating for the purchase of that same out-of-the-way place on national account. If the Times does not intend to hold Mr. Seward up to ridicule, it should not touch up his passion for tidal waves, earthquakes, and icebergs in this sarcastic fashion.

OBITUARY. Gioacchino Rossini. The musical world has sustained a great loss by the death of Rossini, which is announced as having taken place in Paris yesterday. This event was not altogether unexpected, as the great composer had been ill for some time, and it was scarcely hoped for that he would recover. Gioacchino Rossini was born at Pesaro, near Bologna, in Italy, on the 29th of February, 1792, and he was consequently in his 77th year at the time of his death. His parents were strolling players, and at ten years of age his musical talents were so much developed that he was able to assist in the orchestra. He was afterwards placed under tuition, and he developed soprano voice of great purity. For several

years he was employed as a chorister in the Bologna churches and in the choruses of the provincial theatres. In 1817 he entered the service of Padre Martini, he obtained a thorough knowledge of counterpoint. He determined to become a writer of operas, as his tastes attracted him to the stage, and to that end he left school when he had acquired enough knowledge of the science of harmony to answer his purpose, and applied himself to the study of the works of the principal Italian and German opera writers. At 18 years of age he produced his first dramatic work, La Gamba di Matrimonio, at the San Moise Theatre, in Venice, but his Demetrio e Polibio, which was produced in Rome in 1811, is said to have been written about two years earlier. In 1812 he wrote five operas, of which his L'Inghilterra in the only one now remembered. In the following year these operas were given to the world, and Rossini excited the greatest enthusiasm, and raised him to the height of popularity at a bound. The U. Rani in A. Gieri, written in the same year, was almost equally successful. In the year following he wrote Milan, Milan, and in 1815 he wrote Elisabetta Regina d'Inghilterra for the San Carlo Theatre, Naples; and during his engagement as musical director of that establishment from 1815 to 1822, he composed his inimitable bouffé opera, Il Barbiere di Siviglia, the greater portion of which is said to have been written in eight days, Olio La Cenerentola and La Gazza Ladra. All of these works retain their popularity, although they are not performed in this country as often as lovers of good music would like. Among the other works of this period are the oratorios of Mosè in Egitto; La Donna del Lago; Maometto Secondo; Zelmira; Armida Riccarda e Zaira; Provaldo; Ismone; Edouard Capuano; Bianca and Matilde e Comandante. In 1823 Rossini gave his opera of Semiramide to the world, and with it took us a revival of the Italian stage. In the same year he married Madame Coltrano, a distinguished prima donna of the San Carlo Theatre, and in the year following he visited London, where he was extensively lionized, and was engaged to write an opera for the King's Theatre. This, however, he failed to do, but he returned to the continent a year later richer by £9,000, realized from concerts given by himself and his wife. He next took up his abode in Paris, and became director of the Italian Opera, a position which he held until 1830. While in Paris he composed Il Rinaldo e Rinaldo, the name of which was afterwards adapted to the libretto of La Comte d'Orléans, and in 1829 he produced his great work of Guillaume Tell. After this he wrote nothing of importance except the Stabat Mater. The revolution of 1830 deprived him of his position of Inspector-General of Singing, to which he had been appointed by Charles X, and in 1838 he retired to a villa near Bologna. For a number of years past he was in the habit of visiting Paris frequently, and in fact he passed the greater part of his time there, as the gay capital seemed to have a particular fascination for him. Rossini was extremely handsome in his youth, and although vain, he had the reputation of being kind-hearted and charitable. Few composers have shown more skill in writing for the human voice, and his rich and florid style renders his works popular with the masses, while they satisfy the most exacting demands of the connoisseurs. It is reported that Rossini has left a number of unfinished works and short pieces, which perhaps will be given to the world, unless he has imposed restrictions upon his executors in limitation of Meyerbeer's example.

AN ENGLISH FORECAST.—The London Saturday Review of October 31, several days before our Presidential election, in the course of a very discriminating editorial on the probable result, remarked:—"There is no likelihood that any large State, with the exception of New York, will vote for the Democratic nominees; and it is well that no legal doubt should attach to the regularity of the election. The exclusion of three States from all share in the choice of a President might have raised formidable doubts if their votes had been material to the result; but Grant and Colfax will be elected by a majority of two-thirds, or perhaps three-fourths, of the whole number of votes. It is true that the popular vote would be less unequally divided if the entire population of the Union voted as a single constituency; but in this instance the more complicated mode of election by States represents the general opinion. It is only in some of the great cities, and in two or three border States, that the Democrats retain their former superiority. The Irish immigrants in New York and Philadelphia still adhere to the party which has always cultivated their favor; and it is natural that Kentucky and Maryland should cherish their ancient sympathies. The confidence of the Republicans and the despondency of the Democrats has, during the contest, received a curious illustration in the partial discontinuance of the avidity with which both parties had previously cultivated the favor of the Pennans."

Dr. H. T. HELMHOLD.—A paragraph appeared in one of the Sunday papers yesterday, announcing that Mr. H. T. Helmholt, the well-known druggist, was insane, and that he had by the advice of his physicians, been sent to the Asylum. We have the best authority for denying the truth of this statement in every particular. Mr. Helmholt is not insane, never has been, and to all appearances he is never likely to be. He is one of the sharpest, most quick-witted, and enterprising business men in the country, and a prompt denial of such an injurious statement is no more than is justly due him.

SPECIAL NOTICES. WRIGHT'S ALCOYATED GLYCERIN. Tablet of Soudized Glycerin tends to preserve the skin from dryness and wrinkles, imparts a wonderful degree of softness and delicacy to the complexion, and whiteness to the skin; is an excellent remedy for itching humors, and tonic to the mouth and gums; imparts sweetness to the breath, and is highly recommended for sale by all druggists. R. & G. A. WRIGHT, No. 64 CHESTNUT STREET.

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD COMPANY. TREASURER'S DEPARTMENT. PHILADELPHIA, NOV. 2, 1868. NOTICE TO STOCKHOLDERS. The Board of Directors have this day declared a Semi-annual Dividend of FIVE PER CENT. on the capital stock of the Company, clear of National and State taxes, payable in cash, on and after November 30, 1868. Bank Powers of Attorney for collecting Dividends can be obtained at the Office of the Company, No. 235 N. 2d Street. The Office will be open at 8 A. M. and closed at 4 P. M., from Nov. 30 to Dec. 5, for the payment of Dividends, and after that date from 9 A. M. to 3 P. M. THOMAS T. FIRTH, Treasurer.

MR. JOHNSON, FORMERLY CONSULTING SURGEON and Dentist to the Royal Family of England, November 16, at 8 o'clock. MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, at 8 o'clock. FEM. LE DRES. PATENTED—PANTS SOURED AND STRETCHED from 1 to 5 inches, at 1000 French Steam Dyeing and Finishing, No. 29 N. 5th Street, and No. 22 RACE STREET. TO LET—A LARGE CENTRAL DWELLING, No. 45 S. EIGHTH STREET, 14 rooms; modern conveniences. Rent \$200. Security required. Apply to JAMES H. CLARK, No. 100 N. 5th Street. MISSES' AND CHILDREN'S DRESSMAKING in the latest Paris style. M. SHORRECKER & CO., No. 101 CHESTNUT STREET.

SPECIAL NOTICES. IMPORTANT STATEMENT.—JUSTICE to my dear friends and partners in Philadelphia demands that I should publicly state that I am feeling longer connected with the Old in Dental Association of this city, as their operator, but am now residing in my own office, where I continue to practice my specialty, devoting my whole energies to this branch. The following eminent gentlemen in the dental profession send their cases of extracting teeth to me: Dr. J. B. White, Dr. Daniel Neal, Dr. David Roberts, Dr. Malin Kline, Dr. James S. Williams, Dr. O. E. & E. R. Hopwood, Dr. Lewis Jack, Dr. Edw. Townsend, & R. H. F. Reinstette, and many others. Respectfully, DAVID P. R. THOMAS, Office, No. 107 WALNUT STREET.

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THAT MYSTERIOUS BOX! Mr. Secretary Stanton, Before they had Great On, Received a mysterious box 'Twas said to hold money, 'Twas fabled so funny, With ruses, with bands, and with locks, And mighty legal scholars Said thousands of dollars Were held in that package so strong So in safe apartment, Below War Department, They kept it for over so long. But early Wednesday morning They thought, red tape scoring, Its contents to light they'd expose: With great expectation, Oh! queer revelation! Jeff. Davis' feminine clothes! Now the ladies send petition To hold exhibition Of calico wrapper and all; But the men to be seen are rubbing And crowding and pushing For clothes to the GREAT BROWN'S HALL.

THE folks at the War Department were badly sold. Jeff's cast-off remains may be exhibited as an object of national curiosity, but for additional usefulness, durability, economy, and beauty, the clothes of this great nation seek the massing's apparel which is to be had on such delightful terms only at the GREAT BROWN & STONE HALL OF ROCKHILL & WILSON, 411 1/2 N. 5th and 6th CHESTNUT ST. Philadelphia. WILLIAM YOUNGER'S AND McEWAN'S SPARKLING SCOTCH ALES. ALSO, Guinness, Son & Co.'s Extra Brown Stout. FIFTY CASES OF THESE STRICTLY FINE ALES AND BROWN STOUT IN STORE. FOR SALE BY THE CASE OR DOZEN. SIMON COLTON & CLARKE, S. W. Corner BROAD and WALNUT STS., 11 1/2 1 PHILADELPHIA. PIANOS. STEINWAY & SONS' GRAND SQUARE and upright Pianos, at BLASINSKI'S, No. 1008 CHESTNUT STREET. 8 1/2 U. STECK & CO'S AND HAINES' BROTHERS' PIANOS, and MASON & HALE'S CABINET ORGANS, only at J. G. GUILD'S New Store, 8 20 3/4 S. CHESTNUT ST., No. 924 CHESTNUT STREET.

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