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Erening Telegraph

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1868.

Religion and Amusements. Much attention has been excited by an able

and ei quent sermon by the Rev. Robert Laird Collier, a distinguished Unitarian clergyman of Chicago, defending dramatio and operatic entertainments from the aspersions made scainst them by many religious persons, and advocating them not only as affording the best means of relaxation and rational enjoyment to people too much tasked in body and mind by hard work, as most Americans are, but as really calculated to promote the cause of morality and Christianity, if rightly used and properly conducted. Mr. Collier was induced to deliver this discourse because of a very ill-advised address issued by the Ministerial Union of Chicago, which called upon the Legislature to pass laws prohibiting the amusements which they condemned, and app-aling to the press to support them in the position which they had taken. Without stopping to inquire whether there might not be some good in the drama and opera which society could not well afford to lose, or whether practical measures could not be adopted for doing away with things that have been complained of as objectionable, or inquiring how much reason there really was in the objections usually made against the theatres, the Ministerial Union proposed to do away with the whole thing, root and branch. As a matter of course, this action deprived the appeal of the Union of any influence it might have had, and Mr. Collier, being a theatre and opera-goer himself as well as a clergyman, disputes the capacity of his ministerial brethren to sit in judgment on a matter about which they are not sufficiently well informed to be able to have intelligent opinions. And it is for just this reason that the opposition of religious people to the theatre has no weight whatever with the world at large, or with that intelligent and thoughtful class of play-goers who are willing to listen to any arguments founded on reason and knowledge. and who wish to see the drama ranked among the fine arts, and fulfil its mission as an educator of public taste as well as affording mere amusement for overtasked humanity. That amusements are necessary no student of human nature will probably deny, and this necessity is acknowledged by our best clergymen and most devoutly religious men when they get up a Sunday School picnic or organize a church fair for the purpose of allowing the young people connected with their places of worship to have a froile. Whether such entertainments are better calculated to promote the cause of religion and good morals than those usually given within the walls of our theatres, it is not our present purpose to discuss; but experience has amply demonstrated that the taste for dramatic performances is more largely developed than for almost any other form of public amusement, and that the drama supplies a desideratum that cannot be filled in any other manner. To dramatic performances in the abstract it is impossible that any real objection can be made, and it is an absurdity to suppose that there is anything more harmful in seeing one of Shakespeare's plays represented on the stage than there is to read it in the closet or in the family circle, unless there is something demoralizing in the very atmosphere of a theatre which should cause good men to shun it. And this is the very ground that the opponents of the theatres take; for fathers of families who will encourage their sons and daughters to study Shakespeare as one of the best books in existence after the Bible, will not permit their children to witness the dramas of the great poet of human nature as expounded by such artists as Forrest or Booth, for fear that some unknown evil may contaminate them and sap the principles of virtue which it has been their earnest effort to instil. That much of this opposition to the opera and drama is to be attributed merely to ignorance and a traditional prejudice against the stage, which has no real foundation at the present day, whatever it may have had in the reign of Charles II, for instance, every intelligent theatre-goer well knows. We never have and never expect to advocate or apologize for immorality or indecency on the stage, and if we defend the drama it is because we believe that its influence, all in all, is for good. Even the so-called "sensation" plays and spectacles have their use, for they appeal to a class of tastes that would not appreciate the higher order of performances: and if they contain nothing objectionable, they are not to be condemned merely because men of the highest culture can see nothing entertaining in them. For a young man to spend all his evenings in visiting the theatres would, in most instances, be a great waste of time, as it would if he did nothing but lounge about in picture galleries or read blood-and-thunder novels. But those who abuse their privileges are not so large a proportion of the regular theatregoers that we could advocate closing the places of public amusement on their account, especially as there is no better or equally as good way provided for them to spend their leisure moments.

| fessedly uninspired advice, which professing Christians from that day to this have generally been content to disregard in substance, but his admonition to "Use this world as not abusing it," which is the gist of the whole chapter, is not more applicable to anything than to this very matter of theatrical amusements. Mr. Collier states the case plainly and understandingly in the following paragraphs: --

understandingly in the following paragraphs: — "I recognize as universal in the race the dra-matic instinct. I nave traced in this pulpit the entire history, in brief, in summary, of the origin and history of the drama. There is no need of inst to night. The drama is as ancient as the race. Furthermore, much of the biblical literature, in lisspirit and in its form, is dra-matic. I am not quite sure but that the very first chapters in Genesis are dramatic; I am quite sure that Job is dramatic; but Ruth is; that Esther is dramatic. Shakespeare, the peerless poet of centuries, had no function in the world, and no name left to history, had it not been for the dramatic instinct and apti-tude. So with Million. The grandest poets that God has given to the world have been its dramatic poets. Ard, furthermore, human character has its highest representations in the drama." drams.

And, after speaking of the profound impression made upon him by Mr. Jefferson's exquisite personation of "Rip Van Winkle," he SAVS:-

"I wonder who among the Ministerial Union ever saw Jefferson in 'Rip Van Winkle?' Let us give to these friends the advantage of our be give to these mends the advantage of our judgment of their ignorance. Ristori, Rachel, Boosh, Murdoch, especially Davonport and J.firson, are all God's gifts to man. So I say that the legitimate drama is to be endorsed. It is an educator. It is in no wise to be apologized for. And in regard to the opera, I need only, I think, say that, so far as the legitimate opera is concerned only one who objects to it on more concerned, any one who objects to it, on moral grounds, must either be ignorant of it—I think, for the must part, that those who object to the for the most part, that those who object to the opera arc—or there certainly must be a moral weakness in the nature of such objectors. To say that the opera is corrupting is to say the most irrational and forlish thing that the human lips are capable of I say that a man must be ignorant of what the opera is; must have been wholly without the knowledge of it, or else brought to its hearing a isscivious nature to begin with. I admit that very meny excellent persons do not enjoy the opera. Not only excellent people morally, but cultivated people intellectually, do not enjoy the opera. Many of our finest minds go to the opera and come away, feeling it was a waite of the opera. Many of our intest minds go to the opera and come away, feeling it was a waste of time, and we who can enjoy it in any wise, be it ever so little, ought to feel a profound sorrow for such people, because they do not know the infinite delights and joys of which, by their lack of musical culture, they are deprived. But it is their duty simply to say they do not like it. It is a sorry religion that rejects it on the sour grape principle; because they cannot they won't let any body else."

There is good common sense as well as true religion in the following:-

"It is no logic with which to meet a young man starting out in life, who has ideas of his own, and wants reasons for everything that he does, that he is to refrain from amusements because they are liable to be abused. Let us meet him right, and say:-Sir, you are to use the drama, you are to use the opera, you are to use the cards you are to use dancing, you are to use everything; but you are to abuse onthing. Because you can go to the legitimate drama it is no license for you to feast your eyes upon vulgarities anywhere; and because you can play caros in your house, it is no reason that you have a license to go to the gaming table, and play for other neople's money without, return. have a license to go to the gaming table, and play for other people's money without return-ing values anywhere.' This is the lesson. Let us teach our youth that these things can be used, and when abured the penalties of sin will just as surely follow them as God has said, "Whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap. If he sow to the spirit, of the spirit he shall reap everiasting life; and if he sow to the flesh, of the flesh he shall reap damnation.'" Mr. Callier disapproves of what he styles

the "sensation" and 'illegitimate" drama, and his opinions on this point are entitled to a respectful consideration, although we are inclined to think that he has, in a great measure at least, allowed his individual tastes to influence his judgment.

That there is never anything said or done on the boards of our theatres of an objectionable character we do not pretend to say, but if the theatres had the countenance and support of the religious portion of the community all cause for complaint would soon be done away with; and it is because this countenance is withheld, and because the actors as well as the theatres are put under a ban and social ostracism, that an improper license is sometimes permitted. We say sometimes, because the causes for complaint on this score are not by any means as frequent as is commonly assumed by persons who know nothing at all about the matter. This subject is worthy of the attentive consideration of all persons who have at heart the promotion of the cause of morality and religion, and we have alluded to it not so much for the purpose of defending the theatres as to excite the attention of those who we think ought to use their influence for the purpose of elevating the character of the most popular entertainments of the day rather than for denouncing them, bringing them into discredit, and consequently degrading them. The Ministerial Union of Chicago would be engaged in a much worthier work, and one much more likely to be successful, if they would imitate Mr. Collier's example, and inform themselves by personal observation, and by discussion of the question with intelligent theatre-goers, what there is really good or bad in the drama and opera, and then exert themselves to do away with any objectionable features that might be brought to their notice, and to raise the standard of operatic and dramatic entertainments instead of denouncing them wholesale. We wish particularly to impress upon the minds of any persons who may read this article that we have no intention of sneering at the efforts of the Chicago ministers in what they believe to be the cause of virtue, morality, and religion; but we think sincerely that they have gone the wrong way to work, and we wish to present the subject in what we consider a proper light to the religious people of Philadelphia, with a view of inducing them to think and act intelligently with regard to a matter of no small importance.

tainly is a dead lion, as far as his roaring | template a formal surrender to the victorious around the headquarters of General Grant is concerned. He merely wastes his energies and tantalizes his appetite, when he visits Grant's office, seeking to devour him. The thing can't be done, even by such a voracious beast of prey as "T. W." But perhaps we do not comprehend the full force of "T. W.'s" elegant sentence. Let the "dead lion" roar again, and with a clearer utterance.

A Case for Severe Punishment. On Sunday afternoon, in broad daylight, a peaceable oitizen, while walking in West Philadelphia with several friends, was set upon by a gang of some sixteen roughs. beaten with stones, clubs, and fists, and so severely wounded that within a few hours he diel. Such an occurrence as this deserves the attention of the community. This was no midnight assassination, nor the deed of one villain, but was the concerted and riotous at tack by a large party, without cause, and in the time of day when a citizen is supposed to be perfectly safe. The fact cannot be disguised that there exist in various portions of Philadelphia just such organized ruffixns a those who committed this murder. Any one of our readers, walking on Sunday afternoon, can see them at a score of corners, soowling at every respectable citizen, and even insulting them by their remarks. Especially is this true in West Philadelphia, and from all reports it seems certain that this murderous gang have long been the terror of the neighborhood. It is time that we were freed from this species of ruffianism. It is time that these men, and all like them, should be taught a lesson. Five of the attacking party have been arrested, and will await the finding of the Coroner's jury. None of them are over nineteen. It is from just such as these that the race of murderers spring, and if these young men be not punished they will, beyond doubt, wind up their career on the gallows. They deserve and should receive no false clemency because of their youth. That boys of their age are so hardened in sin is an aggravation rather than a palliation of their offense. They should be tried and convicted, that, by the severest sentence of the law, others like them "may be deterred in the future. Unless some such step be taken, the life of no citizen is safe.

The Defeat of the Democracy.

At the late election New England cast a solid electoral vote for Grant by unpr-cedented majorities. In former times, before the party had become the slave of slavery and the vassal of rebellion, it could count confidently on the support of Maine and New Hampshire, and in more recent contests it has carried Connectiout, when its behavior was not unusually outrageous. But against Seymour and Blair and the new rebellion platform New England gives an aggregate majority of more than 153,000, and the States classed as doubtful in the early stages of the campaign have proved as reliable as Massachusetts or Vermont. New York and New Jersey are the only Northern States carried by Seymour and Blair. They were wrested from their true position by the most gigantic naturalization frauds that have disgraced the century. The interior of New York rolled up tremendous Republican majorities. The Republicans of New York city also polled an immense vote for Grant. But Tammany was determined to carry the State. The key of the Democratic canvass consisted in the accuracy of its calculations, for its unscrupulous leaders had at hand all the facilities for manufacturing a sufficient number of illegal voters to counterbalance the Republican suffrages of the country districts. In New Jensey similar agencies were freely employed, especially in her cities bordering on New York. Pennsylvania rolled up for Grant and Colfax the largest clear majority she has given in any Presidential contest since the days of General Jackson. The significance of this action is increased by the potent power of the electoral vote of this State, and by the desperate efforts made by the Democracy to secure it. The nine Western States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, Kansas, and Nebraska give an aggregate majority of 285,000 for Grant, and Seymour and Blair did not receive from them a single electoral vote. These States formerly gave at many elections large Democratic majorities; but their attachment to Republicanism seems to increase with the growth of their population. After the next census they will gain an additional number of Congressmen and Senators, and their influence will become more powerful than ever. On the Pacific coast, California, Oregon, and Nevada, all claimed by the Democracy, have all voted for the Republican nominees; and the Democratic hope of gaining a foothold in the young mining States has thus been blighted. With Democracy stamped out in New England, overwhelmed in Pennsylvania, triumphant in New York and New Jersey only by the aid of transparent frauds, routed in every Western State, and defeated in the Pacific commonwealths, it stands utterly condemned everywhere except in the rebellious South. It carried the Border States of Kentucky, Maryland, and Delaware, because, while they contain an immense number of voters who aided the Rebellion, their Secessionists were not powerful enough to secure the passage of Secession ordinances, or to place their States in such a direct and open position of antagonism to the Union as would have necessitated and justified their reconstruction on a loyal basis. Of the other Southern States the Republicans carried for Grant West Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama, Florida, and Arkansas; leaving to the Democracy, as fruits of fraud and force, Georgia and Louisiana. Even after Texas, Mississippi, and Virginia are readmitted, if fair elections are secured, the Democracy can scarcely hope to obtain half the votes polled within the limits of the exploded Southern Confederacy. In view of their signal overthrow, it is soarcely wonderful that some of their leaders seriously conconqueror of the Rebellion, by casting the Democratic electoral vote for Grant.

FOME of the Michigan newspapers strongly urge the reëlection of Senator Chandler, whose term expires on the 4th of March next. We think Michigan can do much better. Chandler, at the best, is a demagogue, happening to be on the right side at present. But he is a man who is not qualified, either by intellect or habits, for the high position which he has now filled during a period of twelve years. In all the elements of statesmanship he is a mere pigmy by the side of his colleague, Senator Howard. Let the new Michigan Legislature look around the State before they give Chandler another six years' lease of the flesh pots. They will have no difficulty in finding a better and more deserving man to represent their State in the National Senate.

THE DIFFERENCE .- The London Spectator, in commenting on Baron von Beust's recent speech before the Austrian Military Committee, quotes the Monitcur of Paris as saying that the establishment of the Austrian army on a peace footing of 800,000 is all quite proper, and nobody need be alarmed, "for public opinion is satisfied that no cause for war exists." In response to this peaceable assurance of the French Emperor, the Spectator pithily remarks that "earthquakes don't 'exist'-they happen." This includes the whole war cloud which hangs over the continent in a nutshell. With the vast armaments which are maintained by France and the other continental powers, although public opinion is satisfied-and with good reason-that there is no cause for war, all Europe is liable at any moment to be thrown into a convulsion.

CHICAGO is increasing in population with remarkable rapidity, as shown by a recent census for school purposes. On October 1st the population was 252,054, as compared with 242,383 on the 1st of April last. The following table gives the population of the city at stated intervals:-

rar,	Population.		Populatio
1837	4,170	1860	
	4,479		
1845		1866	
1850		1868	252 0
1865			

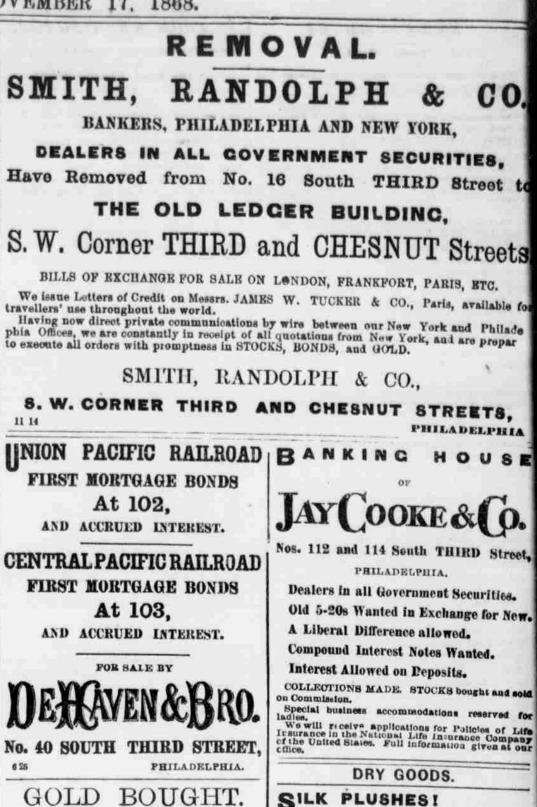
"THE most unkindest cut" that Frank Blair has received is given by a prominent English journal, which, in the course of a laborious article on the Presidential election in this country, written a few days previous to the election, refers to "Colonel" Blair in no very complimentary terms. Such is fame !

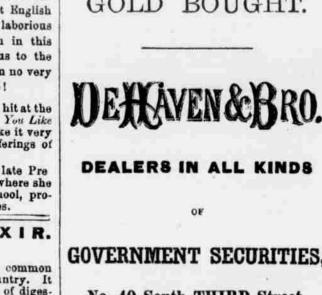
-Mrs. Scott-Siddons made a great hit at the Loston Museum last Saturday in As You Like It. The Boston people seemed to like it very well, and gave her many floral offerings of admiration.

-Mrs. Lincoln, the widow of the late Pre sident, has arrived at Wiesbaden, where she will leave her son Thaddeus at school, proceeding afterwards to Nice and Naples.

In two different widths. The colors are MARSHALL'S ELIXIR. BLUES. GOVERNMENT SECURITIES. BROWNS, Dyspepsia is becoming the most common and dangerous disease of this country. It MODES. not only so weakens all the organs of diges-No. 40 South THIRD Street, PURPLES, tion as to prevent their healthy action in the digestive process, but, if not radically cured. 10 3 :11 18 leads to other more serious complaints. PHILADELPHIA Marshall's Elixir removes billousness, and so allows the stomach to digest the food without pain or unpleasant feeling after eating. WM. PAINTER & CO., ALSO, A FRESH LOT OF Dyspepsia cannot be cured by pills, as they only temporarily relieve, leaving the stomach in a worse condition after their action than ASTRACHAN CLOTHS. before. Marshall's Elixir, by gradually giv-BANKERS AND DEALERS IN GOVERN-MAGNIFICENT QUALITIES. ing strength and removing all causes of unhealthy action in the stomach, permanently MENT SECURITIES. STRIPE POPLINS! cures the most confirmed cases of this disease. Headache sours the disposition, destroys the appelite, and, if not relieved before it be-comes a habit of the system, will ultimately STRIPE POPLINS! No. 36 South THIRD Street, end in the most serious forms of nervous EDWIN HALL & CO., complaints. Headache admonishes us that a PHILADELPHIA. more alarming disorder is threatening the system. Marshall's Elixir rarely fails to No. 28 SOUTH SECOND STREET, relieve all forms of Headache; its curative AGENTS FOR powers are not, like most remedies, of short duration, but are permanent and lasting. Opened This Morning a Case of Yery Desirable Costiveness, if neglected too long, results The Union Pacific Railroad Co. in inflammation of the bowels, piles, diseases STRIPE POPLINS, of the bladder, and affects all the surrounding organs. This remedy will certainly perma-nently relieve all such as are so afflicted. AND " For the Present Style of Dress. whether their occupation is sedentary or more active. Read the following certifi-The colors are Central Pacific Railroad Co. cates:-Scarlet and Black, LOWER MERION, MONTGOMERY CO. M. Marsball & Co.:--I cheerfuily recommend your Elixir as the only Medicine that has bene-fited me. I have had Dyspepsia and Headache for a number of years, and by the use of your Elixir have been entirely cured of both. MRS. MARY MCDERMOTT. Green and Black. We have on hand THE FIRST MORT Furple and Black, GAGE SIX PER CENT. GOLD INTEREST BONDS of both Companies, for sale or SARATOGA SPRINGS, N. Y., Oct. 18, 1867. Dear Sirs:--I have been afflicted with Dys-pepsia for several years, at times attended with severe headache, and at others my bowels were costive. I have tried many remedies with Exchange for Government Securities. Pamphlets, with Maps, Reports, and full but little benefit, until persuaced by friends to try a bottle of your Elixir. I thought it relieved information furnished on application. 611 me a little at first, and now, after using it a few weeks, find myself entirely cured. I cheer-folly recommend your Elixir to any similarly afflicted. J. P. BUTLER. STERLING & WILDMAN Depot, No. 1301 MARKET Street, Philada M. MARSHALL & CO., Proprietors. BANKERS AND BROKERS, No. 110 South THIRD Street, THAT MYSTERIOUS BOX! AGENTS FOR SALE OF Mr. Secretary Stanton. First Mortgage Bonds of Rockford, Roc Before they had Grant on. Island, and St. Louis Railroad, Received a mysterious box 'Twas said to hold meney, Interest SEVEN PER CENT., clear of a'l taxe Twas fastened so funny payable in GOLD August and February, for sale With rivets, with bands, and with locks, 97% and accrued interest in currency. Also And mighty legal scholars Said thousands of dollars First Mortgage Bonds of the Danville, Were held in that package so strong Hazleton, and Wilkesbarre Railroad. So in safe apartment, Below War Department Interest SEVEN PER CENT., CLEAR OF ALL They kept it for ever so long. TAXES payable April and October, for sale at 80 But early Wednesday morning and accrued interest. They thought, red tape scorning. Pamphiets with maps, reports, and fall information Its contents to light they'd expose of these roads always on hand for distribution. With great expectation, DEALERS in Government Bonds, Gold, Silver Oh ! queer revelation ! Coupons, elc. Jeff. Davis' feminine clothes ! STOCKS of all klods bought and sold on commis Now the ladies send petition 11 2 11 1 sion in New York and Philadelphia. 11 s tutha To hold exhibition Of calico wrapper and all: But the men folks are rushing GLENDINNING & DAVIS. And crowding and pushing For clothes to the GREAT BROWN HALL No. 48 South THIRD Street, The folks at the War Department were badly sold. Jeff's cast-off feminines may be exhibited as an object of national curiosity, but for national useful-ness, durability economy, and brauty, the citizens of this great nation seek the musculine apparel which is to be had on such delightful terms only at the Stock and Gold Brokers. QUOTATIONS OF NEW YORK STOCKS GREAT BROWN STONE HALL OF ALWAYS ON HAND. BOCKHILL & WILSON, [4 3[8p 11 318 \$11 tp Nos, 600 and 605 CHESNOT St Philada R. QUBNDINNING JR. JOHN H. BAYLS.

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Mr. Collier, as the text of the sermon to which we have alluded, takes the words of St. Paul, in the thirty-first verse of that remarkable discourse in the seventh chapter of First Corinthians, in which he gives some con- "T. W." may be a lion; and if he be, he cer-

"KICKING A DEAD LION."-Under this very modest title, "T. W.," the Lobby King of New York, contributes the following elegant paragraph to the columns of the Commercial Advertiser:-

"No other animal than a donkey would kick a dead lion. We regret for the honor of the Philadelphia press that a brute should be per-mitted to play the hyena through the columns of THE EVENING TELEGRAPH."

We think that the rebuke which is here intended to be conveyed by "T. W." is rather obscure, but suppose that it has some reference, near or remote, to our recent insinuation that "T. W." would return from his Washington trip "with a gigantio flea in his ear."

Salmon and Black. Orange and Black. Blue and Black. N. B.-A great variety of DRESS COODS. Reduced to Twenty-five Cents a Yard: GROCERIES, ETC. WILLIAM YOUNGER'S AND MCEWAN'S SPARKLING SCOTCH ALES. ALSO, Guinness, Son & Co.'s Extra Brown Stout. FIFTY CASKS OF THESE STRICTLY FINE ALES AND BROWN STOUF IN STORE. FOR SALE LY THE CASE OR DOZEN. SIMON COLTON & CLARKE, S. W. Corner BROAD and WALNUT Sts., PHILADELPHIA. PIANOS. STEINWAY & SONS' GBAND TE T(square and upright Plance, at BLASIUS BROS.' No. 1006 CHESNET Street. 614 BROS. No. HOL STECK & CO.'S AND HAINES BROTHERS' PLANOS, and MASON & HAMLIN'S CABINET ORGANS, only at J. E GOULD'S New Store, 8 20 5m 4p No. 921 CHESNUT Street. Grand, Equare and Upright FIANOS. No 914 CHESNUT Street

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