

Evening Telegraph

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AT THE EVENING TELEGRAPH BUILDING, NO. 108 & THIRD STREET.

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1868.

The Tax Rate for 1869.

On Tuesday next there will be a special meeting of Councils to fix the tax rate for the year 1869, and it is to be hoped that the subject will receive the attention it deserves, and that an effort will be made to avoid the financial embarrassments which have hitherto been so annoying to tax-payers as well as our civic legislators. On Thursday last a committee of the Finance Committee of Common Council presented a report advocating \$1.80 as the tax rate for the year 1869. The liabilities of the city for the coming year amount to \$12,389,279.60, and the cash on hand is \$674,142.73. The estimated receipts from all sources added to this will make \$3,766,555.73, leaving \$8,622,723.87 to be provided for by taxation. The amount realized by the rate of \$1.80 is \$7,975,637.77, leaving a deficit of \$647,163.10. Two important items, however, have been omitted in the estimates made in fixing the above-named rate—the extra appropriations and the claim of the State for taxes now due and to fall due in 1869.

The extra appropriations for 1868 to November 1 amounted to \$1,531,794.74, and the amount now due to the State for taxes in arrears is \$200,000, and it is estimated that the State's claim in 1869 will be at least \$160,000, making a total of \$890,000. Thus, at the proposed rate of \$1.80 we will be more deeply involved than ever at the end of 1869, and extraordinary means will have to be resorted to make up the deficiency. Our credit is not so good now that we can afford to run deeper in debt, and the most prudent, sensible, and satisfactory course for all parties would be to fix upon a tax rate that will cover all expenses, and, if possible, leave a surplus in the treasury.

On last Thursday Messrs. W. E. Littleton and James F. Dillon, of the Finance Committee, presented a minority report in Common Council, in which they clearly set forth the above particulars and earnestly advocated \$2.20 as the rate for 1869. The rate of \$2.20 will give in excess of the \$1.80 rate \$1,772,347.77, from which deduct the estimated deficiency of \$1,507,163, and there will be a surplus of \$265,184.74. Messrs. Littleton and Dillon state that when an annual expenditure of over twelve millions of dollars is to be considered, they do not think this too great a margin.

A high rate is, of course, unpopular with taxpayers, and members of Council on that account are disposed to resort to expedients rather than meet the financial difficulties of the city government in the only way that can avoid constant embarrassment. Messrs. Littleton and Dillon are entitled to credit for their advocacy of a tax-rate sufficient to cover the actual expenses of the city, and we hope that Council will be induced to look upon the matter from the same practical and business-like point of view that they do. They say in their report:—

"With the result of the experience of the last five or six years and the present condition of the City Treasury before them, it was hoped and believed that a rate would be decided upon adequate to provide for current expenditure; but from the action of the majority of the committee, it appears that this expectation was deceptive, and that the course of folly is still to be continued in reference to city finances. It would seem unnecessary to say that the same rates should govern a municipality as would induce a prudent man in the conduct of his business, and that it is as imperative a duty for a city or its rulers to provide adequate means for its annual expenditure as for an individual to do the same thing for his domestic or business engagements. But for years this familiar and simple rule has been neglected and repeatedly violated. In no one year since the war began has there been a tax rate producing a sum equal to current expenditures. Year after year large deficiencies have accumulated, until the debt of the city has assumed gigantic proportions, exceeding the debt of the State itself. No decrease has been effected, but accumulation has been steady and continuous. To such a course, if recklessly continued, there can be but one termination—bankruptcy; and only one remedy can be applied—a tax rate for an adequate amount for the current expenses, estimated and special, which can be made for or during the year in question."

It needs no argument to prove that the measure proposed by these gentlemen will be more satisfactory to tax-payers and more creditable to the city than the policy hitherto pursued, and which is advocated by the majority of the Committee; and we hope sincerely that Council will allow themselves to look at this matter in a proper light, and endeavor to retrieve our credit a little by providing means for meeting our liabilities as they arise, rather than by adding fresh debts to those with which we are already burdened.

New York and Hester Vaughan. We are eminently sympathetic in our nature, and our feelings have been strongly excited for some of our New York contemporaries. There is an old story about a man who kicked at nothing and sprained himself, that seems expressly fitted to the present case of those journalists who have been dilating recently with so much fervor upon the wrongs of Hester Vaughan, and, as a consequence, upon the general hard-heartedness of Philadelphia in general and of Philadelphia ladies in particular. After "doing up" the story in the best feuilletonist style, toning it up and toning it down to concert pitch through column after column of eloquence, and spinning every paragraph with a "pith-in" to the want of humanity exhibited by the entire population of Philadelphia, a deputation of New York ladies have made their "mission" to throw themselves before their Governor Geary, and, like the fair damsels of story, they have begged the ruthless tyrant to release his victim. All this is very pretty in the New

York ladies, and we are glad that the New York papers have had such a pretty event to dress up in such pretty language; but Governor Geary quietly responds to all this public pathos and delicate distress, that the citizens of Philadelphia have fully and earnestly urged upon him all possible extenuating circumstances; that numerous benevolent individuals quietly and promptly placed before him all the peculiarities of the case, begging his clemency for the unhappy convict; and that the public might have inferred from his refusal to sign or issue a death-warrant in this case, that it was under his serious and anxious consideration. "True it is 'tis pity and pity 'tis 'tis true," that when New York, after long and patient waiting, did at last find an occasion for bringing up against us that last and stranger charge—inhumanity—the whole difficulty in the story should turn out to be merely that—it wasn't so!

THE CONVICTION OF ALEXANDER.—The trial of George W. Alexander, Assessor of the Eighth district of this State, upon a charge of aiding and abetting in the unlawful removal of whiskey with intent to defraud, the revenue, was concluded yesterday in the United States District Court. The evidence was voluminous and the pleadings lengthy, the case altogether occupying the attention of the Court for the greater portion of the week. Last evening the jury rendered a verdict of guilty, but afterwards, at the request of his Honor Judge Cadwalader, accompanied it with a recommendation to mercy.

The morning papers erroneously stated that the recommendation was brought in at the first, with the verdict, but so far from this being the case, it was not until the judge had said that he would be gratified if the jurors would unite with him in the recommendation, that they acceded. The trial, throughout, was conducted with fairness, and the verdict was eminently just. The public, tired of the constant peculations of the Revenue officials, and indignant at the easy manner in which they have hitherto escaped judgment watched this case with intense interest, in the hope that at last one of the evidently guilty ones would be punished as an example to the others. They were not again disappointed, and to the results of the trial the efforts of the new District Attorney, John P. O'Neill, Esq., were mainly conducive. He can feel the proud satisfaction of knowing that the people are all tending him praise. Let but one or two more of the public plunderers receive their desert, and a bright prospect arises that taxes will diminish before a revenue honestly collected.

James A. Keith. In the letter of "The Junior," one of our special Southern correspondents, written from Charleston, S. C., February 25, 1868, reference was made to the incarceration of James A. Keith in Castle Pinckney, on the charges of murder, arson, and horse stealing, alleged to have been committed in North Carolina. He was arrested October 8, 1857, but up to the period of "The Junior's" letter no time had been fixed for his trial. Subsequently, on an order from Brevet Major General Canby, commanding the Second Military District, issued July 31, 1858, Keith was removed to the jail in Raleigh, N. C., charged with murder and other heinous crimes, to be held subject to the requisition of the Attorney-General of the State of North Carolina. A few days ago Keith was removed from Raleigh to the Barracks of the Confederate army. He is a most villainous-looking scoundrel, and in a short time will naturally receive his just punishment.

RELIGIOUS NOTICES. CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY.—(Twenty-first Anniversary of the Churchmen's Missionary Association for Seamen of the Port of Philadelphia.) Will be held in this church on Sunday evening, December 6, at 7 o'clock. The report of the Board of Managers will be presented, and the sermon preached by the Rev. WILLIAM BROOKS. A collection will be made in aid of the Association. The public are cordially invited.

NORTH BROAD STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.—(Preaching To-morrow by the Pastor, Rev. Dr. STAYKER, at 10 A. M.) Monthly Meeting of the Missionary Society of the Sabbath School, at 7 o'clock; address by Rev. Dr. HERRICK JOHNSON and STRYKER.

HOME OF THE POOR.—REV. DR. MAUCH will continue his series of sermons on "Home Life in the Bible," in the CENTINEL CHURCH, Tenth street, below Spruce, To-morrow (Sunday) evening, at 7 1/2 o'clock. All persons cordially invited.

REV. LEMUEL MORSE, EDITOR of the "National Baptist," will preach to-morrow morning and evening at the Tabernacle Church, CHESTNUT street, west of Spruce, services at 10 and 7 1/2 o'clock.

THE TWO COUSINS.—WEST SPRUCE STREET CHURCH.—Rev. WILLIAM P. BRIDGE, D. D., will preach the third of a series of discourses on the Book of Esther, To-morrow, at 10 1/2 o'clock. All are invited.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.—(Rev. W. BARNES will preach To-morrow, at 10 A. M. Subject, "Life as Treasure and Ten." Rev. HERBERT J. JOHNSON, D. D., at 7 1/2 P. M.)

THE REV. J. L. WITHROW, EN, tells upon his duties as Pastor of the ARDU STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH on Sunday morning, at 10 o'clock.

GREAT MEN—WHY ARE SO FEW FIOUT?—At 10 P. M., Transfiguration and second sermon, LUTHERBAUM, TWELFTH and CHESTNUT streets. Rev. N. M. PRICE, Pastor. Free.

REV. DR. WISWELL WILL preach Sabbath at 10, and Rev. Dr. ADAMS at 7 1/2 o'clock, in the WEST END PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, SEVENTEENTH and FILBERT streets.

GROCERIES. GRAND DISPLAY OF NICE THINGS FOR CHRISTMAS.

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MARSHALL'S ELIXIR. Headache quickly yields to its curative powers. Being entirely vegetable, it may be safely taken by all persons at any time, with perfect safety. Headache, besides being a very painful complaint, is also weakening to the nervous system, and may lead to palsy in its various forms if not soon relieved.

MARSHALL'S ELIXIR. By supplying the stomach with the medicinal principle, the want of which causes Dyspepsia, this distressing and common disease is quickly cured by its use. It not only applies this to the stomach, but imparts strength and vigor to the whole digestive apparatus.

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ESTABLISHED 1826. HOLIDAY APPLIANCES. A LARGE ASSORTMENT OF FANCY GROCERIES, Conprising all the Delicacies known in the trade, purchased expressly for the Holidays, is now offered for sale, at reduced prices, by CRIPPEN & MADDOCK, (Late W. L. Maddock & Co.), NO. 115 SOUTH THIRD STREET, BELOW CHESNUT, DEALERS IN AND IMPORTERS OF FINE GROCERIES.

FINE WHITE ALMEIRA GRAPES. AARON E. BURR. BULLINGTON, N. J., October 9, 1868. This is to certify, that in the year 1864 I was pronounced by the physicians who attended me to be in the last stages of Pulmonary Consumption, and that my end was near at hand.

YOUNG FOLKS' NEWS. It will be a set of Four Pages, handsomely illustrated, secular in character, and will be adapted for Young People of all grades. Special pains will be taken to render it attractive and popular.

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