Evening Telegraph

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MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1868.

The Meeting of Congress. THE last session of the Fortieth Congress commenoes to-day, and but three months remain for it to finish its work and prepare the way for its successor. The present session, although short, is not unimportant, and a number of matters require the earnest attention of the members, which will keep them fully employed until the 4 h of March. The endorsement of the Congressional policy in the late elections ought to put an end to the quarrel between the ex-cutive and the legislative branches of the Government, and let us hope that Mr. Johnson has still enough wisdom left him to accept the confemnation of his course so decidedly pronounced by the people; that he will cease from further opposition, and will assist in getting the affairs of the Government in good order for the accession of General Grant. Much may be done by Congress in three months to perfect the scheme of reconstruction, and place all the rebellions States in their old relations to the Government. This would be a proper completion of the arduous task they have had on hand, and the Fortieth Congress could dissolve with an assurance that its work was done, and well done. One of the subjects that should engage the attention of Congress during the short session is the reformation and, if possible, the purification of the civil service, and to this end the bill proposed by Mr. Jenckes, or one similar in its provisions, should engage their early attention. Only by some such system can a stop be put to the frauds and corruption that now take millions of dollars yearly from the treasury. General Grant will doubtless make an effort to put good men in office, and he ought to have the assistance of Cougress in making our civil service a credit, and not a disgrace to the nation. We hope that the last hours of the Fortieth Congress will be devoted

The Gerald Eaton Case.

are in earnest.

MR. FORMAN SHEPPARD, our new District Attor. ney, is entitled to commendation for the effi cient manner in which he has pushed the trial and produced the conviction of Gerald Eaton for the murder of Timothy Heenan. This is the first important case that Mr. Sheppard has had, in his new official position, and we begun, so that when his term of office expires he can point to his record and show that our of a long catalogue of rogues, vagabonds, and ruffianly murderers he has convicted so many; that he has not merely hurried to the gallows a parcel of imbeciles and half idiots for the sake of creating a sensation and winning a fictitious reputation for energy and efficiency; but that, without fear, favor, or partiality he has endeavored to have justice swift and sure meted out to ruffi us who infest the community. The supposed political influence of such men as Eston and his friends has hitherto been sufficient to allow them to escape unwhipt of justice. Let us hope that there is an end of this sort of thing now, and that we have a District Attorney who prefers rather to do his duty for the protection of the law-abiding citizens than to conciliate the political vagabonds who may be useful in procuring him a reflection. Mr. Sheppard can do a good thing, too, by putting a stop to the shifts and tricks of the Quarter Sessions lawyers. Such expedients as bring. ing women into court to work upon the sym pathies of jurymen should be shown up in their proper colors, and such frivolous arguments to delay the course of justice as the one made in the case of Eston, that the verdical was rendered on Sanday morning, should be disposed of without ceremony, and the lawyers resorting to them should be made to know that they will be of no avail.

Furman Sheppard, Esq., and the Assistant District Attorney Henry S. Hagert, Ksq., deserve praise for their energy in the prosecution of the Eaton case, and if Eaton is hung, as he ought to be, it will be the most decisive blow at political ruffianism that has ever been given in this city.

The Condition of the South. While we have no disposition to underrate the beneficial influence which the triumph of the Republican party will exercise upon the destinies of the South, we are not prepared to eudorse the opinion expressed by some of our sanguine contemporaries, that the hearts of the many evil-disposed men of that region have suddenly undergone a radical change We must not expect too much. A great point was gained by the defeat of Seymour and Blair. Their triumph would have been hailed as the signal for the reconstruction of the Rebel States on an undisguised Rebel basis, and loyal men would have been as ruthlessly assailed as they were during the time Jefferson Davis wielded tyrannical power at Richmond. The mode of conducting the election in Louisiana affords a striking illustration of the savage nature of the Southern Democracy. Scores of Republicans were assassinated, and so complete a reign of terror was established that the friends of Grant and Colfax could not venture to the poils without encountering almost certain death. Whatever explanations General Rousseau may make of from destruction on the evening of the 3d inst. the result, unprejudiced men will not fail to note the wondrous political changes

dorse the views of Andrew Johnson; and we are forced to conclude that similar, or even worse outrages would have been perpetrated in other districts if a fear of punishment had not restrained the violent Rebel instincts which evidently still exist. In Arkansas the attempts to overthrow the legitimate new State authorities have only been thwarted by armed force, and the traitors of that Commonwealth have not yet fully recognized the folly of fighting battles to enthrone the Rebellion. But we need not particularize further. It is a favorite argument, alike of the Rebels and their Democratio allies, that none of the reconstructed governments could be maintained if they were not upheld by national bayonets, and this argument acknowledges the existence of an unyielding disposition in the entire South to resort to the most desperate means to restore local Kebel supremacy. The election Grant admonishes the authors and abettors of these schemes that they can expect no aid or countenance from the national Government during the next four years, and that any overt acts will be promptly and severely punished. If inbred Rebels could really reform in a day, and if wise and loyal instincts could suddenly be widely disreminated over a soil poisoned by slavery and treason, the hopelessness of further resistance to the decrees of the loyal citizens of the United States would prompt the entire South to seek the advancement of its true interests by the adoption of a national policy. Some men and some sections are already sagacious enough to gracefully submit to inevitable destiny, but they form, at this time, only the vanguard of a small body of Southern progressives, and they are subjected to virulent persecutions. As the children of Israel, after their departure from Egypt, were detained in the wilderness for forty years, as a punishment for their weaknesses and transgressions, it is to be feared that the South must undergo a long period of probation before the main body of her white citizens will be purged of their old prejudices and heresics. and before they will cordially adopt and sustain the free republican system which forms the foundation of the prosperity of the North. Fear alone restrains their ferocious instincts. On political questions they are confirmed monomaniaes, and the presence of a genuine Republican excites them. to earnest, conscientious work with as little as water does a rabid dog. They are controlled by their old hatreds and passions rather than talking about it as possible, and, although the by reason, and nothing but the mellowing time is short, much may be done for the perhand of time can subdue these obdurate emomanent benefit of the country if the members tions. We do not doubt that the condition of the South is improving, and that it will improve under Grant's administration more rapidly than in any former era. But the nation must not be too impatient, nor expect too sudden a transformation. A great deal of hard and intelligent labor of all kinds must be done in the South before it can be advanced to its proper position in this enlighthope that he will continue as well as he has ened age, and there is unfortunately comparatively little disposition among the native Southern white population to perform much useful labor of any description. They are more familiar with their old devices for enchaining the negro in enforced servitude, and for galvanizing rebellions, than with the creditable pursuits of life. They have much to learn about manufactures, commerce, mining, and even their favorite occupation, agriculture, before they can fairly commence the development of their varied resources, and the hostility which they have hitherto displayed in various wavs to Northern emigration evinces a degree of envenomed animosity which is only paralleled by their suicidal stupidity in seeking to excinde citizens who would render them invaluable assistance. Time and work will finally rescue the South from the slough into which it was plunged by slavery and rebellion. The reforms retarded by Johnson will be accelerated by Grant, but, despite all the assistance the National Government can give, Southern progress will be comparatively slow, and we can scarcely expect complete regeneration before the old Rebel prejudices are as thoroughly dissipated as the Rebel armies.

which were wrought by the presence of a

military commander who was known to en-

SPECIAL NOTICES.

[For additional opecial Notices see the Inside Pages.] A PUBLIC RECEPTION OF DR. M.C. & H. b., the Pantadesphia Amount of Princeton College, will be hed in the Rev. Dr. Crowest Clurch, BROAD Street, above Chesnut, on TUE-DAY EVENTION, December 8, at 7 350 clock, Addresse will be delivered by the Hon. B NJAMIN HARRIS BREWSTER, the Hon. WILLIAM C. ALEXANDER of New York, President Mo OSH, and Processor SIEPHEN ALEXANDER, of Princeton. The public a clavity.

WENDELL PHILLIPS WILL DE Hver his L cture upon DANIEL O'CON-NELL at CONCERT Hall, on WEDNESDAY EVFNING Sen lost, at 8 o'clock. Tickets, 50 cents, for sale at Trumper's.

The Abbust Meeting of the PENNSYLVANIA ANTI-S: AVERY SUCIETY will be held in the ASSEMBLY BUILDINGS on THURSDAY, Decem-ber 10. Mercing and Atternoon commencing at 10 A.M. Admission free.

THE PRIENDS OF FAREDOM will hold their ANNUAL FESTIVA, at CONCERT HALL, on THURSDAY EVENING December 10 18-8 Among the at ractions will be Reading by Miss Eather J. Trimble Music by the Excelsior Brass and Sring Base, and Sning. Does open at a o'clock. Admission. 50 cents.

Y. M. C. A. LECTURES.

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UNION LEAGUE HOUSE, BROAD PRILADELPHIA, Dec. 7, 1868,

The Appual Meeting of the UNION LEAGUE OF PHILADELPH A will be held at the LEAGUE HOUSE on MONDAY EVENING. December 14, at 7 o'clock, at which meeting there will be an Election for Officers and Directors for the evening year, GRORGE H BOKER, Secretary.

CARD OF THANKS We he eby tender our thanks to the Fireman and Police generally for their efforts to save our property

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