# Evening Telegraph

PUBLISHED EVERY AFTERNOON (SUNDAYS EXCEPTED),

AT THE EVENING TELEGRAPH BUILDING, NO. 108 S. THIED STREET,

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1868.

The Case of Mississippi.

WHEN the result of the constitutional election held in the State of Mississippi some months ago was announced, it was generally acquiesced in by the people of the North, as well as those of that State, under the belief, in this section of the country, that a majority of the legal voters of the State were unwilling to reënter the Union under any terms imposed by Congress, and certainly under the Constitution which was submitted to them by the Jackson Convention. While this Constitution generally conformed to the requirements of the Reconstruction acts, it is represented as containing several provisions which are eu tirely too proscriptive in their character, and in consequence of which the people of the State refused to . give it the sanction of a majority of their votes. At the time of the election, and for months thereafter, nothing was said of fraud, and we were led to believe that the vote upon the Constitution was quite as fair and honest as it was in the other States in which elections were held under the Reconstruction acts. Quite recently, however, it was discovered by somebody that the grossest frauds had been perpetrated in a number of counties, and that when the votes of these counties were rejected in toto, the Constitution had a majority of what was left. Therefore it was argued that the Constitution was legally adopted. To impress this idea upon Congress a "committee of five" -self-constituted, to all appearances-has arrived in Washington, and is now diligently at work in the effort to lobby the Constitution through that body.

It is possible that the objects and motives of this committee are legitimate; that the Constitution did receive, as its members allege, a clear majority of the legal votes of the people; that the "committee of five" is not a body of mere adventurers, as their opponents allege; and that the State is entitled to representation in the Federal Legislature under the Constitution which they advocate. Yet it becomes the duty of Congress to investigate the mat. ter thoroughly before any decisive, especially before any favorable, action is taken upon the subject presented to them by the committee. While it is eminently desirable that Mississipp! should be restored fully to all her former relations to the Union, it is even more desirable that this restoration should be brought about by no tricks of political adventurers; that the reconstructed government should be established upon a basis of impartial justice to all the people of the State; and that as free and fair an opportunity as is consistent with the national safety should be given the former participants in the Rebellion for performing their share of the great task of restoring the State to its normal condition of prosperity and peace. The fact that so many months were suffered to elapse before the alleged frauds were detected is, of itself, sufficient to impart to the present movement a suspicious look. Not until the matter has been closely scrutinized should Congress de. clare that the people of Mississippi are entitled to resume that place in the sisterhood of States which they wickedly and without provocation renounced. The powers of Congress in the premises are ample; and if the same patriotic and states manlike spirit which prompted their dealings with the other insurrectionary States is manifested in the case of Mississippi, the people have declared in advance, by the election of General Grant, their approval and entire satisfaction.

"A Foul Nest of Thieves." WHEN Mr. Schenck, in advocating the bill for restoring the Indian Bureau to the War Department, declared his belief that "no reform proposed in the House would be so effective in breaking up a toul nest of thieves as the passage of the bill" in question, he gave expression, in rather harsh language, to the belief of all honest men who are familiar with the iniquities of our present Indian system, and earnestly desirous of promoting the best interests of the aboriginal tribes and of such of the whites as are brought into contact with them. The recent reports of Generals Sherman and Sheridan show how pressing is the necessity for a radical reform; and the experience of the Government since the year 1848, when the Indian Bureau was transferred from the War to the Interior Department, establishes the fact that no reform is practicable until the great mistake then made is rectified. "A foul nest of thieves" the Indian Bureau now is, as it has always been under the management of the Interior Department, and as it will always be under the management of that department.

The House promptly responded to the recommendations of Generals Grant and Sherman, by passing the bill restoring the Bureau to the War Department by a decisive majority. In the Senate, however, the bill came to momentary grief yesterday, in consequence of a reference to the Committee on Indian Affairs, instead of that on Military Affairs, as was urged by its friends. It is to be hoped that the advocates of reform in the Senate will not suffer this reference to kill the bill. but that they will demand an early report and decisive action. It is full time that the "foul nest of thieves" were broken up, a fact of which Senators should be fully aware. They have no excuse, moreover, for mistaking the sentiment of the whole country upon the sub-

A Philippic Against Disloyalty. WENDELL PHILLIPS has made his annual visit to Philadelphia, and we congratulate the good | 808 people of the city on the fact that his visit is concluded and he himself, in all probability, on his way back to the Hub. These annual visits of the irrepressible and erratio Wendell are usually made about the time of the regular meeting of the Pennsylvania Anti-Slavery Society, of which Wendell is a sort of ornamental honorary member-decidedly more ornamental than useful, we are led to believe. In addition to the customary lecture to which our people are treated by Wendell-this year it was on Daniel O'Connell-they are afforded, by the coincidence of the Anti-Slavery meeting, an opportunity to listen to him without parting with any of their small change. Yesterday afternoon the great agitator unburdened himself in the closing hour of the anti-slavery meeting, and among the subjects which he agitated was the reticence of General Grant. The President-elect, in his Tuesday evening speech before the Union League of New York, intimated that he should receive a great deal of credit for setting our public men a good example by his brevity, if in no other respect. Here Wendell takes issue with General Grant, declaring that while his "reticence as a soldier was proper, as a Presidential candidate it was disloyal." The unblushing impudence of this assertion is so overwhelming that we are unable to make any comment upon it, further than to repeat that we are glad Wendell has wound up his visit and started for the Hub.

### SPECIAL NOTICES.

[For additional Special Notices see the Inside Pages.] SCIENTIFIC LECTURE
THIS EVENING,
HALL YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION, No. 1210 CHE-NUT Street,
Dr. P. D. KEYSER will lecture this (Friday) eve
ping as 8 o'clock. Dr. P. D. KEYSER will lecture this (Friday) eve blug, at 3 o'clock.
Subject—"The Aratomy and Physiology of the Eye,"
December 18—Dr. E. R. HUTCHINS, Subject—
"Health: How to "reserve It."
January 8—JEORGE W. MEARI, E.q. Subject—
"A Ride Through Switzerland."
January 15—CHARLES E. Lex, Esq. Subject—
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The Angual Election to Directors of this Back will be held at the Backing House on WEDNESDAY, the 14 k day of January next, between the hours of 110 clock A. M. and 2 o'c ock P M.

12 11 27.

W. RUSH FON, JB., Cashier

CITY TREASURER'S OFFICE. NOTICE.—Bolders of City Warrants numbering from 4'00 to 5000 win be paid on presentation, interest ceasing from this date. JOSEPH N. PRIESOL. City Treasurer THE "CLARENDON," NO. 1516

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