# Evening Telegraph

PUBLISHED EVERY AFTERNOOM

(SUNDAYS EXCEPTED),

AT THE EVENING TELEGRAPH BUILDING. NO. 108 S. THIRD STREET.

Price. Three Cents per Cepy (Double Sheet), or Sighteen Cents per Week, payable to the Carrier, and Mailed to Subscribers out of the city at Nin-Dollars per Annum. One Dollar and Fifty Cents for I'wo Months, invariably in advance for the period

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1868.

The New City Hall.

THE ordinance providing for the erection of a new City Hall passed the Common Council yesterday afternoon, and now only awaits the signature of the Mayor to become a binding law. That Mayor McMichael will affix his signature we do not doubt, for the projected improvement is one which is almost imperatively demanded. A glance at the location of the city and county offices will convince the most economically disposed tax-payer of this fact. A great number of these offices are located in and around Independence Hall, but about a dozen others are scattered about the city in buildings belonging to private individual; or corporations. In the Law Building, on Fifth street, below Walnut, are the City Solloitor and the City Commissioners; in Tatem's new building, just below this, are the Perk Commission and the Department of Surveys: in the Philadelphia Bank, on Chesnut street, above Fourth, is the Recorder of Deeds; in the Atherenum Building, at Sixth and Adelphi streets, is the Board of School Centrollers; in the Girard Bank, on Third street, below Chesnut, are the City Treasurer, the City Controller, and the Commissioner of City Property; at Fifth and Walnut streets is the Sinking Fund Department; and at Sixth and Sansom streets is the Health Office and its appurtenances. In this way are the public offices of the city scattered about, without any regard to convenience or economy; while they should all be embraced under one roof, or in a series of buildings adjacent to each other, and owned in fee simple by the city itself.

To remedy this state of affairs is one of the principal objects of the projected improvements. But this is not the only good result that will follow. The rickety old buildings at the corners of Fifth and Chesnut and Sixth and Chesnut streets will be torn down, and their unsightly aspect no longer mar the beauty of our principal thoroughfare. That grand burlesque on architecture and convenience yelept the New Court House will likewise be demolished, and peace of mind restored to the man who built it by its disappearance. Independence Hall proper, the old historic building in which the Continental Congress sat when they declared the colonies free and independent States, as a matter of course will not be disturbed, except for thorough renovation and complete restoration to its former

When all the straggling edifices which now noumber Independence Square, excepting only Independence Hall itself, are removed, there will be ample space for the erection of the new buildings on the Walnut street front of the enclosure, without shutting in all the rest from the light of day and access by the public. The Board of Commissioners under whose supervision the new buildings are to be erected consists of seventeen well-known citizens who enjoy the entire confidence of the community, in addition to nine of the regular city officials whose functions as prescribed by law render it very proper for them to constitute a portion of the Board. Ample provision for meeting all expenses connected with the erection of the buildings is likewise made by pledging a special tax levy sufficiently high to raise \$300,000 annually for the purpose until the projected improvements are complete.

To render the whole scheme a success which will merit and receive the approbation of the entire community, it is only necessary for the Building Commissioners to take good care that no such abomination as the New Court House is stuck together, to be torn down as an encumbrance to the ground as soon as it is completed. The new buildings should be erected with the double view of adorning the city and economizing our local administration; and, above all, they should be large enough to answer all the purposes for which they are intended for a century to come. With an imposing and magnificent public structure on one side of Independence Square, and old Independence Hall on the other, the city will have something to which it can point hereafter with both pride and satisfaction.

THE NEW WAR CLOUD IN EUROPE.-Rurope has been panting and yearning for war for a year, and at last she is about to be gratified. By cable telegrams received to-day we learn that the troubles between Turkey and Greece have culminated in an open rupture, and that a naval engagement has already taken place. To all appearances Turkey has the endorsement of the great powers of the West, who urged upon the Grecian Government an acceptance of the Sultan's ultimatum. But this endorsement will be of comparatively little avail if Russia sees fit to embrace the golden opportunity now offered her of aunihilating the Mohammedan power in Europe. At the slightest sign of Russian sympathy all the Christian provinces of Tarkey would revolt; and if concerted action between them and Greece should be inaugurated, it would not require a very great exertion on the part of Russia to accomplish the ruin of Abdul Azis, despite the remonstrances, and even the material assistance of England and France and the other Western Powers.

THE OTHER JOHNSON .- Our misrepresentative at the Court of St. James has put himself cheek by jowl with the Philippic Wendell, by declaring that, if he is guilty of treason for consorting with the enemies of his country, so

are Grant and Sherman for not annihilating the Rebel armies when they had thrown down their arms and delivered themselves up in a mass as prisoners of war. But Reverdy's course, taken altogether, has at last called down upon him the censure of the English press. The London Times yesterday expressed its regret that so much had been made public about the recent Alabama claims negotiations. evidently intending to rebuke Mr. Johnson's after-dinner garrulousness; while the London Telegraph thinks he would have fared much better if he had not been so zealous for peace. The best thing that Mr. Johnson can do for his own welfare, and that of the country as wellis to pack his carpet bag and start for home at

The Indian Bureau.

Ir is stated that the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs has determined to report adversely to the transfer of the Indian Bureau to the War Department, but that it will substitute a new bill, making the Indian Bureau into a separate department, with its chief entitled to a seat in the Cabinet. We cannot see that this arrangement will be any improvement on the present exceedingly unsatisfactory state of affairs as regards the management of the Indians on the Western plains by he Government, and it appears to be nothing more than a subterfuge on the part of the Indian Committee to prevent the control of the bureau from passing out of the hands of its present managers. It is the opinion of impartial and disinterested men everywhere that the bureau should be transferred to the War Department, in compliance with the recommendation of Generals Grant and Sherman, as the surest way of correcting the great evils which are known to exist. The House of Representatives took this view last session, and the subject was one of the first that engaged its attention when they assembled this winter. They promply passed the bill, which the Senate Committee are now attempting to smother, by a very large majority, and in so doing have, to a great extent at least, removed from their shoulders the responsibility for the corruption and frauds which are charged upon the present Indian Bureau. It is asserted that the unwillingness of the Penate to accede to the proposed reform is owing to the fact that a number of the Senators have friends in possession of fat places in the Indian Bureau, and that some of the Senators themselves are fearful that unpleasant disclosures will be made if the bureau passes under the control of the War Department, and investigations are instituted into the past mismanagement of Indian affairs. The hesitation of the Senate gives color to these romors, and, if true, this will not be the first time that important reforms have been frustrated by men in Congress who refuse to vote for measures that will put their personal friends out of office.

We hope that the Senate will have the conrage and good sense to adopt the House bill as it stands, in spite of the lobby influence of the present Indian Bureau; or, if the proposed substitute of the Indian Committee is adopted by the Senate, that the House will refuse to recede from its original position. It is time that some improvement was made in the management of the Indians by the Government, and if General Grant's recommendation is adopted, the four years of his admin istration will doubtless produce results satisfactory to the settlers, in restraining the murderous propensities of the savages, and beneficial to the Indians themselves in securing them all the rights and privileges they are

#### SPECIAL NOTICES. [ For additional Special Notices see the Inside Pages, ]

JOHN B. GOUGH Will deliver his Great Lecture,

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