## THE DALL EVENING TELEGRAPH-TRIPLE SHEET-PHILADELPHIA, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1868.

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Price, Three Cents per Capy (Double Sheet), or Sighteen Cents per Week, payable to the Carrier and Mailed to Subscribers out of the city at Nine Dollars per Annum. One Dollar and Fifty Cents for Two Months, invariably in advance for the period prdered.

#### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1868.

mer-Although we issue a four-page supplement to day, to accommodate the great pressure of advertisements upon our columns, we are still obliged to emit about four columns of advertisements in order that our readers may have the usual quantity of substantial reading matter. The following table of contents will show how varied and entertaining this is :---

Page 1 .- The latest news by telegraph and mail; to-day's proceedings in the great Twitchell trial, and other court reports; city, financial, and shipping intelligence.

Page 2 .- Editorials on the leading questions o the hour; musical and dramatic notes.

Page 3 .- The Career of Benjamin Disraeli. The new British Ministry and the Alabama clnims; Dumas on the late composer, Rossini the condition of Abyssinia since the war; terrible tornadoes on the Mexican coast; general news summary.

Page 6 .- Editorial selections from the leading journals of the country; foreign art items; our series column.

Page 7 .- Summary of the latest religious intelligene.

Page 9 (Supplement) .- A new Christmas poem by Tom Hood, editor of "Fun," entitled "Too Many Cooks;" a new Christmas story, by Mark Lemon, editor of "Punch," entitled "Aunt Grace's Sweetheart."

Page 10 (Supplement) .- Conclusion of Mark Lemon's Christmas story.

#### How Will the Court Decide?

Tag constitutionality of the Legal-tender act was argued before the Supreme Court of the United States, in bane, at Washington, last week, and rumors are rife as to what will be its decision. Correspondents, with that sagacity which they claim to possess, have informed the public of the sentiments of the Justices, although there were no better indications to judge by than the attitudes which their Honors assumed while listening to the arguments. As a consequence, public attention is directed to the subject, and the deepest solicitude felt as to the ultimate issue of the question. No one can wonder at this. Every man, woman, and child in this broad land is personally interested in the settlement of the question. The debtor knows that on it depends the question of the payment of his debts. The merchant konws that on it depends the existence of his credit. The farmer knows that on it rests the price of grain. The dealer of every kind and the purchaser of every sort feel that their relative credit hangs on the question, "Is the Legal-tender act constitutional ?" Should it be decided otherwise, the balance of business would be destroyed. Supply and demand would lose their equilibrium. All sales would be at the option of the seller. No one could tell whether he had any means of purchasing bread unless he had a supply of gold. Let us imagine for a moment the effect in detail. We have a hundred dollars in greenbacks in our possession. We cannot tell whether these greenbacks will buy what we want or not. We may ind the seller unwilling to accept them. Then we must pay according to the premium in gold. No longer will gold be forty per cent. above par, greenbacks will be forty per cent. below. Everything would fail with the currency and the whole land be placed at the mercy, of the gold speculators. How long does any one imagine it would take the speculators to run the premium up to two hundred It would be done in a week, and with the subcess of these conspirators would come a financial panio and universal ruin. It would in truth be a violent resumption of specie payments. It would be an immediate and involuntary resumption, and one for which the country is not prepared. Every mortgage would become at once valuable only according to the fluctuation of gold, and throughout the whole land would go up a cry which would indicate a terrible financial "crash." We do not over-estimate in predicting such a result. It would be attempted by that interested, and we have no reason to doubt that it would succeed. Hence it is that of all the questions at present occupying the public mind, there is none in which it feels so do p an interest as in the constitutionality of the Legal-tender act. Is it probable that the woes we have depisted will come upon the land ? We do not hesitate to answer no, and for two very good ressous. First, it is possible that a majority of the Judges of the Supreme Court think the law constitutional, and will so decide. The case in its favor is very strong, and with the evidence of the past before them the Judges will lean towards its constitutionality. The opinion prevails that a majority of them will so decide. If such should be the case, of course no commotion would result. Secondly, they may think it unconstitutional, but if they do they will not say so. It is an established custom of the Supreme Court not to precipitate the country into a convulsion by any of its decisions. As the highest law tribunal of the land, it does not recognize the practice which justice compels inferior courts to obey. It does not give an adverse decision which will do public injury, even if that adverse decision is according to technical law. adverse decision is according to technical law. It adopts the alternative of thinking over the matter, so that while the ultimate decision is that which is dictated by law, still the time of that decision is so remote that when it

comes the danger to the country will have passed away. This it did in regard to certain of the Reconstruction laws, and this it will do again, if it be of the opinion that the law is unconstitutional. The Judges recognize clearly the commotion they could create, and, being conservative in all their feelings, they will not overturn the social edifice by any act of theirs. Some day in the future, when the gradual approximation of gold and greenbacks makes

such a decision of little importance, except in theory, they will give their decision, and the people will feel a sort of speculative interest, and that is all. Nor will there be in such a line of conduct any wrong. The law in question was the offspring of necessity. The nation could not, when the Legal-tender act was passed, pause to investigate its concurrence with the act and the sentiments of Fletcha or Coke. The cry of necessity forced the law through. It was a blow at traitors, who were seeking to destroy the national credit, and it was successful in its object. The people accepted it in good faith. They have acted under it, until it is so ramified throughout the whole system as to be part of its life. To overthrow it now would be to injure that life. We therefore both anticipate and commend an indefinite postponement of the decision, should

the Court not find it consistent with judgment to decide the law constitutional. Wealth and Poverty.

#### Tun actual wealth of the Rothschilds is probably not known even to themselves. It is reported, however, that the late Baron Rothschild was worth, in round numbers, four hundred millions of "dollars, and that he was greatly regretted by the poor of his neighborhood." It is to be hoped, for his own credity that his charities were such that the poor will indeed feel that they have lost a benefactor. The responsibilities of a man having control of such an amount of money are great, and it only too frequently happens that the possession of great wealth increases the desire for more, and that the man who could part with a million without inconvenience to himself and without seriously diminishing his accumulations, is less willing than others of more limited opportunities to remember the claims of the poor of this world. The policy of the Rothschilds has been to keep their wealth in their own family, and this is the general European policy, based on the feudal principles of primogeniture. That such immense fortunes as that of the late Rothschild prove the tendency of modern civilization to be in the direction of the concentration of wealth, we do not think, for, as the matter appears to us, the influence of modern civilization is in the other direction. The feudal principle, by which the eldest son alone inherits, has produced the effect of concentrating wealth in the hands of a comparatively few persons, and the result is the extremes of poverty and riches which are to be seen in Europe. In this country a man spends his life in accumulation, but on his death it is divided among the different members of his family, who very frequently dissipate it in a few years, and the result is that we have an average of wealth, which on the whole is undoubtedly the most beneficial for society. The concentration of wealth is

THE CELEBRATED OBCHESTEA of Theodore Thomas, added to Carl Beniz's and Mark Hass-let's combined forces, will give us this evenior, at Musical Fund Hall, a grand musical per-formance. Mr. William Stoll, Jr., alfavorue, young violinist, will execute a solo by Bodi, and Miss Markstein, a child planist of thirteen years, will perform one of Liszt's most difficult compositions. The great feature of the evening will be the "Reformation" and "Unfinisher" Symphonies of Mendelsshon and Schubert, and the Riezzi overture by Wagner.

the Rienzi overture by Wagner. A GRAND CONCERT will be given at Concert Hall, on Tuesday evening next by Mr. Thomas E. Harkins, who will be essisted by Mme, Jo-sephine Schimpf, Miss Orlina A. Cunnington. Carl Wolfsohn, Endolph Hennig, Jean Louis, George F. Bishop, Hugh A. Clark, and others The entertainments given altherto by Mr. Harkins have been most enjoyable, and a fine programme will doubless be presented on Tuesday evening. Tickets, one dollar, may be obtained at the principal music stores. MR. JOHN B. GOUGH will deliver his lecture

MR. JOHN B. GOUGH will deliver his lecture on "Curlosity" at the Academy of Music on Monday evening.

#### **RELIGIOUS NOTICES.**

SEBMON TO TOUNG MEN-Under the ampless of the YOUNG MEN-ORBISTIAN ASSOCIATION, Rev. J. H. A. BOM BERGER, D.D., will preach a sermon especially to PERCER, D.D., Will present a sermine especially to Young Mea. To-morrow (Sabbath) Evening, at the GERMAN REFORMED OHUGOH, RACE Streat, below Fourth, a' 7% o'clock. Subject... 'Protestant Christianity and the Young Men to or Country.'' Beats reserved for Young Men. Medical Students and strategers in the city are cordially invised to stierd. atterd

REV. G. W. SANSON, D. D. Willpresch before the YOUNG PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION Der w

TABERNACLE BAPTIST CHURCH CHESNUT Street, west of Eighteenth. TO·MOBROW (SUNDAY) EVENING, At 7% o'clock. Subject-GOSPEL LIBERTY. 11

FIRST PRESBY TEBIAN CHURCH. WASHINGTON SQEARE.-Rev HESRICK JOHNSON JD.D., Pastor, Services To-morrow at 10% A. M. and 7% P. M. The Second of the Series of Sermons on the Signifi-es at Quolations of Seripture, To-morrov Evening, Subject.- "The Gift of God-Who is Tais?"

PRINCETON CHURCH, CORNER of THIRTY-MINTH and POWELTON Ave-nue, West Philadelphia.—This church having been thoroughly refitted, will be reopened for Divine ser-vice To-morrow, December 20. Services 10% A. M. and 4.P. M.

Rev. WM. HENRY GREEN, D.D., of Princeton, N J., will preach Morning and Atternoon.

HEIDEL RERGREFORMED OHUROH, N. E. corner of BROAD and SPRING GARDEN Streets, entrence on Broad street.-Services Tomorrov, at 10'30 A. M. and 7'30 P. M. Preaching in the toorning by Rev. J. A LANDIS. Sunday School at 9'30 A. M.

**DR. WILLITS, PANTOR AT WEST** ARCH STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, corner of Eighteenth, 10% A. M. and 7% P. M. Sabbath Echool, 2% P. M. Strangers slways welcome.

BEV. FRANK L. BORRINS WILL preach To-mocrow Morning and Evening in the BROAD AND OXFORD CHURCH Third Ser-mon at 7.5 P. M. of the Series on God speaking to mat-"The Constitution of the Soul."

N. M. PRICE, PASTOR OF LU-THERHAUM, TWELFTH and OXFORD,-75; "Let Us have Prence" How?" At lays, "Curlu-mas! Shout for Joy!" P. ws free.

NORTH BROAD STREET PRESBY-TERIAN CHURCH, Corner of BROAD and GREEN Streat. - Praching To-morrow at 10% A. M. and S P. M., by the Pastor, Rev PETER 5TRYEER, D. D. Strangert are walching.

THE HOME OF YOUTH. - REV. DR. MAR. H will confidue his series of Serious on "Home Life is the Bible," in CLINTON STREEF CHURCH, TEN 1 H Street bel.w Spruce, to-morow (Sunday) Evening at 75 o'clock. All persons co.-dial's invited to strend.

**REV. R. W. HUMPHRISS WILL** preach lo-morrow in CRINITY M. E CHURCH. RIGHTH Street, above Race, at 10% A. M. and 7% P. M

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public that they are now prepared to offer EX-TRAORDINARY INDUCEMENTS during the HOLIDAY SEASON, and confidently invite an inspection of one of the largest stocks of Silver Plated Ware to be found in this city. Hard Metal Sets reduced from \$115 to \$75 and \$50 per

an impossibility in the United States at present, and we believe and hope that it always will be an impossibility. The influence of the United States in regard to this, as well as other matters of political and social economy, is making itself felt more and more every day in Europe; and we doubt not but that the time will come when the laws of primogeniture will be done away with, along with other remnants of a system that was good in its day, but which is now a drag upon modern civilization. The evils to society at large from a few persons having control of a large proportion of the wealth are so great, that it is not to be wondered at that enthusiastic reformers should sometimes propose to restrain the accumulation of property beyond certain points. The evil, however, is one that cannot be remedied by legal enactment, and it can only be regulated by a general policy of justice to all like that which has been adopted in this country. No system, however, will do away with poverty; and it is therefore the more incumbent on men of great possessions like the Rothschilds to remember the poor, and to dispense large proportions of their wealth in acts of charity.

WENDELL PHILLIPS has been lecturing in New York on "The Lost Arts." Doubtless the erratic orator made the subject interesting. If Wendell would devote himself to the lost arts entirely, and abandon his abuse of the living arts, we think he will get along much more comfortably than he does, and he would certainly accomplish some little good in the world. One of the lost arts to which he should devote some little attention is that of speaking well of somebody besides himself.

### MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC.

#### The City Amusements.

OLE EULL will give afternoon and evoning concerts at the Academy of Music to cav. He will be assisted by several favorite artists, and most aurreable entertainments may be ex-pected. The matinee will commence at 230 P. M.

AT THE CHESNUT James Robinson and the French Citcus Troups will appear for the last times this afternoon and evening. On Monday

a new troups will appear. ATTHE ALCH the Stronger will be performed this evening, with Mis. Drew as "Mrs. Haller," and the comedy of the Honeymoon, with Mrs. Drew as 'Juliana" This is a fine Saturday On Monday and Tuesday A Lesson in Life and

Barbe Bleue will be given; and on Wednesday Daly's drama of A Flash of Lightning will be produce

AT THE WALNUT Mrs D. P. Bowers will con cluse her engagement this evening. The dramas of Mary Stuart, Guy Mannering, and Jonathan Bradford will be performed. The drama of The Grange Girl will be performed on Utristmas afternoon and evening. This play is said to be full of fine offices, and every effort will be made to put it on the stage in first-rate

STYle. ATTHE AMERICAN Ibere will be performances

this afternoon and ovening. AT THE THEATHE COMPUE the Gregory Fa-mily will appear afternoon and evening for the bast time. On Monday the Pyne & Galton Comic Opera On This troupe

JAMES DIXON & SON'S CELEBRATED SHEFFIELD SILVER PLATED WARE. French Artistic Bronze Groupes, Figures. Clocks, Etc. Etc., All from a long established and well known Chesnut Street House, Tuesday and Wednesday Mornings and Evening, AT 101 A. M. and 71 P. M. AT. SCOTT'S ART GALLERY, No. 1020 CHESNUT Street. Sale without reserve. B. SCOTT, Jr. CHRISTMAS PRESENTS. The best and most sullable Present for a friend or the needy is a barrel of our "J. S. WELCH" FIRST PREMIUM FLOUR, and a bag or half barrel SPER. LING'S "MOUNTAIN" BUCK WHEAT MEAL, warranted superior to any in the market. Constantly on hand the best assortment of differen brands of FLOUR, INDIAN, and RYE MEAL HOPS, etc. GEORGE F. ZEHNDER, 11 24 2m thrp FOURTH AND VINE STN. FAMILY FLOUR In lots to suit GROCERS, or by the Single Barrel, for sale by EDWARD ADDICKS. J. No. 1230 MARKET Street, 10 0 Smith

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