

Evening Telegraph

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The Art of Lobbying.

In debating the probability of the defeat or passage of any proposed measure before Congress, it is noticeable that the question of merit is a secondary one. It is not said that the proposition is good, and therefore will succeed. It seems to matter little whether justice was or was not on the side of the proposed law. The issue of its success hangs on the fact whether it is supported by a good lobby. Now, let us look at the great system of lobbying as practised in this country, and see what constitutes that peculiar process. The lobby derives its name from the anteroom to the halls of legislation, in which its members are compelled to wait, or rather to lie in wait, for passing Congressmen. Its secret of success is the device of boring, worrying, bribing, and arguing with them; and through this practice they attempt to convince the law-makers that, on all the schemes proposed for the public good, the one in which they are interested is peculiarly the best. So universal has this system become that it has been said that the lobby is essential to the passage of every bill. We can imagine a lobby which would be allowable in honesty, if not in decency. If, for instance, its members were to attempt to convince solely by argument, and to seek in a legitimate manner, through their acquaintance with the legislators, to influence their minds, their course would be objectionable on the ground of courtesy and gentlemanly feeling, but not positively wrong. But such is not the line of policy adopted by the lobby. It will not bribe, but it will buttonhole, worry, and torment the members, and then seek to convince the doubting by feeding and winking, if not by positive payment of money.

Such a mode of convincing legislators is not limited to Washington. It is found in Harrisburg and in Philadelphia. It is adopted towards Congressmen, legislators, and Councilmen. Against it no denunciation is too severe. If a measure is proposed which is right, then it should stand on its merits. If it is found that the body is going to defeat it because it is not supported by the lobby, then let it be defeated. The result would be soon apparent. As quickly as the law-makers become convinced that they could not succeed in gaining the corrupt devotion of the hangers-on around the halls of legislation, they would cease to judge of a measure by its lobby support, and would begin to look at the merits of the case proposed. While a few good and judicious measures might be defeated at first for the want of the usual support, yet in a very short time the whole system would be broken up, and the honest member look with suspicion at every bill which had to resort to such means of gaining success. If, for instance, a local law be needed, and the assent of the Legislature requested, let it not be supported by a host of lobbyists, but let it stand alone, after it is well explained, and succeed or fail on its merits. The same is true of Connells. When the question of paving and grading comes up, let it not be influenced by the wishes of an anxious contractor, but let it be tried according to the wishes of the owners of property, and let the verdict be as the merits of the case demand. We hope the day is near when the lobby will become a thing of the past, and law-making be purified of its most corrupting adjunct.

That Cabinet

The customary Congressional recess over the Christmas holidays knocks all the solemnities of the lobby in the head for the time being, except that of Grant's Cabinet. And, having nothing else to engage its attention for a week or two, the full force of the third house, with considerable assistance from Senators and Representatives, has determined to go into the Cabinet business exclusively. A Western paper sums up the efforts of the lobby thus far, and the result is highly gratifying. Instead of the meagre council of seven ministers, with whose aid previous Presidents have contrived to worry through their respective terms, the number of gentlemen, prominent and otherwise, who are morally certain of presiding over the executive departments during the next four years foots up about seventy, with a score or two of probable appointments concerning which the lobby have not yet arrived at the stage of certainty. Moreover, the business of fixing up Grant's Cabinet has even received a share of attention from our cousins across the water. The Pall Mall Gazette of London, a journal which professes to know all about everything in each quarter of the globe, assures us that the Hon. J. Lethrop Motley, the late Minister to Vienna, will be offered a seat at the council board—an event not at all unlikely to occur, if Mr. Motley is not regarded by General Grant as capable of doing the country more effective service as successor to the garrulous Johnson at the Court of St. James. But while the Pall Mall may not have gone very far astray in this prediction, it astonishes Mr. Colfax by reminding him of his duty to his new "father-in-law," the "late President of the Senate," whose chances of creeping into the Cabinet through the back-door of matrimony are regarded by that exceedingly well-informed journal as quite certain. Still more astounding, however, is the Pall Mall's information that "the question of the retention of the present Secretary of State is being anxiously discussed." By whom? we are forced to inquire. Certainly not by the Emperor of Russia, for Mr. Seward has bought up all the low-brow regions that potentate appears disposed to sell. But perhaps the King of Denmark

is the person who is "anxiously discussing" Mr. Seward's retention, for as yet the purchase of the semi-submerged volcanoes which that sovereign numbers among his widely-scattered possessions is scarcely half consummated. If any living creature desires to see Mr. Seward retained in Gen. Grant's Cabinet, it must be his Majesty of Denmark; but we fear both the Pall Mall and King Christian IX will be doomed to disappointment. And such will be the melancholy fate of a vast number of still more ambitious Cabinet makers on the 4th of March next.

The Franking Privilege.

The project of abolishing or restricting the franking privilege of members is now engaging the attention of Congress, as it has done many times before, but we doubt whether any real effort will be made to correct the gross abuses which are known to exist. It seems reasonable enough that members of Congress, as well as other public officials who have extensive correspondence upon public business, should be allowed the privilege of franking their letters, and within reasonable limits there would be nothing to complain of. The thing, however, has grown to be an evil of the first magnitude, and the Postmaster-General estimates the loss to the Government during the last political campaign at a million and a half of dollars from the mails being flooded with electioneering documents. The stamp machines which the members of Congress have been in the habit of using are fruitful sources of abuse, and if they were abolished the Post Offices would, in the future, be relieved of tons of documents which are now distributed every year for partisan purposes. This reform ought to be insisted upon, and we may perhaps see it brought about, for there are probably few Congressmen who will care to appear as supporters of the more palpable abuses of the franking privilege. It can scarcely be expected that they will have the self-denial to abolish the privilege altogether, notwithstanding the heavy burden of taxation which the people already have to bear; and, perhaps, the most satisfactory compromise would be for each member to receive an allowance, and be compelled to prepay his letters like any other citizen. If this were done, we doubt not but that most, if not all, of them would save money by the operation, no matter how small the allowance might be, for we do not believe that the legitimate correspondence of any member of Congress is so great as to be a serious burden on the Government.

THE SENATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.—The Standard, the organ of the Republican party of North Carolina, furnishes graphic sketches of both houses of the Legislature, which are highly suggestive:—"A few years ago the Senate Hall of North Carolina was the throne of that tyranny which crushed out the liberties of men. Then an oligarchy was represented, now the people, without regard to nation or race. The despotism of the oligarchy was not more complete, the Inquisition not more cruel, than was some of the legislation of the Senate under the glorious old Constitution. The influence of the oligarchy grew while men slept; it stole a march on the people's rights; it called out, and disciplined to its various offices and purposes, a large portion of the intellect of the State. What a splendid contrast does the present Senate exhibit! It has penetrated every region of the State with works of internal improvement, and established its influences for good in the remotest corner of North Carolina.

"The Senate of to-day represents the useful intelligence, the social elevation, and the highest civilization of our people. It is the point of rest for the Archimedean lever of moral power, and to this centre the men who had lifted up a standard against injustice have come. All classes are reached by its associated philanthropy. The Senate is cosmopolitan in its character, a magnificent amalgam of every race and condition of life. Here are men from beyond the seas, whose devoted love of freedom impelled them to seek a quiet sanctuary in the home of Washington. Men, grey-headed and full of years, who during the stormy period of the Rebellion gave in their adhesion, like earnest and true-hearted gentlemen, to the Union cause, members of all professions, coming from the people, physicians, lawyers, editors, farmers, mechanics, meet in the Senate hall with a unity of spirit and a singleness of purpose."

Of the Standard's personal sketches we have room for but two. The reflection that our halting Republicanism would deny even the right of suffrage to Senators Galloway and Hyman is neither pleasant nor creditable.

"Senator Galloway, of New Hanover, is a man of commanding presence, broad forehead, bright eyes, and of very energetic life. In the early part of the war he managed to escape to the Union lines, where he was immediately employed by Butler, who soon discovered in the escaped slave rare and valuable qualities. When he rises to address the Senate there is a peculiar charm in his manner, and his voice is managed with skillful modulation. Nothing proves more clearly the wickedness of slavery than the enslavement of such bright intellects as those of Harris and of Galloway.

"The other colored Senator is J. A. Hyman, of Warren county. A gentle, tender, modest young man. When he speaks it is with a shrinking shyness. He has a singular history. Sold a few years ago on the auction block, a slave until Sherman's battalions made their famous march through North Carolina, when, for the first time, he felt the Divine inspiration of freedom. Against his protest the Republicans of aristocratic Warren sent him to represent their interests in the Senate of the State, where he fills with a graceful dignity the seat formerly occupied by Nathaniel Mason, of illustrious memory, by the Hawkings, and by Weldon N. Edwards, the President of the Secession Convention of 1861. Onward, young man o the dark-browed race! let your model be the hero and the statesman, the most gifted patriot of his day, Toussaint L'Ouverture."

415 SPRUCE STREET. 415 CHRISTMAS CAKES. The undersigned respectfully informs his patrons, and the public in general, that he has on hand, and makes to order, all varieties of Christmas Cakes and Confectionery, At the most reasonable prices, and warrants everything to be of the best material. JACOB BLUM, No. 45 SPRUCE STREET.

DRY GOODS. JOHN BURNS, No. 247 SOUTH ELEVENTH STREET, ABOVE SPRUCE. HOLIDAY AND WEDDING PRESENTS. One invoice of these beautiful Basin Damask Table Cloths, in rich designs, 2 1/2, 3 1/2, 4, and 4 1/2 yards long, the cheapest ever offered in the city. Laces, Table Linens, 4 yds. wide, 40, 43 1/2, 75, to \$1. Fine Bleached Table Damask, 1 1/2 yds. wide, 75c. 2 yds. wide fine Bleached T. bis Damask, 97 1/2c. 3-4 Turkey E-d Table Damask, best make, \$1 1/4. All-India Towels, 16, 12 1/2, 18, 18 1/2, 25c. Beautiful Damask Towels, \$1. 37 1/2, 50, 75, and up. Beresley Linnen Towels, red and blue damask borders, bargains. Splendid Damask Napkins, only \$1 00 per dozen. HDKFS. HDKFS. HDKFS. All-India Hdks. \$4 10, 15 1/2, 20 to 25. Ladies' and Gents' Hemstitched Hdks., bargains. Plain Embroidered Colored and Mourning Border Hdks. HOSIERY. HOSIERY. HOSIERY. Cartwright & Warner's Ladies' and Gents' Merino Underwear. Gents' Merino Shirts 50, 75c. \$1, \$1 1/2, to the finest. Ladies' Merino Vests, 37 1/2, \$1, \$1 1/2, \$1 3/4, \$2. Ladies' silk embroidered genuine Balmain hose, all sizes, 97 1/2c. Boys' and Misses' Merino Underwear. Besimpoired heavy English half hose, 87 1/2c. BLANKETS AND FLANNELS. All wool Blankets, from \$2 to \$20 per pair. All wool Flannels, 28, 35, 45, 50c. to \$1 1/2. Yard wide Balmaine and Shaker Flannel, 50c. Canton Flannels in every grade 12 1/2, to 40c.

E. R. LEE, No. 43 North EIGHTH Street. OPENING OF SUPERB HOLIDAY GOODS, WORKS OF ART. Elegant Bronze Groups, Figures, Vases, Statuettes, etc. Alabaster Hebe Vases, Vestibule Ornaments, etc. Hardwood carved marble copy of Canova's Dancing Girl. Fine Carrara marble bust, Bashful Venus. Fine Carrara Pastoral Group, from the Antique. Beautifully carved Castellina Stone Group, "Paul and Virginia." Finely carved Figures, Tragedy and Comedy. Agate Hebe Vases, Anarmo Hebe Vases, and finely carved Carrara Marble Psyche of Canova. Elegant carved figures, Dancing Venus, etc. Superb Bronze Groups, "Mazepa and Antiope."

The above goods were purchased at the Auction Sale of Yell Brothers, and will be "sold at less" than

"HALF GOLD COST." Also, Handsome "Jardinieres" (French Flower Stands), on Gilt and Ebony Pedestals.

HANDSOME FANS. HANDSOME FANS. An Invoice of VIENNA FANS, painted on silk. An entirely new article. A charming present.

Also, Gilt Stick Fans, White and Black. 100 Silk Fans, all colors, at very low prices. 100 Children's Colored Silk Fans, at 60c.

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50 Cluny and Imitation Pointe and Val. Handkerchiefs, 60c. to \$1 25. 20 dozen Hemstitched all Linen Hdks., 25c. FINE FRENCH LINEN HDKFS., SEITORED AND CORDED. CHILDREN'S COLORED BORDER HDKFS., 12 1/2 to 15c. Gents' Fine Hemstitched and Colored Border Hdks.

Gents' Plain Linen Hdks., 15 to 60c., cheapest ever offered. Gents' English Cloth Gloves. Gents' Finest Kid Lined, Imported. Misses' and Children's Fine French Gloves, elegant colors.

5000 yds. Dress Goods, reduced to 25c. Handsome Stripe Poplins, \$1 to 35c. Fine French Plaid Poplins, 75c.; reduced from \$1 50. Fine Silk Umbrellas. Paragon Frame Umbrellas.

Would invite special attention to the above line of Goods, as they comprise many novelties. Very desirable and useful HOLIDAY PRESENTS at very moderate prices.

E. R. LEE, No. 43 North EIGHTH Street, PHILADELPHIA.

HOLIDAY PRESENTS OF INTRINSIC VALUE.

EDWIN HALL & CO., No. 28 South SECOND Street,

WE offer the balance of their stock of new and desirable goods at a still further reduction.

BEST BLACK SILKS, CHOICE SHADES OF COLORED SILKS, FANCY SILKS AND STRIPE SATINS, IRISH AND FRENCH POPLINS, SILK SERGES AND VELOURS, STRIPE AND PLAID POPLINS, LOW-PRICED DRY GOODS, CHINESE AND CALICOES, SILK CLOAK VELVETS, SILK PLUSHES, BROCHE SHAWLS, BLANKET SHAWLS, LADIES' CLOAKS

ASTRACHAN CLOTHS OF THE FINEST QUALITIES. BEST QUALITY VELVET CLOTHS, DESIRABLE CLOAKINGS, VELVETEENS OF SUPERIOR FINISH, WHITE CLOTHS, EMBROIDERED LINEN AND LACE SETS, LACE COLLARS AND HDKFS., EMBROIDERIES, LACES, ETC., SCARFS, NECK TIES, ASTRACHAN MUFFS, ETC.

PARIS "LA BELLE" SKIRT. All Styles of this justly celebrated SKIRT.

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PLAID SILKS. 5000 yards of RICH PLAID SILKS at \$1 25 per yard. A Decided Bargain. RICKEY, SHARP & CO., No. 727 CHESNUT St.

SUPERB STRIPE SILKS. 4000 yards SUPERB STRIPE and CHANGEABLE SILKS at \$1 50, \$1 75, and \$1 90 per yard. A Great Bargain. RICKEY, SHARP & CO., No. 727 CHESNUT Street.

CLOAKING VELVETS. Superb Quality of 28-inch, 30-inch, and 32-inch BLACK LYONS CLOAKING VELVETS. A Great Bargain. RICKEY, SHARP & CO., No. 727 CHESNUT St.

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FOR THE HOLIDAYS. CARPETS, RUGS, MATS, HASSOCKS, DRUGGETS, OIL CLOTHS. REEVE L. KNIGHT & SON, No. 1223 CHESNUT St., Philadelphia.

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CHEESE. English, Roquefort, Neufchatel, Parmesan, Sage, Cream, Young America, Pine-Apple, Etc. Etc. New Crop Spanish Queen Olives, by Quart or Gallon. Our W. G. FAMILY FLOUR is the FINEST KNOWN IN AMERICA. We call special attention to our FRESH ASSORTMENT OF FRENCH DELICACIES, such as French Pies, Mushrooms, Truffles, L. Henry, Pate de Fete Gras, Boulets, Sardines, a great variety of other brands. Potted Game in Pate form, such as Snipe, Woodcock, Reed Birds, Plover, Partridge, Quail, Grouse, Pheasant, Venison, Duck, Etc. Etc. Fresh Goshen Butter, in small tubs, to suit families, selected expressly for family use. Just received, a fine assortment of HAVANA CIGARS, of the finest brands. GREEN AND BLACK TEAS, Finest Quality.

WHITE ALMERIA GRAPES, IN LARGE CLUSTERS. All Goods sold to families in unbroken packages at wholesale price, and delivered free of charge. CRIPPEN & MADDOCK, NO. 115 SOUTH THIRD STREET, BELOW CHESNUT. DEALERS IN AND IMPORTERS OF FINE GROCERIES.

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FANCY SILKS. In Great Variety, at One-half their Former Prices. 50,000 YARDS DRESS GOODS. To be sold without reference to former prices, embracing his entire stock of Winter Textures, every yard of which must be sold before the close of the year. Silk Chain Rolled Poplins, Reduced to 50 Cents. INDIA CAMEL'S HAIR SHAWLS, India Scarfs, Fine Broche Shawls, French Blanket Shawls, Tartan Plaid Shawls. KID GLOVES. Five Hundred Dozen Kid Gloves at \$1 10, every pair warranted perfect, or exchanged if not so; French Cloth Gloves, Children's Gloves, Ladies' and Gents' Neckties, Satin Scarfs, etc.

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