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(SUNDAYS EXCEPTED), AT THE EVENING TELEGRAPH BUILDING, NO. 108 S. THIRD STREET, PHILADELPHIA.

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THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 1869.

THE ALDERMEN AGAIN IN COURT. It is scarcely possible to conceive of a more unjust and iniquitous system of administering justice than that adopted by some of the aldermen of this city. They are habitually guilty of practices quite as disgraceful and oppressive as those for which Dickens arraigned the police magistrates of London in "Oliver Twist;" and their mandates are often as unjust and arbitrary as the decrees of an Eastern eadl or the judgments of a Mexican alcalde. As they are dependent upon their fees for a livelihood, they almost invariably decide for the plaintiff, or prosecutor, without reference to the merits of the question at Issue, and it is no uncommon occurrence for men to be deprived of property or liberty for no other reason than that such deprivation swells the sum total of aldermanic fees. It is as hard for an uninfluential poor man to obtain justice before these inferior tribunals as it is difficult to secure the appropriate punishment of influential rich rascals. But a short time ago Judge Brewster called attention to the fact that various persons had been committed to prison on frivolous charges. and suffered to languish in confinement for months without even an official announcement of the fact being made to the proper authorities: and yesterday the same Judge called the attention of the Grand Jury to a communication he had received from the officers of the County Prison, complaining that that institution was unnecessarily crowded by persons committed for an undue length of time for trivial offenses, and that the cells designed for felons were thus occupied by petty delinquents, and the city treasury uselessly burdened with a great expense. Few citizens who are not familiar with the

statistics bearing on this subject have any idea of the magnitude of these evils. If foreign governments shamefully wronged or oppressed one American citizen for every hundred who are unjustly committed to prison by the aldermen of the good city of Philadelphia, the wrath of the whole nation would be enkindled, and the provocation would be deemed sufficient for halfa-dozen gigantic wars. The number of commitments to the County Prison during last year reached the enormous aggregate of 17,630, or an average of nearly fifty per day; and if the true history of all these cases could be known, it would be found that not only were many of the charges excessively frivolous, but that the portals closed on many unfortunate beings whose innocence of the offenses with which they were charged was so clear that no rational being would have failed to discover it except an avaricious alderman, whose fees were contingent upon a harsh judgment. The Prison Agent, in his report of last year, gives a tabular list of 1603 cases of persons discharged from prison through his efforts, either because they were clearly innocent of their imputed offenses, or because a brief confinement previous to trial was amply sufficient to atone for their venial crimes. He also gives a detailed statement of the facts connected with a ber of cases, which abundantly prove that the liberty of the poorer classes is at the mercy of corrupt aldermen; and that it is by no means an unpsual occurrence for the really guilty parties to a dispute to secure the incarceration of their innocent antagonists.

A few figures illustrate more forcibly than figures of speech how justice is practically administered. There were 36,333 arrests by policemen in 1868, 17,620 commitments to the County Prison, and only 5353 cases acted upon by the different Grand Juries; of this number, 2361 cases (nearly half) were ignored, and of the 2992 true bills found there were but 550 convictions. It is evident that there should either be a great many more persons convicted and sentenced, or a much smaller number temporarily conduct in the County Prison. Liberty and reputation are now tampered and trifled with to an alarming degree, and it is vain to expect any substantial reform until the duties imposed upon aldermen are discharged by salaried officials who are capable of distinguishing between right and wrong, and whose judgments will not be warped by pecuniary considerations.

THE SAN JUAN TREATY.

A GREAT portion of the Executive session of the Senate for two days has been taken up by a discussion of the proposed treaty for the settlement of our long-standing dispute with Great Britain concerning the boundary line between Washingon Territory and Vancouver's Island. For forty years or more previous to 1846, the United States claimed exclusive jurisdiction over the wast extent of territory west of the Rocky Mountains embraced between the latitudes of 42 deg. and 54 deg. 40 min. Great Britain likewise claimed the same territory as her own, and as the dispute between the two countries progressed. considerable bitterness was manifested on both sides, a large party in the United States declaring in favor of maintaining our jurisdiction at the point of the sword, if necessary, and adopting for its war cry a motto facetiously spelled thus:- "Phiphty-phour phorty or phight!"

In 1846, while James Buchanan was Secretary of State, a treaty was negotiated between the two disputing nations proposing as the settlement of the difficulty the establishment of the boundary line along the forty-ninth degree of orth latitude to the middle of the channel hich separates the main land from Vancouver's leland, and from this point southwardly to the Pacific Ocean, through the middle of the channel above named and the Fuca Straits. A strong opposition was arrayed against the ratification of the treaty, the administration of President Polk being included in the opposition, by their pledges to the people. But they soon found themselves enmbered with a war with Mexico, and as a persistence in the claim of 54 deg. 40 min, would robably have resulted in a conflict with Great Britain, they found it necessary to submit the roposed treaty to the Senate, accompanied by

half-way recommendation for its approval. After a determined opposition by the Whigs and a number of radical Democrats, the treaty was finally ratified; but the ratification served only to pave the way for still another vexations

rest Britain put forth a claim that Strait was the channel intended by 'lie the United States claimed that

the Canal de Haro was the intended channel. By the former claim the islands of the Haro Archipelago, of which San Juan is the most important, fell to the lot of Great Britain, while by the latter they were thrown under the jurisdiction of the United States. For ten years the question remained an open one, without any attempt at settlement, save by an interminable diplomatic correspondence. Finally, in 1856, each Government appointed a commissioner, with instructions inspired by its own peculiar geographical notions, for the location of the disputed boundary line. Twenty thousand dollars were appropriated by Congress to meet the expenses. The commissioners met in June, 1857, a wrangle, prolonged through several months, ensued, and the commissioners finally agreed to disagree, thus leaving the question precisely where they found it. Then the diplomatists went to work again, and continued writing their epistles until within a few months past. Meanwhile both Governments have continued to assert their jurisdiction over San Juan and the other islands of the Haro Archipelago, very much to the inconvenience and perplexity of each other. During the past winter, however, a treaty was negotiated which proposes to secure an amicable settlement of the disputed boundary line by referring its establishment, under the treaty of 1846, to the arbitrament of the President of Switzerland.

It was against this apparently just and reasonable proposition that Garrett Davis levelled two hours of his garrulousness in the executive session of the Senate on Tuesday, and so formidable has been the opposition to its ratification that we are now told that the treaty must go over until the December session before it can be ratified, even if it should then pass the ordeal successfully. The opposition, of course, is based on the presumption that the construction put upon the treaty by the British Government is unreasonable, and unwarranted by the terms in which the boundary line between the two countries is described. It is possible that this view is the correct one, but if it be so, we are certainly justified in expecting that the President of Switzerland, a disinterested person, can be made to realize the fact much sooner than we can convince the British Government of it by tons of monotonons diplomatic correspondence. In 1859 the joint military occupancy of San Juan came near resulting in an open rupture with Great Britain. The late General Winfield Scott was despatched by our Government to the scene of trouble, and succeeded in effecting a temporary arrangement by which peace was preserved. But it is evident that the question in its present state may lead to serious consequences hereafter, and, as we have on our hands the Alabama-claims dispute with Great Britain, policy and justice both demand a speedy settlement of this irritating side issue. The delay of the Senate to ratify the treaty is, therefore, to be sincerely regretted.

THE PROCEEDINGS of the Senate yesterday were enlivened by a rambling debate about matters connected with appointments. The Senators from the West and South are evidently anxious that the Blue Book should be carefully posted, so that the fact may become manifest that they have less than their proportionate share of public patronage, while the Senators from New England and Ohio, being content with things as they are, do not favor the proposed investigation. Senator Cameron, of Pennsylvania, improved the occasion to ventilate his views on the manner in which patronage had been distributed among the citizens of this He seems to think that the President should consult the Senators before making any appointments, and that he would thus receive authentic information in regard to the "merits and demerits of the applicant." Whether this information would in all cases be entirely impartial, and whether an absolute safeguard against the appointment of "constitutional drunkards" or "constitutional thieves" would thus be furnished, is an open question, about which in some minds there may e "doubts arising." The Republican party of the State must also be much more harmonious than is commonly supposed, if Scnator Cameron is entirely correct in his assertion that ninetenths of the persons appointed in this State must be his friends, "because they could not have been selected from his party without being his friends."

THE FINE ARTS.

The Water-Color Exhibition at the Artists Fund Galleries. Last evening a collection of water-color paintings was thrown open to a private view at the rooms of the Artists' Fund Society, No. 1334 Chesnut street. To-day the collection was made accessible to the general public, and will so remain for about a month. As the proceeds of the exhibition are for the benefit of the Children's Hospital, located on Twentysecond street, below Walnut, a very worthy institu tion, we should anticipate a liberal patronage, independently of the unquestionable merits of the paintings on exhibition. Embraced in the collection are over two hundred subjects, covering the whole range between the slightest sketches and ambitious efforts such as are seldom attempted, and still more rarely with success, except in oil. The most prominent water-color artists of both Europe and America have contributed to the collection, and on the wall may be found many masterpieces of the art.

This exhibition is particularly interesting, as it is the most extensive exhibition of water-colors we have had in this city, and it is well worthy of the attention of all art connoisseurs. There is a prevalent opinion that aquarelle is an inferior branch of art, and this very erroneous idea is encouraged by the fact that at the exhibition of the Academy of Fine Arts works of this class are usually slighted by the hanging committee, so that the public scarcely have a fair opportunity to judge of their merits. Watercolor painting, too, has been but little practised in this country, although in England it has been carried to a high state of perfection. By organizing a separate water-color exhibition, the gentlemen who have interested themselves in making the colelction now on view at the Artists' Fund Rooms have done genuine service to the art-loving public. The works can be judged on their own merits, without being placed in disadvantageous juxtaposition with oil pictures, and the very high character of the collection is calculated to impress the public with an adequate idea of the real merits of water-color painting. Water-colors have important qualities which oils have not, and the two cannot properly be placed in comparison. The transparency, delicacy, and tenderness of tone which are the distinguishing characteristics of aquarelle cannot be rivalled in oils, and we hope that this exhibition will have the effect of giving the public some new ideas on the subject, and will encourage our artists to make greater efforts than they have done hitherto to create an American

water-color school of art. The north room, which the visitor first enters, is devoted principally to sketches of both foreign and American artists. Prominent among them may be noticed works of merit by C. Schussele, J. D. Krimmel, and Mrs. E. Murray, and an illumination by Miss Jean Lee, which fairly rivals the work of those old masters of the art, the monkish copyists of

the Middle Ages. The large middle room is devoted to the works of foreign artists exclusively, and presents many of the finest productions that have made their way to the United States. Perhaps the most striking and effective is a picture by Mrs. E. Murray, entitled "The Rieventh Hour," which is admirable in color,

and much better in drawing than is usual with this lady. Offsetting this is Wehnert's painting of "John Pound's Ragged School," in which an ambitious subject has been dealt with in remarkably successful style, There are also several of J. Skinner Prout's interiors, masterpieces in their way. Noticeable among these is the famous scene in the Church of St. Laurent, Nuremburg, which has been thus immortalized by Longfellow :-

"In the Church of sainted Lawrence Stands a pyx of soulpture rare: Like a foamy sheaf of fountains, Bising through the painted air."

"The Alte Brucke," at Bamberg, Bayaria, by the same hand, is likewise calculated to rivet the attention of the visitor, as are also "A Procession in a Norman Cathedral," by G. Dodgson, and "A Black Frost," by Charles Brauwhite,

Entering last the south room, which is devoted exclusively to the works of American artists, we find a collection which cannot but flatter our home pride in some measure. Edward Moran contributes two very noticeable works, both worthy of his high repuation. The more pretentions of the two is a characteristic representation of "The Cave of the Winds, Niagara," in which the majestic cataract is reproduced in a masterly manner. The other, "A Stream in the Woods," is smaller, but almost equally effective in a somewhat different way. James Hamilton contributes his remarkably fine marine study entitled "What are the Wild Waves Saying?" and W. T. Richards a delicatelytinted serial reproduction of "Lake Avernus,". "The Track of the Torrent," a view in the Adirondacks, by James D. Smillie, and "On the Bouquet River," by George II. Smillie, are both noticeable, and are acompanied by other works from the same bands, There are also a strongly colored painting, "The Woodchopper," by T. W. Wood; "A Brig Hove-to," by M. P. H. De Haas; "Twilight in Connecticut," and a "Scene in Connecticut," by Kruseman Van Eiten; "On Lake Winnipiseogee," by Edmund D. Lewis; "The Read to Glenties, County Donegal," by John Faulkner; and the "Remains of an Old Mosque at Heres, Spain," by 8. Coleman; all of them effective and attractive. But perhaps the centre of attraction will be found to be a fine study of a child, "Just Awake," by Mrs. E. Murray, whose present residence in this country entitles her to a place among American as well as foreign artists. It is impossible within the limits of a single article to do justice to this fine exhibition, and we propose to discuss the merits of the most important contributions more in detail hereafter,

SPECIAL NOTICES.

For additional Special Notices see the Inside Pages, GOUGH AT THE RINK.

GREAT TEMPERANCE MASS MEETING! JOHN B. GOUGH, Esq.,

will Lecture, under the auspices of the YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION,

> ON TEMPERANCE,

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TICKETS, 10 CENTS.

To avoid delay and confusion on the evening of the lecture, tickets should be purchased in advance. They will be for sale at the HALL OF THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION, No. 1210 CHES-NUT Street, on and after MONDAY, April 19. Ladies' Tickets, with coupon for seat, without extra 4 22 ths2t charge. BED NATATORIUM

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fort and health mean strength, bodily comfort; health and strength mean happiness.

The summer season of our Institution will open, as usual, THE FIRST OF MAY.

The Club deductions are on the same liberal scale of last season. Clubs forming now everywhere. The majority of them will be attended to on or before the last of the month. All Club applications will cease on SATURDAY, May 8, at 9 P. M.

The Gymnasium, as usual, opens free of charge to all subscribers. For minor particulars, see the new Circulars, 421 4t Respectfully, WHILIAM JANSEN.

THE CLOSING DAY OF THE SUNDAY

SCHOOL INSTITUTE.

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THIS (Thursday) EVENING, at 8 o'clock, #
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General Discussions on "Carrying the Gospel to the masses;" "Causes of failure in teaching;" "Our hopes and our rewards."

The "Little Wanderers" will be present, and sing some of their choicest songs, under the direction of John E. Gould, Eq.

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MIDNIGHT MISSION .- A PUBLIC SUNDAY RVENING, at the CHURCH OF THE REPIPHANY, corner of FIFTEENTH and CHESNUT Streets, at 8 o'clock. Addresses may be expected from the Rev. GEORGE J. MINGINS, of New York: Rev. A. WILLITS, D. D., Rev. GEORGE D. BOARDMAN, D. D., and the Rev. Dr. NEWTON. A collection will be made.

REV. JOHN T. GRACEY WILL LEC-TURE in TABERNACLE M. E. CHURCH, RLE-TENTH Street, above Jefferson, on THURSDAY and FRIDAY EVENINGS, April 22 and 23, on the Country and People of India. First Lecture—What they do and why they do it. Second Lecture—What they believe and why they believe it. Adult's Tickets, 25 cents. Chil-dren's, 15 cents.

OLD PINE STREET CHURCH. DR. E. R. HUTCHINS
Will deliver his Lecture on "Health, and How to Preserv
It," THIS EVENING, at 8 o'clock, under the auspices o
the Young People's Association. The public are invited. SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MEMbers of the Corporation of the "Lincoln Institution" will be held at No. 308 S. ELEVENTH Street, on WED-NESDAY, 28th inst., at II A. M. Alteration of by-laws proposed. By order of seven members of the corporation.

MARY MCHENRY,

4 22 5t First Directress of the Board of Managers.

The Most Fickle Month in the Year.

O! Fickle, fickle April, With sudden showers of rain! It rains a while, then clears awhile, And presently rains again.

O! Fickle, fickle April!
One hour with sonshine warm,
The next, the akies are overcast
With a gusty thunder storm.

O! Fickle, fickle April!
With wind and rain storms mixed;
Spoiling our clothes with drenching showers;
We wish the weather was fixed!

O! Fickle, fickle April!
When the skies with clouds are dark,
The rain comes down as it used to come
In the day of Noah's ark. O! Fickle, fickle April!
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