PUBLISHED EVERY AFTERNOON

(SUNDAYS EXCEPTED). AT THE EVENING TELEGRAPH BUILDING,

NO. 108 S. THIRD STREET, PHILADELPHIA.

The Price is three cents per copy (double sheet); or eighteen cents per week, payable to the carrier by whom served. The subscription price by mail is Nine Dollars per annum, or One Dollar and Fifty Cents for two months, invariably in advance for the time ordered.

SATURDAY, MAY 23, 1869.

THE EIGHT-HOUR LAW. IT HAS been rumored for some days past that the President was about to issue a proclamation defining the rate of wages in Government workshops under the Eight-hour law of Congress, approved June 25, 1868. Yesterday the proclamation was made, and, contrary to general expectation, it declares that there shall be no reduction of wages on account of the reduction of the hours of labor. This will be a surprise to both the advocates and the opponents of the eight-hour system, as it is in direct opposition to the opinion of the Attorney-General.

General Grant has followed the example of General Jackson in giving the nation to understand that, however ready he may be to ask the advice of the members of his Cabinet, he reserves for kimself the privilege of acting according to his own judgment. Congress said nothing definitely about the wages that should be paid for eight hours' labor, and it left unrepealed the old law providing that the Government disbursing officers should be guided by the compensation paid for similar labor in private establishments. And yet, in the language of the proclamation, the new enactment "repealed all acts and parts of acts inconsistent therewith," and General Grant has decided, in this conflict of laws, to strike a bold blow for the eight-hour men.

As matters were progressing, the demagogues who voted for the enactment had a capital opportunity to surround the administration with odium. They could claim to be the especial friends of the workingman, and attack the Presideat for withholding the boon of big pay for little work. But he has silenced this battery by a stroke of his pen, and taught Congress that he will respect rather the spirit of their enactments, and their obvious meaning, than the hair-splitting interpretations made by a critical lawyer. Attorney-General Hoar acted as the counsel of a private individual, would have acted if his client had asked his opinion in reference to the payment of a doubtful claim. He denied its validity, leaving those who felt aggrieved to seek redress in the courts, or to substantiate their demand by more definite legislation. Judge Kelley, who aunounces himself an advocate of the eight-hour system, at the same time sustains the action of the Attorney-General and the Secretary of the Navy. But Grant has chosen to take a broader and more comprehensive view of the question, and instead of assuming the responsibility of an alleged resistance to the real meaning of a Congressional enactment, he has given the Government employes instead of the Government the benefit of the existing doubts, and thrown back | government with the principle of universal sufupon Congress the responsibility of deciding whether they desire their law of 1862 or their law of 1868 to be most stringently executed.

The importance of this dispute has been greatly exaggerated. The power of Congress | tive third party, which will represent the thinkextends only to Government workshops and Government service, and it can only affect, in alike to the extravagances of the Imperialists an infinitesimal degree, by example, the rate of wages in private establishments. We hope, however, that since the experiment is to be tried, it may be made as useful as possible, and that accurate records may be kept, showing the difference in the actual product of the labor of a given number of men working respectively under the two systems. If the loss of time does not involve a clear corresponding loss of production, that fact should be demonstrated; and if, on the other hand, the clamor for the eighthour rule amounts to nothing more than a demand for increased wages, that fact should be established beyond all cavil.

In the present position of the country, the whole American people are morally bound to work harder than ever. They must provide not only for present necessities and for their future welfare, but, at the same time, bear the burden of a gigantic debt. No more inopportune moment for an eight-hour agitation could have been chosen. A desire for additional leisure illy comports with the requirements of a period when increased responsibilities are imposed upon all the workers of the land. Whatever the Government may do with its handful of laborers and mechanies in ship-yards and armories, forty millions of people cannot afford, under existing circumstances, to diminish their productive

THE METHODIST CHURCH, SLAVERY,

AND REUNION. Just as the two most important branches of the Presbyterian Church are taking serious measures towards a harmonious reuniou, a correspoudence between the two divisions of the Methodist Episcopal denomination upon a similar project is made public. Bishops Janes and Simpson, in behalf of their colleagues of the National Church, have submitted the subject of union with the Southern Church to the Board of Bishops of the latter body. In their communication, Bishops Janes and Simpson justly allege that the great cause which led to the separation has passed away, and in view of this fact they "trust the day is not far distant when there skall be but one organization, which shall embrace the whole Methodist family in the United States." The "great cause" of separation to which allusion is made was, of course, the system of human bondage, from which the nation has been purified by the ordeal of civil war. But the Southern Bishops, in their response, allege that "slavery was not, in any proper sense, the cause, but the occasion only, of separation;" laying the entire responsibility for the schism in the Church upon the action of the General Conference in attempting "to handle and determine matters lying outside of their proper jurisdic-

This was the ground assumed by the Southern section of the Church in 1844, and possesses even less significance at the present day than it did at that time. When the crisis in our national affairs came upon us, the slavery propagandists raised the same plea as the excuse for their action in attempting to disrupt the territory of the Union. The irrepressible conflict between freedom and slavery was as fully recognized by the Southern leaders as it was insisted upon by the expouents of public opinion in the North. The two systems could no longer exist side by side in the same nationality, without one or the other undermining and uprooting its rival. As the utter abhorrence in which a preponderating majority of the Northern people held "the peculiar institution" forbade any hopes of its further

Evening Telegraph peaceable extension, the South seized upon the election of Mr. Lincoln to the Presidency as an excuse for a resort to arms to secure their excuse for a resort to arms to secure their independence, still stoutly asserting that slavery was not the cause, but the occasion only, of the attempted separation. The manner in which the Methodist Church was disrupted was an exact counterpart of the attempt to destroy the Union, differing only in the result. And when the Southern Methodist Bishops allege that slavery was the mere occasion of the schism, they are guilty of as flagrant an attempt to distort the truths of history as were the Northern apologists for and sympathizers with the Rebellion who asserted that the same iniquitous system played no more significant a part in the inauguration of the warfare upon the national unity.

While the general tenor of the response made by the Southern Bishops to the proffer of a reunion is not professedly adverse to the project, their letter is throughout characterized by much bitterness of feeling, of which the passage in reference to the cause of separation, quoted above, may be taken as a fair example. This feeling is even more manifest in the following

"We take this occasion frankly to say, that the conduct of some of your missionaries and agents who have been sent into that portion of our common country occupied by us, and their avowed purpose to lisintegrate and absorb our societies that otherwise dwell quietly, have been very prejudicial to that charity which we desire our people to cultivate to-wards all Christians, and especially those who are called by the endeared name of Methodists; and their course in taking possession of some of our houses of worship has inflicted both grief and loss on us, and bears the appearance, to disinterested men of the world, of being not only a breach of charity, but an invasion of the plainest rights of property."

When we recall the manner in which the ministers and members of the Methodist Episcopal Church South plunged headlong into the Rebellion, making secession practically the basis of their creed, and accomplishing more than any similar body towards precipitating and prolonging the conflict, and in fomenting the bitterness which resulted from the appeal to arms, we are obliged to insist that the complaints of their Bishops against the proselyting zeal of the National Church are deprived of all their weight. The leaders of the Southern Church see clearly that the downfall of the institution which was both the cause and the occasion of their separate organization involves its ultimate disintegration. It is natural, therefore, that they should feel somewhat aggrieved, but we trust that their appeal for charity and fairdealing will not be lost upon their former associates, in order that the schism in the Church

may be brought to a speedy termination. THE FRENCH ELECTIONS. THE French elections will take place to-morrow, and as the day approaches the excitement on the subject increases. In a number of places revolutionary demonstrations of so decided a character have been made that the authorities have been furnished with an excellent excuse for interfering; and in Paris, Marseilles, Nismes and other cities large numbers have been arrested for singing the "Marseillaise" and for other actions which are considered unlawful and disorderly under the present regime. The contest that is now being waged sufficiently demonstrates the unpopularity of the Emperor, the inconsistency of the present system of frage, and the divided character of the opposition which enables the Imperialists to retain the whole power in their own hands. A strong effort is now being made to organize a conservaing, moderate men of the nation, and be opposed and the radical Republicans. It is from such an opposition as this that the Government of Napoleon III will have the most to fear, as a very large proportion of the French people will much prefer to live even under such a despotism as the Second Empire rather than to be exposed to such a total overturning of all law and order as has always resulted from the supremacy of the Red Republicans. Republicanism in France means anarchy, and the demonstrations which have already taken place strengthen the hands of the Government, and bring to its support a large number of citizens who have no sympathy with Imperialism, and who have as cordial a dislike for the Napoleonic rule as any of the most ardent Republicans. For these reasons the Government is working most earnestly to defeat the Constitutionalists' opposition candidates, and it will probably succeed in accomplishing its object of having a majority of Imperialists in the next Corps Legislatif. The rampant Republicans it can put down with a strong arm, and obtain credit for so doing, but if the Constitutionalists and the Republicans should outnumber the Imperialists in the Legislature, the former would exert a restraining effect on the latter, and their united efforts would, in many instances, force the Government to make disastrous concessions. The trouble is to organize a powerful third party of this kind, for there are so many contending parties in France, each with a policy of its own, that it is difficult to induce even the thinking men of the nation to surrender their pet schemes and unite upon a definite line of policy. In this division of the opposition has hitherto been the strength of Imperialism, and the present indications are that this strength will not be seriously impaired by the elections to come off to-morrow. If the Conservative Constitutionalists, however, by any means gain the

have occurred. THE JUNE MAGAZINES. Messes, Turner Brothers & Co. send us Harper's Magazine for June. This is an attractive and interesting number, containing an instalment of "A Brave Lady," the new novel by Mrs. Dinah Mulock

ascendancy, the Emperor will receive the most

decided check he has yet experienced; but if he

has the wisdom to take advantage of the situa-

tion, and make such concessions as are required

by the moderate, law-abiding, order-loving peo-

ple of the nation, the circumstance may in the

end turn out to be the most fortunate that could

Craik, and a variety of stories, sketches and poetry

of a popular character. The contents are as fol-

"The Aurora Borealis, or Polar Light," Elias "The Aurora Borealis, or Polar Light," Elias Loomis, with twenty illustrations; "Too Late," Fitz Hugh Ludlow; "Winter on the Plains," Theodore R. Davis, with eleven illustrations; "Military Pyrotechnics of Former Days," Jacob Abbott, with seven illustrations; "Said Pacha of Egypt," F. De Laon; "Deliverance Armstrong, "Mary N. Prescott; "A Cornish Carnival," Annie Thomas; "A Brave Lady," author of "John Halifax, Gentleman," with two illustrations; "My Enemy's Daughter," Justin McCarthy, with an illustration; "Leo and Luther," Eugene Lawrence; "The Tragedles of a Feathered Family," H. L. Palmer; "Lacy's Choice," John Webb; "Dlana Polylile's Prisoner," Justin McCarthy; "British Wild Flowers," Newman Hall; "Pawnbrokers and Loan Polville's Prisoner, Justin McCarthy; "British Wild Flowers," Newman Hall; "Pawmbrokers and Loan Offices," W. O. Stoddard; "The Primer of the World," Louise E. Chollet; "William Brasford's Love Life," Jane G. Austin; "Editor's Easy Chair," "Editor's Book Table," "Editor's Record of Current Events,"

"Editor's Drawer." RELIGIOUS NOTICES.

TRINITY M. E. CHURCH, EIGHTH Street, above Race. Rev. R. W. HUMPHRISS, Paster, will proach at 10) and 7%. Strangers invited. ARCH STREET M. E. CHURCH,-REV. JAMES NEILL To-morrow at 10% A. M. Strangers invited,

RELIGIOUS NOTICES, NORTH TENTH STREET PRESBY-

TERIAN OHURCH (below Girard avenue). Hev. MATTHEW NEWKIRK, Pastor, will preach at 10% o'clock A. M. and 8 o'clock P. M. BOS" LUTHERBAUM ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH, TWELFTH and OXFORD Streets. Rev. NOAH M. PRICE. 10%—"God Requires a Present: In It. Reasonable?" 7%—"Counting the Cost." Pawa free. WESTERN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ROBERT E THOMPSON Sabbath at 10%, and Dr. E. E. ADAMS at 13%.

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. WASHINGTON Square.—Rev. ALBERT BARNE will preach To-morrow at 10% A. M. and Rev. J. H McILVAINE, of Princeton, at 8 P. M. BET SPRING GARDEN BAPTIST CHURCH,

THIRTEENTH Street, above WALLACE, Rev. L. P. HORBERGER, Pastor. Preaching To-merrow at 10% A. M. and 8 P. M. Sabhath School at 2 P. M. ST. CLEMENT'S CHURCH .- TO-MOR row being the fourth Sunday in the month, the af-ternoon service will be omitted. Service in the evening at quarter before 8 o'clock.

SEAMAN'S MISSION, CATHARINE and SWANSON Streets.—Sunday School Anniversary To-morrow at 3 o'clock P. M. Addresses and Singing.

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, RIGHTH and CHERRY Streets,—Rev. M. M. G.
DANA, of Norwich, Conn., will preach Tomorrow (Sabbath) Morning at 10% o'clock, and in the afternoon at 4
o'clock.

REV. A. A. WILLITS, D. D., PASTOR of the WEST ARCH STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, corner EIGHTERNTH Street, preaches 10½ A. M. and 8 P. M. Bible class 9½ A. M. Prayer meeting 7½ P. M. Strangers always welcome.

TABERNACLE BAPTIST CHURCH. Chosnut street, west of Eighteenth street.

REV. GEORGE A. PELTZ
will preach to-morrow Morning and Evening. Services commence at 10% and 7% o'clock.

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, THIRD STREET below Walnut.—Rev. C. M. BUTLER, D. D., will preach To-morrow at 10% A. M. and 3% P. M. Prayer meeting every Saturday evening at quarter to 8. Stran-gers cordially invited. THE GRASS OF THE FIELD REV

Dr. MARCH will preach on this subject in CLIN-TON STRKET CHURCH, To-morrow (Sunday) evening, at 8 o'clock. All persons cordially invited. REV. CHARLES A. DICKEY, OF Alleghany in the NORTH UNITED PRESBYTE. RIAN CHAPEL, MASTER Street, above Pifteenth, at 10% A. M. and at 8 P. M. All are cordially invited. Seat-

cee. Communion in connection with the morning service. THIRD UNITARIAN CHURCH.-CORner ELEVENTH and WOOD Streets.—The usual services will be held To-morrow (Sunday) at 10% A. M. and 7% P. M. The pastor, Rev. WILLIAM H. THORNE, preaches in the morning on "The Only True Criterion of Christian Discipleship," and on the following subject in the evening: "Will Any Infidels be Saved?" Public cor-

IN AID OF THE MISSION SCHOOL at the S. W. corner of TENTH and SOUTH
Streets.—Rev. JUSTIN D. FULTON, of Boston, will lecture at CONCERT HALL, Chesnut street, on WEDNES
DAY EVENING, June 2, in aid of the Sprince Street
Baptist Mission, at Tenth and South streets. Subject:
"Whom shall we trust?" Tickets can be had at the Baptist Publication Rooms, No. 339 Arch street, and at Gould's
Music Store.

5 22 29 J2

HALL YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN

HALL YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN
ASSOCIATION, No. 1210 CHESNUT Street.
The monthly meeting of the Association will be held next
MONDAY EVENING at 8 o'clock.
Essay by LEWIS D. VAIL, Esq.
Subject, "Bubbles."
Question for discussion, "Would Christianity be Advanced by the Fusion of all Denominations into One?"
Selections of yocal music from "Songs of Gladness," by
the 'Little Wanderers," under the direction of Mr. J. E.
GOULD.
The public are invited.

THE FORTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY of the AMERICAN SUNDAY-SCHOOL UNION will be held at the ACADEMY OF MUSIC, on TUESDAY EVENING, 25th instant, at 745 o'clock.
Addresses may be expected from Rev. M. M. G. DANA, of Norwich, Conn., Rev. N. H. SCHENCK, D. D., of Brooklyn, and Rev. FRANK L. ROBBINS, of Philadelphia. delphia.

A selected choir of 600 young ladies will sing, under the leadership of Colonel D. W. C. MOORE.

Tickets may be had at the Society's Buildings, No. 1122 CHESNUT Street. Secured seats in Parquet and Parquet Circle 50 cents: Balcony 25 cents.

Children not admitted unless accompanied by parents or guardians.

5 15 18 20 22 25 5t

SPECIAL NOTICES.

BOT CONSTITUTED JUNE 15, 1819.

ST. JOHN'S COMMANDERY, No. 4, Stationed at Philadelphia

Sir CHARLES L. HALE, Kn't. Eminent Commander.

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SEMI-CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY. JUNE 15, 1869.

HEADQUARTERS GENERAL COMMITTEE OF "ABBANGEMENTS," No. 146 S. Fourth street, Philadelphia (2d story), Sir Andrew Robeno, Jr., Kn't, Chairman

The General Committee of "Arrangements" do hereby issue the following

GENERAL ORDERS. Commanderies, or Delegations of Commanderies, wil apply to the nearest Railroad Office for the rates of Round trip Tickets to Philadelphia and return, and report as soon as possible to Sir Francis Funk, Kn't, Chairmen of "Rail-

road" Committee, No. 116 Market street, Philadelphia, as to rates and conditions, and he will assist them to get sat-Commanderies will notify the chairman of the "Hotel" ommittee, Sir Isaac Muff, Kn't, of the time of their expected arrival in Philadelphia, and by what route they are coming. The "Hotel" Committee will then meet them and escort them to such hotel or headquarters as they may

have previously designated. The Eminent Commander, or officer in charge of each Commandery, will furnish to the Committee on "Invita tions," Sir Charles E. Meyer, Kn't, chairman, immedi ately after their arrival, a list of the names, in full, of such Knights Templar, duly vouched for (if from several Com-manderies, the name of Commandery should be given). together with the number of ladies accompanying them. On such list, Complimentary Cards of Invitation and Adion to the Reception at the American Academy of Music, in the evening, will be issued, and delivered to the

person properly authorized to receive them. The members of St. John's Commandery, No. 4, will hold hemselves subject to the special orders of the Eminent Commander, Sir Charles L. Hale, Kn't.

The formation of Parade will be designated by special

All Visiting Commanderies will appear either in fatigue dress or full uniform, as they may decide; provided, that their dress be uniform (either fatigue or full dress). On Tuesday, June 15, at half-past 7 o'clock A. M., the line will form in two divisions on Broad street, right resting on Chesnut street, facing west-Inspection at 8 o'clock. After inspection, break columns of six, and murch in that order, passing down Chesnut to Fifth, up Fifth to Arch, up Arch Broad, up Broad to Columbia avenue-here pass in Review. Commanderies desirous of forming crosses, etc., ake such formations at least fifty feet before reach ing the Reviewing Officer. After passing in review, march antil head of column reaches Horticultural Hall. Lines will be then formed in two divisions, open order, facing inward; Grand Officers of Grand Encampment of United States, Grand Officers of Grand Commanderies of dif-ferent States, and Elective Officers of Subordinate Comnanderies, pass through the lines, followed by Visiting

Knights. At 8 o'clock P. M. the Knights will assemble with their ladies at the American Academy of Music. The "General Commanding," Sir R. K. Crawford, Kn't, having been invested with full power respecting Orders for

Parade, will be obeyed accordingly. The headquarters of all the Committees will be at No. 146 South Fourth street (second strry , Philadelphia, to which place all communications may be addressed, excepthe chairman of "Railroad" Con mittee, Sir Francis Funk Kn't, whose address is No. 116 Market street, P. R. R.

By order of the General Committee of "Arrangements." J. ATLEE WHITE, Secretary.

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CORRESPONDENCE DR. F. R. LEES, F. S. A.—Dear Sir:—Having heard with pleasure of your visit to this country, we take an early operantly of extending to you a cordial invitation to visit Philadelphia, and address our citizens on that important subject in behalf of which you have so long and successfully labored in England—"Temperance."

With assurance of high regard, and awaiting your favorable reply.

reply, We are very respectfully y We are very Joseph Allison, William S. Pierce, Peter Stryker, Leonard Jowell, William H. Allen, Inomas Potter, F. Norten, M. P. Birksnbine, lexander Whillden, bert M. Fout. Alexander Whilld Robert M. Foust,

illy yours,
J. R. Sypher,
A. H. Franciscus,
W. N. Ashman,
N. M. Pratt,
Daniel H. Rockhill,
William A. Duff,
George W. Simons,
Daniel March,
R. H. Worne,
John Shallcross.

Joseph Allison, William S. Pierce, William H. Alles

GENTLEMEN:—I feel very greatly obliged and complimented for your invitation, so kindly sent to me, to visit Philadelphia. I am happy to be able to accept your invitation, and to name Monday evening, June 7, as the time when my engagements will permit me to speak to the citizens of Philadelphia on the great subject of "Temperance."

Yours, truly,

F. R. LEES. The above Lecture will be delivered in CONCERT HALL, MONDAY EVENING, JUNE 7, at 8 o'clock, Particulars in future advertisements.

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AND COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA.
Estate of MARIA CARTER, a Minor.
The Auditor appointed by the Court to audit, settle, and adjust the account of CHARLES CARTER, Guardian of the Estate of MARIA CARTER, and to report distribution of the balance in the hands of the accountant, will meet the parties interested, for the purpose of his appointment, on THESDAY, June 1, 1829, at 11 o'clock A. M., at his office, No. 439 WALNUT Street, in the city of Philadelphia.

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And the growing boys to their parents say

And buy the fine clothes of which we sing;

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Choicer styles than ever!

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Greater assortment than ever!

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That they want new clothes this month of May.

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Proclaim that Spring is coming along;

And the frog, in his muddy overcost,

Grunts out his low, monotonous note,

And Father and Boys go, one and all,

And the opening flowers

And the leafy trees

In the freshening breeze

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