# THE DAILY EVENING TELEGRAPH-PHILADELPHIA, FRIDAY, JUNE 11, 1869.

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## SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON GURBENT TOPICS-COMPILED EVERY DAY FOR THE EVENING TELEORAPH.

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### OCEAN CABLES AND UNITED STATES LAW.

From the N. Y. Tribune. Our French friends who were so fast with their new Atlantic cable find a lion in the way. The opinion of the Attorney-General, which we published a day or two ago, compels them to await an express grant of authority from Congress before landing their cable on our shores. At first blush this, irrespective of any constitutional question involved, may seem a narrow, illiberal policy for the Government to pursue. Our coasts, it would appear, ought to be free to all comers who bring such rich gifts. New cables would provoke competition, secure lower rates of telegraphing, increase the case and facility of communication between the continents, and in a thousand ways promote the advance of civilization. The more capital can be induced to enter this business, therefore, and the more cables we have, the better. But there are two or three points in the case less obvious than this one, which nevertheless deserve consideration.

The decision of the Attorney-General pro-mises to bear harder upon the French enterprise, but it affects likewise the New York, Newfoundland, and London Telegraph Company. This organization represents that great ocean-telegraphic triumph in which all of us take a just pride. Several millions of its stock are held in this country. It was the pioneer company. Its history appeals to the sympathies of all Americans, and it, as all feel, should be the first to profit by any grant of authority to connect with our shores. To this company the decision of the Attorney-General, as we trust, means only temporary delay. To the other, styling itself the Franco-American Company, it may mean something more. M. Belanger, of Confederate loan memory, M. Reuter, whom Americans have no cause to love, and other favorites of the French Emperor, have obtained from the Imperial Government a monopoly of the whole Atlantic coast of France for telegraphic purposes. Securing an organization under British law, and putting forward a British Chancellor of the Exchequer for their President, they have proposed, in the singular language of the Emperor's grant, to assume, without waiting for Congressional action, the right to land on the shores of the United States, "between New York and Boston." Suppose a Mexican company, composed mainly of men conspicuous in the movements against Maximilian, with some eminent sympathizer among our officeholders for its President, should assume, under a grant of our or any American Gov-ernment, to land a cable on the coast of France, how long would we have to wait for French ships of war to warn off the intruders? Suppose the provincial authorities of Brittany or Normandy should assume to grant such a company the right to land its cable at Brest or Havre, how long would the Emperor be in informing those authorities that such affairs of national concern could not be intrusted to their exclusive decision ?

We are not arguing against the enterprise of Messrs. Erlanger and Reuter. We merely object to any assumption of privileges by these enemies which we could not properly grant even to our friends. If they wish the profitable right of constructing a cable between France and the United States, let them obey the decision of the Attorney-General, and apply to the United States authorities for nerican citizens would have to no less in constructing a cable to France. What is fair for us is at least not unfair for them. The English Government has always refused its consent to any concessions that were all on one side. When the Metropolitan Extension Telegraph Company of London obtained from the Italian Government the exclusive right to connect Italy with Malta, it applied to the English authorities for permission to land its cable on that island, but received a decided refusal unless it would give up its exclusive privileges. It surrendered its monopoly, and on that condition only obtained the desired permission. Let the French company do the same-give up its exclusive privileges, surrender its monopoly, and apply in the proper manner, at the proper time, to the United States Government. Then let the French and American Governments enter into an agreement that the coasts of both countries shall be free to the people of either, countries shall be free to the people of At pre-and there will be no more trouble. At present the advantage is all on their side. give up everything, and get nothing in return. The Attorney-General's decision remanding such cases to Congress, which is in itself sound, is likewise peculiarly timely in its applications to present movements.

thousand Cubans who are to be brought to sway. The men to use and to be used seem pro-account. We fear that a terrible massapre is vised for each other." impending in Havana, in which Americans and Cubans will be slaughtered without dis-tinction. Should General Rodas on his arrival attempt to control this fierce and ignorant volunteer element, he may make matters worse instead of better.

We have constantly endeavored to awaken the Government to a sense of the true con lition of the Cuban question, and of the parils it involves to the individual interests of our citizens and our national interests at large. It would seem as though a darkness like that which cursed Egypt is spread before the eyes of the administration, and that they are wrapt in a sleep as deep as that of death. On their heads will rest the responsibility of coming events, which are already easting their bloody shadows before. The cold blood of our Secretary of State cannot appreciate the fires which are kindling in our own domain, and it is time for the President to awaken to the danger and see that our national and private interests are encompassed with safety. Our fleet must be largely increased, and that immediately, in Cuban waters. The true position and relations of the republican government must be recognized, and their belligerent rights acknowledged. Admiral Hoff should be at once instructed to make known to the Spanish revolutionary leaders in Havana that the lives and properties of American citizens. must be respected; and if we would establish our due influence in the new republic, we must take some steps that will show our sense of the obligations of civilization and humanity towards the struggling Cubans. A blind belief in the fallacies and polite words of the Spanish Minister will not save Secretary Fish nor the administration of General Grant when the public mind shall be awakened by the progress of events of which they have een forewarned and against which they should be forearmed.

#### BREACHES OF PROMISE. From the N. Y. World.

Now that the telegraph tells us that the intelligent Illinoisan jury to whom has been submitted the case of Craig vs. Sprague have not only returned a verdict in favor of the plaintiff, but have assessed her damages at the extraordinary sum, considering the station of the parties and the circumstances of the case, of \$100,000, it is time to consider the case a little. These damages must be regarded as punitory upon Sprague rather than as justified by the amount of injury which Miss Craig had actually received. The folly of the defense in attempting to ruin the woman's reputation was the cause of Sprague's excess of woe. Otherwise, there is no imaginable reason why Miss Craig should have got a hundred thousand of his hardearned dollars.

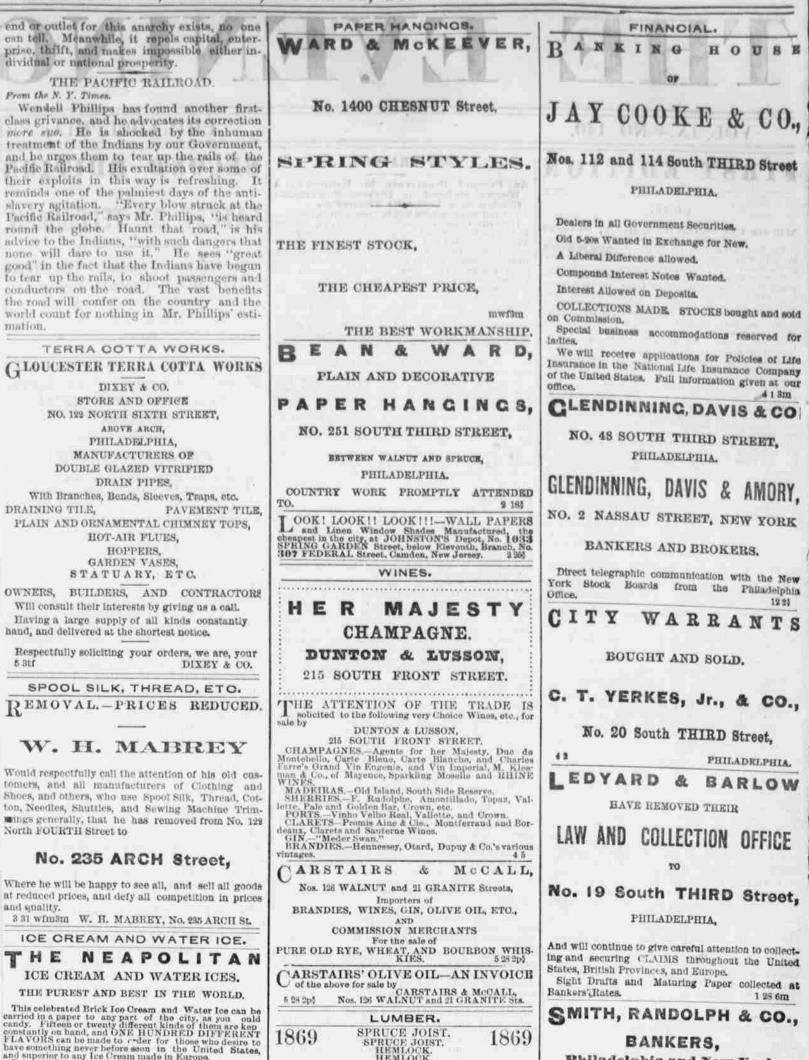
In fact, this whole business of breach-ofpromise suits has become a ridiculous one. Here in this case is a woman whose affections had already been lacerated, according to the affecting catalogue of them with which she furnished her latest lover, by four or five persons at least. It is not to be supposed that her mature and callous heart could be more deeply wounded by the infidelity of Sprague, who happened to have money, than that organ was, in its young and tender phase, when it was cut to the core by the periody of the gay deceivers who had none. They paid in person for losing the lovely Amanda. Why should not Sprague have been suffered to do the same? It does not appear that he had done anything out of the way with regard to her, except to discover that he had not cared quite so much for her as in his first ardor he thought he had; and, on making this discovery, who shall say that the wisest thing he could have done was not exactly what he did do-to deprive himself of the delights of her society, and to give her the same chance to forget him that he had already taken to forget her ? The idea of appraising damages to a woman's sensibilities in money is getting to be thought an absurd one. Of course, if a man trifles with a woman's feelings and makes insincere professions to her, he is deserving of punishment. But that is not saying that she is deserving of a pecuniary recompense for his crimes. And it is by no means saying that a man who honestly believes that he wishes to marry a woman, and who afterwards finds out his mistake, is deserving of any punishment at all, or that the woman who was the subject of his delusion is deserving of any pecuniary compensation at all. The one feature in this case which inclines us to be glad of the verdict against Sprague is his attempt, apparently an entirely causeless one, to destroy her reputation. But the ordeal to which that reputation was subjected on the trial was rather to its advantage than otherwise; and although Sprague deserved to be punished for the attempt, as he has been, Miss Craig did not deserve the reparation which she got for an injury that had not been inflicted. It is the same in most suits for slauder, the only analogous case which our law furnishes for this action for breach of promise of marriage. The best refutation for a slander is to prove it untrue; but a man who is conscious of its untruth will generally rely upon that consciousness. A man, on the other hand, who is galled by his consciousness of its truth will generally bluster it out by bringing suit and endeavoring to extort a little money. And a woman whose sensibilities are worth considering will generally refrain from having them discussed in crowded court-rooms and talked about in newspapers. Whereas, a woman who entered into a marriage-contract from motives of money will generally endeavor to attain the same object by a suit against the person who refuses to be her victim.

For once Mr. Wilson has spoken the trith. A pity it is that he had not had the courage to do so long ago, when the evil which he now deprecates, being then in its incipiency, might have been prevented. The word of warning which then might have proved effective, now comes too late. The enormous concentration of wealth into a few hands, and the centralization of wealth and power in arge corporations, over which Mr. Wilson affects to shed tears, are to-day accomplished acts. How to combat their baneful influence s not so easy to determine as to discern to doom their existence is indisputably attriintable.

The whole influence of our National Gov-ernment, since the control of it fell into Reaublican hands, has been thrown in fayor of a policy of centralization. Nor has this influ-ance been circumscribed by the walls of the national Capitol. It has penetrated to every State Capitol, inducing State Legislatures to assume prerogatives of which the more claim in earlier days would have driven from his seat every legislator who dared assert it. Of all this the natural consequence was corruption, as Mr. Wilson owns, and, with commendable candor, cites as flagrant examples State Legislatures that are and have been under Republican control from time immemorial. But why is Mr. Wilson so reticent as to the part played by successive radical Congresses in this drama of rottenness? He has been a member of the United States Senate for many years, yet he has not a word to say of the corruption begotten at Washington of this centralization of power and of wealth. True, he alludes to the corruption in the internal revenue system; but why is he so about Indian claims, the lavish silent grants to the Union and Central Pacific Railroads, the modifications of the tariff and internal revenue to accommodate certain manufacturers at the expense of the community, and the multitude of private bills annually passed by Congress for reasons that one can only guess at? The evil under notice originated at Washington; it was fostered by Mr. Wilson and his party associates in spite of the warnings of the better class of the people; and its magnitude to-day is chiefly, if not solely, due to these very men. No wonder that it extorts from a United States Senator the bitter wail "that, unless some remedy adequate to the exigencies of the hour can be provided, the future has a darker and more isgraceful history yet in store." The utterer of this cry is the same man, remember, who at the time when the conservative press and orators were predicting just this result as ure to follow the policy pursued by the Republican party, declared on the floor of the enate that "God Almighty could not afford to let the Republican party be beaten" at an election then close at hand.

#### THE NEW ERA IN POLITICS. From the N. Y. Sun,

The ratification of the fifteenth amendment to the Constitution by New Hampshire makes, according to our tally, including Indiana, twenty-four States which have given it their approval. The votes of twenty-eight are required for the completion of the work. Vermont is sure to ratify it so soon as its Legis-lature assembles next fall. The act providing for the reconstruction of Virginia, Mississippi, and Toxas demands its ratification by those States as a preliminary to their full restoration to the Union. This will make up the sum total of twenty-eight; but we presume Georgia will also be required to ratify the amendment ere she is admitted to representation in Congress, while there is little doubt that Rhode Island will give her voice in favor of the measure when her Legislature in January By the opening of the new year, therefore, the work of reconstruction and the adoption of this amendment will be completed. When this is accomplished the leading object which induced two or three hundred thousand voters. scattered all over the country, to support General Grant for the Presidency, will have been secured. This class of electors came from two widely separated sources, namely, War Democrats, whose affiliation with the Republican party sprang from hostility to the Rebellion, and who are determined to grub up the last roots and fibres of secession ere they dissolve their connection with that party, and the intense anti-slavery men, who, while differing with the Republicans on many cardinal points respecting trade and finance, went with them, if indeed they did not lead them, in order to carry out their long-cherished ideas concerning equal rights irrespective of color or race. Now, with the field thus cleared of old questions and controversies, if the Republican eaders should show a lack of capacity to so shape their future policy as to retain the cooperation of the two classes we have menfoned, it would very seriously weaken, if not destroy, their party; while, on the other hand, if the Democracy should intrust the management of their organization to living men, who can keep step with the progressive and liberal spirit of the times, and thereby win these two classes to their standard, then the overthrow of the former and the triumph of the latter in the next Presidential struggle re as sure as the deductions of logic. The future fate, therefore, of each of the great parties is in the hands of its leaders. It oth prove incompetent or faithless, it would be in accordance with the precedents of hisory if the masses of the people should discard their blind guides, reorganize upon an independent basis, intrust their standard to leaders of their own selection, and thus open up a new era in the politics of this country.



IMPORTANT FROM CUBA. From the N. Y. Herald.

The intelligence from Cuba, both by telegraph and mail, is of the highest importance. It will be seen that a revolution has been consummated in Havana. General Dulce, on signing his forced resignation, declared it to be "the last of Spanish rule in Cuba," and it has filled the Spanish Minister at Washington with alarm. Still the Spanish volunteers hold on in their mad course, killing even their late idol, General Lesca, in Trididad, and displacing other governors who are obnoxious to them. The natural sequence of all revolutionary proceedings is forcing itself upon their consideration in the important question, What next? Some desire to proclaim a separate nationality, with a friendly connection with Spain; others think Cuba should be divided, as St. Domingo is divided between Dominicans and Haytiens, leaving the central and eastern portion of the island as a free republic and holding the western for Spain; nother party wish to proclaim Isabella, or at least the Prince of Asturias, and a fourth, comprising the conservative Spaniards, look hopefully to the coming of General Rodas.

This officer is now on his way from Spain, and will probably arrive before the close of the present month. The condition of things he will find in Cuba assimilates in some respect to what the Viceroy Venegas found in Mexico when the Spaniards there made a similar revolution against the Viceroy Iturrigaray, in 1808, and sent him back to Spain in something like the same manner that Dulce has been sent back from Cuba. The movement in Mexico secured the revolution there. as this in Cuba seems destined to do for the as this in Cuba seems destined to do for the revolution in that island. But one immediate result can follow, and that is a great increase of the weakness of Spanish power in Cuba. Its resources will be dried up by the disorders of the mad volunteers on the one hand and the exodus of wealthy Cubans on the other. Dur telegraphic accounts state that a second emigration had commenced in Havana, while our correspondence informs us that the volun-feers affirm that they hold the names of two

But, in any case, how weak is Sprague not to have fulfilled his promise of marriage ! In Chicago he could at any time have got a divorce for a thousand dollars at most, and thereby have saved himself ninety and nine, besides the mortification of having his atrocious letters read out and printed. His conduct in this regard, like the letters themselves, tends to show with how little wisdom much money can be made.

#### WILSON AS WITNESS. From the N. Y. World.

Mr. Henry Wilson, United States Senator from Massachusetts, has just made a remarkable confession and printed it in a so-called religious paper in this city. We say remarkable not because it contains anything that sensible men did not know before, but because it oozes from a man who, since the decline of Mr. Seward and the decay of Mr. Summer, has ranked all of the leaders of the radical party. The gist of this confession the confessor may be allowed to state in his own words, to wit:---

THE MISRULE IN MEXICO. From the N. Y. Times.

If it be true, as our correspondent earnestly declares, that the political horizon of Mexico was never so sombre as at this moment, and that "there is general expectation of a great and terrible revolution," yet neither the Mexican people nor the Government can pretend that the storm bursts without warning. It has for three years been brewing. It gathered black and ominous immediately on the French evacuation, and every day it has come nearer. Doubtless the anti-annexationists will charge that the United States are to blame for the disorder, by keeping all the Northwestern States-Coahuila, Chihuahua, California, Durango, Sinaloa, Soniora - in a fever of expectation regarding the protecto-rate. The real trouble, however, is in unhappy Mexico herself, given over, as it is, to the plots of rival chiefs, and misruled by a weak central power. Congress, usually an imbecile and faction-split body, does nothing but dawdle over impracticable schemes for paper money, and what not. The high roads are patched with foot-pads. Juarez is said to be the mere tool of Lerdo. Revolution is hydra-headed, and has disappeared in the extreme South only to break out again in Queretaro, Guerrero, and Michoacan. Now Alvarez, now Negrete, now Pallacio, now Porfirio Diaz, is on the brink of insurrection, or boldly plunges into it. Thus, all is bad, and "worse remains behind." What possible

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