

Evening Telegraph

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FRIDAY, JULY 2, 1869.

THE PROGRESS OF POLITICAL "REFORM."

SCANDALOUS as were the proceedings of the last Legislature of this State, one good result flowed from them. The attention of the public was generally attracted to the prevailing rascality in political management, and from all sides came protests against the corruption of the present system and appeals for a change in the future. The press of this city, especially, were thoroughly aroused to the necessity for a radical change, and were almost, if not quite, unanimous in their demand for a thorough and sweeping reform. The only manner in which this reform could possibly be inaugurated was clearly seen to be by a repudiation on the part of the people of the shameless and reckless plunderers who had contrived to install themselves in positions of honor, trust, and profit. The essential principles of the two great political parties of the country were not connected in any way with the corruptions and abuses which had crept into the management of public affairs by the so-called representatives of either of these parties. The evil of the system consisted, not in the principles professed by place-holders, but in the character of the place-holders themselves; and the only hope of a reform lay in the future selection of men who were not utterly lost to all sense of shame, who were not entirely deficient in the elements of decency, capacity, and honesty.

With the powerful incentive of public opinion at their back, the Republican managers a few weeks ago presented a city and county ticket which was unexceptionable from first to last, except in the case of one name placed upon it. Through the agency of the most unblushing rogues, John A. Houseman was declared the candidate of the party for the office of Recorder of Deeds. The manner in which he secured his so-called nomination, and the general disrepute attaching to his political affiliations, render him entirely unworthy of the support of decent and respectable citizens who have the welfare of the community and the strength and purity of the Republican party at heart. In respect to the nominations for the State Legislature, the result was not so fortunate. The districts are comparatively small, and were therefore much more easily manipulated. By reason of this, the ring which secured the pretended nomination of Houseman succeeded in splitting one of the Representative conventions and in gaining for William Elliott, one of its servile tools, the shadow of a nomination. Six of the old members likewise managed things so astutely that they were enabled to claim a "regular" nomination, by which they expect to counteract the disreputable records left behind them when the den of thieves at Harrisburg was broken up for the season. With the exception of these eight men—Houseman, Elliott, Stokes, Davis, Bunn, Adaire, Cloud, and Hong—the general and legislative tickets of the Republican party came before the people with the strongest claims upon their hearty support, in the cause of the new reform.

But the Democracy! Last night the last of their conventions adjourned, and the results of their labors as a whole are now before the people. For the lower house of the State Legislature, two of their old members, Sam Josephs and Samuel D. Dailey, secured unopposed renominations, while in two of the other districts controlled by them the conventions were rent asunder through the determination of the old members, John I. Rogers and Michael Mullin, to secure a renomination at all hazards. John McGinnis, the other Democratic member, for some reason did not turn up on Tuesday, but still another split presented two candidates, while in the Eleventh district, which is neither one thing nor the other, there are also two candidates. From this showing, it appears that, in their Legislative conventions, the reform movement in the Democratic ranks was knocked in the head, and either fell dead at the outset, or lingers on the brink of the grave.

The Democratic conventions at large witnessed the same melancholy result. The claims of such men as Joseph N. Peirson, Major J. B. Cox, Colonel A. H. Reynolds, Dr. F. F. Burmeister, and Dr. H. R. Linderman, were utterly ignored, in deference to the aspirations of such untried specimens as John P. Ahern, James Stewart, and Charles M. Hurley. On the entire ticket we find the names of but two men who have any claims on the support of the decent law-abiding, and order-loving portion of the community. Mr. S. Gross Fry secured the nomination for City Treasurer, but this result was achieved only by the most flagrant violations of the rules of the party, and amidst a scene of riotous disorder which fully warranted Mr. Peirson in requesting his friends to withdraw from the convention. Mr. William F. Scheible, who is announced as the candidate for Prothonotary of the District Court, is well known as a decent and honorable gentleman. But that consummation of chaos and climax of Fourth ward rowdiness, the County Convention, which placed him in nomination, dealt a severe blow at his reputation and standing in the community by honoring him with their endorsement, while the character of his associates on the ticket effectually robs him of all the respectability that was left.

During the past two or three years the De-

mocracy of Philadelphia have been on their good behavior. The incontrovertible fact that they were in the minority led them to present very respectable tickets, while the overwhelming confidence of the Republicans resulted in the selection of candidates who, to say the least, were lacking in the element of strength. The result was a general re-education of the city Democracy, until they have at last secured a fair share of the city and county offices. Then came the reaction, and this week the Democracy steered their shaky craft against the rock on which the staunch Republican ship has sustained so many serious shocks. And down she went—down to the very bottom. Peirson, and Cox, and Reynolds, and Burmeister, and Linderman were unable to grasp even a straw as the dark, slimy waters of corruption and violence closed over them, and their dead bodies have not yet been fished out of the deep. Such burly tars as Ahern and Stewart, and such adroit political swimmers as Hurley and Duncan, secured each a stout plank, while Fry and Scheible, weaker, because more respectable, are hugging desperately to a couple of treacherous spars, now with their heels and ears out of water, and now completely submerged. The unhappy fate of the whole crew will be our melancholy duty to record on the 13th of October next. But we do not, by any means, bid them adieu till then.

NAVAL NOMENCLATURE. Some of the law-breaking Indian names affixed to our national vessels of war by that "old man of the sea," Mr. Gideon Welles, were criticized rather freely. It was felt, however, that there was a certain propriety in choosing Indian names for this purpose, especially as they represented mountains, lakes, rivers, towns, etc. of our own land, which gave them a distinctively national character; the sailors, too, who generally like high-sounding titles for men-of-war, took kindly to the nomenclature adopted by the Navy Department; and if we except a little good-natured banter at the expense of the queer old gentleman who for eight long years figured as Secretary of the Navy, there was no serious objection to them.

Under the administration of Mr. Borie, however, all this was changed; and instead of renaming the vessels as the law directs, the nomenclature of the British service, which, by-the-way, savors strangely the prize ring, was adopted. This change, it is understood, was adopted at the instance of Admiral Porter, who may be a very good officer to command a fleet, but who, while managing the Navy Department for Mr. Borie, showed a singular aptitude for creating dissatisfaction in all quarters, and who certainly displayed neither taste nor judgment in this particular instance. It is rumored that our new Secretary, Gen. Robeson, notwithstanding the fact that he is a Jerseyman, has determined to send Porter back to Annapolis to resume the duties of schoolmaster, and that he will run the Navy Department after his own ideas. It is to be hoped that his ideas are good ones, and that he will not run the navy into the ground. Rumor has it that Gen. Robeson is about to abolish the new names given to our ships of war and restore those originally given. This is what he should do, for the name of a vessel ought not to be changed except for very decided reasons, and there does not appear to be any necessity for altering the nomenclature adopted by Mr. Welles. It has been suggested that, if a change must be made, it would be preferable to adopt such as "Billy Bowlegs," or "Tall Bear," or "Jumping Bear," or "Hole in the Sky," or "Squinting Eyes," or others equally expressive, rather than to borrow from classic mythology, which has been used up long ago for such purposes, or the even more objectionable names of the British navy, which savor strongly of black-guardism, which is sufficient to condemn them even if there was nothing else to urge against them. Those we have indicated are expressive if not elegant, and they have the advantage of being genuinely American.

THE NATIONAL DEBT. The Pull Moll Gazette recently referred to the interest that was felt in the statements of the national debt as a curious phase of the American character. The English have long since ceased to regard their debt as anything but a permanent institution; they are satisfied to pay the interest regularly, and all hope of ever reducing the principal has long since been abandoned. Every American, however, has a personal interest in the debt incurred to defeat the Rebellion; it is considered a nuisance of the first magnitude, that must be abated as soon as possible. To the amazement of the well-disciplined British tax-payer, the exact standing of our debt is a matter of solicitude. The Secretary of the Treasury is expected to publish frequent statements of the exact condition of the debt, and its increase or decrease is a matter for congratulation or otherwise.

The British subject has become so accustomed to being taxed, that he is supposed to rather like it; but on this side of the Atlantic it is an object of the first moment to reduce taxation to a minimum, and there is a determination to get rid of the burden imposed upon us by the Rebellion as soon as it can possibly be done. It is expected of President Grant's administration that the public expenditures will be conducted with economy, and that a material reduction of the debt will be made within the next four years. A good beginning has been made, and Secretary Boutwell appears to have managed the Treasury with excellent judgment. It was estimated that during the month of June there would be a reduction of the national debt to the amount of \$9,000,000.

The statement of the debt, however, which has been published by the Treasury Department, shows that the actual reduction has been \$16,410,132.54, at which rate the whole debt could be paid off in about fifteen years. It cannot, however, be expected that so large a reduction will be made every month, but with discreet management the debt could probably be liquidated within the time specified, and a material reduction of the taxes be made at the same time.

THE DEMOCRATIC RESOLUTIONS. AFTER the roughs and rowdies of the Democracy had for three days swayed their County Convention, making the most disgraceful nominations that were ever presented to the citizens of Philadelphia, the performances were not considered complete without the adoption of a string of resolutions. The first of the series announces that "upon the actual issues of the day the best guide will be found in the principles upon which our Government is founded, as declared by the fathers of the republic." The "actual issues of the day" immediately connected with the proceedings of this convention relate to the question whether its nominees should be endorsed at the polls, and we think the fathers of the republic would be much better pleased by their overwhelming defeat than by their election. The success of popular government depends upon the dominance of virtue, intelligence, and patriotism in the organizations which wield ruling power. The Democratic Convention was notoriously controlled by the worst influences of that party; its ticket is the offspring of knavery, violence, terrorism, and corruption; and the election of men of the grade of its champions is the very last thing the fathers of the republic could ever have desired. Other resolutions express solicitude for the "Rights of the States" and antagonism to colored suffrage. "The people have learned by bitter experience what mischiefs flow from Democratic State Rights doctrines, and they have no inclination to endorse any modified form of rebellion or secession. As to colored suffrage, the negroes must indeed be sorry specimens of humanity if they do not make a better use of citizenship than the members of the late Democratic County Convention. The foes of the colored race can predict or fear nothing worse than that they will prove as bad as the men who have recently controlled the movements of the Democracy of Philadelphia. The last two resolutions commend the new candidates as "men entitled to the confidence of the community," and pledge the party to retrenchment, and "the reform of every abuse that can give occasion for complaint." Impudence could no farther go. The assemblage at Eighth and Spring Garden streets was as unpromising a body of reformers as ever met on the continent, gangs of convicts not excepted. The sort of reform that would best suit their tastes would be the destruction of every shield of public and private virtue, the abrogation of every restraint upon vice and lawlessness, and the establishment of the rule of lawlessness and rascality.

DRAWING IT MILD.—The Age this morning devotes twenty-seven lines to an endorsement of the Democratic ticket, in the course of which it says:—"We do not consider the ticket as popular as it might have been, and as we labored zealously and honestly to make it." In this dilemma it takes the bull by both horns, with the lamentation that "fidelity to organization is the only safeguard of a party." We think the Age is about correct, when a party saddles itself with such millstones as Ahern, Stewart, and Hurley.

RAILROADS IN THE UNITED STATES. THE importance of railroad facilities in the United States is perhaps better appreciated now than at any former time in the history of the country. We have such an immense extent of country yet undeveloped, and the boundaries of our domain are so widely separated, that without numerous railroads intersecting and connecting with one another it would probably be impossible to maintain a political union between people so widely separated as are those of some of the States. The first railroad for passenger use was opened in 1825, and since then the progress of railroad building has been as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Year, Miles. 1825... 23 miles, 1850... 18,374 miles. 1851... 23 miles, 1852... 18,374 miles. 1853... 23 miles, 1854... 18,374 miles. 1855... 23 miles, 1856... 18,374 miles. 1857... 23 miles, 1858... 18,374 miles. 1859... 23 miles, 1860... 18,374 miles.

The number of miles and the capital invested in railroads in this country, as compared with Great Britain, are very nearly as follows:— United States... 43,000 miles, \$1,870,000,000. Great Britain... 14,700 miles, 2,510,000,000. According to the most reliable information on the subject, there are in the whole of Europe about 56,700 miles of railroad, which cost about \$7,800,000,000. The increase in the number of miles of railroad constructed in the United States at different periods, presents some interesting figures. From 1840 to 1850 the increase was over two hundred per cent.; from 1850 to 1860 the increase was about the same ratio; from 1860 to 1870 it is estimated that the increase will be about fifty per cent., or from 30,000 miles in 1860 to 45,000 miles in 1870. In Pennsylvania, New York, Maryland, Virginia, Ohio, and in many of the Western States, great exertions are being made to increase the railroad facilities for the development of internal resources; and now that the Pacific Railroad is completed, what is now a wilderness will probably soon be covered with a network of iron rails, which will open up the waste places of our empire for cultivation and civilization.

THE PANTOMIME AT THE ARCH. The Arch Street Theatre has, by a long course of excellent management, obtained a reputation as a place of amusement of the highest class, where decent people can go, with themselves and their families, without fear of being offended by black-guard exhibitions of any kind on the stage. Such a reputation as this ought not to be imperilled, and it is therefore with sincere regret that we alluded yesterday to certain excessively disgusting features that have been introduced into the pantomime of Humpty Dumpty, now being performed there. In a matter of this kind, it is of importance to fix the responsibility on the proper persons; and we

the authority of the managers of the pantomime, we are able to state that the entire stage business is in the hands of Mr. Deane. A party of an improper nature that is introduced in at the instance of this performer, and he alone is responsible for the black-guardism to which we have referred. Indeed, Mr. Deane's colleagues have demonstrated with him but he has disregarded them and has preferred to run the risk of driving all decent people from the theatre for the sake of creating laughter among such congenial spirits as may be in the audience. The fun in a pantomime is always of a rather rough kind, but it is not open to censure on that account, if it does not overstep the bounds of propriety. There is no reason why such a performance cannot be decent as well as funny, and at such an establishment as the Arch it will have to be decent, or it will not succeed. Such an exhibition as we alluded to yesterday is a disgrace to any place of amusement, and the decent people in the audience should show their displeasure by hissing it heartily and then leaving the house. A lesson of this kind would probably bring Mr. Deane to his senses, and teach him that such nastiness is not to be endured in a place of amusement where gentlemen expect to be able to take their wives and children without having them shocked by violence, and by the display of the lowest slurs of the city. We advise the theatre-going public to shun the theatre until the evils of which we speak are abated, upon which we will give due notice.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

FOR THE SUMMER.—TO PREVENT sunburns and all discolours and irritations of the skin, use Dr. Deane's... U. S. OFFICE OF ARTIFICIAL LIMBS.

ARTIFICIAL LIMBS FOR OFFICERS of the United States Army and Navy... JAMES M. SCOVILLE, LAWYER.

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BATCHELOR'S HAIR DYE.—THIS splendid Hair Dye is the best in the world... NINETY-THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE.

ELLIS' IRON BITTERS.—"HAVING used your Bitters in my practice, I can testify to its superior tonic properties for invigorating the appetite and promoting digestion."... PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD.

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THE SALES are stupendous! The stock is tremendous! For clever folks all! So wondrously inviting, Each caller delighting, AT GREAT BROWN HALL.

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PERRYVILLE STATION, PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD. June 12, 1869.

MESSRS. FARREL, HERRING & Co., No. 619 Chestnut street, Philadelphia.

Gents:—A persistent but unsuccessful effort made on the night of May 29, 1869, to drill Banker's chest received from you a few months ago. From facts that have come to our knowledge, it is evident that the attempt to open it was rendered impossible by the use of HERRING'S PATENT CHEST. The hammering was heard by parties in neighborhood for several hours, but supposing noise from the railroad men replacing a defective rail, excited no alarm. The tools, with the exception of the drills, were left. It is evident that they were not only prepared, but perfectly familiar with construction of your Chest.

That they failed is another evidence that Banker's Chests are what you claim for them, viz. fire-Proof. Respectfully yours, J. BALSBACK, Agent

STEAMBOAT LINES. FOR CAPE MAY, NEW YORK, and other SATURDAY, MONDAY, THURSDAY, and SATURDAY. On and after SATURDAY, June 26, the new and rapid steamer LADY OF THE LAKE, Captain THOMPSON, will commence running regularly to CAPE MAY, leaving ARCH STREET WHARF on SATURDAY, THURSDAY, and SATURDAY MORNINGS at 9 o'clock, and returning on MONDAY, WEDNESDAYS, and SATURDAYS at 8 o'clock. Fare, including Carriage hire, ... Children ... Servants ... Season Ticket ... The LADY OF THE LAKE is a fine sea boat, handsome state-room accommodations, and is fitted with everything necessary for the safety and comfort of passengers. Freight received until 5 o'clock. For further particulars inquire at the Office, No. 25 North DELAWARE AVENUE. G. H. HUBBELL, Agent. GALVIN TAGGART, Captain.

FOR CAPE MAY ON SATURDAY. From facts that have come to our knowledge, it is evident that the attempt to open it was rendered impossible by the use of HERRING'S PATENT CHEST. The hammering was heard by parties in neighborhood for several hours, but supposing noise from the railroad men replacing a defective rail, excited no alarm. The tools, with the exception of the drills, were left. It is evident that they were not only prepared, but perfectly familiar with construction of your Chest.

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STEAMBOAT LINES. FOR CAPE MAY, NEW YORK, and other SATURDAY, MONDAY, THURSDAY, and SATURDAY. On and after SATURDAY, June 26, the new and rapid steamer LADY OF THE LAKE, Captain THOMPSON, will commence running regularly to CAPE MAY, leaving ARCH STREET WHARF on SATURDAY, THURSDAY, and SATURDAY MORNINGS at 9 o'clock, and returning on MONDAY, WEDNESDAYS, and SATURDAYS at 8 o'clock. Fare, including Carriage hire, ... Children ... Servants ... Season Ticket ... The LADY OF THE LAKE is a fine sea boat, handsome state-room accommodations, and is fitted with everything necessary for the safety and comfort of passengers. Freight received until 5 o'clock. For further particulars inquire at the Office, No. 25 North DELAWARE AVENUE. G. H. HUBBELL, Agent. GALVIN TAGGART, Captain.

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