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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11, 1869.

DELINQUENT ALDERMEN.

THE delinquencies of some of our committing magistrates have not yet been remedied, and, unless some serious effort is made by the courts to compel them to do their duty, the probability is that things will go on in the old-fashioned way for some time to come. The alderman have been reprimanded by the judges, but some aldermen do not appear to regard a reprimend as amounting to much. They have been cautioned about their sworn duty, but cautions have not availed to bring all of them up to the strict line of that duty. Their intelligence as men has been appealed to, but some of them are not as intelligent as they might be. And, finally, they have been threatened with prosecution in the criminal courts, and yet threats have not sufficed to induce them to remember the trifling fact that a man is innocent until he is proven guilty, and that a man who is accused of any transgression of the law is not thereby deprived of all his rights as a man and a citizen.

Yesterday a number of these delinquent officials were summoned before Judge Brewster, presiding over the Court of Quarter Sessions, and required by him to give some account of their shortcomings. The complaint against them was the old complaint that persons had been thrown into prison by them, in default of bail, to answer some trivial charge, and that no return of the cases had been made to the District Attorney, as is required by law. In two or three cases, it was found that somebody or other had been stupid, and that the aldermen were not to blame. As a matter of course, the magistrates in these cases were told to depart in peace. In other cases, the aldermen failed to respond to the demand for their presence in court, and the proper process for compelling their attendance was accordingly issued. But in two cases at least the most culpable negligence was shown exist, and the magistrates had nothing to say in response except the reiteration of the pitiful plea of mistake or forgetfulness. In one of these, the alderman acknowledged that he had committed a man to the County Prison as long ago as the fifteenth of July, and had been so thoroughly persuaded in his own mind that he had made the proper return, that if the Assistant District Attorney had not called his attention to the affair by sending for the transcript, he probably would never have done anything about it. And vet he "did not think it was neglect or forgetfulness on his part, but simply a mistake!" Another alderman, when asked what he had to say about a committal made by him on the thirtieth of July, of which there had been no return, could only confess that his memory was so utterly unreliable and his business habits so loose that he had neglected it through forgetfulness.

Judge Brewster repeated to these two delinquents almost the very words he has used previously, telling them they were more at fault than the alleged criminals whom they had illegally restrained of their liberty: that they had impeded the action of the District Attorney, and drawn upon him the unmerited censure of the public; that they had caused the Court to be accused of a want of zeal: that they had incommoded the jurors; in short, assured them that they were clearly in the wrong, and that if a stop were not put to their carelessness, it would be necessary for the court to bind some of them over to answer for their delinquencies before a jury. If Judge Brewster had gone one step further, and simply ordered the twain to take their places in the prisoners' dock, he would not have done anything out of the way, and his action in the matter would have received the unqualified endorsement of all reasonable citizens.

Complaints come every day from the County Prison that it is overcrowded to such an extent that no attempt can be made to carry out the regulations which the Board of Inspectors have made for the confinement of the prisoners; and every grand jury that goes over the list of committals ignores fully onehalf of the bills presented to it, because the charges are of the most trivial character and frequently prompted by the malice of the prosecutor alone. And yet some of our aldermen persist in aggravating both these abuses by sending miserable and friendless wretches below, without making a pretense of complying with the slight formalities of law which are required to bring the cases before the courts. One or two examples would have a salutary effect by way of remedying this last difficulty, and would likewise be calculated to do away to an appreciable extent with the present practice of sending people to Moyamensing on ridiculous or malicious charges.

THE NEW DEMOCRATIC RULES.

NOTWITHSTANDING the flaming speech against negro suffrage with which Richard Vaux opened the sessions of the convention appointed to revise the rules of the Democratic party of this city, that body did not heed his impressive warning of the importance of maintaining an exclusive "white" man's government. All "Democratic" citizens are to be allowed to participate in their delegate elections, regardless of their color, and the word "white" was stricken from the first draft of their new party constitution by an almost

Evening Telegraph | prising to see the Democracy of Philadelphia struggle as earnestly to win negro votes as their brethren in Mississippi Virginia Levi prising to see the Democracy of Philadelphia siana, and Texas.

> The principle of "minority" representation, which was earnestly advocated in the United States Senate, some months ago, by Senator Buckalew, has been incorporated in the new rules of the Democracy of Philadelphia; and a fair chance will be afforded, in their future conventions, to study its practical workings. One of the three delegates elected from each precinct and one of the three delegates elected from each ward will represent a minority, and a new element will thus be introduced in the adjustment of partisan controversies. It will probably have a tendency to promote fair play, similar to that proceeding from the legal system of giving to minorities an inspector at the general elections. Other rules, conducive to the same end, require that the committee on contested seats shall be chosen alphabetically, instead of being appointed by a prejudiced president to decide in favor of his favorite faction, and that each delegate as he votes shall walk up to the secretary's desk, and prove by his veritable presence that he is a genuine Jacobs. The proceedings of the conventions which nominated the existing city Democratic ticket fully proved the necessity of a reconstruction of the Democratic rules, and the party deserves some credit for performing this duty so promptly, but it remains to be determined whether any real reform has been effected.

OUR NAVAL NOMENCLATURE.

THE names of our national vessels have undergone another revision, and to-day we are treated with a special order from Secretary Robeson, undoing a portion of the work of his predecessor, and changing the titles of some of the ships back to what they were originally, renaming others, and allowing some to retain the absurd designations borrowed by Admiral Porter from "Tooke's Pantheon" and the British Naval Register. The result of all this is that our naval nomenclature is in a most mixed condition, and the "old salts" for whose particular benefit the original change was made, because Admiral Porter was afraid that they would perhaps dislocate their jaws in attempting to pronounce the names selected by Secretary Welles, will be in a state of mental disquietude and distress to know exactly what to call their beloved ships, The present system appears to have been adopted as a sort of compromise between Admiral Porter and the public, and however satisfactory it may be to the former, it is not likely to meet the wishes of the latter. Originally the names of fifty-nine vessels were changed, and by the special order of the Secretary of the Navy, issued yesterday, twentythree names are put back to what they were originally, and thirteen new names are given

as follows:—
Arizona. to Nevada. Neshamony. Hecla to Nebraska. Shackamaxon. Hercules. to Oregon. Quinsigamond. Thunderer. to Massachusetts Passaconoway. Cambridge to Congress. Pushmataha. Circe to Marcla Marietta. Cyclops to Keywadin. Kickapoo. Erebus. to Algoma. Squando. Gorgon. to Minnetonka. Naubuc. Hydra to Otsego. Tunxis. Orioh. to Piscataqua Chimo. Vesavius to Wyandotte Tippecanoe. Vixen. to Osceola. Neosho.
mit that it is a first of the second of the

The list of changes as given in the Associated Press despatch of this morning is not correct in all particulars, and the above has therefore been compared with the official list as published in the last semi-annual Navy Register. Some of the new names are perhaps as good as the old ones, but they are no better; and it is difficult to understand why the Secretary did not adhere to the original titles while he was about it.

There are nineteen names that Mr. Robeson has not interfered with, and in this list are some of the most objectionable of the changes made to gratify Admiral Porter's hobby for assimilating the American naval service with the British. In the highly intellectual and elaborate defense of the new nomenclature which he recently published, the public will remember the scorn with which he alluded to those benighted beings outside of the Naval Academy who were ignorant of that celebrated compendium of classical knowledge, "Tooke's Pantheon: the feeling manner in which he referred to Niobe weeping for her children, and the logical [style in which he demonstrated that, as it was necessary that one of our ships should be named after a weeping mother, therefore Niobe was much to be preferred to Rachel, which last name appeared to strike the Admiral as absurd, probably because it was Scriptural. We therefore find that the Waxsaw is still to be called the Niobe, the Manayunk the Ajax, the Tonawanda the Amphitrite, the Kalamazoo the Colossus, the Shiloh the Iris, the Sangamon the Jason, the Agamenticus the Terror, etc., etc.

Admiral Porter's refers with much unc tion to "Tooke's Pantheon;" but, contrary to his supposition, that erudite work is not generally known to the school boys of the present generation, it being considered about half a century out of date. We presume, however, that it still holds its own at the Naval Academy, and it is eminently suggestive of the "conservative" character of that institution, as well as of the reputation it has acquired for "cramming" rather than sound scholarship. Admiral Porter's defense of the new nomenclature was as lame as the majority of the changes made were unfortunate. If Secretary Robe son had put the whole list of names back to what they were originally, he would have received the thanks of the country, but he has not even half done the work, and the only result of the last pronunciamento of the Navy Department is to leave the matter in an even more unsatisfactory condition than it was

when it came into his hands. Now this difficulty is not of so much importance of itself as it is as an illustration of the way the Navy Department is habitually mismanaged. Within the last dozen years unanimous vote. After the adoption of the the uniforms of the officers have been changed fifteenth amendment, it will not be at all sur- as many times, to the delight of the tailors

and gold lace manufacturers, but to the infinite annoyance of the officers themselves, whose purses, generally, are none of the heaviest. Within the same period the rules and regulations have been revised, amended, and revoked again and again, to suit the whims of Admiral this, or Commodore that, who might at the moment have the ear of the Secretary; the old squabble between the line and the staff has been kept alive by the indiscreet interference of the department, and the latter have been discouraged and disgusted by the difficulty of knowing what their real status, rights, and privileges were, on account of the numerous contradictory orders with regard to them, and so on through other details which show a want of system and brains at the head of this important branch of our military service. Everything appears to go hap-hazard, and to be regulated by no fixed rule. It is certainly time that we had a Secretary of the Navy with a mind of his own; and a man who has a will of his own can, if he chooses to exercise it, easily take the kinks out of some of the naval tangles, and place the service on a more satisfactory footing than it has ever been before. Secretary Robeson is reported to have a will of his own, and if he will send Porter off to attend to his legitimate business, and then bring a little common sense to bear on matters and things in general connected with his department, he will win the regards of his subordinates and the applause of the

With regard to the changes in the names of vessels made by Secretary Robeson and his predecessor, we would like to know by what authority they have acted. The law forbids the name of any vessel to be changed without the permission of Congress, and we have yet to discover that the Secretary of the Navy has any powers in this respect more than a tarde, private individual.

THE NEW RAILROAD WAR.

The railroad war in New York grows more and more exciting. The controversy of stockbrokers and railroad officials, succeeded by a series of conflicting judicial opinions and orders, has led to a forcible struggle, and conflicting railroad armies have been organized to decide the quarrel with bowie-knives and

Various causes have combined to lend a deep interest to this struggle. The matter at issue is the control of the Albany and Susquehanna Railroad. It was built mainly by the private and municipal subscriptions of inhabitants along the line for the promotion of local interests, and especially for the purpose of obtaining cheap coal from the Lackawanna region of Pennsylvania, by a connection with the Delaware and Lackawanna Railroad, the supplies of the region having heretofore been furnished exclusively by the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company. After much money had been expended for the purpose indicated, and after the objects in view were about to be attained, the notorious railway cormorant, Fisk, Jr., who is constantly striving to seize more railway property than he can properly manage, organized, in connection with his friends, a scheme for obtaining the control of the Albany and Susquehanna Railroad, partly to make it a dependent branch of the Erie Railway, but more especially, as the people of Albany allege, to prevent the road from rendering any assistance to the effort to break up the monopoly of the coal markets of the region traversed, which has heretofore been possessed by the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company. The original projectors of the railway in dispute have determined to offer every available species of resistance to the effort to diminish the usefulness of their property, and the deep feeling aroused along the line fully accounts for the

courageous attitude they have assumed. Independent of the issues immediately involved, the mere fact that the notorious Fisk is once more in the field, fighting for the establishment of his fatal management over another ill-starred railway, is of itself sufficient to arrest public attention. No new evidence is needed that his domination over any important thoroughfare is little less than a public calamity. He should be satisfied with the existing record of fearful disasters on the line of the Erie Road, with his annihilation of opera bouffe and the failure of his operahouse speculation, without seeking to destroy the usefulness of another railway, or to extend his reckless and ruinous sway. Stability of character, steadiness of purpose, administrative capacity, sterling integrity, and unceasing carefulness, are nowhere so necessary as in railway management; and it is one of the greatest marvels of modern times that, by any accident or neglect, a man of Fisk's calibre and characteristics should have been permitted to exercise a commanding influence in railway matters. The bitterness of the New York quarrel is naturally intensified by the prevailing dread of the dominance of one who acts in many things more like a madman than a coolheaded and conscientious being, and who treats the great avenues on which the safety of thousands of lives is daily risked as the mere sport of the stock market.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT AN application will be made at the next meeting of the Legislature of Pennaylvania for the incorporation of a Bank, in secondance with the laws of the Commonwealth, to be entitled THE FRANKLIN BANK, to be located at Philladelphia, with a capital stock of five hundred thousand filladelphia, with a capital stock of five hundred thousan ollars, with a right to increase the same to a million follars.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT an application will be made at the next meeting of the Legislature of Pennsylvania for the incorporation of Bank, in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth, to be entitled "THE MARKET BANK," to be located at Philadelphia, with a capital stock of one hundred thousand dollars, with a right to increase the same to five hundred thousand dollars.

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT an application will be made at the next meeting of the Legislature of Pennsylvania for the incorporation of a Bank, in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth, to be entitled THE BUTCHERS' AND DROVERS' BANK, to be located at Philadelphia, with a capital of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, with a right to increase the same to a million of dollars.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT AN application will be made at the next meeting of the Legislatuse of Pennsylvania for the incorporation of a Bank, in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth to be entitled "THE BANK OF AMERICA," to be located at Philadelphia, with a capital of five hundred thousand dollars, with a right to increase the same to swo millions of dollars,

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Reference—Rt. Rev. J. Williams, D. D.

Hamden, July 15, 1869.

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