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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1869.

REGISTER YOUR NAMES.

Our readers should bear in mind that Monday is the last day that the Assessors appointed by the Board of Aldermen will sit for the purpose of placing the names of voters upon the extra assessment list. It is the duty of every voter to see that his name is registered in order to avoid difficulty at the polls, and those of our readers who have not attended to the matter ought to do so at once, and not put it off until the last moment, when the Assessors will be hurried in their work.

THE DEMAND OF THE SCHUYLKILL NAVIGATION COMPANY.

AND NOW, on the 17th of September, 1869, the Schuylkill Navigation Company presents to Councils a bill of damages amounting to four hundred thousand dollars, which the grievously overburdened taxpayers of Philadelphia are asked to add to their enormous liabilities, deficiencies, and debt. For most of the items in the long and oppressive catalogue of municipal obligations something tangible was acquired, but this bill, if paid, will furnish nothing of permanent value hereafter, for it is made up mainly of demurrage, and of the alleged losses of the canal company.

The contracts made more than forty years ago forbid the city from using water-power to propel the Fairmount Works when the water does not rise to the top of the Fairmount dam, and as this contract was unquestionably violated, at a time of great public emergency, the company has at least a plausible or perhaps a legal claim for damages; but before the amount is definitely fixed, the whole subject should be subjected to a thorough and searching legal investigation.

No controversy whatever could have arisen on this subject if the precaution of placing auxiliary steam engines at Fairmount had been adopted, as it should have been, years ago. By a timely expenditure of two hundred thousand dollars, all the evils of a water-famine would have been averted, and all pretext for the present bill of four hundred thousand dollars avoided.

It is useless to grieve over the errors of the past, but they may serve a salutary purpose if they warn Councils against the repetition of similar blunders of omission or commission, and impress citizens with the necessity of guarding against reckless extravagance on the one hand, and against a postponement of appropriations of vital importance on the other.

Whatever action may be taken on the bill presented by the Schuylkill Navigation Company, the mere fact that they are pressing such a claim indicates more powerfully than columns of comments the evils of a dilatory policy. But while the canal company and the city have alike suffered by the neglect, and while there is much in the action of the company during the drouth that is commendable, Councils should be extremely cautious in passing the appropriation asked for, or taking voluntarily any other considerable sum of money from the depleted coffers of the city treasury, to adjust this difficulty. The company can seek a remedy in the courts, and they can decide what sum Philadelphia should and must pay, under the circumstances, with greater exactness than Councils, who have thus far heard but one side of the story.

The drouth of the present season has been unprecedentedly severe. It is an event beyond the scope of ordinary calculations and contracts—a visitation of Providence for which courts would be almost as slow to award damages resulting from unforeseen contingencies, as for the disasters accruing from a tornado or an earthquake.

Is it absolutely certain that the unparalleled low stage of water would not have obstructed, to some extent, the operations of the canal company, even if the city had not violated its contract? Perhaps so. Still, the fact should be distinctly proven.

As the company undertakes to supply water power not only to the city but to other customers, and as they have been subjected to great loss by a failure to obtain the amount needed for their various purposes, is it not, in turn, liable to suits for a violation of its contracts? Perhaps not, but still this subject may be worthy of investigation, especially if it shall appear that the company has not been diligent and effective in providing ample supplies of water, at all seasons, and in spite of drouths, by erecting sufficiently capacious dams or reservoirs at or near the head waters of the Schuylkill.

Even if no defense can be found in either of these suggestions, is not the amount of damages claimed by the President of the canal company excessive? On its face it certainly appears to be. By the last annual report made to the Auditor-General it appears that navigation opened about the 25th of March and closed on the 9th of December, the season of operations exceeding eight months. The total receipts during that period from tolls were less than one million of dollars, being at the rate of less than one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars per month during the boating season. And yet, for an interruption of its operations during a period of excessive drouth in 1869, for about one month, the people of Philadelphia are asked to pay the round sum of four hundred thousand dollars, or more than one-third of the entire revenue of the company during 1868! Stress is laid upon the amount of damages due to the boatmen, but the last report of

the company states that the number of boats it owned was about 750, while the number of boats owned and run by private parties was about 150, so that four-fifths of the business appears to be transacted, to a large extent, on the company's own account, and it would probably receive a lion's share of any sum awarded for demurrage. But whether this money is all payable to the boatmen or the company, or to both, Councils owe it to the citizens of Philadelphia, in the present state of the city finances, to have every item of this claim carefully scrutinized, and to refuse to advance a cent which the company has not an indisputable right to demand.

Another careless swiftness has been the occasion of a railway disaster in which several persons were injured, some of them severely, and a number of cattle were killed. As there is no hope of inflicting any punishment on this criminal for his disregard of the sacredness of human life, cannot Mr. Bergh, as President of the Society for Preventing Cruelty to Animals, do something towards bringing him to justice? The accident happened in his jurisdiction, and he should move in the matter at once.

Still another rumor about the designs of the Emperor, in connection with his failing health. This time he proposes to abdicate in favor of his son, retaining, however, the Presidency of the Council. With a boy of thirteen on the throne, and Napoleon at the head of the Council, it would not be difficult to discover the real Emperor.

OBITUARY.

Rev. Benjamin Dorr, D. D., rector of Christ Church, in this city, died at his residence in Germantown at an early hour this morning. Dr. Dorr had been in quite feeble health for about a year past, his nervous system especially being greatly prostrated. Congestion of the brain resulted, and terminated his long and useful career as a Christian minister. Dr. Dorr was born in the town of Salisbury, Massachusetts, in the year 1796, and was therefore in the seventy-fourth year of his age at the time of his decease. He received a thorough and liberal education, graduating at Dartmouth College in the year 1817, Bishop Chase, of New Hampshire, having been one of his classmates at this institution. On leaving college, he entered upon the study of the ministry, becoming one of the two first students at the new flourishing Episcopal Theological Seminary in New York City, his companion having been, we believe, the late Bishop Doane, of New Jersey. His honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred by the University of Pennsylvania in 1858, a year after he became rector of Christ Church, in this city.

Previous to coming to this city Dr. Dorr was in charge of two different churches in the vicinity of Troy, N. Y., discharging the double duties at the same time. He resigned these charges on being appointed Secretary and General Agent of the Domestic Committee of the Episcopal Board of Missions, with his headquarters in New York, but the duties of the position were such that he was required to devote a great deal of his time to travel in all parts of the country. On the 9th of March, 1867, he was unanimously called by the vestry of the historic Christ Church of this city to its pulpit. This call was accepted on the 23d of the same month, and on the 4th of May following he was duly installed in his new field of labor in the late Bishop Onderdonk.

For over thirty years, therefore, this eminent divine remained at the head of a church whose history is so closely associated with that of the city, especially in the Revolutionary period. Bishop White had been elected an assistant minister of Christ Church and St. Peter's, then united, in 1772, becoming rector in 1773, and continuing to fill the pulpit after his elevation to the Bishopric until his death in 1836, a period of association with Christ Church of full sixty-four years. The Rev. John Walter James, his successor, survived him but one month, and less than a year elapsed before Dr. Dorr was called to the rectorship. Bishop White and Dr. Dorr were in succession, with this interval of but a few months, labored in one field for nearly a century, three years only being lacking to complete the extraordinary period. In May, 1839, Dr. Dorr was elected to the Bishopric of Maryland, but he declined the proffered promotion, choosing rather to remain in the sphere which he found so congenial. About seven years ago the Rev. Edward A. Fogg was elected assistant minister, this aid in the discharge of the duties of the parish being rendered necessary to Dr. Dorr by the infirmities of years.

As a minister Dr. Dorr was extremely popular and very successful. He was a man of winning manners, of great eloquence, and of deep earnestness, and his death will leave a blank which will extend far beyond the limits of his nominal parish. He leaves three daughters and one son, the latter being now absent with Dr. Hayes in the Arctic regions. Another son, Captain W. W. Dorr, was killed in the battle of the Wilderness. For many years previous to his death the deceased had been one of the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania.

THE OCTOBER MAGAZINES.—The October number of Lippincott's Magazine has the following table of contents:

"The Vicar of Bullhampton," by Anthony Trollope. Part IV. With two illustrations. "The French Fever," by F. C. De Leon; a poem by Frank Thurbur; "The Lonely Ones," a tale illustrated from the German of Paul Heyse; "What I Saw of the Canal," by Edward B. Grove; "Beyond the Breakers," a novel, part X., by Hon. Robert Dale Owen; "Dick Libby," by Rev. George Jones; "The Freedman and his Future," by George Fitzhugh; "From a Garter," a poem, by Edgar Fawcett; "Magdalena," a novelette, by the author of "Gold Elsie," "Countess Gisela," etc., concluded; "The Revival Movement in France," by Edw. Fawcett; "The Pleasures of Poverty," by Miss M. P. Wells; "Our Monthly Gossip," "Literature of the Day."

From Turner Brothers & Co. we have received "The Galaxy," which has the following list of articles: "Susan Fielding," by Mrs. Edwards; chapters XXIX., XXX., XXXI., and XXXII., (with an illustration); "The Real Louis Napoleon," by Justin McCarthy; "A Journey in Northern China," by Raphael Pumpelly; "Shakespearean Marrow-Nests," by Richard Grant White; "The Galaxy Miscellany," "Drift-wood," by Philip Quilliet; "Literature and Art," "Notes," by the Editor.

The same house sends us Godey's Lady's Book and Frank Leslie's Lady's Magazine, both of which are finely illustrated with the latest styles of feminine attire, and made attractive by an interesting variety of reading matter.

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RELIGIOUS NOTICES.

REV. A. A. WILLITS, D. D., WILL preach To-morrow in the WEST-ARCH STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, commencing at 10 1/2 A. M. and 8 P. M., and Lecturing on Wednesday at 8 P. M. Prayer Meeting on Friday evening. Sabbath Schools, 9 1/2 A. M. and 8 P. M.

REV. A. A. WILLITS, D. D., WILL preach at 10 1/2 A. M. and 8 P. M. in the WEST ARCH STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, commencing at 10 1/2 A. M. and 8 P. M. Mission, 2 1/2 P. M. Lecture, Wednesday, Prayer Meeting, Friday, 8 P. M.

ALEXANDER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, NINETEENTH and GREEN Streets.—Rev. Dr. W. B. MARSHALL, of Columbus, Ohio, is expected to preach at this Church on next Sabbath morning at 10 1/2 o'clock, and Rev. Dr. J. H. McILVAINE, of Princeton, N. J., in the evening at 7 1/2 o'clock.

FIRST COLORED BAPTIST CHURCH, CHERRY Street, above Tenth.—To-morrow, 10 1/2 A. M. Rev. J. H. TAYLOR, of Virginia. 7 1/2 P. M. Rev. HERBERT TAYLOR, the young English Evangelist. 7 1/2 P. M. Pastors, Rev. T. DOUGHERTY MILLER. Strangers always welcome.

NEW UNIVERSAL SOCIETY, FORMERLY AT LEVITTAN and WOOD Streets.—Services To-morrow (Sunday) at 10 1/2 A. M. and 8 P. M. in the hall N. E. corner of BROAD and SPRING GARDEN Streets. Seats free. Public invited. Entrance on Broad Street.

TABERNACLE BAPTIST CHURCH, Chestnut Street, west of Eighteenth Street.—Rev. GEORGE A. PELTZ will preach To-morrow Morning and Evening. Services commence at 10 1/2 and 7 1/2 o'clock.

LUTHERAN CHAPEL, TWELFTH and OXFORD Streets, Rev. NOAH M. PRIOR, Pastor.—Services on Sabbath.—Subjects—10 1/2, The Ethiopian Church, 2 1/2, "The Resurrection—Is It a Failure?" Free free. Sabbath School Services at 2 o'clock.

SEVENTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BROAD Street, above Chestnut.—Professor J. M. ANDERSON, of Williams College, Massachusetts, will preach in this Church To-morrow, 10th instant, at 10 1/2 A. M. and 8 P. M.

THE BISHOP'S FREE CHURCH, North side of SPRING GARDEN Street, below Broad.—Services at 10 30 A. M. and 7 30 A. M. A new Sunday School is in process of formation. Children will be admitted at 3 P. M.

"THE TIME OF HARVEST."—REV. DR. MARSH on this subject, To-morrow (Sunday) Evening at 7 1/2 o'clock, in CLINTON STREET CHURCH, TENTH Street, below Spruce. All cordially invited.

FOURTH BAPTIST CHURCH, FIFTH and BUTTWOOD Streets.—Rev. WILLIAM T. BRANTLY, D. D., of Georgia, will preach Sunday evening at 7 1/2 o'clock. Strangers are cordially invited.

BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH, CHESTNUT Street, west of Fortieth Street.—Rev. WILLIAM T. BRANTLY, D. D., of Georgia, will preach Sunday morning at 10 1/2 o'clock.

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, THIRD Street, below Walnut.—Services To-morrow at 10 1/2 A. M. and 4 P. M. by Rev. WM. MCGUIRE. Prayer meeting Saturday evening at 7 1/2 o'clock. Strangers welcome.

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (EIGHTH and CHERRY Streets).—A. REED, D. D., pastor, will preach To-morrow (Sabbath) morning at 10 1/2 o'clock, and in the Afternoon at 4 o'clock.

FIRST REFORMED CHURCH, corner SEVENTH and SPRING GARDEN Streets.—Rev. THOMAS X. ORR, Pastor, will (D. V.) preach To-morrow at 10 1/2 A. M. and 7 1/2 P. M.

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, WASHINGTON SQUARE.—Rev. HERBERT JOHNSON, D. D., Pastor, will preach To-morrow at 10 1/2 A. M. and 8 P. M.

CHRIST REFORMED CHURCH, GREEN Street, near Sixteenth.—Rev. SAMUEL H. GILLESY, D. D., Pastor, will preach To-morrow at 10 1/2 A. M. Subject—"Earth's Joy." And at 7 1/2 P. M.

TRINITY M. E. CHURCH, EIGHTH Street, above Race.—Rev. R. W. HUMPHRIS, Pastor, will preach at 10 1/2 A. M. and 7 1/2 P. M. Strangers invited.

REV. W. S. OWENS AT NORTH U. P. CHURCH, MASTER Street, above Fifteenth.—10 1/2 A. M. and 7 1/2 P. M. Free pews.

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