## Evening Telegraph

(SUNDAYS EXCEPTED),

AT THE EVENING TELEGRAPH BUILDING, NO. 108 S. THIRD STREET, PHILADELPHIA.

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1869.

ADDRESS OF THE DEMOCRATIC

STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE. No. 901 Arch street is an important political locality. There the grand sachems of the Democracy assemble in council, and there the Democratic Association, which listened to many bitter denunciations of the war while the cannon of the enemy was thundering at the gates of the capital, has its headquarters. At No. 901 Arch street the Democratic City Executive Committee sits in solemn conclave, under the leadership of that subservient slave of slavery, John Hamilton; and there the notable bargain was recently consummated by which the roughs agreed, for a valuable consideration, to make way for the respectables on the city ticket. No. 901 Arch street also contains the rooms of the Democratic State Committee, and this body has just issued an address to the people of Pennsylvania, in which the Democratic State ticket is

warmly advocated. . The address is signed by William Mutchler, Chairman, a gentleman from Northampton county, unknown to fame except as one of Andy Johnson's internal revenue officers in a district containing a number of distilleries. A large portion of the appeal to the voters is made up of complaints of corruption and of "a general lowering of the moral tone of public life below the level of former times.' The point is well taken, but is Mr. Mutchler, a Johnsonized Assessor of Internal Revenue, exactly the man to make it? Does he mean to intimate that the "moral tone of public life" has fallen since he was a satellite and supporter of the great favorite of the whisky ring? Can the people have in the sincerity of apostle of reform who was at once a favorite and a champion of Andrew Johnson? Public confidence in Mr. Mutchler's candor will also be shaken by the second paragraph of the address, for therein we are told that "by the election of Mr. Pershing to the bench of the Supreme Court" we will "secure a Judge of ability and high character." Heretofore it has been a rare thing for either party to nominate a candidate for this office who had not gained a very high position at the bar, and frequently the nominees have been distinguished as eminont judges as well as great lawyers. But Mr. Pershing's claims to the nomination were based on the doubtful honor of service in the State Legislature; and he has given none of the decisive proofs of high ability which have hitherto been demanded.

The bulk of the address is made up of praise of Packer. In him all the hopes and more damaging is the expose which we reaspirations of the Democracy are centred. He is to become the deliverer of an oppressed people: he is to introduce and uphold reform in the State Government; his election is to rebuke all that has "been amiss in legislative and executive action at Harrisburg in recent years;" "he is above all baseness," and incapable of injustice, or of "unworthy subserviency to political friends;" and his election is to point "to reform and improvement in our affairs," and to "go a great way towards securing them."

Mr. Mutchler thus invites the people to a really attractive entertainment, and we have no disposition to detract from any of the praises of his favorite which are just. But before voters are carried away by these eulogies, it would be well for them to inquire whether Asa Packer is, in veritable truth, a man well fitted for the herculean task of cleansing the Augean stable of Pennsylvania politics. It will take something more than wealth, respectability, or honesty to accomplish this task. The true reformer of this day and generation must be bold as a lion, wise as a serpent, and industrious as a bee, as well as innocent as a dove, to work the mighty changes which Mr. Mutchler predicts from Packer's triumph. The Democratic Gubernatorial candidate has held office before, and if he is gifted with the miraculous powers ascribed to him, the public should be furnished with some official evidence of their existence. But what is the plain truth? Scarcely a man ever sat on the floor of Congress, from the day the Government was founded until the present hour, who has such an absolutely barren and useless record as Asa Packer. Of his career as a Congressman the best and about the only thing that can be said is-he held the office. He did nothing particularly wrong, except when his party required him to obey its mandates; but he did next to nothing at all. During a large portion of his term he was not even present at the sessions. His head and heart were in his business operations. As a money-maker and a railroad-builder he has magical powers. If the people were called upon to elect a candidate, not to guard and promote their interests. but to exhibit superior sagacity in advancing his private fortunes, Asa Packer would be pre-eminently the Pennsylvanian best worthy of support. But the ability to amass riches does not carry with it the power, and it is not often accompanied with the desire, to manage governments well and wisely. If Packer is elected, we shall be agreeably surprised if he gives any considerable amount of attention to his official duties, or if he spares to the State anything more than a few hasty moments snatched from the supreme object of his affections, the Lehigh Valley Railroad.

The address is somewhat chary of national issues, but still Mr. Mutchler is determined to show that the old Democratic fire is not en- the tirely extinct, so we are treated to a covert he

homi'y against the fifteenth amendment, and an allegation that the Democratic cause is the cause of peace and of good will among men." Particulars and specifications on the point last named are adroitly avoided. If voters desire such information, let them ask the Chairman of the State Committee what he thinks of Ku-Klux Klans in the South, and the proposition to establish "club law" in Philadelphia.

COAL-OIL EVANS.

WE have hitherto called the attention of our readers in general, and of Governor Geary in particular, to the shameless manner in which the law passed at a recent session of the Legislature providing for the inspection of refined petroleum in this city is openly violated and defied, not only by the dealers in burning oils, but by Robert M. Evans, the so-called Inspector. Inasmuch as the Governor has not yet seen fit to take any action in the matter, and we are still called upon to note the occurrence of disasters involving peril to human life and destruction of property by reason of this defiance of the law, we deem it necessary to recur to the subject. Our readers are already familiar with the

manner in which the law was pushed through the Legislature. Although essentially a desirable enactment, the strict enforcement of which would tend to throw much needed safeguards around the lives and property of our citizens, the manner of its passage was about on a par with the general character of our recent legislation. Evans went up to Harrisburg with an axe of very respectable dimensions, the which he desired to have ground. The bill, as originally framed by him, provided for an inspection not only of the refined petroleum exposed to sale in this city, but of all the crude petroleum which is extracted from the bowels of the earth in the great oil regions of this State. If it had been suffered to pass in this shape the fees of the inspector would have ranged between one hundred and fifty and two hundred thousand dollars per annum! As a matter of course, the passage of such on iniquitous measure for the personal benefit of a single individual would have aroused such a storm of indignation that it would most certainly have been repealed at the next session of the Legislature. But, in the meanwhile the inspector would have had a full year's opportunity at the spoils of the office, and after rewarding handsomely all the swindlers who lent their votes to its passage, would have retired to private life with a fortune of at least one hundred thousand dollars. This grand plundering scheme, however, was knocked in the head, and the law as it passed provided simply for the appointment by the Governor of an inspector of refined petroleum for the city of Philadelphia.

The bill was unhesitatingly signed by Governor Geary, and by him Robert M. Evans, the humanitarian who framed it and secured its passage, was promptly commissioned to discharge the duties of inspector. The numerous cases of explosion which have occurred since Evans entered upon the office are sufficient evidence of the manner in which these duties are discharged by him. Still cently made of the character of the refined petroleum with which the city is flooded. In addition to the analyses of six specimens which we recently published, we have caused six other specimens to be subjected to examination, and in the following table is given the result:-

From whom purchased.
1—C. Thomas, No. 106 Market street....
2—No name, Thompson and Maribo-

street.

4—W. H. King, No. 256 Girard avenue.

5—G. Bennett, No. 539 Richmond st..

6—J. H. Parker, Eleventh and Market 

ferson streets... 9—H. Sendmeyer, No. 1037 South st... 97 10—H. Biers, No. 615 South Eighth st... 85 11-J. Supps, Second and Washington 

and Federal street..... Now, in examining this table, it is only necessary to bear in mind that the recognized and legal standard of safety is a burning point of 110 degrees, Fahrenheit. Of the twelve samples given above, it will be seen that two only-the sixth and ninth-comply with the requisitions of the law, the remaining ten falling from eight to thirty-eight degrees below the legal standard, while five samples out of the twelve were so extremely volatile that the flashing point could not be determined, except by the most complicated and elaborate chemical analysis. At the mere application of a lighted match in the open air, at an ordinary temperature, the vapor arising from them was ignited! And, although the second section of the act pro vides for the punishment, by a fine of \$500 and an imprisonment for one year, of any violation of the act, in one case alone has Inspector Evans seen fit to prosecute any dealer for an infringement of the provisions of the statute, and that case failed because it was found that the article sold by the alleged violator of the law was not, technically, a petroleum product!

Such is the manner in which the provisions of the law are enforced by Evans. At the outset he secured the aid of several assistant inspectors, two of whom, however, were directly interested in oil refineries; but in a few weeks he discharged all except one, and that one, by a singular coincidence, happens to be his own brother. He has furthermore permitted his official brands to remain at the oil refineries, where they could be, and doubtless were, used by others in his absence; and, although Governor Geary's attention has been called to this gross carelesseess by one of his former deputies, there has been no investigation into the charge. Samples of oil which he has branded as burning at 110 degrees have been found, on examination by experts, to vary greatly from the official brand, some of them burning at 80 degrees, while others found fully 20 degrees above | standard. In one instance branded a lot of oil

lot

as burning at 110 degrees, and when the proprietor complained that this was too low by twenty or thirty degrees, he told him to alter it himself. The proprietor happened to have a few grains of honesty in his composition, and refused to do so, whereupon Evans sent his deputy with instructions to brand the lot to suit the owner, without any regard to the results of the test. Instead of causing every barrel to be tested, he is in the habit of testing a few only in a large lot, affixing to the whole the same official brand. So carelessly and recklessly, in short, does he discharge the duties of his responsible position, that his official brand is utterly ignored in the market, no responsible dealer being willing either to buy or sell without the brand of a well-known private inspector.

We again call the attention of the Governor to the manner in which this man Evans openly and repeatedly violates and defies the law, the passage of which he himself secured. At the time Governor Geary approved the Inspection law he was doubtless familiar with the history of its passage, he did not hesitate to appoint Evans to the inspectorship, and Evans, it will be remembered, caused himself to be elected a delegate to the convention by which the Governor, from whom he had received such a profitable appointment, was renominated. In this way the State Executive becomes, in a large measure, responsible for the shortcomings of the inspector, and the only way in which he can relieve himself of this responsibility is by acting promptly and impartially upon the demand for the removal of Evans from the office which he disgraces and perverts to his own personal profit, at the risk of human life.

THE WORKING CLASSES IN THE UNITED STATES.

A series of articles with the above title, by a Mr. Robert Coningsby, are in course of publication in the London Spectator, for the ostensible purpose of giving such informat on about the condition and prospects of the working classes in the United States as will give Englishmen, and English laborers in particular, an adequate idea of the exact status of our workingmen as compared with those of Europe. Mr. Coningsby is no exception to the traditional travelling Englishman, who finds it impossible to comprehend with any great degree of exactness a condition of affairs different from what he has been accustomed to. Mr. Coningsby has, apparently, endeavored to collect reliable information which will be useful to the laboring men of England who may contemplate emigration to the United States with a view of bettering their condition, and his conclusions are often sound and just. Mr. Coningsby is often out in his facts and figures, having evidently obtained much of his information from hearsay evidence, and not from actual observation and investigation. His papers, however, contain many really valuable suggestions, and the conclusions he has arrived at as the actual condition of the working classes in the United States are much nearer the truth than is usual with foreigners, who generally find themselves unable to comprehend our social, as well as our political system. Mr. Coningsby, however, makes some characteristic blunders, as, for instance, when he says: "In Pennsylvania there are still remote places where the pillory is a recognized 'institution,' and even the whip-

"The whole American system in dealing with fallen humanity seems based more upon Christian charity than ours is. In the United States a criminal is regarded as a patient whose moral nature is sick, a fever-stricken brother to be kept apart and restrained, but also to be cured. There is even an agitation for the administration of chloroform to criminals about to be executed."

ping-post is regularly used twice a year." It

is a little rough to fasten Delaware's peculiar

"institution" on our shoulders, but when

was an Englishman ever found who could get

such matters right? Mr. Coningsby also

takes a more roseate view of our prison system

than the facts will altogether warrant. He

The agitation about administering chloroform to criminals we opine is not very great, and as for our treatment of criminals, we are atraid that the penitentiary system of most of the States are something different from what the writer supposes. Even in Pennsylvania, where the penitentiary system is nearer to Mr. Coningsby's ideal than elsewhere, the curing process is not as satisfactory as it might be, but this may be in a measure due to the fact that many of our criminals are set at liberty before their terms of punishment are complete and before their "moral natures" are thoroughly cured.

The advice which Mr. Coningsby gives to laborers, however, is for the most part excellent. He tells them that energetic, goahead men will succeed here just as they are likely to succeed in England, only in the United States they will have more chances and will be able to get along faster, while those who are content with being mere laborers will dig and delve in America just as they do in England. The difference in the prices of the necessities of life make the rates of wages in the United States not appreciably greater than they are in England, but in a new and undeveloped country an industrious, saving, and energetic man has more openings offered by which he can make his way in the world. Mr. Coningsby advises English laborers who may contemplate emigration to shun Canada, and to push for the far West even to California, and endeavor to become possessed of farms of their own as soon as possible, but especially to keep away from the great cities. In connection with the "Town laborers of all sorts, handy men who work in factories and about wharves, the doors of all sorts of odd jobs, provided they are afraid of rest, and are not fastidious about the nature of their employment, will also, I think, be sure to find work in the United States. They should not stop in the large cities, but push on into the small and rising ones. Railway excavators, too, are always in demand, at rates varying from six shillings to seven and sixpence a day. In every large town placards are to be seen posted up announcing the want of so many thousands of these men. I was told, however, by more than one English navy whom I found at work on American railways, that they are more driven and have to work harder in the States than in England. They don't swear at yer so much as our gangers does at home, but they've got a quiet way o' continually shaving yer on like, till it almost breaks yer art to keep up to the work,' said que of these to me. Another informed me that in breaking chances of laborers obtaining work, he says: -

up new ground there was a system of picking out the very strongest man of the gang, and putting him to work in front, while the next strongest was selected for the rear, and then urging on the ones between with this reasonable and polite reminder, 'Come, gentlemen, come, come! You are letting So-and-So walk away from you; he will lose himself if we don't keep a little nearer to him.' And to those further back, 'Come, come boys! See how you are hit dering So and-So; he can't get on at all for you!"

The picture of the navyy nearly breaking

The picture of the navvy nearly breaking his "art" in trying to keep up with the work is very touching, and it is an interesting commentary on the difference between the European and American way of doing business.

Mr. Coningsby thinks that the women of America are just a little spoiled by the extreme deference paid them, and relates as an instance that—"before I was used to American ways, it seemed strange to me to be parasolspiked out of my seat in a street car one day by an elegant young lady, who only vouchsafed the explanation that she would 'Sit

It is singular that none but travelling Englishmen should be fated to meet with such specimens of American manners as this, and we are curious to know exactly where this incident occurred.

Despite some inaccuracies, however, Mr. Coningsby gives a much better description of the working men of America than any Englishman that has yet attempted the task. He considers that they represent the nation, just as England is represented but by the "middle class," and that in the United States there is in reality no distinctive "working class," but that everybody is expected to labor for a living, those who do not being considered outsiders, who rather lose caste than otherwise by not being workers.

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