

Evening Telegraph

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1893.

THE RUSH BEQUEST AND THE PHILADELPHIA LIBRARY.

The proceedings of the meeting of the Philadelphia Library Company held yesterday to consider the proper course of action in regard to the Rush bequest, indicate that considerable diversity of opinion still exists. One member of the committee chosen to consider the subject made a minority report, recommending an immediate acceptance of the preliminary conditions of the will, and postponing further action until "the proper time for it under the provisions of the will," which was, in the judgment of one of the stockholders present, "when the building is completed, and the liabilities which will be assumed can be ascertained and measured with the means of performing them."

FREE POLYTECHNIC NIGHT SCHOOLS.

One of the things discussed by the Board of Schools Controllers yesterday was a report presented by the Committee on Revision of Studies, recommending the establishment of a polytechnic night school, at the Central High School, for the instruction of mechanics. The report was recommended, mainly because it contemplated the use of a portion of the funds which now sustain the ordinary night schools for the proposed new purpose, and a desire was expressed that facilities for both systems of education should be simultaneously provided.

THE DETENTION OF THE HORNET.

If the officers of the Cuban privateer Hornet, or Cuba, were really very anxious to wage a deadly warfare against Spanish commerce, it is singular that they should have suffered any ordinary difficulties to force their vessel into an American port. They had finally got to sea by circumventing the authorities of the United States at Philadelphia, and by eluding British vigilance at Halifax, and they had received an armament from a ship clandestinely despatched to meet them at sea off the coast

of New Bedford. After all these fortunate manœuvres, the immediate re-entry of the Hornet into an American port, after her real character could no longer be disguised, is well calculated to give color to the impression said to prevail at Washington that, on reflection, the officers were not favorably impressed with the prospect of dangling at the yard-arm of their ship in the not improbable event of their capture by Spanish cruisers. One of the officers of the last Confederate privateer, the Shenandoah, has recorded his belief that if his ship had fallen into the possession of the United States after the rebellion, all its officers would have been hung as pirates; but, although his apprehensions were unfounded, there can be little doubt that Spain, in her present humor, would grant but a short respite to the officers of a Cuban privateer.

Whatever may have been the motives of the officers of the Hornet, or the necessities which drove them into Wilmington, the authorities are necessarily obliged, not only by our own laws but by the questions connected with the Alabama controversy, to detain the vessel until her character can be fully ascertained, and to prevent her departure if it can be clearly shown that she is in fact a Cuban privateer.

PROTEST OF FATHER HYACINTHE.

The full text of the letter addressed to the General of his Order at Rome, by Father Hyacinthe, has been received, and we are now better able to understand the exact position assumed by the great French preacher than we were from the brief reports furnished by the cable. The calling of the Ecumenical Council has aroused to the greatest activity the two great parties in the Church, each of whom is seeking to make use of it to advance its own ideas and influence. Father Hyacinthe represents the liberal Catholics—the men who, removed from the religious atmosphere of Rome, and obliged to mingle with the men and women of modern society, and to come into direct contact with the ideas of modern civilization, understand much more clearly than does the band of Italian priests who have thus far dictated the policy of the Roman Church, what the necessities and requirements of modern Catholicism are if it desires to maintain its influence.

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ing themselves Roman, but which are not Christian, and which in their encroachments, always most unscrupulous and most base, tend to change the constitution of the Church, the basis as well as the form of her teaching, and even the spirit of her piety. I protest against the divorce, as impious as it is insane, which it is sought to accomplish between the Church, who is our mother according to eternity, and the society of the nineteenth century, of whom we are the sons according to the times, and towards whom we have also some duties and attachments. I protest against this more radical and dreadful opposition to human nature, which is attacked and made to revolt by these false doctrines in its most indestructible and holiest aspirations. I protest above all against the sacrilegious perversion of the Word of the Son of God himself, the spirit and the letter of which are equally trodden under foot by the partialism of the new law. It is my most profound conviction that if France, in particular, and the Latin races in general, are delivered over to social, moral, and religious anarchy, the principal cause is without doubt not in Catholicism itself, but the manner in which Catholicism has, during a long time, been understood and practiced.

It is evident that the contest between the rival parties in the Church will be bitter and prolonged. It is impossible to form any opinion as to the probable result of the deliberations of the Council, but Father Hyacinthe puts in a threat that if it has merely been called together to register the will of a certain party and not to represent the universal Church, he will "cry to God and men to call another truly united in the Holy Spirit." It should be remembered in all this that the eloquent French minister has shown no disposition to cut loose from the Church, or to abandon its fundamental doctrines, but he sees plainly the evils of its past and present policy, and he desires to have them reformed, so that it will in the future represent the enlightenment of the age, and be able to preserve itself by appealing to the intelligence of its members, and not to their ignorance and prejudices.

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