Evening Telegraph

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1869.

ANOTHER RAID ON THE CLAIM AGENTS.

Next to the whisky ring, there is no class of men in this country who do more financial injury to the Government than the claim agents. It is the study of their lives to add to the burthens of the taxpayers, and they are never so happy as when they discover a new pretext for mulcting Uncle Sam. Many of the so-called "honest" cases which they trump up are founded on a base betrayal of the confidence of the nation. A clerk, for instance, entrusted with the secrets of a bureau or a department, discovers, from Government records, that a claim may be made by parties who are probably in blissful ignorance of the fact that they have the remotest chance of recovering money from the nation, But when the clerk turns claim agent, or the jackal of a claim agent, this secret knowledge is adroitly used, and by a flagrant violation of confidence the governmental archives are made to promote the spoliation of the Treasury. There is another class of claim agents who systematically trade in their real or supposed "influence" with the departments Acquiring a certain position by windy stump speeches or important political connections. they resort in turn to flattery, threats, and entreaties to induce public officials to indorse claims of doubtful justice. Among the vast horde of public robbers who are imposing on the American people the heaviest taxation known to civilization claim agents are especially ravenous and dangerous. If they could succeed in all their schemes, and especially in those involving compensation for alleged losses during the war, they would speedily bankrupt the Treasury beyond the hope of redemption. They are perpetually lying in wait for an opportunity to pounce upon the people. If Congress is in a liberal mood, the moment is quickly improved by the passage of a questionable appropriation. If a Cabinet officer or the head of a bureau is weak or venal, he is instantly besieged with applications for the endorsement of doubtful claims. If a President desires to accomplish some important object, there is always a galvanized political patriot, who is in reality a claim agent in disguise, ready to suggest that if provision can be made for the payment of Shoddy's little bill, all difficulties in the way of the accomplishment of the grand national

undertaking will vanish. There is another class of claim agents who do not hesitate to resort to gross frauds and crimes to plunder the Government. They trump up witnesses to swear to any false statement that may be nece sary to gain their end, and they forge documents with graceful a facility. They are usually adroit enough to escape the meshes of the laws which they continually seek to pervert, but we see by the recent action of the Secretary of War, confirmed by the opinion of the Attorney-General. that their operations are likely to be restricted hereafter. It seems that claim agents must be tolerated as a necessary evil unless they commit some flagrant act of bad faith, but the Secretary of War is nevertheless sustained in his judgment that the privilege of practising in any department may be withheld "on testimony of a less degree than would be expected in case the party word indicted and prosecuted criminally." The Attorney-General also suggests that "where frauds have been or are attempted to be committed upon the Government by agents, by means of fictitious claims and other devices, the statutes enacted for their punishment should be enforced against them," and that "where the provision contained in the pension and bounty acts designed for the protection of claimants against the cupidity and oppression of their agents has been violated, the guilty parties ought to be brought to justice." We trust that Government officers and United States District Attorneys will act promptly and vigorously on this hint. A good sharp raid on the claim agents would be as useful in improving the national finances as a vigorous prosecution of the Whisky ring. And while the operators on a small scale and the grosser villains are hunted down, the lawyers with big reputations, the blustering politicians, and the ex-statesmen who are but claim agents in disguise, should also be closely watched, and when they are found to be tripping let them be denounced, and, if possible. severely punished. They have already cost the nations hundreds of millions of dollars, and if a method for stopping their supplies is devised, it will be a more fruitful source of financial advantage than a dozen new forms of internal revenue taxation.

MRS. STOWE AS AN ADVERTISER. Mrs. Stowe has at last been heard from, but, with a keen eye to business, even her defense assumes the form of an advartisement of a forthcoming magazine article. She coolly assumes that her long silence in regard to the critieisms upon her first article is justified because the public mind was "in too excited a state to consider the matter dispassionately. This imputation is only one degree less arrogant than the allegation of one of her defend ers that she represented the national conscience, for it implies her immense mental superiority to the readers whose favorable judgment she is about to solicit. She promises to furnish additional proofs of her story which have been obtained in England, but their character is carefully withheld, so that the pecuniary value of her new pro | smart husband.

duction may not be in the slightest degree damaged. As her defense, to be valid, must be based solely on this evidence, the care with which she conceals it while proclaiming its existence makes her new card an effective provocative of curiosity, and as she has adroitly pressed the Associated Press reporters into her service, she has fairly achieved the honor of being the Great Advertisement Writer, despite the pretensions of rival claimants, and this proud distinction must, therefore, be added to her laurels as a scandalmonger.

THE BROOKS CASE, -Now that the authorities have their clutches upon the cowardly tools of the whisky ring who attempted to assassinate Detective Brooks in the broad light of day, all the customary appliances are being resorted to for getting them out of harm's way. In New York, where two of them still remain, awaiting a requisition, the assistance of the notorious Judge Mc-Cunn has been called in, and every crook and turn will be resorted to by him to set the villains at liberty before they can be remanded. But we hope that these efforts at cheating justice will be thwarted, and that this glaring outrage will be amply compensated for by an exemplary punishment of the perpetrators. One of the conspirators -the hack-driver McLaughlin-is already in the city, and his friends are resorting to the frequently misused privilege of the writ of habeas corpus to secure his escape. For a wonder, however, the prisoner appears lukewarm in the enterprise, and has steadily refused to converse with the "lawyer" whose professional services have been secured in his behalf. The authorities appear to be exercising due vigilance in preventing him from being tampered with by outside parties, and there is a fair prospect that he at least will receive his just deserts.

NEW YORK CITY rejoices in the custody of "Reddy the Blacksmith," who travelled all the way to San Francisco before he could be overtaken by certain gentlemen from Gotham who desired to have his company on the homeward jaunt. And now it is announced that "Dan the Blacksmith," an enterprising Philadelphian, is awaiting at St. Louis the arrival of certain gentlemen from this city, in whose company he will return to our midst, Dan, like Reddy, has been accustomed to live by his wits, and hence his attempt to get away from the scene of his exploits,

THE SECRETARYSHIP OF STATE in New York appears to go a-begging as far as the Republicans are concerned. George William Curtis, who received the unanimous nomination for the position at the Syracuse Convention, declined the honor; and now General John C. Robinson, who was selected for the vacant place on the ticket by the State Central Committee, has also declined. It will be a great pity if our Republican friends in New York are unable to persuade anybody to head their ticket. The Democrats encounter no such

SECRETARY BOUTWELL, who was expected to visit this city early in the week, but was prevented from so doing by the flood following the great storm of Sunday last, will certainly be in our midst on Saturday evening next At that time a meeting will be held under the auspices of the Union League at Horticultural Hall, at which the Secretary of the Treasury will attend. He will deliver an address upon the financial condition of the country which will undoubtedly command universal attention.

GOLDWIN SMITH has been at it again. This time he writes a letter to the London Daily News, in which he favors the independence of Canada, but opposes its annexation to the United States. Goldwin is doubtless moved to this course by the desire to have a place of refuge close at hand, to which he can resort when he desires to ventilate his opinions upon the Alabama claims after a fashion which, according to his own notion of his own importance, should concentrate the entire force of our-Government in an effort to suppress him.

REPUBLICANISM is still a power in Spain, and a cable telegram announces that some of the republican deputies have left Madrid to prepare for a grand liberal uprising in the northern and central provinces. The issue turns on the question whether the army will remain faithful to the present Government or join hands with the people. Prim and Serrano have a very strong hold upon their soldiers, and if this cannot be shaken they will probably remain masters of the situation until a monarch is chosen.

MISS SUSAN B. ANTHONY has turned up at a female suffrage convention in St. Louis. It would be interesting to know who foots the bills for her travelling expenses. Doubtless the working women whom she was so anxious to "represent" at the late frothy Labor Convention in this city.

A Dusty Old Fellow. When Charles Reade called upon the Harvard crew in London he was dressed in an old-fashioned suit of the pepper and salf variety of cloth, such as prudent mothers by by for active young urchins for the sake of economy. his hat and cont were shocking as to style, his pants were cut in the baggy Zouave style, the whole making him cut a ridiculous figure among the natty suits which most of their visitors affected. Mr. Reade added interest to his quant appearance by bringing a copy of the Police News newspaper for the delectation of the members of the crew, who have been trying ever since to discover why he thought they would feel interested in the contents of that sheet.

Men who Overreach Themselves. There are men here and there who are a little too smart, even for themselves. There is a will now under settlement in New York city, in which a rich old gentleman very effectually re-venges himself upon a son-in-law. It hap-pened that the son-in-law got some hold upon the old man whereby he compelled him to set-tle \$100,000 upon his wife (the old man's daughbefore the affair was arranged. As in duty bound, the old gentleman ultimately paid the debt of nature, and, of course, the heirs were wide awake for the will. There were three daughters and one son, and the old man left to the son \$1,000,000, to each of the two daughters. ters \$1,000,000, but to the daughter whose husband had played the trick upon him, nothing more than a receipt for the \$100,000 paid to her SPECIAL NOTICES.

For additional Special Notices see the Inside Pages, ACADEMY OF MUSIC INTELLECTUAL ENTERTAINMENTS. THE STAR COURSE OF LECTURES.

T. B. PUGH HAS THE HONOR TO ANNOUNCE THAT HE HAS ORGANIZED, FOR THE SEASON OF 1869-70, A SERIES OF INTELLECTUAL ENTER TAINMENTS, ENTITLED "THE STAR COURSE OF LECTURES," THE PURPOSE BEING TO AFFORD THE CITIZENS OF PHILADELPHIA AN OPPOR-TUNITY, NEVER BEFORE PRESENTED, OF HEARING, IN A SINGLE COURSE OF LECTURES, THE AGGREGATE TALENT OF THE ENTIRE LECTURE FIELD. TWENTY LECTURES IN TWO SERIES OF TEN EACH,

The course will consist of TWENTY LECTURES, divided into two series of ten each. The IST SERIES OF TEN LECTURES will be delivered from October 19 to December 16, 1869. The 2D SERIES OF TEN LECTURES from February 1 to April 30, 1870.

THE TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED. The subjects to be treated of will embrace History, Biography, Trayer, Humon, Literature, Science, ABT, and POLITICS; and the speakers selected for the task are recognized as "STABS" in their respective

LIST OF SPEAKERS ENGAGED. Hon, Charles Sumner, John G. Saxe, Rev. Robert Collyer, D.D., Rev. E. H. Chapin, D.D., Hon. Richard O'Gorman, George William Curtis. Hon. S. S. Cox. Bayard Taylor, D. R. Locke (P. V. Nasby), Ralph Waldo Emerson Prof. Robert E. Rogers, Olive Logan, Mark Twain, Prof. Henry Morton. R. J. De Cordova. P. B. Du Chailla, Anna E. Dickinson Mrs.F.W. Lander (Reading). Wandell Phillips.

The First Series of Ten Lectures TO BE GIVEN IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER: On Taesday Evening, Oct. 19,

MISS ANNA E. DIOKINSON.
Subject..." WHITED SEPULCHREE."
On Thursday Evening, October 21,

R. J. DE CORDOVA.
Subject..." THE SHAM FAMILY AT HOME."

Subject—"THE SMAN On Monday Evening, Octob r 25, MISS OLIVE LOGAN, Subject—"GIRLS." On Wednesday Even ng, October 27,
R. J. Die CORDOVA.
Subject-"OUR NEW CLERGYMAN."
On Moncay Evening, November 29,
HON. S. S. UOX.
Subject-"NEW ENGLAND TRANSCENDENTALISM."

On Wednesday Evening, December I.

HON. CHARLES SUMNER.
Subject—"THE QUESTION OF CASTE."
On Friday Evening, December 3,
REV. ROBERT COLLYER, D. D.
Subject—"CLEAR GRIT." On Tuesday Evening, December 7.

MARK TWAIN.
Subject— "SaxDwich Islands."
On Thursday Evening, December 9.
R. J. DE CORDOVA.
Subject—"WHIFIN 98. SNIFFIN." On Thursday Evening, December 16, WENDELL PHILLIPS, Subject—"DANIEL O'CONNEI

THE SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENT. Professors ROGERS and MORTON will each give a ture during the season, and supplementary to the regular course. Professor Rogers' subject will be "STEAM AND THE STEAM ENGINE." Professor MORTON'S subject will be "SOLAR ECLIPSES." Both lectures will be illustrated by beautiful

drawings, moving models, and brilliant and interesting ex-THE YOUNG FOLKS DEPARTMENT. P. B. DU CHAILLU, the famous African explorer, willgive a series of three lectures to the Young Folks, in day me, on his adventures among the CANNIDALS, under the EQUATOR, and in the land of the OHONGOS. These lec-

tures created a great sensation among the juveniles in New York and Boston last spring. A MUSICAL PRELUDE. -Mr. Carl Sentz' New Parlor

will take place on Monday Morning, Oct. 11, commencing at 8 o'clock, at Gould's Piano Rooms, No. 923 OHESNUT

The sale of Reserved Seats to the Single Lectures will commence on Tues lay Morning, Oct. 12, at the same hour. Box Office open daily from 8 A. M. to 6 P. M. SPECIAL NOTICE.

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PENNSYLVANIA INDUSTRIAL HOME FOR BLIND WOMEN will be held at the Hall of the Philadelphia City Institute, N. E. corner of CHESNUT & EIGHTEENTH STREETS, commencing on MONDAY, October 11, and continuing one week.

BEFFERSON MEDICAL COLLEGE. The general introductory to the course will be delivered by Professor JOSEPH PANCOAST, M. D., on MONDAY, 11th instant, at 8 o'clock P. M. B. HOWARD RAD, M. D., 167 mt Defin of Faculty.

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8th District-JAMES V. STOKES. 9th District-JAMES BERRY. 10th District-Colonel ELISHA W. DAVIS. 11th District-WILLIAM M. BUNN.

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VINCIBLES, FIFTH and LIBRARY Streets. OCTOBER 7, 1869. ORDER No. 8. I. Members will assemble at Depot, Thirty-first and

Chesnut streets. FRIDAY EVENING, Oct. 8, 1869, to proceed to WEST CHESTER. Cars leave at 6:45 o'clock P. M., sharp

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