Evening Telegraph To an ordinary observer it is exceedingly diffi-

PUBLISHED EVERY AFTERNOON

(SUNDAYS EXCEPTED). AT THE EVENING TELEGRAPH BUILDING, NO. 108 S. THIRD STREET.

PHILADELPHIA. The Price is three cents per copy (double sheet); or eighteen cents per week, payable to the carrier by whom served. The subscription price by mail is Nine Dollars per annum, or One Dollar and Fifty Cents for two months, invariably in advance for the time ordered.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1869.

THE HOMICIDE CASES IN THE COURT OF OYER AND TERMINER.

ONE of the docks of the new Court House vesterday contained ten men, arraigned in nine different cases, for killing nine citizens of Philadelphia, and the Assistant District-Attorney announced that eighteen persons were now held for trial in homicide cases. This is an unusual spectacle in this locality. All the imputed crimes were perpetrated during the last few months, none of them dating back further than July, and most of them having been committed during September and October. Mr. Dwight announced service, and its disposition to cling to obsothat "one of the cases would be taken lete ideas. Of course such a valuable perquiup out of order, because it was represented to be one of more than ordinary aggravation," and this statement. while it was entirely appropriate and necespenalty of the law is rarely enforced against murderers except those who are incapable of adducing any extenuating circumstances whatever to palilate their guilt. Homicide cases occur by scores, while there are but a to millions of dollars. few executions in any given year. Juries are loth to convict for murder any prisoners whose villainy is not of the deepest dye, and Probst or Twitchell. If a plausi-

ble excuse can be given, if any allegation is made with an apparent show of truth that the murderer had suffered a real or imaginary wrong at the hands of his victim, or that the fatal blow was inflicted in the heat of passion, the prisoner has so many chances of escaping the extreme penalty of the law, that those are no longer impressed with a wholesome dread of the gallows. Our present courts are so much overrun with business that many afford another important loophole of escape by the opportunities they afford for diminishing the force of damaging testimony. Yesterday a prisoner charged with larceny, who had obtained bail after his arrest and then fled from the city, but who was subsequently recaptured and arraigned, was acquitted bethe day of trial. So in homicide cases of an inferior grade, delays are often fatal to the prosecution, and they add greatly to the chances of securing immunity from punishment. However ready our courts may be to do their full duty to the community, they cannot accomplish impossibilities. It is beyond their power to try promptly the innumerable criminal cases that are constantly arising, and to avoid delays in all instances. They cannot control the predisposition of juries to make too large an allowance for extenuating circumstances, and after they have finished their work it is beyond their province to prevent an injudidious exercise of the pardoning power, or to

It is one of the most imperative duties of the State and municipal governments to protect life, and the most striking difference between barbarous and civilized communities is displayed in the contrast between the reckless brutality with which it is sacrificed in the former and the care displayed in preserving it in the latter. The frequency of homicides in our midst painfully indicates that there are defects in our system, which month after month and year after year grow more dangerous and alarming, and it behooves all who have at heart the general welfare to provide the most effective remedies and safeguards that can be devised. So far as the courts are concerned, no pains should be spared to insure the infliction of prompt and certain punishment to all who are clearly guilty. If too much business is imposed upon the present Judges, additional Judges should should be appointed; and it has become a momentous question whether additional restrictions should not be thrown around the pardoning

fix the period when a death-warrant shall be

issued.

Independent of the Courts, however, the people must look for protection to the police. and it is a crying shame that a body of men for whose maintenance they must pay a million of dollars, are organized without reference to their efficiency. The best body of police in the world will not entirely suppress crime, but an inferior, untrained, or partially vicious police force is necessarily incompetent to discharge the important duties intrusted to it. There is no better gauge for the security of property and safety of life in large modern cities than the efficiency of the police departments; and the unhappy municipalities which are bereft of the protection that only a first-rate force can give, from partisan motives, can justly impute to the authors of such injudicious and dangerous changes the frightful increase of crime which they necessarily produce. To diminish homicide cases we must have many reforms, but they must extend to the existing agencies for the repression of crime as well as those which provide for its punishment.

army, should be entitled to prize money for property captured or destroyed in warfare. During the Rebellion much dissatisfaction and heartburning were caused by this discrimination in favor of the naval branch of the military service, and the question was repeatedly asked what claim the navy had, in law and justice, to the enormous sums that were divided among the officers and men as a gratuity for performing their simple duty. As the law now stands, every person on the paymaster's roll of a naval vessel making a capture is entitled to one-half of whatever it will sell for in open market; or in event of a vessel of the enemy being destroyed in action. the value is assessed and divided in the same manner between the victors and the Government, subject to a large percentage, which goes to the admiral of the fleet, and to the claims of all vessels within signal distance to share equally in the prize. The Government devotes its portion of the prize money to the support of the naval hospitals and homes for disabled seamen, and the rest is divided among the officers and men in the proportion of their rates of pay.

This prize money system is an illustration of the conservative character of the naval site will not readily be given up, if the matter is left to the decision of naval men: but it is perfectly marvellous that no motion has been made by outside parties to have it abolished. sary under the circumstances, indicates one It is true that, until the outbreak of the Reof the reasons why murders of an inferior bellion, nothing has occurred since the war degree of criminality are becoming so fright- of 1812 to attract public attention to it, and fully common in this city. Experience has it was therefore allowed to rest in peace. repeatedly demonstrated that the extreme During the Rebellion, however, it was the source of constant trouble and dispute, and it was and is still of infinite annovance to the Treasury Department, which has now on its hands unsettled claims amounting probably

Prize money, like many other of the customs that are cherished with fondest affection by true blue naval men, is a relic of the Governors are slow to affix their signature to earliest ages of naval history, when bold rovers the death-warrant of convicts whose offenses | like Drake were looked upon as little better are less heinous than those of than legalized pirates. In this country it is a remnant of the privateering system, when love of plunder was even more an incentive to action than patriotism. The amenities of civilized warfare have long since prohibited armed forces on land from appropriating to their own use the property that may happen to ffall into their hands, and by common consent officers and soldiers guilty of anything who contemplate crimes of this description of the kind are esteemed as little better than thieves and robbers. Of course this does not refer to the destruction of property through the exigencies of warfare, or to its authorized trials are necessarily postponed from time to appropriation for the relief of the necessities time, and these continued postponements of an army by order of the general commanding.

The effect of the prize-money system during the Rebellion was that most of the vessels that did the hardest fighting and most service in defeating the enemy came off with little or nothing, while the light-armed boats, that cruised about on the open sea outside of cause the chief witness for the Commonwealth | the reach of shot and shell, secured the had died during the nine months intervening richest rewards. Many of these vessels were between the perpetration of the crime and extremely lucky, capturing ship after ship laden with valuable goods, and every officer and man pocketing thousands of dollars. Not only did the army complain of this when vast stores of cotton and other valuables fell into their hands, to be appropriated entire by the Government, but the men of the navy who did the most fighting could not avoid feeling jealous of their more fortunate brethren who pocketed greenbacks instead of glory.

Exactly what constituted a prize has never yet been settled, and there is a suit now pending on behalf of Admiral Farragut's fleet for property captured on the Mississippi river at the time of the great victory at New Orleans. The Government claimed the whole of this, but Congress, at its last session, authorized the institution of a suit to test the matter. General Butler, who has charge of the case. has filed a bill of information in the District Court of the District of Columbia, praying judgment, etc., and the Government has been called upon to present its defense. This suit involves over a million of dollars. and we hope that the sailors will secure the money, which they certainly are entitled to if there is any virtue in the existing arrange-

This, however, has nothing whatever to do with the principle of allowing the navy to claim prize money, which we are convinced is a wrong one. Admiral Porter is taking a great deal of credit to himself for the reforms he has introduced since he has been de facto Secretary, and much stress is laid upon the reduction of the expenses of the navy and the amount of money saved to the Government. Will he take the initiative in moving for an abolishment of the prizemoney system? Now is the time, if ever, to move in the matter, as the reform can be effected without injury to the rights or prospects of any one; and we sincerely hope that Congress will at its next session take up the subject and give it a thorough investigation. It is because the prize-money system has never been investigated that it has been allowed to stand thus long, and an inquiry into the principle upon which it is based will certainly lead to its speedy discontinuance.

The officers and men, however, who assisted in making captures during the Rebellion are certainly entitled to the money allowed them under the existing laws, and to a speedy settlement of their claims by the Treasury Department. Much dissatisfaction has been caused by the slow, dilatory, and uncertain manner of doing business at the Fourth Auditor's Office, and the facilities afforded to claim agents have given just cause for complaint. Claims are sometimes settled in part, and no intimation given that there is a balance still due, and the person entitled to the money knows nothing about it unless it may happen to come to his ears by the merest accident. There are thousands of

dollars now laying in the Treasury that will probably never be applied for, simply because the persons entitled to the money do not know that anything is due them. This is criminal bad management that deserves the severest condemnation, and if Secretary Bontwell can spare a little time from his more important duties of regulating the finances of the nation, he can bestow it with good effect in examining into the style in which some of his subordinates do business.

JUST THE THING FOR HIM. -The New York World thinks that the errors and defects of the last census may be avoided by entrusting the work next year to the superinteadence of "an experienced statistician." This, the World thinks, will not be difficult, for "there are several in the country who could manage the matter ably and thoroughly." Principal among these is the gentleman who has attained such a wide-spread reputation as "the Arithmetic Man' of the World, If "an experienced statistician" is needed, surely here is one. This "Arithmetic Man" is a genius in his way. He has never studied Arithmetic, it is true; but he has accomplished such wonders in his ignorance that there is no telling what he could and would do if he had. The ordinary methods of dealing with figures he despises with his whole heart, and scorns all the rules which are laid down in the books. The so-called great mathematicians have often bothered themselves and amused the world by endeavoring to demonstrate that two and two, when put together, invariably and inevitably make four; but "the Arithmetic Man" has, with only a tithe of their tribulation, established the fact that two and two can be as readily twisted into seven, and that five times eight are one thousand and thirteen. If this man is entrusted with the management of the next census, we could expect to see the statistics of the country worked up into more curious and startling combinations than even Delmar himself is capable of. If any man in the world can "manage the matter ably and thoroughly," surely "the Arithmetic Man" of the World

THE Lieutenaut-Governor of Ontario, in his speech at the opening of the Provincial Parliament vesterday, recommended that efforts be made to induce larger immigration into the Dominion. The wisdom of this advice requires no demonstration. Not only does the great tide of European emigration shun the shores of the Dominion, but even the people who are born upon its soil desert it for the land of greater promise which lies to the south.

PRESIDENT GRANT does not care about a second term; in fact, he already begins to count the months which must elapse before he can get out of his present position, just as he used to do when a cadet at West Point. In other words, when General Grant leaves the Presidential Mansion, he will regard it as an "emancipation," just as the late Andrew

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Manual for sale. Price \$1 50. UNION LEAGUE HOUSE, BROAD

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 4, 1869.

A meeting of the UNION LEAGUE OF PHILADEL. PHIA will be held at the LEAGUE HOUS & on THURS. DAY, November 11, 1869, at 8 o'clock P. M., for the purpose of nominating candidates to be voted for as members of the Board of Directors.

By order of the Board of Directors.

If 4 7t GEORGE H. BOKER, Secretary. MO ACADEMY OF MUSIC THE STAR COURSE OF LECTURES. Hon. S. S. COX, November 29.
Hon. CHARLES SUMNER, December 1.
Rev. ROBERT COLLYER, December 3.
MARK TWAIN, December 7.
DECORDOVA, December 9.
WENDELL PHILLIPS, December 16.
Tickets at GOULD'S, No. 223 CHESNUT Street. 11 1 tf

POPULAR INSTRUCTIVE LECTURES on PHRENOLOGY, by J. L. CAPEN, splendidly illustrated by the Stereopticon, and closing with public examinations, N. E. corner NINTH and SPRING GAR-DEN Streets, November 4, 5, 6, and 11.

Admission-First Lecture, 10 conts; others, 15 cents; course, 40 cents. Tickets at the office, No. 702 CHESNUT Street, or at the door. STEREOPTICON AND MAGIC LAN-TERN EXHIBITIONS given to Sunday Schools, Colleges, and for private entertainments.
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DIVIDENDS, ETO.

OFFICE PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD COMPANY, TREASURER'S DEPARTMENT.
NOTICE TO STOCKHOLDERS.
The Board of Directors have this day declared a semi-annual dividend of FIVE PER ORNT, on the Capital Stock of the Company, clear of National and State taxes, payable in cash on and after November 39, 1839

Hank Powers of Attorney for collecting dividends can be had at the office of the Company, No. 238 South THIRD Street. Street.

The office will be opened at 8 A. M., and closed at 3 P. M., from November 3 to December 4, for the payment of Dividends, and after that date from 9 A. M. to 3 P. M., as

THOS. T. FIRTH, Treasurer. FOURTH NATIONAL BANK, No. 723 At a meeting of the Board of Directors held this day, it was unanimously resolved that the net carnings of the Bank for the preceding Six Months, amounting to \$11.124.84, being 516 per cent on the Capital Stock, be passed, and that the said amount be placed to the surplus account of the Bank.

S. MOODY,

FARMERS' AND MECHANICS' NA-The Board of Directors have this day declared a selected of FIVE PER CENT., payable on demand, cler w. RUSHFON, JR.,

Cashier. PHILADELPHIA Nov. 2, 1869, have this day declared a Div.

THE CONSOLIDATION NATIONAL

The Board of Directors have this day declared a dividend of SIX PER CENT, payable on demand, clear o WILLIAM H. WEBB, Cashier. SOUTHWARK NATIONAL BANK. PHILADELPHIA, November 2, 1869,
The Board of Directors have this day declared a dividend of TWELVE PER CENT, payable on demand.
Il 25t
P. LAMB, Castrer.

GIRARD NATIONAL BANK.

PHILADELPHIA, November 2, 1869.

The Directors have declared a dividend of SIX PER
CBNT., payable on demand, clear of taxes.

H 2 3t

W. L. SCHAFFER, Cashier. THE COMMERCIAL NATIONAL BANK

OF PENNSYLVANIA.

OF PENNSYLVANIA.

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 2, 1869.

The Board of Directors have this day declared a dividend of FIVE PER CENT., payable, clear of all taxes, on demand.

S. C. PALMER,

11 2 6t

Cashier. CORN EXCHANGE NATIONAL BANK.

The Board of Directors have this day declared a dividend of SIX PER CENT., for the last six months, payable on demand, clear of taxes.

11 2 6t

H. P. SCHETKY, Cashier. THE MANUFACTURERS' NATIONAL

BANK.

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II 23t M. W. WOODWARD, Cashier. COMMONWEALTH NATIONAL BANK The Directors have this day declared a Dividend of FIVR PER CENT., payable on demand, clear of taxes.

11 2 3t

H. O. YOUNG, Cashler.

NATIONAL BANK OF THE RE-The Board of Directors have declared a dividend of THREE AND ONE HALF PER CENT for the last six months, clear of taxes, payable on demand.

11 2 3t JOSEPH P. MUMFORD, Cashier.

MECHANICS' NATIONAL BANK The Board of Directors have this day declared a dividend of SIX PER CENT., payable on demand, free of J. WIEGAND, Jr., Cashier.

BOY CITY NATIONAL BANK .-PHILADELPHIA, November 2, 1869.
The Board of Directors have this day declared a dividend of SIX PER CENT., payable on dew and, clear of taxes.
11 2 8t G. ALBERT LEWIS, Oashier. BOY NATIONAL BANK OF COMMERCE. PHILADELPHIA, November 2, 1869.
The Board of Directors have this day declared a dividend of FIVE PER CENT., payable on demand, clear of

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