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THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 1870.

DEFEAT OF THE LEAGUE ISLAND BILL.

The League Island bill came to grief yesterday in the National House of Representatives, where it was laid on the table by a vote of 94 to 67. The Philadelphia delegation made a gallant stand in defense of the project in which their constituents are so deeply interested, and they were ably seconded by all the members from Pennsylvania in the House except Judge Woodward. This fine old Democrat took occasion to record his opposition to the bill and to indulge in a fling at Philadelphia that would have been more appropriate as coming from some disappointed advocate of a New York or New England site for the great navy yard of the country. Of course, the grounds of the opposition to the transfer of the Philadelphia Navy Yard to League Island are well understood, although those who have labored with the most energy to defeat the bill have been careful to assign every other reason but the right one. It is impossible, however, to make concealment of such a matter, and it is very plainly manifested that the tabling of the League Island bill was effected by the concerted action of those who are still scheming for other sites. Mr. Dawes, in his speech a few days ago, opposed the transfer of the Philadelphia Yard almost solely on the score of economy, but yesterday he advanced the opinion that the three New England yards might be consolidated into one at New London. This would swallow up the Charlestown and Portsmouth yards, and perhaps also that at Brooklyn. It is plain enough to see from this what Dawes is driving at, and if he could by any manner of means unite the enemies of League Island in favor of New London, he would see the importance of making large appropriations for the immediate creation of a first-class naval station in a very different light from what he now does. But it is here that the difficulties of Dawes begin. New York does not propose to let New London swallow up the Brooklyn Yard. On the contrary, the inconvenience of the present site is being urged, and there is every probability that a project for the removal of the Brooklyn Yard to some point on the Hudson, and the creation of a naval depot that will be a New York institution, will be brought forward shortly, and advocated with an energy that will drive Dawes and all the other New Londoners into the background. It is evident that a desperate attempt will be made to delay the work of preparing League Island as long as possible, in the hope that the present plan of creating a great naval depot there will ultimately be abandoned; and the representatives of Philadelphia in Congress will need to exercise all their vigilance to prevent the enemies of that site from succeeding. It has been demonstrated over and over again that League Island is the only place on the entire Atlantic coast that contains all the requisites for a first-class naval station. The site has been presented to the Government by the city of Philadelphia and the gift has been accepted, and the expense of fitting it up in the most complete manner will be fully covered by the money realized from the sale of the old yard, so that it need not cost the Government a single cent out of the Treasury. There are undoubtedly enough members of Congress who have no interest whatever in the various rival sites now pressed upon their notice to decide in this manner with fairness and impartiality; and, although the League Island project has met with a temporary defeat, we confidently expect that it will be carried through both houses of Congress triumphantly before the end of the session.

ECONOMY AT HARRISBURG.

One of the Philadelphia members of the State Legislature offered a burlesque bill yesterday, setting forth that "whereas certain goblets were broken and towels destroyed in the cloak-room, therefore large tin-cups and coffee-sacks be furnished." He was a little more daring, but scarcely more unscrupulous, than a large proportion of his colleagues, in treating the whole subject of retrenchment and reform in this jocular manner. It is such an easy and profitable thing to vote away the people's money, and it is so annoying to either surrender or to exercise circumspectly this privilege, that we do not wonder at the disposition to ridicule all restraints upon the power of the legislators. Many of them have intrigued to obtain their present seats mainly for the purpose of profiting by a betrayal of the trust imposed by a too confiding people, and they are loth to surrender any one of the established opportunities for cheating their constituents. There was a time when members of the Assembly guarded the interests of the State with the utmost care, and acted in good faith on all questions, but the ruling desire now seems to be to extract the greatest possible amount of profit from the representative, and do the least public good to the millions represented. It would scarcely be a burlesque for a large proportion of the members of the Senate and House to frankly define their position as follows:—

Whereas, We have come to Harrisburg not to advance the welfare of the Commonwealth, but to promote our private interests, we hereby invite all corporations, corporations, and jobbers who can invent schemes sufficiently profitable to leave a large margin for divvies, to come forward, pay charges, and have their bills passed, so that the people may be plundered and our pocket-books replenished without further delay.

Whereas, The agitation of projects of economy tends to reduce our perquisites, to prevent us from crammng the Capitol with useless supererogatories, and thus plying with the public money our private partisan, and to diminish our opportunities for enriching Robin O'Bobbin Berger, all attempts to protect the Treasury shall hereafter be ruled out of order, and all members who attempt to honestly serve their constituents shall be instantly expelled.

THE NOBLE RED MAN.

A few days ago President Grant was interviewed by the chiefs of the Cherokees and Creeks, and in the course of an eight-line speech which he made to them, he said:—"I am of the opinion that they (the Indians) should become citizens, and be entitled to all the rights of citizens—cease to be nations, and become States." If we are at liberty to take these words as enunciating the policy of the administration on the Indian question, there is at least a prospect of a solution of this vexatious problem. There is a steadily increasing sentiment in the country in favor of such a change in the policy of the Government as is here foreshadowed, and in both houses of Congress we have recently been afforded evidence that this new policy will meet with considerable legislative favor, although it can scarcely be hoped that Congress will immediately give it its sanction. The policy of regarding the aboriginal tribes as sovereign nations is the source of nearly all the evils which afflict the Indian country by the whites, as well as delay the bringing of the Indian themselves under the influence of civilization. It is through the agency of the so-called treaties with these quasi nationalities that the vast hordes of plunderers are enabled to swindle both the Government and the tribes, and in this manner keep the frontiers in a state of chronic warfare. Much was hoped from the element of honesty which was supposed to be still paramount in the Quaker character, when the Quaker agents should find their way into the Indian country, and inaugurate a policy of fair dealing in place of the swindling one which has prevailed for so many years. But, while the Quaker agents have not individually been false to the traditional character of their sect, they have thus far practically failed to better the condition of things, primarily because the national policy in conformity with which they went sent to the frontiers is radically wrong, and affords no possibility, at least no probability, of a change for the better, except by its entire abandonment.

It must be confessed that all the efforts that have heretofore been made to bring "the noble red man" entirely within the pale of civilization have resulted in failure, and this result would appear to be owing to those inherent peculiarities of race which unfit the Indian for civilized life. In some of the Atlantic States there are remnants of tribes entirely surrounded by whites, which have succeeded in adapting themselves to the customs and pursuits of their neighbors. But with each passing year their numbers have dwindled away, until at last they are represented by a mere handful, physically inferior, although perhaps mentally superior, to their ancestors. It is almost inevitable that a like result will ensue if the attempt be made upon a wholesale scale to transform the aborigines into citizens; but, since annihilation is the only conceivable termination of our traditional policy, it becomes a very important question whether it would not be cheaper to civilize the Indian to death than to hunt him to the grave—more merciful to both the whites and the Indians to put an end to this interminable warfare, even at the cost of ultimately extirpating the latter. Since we must deal with the aborigines in some fashion, there can be no doubt that a larger measure of success would attend the effort to curb their brutal instincts and polish their savage nature by taking them in hand individually, than has resulted from the attempt to soften and civilize them en masse. If nothing more can be achieved, an end can at least be put to the villainy of the white men who hunt the Indian country only for the sake of the plunder which it yields, and to the horrible brutalities of which we receive tidings almost every day of the year.

SALNAVE SHOT.

GENERAL TUBIN SALNAVE, the celebrated Haytien insurrectionary chief, it seems has at last paid the penalty of the deeds of violence that have characterized his career. A despatch from Charleston, South Carolina, informs us that the French sloop of war Lennox, which arrived there yesterday, brought the intelligence that Salnave was sentenced to death and shot on the 10th instant. This man has been prominent in all the revolutionary struggles that have convulsed Hayti for twenty years past, and he has apparently only now obtained his just deserts. He brought himself prominently into notice in July, 1864, by an attempt to assassinate one of the ministers of President Guffard. For this act he was tried by a court-martial and condemned to death, but he succeeded in escaping to St. Domingo, where he organized a rebellion against Guffard, and obtained a partial foothold in Hayti. Salnave organized a provisional government, with himself at the head of it as President, in May, 1865, but Guffard, in November of the same year, defeated him and scattered his adherents. Salnave subsequently renewed the attempt, and this time he managed to obtain the supreme power. In June, 1867, he granted an amnesty to all Haytiens except Guffard, and proceeded to reorganize the Government on a basis of his own. He was not permitted, however, to enjoy his power for any great length of time, for in August, 1867, a revolt against him broke out, and since then Hayti has been distracted by the contentions of rival chiefs. Several leaders combined their forces against Salnave, and they gradually succeeded in driving him to the wall. The last intelligence that we had of Salnave was that he, with thirty of his chief partisans, was shut up in Fort National, at Port-au-Prince, and that a price of

\$5000 in gold was placed upon his head; and now it appears that he has fallen by the hands of his enemies. Salnave's government was the one recognized by the United States, and General Tate, his Minister at Washington, is among the list of the proscribed. If the death of Salnave gave any assurance that peace would return to Hayti, there would be reason for congratulation, but there is scarcely any doubt that the men who united to crush him will now begin to fight among themselves for the possession of the spoils, and we may expect a continuance of these partisan feuds until some stronger power steps in and takes possession of the country and enforces order.

GENERAL BUTLER yesterday completely demolished the leading positions taken by Mr. Dawes in his late speech on national expenditures. Economy, in the nation as well as in the State, cannot be too highly commended, and the people are ever ready to applaud those who attempt to check extravagance, but it is disgraceful for the leader of a great party specially entrusted with the careful consideration of appropriations to prostitute his position to the narrow purposes of a demagogue, and to spread broadcast a host of misrepresentations which plainly imply either gross ignorance or wanton falsehood. Of this offense Mr. Dawes was yesterday clearly convicted, and he has forfeited all claims to the confidence of his fellow-members and the country. In attempting to create the false impression that the present administration was spending more money than its predecessor, he resorted to the most unworthy subterfuges, and the utter unreliability of his statements is now clearly established. Instead of successfully assailing the administration, the rebound of his weapon has knocked the owner over, and he is much more seriously wounded than the objects of his malevolence.

THE BILL OFFERED by Mr. Cloud in the House yesterday, providing that the site of the new public buildings of Philadelphia shall be decided by a popular vote, deserves favorable consideration. As all tax-payers must help defray the large expenditures contemplated, so all should have a voice in determining where this money shall be expended. A very large number of citizens are earnestly opposed to the Independence Square project, and if they constitute a majority, it would be a serious wrong to commit them, against their will, to that site. A direct vote will decide finally what the public wishes are, and it is manifestly just that they should be ascertained and respected.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

JOHN WANAMAKER, FINEST CLOTHING, ESTABLISHMENT, NO. 818 AND 820 CHESTNUT STREET.

WINTER CLOTHING, BOYS' CLOTHING, GENTLEMEN'S FURNISHING GOODS, ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

THE STAR COURSE OF LECTURES, SECOND SERIES, OPENING LECTURE BY WENDELL PHILLIPS.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE MERCHANTS' FUND—The Sixtieth Anniversary of the Merchants' Fund will be celebrated at the ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

TO CONSUMERS OF GAS, REDUCTION IN PRICE, THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE PHILADELPHIA GAS WORKS has reduced the price on all gas consumed by private consumers, on and after the 1st day of February next, twenty-five cents per thousand, making the price Two Dollars and Thirty Cents per thousand cubic feet.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

THE FIDELITY INSURANCE TRUST, AND SAFE DEPOSIT COMPANY, THE SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE STOCKHOLDERS.

NOTICE TO SHIPPERS, THE CHESAPEAKE AND DELAWARE CANAL will be closed for navigation on THURSDAY, the 27th of February, 1870.

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PREACHING IN W. M. E. CHURCH, LECTURE ROOM OF MERCANTILE LIBRARY, TENTH STREET, above Chestnut.

OFFICE PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD, NOTICE TO STOCKHOLDERS, The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of this Company will be held on TUESDAY, the 15th day of February, 1870.

PHILADELPHIA AND TRENTON RAILROAD COMPANY, The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of this Company will be held at their office on TUESDAY, February 1, 1870.

MANHOOD AND YOUTHFUL VIGOR, CLOTHING, There is no inducement WHICH PURCHASERS OF CLOTHING CAN DESIRE TO HAVE OFFERED TO THEM WHICH WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO OFFER.

TO BE ADMIRER, EVERY DOLLAR'S WORTH OF THEM WAS MADE EXPRESSLY TO BE SOLD, THE CONSEQUENCE OF WHICH IS THAT WE ARE NOW SELLING THEM.

GREAT BROWN HALL, ROCKHILL & WILSON, 603 and 605 CHESTNUT STREET, PHILADELPHIA.

BARAINS IN CLOTHING, GOOD BUSINESS SUITS, OVERCOATS, EVANS & LEACH, No. 628 MARKET STREET, PHILADELPHIA.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS DESIRING THE BEST, THE NOVEL OF THE AGE, THE NOVEL OF THE AGE, THE LAST ATHENIAN.

THE LAST ATHENIAN, THE NOVEL OF THE AGE, THE NOVEL OF THE AGE, THE LAST ATHENIAN.

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THE AMERICAN, COMBINATION BUTTON-HOLE SEWING MACHINE.

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BANK REPORTS.

REPORT OF THE CONDITION OF THE THIRD NATIONAL BANK OF PHILADELPHIA, AT THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS JANUARY 23, 1870.

RESOURCES, Loans and Discounts, United States Bonds, etc.

LIABILITIES, Capital Stock paid in, Surplus Fund, etc.

RESOURCES, U. S. Bonds to secure circulation, etc.

LIABILITIES, Capital Stock paid in, Surplus Fund, etc.

FURNITURE, ETC., BUY YOUR FURNITURE AND BUY YOUR BEDDING.

THE GREAT AMERICAN, FINE DRESS SHIRTS, J. W. SCOTT & CO.

LEHIGH AND SCHUYLKILL COAL, W. H. TAGGART, COAL DEALER.

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