

Evening Telegraph

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 five Dollars per annum, or One Dollar and Fifty Cents for two months, invariably in advance for the time ordered.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1870.

THE LATEST LEGISLATIVE OUT-RAGE.

The latest invention of the enemies of the people who were sent last fall to the State Capitol to swindle the public, is a bill to establish a new steam-locomotive railroad through the heart of Fairmount Park. This project would seem incredibly audacious if we did not remember that the voters of Philadelphia last fall re-elected members who were guilty of supporting schemes only a few degrees less infamous, and if the belief had not been generated that our citizens will quietly submit to any rascally wrong these unscrupulous adventurers may choose to perpetrate.

THE ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY.

It is admitted on all sides at the present day, that the punishment of criminals is intended primarily for the protection of society, and secondly, for the reformation of offenders. Punishments should be so severe and so certain that those who are disposed to outrage the laws will be deterred from so doing, and at the same time they should be of such a nature as will permit of moral influence being brought to bear upon the convict, to inspire him if possible with a desire to lead a better life.

With regard to the abolition of the death penalty, however, the most important question is, Will it have a tendency to diminish the crime of murder? If this can be demonstrated clearly and definitely, the question of the expediency and propriety of such a change in our system of punishments would be narrowed down to a fine point.

THE METROPOLITAN POLICE BILL. The Democratic programme for defeating the Metropolitan Police bill in the Senate has failed, despite the assistance of Mayor Fox's forces, and there appears to be a fair prospect of its passage in the House.

ART AND ARTISTS.

We are called upon every day to congratulate ourselves upon the increasing demand for pictures through the country. "There can be no surer sign of the nation's progress in refinement and culture," cry the artists, "than the growing wish of the people to make beautiful their homes; art is waking from her long sleep," etc. etc.

But aside from these there are in both cities a horde of inferior traders from whom comes the present incessant clamor about art. They discourse learnedly of chiaroscuro, of tone, and breadth and *châra*. Usually, they profess to sell only the works of European masters, assuring us gravely that our country is too young to worthily sacrifice to art.

Smith, having made his fortune in Pittsburgh or Chicago, builds his villa out of town, and comes East with an odd thousand or two to buy a landscape, or a brace of them, for his parlors. He finds a genuine antique in the dingy auction room, which the dealer adroitly fixes at a point just above his paltry thousand. He strains a point and goes off triumphant with his prize, to be known thereafter as a patron of art in his native town.

A few years ago they were known as young men of promise and ambition. Nobody hears of them now. But it is since their disappearance that so many masterpieces find their way from the European market to our shores. This business is carried on much more extensively in New York than here. But not only are needy young artists in Philadelphia bought up by the traders, but we regret to say, some of a higher grade, for whom the temptation of ten or fifteen dollars for an hour's work proves too much for their loyalty to art.

certa blancha orders to have his coal-bin and gallery filled by the appropriate dealers. But, after all, who is the worse for all this? The buyer congratulates himself; the trader surely has no reason to complain, and Johnson throws off half a dozen gems a day, and keeps the pot boiling thereby and plenty in it beside. Yet we question whether Johnson, catching a glimpse of power in his trashy sketches now and then, does not contrast, with a sudden twinge, his own ignominious comfort and old Hayden, starved and defeated, lying dead beside his great work—"stretched too long upon the rack of this tough world."

ENGLISH EMIGRATION.

The question of finding the means of subsistence for a large portion of the laboring population is now being agitated in England in a manner that is likely to give it a precedence over the regulation of the Irish land tenure, the adoption of the ballot, and other matters of like character that have of late occupied public attention.

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SPECIAL NOTICES.

JOHN H. W. MAKER, FINEST CLOTHING ESTABLISHMENT, NO. 68 AND 69 CHESTNUT STREET.

BOYS' CLOTHING AND GENTLEMEN'S FURNISHING GOODS, ACADEMY OF MUSIC, THE STAR COURSE OF LECTURES.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE MERCHANTS' FUND, ACADEMY OF MUSIC, ON WEDNESDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 3, 1870.

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NEW PUBLICATIONS.

THE MAIDEN WIDOW. A SEQUEL TO THE FAMILY DOOM; or, The Sin of a Courtess. BY MRS. E. D. E. SOUTHWORTH.

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SEWING MACHINES.

WHEELER & WILSON'S Family Sewing Machine. OVER SEWING NOW IN USE.

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