

SPRIT OF THE PRESS.

Editorial Opinions of the Leading Journals Upon Current Topics—Compiled Every Day for the Evening Telegraph.

REFORM AT THE ELEVENTH HOUR.

It is to be hoped that great practical good will result, and that quickly, from the measures which have been taken for the reform of the New York Bar. Two things are perfectly obvious—that these proceedings have not been adopted a day too soon, and that the reformers have a difficult enterprise before them.

The reformers will have to fight against the open opposition of some, and the silent and sullen resistance of many more. But they ought not to be deterred by this prospect from endeavoring to free their profession from the dark and grievous scandal which has gathered so thickly upon it.

With regard to the precise means by which the bar is to be "purified," the members who conferred together on Tuesday did wisely to begin at the beginning. They put forward the claim that they ought to have more control over admissions to the bar, and that the laws "which have made access to the bar as easy as to the theatre" ought to be abolished.

No matter upon what measures they determine, we cannot but wish them success. A noble profession has been dragged in the dust, and the injury which the public has sustained in consequence can scarcely be overestimated. A man who consults with a lawyer ought to be able to trust in his honor as thoroughly as he would in that of his physician. Every one knows that there are many members of the bar here who are so trusted. The speakers at the meeting on Tuesday night, and the names placed upon the committee, are examples of this higher class.

THE REIGN OF CRIME.

Nothing in the history of Christian cities—the worst capitals in the worst ages of the past—can equal or approach the dreadful prevalence of crime in this metropolitan shambles. Scarcely a day passes without its frightful story. Our city news is just now only spared chronicling two more murders, similar in character to the Townsend butchery, by the failure of the murderous aim in both cases.

that the indulgence of its impulses was absolutely safe. The worst feature of all these crimes is the readiness with which violators of the law push minor offenses to the enormity of murder. Here is an old man in Hudson street who refuses to harbor a rogue that comes into his house, and this refusal invites a death-blow. He keeps his eye so closely on the intruder into his little shop that no chance is afforded for the theft he went to commit.

It appears to us that the first cause of the outburst of crime here is the vindictive, violent, desperate character of the ruffians of this city, and their readiness to assert and perform their own outrageous purposes, not only in defiance of all law and order, but with absolute disregard for the interests of the city they may take and the consequences that may ensue.

The Chicago Tribune has an article upon some recent remarks of ours touching this topic. Its observations, though just enough in the main, show that that journal entirely misapprehends the point of the article to which it replies. That may be its fault, or ours. In pleading for a fuller treatment in newspapers of whatever concerns society, and a freer admission to them of social topics which concern all men and women, while politics, which is the staple subject of their chronicles and controversies now, is of interest to only a moiety of men and to no women, we by no means meant to limit that treatment to such cases as were offenses against society.

SENATOR REVELS.

The election of Dr. Revels, a colored man, to the United States Senate from Mississippi, presents in direct and practical form a question arising naturally under the reconstructed condition of the South. It was not to be supposed that the colored race, admitted to equality of civil rights and political privileges by the fundamental law, would be content to exercise the merest elementary functions of citizenship—to satisfy themselves with voting white men into office, and resist the desire to have a seat in the halls of legislation.

The election of Dr. Revels presents this issue in a striking form, alike from the exalted nature of the office to which he lays claim, and from his own personal characteristics. No doubt he is an admirable type of the more intelligent colored people. He has enjoyed the advantages of a superior collegiate education, of service in the pulpit, and practice as a professor of medicine. He has mingled much with men, under favorable circumstances, and gained a good practical knowledge respecting "the ways of the world."

it before the people, and sound views of political economy. Even the conservative papers of his section approve the choice, believing as they do that no other leading member of the Republican party would be more likely to advocate a policy of moderation, generosity, and mutual forbearance. He will certainly be more devoted to the welfare of the country, and prove a truer exponent of the people's interests, than was Jeff. Davis when he occupied the seat to which the Doctor has been chosen.

The point is made that Revels is disqualified under that provision of the Constitution which requires that a Senator shall have been for nine years a resident of the United States. This resuscitates the dictum of Judge Taney in the Dred Scott case, that a negro was not a citizen, and assumes that he became such only by virtue of constitutional amendment in 1866. But the practice of the majority in Congress has been to regard all persons as citizens who are natives of the Union, and the disqualification is held applicable only to aliens who are invested with the suffrage itself through processes of naturalization.

SENSATION IN JOURNALISM.

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The laws which Congress or a State Legislature makes touch us at only a few points, and it is quite possible that a peaceable man may pass a life without being brought into direct relations with them, or even being aware of the existence of the vast majority of them. But the unwritten laws of social custom form a web which envelops us all, of both sexes, from the cradle to the grave, and which is quite as stringent and immeasurably more important than the shackles of statutory injunction or prohibition.

It is not surprising that the novelists of the present day are so much interested in the subject of the novel. It is not surprising that the novelists of the present day are so much interested in the subject of the novel. It is not surprising that the novelists of the present day are so much interested in the subject of the novel. It is not surprising that the novelists of the present day are so much interested in the subject of the novel.

THE ARMY AND THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE.

All sensible citizens will approve of the proposition to dismiss from the army such officers as are really superfluous. The number of these unnecessary officers amounts, it is said, to over five hundred, and the saving to be effected by discharging them will be something like a million of dollars a year.

But there is another branch of the national service to which the pruning knife of retrenchment could be applied even more profitably than to the army. Indeed, we are sure that it might better be lopped off altogether. While we are busy considering what we shall do with our military men, who have great claims upon us for their services during the late war, and who are now being sent to the frontiers to guard our borders, it is not to be forgotten that our relation to this class of public servants is very different from our relation to those of any other class, or that our obligations to them are of a much more sacred nature.

For instance, we are paying \$17,500 a year to the Hon. J. Lathrop Motley for the arduous labor of living in a fine house in London, eating no end of good dinners, loading the British aristocracy, and occasionally delivering a bungling and useless despatch written here in America by Caleb Cushing or Sidney Webster, and signed by Secretary Fish.

For doing about the same thing in Paris that Mr. Motley does in London, the Hon. Elihu B. Washburne also gets \$17,500 a year. Fortunately for him, however, the President is not very exacting in requiring his attendance at the French Court, and lets him off for months at a time to visit Homburg and other famous watering-places.

Now this seems a small sum compared with the total of our national expenses; but it is certainly worth saving, and in the course of time will amount to something handsome. In ten years it would come to \$5,000,000, in twenty years to \$10,000,000, and so on. We get nothing for it that is of any value. Our consuls can do, in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, all that our ambassadors do, and in the hundredth case, special envoys could be called into requisition, as they are at present.

Where is the shrewd member of the House of Representatives to attack this time-honored abuse, and make himself famous as a genuine economist? Or will all our statesmen prefer instead to turn out of office the veterans of the war, who have few friends and few votes at their command?

MR. SEWARD'S ITINERARY.

Our non-commissioned ambassador will be home before a great while. He will come to us fresh from the exciting capital of the negro-traders in Cuba, or he will bring us word of what the good folks of another island are doing in the name of liberty and annexation. To drop in upon his old friend Baez, and to visit his ruffled neighbor Saget, would be quite in order. An amiable-looking Haytien or other affairs would be altogether in keeping with Mr. Seward's character as an inquisitive peace-maker, as the soother and smoother of the wrinkled front of grim-visaged revolution.

In the short journey which Mr. Seward made through Mexico, he may have seen that picturesque country rather more in the light of a freehold than in the light of a man's property. Clear skies with memorable mountains to rest upon, all nature disposed to be a picture and to be looked at; all men ready to be his entertainers, may have seduced Mr. Seward to a charming oblivion of the distressing apology which so many actualities in Mexico are to their pretensions and surroundings. A much exaggerated country in more than one respect, it is both better and worse, no doubt, than it seems. But its revolutions almost surpass calculation, and its pronouncements are certainly more common than shocks of earthquake.

On all her institutions rests the mildew of suspicion. Something of her trust life has been frightened into the convents, and saddened into the Church, yet around both are the shadows of calumny and notoriety. Now comes to us a confirmation of the report that revolution is active in the States of Michoacan, Queretaro, Puebla, San Luis, Guerrero, and we may have to add Morelos. The situation seems hopeless, remarks A Vera Cruz paper. Under these circumstances, Mr. Seward must revise his speech to the pyramid.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

OFFICE OF WELLS, FARGO & COMPANY, No. 6 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, December 26, 1869. Notice is hereby given, that the Transfer Books of Wells, Fargo & Company will be CLOSED on the 1st day of JANUARY, 1870, at 10 o'clock P. M., to enable the Company to ascertain who are owners of the stock of the Old Ten Million Capital. The owners of that stock will be entitled to participate in the distribution of assets provided for by the agreement with the Pacific Express Company.

OFFICE PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD COMPANY. PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 25, 1870. NOTICE TO STOCKHOLDERS. The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of this Company will be held on TUESDAY, the 15th day of February, 1870, at 10 o'clock A. M., at the Hall of the Assembly Building, 8. W. Corner of TENTH and CHESTNUT Streets, Philadelphia.

OFFICE OF THE BELVIDERE MANUFACTURING COMPANY. PHILADELPHIA, N. J., Dec. 8, 1869. Notice is hereby given to the stockholders of the BELVIDERE MANUFACTURING COMPANY that the annual meeting of the stockholders of said company has been made and adjourned to the 15th day of February, 1870, at 10 o'clock A. M., and that payment of such a proportion of the dividends as may be authorized is called for on that date, from which time interest will accrue.

OFFICE OF ST. NICHOLAS COAL COMPANY, No. 205 1/2 WALNUT STREET. PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 28, 1869. Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the St. Nicholas Coal Company will be held at the Office of the Company, on MONDAY, the 15th day of February, 1870, at 10 o'clock A. M.

OFFICE OF THE LEHIGH COAL AND NAVIGATION COMPANY. PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 1, 1870. Certificates of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company, due March 1, 1870, will be paid to holders thereof, or their legal representatives, on presentation at this office on and after that date, from which time interest will accrue.

PHILADELPHIA AND READING RAILROAD CO., Office, No. 27 1/2 FOURTH STREET. PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 28, 1869. DIVIDEND NOTICE. The Transfer Books of the Company will be closed on FRIDAY, the 1st instant, and reopened on TUESDAY, January 11, 1870.

CONNELLSVILLE GAS COAL COMPANY. PHILADELPHIA, January 24, 1870. The Annual Meeting of the stockholders of the CONNELLSVILLE GAS COAL COMPANY will be held at their office, No. 34 1/2 WALNUT STREET, on MONDAY, February 7, 1870, at 10 o'clock A. M., to elect five Directors to serve for the ensuing year.

NOTICE TO SHIPPERS. THE CHEESAPEAKE AND DELAWARE CANAL will be closed, for repairs to a lock, on MONDAY MORNING, the 7th of February, 1870, and opened for navigation in a few days thereafter, due notice of which will be given.

THE PARHAM SEWING MACHINE COMPANY's New Family Sewing Machines are most emphatically pronounced to be the best and most durable of any ever made, in which all the essentials of a perfect machine are combined.

QUEEN FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LONDON AND LIVERPOOL. CAPITAL, £2,000,000. SABINE, ALLEN & DULLES, Agents, FIFTH and WALNUT STREETS.

COLD WEATHER DOES NOT CHAP. Our Glycerine Soap is the best for the face, and is sold by all the leading druggists and perfumers.

COLTON DENTAL ASSOCIATION. Our original and improved Nitrous Oxide, or Laughing Gas, and devote their whole time and practice to extracting teeth without pain.

DR. F. R. THOMAS, THE LATE OPERATOR of the Colton Dental Association, is now the only one in Philadelphia who has the honor and practice of extracting teeth, absolutely without pain, with fresh nitrous oxide gas.

WINE AND LIQUORS. THE ATTENTION OF THE TRADE IS solicited to the following very Choice Wines, etc., for sale by DUNTON & LUSON.

HER MAJESTY CHAMPAGNE. DUNTON & LUSON. 215 SOUTH FRONT STREET.

THE ATTENTION OF THE TRADE IS solicited to the following very Choice Wines, etc., for sale by DUNTON & LUSON.

COMMISSION MERCHANTS. For the sale of PURE OLD HYE, WHEAT, AND BOURBON WHISKY.

CARSTAIRS' OIL—AN INVOICE of the above for sale by CARSTAIRS & MCCALL.

WILLIAM ANDERSON & CO., DEALERS in Fine Whiskies, No. 4 North SECOND Street, Philadelphia.

COTTON SAIL DUCK AND CANVAS of all numbers and brands. Tent, Awning, Truck, Bag, Cover, etc., made to order.

SAMUEL SMITH & CO., No. 48 SEVENTH STREET, STEAM AND GAS PUMPS AND BLINDS, Taps, Fittings, and Brass Work constantly on hand.

JOHN FARNUM & CO., COMMISSION MERCHANTS and Managers of Consignments, No. 228 CHESTNUT STREET, Philadelphia.

SHIPPING. LORILLARD STEAMSHIP LINE FOR NEW YORK. RUNNING REGULARLY EVERY TUESDAY, THURSDAY, AND SATURDAY, AT NOON, except call at certain of the above ports.

FOR LIVERPOOL AND QUEENSTOWN.—Imperial Line of Mail Steamships, running regularly to call at Liverpool, London, and other ports.

ONLY DIRECT LINE TO FRANCE. THE GENERAL TRANSCATLANIC MAIL SERVICE BETWEEN NEW YORK AND HAVRE, CALLING AT BREMEN, LONDON, AND ANTWERP.

PHILADELPHIA, RICHMOND, AND NON-POLY STEAMSHIP LINE. THROUGH RATES TO ALL PORTS IN NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA.

FROM CHARLESTON TO NEW YORK WEEKLY LINE. The following steamers will leave Charleston for New York, three times a week.

FOR ST. THOMAS AND BRAZIL. MAIL STEAMSHIP COMPANY. Regular Mail Steamers sailing on the 2d of every month.

FOR NEW ORLEANS DIRECT. THE CROMWELL LINE. Steamships leaving New York for New Orleans, every Friday evening at 8 o'clock.

NEW EXPRESS LINE TO ALEXANDRIA, GEORGETOWN, AND WASHINGTON, D. C. via Chesapeake and Delaware Canals.

U. S. MAIL TO HAVANA.—ATLANTIC MAIL STEAMSHIP CO. sailing regularly EVERY THURSDAY from New York for Havana.

FURNITURE. RICHMOND & CO., FIRST-CLASS FURNITURE WAREHOUSES, No. 45 SOUTH SECOND STREET, EAST SIDE, ABOVE CHESTNUT, PHILADELPHIA.

BUY YOUR FURNITURE AND BUY YOUR BEDDING. THE GREAT AMERICAN. It is without a rival, is without a rival, being the finest, cheapest, and largest stocked Furniture and Bedding Warehouse in this city.

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