## Cuveniug ©ellegraph

(sUNDAYs mxompred),
AT THE EVENING TRLEKGRAPH BULDING, NO. 108 S. THIRD STREET


## MONDAY, FEBRUARY $31,1870$.

INDEPPENDENCE SQOARE. As artide in the Sunday Dispatch of yoatorColonial Assembly and the State Legisilature
which prove that a distinct understanding was established, more than a contury ago, that
the ground lying immediately south of th the ground lying immediately south of the
Stato House ohould remain "a publio groe
and walk forever," and that this andoratand and whs been repeatedly conifrmed and re
ing hater
affirmed by competent anthorities. The Dis. pateh also directs attention to the remarkable
fact that the city has no legal title whatever
to two lots of ground in the centro of the Whinut atreen fron of foet front by two han
whiod are ninety $\begin{aligned} & \text { nine } \\ & \text { drod and fifty-five feet deep, running baok } \\ & \text { one-half the distance of the s suquare, and it }\end{aligned}$
ond alloges that " "some day the heirs of the real
owners may turn up."
In the present state of public opinion, and would be totally wrong for the Building
Commission to attempt to either ent down the
trees on Independence Square or to lay the
foundations of new bnildings there, even if foundations of new buildings there, even
no legal difficulties arising from a defectiv
itte existed. In all justice and fairness, th people who are so deeply interested, and who
are to foot the bill for the magnificent struc nity of saying where theiri money is is toporta- ox-
pended. It would be an unpardonable outrage to take a Bnap judgment against them on this
question, and to proceed to incur heavy debts
in their name, befor
 awarding contraots, and it would be the
height of folly and injustice to take a single
additional step before their proceodings are
fully and finally confirmed alike by Councils and the tacit or formal consont of the Legis-
lature. Under the most favorable ciroum
stances, 位 will be an extremely doubtful and
dangerous proceeding to ereet buildings in In dangerousproceeding to erect buillings in In
dependence Square in the faco of the existing resstrictions and in definanee of the absenc
of a clear title to a large portion of the lan that will be oceupied. And if any new
movement is attempted, we hope the oppo-
nenta of the Independence Square project
will make prompt application for an in
 OnE of the inconveniences of being a staff
offioer in the Unitod States navy under the
present condition of aff airs is the liability of preseat oondition of affirrs is the hiability o
being court-martialled and punished for wha
appear to be heinous offenses against disol whioh to the untatored eyes of civilianss wou of the advantages of being a lifne officer is tho shore would subjeot the offender to a torm court-martial only thinks worthy of a nom
nal punishment. The difference between tho status of the line and staff in this respect
fully exemplified in the cases of Assistan Somgean Charles Henry B. Seely. Dr. Greenan elined to take from the sisk list the name whon ordered to do so by his commandin
officer. For this he was tried by a court
martini last August, and sentenced to be sus pended from rank, on furlongh pay, for two
yearr, and to be publicily reprimanded by the
Honorable Secretary of the Navy. The Hon orable Secretary of the Navy tacitly acknow-
ledged the injustice of this finding of the court, while confirming it, by remitting the
major part of the sentence, and simply givshot of the affarir was miat Dr. Greene
promptly resigned hiscommision asan Assist-
ant Surgeon in tho United States nasy, as any man with the instincts of a gentlemaa
would have done under the same circum Leentenant-Commander Seely was tried last
September for permitting the infliction of
unlawful and cruel punishments and tor unlawful and cruel punishments and tortures
upon the persons of certrinin easmen under his
command as execotive officer of the Pawnee and also for fallsely representing the facts the case to the commander of the vessol. Fo guilty, and the severest sentence that th
Soorotary of the Nave oould extort from
㭗 coort by sending its findings back to it sove-
ral times for revision, was that Lientonant duty for four yeen should be suspended from of rank for that time, and be publicly rep manded by the Honorable Seoretary of th
The Honorable Secretary of the
Navy.
They Nary confirms this "inadequate" senten
bocanse otherwise
Lieutenant-Command Seely would escape all punishment.
Thase two cases need no comment
speak plainly for themselves, and illustrato perline and staff offloers, a differonce that the latlor are endeavoring to have equalized by
asking Congross to grant them positive rank oquality with the men who now domine on an
over them. Both of these sentences were




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