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FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 1870.

GOLD 113}. A DESPATCH announces that a further decline in gold has taken place in New York this morning, the price reaching 1133, or the lowest point since the battle of Bull Run. has been in power there has been contention The second Bull Run, fought in 1862, must be referred to here, as the suspension of specie payments did not occur until that year. The disastrous defeat of the raw levies commanded by General McDowell at the opening of the conflict did not exert any immediate influence upon the money market, and it required a succession of adverse military operations as well as enorexpenditures to create a premium on gold. The nation is now restoring her credit more rapidly than it ever declined, and if the gold gamblers get a few more such blows as they have recently received. their vocation will soon be ended. The large amount of surplus revenue received by the National Government, the steady purchase of bonds and sales of gold by Secretary Bontwell, the apparent indisposition of Congress to make extravagant appropriations, and the reported diminution in the exports of bullion all unite to reduce the premium on gold, and hasten the era when specie payments can be safely and permanently resumed. Whether the present downward tendency of gold will be steadily maintained or not is a matter of comparatively small moment. Confidence in the public credit is so thoroughly re-established that nothing but a disastrous change of policy can again inspire sensible people with a distrust of the pecuniary ability and honesty of this great nation.

THE GAM LERS FRIEND.

THE consideration of the bill for the suppression of gambling was urged yesterday in the State House of Representatives by Mr. Beans, of Bucks, who called the attention of the House to the article published in THE EVENING TELEGRAPH some weeks ago, in which the names of some of the principal gamblers of Philadelphia and the location of their establishments were given. Mr. Samuel Josephs promptly took the floor in defense of the policy dealers and gamblers, and in arguing against the consideration of the bill, he exclaimed plaintively that only that morning he had privately informed the member from Bucks that the policy dealers and gamblers of Philadelphia had never been poorer than now. We can imagine the emotions of the gentle Josephs at the idea of passing any law to break up the business of his friends, the professors of faro and keno, in their present impoverished condition. According to all the rules of the "fancy," it is not the fair cording to Josephs it would be too bad, really too bad, to place the gamblers under any further disabilities, after they had been so cruelly treated by a newspaper in the publication of their names, places of business, and methods of depleting the pockets of their victims. The sacred privacy of their vocation had been invaded, and all the world had been informed exactly who and what they were, and was not that punishment enough, thinks Josephs? The House evidently thought so, and, in commiseration of the wounded sensibilities of Josephs, who had not been a le to impress the hard heart of Beans, of Bucks, in the morning, it refused to consider the bill for the present. This gives the gamblers and policy dealers another chance to convince our immaculate Legislature of the injustice of the persecutions under which they suffer. But if they are as poor as Josephs represents them to be, they will have but a slim chance at Harrisburg this winter. The average Pennsylvania legislator is not otherwise than virtuous, unless his sins are well covered up by Uncle Sam's promises to pay, and it will go hard with Mr. Josephs' friends if they are reduced in circumstances at the present moment.

EXIT PORTER.

THE New York Sun of yesterday says: -The New York Sun of yesterday says:—
"There is hope for that ancient mariner, Rear Admiral Robeson. We learn on undoubted authority that the head of the Navy Department is weary of serving as a stopper to a bottle of very gaseous Porter. He has resolved to cut the strings which have hitherto so ignominitusly bound him and assert himself. In short, Porter is to be shipped off forth with. Instead of inditing manifestoes on naval etiquette and rigging out our mariners like so many mountebanks, he is to return to his proper place on the quarter-deck. No doubt the change will be a disagreeable one to so important a personage as Admiral Porter esteems himself; but a breath of the brine and a taste of the tar-bucket will do wonders in taking the conceit out of him. Under the luxuriin taking the conceit out of him. Under the luxurious and enervating official life of Washington a very tolerable sailor was fast becoming a mere salt-water Turveydrop. A turn among the seal fisheries of Alaska will afford a wholesome change and a wel-come relief to the country."

This is almost too good to be true, and yet it would be a matter for sincere congratulation if Secretary Robeson would take the management of the Navy Department into his own hands and be Secretary in fact as well as in name. There is no doubt of one fact, and hat is that the department of which Mr. Robeson is nominally the chief is most unpopular. For this unpopularity Vice-Admiral Porter is very largely, if not entirely, to blame, if for no other reason than that he is attached to the department in a capacity unauthorized by law, and which gives him an authority and influence that he ought not to wield without some corresponding responsibility. Both in and out of the naval service it is thought by those who are best able to judge of the matter that the interests of the

chiefs of bureaus are experienced officers, and they are the proper advisers of the Secretary in matters upon which his own knowledge may be deficient, and they have been found by all previous Secretaries to be amply sufficient for the proper and efficient administration of all the affairs of the navy. For an officer to be stationed at the department as prompter to the Secretary and general factotum is something entirely unprecedented, and the evil of such an innovation has been sufficiently proved during the year that the present administration has been in power. No sooner had President Grant been inaugurated than Vice-Admiral Porter managed to establish himself at the Navy Department, for the nominal purpose of instructing the new Secretary in his duties. One of his first acts was to start afresh the old quarrel between the line and staff, and ever since he and trouble. Poor Mr. Borie soon got very sick of the job, and proceeded to get himself out of the difficulty by resigning. When Mr. Robeson was appointed, it was thought by all who knew him that Porter would very speedily receive marching orders. Mr. Robeson was reputed to have ability and pluck, and his friends asserted confidently that he would be the last man to submit to impertinent interference in the duties of his office from any-There was much disappointment, therefore, when Porter did not receive his dismissal, and as the troubles of the navy continued, the Secretary was forced, justly or unjustly, to share the unpopularity of the Vice-Admiral. He is the responsible party, and Porter's schemes are carried out in his name. It is difficult to conceive how a man of spirit can submit to appear before the country in such an anomalous position as this; and even if Secretary Robeson should commit mistakes, the country will be much more ready to forgive them if they are merely his own errors of judgment than if there is a suspicion that they are the result of bad counsel from those who have no right to dictate or even advise with regard to the administration of his office. It will be a good thing, therefore, if Porter is ordered off without further delay. He has done harm enough already for any one man, and it is time that Secretary Robeson should retrieve his credit and show whether he really has the ability to run the Navy Department in a satisfactory manner on his own hook, and without allowing himself to be made the tool of a ring of officers who are seeking to manage the naval service exclusively in their own

ANOTHER CHECK TO THE INDE-PENDENCE SQUARE PROJECT.

THE contract made by the Building Commission with Mr. McNikols for the excavation of a cellar on the Walnut street front was presented to City Councils for approval yesterday. It encountered earnest opposition in both branches, but the friends of the Independence Square project mustered a working majority in the Select branch, while in the Common Council a motion to indefinitely postpone the ordinance approving the contract was passed by a vote of 19 yeas to 18 nays. Another breathing spell is thus gained by the opponents of a measure that is exceedingly unpopular with a large proportion of the citizens of Philadelphia, and thing to hit a man when he is down; and ac- they should improve the opportunity using promptly every honorable and just means to arrest the proceedings of the Building Commission. That body acts in exceedingly bad taste, if not in clear violation of law, by awarding contracts and attempting to incur enormous expenditures in advance of an appropriation by Councils. The most rational explanation of its precipitate proceedings is to be found in its well-grounded fear that the sober second thought of the people will condemn the proposed desecration of Independence Square, and scatter to the winds the commission which is so exceedingly anxious to consummate this outrage.

The people demand a vote on this question. It would be the height of injustice to commit them against their will to the expenditure of a vast sum of money for buildings upon a site which cannot be legally used for the intended purpose, which is deemed unfit by many thousands of tax-payers, even if public convenience alone is consulted, and which the city is bound, alike by legal requirements and associations which should be deemed sacred by every true American, to maintain as a green walk for-

The centennial of the Declaration of Independence is rapidly approaching. Councils and the Legislature have invited here, on that occasion, the representatives of the industrial interests of our own country and all other parts of the civilized world. If, as may be reasonably anticipated, hundreds of thousands of strangers are attracted to our vicinity then, Independence Square will present a mortifying spectacle Councils permit it to be cut up with excavations and covered with building materials, Myriads of visitors will ask, Had Philadelphia no other spot to devote to her courts and public offices? Could she not afford to maintain agreeable and appropriate surroundings, for the brief period of a century, for the most sacred spot, in the eyes of the lovers of human liberty, in the whole world? Had she neither the sense nor the feeling to gratify a proper desire for improvement without committing a shameless act of dese-

Mr. VAMBERY has written two more articles in the Allgemeine Zeitung on the Russian expedition to Khiva, and repeats his general statements concerning Russian policy in Asia. He says it is quite natural that the Russian press should not share his opinions; but he cannot change them, both on account of his personal knowledge of the country where the conquests are going on, and of his intimate acquaintance with the intentions of the Russian Government in that quarter. The creation of a commercial route from the Bay of Krasnovodsk to the Aral Sea is, according to Mr. Vambery, a mere pretext, as the steppes to be crossed are destitute of drinkable water, and cannot be traversed during country and of the navy can best the whole of the summer season. If the Russian

at the head of the department. The it is by no means the intention of Russia to acquire a market in Central Asia, for it already has one, and the small Ehanat of Khiva, lying quite out of the way, would not interfere at all with the trade of Russia. From what he has read in the Russian papers, and from his own observations on the spot, Mr. Vambery feels convinced that Russia's final aim is the subjection of Afghanistan.

SINGULAR MARRIAGES. The following paragraph ron; the North Devon Journal of November 1, 1940. worth repeating :- "A Novel Scene.-A wedding took "pince at St. Marylebone, which was particularly interesting on account of its no-veity. The happy couple (Mr. Alfred Thomas Maxwell and Mis Rosina Paxton) are both deaf and dumb, and the ceremony was performed in the finger and sign language by the Rev. Samuel Smith, Chaplain of the Association in Aid of the Deaf and Dumb. We believe that this is the first time in this country that dactylogy and pantomime have been brought into use on such an occasion. Several of the members of Mr. Smith's deaf and dumb congregation were present to witness the ceremony.

"Singular as this marriage ceremony may appear, a much more remarkable scens of this kind occurred some two or three centuries since in my own native county, of which, perhaps, some of your readers may be able to supply further details in the interesting columns of N. and Q. In the marriage register of the parish of St. Martin Leicester is an entry of the names of Thomas Tilsey and Ursula Russell, the first of whom being 'deafe and dumbe,' it was agreed by the Bishop, Mayor, and other gentlemen of the town that certain signs and actions of the bridegroom should be admitted instead of the usual words enjoined by the Protestants' marriage ceremony. 'First (says Britton in his 'Beauties of England and Wales,' volume 9, page 357, probably qu >ting the parochial record) he embraced her with his arms and took her by the hande, and put a ringe upon her finger, and laide his hande upon his hearte and upon her hearte, and helde up his handes towards heaven, and to show his continuance to twell with her to his lyve's ende, he did it by closing of his eyes with his hande and digginge out the earthe with his feete, and pullinge as though he would ringe a bell, with diverse outher signes approved." "I shall be glad to hear of any similar customs having been practised at the nuptial ceremony in other parts of the United Kingdom.

GEORGE LINDSEY."

THE Pall Mall Gazette comments as follows on the visit of Prince Arthur to President Grant: ... We learn from the New York Herald that when Prince Arthur visited the President and Mrs. Grant the President himself made no extra embellishment of his wardrobe. "He wore a frock-coat, vest, and pantaloons of plain black, such as he usually wears in his office, and had the appearance of one who had just left his labor for a moment to interchange passing civilities." Mrs. Grant "wore a plain black silk." The Prince "was attired in a black frock-coat, grey cashmere pantaloons, and patent leather shoes. He wore his coat closely buttoned. Upon an immaculate shirt bosom he displayed several diamond studs, and around his neck a brown silk scarf. He had, however, more clothes outside the room, for when he left the room he was assisted into his overcoat by the President's valet." When the visit was over the President returned to his office, and resumed his duties as if nothing had happened; and, indee i, if we except the episude of the overcoat, nothing had happened-but how gratifying all this must be to everybody (especially to the Daily Telegraph) ! Can we imagine the possibility of any serious disagreement arising between two nations when the valet of the President of one helps a Prince of the blood royal of the other into his overcoat? Never did valet perform a nobler mission than that republican Jeames when he thus assisted a Prince-never did Prince honor himself more than in thus gracefully accepting such assistance. If the two, the Prince and the valet, could have looked beyond the mysterious film which shrouds our limited vision, they would have seen the Angel of Peace smiling through tears of joy at the scene in the President's vestibule a struggle, but not between husbands and fathers and brothers in oceans of blood diluted with the tears of the widow and the orphan. Only a struggle to get into an overcoat, one party playfully assisting the other; first the right arm, then the left. It is over now; but the buttons of that overcoat have linked two mighty nations together, and who will dare to unstitch those links of love forged by the President's valet and our own Arthur?

THE FRENCH COUR DE CASSATION has just had singular affair under its consideration. It seems that last year the Poocureur-Imperial of St. Omer called upon three master carpenters to furnish the necessary workmen to construct the scaffold for an execution. They one and all refused his request. whereupon a report was drawn up by the commis-sary of police, and the rebellious carpenters were in due course cited before the tribunal of police of St. Omer for an infraction of an old law of the First Republic, which erapowers the proper legal officers to command the services of workmen in so far as these may be essential for executing the decrees of justice. The tribunal dismissed the complaint, whereupon the Procureur-Imperial appealed to the Court of Donal, which confirmed the decision already given. No other resource was now left except to invoke the aid of the Cour de Cassation, and to that body the Procureur-Imperial now addressed himself. The Supreme Court, however, rejected his application, on the ground-first, that a report of a commissary of police is not sufficien . evidence of a fact involving an infraction of the law; and, secondly, that there was no direct refusal on the part of the master carpenters to give their individual assistance towards the construction of the work in question, but only to provide workmen for it-a piece of legal hair-splitting due to the liberal ideas lately come

THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT annually uses many thousand envelopes of a peculiar greenish tint, which are rarely seen outside of Government offices. No one, on examining them, would suspect of what they were manufactured. They are strong, smooth, and business-like in appearance, and have the letter T stamped through the fibre. Old greenbacks form the material of which they are made. The Treasury Department saves up all the bits and remnants of paper used in the manufacture of our currency, with old stamps and bills and all the mutilated greenbacks that have come back to it, and, instead of de stroving this mass of rubbish as was formerly done, the department turns it over to the paper makers. who return it in the shape of serviceable envelopes. Many dollars are annually saved to the Government by this means. These envelopes are used extensively in the Custom Houses, the Post Office, Sub-Treasury, and other Government offices.

A TRAIN composed of all the locomotives and railway carriages in Europe would reach from St. Petersburg to Paris, and would contain 400,000 pas senger carriages and 500,000 luggage vans. The railways of Europe are carried over 62,000 large and small bridges, and go through 24 miles of tunnel; 150,000,000 cwt. of iron has been used for the rails, and 80,000,000 cwt. of coals is required yearly to feed the engines. The network of European railways represents a length of 70,718 miles; 18,000 locomo tives are employed on it, and the distance these travel during the year is 60,000,000 miles.

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AN ADJOURNED MEETING OF THE CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION, opposed to secting Public Buildings on Independence Square, will be held at the Hall, N. W. corner of MARKE's and MERRIUK Streets, on FRIDAY EVENING, 4th inst., at 7% o'clock.

STEPHEN B. POULTERER, Secretary,

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NOTICE.—CAMDEN AND PHILADEL-PHIA STEAMBOAT FERRY COMPANY.—Au election for Directors of t-e above Company will be held at the Office of the Company, foot of FEDERAL Street, Camden, on SATURDAY, the 26th of March instant, between the hours of 12 and 2 o'clock P. M.

34 11 18 25 4t W. H. GATZMER, Treasurer.

CORN EXCHANGE NATIONAL BANK The Board of Directors this day granted to J. W. TOR. REY, Vice-President of the Bank, a short furlough, on account of ill health, and have appointed DELL NOBLIT, Jr., Esq., acting Vice-President in the interim.

3:33

H. P. SCHETKY, Cashier.

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