Editorial Opinions of the Leading Journals upon Current Topics - Compiled Every Day for the Evening Telegraph.

PHILADELPHIA PROFANITY.

From the N. Y. Tribune There is a certain square patch of grass overgrown by old trees, which has become, in the lapse of a century, holy ground-literally a sort of God's acre-to the people of America. It is the ground where the declaration of human rights was first given to the struggling nation as the basis of its future life, over which the old bell obeyed the legend that by a curious prophecy it chanced to bear, and proclaimed 'liberty throughout the land, to all the inhabitants thereof.

Heretofore Philadelphia has been content to fulfill the trust confided to her, and has preserved the State House and this Square intact, as, indeed, she is legally compelled to do, the ground having been ceded to her by Pennsylvania only on condition that it "should be kept a public green ferever." Perhaps she was not ignorant of the fact that it was the possession of this ground and these old buildings which actually gave her rank and place among American cities. It has become a Mecca; foreigners and Americans alike make pilgrimages to the old State House as the birth-place of Liberty. There is no spot in the country se instinct with noble meaning, or so suggestive of the highest and purest motives of our National life. We have, unfortunately, too few of such Meccas. We are too hurried a people, too full of the rank vigor and brute strength of youth, of love of money, and intolerance of the old shapes of government and civilization left behind us, to appreciate as we ought our need of a past. It is a noble thing to "make history hand-over-hand," but it is as noble to understand and build upon history. Our lakes like seas, our thousand-acre fields of corn, our magnificent mushroom cities, are matters to boast of only to a certain length. They put health into our bodies and money in our purse; but if fields and cities were stamped with the record of a mighty past, of heroic deeds or thoughts, they would serve, perhaps, a nobler purpose: we would find in them the ennobling and softening education which now we lack, and become a wiser and more thoughtful people. The nation who reads upon its soil and its buildings such a history, lives in the constant hearing of a lofty poem. It inherits honor; it knows itself of good birth—noblesse The vague consciousness of this want drives the most cultured class among us back to Europe, to claim kinship, to root into old ruins, to look at old houses. We are not content with our free institutions; to be only able to brag of our hardly earned liberty, or our pork, or cotton, or iron-clads; we want our share in Shakespeare and in Milton; in the soil where Cromwell was born or Hampden was buried. The signs of our own mental history in the two great wars for liberty are yet too close at hand for us to rightly read their meaning; our hands are full; we are in too great haste to settle the Mormon problem or the tax difficulty to listen to any great lesson which the past may have left for us. We slight the few mementoes we possess, flout at associations which foreigners coming among us hold sacred. We are in the condition of the vulgar school-boy who would make a bonfire of the records which proved his inheritance of nebility to warm himself and his ignorant companions.

Especially is this the case with our frugalminded neighbor, Philadelphia. She has tried for a long time to turn an honest penny out of the old State House and ground of which she was left in custody by the nation; she fenced in the square with offices, and even shouldered the poor old bell almost out of sight with cake-stands. Now, however, the ground has become so valuable that, although it does not in any sense belong to her, she cannot afford to be honest about it any longer, and therefore proposes to quietly squat upon it with her nest of criminal courts, and blot it now and forever out of sight. Hereafter we shall be unable to point to the spot where Hancock read the words which yet echo through the world. Philadelphia will substitute her own peculiar annals. There the murderer Probst was tried, and Haggerty broke from the Black Maria; and there can a man rid himself of any crime by straw-bail. Is it for so ill-flavored a mess of pottage as this that she is willing to sell her birthright and ours? The matter is yet undecided. It is pushed, we are told, by a few needy politicians who own property in the neighborhood of the State House. We hope this is true, and that there is enough wisdom among the people of Philadelphia to prevent an outrage so dishonest to the nation and damning to their own character for enlightenment or refinement.

THE ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY. From the N. Y. World.

Whatever may be our views of the intrinsic righteousness or of the probable beneficence of the fifteenth amendment, we can all at least unite in gratitude that its passage has extinguished that singularly disagreeable sodality of saints—the American Anti-Slavery Society.

The dissolution of that body affects us with an elegiac feeling as if an ancient monument had thereby been razed. But, in fact, the society was only twenty-five at the time of its death. The physiologists, however, and the cosmetic-makers assert that "a frown is the precursor of wrinkles;" and we may probably ascribe to the vicious temper of embittered male and female persons, the product of whose acetous fermentation was the Anti-Slavery Society, the premature hoariness of that body, and be content in its case to confound its venerableness with its vinegar. And, indeed, its members have managed to fill the whole land with the noise of their meetings, and the buds of May in this metropolis have been blighted by their brooding presence for now these many years, until it is not wonderful that their final cessation from troubling should seem to most of the generation which is now in the vigor of life to be the removal of a life-long misery.

It is not necessary to asperse the motives or even to question the procedures of the original prophets of abolition in order to feel and express a profound aversion for their successors, who have now finally dissolved themselves into the baseless fabric of a vision. The influence of the pioneers of that agitation, indeed, was rather indirect in embittering the temper of the South than direct in stirring up the people of the North to war against the accursed thing. It is true that slavery has been abolished; but the war which resulted in its abolition would have been deferred for many years if it had been postponed until the sentiment of the North should have allowed it to be waged ostensibly as a crusade against the service system , of the South. There was, to be sure, an immense dishke of slavery among the people of the North; but there was a still

to the violation of chartered rights and the infringement of a national compact, the keeping of which was strictly our business, than there was to the domestic arrangements of other States, with which it was equally clear that we were not concerned, and for which we were neither in law or morals responsible. Even when slavery was abolished not one in ten of the men who approved its abolition was willing to avow himself an abolitionist; and the President who issued the Emancipation Proclamation, to which the fifteenth amendment is a supplement, was careful to have it understood that he was using a purely military measure;—so little had the labors of the Anti-Slavery Society accomplished towards moulding the people into their own way of thinking—that slavery was a monstrosity to

be destroyed in any way or at any sacrifice.

But, whatever credit may attach to the men who organized the sentiment which the society embodied, no sentiments of any other than a ludicrous or a contemptuous sort can be aroused by the contemplation of the coadjutors whom they found when once a membership was no longer a candidacy for mar-tyrdom, and who have been described by one of themselves as the

"Folks with missions, whose gaunt eyes See golden ages rising, Salt of the earth, in what queer guys Thou'rt fond of crystallizing."

Their adherents were like the adherents of David at the cave of Adullam. Every one that was in distress, and every one that was in debt, and every one that was discontented. joined himself and clave unto the standard of Garrison. The young and yearning, the aged and despairing, confirmed celibates of every age and soured shrews of both sexes, descended like a flight of locusts upon the lyceums of the land. It is awful to reflect that it is to this society we owe it that Wendell Phillips has been hindered from making a secluded home unhappy at the cost of devastating a nation, and that Wendell Phillips is the spiritual progenitor of Anna Dickinson. We have seen the society descend from the lofty eminence on which Garrison once stood and abode the pelting of the putrid eggs of his countrymen, in really rather a heroic manner, to the abyss of degradation in which Wendell Phillips crouched as a suppliant and held a plaintive hat for the eleemosynary "chickens, boiled preferred," of his friends.

"Men are we, and must grieve when even the shade Of that which once was great has passed away." Who will decline felicitating himself that the Anti-Slavery Society has spared him the spectacle of a still deeper degradation, by folding its hands and saying its nune dimittis over the passage of the fifteenth amendment?

HONOR TO WHOM HONOR.

From the N. Y. Times. A certain obscure and moribund coterie of ex-agitators in a neighboring State will be disgusted, no doubt, at Mr. Lloyd Garrison's late letters. The Union League Club held a special meeting on Thursday night, to re-joice over the adoption of the fifteenth amendment, and one of the chief features of this meeting was a letter from the veteran William Lloyd Garrison. "Though identified with no political association," says this famous champion of freedom, "I deem it simple justice to say that whatever has been done, by political action and legislative enactment, to secure this glorious triumph, has been done exclusively by the Republican party, and by the Loyal Leaguers co-operating with it." That is precisely what most people think, though it is creditable for Mr. Garrison to award the sole merit to an erganization whose fortunes he has not shared. But what about the Phillips faction? What about the Anti-Slavery Standard? What about the knot of tea-drinking zealots who, under the defunct name of the "Anti-Slavery Society," persistently meet every May in Boston, and, finding no other "anti-slavery" topic to discuss, fall to abusing Grant, Congress, and the Republican party? Is Mr. Garrison going to leave them out in the cold? Has he no crumb of consolation for them? On the contrary, besides ignoring completely their late herculean efforts, Mr. Garrison even exasperates them by declaring that "President Grant is deserving of high praise for the support he has given to the claims of a long oppressed but now redeemed

The adoption of the fifteenth amendment is indeed due to the resolute and enthusiastic efforts of the Republican party—or let us say, rather, of that party as the political standard-bearer of the American people. It is one of the proudest honors the party can claim, and it deserves to enjoy it. Wherever the Democracy has been in power the amendment has been fought; and as it is a bright jewel in the crown of the Republican party, so it is a conspicuous and memorable triumph for General Grant that under his administration the great amendment has been carried. Mr. Garrison draws a distinction between the "moral struggle" which pre-ceded the war, and the "patriotic duty" which followed it. The former struggle, he says, "virtually ended when the first Rebel gun was fired at Fort Sumter;" but Mr. Wilson's speech here supplements the argument by declaring that it was "only in the light of battle-fields" that we could see just where the path of national duty led. At all events, the former justly declares that "at last we all stand upon the high plane of universal liberty and equality before the law, so far as complexional distinctions are concerned,' with "not a yoke to be broken," while the "result of all this cannot fail to be unexampled peace and prosperity." The time will soon come when the fifteenth amendment will be pointed at with patriotic pride by all Americans, of all parties; and the honor of its passage must go, in history, where the honor

THE LATE MR. BURLINGAME.

The Report that He was Polsoned Refuted.

Respectable journals in this country are giv-ing current to a foolish report set afloat by some lover of sensation that "a rumor exists lust. Petersburg that the death of Mr. Burlingame was caused by poisoning, the motive to the crime being the jealousy of his Chinese associates in the Embassy." Of course, like all such fabrications, no explanation accompanies it. In view of the fact that the story is having a wide circulation, to the discredit of American journalism as well as to the great injury of the honorable representatives of the Chinese Government on the Embassy, whose great grief at the loss of their chief it is difficult to appease, we are authorized to state, in behalf of the family of Mr. Burlingame, that the most posi-tive evidences exist that his death was the result of a severe cold contracted at Berlin, and for the want of sufficient care and treatment imme-diately upon his arrival at St Petersburg, in a more stern climate, where he incurred new anxieties and responsibilities, the combination of diseases set in, as publicly and officially announced at the time, which caused his sudden death. There was nothing mysterious about it.

Full particulars of all the circumstances at-

tending Mr. Burlingame's sickness and last hours the writer has been permitted to read in a private letter from one of the family of the deceased to a relative in this city. It would be improper to trench upon the sacredness of such still stronger and still more honorable dislike | say that it is a complete relutation of the wicked

report that Mr. Burlingame was poisoned, in whole and in all its ports. From a letter, written at St. Petersburg, February 25, 1870, by the second son of Mr. Burlingame, who arrived in that city from Berlin the day after his father's death, we are permitted to make a brief extract, in justice to the Chinese, of whom he speaks specially. Members of Mr. Burlingame's family in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and in this city, feel much grieved at the report referred to above, and on this account alone depart from a rule which would otherwise be highly improper under the circumstances, and permit the publi-cation of the extract alluded to, which is as fol-

The Chinese seemed perfectly broken-hearted. and poor Chih Tajen, now the chief minister, walks up and dewn all the day long, mourning for "The Great Minister," whose loss they taink can never be repaired. They always speak of him as "The Great Minister," that being, in Chinese, his title, and seem to honor him as though he was a being of some other world. They feel that they have lost their best friend." -N. Y. Mail.

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