

THE FRENCH SENATE.

Something About Its History, Constitution and... In view of the present agitation in Paris over the proposition of the Emperor to materially modify the powers and privileges of the Senate, the following from the Pall Mall Gazette will be read with interest:—

So many changes have come over France during the last few months that people were not astonished to see the Senate suddenly bestir itself and evince a zealous interest in public affairs—a zeal which has ended in calling upon the Assembly more attention than it possibly desired. A year ago a busy Senate would have been a novelty, for it was a maxim carefully inculcated upon the august assembly by Government, and religiously accepted as a postulate by the nation at large, that the last subject to which any well-regulated Senate ought to turn its thoughts is that of public business—or, indeed, for that matter, any other business than that duly chalked out for it by the discriminating wisdom of Ministers. Had it not been for the 30,000, which every Senator was in the habit of receiving each year in quarterly instalments, there were few Frenchmen who would have thought it worth while to remember that their country was blessed with an Upper Assembly at all. But as 30,000, multiplied by 120—3,600,000, the senatorial institution was one of those blessings that make themselves felt; and this occasionally induced some adventurous spirits to cross over to the left bank of the Seine, and try to discover what sort of a political body it could be that consumed so much money and made so little noise. There was something of a holy mystery about the assembly. It held its sittings in an old historical palace associated with gloomy memories of Richelieu, the Terror of '93—when it had served as a prison—the trial of the King of Poland, and of Louis Napoleon; the suicide of the Duke de Choiseul-Praslin, the "Corduroy lectures" of '48, and many other events equally dismal and distressing. All these sittings were private. Once or twice a week—but oftener once than twice—a few broughams and coaches would rumble up the Rue de Tournon and roll slowly under the archway of Marie de Medici's mansion, bearing ex-cabinet ministers, ex-prefects, ex-generals, and ex-judges, with here and there an archbishop. They all had a kind of family likeness, and the same uncomfortably conscious look of being shelved; the liveliest were the archbishops, who, if reported to, spoke much the loudest when they got inside. Now and then when the venerable procession of Ex-es had terminated, one or two quicker broughams would rattle up with solemn personages discernible through the windows. These were ministers, very sleek and well-to-do, come down to make belief to explain things which nobody there wanted to know, and to titillate the venerable Ex-es by talk of independence, patriotism, disinterestedness, and other properties quite useless as times went, as well as dangerous. Nobody was admitted to the privilege of hearing or seeing what went on within the ancient walls; but if one liked to go on the morrow there was a larger to show the imperial regime, succeeded for the second time to the republic, the idea of an Upper House recruited among all the great men ("illustrations") of the empire found general favor. Unluckily, however, at the beginning of 1852 all the great men of France were either under lock and key or in exile. It was impossible to find a great man able and willing to sit in the new Assembly. To be sure, there were plenty of persons who occupied eminent positions in their own esteem, and to whom 30,000 francs a year and the title of Senator offered seductions not to be resisted. But when these had been called into requisition, on the crust and crumb principle, they failed to impress the country with any very vivid sense of their grandeur, and from the earliest days of its existence the Senate took rank in public opinion somewhat on the same level with that estimable assembly which voted the seasoning of Tiberius' turbot. To make matters more humiliating, the Senators at first had nothing to do. Their mission, as stated on paper, was the safe-guarding of the Constitution; but as a Constitution does not run dangers every day of the week, the "great men" would have been at their wits' end for employment had not the expedient been resorted to of making them the recipients of public petitions. The French are prolific in petitions. There seems to be a whole class of persons whose chief occupation is to elaborate fantastic requests, and to drop them into the letter-box of the Legislature. The senators go through the form of reading these documents, draw up reports on them, and on set days unanimously consign them to the waste paper basket. This is unexciting work, but up to 1860 it was the only pastime the Senators had. If by any evildoer there had been a dearth of petitions in the land, the first assembly of the empire would have been reduced to the distressing necessity of pocketing their salaries without earning them. Since 1860, however, there has been a series of changes, the privileges conceded to the Senate keeping pace with those obtained by the Corps Legislatif. In 1860 came the right of voting an address in answer to the speech from the throne; in 1866 the right of suspending for a twelve-month term laws passed in the lower House; in 1867 the right of interpellation; and in 1869 the right of initiative. All these prerogatives were accepted at the hands of Government with perfect docility, though without enthusiasm. The Senate felt no special desire for the prerogatives. It had never asked for them, nor would ever have been likely to do so; indeed, it had often, in the good times, five or six years ago, denounced a greater number of them as superfluous, fraught with danger, and tending to anarchy. But what Caesar wills the Senate wills. It is no dispraise of the French Upper House that it has always, with admirable deference, sacrificed the petty vanities of personal conviction to the grand desire of remaining on good terms with the sovereign. And there can be no doubt that his Majesty's newly expressed desires as to its modification will be accepted with little murmuring.

self that the trials of the evening are over. Then comes the breaking up. The dear girls don their hoods and put on their shawls, and look so saucy and mischievous, so unimpressible and independent, as if they did not wish anybody to go home with them. Then comes the pinch, and the boy who has the most pluck goes up to the prettiest girl in the room, with his tongue clinging to the roof of his mouth, and croaking out his elbow, stammers out the words, "Shall I see you on Monday?" She touches her finger on his arm, and they walk home, feeling as awkward as two goings-on.

SHIPPING. FOR CHARLESTON, S. C. The South and Southwest, and Florida Ports. THE STEAMSHIP J. W. EVERMAN, CAPT. HINCKLEY, WILL LEAVE PIER 17, BELOW SPRUCE ST., On Thursday, April 14, at 4 P. M.

LORILLARD'S STEAMSHIP LINE FOR NEW YORK 5 cents per 100 pounds, 2 cents per foot, or 1-2 cent per gallon, ship option.

PHILADELPHIA, RICHMOND, AND BALTIMORE THROUGH FREIGHT AIR LINE TO INCREASED FACILITIES AND REDUCED RATES FOR 1870.

ONLY DIRECT LINE TO FRANCE THE GENERAL TRANSPORTATION COMPANY'S COMPANIES

FROM CHARLESTON TO FLORIDA, VIA SAVANNAH—TRIP BY SEA

FOR NEW YORK, VIA DELAWARE AND RARITAN CANAL

FOR NEW YORK, VIA DELAWARE AND RARITAN CANAL

DELAWARE AND CHESAPEAKE STEAM TOW BOAT COMPANY

NEW EXPRESS LINE TO ALEXANDRIA, GEORGETOWN, AND WASHINGTON, D. C.

INSURANCE. HOMESTEAD LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY. Policies Issued on all the Ordinary Plans, AT LOW RATES OF PREMIUM.

1829. CHARTER PERPETUAL 1870. Franklin Fire Insurance Company OF PHILADELPHIA. Office, Nos. 435 and 437 CHESTNUT ST. Assets Jan. 1, '70, \$2,825,731 67

FIRE ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA. INCORPORATED MARCH 27, 1820. OFFICE, NO. 31 NORTH FIFTH STREET

FAME INSURANCE COMPANY, INCORPORATED 1856. CHARTER PERPETUAL. CAPITAL \$500,000. FIRE INSURANCE EXCLUSIVELY.

LAW SCHOOL OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY, CAMBRIDGE, MASS. Second Term 1870-71 begins 21st February, 1870.

EDGEHILL SCHOOL, MERCHANTVILLE, N. J. FOUR MILLS FROM PHILADELPHIA. NEXT SESSION BEGINS APRIL 4.

GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS. MICHAEL MEAGHER & CO., Wholesale and Retail Dealers in PROVISIONS, OYSTERS AND TER-SHAPINS.

PATENT SHOULDER-BEAM SHIRT MANUFACTORY, AND GENTLEMEN'S FURNISHING STORE.

CORN EXCHANGE BAG MANUFACTORY, JOHN T. HALL'S. N. E. corner of MARKET and WATER Streets.

INSURANCE. DELAWARE MUTUAL SAFETY INSURANCE COMPANY, Incorporated by the Legislature of Pennsylvania, 1826. Office southeast corner of THIRD and WALNUT Streets, Philadelphia.

ASSETS OF THE COMPANY November 1, 1869. 200,000 United States Five Per Cent. Loan, San-Francisco, \$214,000.00

STATEMENT OF THE ASSETS. First Mortgages on City Property, \$796,450. Bonds, \$1,129,840. Cash in Bank and Office, \$47,020.

ASBURY LIFE INSURANCE CO., N. Y. Number of Policies issued by the five largest New York Companies during the first years of their existence:—

ASBURY HAS ISSUED 2000 POLICIES, INSURING NEARLY \$5,000,000. Reliable Guarantee Agents warranted throughout the country.

THE PENNSYLVANIA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY. Incorporated 1825—Charter Perpetual. No. 510 WALNUT ST., opposite Independence Square.

THE ENTERPRISE INSURANCE CO. OF PHILADELPHIA. Office N. W. corner of FOURTH and WALNUT Streets.

IMPERIAL FIRE INSURANCE CO., LONDON. ESTABLISHED 1803. Paid-up Capital and Accumulated Funds, \$8,000,000 IN GOLD.

PREVOST & HERRING, Agents, 84 No. 107 & THIRD Street, Philadelphia. CHAS. M. PREVOST, CHAS. P. HERRING

CITY ORDINANCES. PHILADELPHIA, March 25, 1870. In accordance with a resolution adopted by the Common Council of the City of Philadelphia on Thursday, the twenty-fourth day of March, 1870, the annexed bill, entitled "An Ordinance to authorize a loan for the erection of a bridge across the river Schuylkill at Fairmount," is hereby published for public information.

AN ORDINANCE. To Authorize a Loan for the Erection of a Bridge across the River Schuylkill at Fairmount. Section 1. The Select and Common Councils of the City of Philadelphia do ordain, that the Mayor of Philadelphia be and he is hereby authorized to borrow, at not less than par, on the credit of the city corporation, from time to time, such sums of money as may be necessary to pay for the construction and erection of a bridge over the river Schuylkill at Fairmount, not exceeding in the whole the sum of seven hundred thousand dollars, for which interest not to exceed the rate of six per cent. per annum shall be paid, half-yearly, on the first days of January and July, at the office of the City Treasurer.

RESOLUTION TO PUBLISH A LOAN BILL. Resolved, That the Clerk of Common Council be authorized to publish in two daily newspapers of this city, daily for two weeks, the ordinance presented to the Common Council on Thursday, March 24, 1870, entitled "An Ordinance to authorize a loan for the erection of a bridge across the river Schuylkill at Fairmount." and the said clerk, at the stated meeting of Councils, after the expiration of four weeks from the first day of said publication, to present to the Council one of each of said newspapers for every day in which the same shall be made.

COMMON COUNCIL OF PHILADELPHIA. PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 4, 1870. In accordance with a Resolution adopted by the Common Council of the City of Philadelphia, on Thursday, the third day of February, 1870, the annexed bill, entitled "AN ORDINANCE To create a loan for the building of a bridge over the River Schuylkill, at South Street, and for the payment of ground rents and mortgages," is hereby published for public information.

AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE A LOAN FOR THE BUILDING OF A BRIDGE OVER THE RIVER SCHUYLKILL AT SOUTH STREET, AND FOR THE PAYMENT OF GROUND RENTS AND MORTGAGES. Section 1. The Select and Common Councils of the City of Philadelphia do ordain, that the Mayor of Philadelphia be and he is hereby authorized to borrow, at not less than par, on the credit of the city, from time to time, one million five hundred thousand dollars, to be applied as follows, viz.:—First. For the building of a bridge over the River Schuylkill at South Street, eight hundred thousand dollars. Second. For the payment of ground rents and mortgages, seven hundred thousand dollars, for which interest not to exceed the rate of six per cent. per annum shall be paid half-yearly on the first days of January and July, at the office of the City Treasurer.

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FIRE AND BURGLAR PROOF SAFE STORE. NO. 63 SOUTH FOURTH STREET. JOHN FARNUM & CO., COMMISSION MERCHANTS and Manufacturers of Corsets, Ties, etc., No. 22 CHESTNUT Street, Philadelphia.