THE DAILY EVENING THE MEATH PHILADELPHIA, WEDNEEDAY, AFRIN 20, 1870.



PUBLISHED EVERY AFTERNOON (SUNDAYS EXCEPTED). AT THE EVENING TELEGRAPH BUILDING, No. 108 S. THIRD STREET, PHILADELPHIA.

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The Price is three cents per copy (double sheet); or eighteen cents per week, payable to the carrier by whom served. The subscription price by mail is Nine Dollars per annum, or One Dollar and Fifty Cents for two months, invariably in advance for the time ordered.

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 1870.

DISHONEST OFFICIALS - SHALL THEY BE DEFENDED OR DE-POSED?

DURING the late war, when the expenditures of the Government frequently amounted to several millions of dollars in a single day. and when the air was rife with rumors of extravagance and corruption, nothing did so much to allay the prevailing fears of financial ruin and to maintain public confidence as the course pursued by some of the resolute Republican members of Congress and by Edwin M. Stanton. When a public official or contractor was accused, on plausible grounds, of dishonest practices, searching investigations were speedily instituted, and when guilt was proven appropriate punishments were inflicted. The efforts of the Democratic press to make capital out of these accusations were invariably nullified by this straightforward policy. If Congress and the Secretary of War had condoned the offenses of every man who professed to be a Republican, and if mere lip-service to the Union and liberty had conferred a license to steal and cheat, the debt would have inevitably been swelled to tens of thousands of millions, repudiation would have become unavoidable, and the Rebellion could not have been crushed. Among all the mighty influences which combined to save the nation, none was more powerful than the emphatic manner in which contractors and officials of high and low degree were warned that Republicanism could not be used as a shield for rascality. Now that peace is restored the pressure of the debt still compels the recognition of the principle of action which saved the public credit from prostration. We trust that Republicans will continue to rule the country they have rescued and redeemed, but the American people will not and should not permit partisan professions of any description to justify the retention of heartless knaves in office. Honesty is an indispensable qualification for every responsible position, and the politicians who lack this essential virtue should be kicked out of office and kept out, though they have spent their whole substance and their best energies in the service of the Republican party. The only decent excuse for the existence of partisan organizations must be found in their real or presumed ability to advance the public interest, and when they become the apologists or supporters of leaders who are notoriously dishonest and corrupt they cease to deserve the respect or support of intelligent and consci entious citizens. Bearing in mind these general assertions, which are so self-evident that they need no elaboration, we are astonished at the frequency with which public men accused of peculation or of improper conduct in office are zealously defended for purely partisan reasons. If a Republican official has been guilty of a grave offense, Republicans have a far deeper interest than the Democrats in urging his removal from office, for they are incited to this course not only by a desire to protect the national interests committed to their charge, but by the necessity of warding off from their organization all share of the odium which properly belongs to the offender alone. When Republican organs become champions of criminal office-holders they suffer their zeal to outrun their judgment, and do more than the most earnest Democrats to weaken public confidence in the great party of the nation. No public man, high or low, is above criticism, and the permanence of the Republic depends in a large degree upon the ability and willingness of the people to keep a tight rein upon their greatest favorites. Recently General Howard, who has gained a very strong hold upon the affections of all patriotic and philanthropic Americans, by his useful service during the war and by his devotion to the interests of the freedmen, has been formally accused of sundry public offenses, and these charges are now undergoing Congressional investigation. If the charges prove to be groundless we will sincerely rejoice in his acquittal, but if he really is guilty, we hope he will be quickly disgraced and deposed from office. He has been arraigned before a tribunal which, so far as it can be affected by feelings of partiality one way or the other, is prepossessed in his favor, and if his official conduct is unimpeachable he has nothing to fear from a Republican Congress. If, however, Fernando Wood can substantiate any material portion of his allegations, General O. O. Howard should be disgraced and dishonored, though he were the head of ten Freedmen's Bureaus and the hero of a hundred battles. Neither bravery, philanthropy, or professions of Christianity or of Republicanism should be made an impenetrable cloak for corruption. Injustice to the whole body of the people, and fraudulent malappropriations of the public moneys, cannot be stoned for by devotion to any class or fidelity to any principle. The man who systematically resorts to the practice of putting a penny into the urn of poverty for the purpose of acquiring opportunities to take a shilling out belongs to the very meanest species of the human race, and any attempt to palliate such conduct involves as great a blunder as a party can well commit. The most serieus danger that now menaces the Republican organization arises from the misconduct of men whom it has elevated into high positions, and it can find safety only in treating them as unmercifully as it treated Andrew Johnson after he abandoned its cherished principles.

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- NOTICE .- A MEETING OF

voted affirmatively because he desired the ratification of the fifteenth amendment, and would not be found voting with the Democracy on a party issue.

Then the Senate took the question up, and kept hammering away at it until two o'clock this morning. The first square vote of importance in which this body indulged was on the 14th of April, when an amendment offered by Senator Williams, striking out the Bingham proviso and inserting a provision that the next election for members of the Legislature shall be held in November, 1872. was rejected by a bare majority of one vote-24 yeas to 25 navs-Senator Revels, whose maiden speech had been an earnest appeal in favor of extending the term of the present government, being absent from the capital on a lecturing tour. Another week was then given to buncombe speeches, and last night at half-past 11 o'clock the voting commenced, winding up at 2 o'clock this morning, at which hour the bill as it came from the House was so modified that, as Senator Sumner remarked, it would not be recognized by "the oldest inhabitant." It passed finally in the shape of a substitute for the whole bill, offered by Senator Pomeroy, which declares the present government of the State provisional, constitutes it the Third Military District, and provides for an election for members of the Legislature on the 15th of November next. This substitute was first passed as an amendment by a vote of 36 to 23, and afterwards in the shape of a substitute by a vote of 38 to 23, all the Democrats and the Republican opponents of the Bullock regime favoring it. Before the business was wound up an amendment was carried, by a vote of 32 to 26, which authorizes the President to suppress violence in the State, and still another, by a vote of 48 to 9, which provides for calling into service the militia of the State. As thus doctored up, the bill passed finally by a vote of 27 to 25, the opponents of the Bingham proviso generally voting against it.

The action of the House upon the bill is problematical, but it is to be hoped that it will be prompt and decisive, whether favorable or unfavorable, and that this miserable Georgia muddle will be speedily ended, so that both branches of Congress will have an opportunity to turn their attention to matters of vital importance to the country, without any more needless and vexatious delay

## THAT ARCTIC EXPEDITIO

THE Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. before whom the rival Arctic explorers, Dr. Hayes and Captain Hall, have been pressing their claims, has agreed to settle the dispute by referring the whole matter to the President, and for that purpose has reported a bill authorizing an expedition to the Polar regions, and appropriating the sum of \$100,000 for the purpose. The selection of a commander is left with the President, and he is further authorized to detail any officer of the public service to accompany the expedition and to use any suitable public vessel. The CITIZENS of the FOURTH WARD

will be held at the PHILADELPHIA INSTIT THURSDAY EVENING, April 21, to take action the call of the General Committee. All are in attend. O. V. CATTO, Pre-J. W. BARBETT, Secretary.

"PUT MONEY IN THY PURS "PUT MONEY IN THY PURSI Lecture on the above subject, by Rev. H. M LAHER, Pastor of the First Baptist Church, Br N. Y., at the TABERNACLE BAPTIST CH CHESNUT Street, west of Righteenth, on MO EVENING, April 25, 1870, at 8 o'clock, in aid of 1 sion work of the young people of the church. Tic cents, at the Piane Rooms of J. R. Gould, No. 223 ( street, and at No. 539 Arch street. 2 Hab

J. HENRY SMYTHE, ESQ., deliver a lecture in the Tabernacle Baptist Chemut street, west of Eighteenth, under the aus the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Socie WEDNESDAY EVENING, 20th instant, at before eight o'clock. Subject-"Contrasts and tions." Public invited.

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