Evening Telegraph (SUNDAYS EXCEPTED).

AT THE EVENING TELEGRAPH BUILDING. No. 108 S. THIRD STREET.

PHILADELPHIA.

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TUESDAY, MAY 10, 1870.

THE HOWARD INVESTIGATION. THE investigation of the charges preferred by Fernando Wood against General Howard is still progressing, and if some of the newspaper reports of the proceedings are reliable, damaging disclosures have been made. It would be unjust to the distinguished head of the Freedmen's Bureau to give full credence to the allegations of his enemies before he has had an opportunity to defend himself, but as the case now apparently stands it will be no easy matter to maintain his reputation for official integrity. The Howard University seems to have been a pet project with the General. He not only lavished upon it his careful attention, but an undue amount of the money of the people, and it is asserted that he permitted a considerable portion of these sums to find its way into the pockets of his especial friends and partners in business, if not into his own individual custody. This pet University is an educational institution incorporated by Congress, nominally for the instruction of loyal refugees and freedmen, to be located in the District of Columbia. and it was founded on the idea that while the Government was to liquidate the whole expense of the edifice, it was to belong to the trustees or incorporators after it was finished. The taxpayers of the United States are now paying an annual rental of \$3000 for the use of the University, and \$5000 for the hospital. It is alleged that public money and property valued at nearly nine hundred thousand dollars was contributed, partly by direct Congressional appropriation and partly by the orders of General Howard, to create the institution which the people must now pay rent for, the bulk of this money and property being taken from the Freedmen's Bureau fund. Of \$263,000 appropriated to aid schools for refugees and freedmen throughout the whole country, Howard University obtained \$150,000, or nearly three-fifths. On the University and Hospital buildings more than \$300,000 of the Freedmen's Bureau money was expended, and lands, barracks, and farms were freely converted to the use of this favorite institution. Public money, however, has been lavishly spent heretofore on other projects; and if General Howard had honestly disbursed all the sums in question, it is doubtful whether he would be censured by Congress. The worst allegations against him are that the University project was converted into a private speculation for his individual benefit, and the enrichment of his special friends; and we need not say that if these charges are true he deserves condign punishment. is alleged that extortionate prices were paid for some of the materials used in the building, and that General Howard, being interested in a Patent Building Brick Company, insisted that the edifice should be constructed of this new-fangled material, which proved on trial to be so worthless that portions of all the buildings fell down, and that sundry other speculations resulting in a serious loss or increased expenditure to taxpayers and in pecuniary gain to General Howard and his special friends were authorized by the head of the Freedmen's Bureau. If these accusations can be explained away we shall be very glad to record such explanations, but if not, the people should insist on the rigid application of the old doctrine that "if our kings will do such things they must be made to smart.' SILLY SUSAN. SESAN B. ANTHONY came very near making a fool of herself the other day, at a womau's suffrage convention in New York. That she should be guilty of doing so on general principles will perhaps surprise no one who is familiar with her vagaries, but that she should have done so in the way she did will surprise many who have heretofore given her credit for a little common sense and a fair appreciation of simple justice. On the occasion referred to, Susan undertook to champion the cause of a certain female doctor of this city who recently figured in our columns because of her refusal to pay the same amount of tax as is exacted by the Government from a man who makes his living by prescribing physic for the ailing. Miss Anthony, by way of encouragement to the rebellious doctress, declared that she hadn't rendered her tax account, and didn't propose to do so. "If they want to put me in jail," she added, "I'll go. I haven t any property to attach except the dress Anna Dickinson gave me on my birthday." If such is the case, and it would not be considered impertinent on our part, we should like to know what has become of the \$200 "nest egg" which the sepulchral Anna deposited in the pocket of Susan's semi-centennial birthday gown, as well as of sundry other gifts which the latter received on the occasion of turning her first half century withou the aid and comfort of a husband. Miss Anthony's silly remarks on the subject of taxation are about on a par with al! the balderdash which women of her ilk rid themselves of in connection with this female suffrage business. She and all the rest of them have planted themselves on the platform that a man has no rights which a woman is bound to respect. Happily, the vast majority of American women are not disposed to follow their ridiculous example. SENATOR WILSON is reported to have said, the other day, "Everybody knows that there never has been, at any rate during the last dozen or fifteen years, a Congress that has sat more hours, or that has talked more and altogether in a very creditable and retiring done less than the present Congress." If fashion. Between him and "Brick" Pome- that it would have been removed in a few weeks.

Senator Wilson did not say this --- and the only authority we have for it is the Washington correspondent of the New York World-he might well have said it without damaging his reputation for veracity. The present Congress has trifled with the patience of the people in a most outrageous way, and the worst of it is, there appears to be no disposition on its part to do any better. The people can apply the remedy next fall.

REWARDS AND PUNISHMENTS IN THE NAVY.

SECRETARY ROBESON, ever since he has been at the head of the Navy Department, has urged the necessity for making the naval service popular with seamen. This it cartainly is not at present, as is apparent from the fact that it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to procure competent men for vessels that are now fitting out. The navy offers numerous advantages over the merchant service, and a large number of the better class of seamen would undoubtedly prefer it, if something in the general conduct of the officers, and something especially offensive in the discipline, did not make them shun our national ships. Several cases of outrageous crucity to seamen that have been made public lately furnish at least a partial key to the difficulty, and there is good reason to believe that, even when not cruel, commanders are often unnecessarily arbitrary with their men, and for no sufficient reasons deprive them of many privileges that they ought to enjoy. The efficiency of the navy depends quite as much upon the enlisted men as upon the officers; and if it is expected that it shall be prepared to meet any sudden call, trained seamen must be encouraged to consider our national men-of-war as their proper homes, where they will be sure of good treatment if they behave themselves, and where a faithful performance of duty on all occasions will be recognized and rewarded by those in authority. Some months ago Secretary Robeson issued a circular calling attention to this matter, and impressing its importance upon the commanding officers of the navy. He has now prepared a plan for the classification of offenses and punishments on board vessels of the United States Navy, with directions as to good conduct lists, badges, discharges, liberty on shore and liberty money, that has some excellent features and that is at least worth a trial. The merit of this plan is that it gives the navy a system by which a definite inducement is held out for good conduct, and by which the men can know exactly what to expect in case they do their full duty, without being dependent for reward upon the caprice of their officers.

The plan of the Secretary is to divide the crew of each vessel into four classes in the order of good conduct. The first-class men are to be allowed every opportunity for recreation that may be compatible with the demands of duty and the exigencies of foreign service, and an appropriate distinction is to be made between them and the rest of the crew, but without its being so marked as to excite discontent. One of the privileges of this class is to go on shore very frequently when in port, after the work and exercises are ended, to return at 10 o'clock, but on special occasions to have leave until a later hour. They are also to have liberty on shore for twentyfour hours twice a month at the discretion of the commander and the privilege of drawing one-third of their monthly pay while in port. The second, third, and fourth class conduct men are to have these same privileges in less degrees, according to their standing. The requisite qualifications for first-class conduct men are strict attention to duty, implicit and ready obedience to orders, sobriety, alacrity, courageous conduct, neatness of person and dress, quiet and respectful demeanor, and general usefulness. This classification is to be irrespective of rating. At the end of a cruise first-class conduct men will receive good conduct badges before being discharged; the badges to be presented by the commander at a special or a general muster. These good-conduct badges are to be worn by the men at general muster and at all occasions of ceremony. The second-class conduct men are to receive good conduct discharges if they have been but slightly behind the first-class requirements, but they are not to receive badges. A good-conduct badge is to be considered an advantage as a recommendation in re-entering the service or in seeking other employment. In addition to the above, a classification of punishments that may be inflicted by commanders of vessels, without resorting to summary or general courts-martial, has been made. The punishments are solitary confinement for from three to seven days on full rations or bread and water, without irons; confinement from three to ten days in double irons on full rations; confinement from three to ten days in single irons, or without irons, with full rations; confinement over night; reduction of rating; deprivation of liberty on shore and extra duties. The offenses are those usual violations of discipline that require punishment and thatdo not demand a court-martial, and by arranging them in this manner, with their proper punishments specified, the men can know what to expect, and no possible excuse is offered to officers for punishments that have in them any of the elements of cruelty. Such a system as this, if properly carried out, ought to promote greatly the efficiency of the navy and aid in removing many of the prejudices against it that are now held by some of our best seamen.

I roy there should be no hesitation whatever. A quiet, modest, non-speaking Morrissey is incomparably better than a poisy, impudent, blatant "brick" like Pomeroy; and we trust that if the Democracy of the Fifth district of New York can find no better successor for him than the latter, they will give him at least the customary second term.

THE VOTE IN FRANCE.-Later returns of the vote in France on Sunday indicate a much larger majority for the plebiscite than was at first reported, but the negative vote still foots up about 1,500,000, which, in view of the past, is significant. The large negative vote cast in both the army and navy shows that there are thousands of men in the service of the Government upon whom no dependence could be placed in case of an insurrection, unless, indeed, the vote has been doctored up by the Government, and thousands of soldiers and sailors induced to vote "No" for the sake of an appearance of fairness. But peaceable as was the election throughout France, the crisis did not pass without the almost inevitable attempt at barricading the streets, an attempt which was as futile as, under the circumstances, it was foolish.

WASHINGTON TERRITORY has made up its mind to become a State forthwith, and on the 6th of June will vote upon the question as to whether or not a Convention shall be called to draft a State Constitution. But it is said that the people of this distant region are so bent and determined upon acquiring the honors and duties of statehood that the election will be a mere ceremony. The trifling circumstance that the total population of the Territory foots up only 40,000 does not appear to trouble the Washingtonians in the least. But perhaps they will be content with one-fourth of a Congressman, which will be about as much as they are entitled to. As to the matter of Senators, they will of course insist on having as much voice in the Upper House of Congress as is accorded alike to great, populous States like Pennsylvania and Delaware.

A CHICAGO PAPER complains that the Illinois State Constitutional Convention now in session at Springfield seems to be actuated solely by the desire to ruin the business of the former city, and with that object in view an amendment to the Constitution has been submitted to the convention prescribing that unfaithfulness to the marriage vow shall henceforth be the only ground for divorce. Here's a chance for Beecher and Frothingham to go on a missionary tour. The other day the convention was on the point of incorporating in the Constitution a clause allowing women to vote, when in stepped a weak-minded sister who, by a few welldirected points, managed to avert the calamity. The great apostles of the affinities might be equally successful in saving the divorce system of Chicago from utter ruin.

THE CREDITORS of a certain bankrupt down at the Hub are petitioning Congress to relieve his estate from the payment of some \$15,000 which are charged against it by way of taxes, and it would not be surprising if Congress turned a favorable car to the appeal. The whole country is making a similar petition, but that is a vastly different thing. While it is comparatively an easy matter to relieve one man of a burden, when it comes to raising the load from thirty or forty millions of people the task assumes such gigantic proportions that even Congressmen stand aghast, and seek refuge in buncombe speeches on the beauties of self-government. SCRANTON is getting to be one of the great places of the earth. It has just witnessed the erection of a house by a private citizen which "in the wonderful combination of utility with elegance" far exceeds "the costly splendors of the Eastern world, the Mosque of Omar, and the Golden Palace of Nena Sahib at Calcutta, as well as the regal dwellings of the Queen of England." We would scarcely believe all this if a Scranton editor who "has seen" the "the costly splendors of the Eastern world," and everything else with which he compares the wonder of Scranton, did not vouch for its truth. A FRENCH paper complains bitterly of the present fashions. According to it the laws of taste have been repealed, and all is in confusion. Women are such slaves to fashion that they adopt all sorts of ugly and ruinous trappings. If the autocrats of the scissors and thimble insisted on dressing them in dusters they would not murmur; some seven or eight hundred francs would be spent on a costume which, when the fancy for it had passed off, would at least serve to wipe the dishes. This would be something, for many of the useless adjuncts to dress are useless when the rage for them is over. Bonnets are worn which do not cover the head or shield the face from dust, sun, and wind. The improbable and impossible braids of hair worn with these bonnets deceive no one, and do no good to any one but the hairdresser. Crinoline has, indeed, entirely disappeared, but in its stead we have starched petticoats with puffs, balloonings, perpendicular trimmings, horizontal trimmings, etc., to a bewildering extent. Little plates poised on the forehead serve as hats, and broad ribbons are twisted round the neck, in consideration of which excess the ends of the sash are curtailed. Skirts are not worn long enough to display the elegance of a train or short enough to be convenient for walking. But as regards convenience, great novelties are promised for travelling and sea-side costumes. Such modifications are to be made in feminine attire that a school-boy out for the holidays will, it seems, be the fashionable model. doctors in all that relates to their profession is very praiseworthy, but it is to be feared that, owing to the difficulty which exists in obtaining fit subjects for experiment, they occasionally make use of their patients, who, when they think they are being treated with a view to immediate recovery, are really converted into stepping stones for the advancement of science. A curious illustration of this will be found in a lecture "introductory to the study of diseases of the skin," by Dr. McCall Anderson, which appeared in the London Lancet recently. Hementions the case of a little boy who was brought into the Glasgow Skin Infirmary laboring under a disease called lupus varicosus. No local treatment was prescribed (says Dr. Anderson), but he was ordered to take a tablespoonful of cod-liver oil three times a day, in order that the stadents might have an opportunity of observing the action of cod-liver oil in such cases. The eruption improved very slowly, and it was about nine months before it had completely disappeared. Had appropriate local treatment been adopted simultaneously, there is no doubt

CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES IN VERMONT. THE people of Vermont to-day are engaged in voting for delegates to a State Convention, which will meet at Montpeller on the eighth of June next, to approve or reject the amendments to the State Constitution, which were proposed by the late Council of Censors. The propositions will be voted upon by the Convention separately, and such as receive a majority in that body will become part of the State Constitution. The points of the several proposed amendments are as follows :--

Article 1 forbids the Legislature to create, or to enlarge or diminish the powers of corporations, by special acts, except for municipal purposes. Article 2 provides for biennial sessions of the Le-gislature, instead of annual ones, as the rule now is, and for a corresponding change from one year to two years in the term of service from State and county officers, and of Senators and town Representatives. Article 3 provides that the Legislature may by law

provide for the filling of vacancies in the office of Senator or town Representative.

Article 4 provides that the Judges of the Supreme Court shall be appointed by the Governor by and with the consent of the Senate, and for the term of six years, one-third of them being appointed once in two years. In case Article 2 is adopted and Article 4 is rejected, it is then proposed to make the term of judicial service two years instead of one, as at present.

Article 5 provides that women may vote with no Article 5 provides that women may vote with no other restrictions than those imposed on men. Article 6 provides that in the year 1850, and in every tenth year thereafter, the Senate may by a vote of two-thirds of its members propose amend-ments to the Constitution, which, if concurred in by a majority of the members of the House of Representatives, shall be entered on the journals of both houses, and referred to the next General Assembly and published in the newspapers of the State. If the said next General Assembly shall by a majority of the members of each house concur in the proposals of amendment, or any of them, then the General Assembly are to submit the amend-ments so concurred in to a direct vote of the freemen ; and such of the proposed amendments as shall receive a majority of the votes of the freemen voting thereon shall become a part of the Constitution of the State. The House of Representatives is in-vested with the power of impeachment, by a vote of the State, two-thirds of its members, and the 43d article of the present Constitution, providing for a Council of ensors, is abrogated. The first and second of these proposed amend-

ments are dictated by sound statesmanship, and it is to be hoped that they will both be adopted. The fifth, we imagine, is defeated in advance. SPECIAL NOTICES. For additional Special Notices see the Inside Pages.

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"BRICK" POMEROY, that "red-hot" specimen of Egyptian Democracy, threatens to become the successor of John Morrissey in Congress, although he considers the latter "a first-rate fellow," and confesses that he "rather likes him." Morrissey appeared in his seat for the first time during the present session a few days ago, and since he has been a member of the House has behaved himself