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WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 1870.

THE CHRISTIANITY OF CHRIS-TIANS.

The reunion of the two chief branches of the Presbyterian Church in the United States is an occasion for congratulation with good men of all shades of religious opinion. A quarrel that was discreditable to the religious belief of its participants has been brought to a satisfactory termination, and the influence for good of a great and important Christian organization increased tenfold. There is no doubt that the squabbles that are continually occurring in churches, in denominations, and between different sects of Christians, do more harm to the cause of religion than all other influences put together, and it is therefore the manifest duty of those who profess to represent the religious interests of the nation to set the example in avoiding occasion for offense, and in endeavoring to promote sentiments of good fellowship among these who differ in opinion. At the breaking out of the Rebellion the action and language of religious men and of religious bodies, so far from being influenced by that spirit of charity which St. Paul pronounces the greatest of Christian virtues, were distinguished by a rancor that was scarcely equalled by the political disputants. Several of the religious denominations of the South severed their connection entirely with their Northern brethren, and one distinguished clergyman, occupying the highest office in the denomination to which he belonged, threw off his sacred robes and donned the uniform of a general in the Rebel army. Since the conclusion of the war, when it is the manifest duty of all good men to aid in healing the wounds caused by four years of strife, the great work of reconstruction has been obstructed quite as much by the opposition of influential religious societies as by any other cause. A few days ago the Southern Baptist Convention unanimously adopted a report against co-operation with the Northern Baptists, and in the Southern Methodist Episcopal Conference the overtures for a union made by the Northern Church were declined. We have here two of the most extensive and influential religious denominations at the South deliberately ignoring one of the chief principles of the creed that is preached Sunday after Sunday in their churches; and while it is in the highest degree creditable to the Northern Methosts that these overtures shoul come from them, the rejection of such offers of Christian union on the part of members of those sects at the South does not angur well for the religious future of the late Rebel States. In view of the action of the Southern Baptists and Methodists the meeting of the first General Assembly of the reunited Presbyterian Church in this city to-morrow is an event of even greater importance than it would be otherwise. It is true that the quarrel in the Presbyterian Church was not complicated by the element of politics, but the reconciliation is no less a matter of congratulation, and while it cannot fail to increase the strength and influence for good of the denomination, it will set an example which it would be well for others to follow. All contests between brethren of the same religious belief are not only discreditable, but they bring the whole cause of Christianity into contempt, and give occasion for the ungodly to rejoice; and such a meeting as that appointed to take place to-morrow will be an occasion for sincere congratulation not only to those immediately interested, but to all who believe in the good influences of religion in promoting the welfare of the country, and who think that those who profess to teach and preach the precepts of the divine Founder of the Christian religion should themselves set an example of long-suffering and brotherly kindness, seeking to be numbered among those who will be entitled to the reward promised to the peace-makers.

came Mayor of Clermont, and in 1863 a | member of the General Council. This same year likewise witnessed his election to the Corps Legislatif from the first circumscription of Puy-de-Dome, the election of 1869 resulting in his retaining his seat for another term.

M. Charles Ignace Plichon, who succeeds the Marquis de Talhouet as Minister of Public Works, is, politically speaking, a slight improvement on the two other new members of the Cabinet, although his mild opposition to the Government during the ten years he has sat in the Corps Legislatif as Deputy from the Department of the Nord has been tempered by strong conservative leanings and a vigorous advocacy of the occupation of Rome by the French.

By the withdrawal of Daru, Buffet, and De Talhouet, M. Ollivier has been separated practically from the "Left Centre" party to which they belonged, and the contemplated reconstruction of this party, as announced by the cable despatch, will doubtless place it on a platform of open and defiant opposition to the present galvanized Imperial Cabinet.

THE REMOVAL OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

Two crites are agitated over the project for the removal of the national capital. St. Louis hopes and wishes that it may be removed, and to St. Louis, and Washington hopes that it may remain where it is, now and forever. Outside of the limits of these two municipalities, nobody is particulary interested in the matter, and the arguments hitherto advanced in favor of the removal are not sufficiently forcible to convince the majority of the nation that it is either necessary or expedient, so that it has not been possible to get up any great amount of enthusiasm on the subject. If the question of locating the seat of government were now to be brought before the people for the first time, it is tolerably certain that Washington would not be the place chosen, and St. Louis would have as good if not a better chance than any other city on the continent. With the facilities for travel that exist at this day, however, arguments in favor of placing the national capital at or near the geographical centre of the country will have comparatively little weight, especially as there are many other things of more importance to be considered, and the mere fact that no very decided objections can be urged against Washington, and that a removal will necessitate the abandonment of the present costly public buildings and the construction of others, are sufficient reasons why the capital should be kept where it is, for present at least. The St. the Louis people, however, are dead in earnest about their project, and although the "national" convention held there last October failed either to represent the nation or to create any great impression, the Executive Committee appointed by it have determined to call another convention, to be composed of delegates from all the States and d the District of Colum meet in Cincinnati on the 25th of next October. This convention is composed of three delegates from each Congressional district, six from each State at large, three from each Territory, and three from the District of Columbia, to be appointed by the Governors of the States and Territories respectively, and by the mayor of the city of Washington. The Executive Committee have decided that if for any reason the Governors should fail or refuse to appoint delegates, the appointments shall be made by State Conventions, called for the purpose; but as they have proposed no plans for the payment of the expenses of the delegates, the prospects of a very full attendance at Cincinnati in October next are at the present time of writing rather slim. THE PRESS IN FRANCE. A CABLE despatch from Paris states that "the Marsellaise has been condemned for offenses against the Emperor, and exciting hatred against the Government," and as a punishment for these imputed crimes the writer of the objectionable article has been sentenced to six months' imprisonment, and five thousand france fine; the managing editor has been condemned to one year's imprisonment, and s fine of one thousand francs; and the publication of the journal has been suspended for two months. These sentences show that the pretense that France possesses a free press is but a hollow mockery, and that the affected liberality of the Emperor ceases the instant that he believes himself to be dangerously assailed. He has no faith in free dis cussion, no confidence in the ability of his journalistic supporters to repel the assaults of his foes, and his prosecutions of writers, editors, and publishers are humiliating confessions that he is conscious of his inherent weakness, and that he dare not permit the people to read a spirited exposition of his policy and pretensions. In deference to the spirit of the age he was reluctantly compelled to permit the establishment of a free press in theory, but his devices to overwhelm with pecuniary ruin. and to confine with dungeons, bolts, and bars every vigorous opponent of his dynasty, prove that no such freedom exists in practice, and that French writers and printers have a sword perpetually suspended over their heads. Any spirited anti-imperial article

verdicts. While we pity France for the evils ber citizens must suffer in consequence of her press being manacled, we should not forget that perfect freedom has not yet been secured in our own country, and that legislators are elected in Pennsylvania year after year who boast of their hostility to the needed reforms.

THE NEW YORK RLECTION. THE Democracy are jubilant over the result of the election in New York; but as no principles were at stake, and as the Republicans in the rural districts made no serious efforts to counterbalance the large Democratic majority that can on all occasions be easily rallied to the polls in New York city, the contest possesses no special significance. In any event the Republicans will obtain two out of the six Associate State Judges who were voted for, and as a party they were never inclined to work as hard as their opponents for victory for the mere sake of victory. The vote was unusually light, and the New York Democrats polled something more than their usual proportion of it, and the essential features of the contest may be summed up in this brief statement. If the Republicans wish to maintain their ascendancy in other States, and their decisive majority in Congress, however, they must not be unmindful of the resolute efforts of the Democratic politicians, despite innumerable defeats, to make the greatest possible show of strength on little as well as big occasions; nor neglectful of the precautions and exertions which are necessary to secure a full array of Republican strength at the polls.

THE REPORT of the Commercial Exchange of Philadelphia gives foreible expression to the deep hostility of the merchants and manufacturers of this city to the income tax and the other forms of unnecessarily oppressive internal taxation, as well as to the schemes for a premature resumption of specie payments. It should be the aim of Congress to make the burdens as light as possible on a generation which has already suffered and lost so much, instead of encumbering the business men of this era with unnecessary loads, and threatening them, on all sides, with ruinous exactions. The great crash which croakers have been threatening will surely come if the insane attempts to force men to make in a day payments which should be distributed through a series of years are continued. If the internal revenue taxes are reduced, protective duties maintained, and the volume of well-secured currency increased rather than diminished, all will go well-but the opposite

course plainly invites ruin.		
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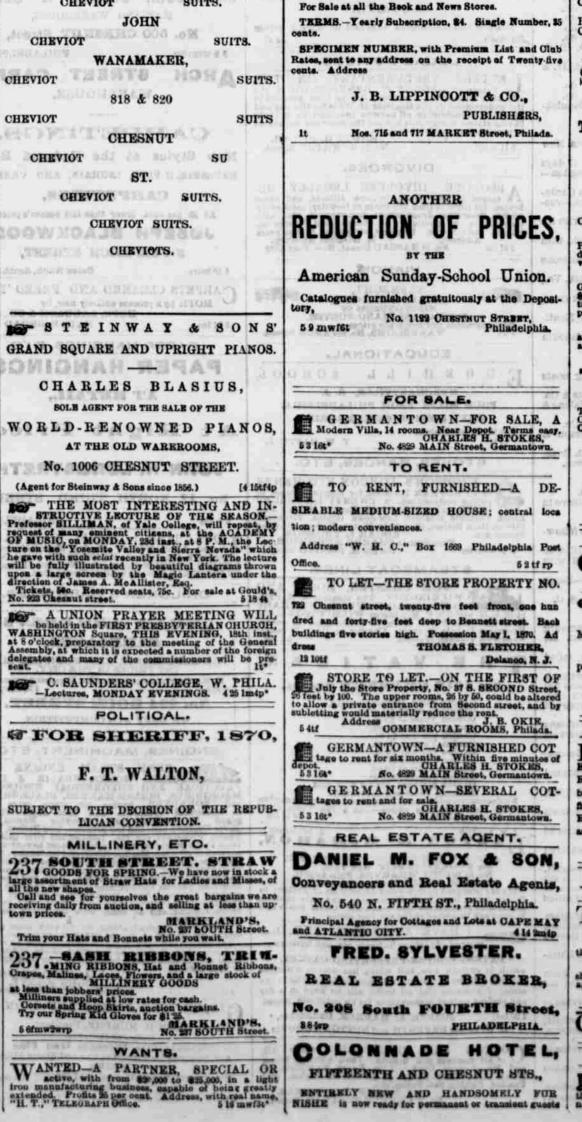


THE FRENCH CABINET. A CABLE TELEGRAM from Paris, published by

us yesterday, states that Napeleon's new Cabinet appointments are regarded with considerable astonishment and no little dissatisfaction. Of the career of the Due de Gramont, who becomes the successor of Count Napoleon Daru as Minister of Foreign Affairs, we have already spoken at length. From his record he can scarcely be set down a Liberal, even of the conservative stamp; but, by a long and almost uninterrupted service of the Emperor, deserves to be classed rather as a sort of rational Imperialist, a fitting colleague of Marshal Le Bœuf, the Minister of War, and of Admiral de Genouilly, the Minister of Marine. But he has long figured quite conspicuously in diplomatic circles, and is doubtless a man of sufficient capasity and experience for the position to which he has been elevated.

M. Jacques Philippe Mege, who takes the portfolio of Public Instruction, made vacant by the promotion, on the 12th of April, of M. Segris to the Ministry of Finance, as successor to M. Buffet, occupies a position in the political world quite similar to that of the Duo de Gramont. He has never figured as a labored apologist of the Empire, but at the same time has contrived to escape the imputation of Liberalism. He is in his fifty-seventh year, and an advocate by profession. In 1844 he commenced practice at the bar of Clermont-Ferrand, and in the following year was anmay be construed into an offense against the Emperor, or declared by a subservient judge to be designed to excite hatred and contempt for the government. It is, in fact, the duty of a fearless and enterprising modern news. paper to arouse those feelings against officials or administrations unworthy of public confidence; for when this privilege is denied, imbecility, corruption, and tyranny can enjoy a life-long lease of power.

The late prosecutions give a new proof that an approximation to the real freedom of the press exists only in Great Britain and the United States, and yet even in those countries relies of barbarous old laws, conceived in the same tyrannical spirit that still prevails on the Continent, cumber the statute-books pointed an assistant judge. In 1862 he be. | and occasionally incite juries to render illiberal



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