Evening Telegraph

(SUNDAYS EXCEPTED),

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

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, JUNE 8, 1870.

THE DYING AGONIES OF A FREE-

TRADER. A LEADING editorial in the leading organ of the free-traders, the New York Evening Post, of yesterday, demands that a new attempt shall be made to inflict on the nation another four years term of David A. Wells, This faithless official, while pretending to act as Special Commissioner of Revenue, has suppressed and manipulated American statistics in a manner so pleasing to the supporters of British interests that they naturally desire his retention in office, and cherish the hope that by the continuance of his misrepresentations the American people will at last be persuaded to restore the industrial dominance of their grasping rivals. No man in the United States has labored so zealously and so unscrupulously to destroy the manufactures of this country, to restrict American energy to agriculture and commerce, and to create a few merchant princes on the thraldom of a countless host of impoverished farmers. His retention of office up to this time is a wrong only partially atoned for by the fact that on the 30th of the

present month his position expires by limitation and by the general understanding that after that period he will have a full commission to serve in a private capacity the foreign interests which he has been endeavoring to promote under the mask of an American official. For practical purposes, we might as well accept a scion of Queen Victoria as our President as permit a man of Wells' stamp to act as Commissioner of Revenue, and this fact is now being so well recognized at Washington, that while Congress has failed or refused to provide for the extension or recreation of the office in question, the President, according to the story told by the Post, has fully concurred in the wisdom of this policy, or, in other words, has told Mr. Wells in polite but emphatic language that he rejoiced in the approaching opportunity to dispense with his services. With any ordinary individual these stinging rebukes would end the chapter, but the Post, acting in the interest of Wells, insists that the office shall be extended by Congress, and that the responsibility shall be thrust upon the President of refusing to reappoint the pet of the free-traders. It even goes so far as to threaten dire vengeance on the administration on account of the attitude it has assumed towards its faithless subordinate. There is a special fitness in the resort to this British bluster to accomplish the object in view. It needs no prophet to foretell that General Grant is not the man to be bullied by it, but the record of Wells' treachery would scarcely have been complete if the

treachery like that committed by Mr. Wells. THE CENSUS.

tactics of his foreign masters had not been

resorted to, as a last desperate expedient, to

insure his retention in office. If we are to

have a political war about free trade and pro-

tection, we could not wish a better issue than that which the Post proposes to raise. The

people abhor treachery in all its forms, and

nothing is more repulsive to them than

In another column we publish a communication from a well-known citizen protesting in very indignant terms against the inquisitorial queries that the census-takers are authorized to make. The objection that everybody has to answering questions about private family and business matters is an occasion of difficulty every time a census is ordered to be taken. A majority even of the most intelligent men and women in the country are unable to understand what possible nse such information can be to anybody; and even when the full importance of the census is understood, there are few who are willing to answer freely and unreservedly all the questions that are propounded. This repugnance is perfectly natural, and Congress in passing a census law should endeavor to make the queries as little objectionable as possible; and it is especially important that the census-takers shall be polite and good-humored, and endeavor to obtain the information they require without giving offense.

The present census is designed to be much fuller than any ever taken before, and many of the questions are well calculated to create considerable irritation. The communication to which we refer undoubtedly expresses the feelings of a great many persons; but it should be taken into consideration that the census is only taken once in ten years, that the details are carefully kept from the public, and that the aggregate information obtained is really of the greatest value not only to statesmen, business men, and others who have occasion to consult statistics, but in a thousand different ways to all classes of society. It is only by means of a careful census that we can gain any accurate knowledge of the increase of the population, the relative importance of the great business interests of the country, and a multitude of other things that contribute to the prosperity of the nation. Every citizen in a free country like this has a direct interest in making the census returns as complete and accurate as possible; and although it may be disagreeable to reply to some of the queries propounded, it should be remembered that the census is taken for a really wise and good purpose, and it is much better for individuals to submit to a slight inconvenience than to vitiate the correctness of the returns by refusing to answer or by answering incorrectly.

No proper comparison can be made between the census and the income tax law. By the latter every citizen is compelled to make a detailed statement of his most private business affairs, with the knowledge that there is nothing to prevent the public from being made acquainted with his exact financial status. The income tax law courts publicity, and Congress has absolutely refused to order the returns to be kept from the curious, the plea being that the Government was thereby, in a measure at least, protected from fraud. With regard to the census, on the contrary, there is nothing to be gained by the publication of items, and the census-takers are accordingly especially instructed to keep private the information they obtain. It is of no consequence to the Government what the respective ages of Mr. Brown, Mr. Jones, er Mr. Robinson may be, how many children they may have, how much their personal or real estate may be valued at, how many operatives they may employ, or any other such matters, but the aggregate of such information is of real value, and the majority at least of the questions asked by the censustakers are both wise and necessary. If the census were to be taken every year it might with propriety be considered a nuisance, but as it only annoys us once in a decade, it is the duty of good citizens to submit to the annoyance and to cheerfully aid the Government officers in their difficult and unpleasant

WHITTEMORES LAST CRIME. General Butler has received a despatch from the notorious Whittemore, informing Congress that the cadet-peddler has been reelected by 8000 majority. We have already in these columns, alluded to the question soon to be raised in the House by the appearance of Mr. Whittemore to be qualified as a member. If Mr. Whittemore was to be tried before a judicial tribunal for the offense of which he stands confessedly guilty, his punishment would not only be fine, or imprisonment, or both, but an act of Congress declares that he must thenceforth be ineligible to any office of honor or profit under the Government. If Whittemore's guilt was a matter of doubt, Congress might hesitate to reject him on the face of an apparent endorsement of his constituents; but the proof of his guilt was so overwhelming that he made no defense, and even admitted the sale of the cadetship and the receipt of the consideration, and escaped an almost unanimous expulsion by a cowardly resignation.

Another question of grave moment may demand the attention of Congress in connection with the case of Mr. Whittemore. Congress has assumed to decide elections in South Carolina against the verdict of the ballotboxes, and without the stereotyped pretext of fraudulent voting or dishonest returns. It is not questioned that the qualified votes, honestly polled and as honestly computed and certified, defeated Messrs. Hoge and Wallace, now sitting as members from the Third and Fourth districts of that State. They were admitted because it was proven, or alleged to be proven, that more than enough of legal voters were intimidated from voting for Hoge and Wallace to have elected them. By this bold assumption of power over the management of local elections, Congress admitted two Republicans from South Carolina, against whom popular majorities of about 4000 each were given. If Congress can thus supervise the mere political machinery of elections, a feature that presents itself in Whittemore's re-election demands its careful

We have before referred to the corrupt ring of adventurers that now rules South Carolina, and has made Republicanism a term of reproach with every honest citizen of that State. After Whittemore was driven from the House, he demanded from his fellow plunderers a re-election to vindicate himself. Governor Scott had but to take the stand demanded by every consideration of official and personal integrity, and Whittemore would have been driven from South Carolina as he was from Washington. But he could not strike at the disgraced Congressman without striking at himself.

Congress has decided that either laws or individual action calculated to intimidate legal voters vitiates a majority, if employed in furtherance of that majority. Will it now inquire into the laws and acts of officials of South Carolina, by which the defeat of Whittemore was rendered impossible, regardless of the vote cast by the people? If the Republicans in Congress do not vindicate the name of the Republican party from complicity with the systematic corruption and lawlessness of the banded thieves in South Carolina and other Southern States, Republicanism will become a hissing reproach both North and South, and the better elements of the nation will accept any form of opposition to overthrow the adventurers who cloak the most shameless wrongs under the shadow of the Republican party. Let Congress meet this question now with a promptness and determination that will demonstrate to the nation that it can have no sympathy or fellowship with the political highwaymen who are now roaming through official channels in the South, in the name of Republicanism: and the Republicans in the North, and the Republicans in the South, will be saved from the defeat that must inevitably follow open disgrace. Let Whittemore be met at the threshhold and sent back, because he left a criminal, and returns doubly criminal by the frauds he employed to effect his pretended re-election, and honesty in the South will take courage and bring forth good fruits, and Republicanism everywhere will be vindicated from complicity with the vampires who have so basely prostituted Republican power in

"THE EPISCOPAL REGISTER."-Messrs. Mc-Calla & Stavely, Nos. 287-9 Dock street, have commenced the publication of a new religious weekly journal with the above title. It will be devoted to the advancement of the interests of the Episcopal Church and to the accurate and careful narrative of the current events in the Church's history. One of its prominent

the Southern States.

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face."
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