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 rehom 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.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1870.

THE EVENING TELEGRAPH, from Its original establishment, has been in the receipt of telegraphic news from the New York Associated Press, which consists of the Tribune, Times, Herald, World, Sun, Fournal of Commerce, Evening Post, Commercial Advertiser, and Evening Express. The success which has attended our enterprise is, in itself, a sufficient evidence of the freshness, fullness, and reliability of the news which we have received from this source. Last March we entered Into a special contract by which THE EVENING TELEGRAPH has the exclusive use of the news furnished in the afternoon by the Associated Press to its own members, the North American, Inquirer, Ledger, Press, Age, Record, and German Democrat, of this city, and the leading journals of the East, North, West and South; and hereafter THE TELEGRAPH will be the only evening paper published in this city in which the afternoon despatches of the Associated Press will appear.

The earliest regular edition of THE EVENING TELEGRAPH goes to press at 11 o'clock, and the subsequent regular editions at 21, 31, and 41. Whenever there is important news of the progress of the European war, extra editions will be issued after this hour, and before the regular time for the early edition.

MEETING OF THE RETURN JUDGES. THE disgraceful and dangerous scenes connected with the meeting of the return judges yesterday are well calculated to arouse the indignation of every well-disposed citizen of Philadelphia, and to impress the Legislature with the necessity of making better provision than that now existing for orderly elections and for a fair official statement of the results. The perpetuity of republican institutions and the peace of the community are endangered by attempts to substitute verdicts won by fraud or by force for the will of a majority of legal voters, and yesterday's proceedings embraced a hideous exhibition of the employment of both these agencies against the majesty of the people. Year after year rascality and rowdyism at elections or in connection with the returns are becoming more and more flagrant and defiant, and the necessity of additional safeguards against these dangerous annual occurrences is fearfully apparent. It is high time that the good men of both parties should use their best efforts to correct such a gigantic evil. Among the remedies that deserve attention the following are worthy of special censideration:-

1. The system of establishing numerous polling places which is so commonly adopted. and which works well in many portions of the city, should be rigidly and universally enforced. The disturbance in one of the divisions of the Fifth ward may be traced directly to a neglect of this wholesome rule. No division should embrace more than five hundred voters; and ample time should be afforded at every voting place for a careful examination of the qualifications of those who seek to exercise the right of suffrage. The collection of crowds at the polling places is avoided, and the speedy counting of ballots is facilitated by these minute divisions. The rule should be absolute that whenever more than four or five hundred votes are cast at one poll a new election place should be established.

2. Men who become notorious for rowdyism at the polls, or who are clearly guilty of fraud at the elections, or in manipulating returns, should be severely punished. Criminals of this class enjoy immunity from punishment. Their supposed "political influence" saves them from conviction or sentence, and they are scarcely ever even arrested, no matter how notorious their offenses may be. If we really wish to put a stop to fraud and vio'ence, we must impose heavy penalties on the men who cheat and create

riots. 3. The evils of the present police system are at no time more strikingly displayed than on election days and the days when return judges meet. No comment can add force to injuries inflicted by means of such aid, and the statements in our local columns of the conduct of the present force on Tuesday last and yesterday. We had better abolish the police system altogether, and go back to first principles, than burden tax payers with an annual charge of a million of dollars for the purpose of supporting reckless partisans in municipal uniform, who, in times of political excitement, help to foment disturbances instead of endeavoring to maintain order.

returns has ceased to be safe in large cities. Yesterday there were gross carelessness, gross fraud, and terrible violence. Year after year the rumors that returns have been manipulated increase in frequency, and increasing audacity is disp'ayed in counting out this aspirant or counting in that one, in defiance of justice and law. Return judges lose their properly 'm henticated statements: the duplicated returns which should to follow their example.

in the Prothonotary's office incomplete; and by various dishonest and despicable devices the popular will is set aside. Such rescality provokes a feeling of indignation, and if we are ever to have a cvil war in our midst it will be most likely to spring from these machinations. The miscreants who perpetrate them, whether Republicans or Democrats, cannot be too severely punished; but, meanwhile, the Legislature should so change the laws applicable to the meetings of return judges in this city as to require them to be in open court, in the presence of the Judges of the Common Pleas. and severe penalties should be imposed upon election officers who neglect the duties prescribed by existing statutes. The disgraceful and bloody scenes of yesterday could not have been enacted under such a system. The roughs and rowdies are not yet bold enough to invade the room of a court empowered to instantly commit them to prison, and return judges who are ready to become parties to a fraud not have the hardihood to offend in the presence of authorities empowered to punish their dreadful crime. As matters are managed now, the Court is continually asked for advice on election day, and contested election cases frequently consume months of its prec'ous time; so that it seems eminently appropriate as well as necessary that the future meetings of return judges in this city should be held under judicial scrutiny, and in a court-room effectually guarded against intru-

A PAID FIRE DEPARTMENT. THE first step toward the organization of a

paid Fire Department was taken in Select Council yesterday, by the adoption of a resolution offered by Mr. George A. Smith for the appointment of a committee of three from each Chamber to obtain the best information that can be had with regard to the paid service established in other cities. This was not a very long step, it is true, in the direction of an object that is daily becoming more and more important, but it was the commencement of a work of reform that must be accomplished in spite of the powerful influences that will be exerted against it. There are multitudes of excellent men in the present Fire Department who regard the volunteer system and its historical traditions with the fondest regard, and who will not be able to witness its abolishment without the keenest regret. The public interests, however, must be consulted before the preferences and prejudices of any particular class of citizens, and affairs have now come to such a pass with the volunteer Fire Department, that the welfare and safety of the city demand that a change should be made. Some of the enginehouses are merely breeding-places for ruffianism, and scarcely a week passes that the crimes of arson and riot are not imputed, upon strong grounds, to the members and hangers-on of the different companies. The of good character connected with the present Fire Department have proved themselves either unwilling or powerless to prevent the outrages that have so excited public indignation, or to discover and bring to justice the perpetrators. So long as this is the case we can do no less than hold them and the system that they sustain as responsible, and to ask what remedy there is for evils so notorious that they cannot be explained away or apologized for except in a complete and radical reform that will over urn the whole volunteer system and bring the Fire Department strictly under official control. We hope that Mr. Smith and the other friends of reform will not allow this matter to rest with the appointment of a committee of inquiry into the systems adopted in other cities, but that they will press the matter with energy and urge the speedy adoption of active measures for the establishment of a paid Fire Department at as

easy a day as is practicable. THE PRESIDENT'S PROCLAMATION THE proclamation issued yesterday by the President, announcing his intention of enforcing the neutrality laws in the strictest manner, is couched in very general terms; and although it is apparently directed especially against those who are acting as French or Prussian emissaries, it is also intended for the benefit of the Cubans and as a warning to the fierce Fenians not to make any more attempts in the direction of Canada. The probabilities are that this proclamation was elicited by complaints made by the Prussian Government that arms, ammunition, and men were being co'lected in this country for the assistance of France; and while the material aid that either belligerent is likely to receive from this side of the water in the way of warlike material cannot be very great, it is nevertheless our duty to prevent by the most stringent measures the slightest cause of offense. The irritation in the United States against England was caused far more by the unfriendly disposition shown by her Government and rolling classes in permitting material aid to be furnished to the Rebels than it was by all the the peculiarly friendly position in which we stand toward both France and Prussia makes it particularly important that our neutrality duties should be performed according to the strictest spirit of law and justice. With regard to the Fenians, the President owes it to himself and to the country to something in the way of preventing further outrages upon the Canadians by some more decided measures 4. The present mode of counting up the | than the issuing of proclamations. If the deluded Irishmen who get up annual raids over the Northern frontier are to be made to respect the laws, something decisive must be done to restrain them when they first begin to organize for an expedition; and if any such scandalous affair as that of last summer occurs again, the perpetrators ought to be dealt with in such a manner that their fate will be a warning to all who may be disposed

THE demeanor of William B. Mann; Esq., amid the trying scenes of yesterday was highly creditable. He discharged the disagreeable duty imposed upon him with great skill and fidelity. The fact that the return judges unanimously agreed in regard to the necessity for the presence of counsel, however, gives additional force to the argument in another column in favor of a law requiring the meetings of the return judges to be held hereafter in the presence of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas.

RUSSIAN COMMUNISM .- Mr. F. Marx, in concluding

an article on "Russia under Alexander II" in the

Portnightly Review for September, says :- From the

accession of Alexander II the feeling of the Liberal

parties in Russia had been favorable to the Poles.

Public opinion had now (1862) suddenly changed, and

every Russian agreed that he had but one duty. namely, to destroy every rebel who endangered the unity of Holy Russia. The most violent measures against the religion, property, and language of the Poles and Lithuamans were loudly applanded. The Government, with great skill, knew how to awaken Russian ambition, and turned it to its own purposes. Opposition to its will was represented as moral support given to the Western powers in their attempt at interference, and all parties saw that their political credit would be annihilated if they could be accused of an understanding with the enemies of the endangered empire. The government contrived to expel the passion for revolution by the passion for nation ality, and when Prince Gortschakoff contemptuously rejected the diplomatic intervention of the Western powers, the whole of Russia became animated with the one idea of the annihilation of Poland, and the general enthusiasm imparted to the government a strength which has not since left it. The new political system which has prevailed during the five years sprang from the common task in which the democracy and the Government were united, namely, the subjugation of Poland. This system is the lengue between imperial absolutism and the peasant masses against the educated classes of society. The democrats and the socialists carry the peasants with them in their hate against the Poles of Poland and Lithuania, the Germans of Livonia, Esthonia, and Courland, and of the Swedes of Finland. They desire to Russianize these countries, and to extirpate the aristocratic rule of the educated classes, giving the balance of political power to the peasant class. On this democratic and national element the Government depends, and to gratify these allies it is persecuting its loyal German and Swedish subjects. Once, for a moment, it appeared as if it might depart from this system, and again have recourse to the support of the nobles, On the 4th of April, 1866, Vladimir Karakosoff, who had been a student at Moscow, discharged a pistol at the Emperor as he was walking in the Summer Garden. It was soon proved that this man was no Pole, but a Russian socialist and democrat, and a member of a revolutionary society of Nihilists which aimed at the overthrow of property Church, marriage, and State, and which regarded the murder of Czar as the first step in its great work of making Communism supreme. This event procured a momentary ascendency for the nobles. The Emperor solemnly declared that he perceived the necessity for the right of property, that he would support the conservative element of the State, and particularly the nobles, and would put down any agitation against them, let it proceed from whom it might; but notwithstanding this declaration, the socialist and national ideas, the latter of which are supposed to be favored by the heir to the throne, became shortly afterwards again supreme. Russia, with her still disordered finences, her dissatisfied peasants, her discontented nobles, her seven millions of followers of the Old Faith, who are always banded together in secret opposition by the persecution of the Government, her Nihilists, who would destroy everything like order and government at home, and her Philosolaavs, who would sweep away every change made in Russia by or since Peter the Great, and would destroy everything abroad to make Russia and the world synonymous, must have many trou-

SPECIAL NOTICES.

For additional Special Notices see Inside Pages.

BO A C A D E M Y OF M U S I C. THE STAR COURSE OF LECTURES. OPENING LECTURE OF THE SEASON

BY MISS ANNA E. DICKINSON. ON MONDAY EVENING, October 17, Subject-"JOAN OF ARC." GEORGE VANDENHOFF, October 19. "HENRY IV."
WENDELL PHILLIPS, October 21,
"THE LOST ARTS."
MISS OLIVE LOGAN, October 24, "THE BRIGHT SIDE."

MRS. F. W. LANDER, October 26.
"MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM."

JOSH BILLINGS, October 28.
"MILE."

HON. CHARLES SUMNER, October 31.

"THE DUEL BETWEEN FRANCE AND PRUSSIA."
PETROLEUM V. NASBY, November 2.
"IN SEARCH OF THE MAN OF SIN."
MISS ISABBLLA GLYN, November 3. GEORGE WILLIAM CURTIS, November 4. "CHARLES DICKERS."

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