## THE DAILY EVENING TELEGRAPH-PHILADELPHIA, MONDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1870.

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#### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1870.

WT 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.

RESIGNATION OF SECRETARY COX. ALL further controversy with regard to the reasons for the exit of Secretary Cox from the Cabinet has been silenced by the publication of the letter of resignation and the President's reply to it. This correspondence has been given to the public, it is understood, by Mr. Cox himself, and in reading it the refusal of the President to sanction its publication is not difficult to understand, for the reasons assigned by Mr. Cox for his retirement are well calculated to make the chief executive officer of the nation feel heartily ashamed of himself. Indeed, the most promising sign about the whole transaction is that the President is still capable of being ashamed of a mean and cowardly action that is doubly disgraceful and damaging to his administration from the fact that it was done at the dictation of such men as Senators Cameron and Chandler, two of the most notorious political jobbers in the country, who have long lost every claim to the consideration of honorable men. Mr. Cox plainly and unequivocally assigns for tendering his resignation as Secretary of the Interior Dethe partment same reasons that we did, with the single exception that he mentions no names, but it requires no Daniel come to judgment to tell us who were the principal agents in banishing him from the important post that he has filled with so much honor and credit to himself and with so much satisfaction to the public. The following words of the ex-Secretary deserve to be pondered not only by the President but by all patriotic men, who now view with the most serious apprehensions the corruption that disgraces our national politics:-

"When Congress adjourned in the summer I was creditably informed that a systematic effort would be made before their reassembling in the winter to force a change in the policy we have pursued in the Interior Department. The removal of the Indian service from the sphere of ordinary political patronage has been peculiarly distasteful to many influential men in both houses, and in order to enable you to carry your purposes out success.

pocket his indi-Wigwagger will vidual gains as he gives both the President and the Republican party the goby. That President Grant sincerely intended to establish and carry out a great reform policy we sincerely believe, but he has made a terrible mess of it, and the retirement of such men as Attorney-General Hoar and Secretary Cox, with the prospective retirement of Postmaster-General Creswell, from the Cabinet, while they are certainly most discouraging indications of the complete demoralization of the administration, should stinsulate the friends of reform throughout the country to make even greater efforts than ever for the accomplishment of their objects, and the Republican papers will be doing a greater service to their party, to the administration, and to the nation by plain speaking than by attempting to extenuate or apologize for evils that need to be

dealt with in a most positive manner if they are to be done away with. THE FALL OF MEIZ. Is spite of the contradictory stories relative

to the true causes of the surrender of Metz, there is scarcely room for doubt that the inhabitants of the beseiged city, as well as the French soldiers, were suffering fearfully for want of food, and thus confronted with famine on the one hand, and a irresistible army on the other, the most plausible theory is that Bazaine was literally forced to yield. If the representations of the special correspondent of the New York Herald are correct, the General who is now so fiercely denounced by the Provisional Government pursued the only practicable course open, as it would have been useless as well as inhuman to suffer his troops to perish by starvation. We see that one of the journals of Tours calls upon the Provisional Government, in view of the surrender, to consent to an armistice, and to order elections for a Constituent Assembly at once, so that the real will of unhappy France may find legal expression. This seems to be good advice. It is either the fault or the misfortune of the Favre administration that it has been unable to effectively resist the invaders, and the people should be suffered to freely choose for themselves whether they will submit, for the time being, to such terms as the Germans are likely to impose, or whether they will make new and more vigorous exertions to defend their "sacred soil.'

THE CENSUS.

It is stated that, in consequence of the complaints made of the inaccuracy of the census in New York city and county, the President has directed that, so far as a count of the population, with the divisions of age, sex, and color are concerned, the census of New York shall be retaken. There are many reasons why a similar course should be adopted here, as there can be no doubt that the census of Philadelphia is more grossly inaccurate than that of New York. It is now well understood that in one or two wards of this city where a decline of population in the last decade was reported, in the face of a large increase in the number of voters, the assistant marshal manifestly failed to discharge his duty on account of threats of violence. This is a lamentable confession, and it furnishes an ample cause for retaking the census here even if no other cause could be shown. It is reported, however, that the Superintendent of the Census Bureau, with the selfsufficiency which too often characterizes such officials, pronounces the returns to be immaculate; and as it is extremely doubtful whether the claims of Republican Philadelphia to a recount will be as favorably considered as the clamors of noisy Democratic New York, we should depend upon ourselves, and Councils should hasten to perfect a scheme for ascertaining our true population. We publish elsewhere in to-day's TELEGRAPH a description of the census system in Great Britain, which is much more accurate and complete than the American method, and is therefore well worthy of the attention of those who wish to have the contemplated work well done. The plan suggested in Councils of appointing five policemen in each ward is partially liable to the serious objection that it imposes on each officer a heavier duty than he will be likely to discharge quickly and properly. In Great Britain, it will be seen, each enumeration district is very small, the average number of inhabitants being only 537. Congress, in arranging the present census system, has had carefully in view the petty object of creating a host of little offices, each one of which was made of sufficient importance to add to the partisan influence of the donor of this patronage. If we are to have a municipal census this error should be avoided. What the public want to know is how many bonafide residents there are in Philadelphia (and it would be well if the entire enumeration could be completed in a single day), and the desire of politicians to make capital out of this matter should at ones give way to considerations affecting the public welfare. If five policemen, only, for each ward are appointed, some of them will have districts counting a population of nearly ten thousand, and there is little doubt that in such cases the enumerators would omit to count a portion of such a large number. If half the entire police force of Philadelphia act as enumerators, they could, by a proper subdivision of labor, and the previous preparation of schedules, complete the census in a few days. Whether policemen or other appointees are chosen, the leading feature of the Briti h system - small enumeration districts - is worthy of imitation. SECRETARY COX'S RESIGNATION .- The Nation says :- "We are able to say positively that there is not a particle of foundation for the stories which have been set afloat that Secretary Cox's resignation was due to 'personal reasons,' such as his inability to live on his salary. He knew perfectly what the salary was before he took the place, and has never complained or thought of complaining of it as insufficient. There has been only one cause for his retirement, and that is the failure of the President to sustain him against the politicians in the matter of civil-service reform. This would appear fully if the

correspondence between him and the President were published. Mr. Cox's lips are sealed for the moment by a very proper sense of official decorum; but his reticence furnishes a strong reason why the President should either publish the correspondence or check the exertions which some of his pretended friends are making to spread false versions of the cause of the rupture. We may add that they are anything but friends of the President who are circulating the report that he and Mr. Cox have had differences about the McGarrahan claim."

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The acceptance of a resignation couched in these terms means nothing more nor less than the surrender of the President to the Indian "ring," a discontinuance of any further real efforts on the part of the Executive to reform the civil service, and a tacit consent to, if not an open endorsement of, the thousand and one corrupt schemes that nine-tenths of those who voted for General Grant expected he would fight to the bitter end. It is useless for the President's apologists to contend that he has been compelled to yield to tricksters of the Cameron and Chandler stamp because they have it in their power to embarrass him by refusing to confirm his appointments in the Senate, by refusing to support his measures, and by interfering in innumerable ways with the machinery of the Government, with a view of giving him anneyance and bringing his administration into discredit; for if the President were the right kind of a man, and inflexibly determined upon carrying out reforms that he knows the nation desires, all the opposition he would meet with in Congress would only increase his popularity and render his re-election certain. No man who has sat in the Presidential chair since Washington has had a greater opportunity to mould the destines of the nation than Grant, and no one except Andrew Johnson has shown less tast in dealing with those who have been thrown in contact with him. He has displayed a singular disposition to insist to the verge of obstinacy upon matters of no particular importance, while in things of the greatest consequence he has submitted to the dictation of politicians who have long ago lost every claim to the regards of honest men.

Senator Cameron has doubtless impressed the President with the idea that he (Camerom) is all-powerful in Pennsylvania, and that by acceding to his wishes the administration may certainly count upon the support of this State and the future success of the Republican party. If the President had been as well posted as he ought, he would have known that Cameron has absolutely no influence in Pennsylvania except such as he obtains by the expenditure of ready eash, and that the fact of such a man as Cameron having the ear of the Executive is calculated to do more to peril the future success of the Republican party than all the efforts of the Democrats would ever be able to do. That the President will in due time find out much more than he wants to know about Cameron is certain, but then the damage will be done and the old

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