

Evening Telegraph

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1870.

THE ARMISTICE.

The cable despatches render it doubtful whether an armistice between the contending nations will be concluded. The succession of stunning blows which have robbed France of the power of resisting the invaders seem to have also destroyed her ability to adopt rational measures for promoting peace. She is given up to indecision and anarchy, and with starvation staring in the face of two millions of citizens confined within the walls of Paris, a few ambitious rulers reject a peaceable method for extending relief to this imperiled capital at a moment when they are making no martial efforts worthy of the name to raise the siege of the beleaguered capital. An immense number of human lives are apparently on the point of being sacrificed to gratify the mistaken ambition of a few vain leaders (for the underlying reason of the reported rejection of the armistice must be sought in the fear of the present government that it would not be sustained at the proposed elections); and if Madame Roland were living now she would have more cause than ever to exclaim, "O Liberty! what crimes are committed in thy name!" The authentic test of public opinion which is so sedulously and selfishly avoided is the one thing above all others that is needed for the salvation of France, whether the war is to go on or peace is to prevail. If the present government could vigorously enforce its authority, it could be well enough to avoid an election in the presence of a foreign army, but proofs of its inability to control the national resources are multiplying, and the very men who protest loudly against any movement which contemplates the surrender of a foot of French soil put the whole country at the mercy of the invaders by their disorders and disobedience. The treacherous course pursued towards Garibaldi furnishes a fearful commentary upon the fine sentiments that are so freely uttered, and the hour for following up brave words with heroic deeds is indefinitely postponed. No handful of men have a right to assume, as the Provisional Government practically does by rejecting the armistice, that the property and lives of millions of citizens should be sacrificed in a vain effort to maintain the delusive idea that French territory is inviolable. If such a resolution is adopted, under the present circumstances, it should be clearly expressed by an overwhelming majority of the entire nation, and that majority should at the same time establish a government sufficiently powerful to afford a reasonable hope that the resolution could be maintained. It is scarcely possible that the rejection of the armistice can have any other result than that Paris shall fall as Strasburg and Metz have fallen, with the addition of indescribable horrors arising from the density of population and superior importance of the capital; and it seems incredible that Trochu and Thiers, who have shown so much true statesmanship in their efforts to avert these terrible calamities, should be overruled by vain, foolish, heartless, desperate, or corrupt politicians. We can scarcely believe that Frenchmen will suffer themselves to be destroyed by blind and unscrupulous leaders, and when they come to realize their perilous position we hope that they will find means for forcing even their worst impracticables to consent to an armistice.

WENDELL PHILLIPS ON WAR AND WORKINGMEN.

If Wendell Phillips was an ordinary politician, or rather an ordinary talker and writer on political subjects, it might be possible to make out what he means by his present efforts to carry favor with the workingmen. Wendell has hitherto managed to keep himself tolerably free from the suspicion of hankering after office, and has apparently been content with the proud position he has won for himself of Viceroy General. Can it be possible that Mr. Phillips is beginning to think that his life-long services in abusing every public man in the country, good, bad, and indifferent, for the last thirty or forty years, are deserving of more substantial rewards than the approval of his own conscience, and that he is laying his pipes for an election to the Governorship of Massachusetts, or—fearful thought!—the Presidency of the United States? It certainly looks as though he was after something of this kind by the manner in which he has of late been endeavoring to flatter the vanity of workingmen and advocating the worst fallacies of the trades unions and workingmen's conventions. As a specimen of the kind of utterances in which he is now indulging his recent lecture on "State Politics," delivered a few days ago in the Music Hall at Boston, is worthy of note. One of the most remarkable features of this address is an allusion to the present war in Europe, which states that "Two mad kings had made two nations of workingmen mad, and they are now engaged in a combat that would not have occurred had the Emperor permitted the International Congress of Workingmen to meet in Paris." When a man of Wendell Phillips' experience in public affairs takes such a view as this of the conflict now raging between France and Germany, it can only be concluded that he does not know what he is talking about, and is incompetent to form a

reasonable opinion on the subject, or that he intentionally says what he does not believe to be true, for the purpose of advancing his individual ends.

One of the kings in question may have been mad, but the appearances are in favor of the supposition that he was simply vain, ambitious, and foolish in entering into a war with an adversary known to be strong and well-prepared for a fight, without finding out first whether there was a fair chance in favor of his winning the victory; and the other, if he has not genius himself, has displayed some discretion in surrounding himself with men that have, and who has given abundant indications that he has a good stock of hard common sense of his own. That the International Congress of Workingmen would by their meeting have prevented the war, no man in the world who is apparently competent to form an opinion on the subject but Wendell Phillips probably believes. This opinion is a fair sample of Mr. Phillips' reasoning upon public questions, and it displays a total want of comprehension of the causes that brought about the present conflict, causes that are plain enough to any reasonably intelligent reader of the newspapers and we respectfully submit it to thoughtful workingmen whether a man who is not able to do better thinking than this is a trustworthy guide for them. There is too much nonsense now uttered by workingmen and their professed friends, and the best thing the advocates of the rights of labor can do if they wish to be happy is to give Wendell Phillips the cold shoulder.

MR. RUDDIMAN AND REFORM.

In September a convention composed of three delegates from each ward met to revise the rules of the Republican party in this county, in order, if possible, to make the nominating conventions in some degree what they are intended to be, the representatives of the wishes of the members of the Republican party. The convention elected William H. Ruddiman, Esq., as its president, and after passing a resolution directing him to appoint a committee of fifteen to report a set of rules, adjourned to meet again upon the call of the chairman. Nearly two months have elapsed, and as yet Mr. Ruddiman has not even named the committee of fifteen. Why this delay? It is well known that Mr. Ruddiman is a political aspirant, and his delay in forming this committee is pretty freely ascribed to the existence of some ring which he desires to propitiate. One of the most needed changes in the rules is that in regard to the appointment of officers to conduct the delegate elections. At present those worthies are named by that aggregation of corrupt imbecility known to the law as the Board of Aldermen. Unless the rules are changed, the stool-pigeons and small political aspirants whom these men select will not only hold the delegate elections of 1871, but by giving fraudulent certificates of election to delegates in the interests of the various aldermen will perpetuate themselves, and the conventions which they will count into existence will continue to annually nominate a set of candidates for office that will finally defeat the Republican party in this city, and with it in the State. There must be a radical reform, and we say to Mr. Ruddiman that if he desires to dig his political grave, and to dig it deep, he will put on the committee of fifteen a majority in favor of continuing in the hands of the aldermen the power to appoint election officers to count in the ring delegates to conventions. When this committee is appointed we will give our readers a full account of its members and their antecedents. We trust Mr. Ruddiman will put it in our power to be able to speak favorably of his committee.

Now that the President has ordered that the census of Philadelphia shall be retaken, we hope that Marshal Gregory will avail himself of all the municipal assistance that Councils or the Mayor can furnish. There should be no red tape jealousies or red tape neglects displayed in connection with this business. It is important that the exact population of Philadelphia should be ascertained, and the Marshal should avail himself of all the assistance that tends to ensure the completeness of his returns.

AN AUSTRALIAN mail steamer which recently arrived at San Francisco brings the intelligence that the General Assembly of Queensland has passed a protective tariff law. The growing antagonism to free trade doctrines which is exhibited in Great Britain thus finds practical expression in one of her colonies, and Queensland takes the true method of securing prosperity in spite of the delusive teachings of Cobden and Bright.

THE FINE ARTS.

The School of Design for Women. The artistic taste and culture which produce no results beyond affording their possessor a sort of semi-sensual gratification are of but doubtful value, and the works of art, although they may be the highest expressions of the human intellect, which appeal only to an exquisitely cultivated taste, and that are of necessity beyond the range of the common mass of humanity, are in reality of but minor importance. The steam engine and the magnetic telegraph are works of art, and so are the performances of the Greek sculptors that have come down to us. The number of persons who are able to look upon the latter with appreciation is infinitely small in comparison with the multitude who are benefited by the former; and both as we might be to give up our Greek statues, they would be destroyed without regret if it were a question between their preservation and that of the steam engine and the telegraph. It is a disadvantage to this action, however, that it has hitherto been so much absorbed in the purely practical arts that it has allowed itself no time to cultivate a taste for the beautiful either in nature or the works of fine arts; and the necessities of our position are such that, for many years to come, at least, all real artistic culture must be through the medium of forms of beauty applied to the things of common life. Indeed, all real taste for the fine arts has its growth in this manner, and the exquisite culture of the Greeks is shown even more plainly in the ornamentation of the common utensils of their households than it is in the sculptures of the Parthenon. In fact, it may be accepted as an axiom that true art, like true religion, is for everybody and for all times, and that the religion or the culture that do not manifest themselves more in the daily routine of household life than they do in the building of grand churches

and imposing galleries of paintings and sculpture, are alike superficial and of doubtful utility to their possessor or to the world around him. It is a totally mistaken idea to suppose that works of art and the ability to enjoy them with the most keenly appreciative spirit are the prerogatives of the rich alone, or that artistic knowledge can be acquired by any but those who have a special natural predisposition for it. The furnishing of a room, when such thought whatever is given to the subject of appearance, is an exercise of artistic taste, and if the result is not satisfactory it is because that taste has not been guided by simple scientific rules that can be learned as easily as reading, writing, and arithmetic can by anybody who has sufficient capacity for the acquisition of these accomplishments. If the question of beauty in home decoration were one of money merely, the majority of people might well consider themselves as absolved from the necessity of considering it, but fortunately money has very little to do with it, while the mental faculties that every responsible human being is possessed of have a great deal. It is an important truth that needs to be strongly impressed upon the American people, that not only is artistic beauty of practical value in itself, but that it is actually cheaper than hideousness. A woman who knows how to furnish a room according to the rules of good taste that with mathematical certainty will produce certain results alike pleasing to the mind and the eye, and at the same time answering all the wants of practical everyday life, can do so with less money than she would in all probability expend in obtaining a conglomeration of discordant objects that would cause a sense of discomfort to all who came under their influence. A man or woman living in a house where the colors of carpets, wall paper, and furniture are all discordant, and where such ornamentation as is introduced is vulgar or commonplace, will derive no real or permanent advantage from the inspection of the fine works in a picture or statue gallery, unless they inspire a desire for an aesthetic reformation at home, and because the influence thus far exerted in this country by the multitude of superior artistic productions that our people have had opportunities for studying has been so small, we have very little expectation from the culture to be obtained in this manner, and believe in beginning at the bottom instead of the top, by making art an element of our common education. At present the School of Design for Women in this city and its branches in several portions of the State are the only institutions in the country that profess to teach art according to scientific principles, and the great value of the School of Design consists not only in this, but in the fact that its energies are particularly devoted to the education of industrial designers. The theory of Professor T. W. Bradwood, the principal of the school, is substantially that which we have stated above, and the great idea that is urged upon the attention of his pupils in all the operations of the school is that true art culture is based upon knowledge, and not upon mere uneducated natural instincts, and that if it is to have any real stamina it must commence at home, in the beautifying of the rooms in which civilized and enlightened people are to live, and in the appropriate ornamentation of the various articles of domestic life that they have in daily use. This school was established primarily for the purpose of giving young women a profession by which they could earn their living in a respectable manner, but any results which it has achieved and will achieve in this direction, important as they undoubtedly are, are of less consequence than the influence that such an institution can exert in exerting indirectly the taste of the public at large. The value of the method pursued at the School of Design has recently been demonstrated in a manner most gratifying to its friends, by the fact that the Cooper Institute, of New York, has abandoned its previous system, or rather no system of instruction and has adopted that of the Philadelphia institution, sending here for books, diagrams, drawings, and models for the purpose of making a fresh start. Such an acknowledgment as this of the merits of our school of Design ought more than ever to secure for it the hearty support of the citizens of Philadelphia, and if its facilities could be so increased that it would be able to educate young men and boys, more beneficial results could be obtained than by any of the schemes that have been proposed for the promotion of art museums or academies of the fine arts to be conducted upon the plan of the institution now waiting for something to turn up in its favor before it asserts itself again with its old prestige of being the centre of artistic enlightenment in these regions. It is scarcely necessary for us to state that the School of Design for Women is a perfectly dependent almost entirely upon the good will of the public for the means of subsistence. A large number of its pupils receive their education free, while the tuition fees of those who pay bear no proportion whatever to the expenses of the institution. Its conductors have the desire but not the ability to make it absolutely a free school, and they could do so if the people of this city properly appreciated the importance of the work it is performing, and gave to its necessities with a liberality proportionate to its deserts. By a wise disposition of funds appropriated by the Legislature at various times, the institution is now supplied in an admirable manner with the appliances of education, and its great want at present is means for the employment of a full corps of accomplished professors. Efforts have been made in this direction, and a valuable addition has recently been made to the faculty by the engagement of Mr. A. G. Heaton, a young artist of ability, who will devote his time and talents hereafter mainly to promoting the interests of the school. There is very much, however, that yet remains to be done, and a point has now been reached where a liberal assistance from those who can appreciate the importance of the peculiar kind of artistic culture obtainable at the School of Design will be of the highest value in advancing its future interests and in extending its influence. Thus far the school has been largely indebted to the earnest and liberal exertions in its behalf of Messrs. W. J. Horstmann, James H. Orne, P. Pentecost Morris, James L. Claghorn, and a few others who have interested themselves warmly in its welfare; but now that the institution is no longer an experiment, but a practical as well as an artistic success, it is but proper that these gentlemen should have the best recognition of their services that their fellow-citizens can give, in an effort to place the School of Design upon such a substantial pecuniary footing that its success in the future will be secured beyond a peradventure.

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