THE DAILY EVENING TELEGRAPH-PHILADELPHIA, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1870.

Evening Telegraph

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1870.

THE ELECTIONS.

THE elections yesterday exhibit a series of checkered results, large Republican gains having been effected in some quarters and Democratic gains in others. Most of the former are attributable to the enfranchisement of the colored voters, but in some localities other causes diminished the Democratic vote, and the result, as a whole, is decidedly favorable to the Republican party. Its continued ascendancy in the National House of Representatives is assured, even if all the States yet to elect should send solid Democratic delegations. The Republican majority will not be less than 50, and, giving the Democrats the benefit of all doubts, it will probably be 55, so that the Republicans have won a decisive triumph in | But Pennsylvania, meanwhile, has suffered the great political contest of the year. There will nevertheless be a reduction in the Republican majority of 45 in the Forty-second Congress as compared with the Forty-first; and the Democrats, though sadly disappointed, can console themselves with the reflection that they have destroyed the ascendancy of two-thirds which has so long been maintained, and cut down the Republican majority nearly one-half.

The most brilliant Republican triumph has been won in New Jersey. We scarcely know whether we are to attribute this gratifying result to the patronage lavished upon that State, to the Presidential sojournings at Long Branch, to the enfranchisement of colored voters, Democratic divisions, or to superior Republican management, but at all events New Jersey has been redeemed.

In New York city a large diminution of the Democratic majority has been effected by the prevention of fraud, but it still reaches the imposing figure of 50,000; and the light vote in the rural districts, which was probably due, in a large degree, to the jealousies of jarring Republican factions, and the unavailability of the Republican candidate for Governor, have secured the re-election of Hoffman, the Republican gains in the city being counterbalanced by Republican losses in the interior.

In Massachusetts the regular Republican tickets have received more votes than last year, despite the erratic performances of Wendell Phillips; and the Gubernatorial aspirations of that shining light of modern Democracy, John Quincy Adams, are received with as little favor as in former contests.

Little Delaware still belongs to the Saulsburys, who have extended their lease of power by keeping hundreds of colored voters away from the polls. There is a good deal of reconstructing still necessary in the lower counties of the Blue Hen's Chickens, and if they do not speedily mend their manners a few of the Republican townships in Lancaster county should take them in hand, and | tions to report at the next meeting, when, if teach the brutal barbarians who resort to the representations referred to prove correct, mob violence on election day that this is the | we trust that appropriate action will be taken. nineteenth century, and that all America is | Of all the devices for swindling the city an

other authorities. The Legislature has manifestly failed, and it is perhaps beyond their power, to prevent bribery, to check the tide of special legislation, to provide for minority representation in the Senate and House, to impose limits to the influence of gigantic corporations, or to insure a careful consideration of great public questions affecting the whole people; but it is not beyond the power of a convention to make radical changes that would promote all these ends. Ohio, by a constitutional prohibition of special legislation, disposes by one blow of the standing nuisance of Harrisburg. New England, by sending a much larger number of representatives, relatively, to her State Legislatures, secures at once an intelligent consideration of general instead of private questions, greater economy, and an avoidance of corruption. Illinois, by a provision in her new Constitution, makes State more powerful than the corporation it has created. any rings and corruptionists to discover all the weak places in her Constitution, and to run her government not in accordance with its best provisions, but in the most ludierous, infamous, ineffective, and disgraceful manner that is tolerated by its laches. As no chain can be stronger than its weakest links, so a government exposed to the misinterpretations and rascalities of depraved politicians becomes fearfully inefficient through the absence of safeguards against all their infamous devices, and Pennsylvania is suffering so keenly to-day from the absence of such checks that a Constitutional Convention has become an absolute necessity.

secure the end in view the bill published in another column-which will, we understand, be introduced into the State Senate next session by Senator Connell-deserves attention. It will be seen that it provides for minority representation in a simple yet effective way, securing Democratic members from such counties as Lancaster and Republican members from such counties as Berks. Other bills will also perhaps be submitted to the Legislature, and we hope that every member of both branches will make an earnest endeavor to give the people the best possible opportunity for securing a thorough reform of their own government. They should remember, for once, that the State does not belong to them, even though they do assemble on Capitol Hill, but that they belong to the State.

IT APPEARS by the proceedings of the Board of Education yesterday that the publishers of one of the books furnished to the public schools had charged the round sum of \$14.40 per dozen, at a time when the customary price in the trade was but \$12 per dozen, and after a book of the same character, of equal value, had been offered by another publisher for \$11 per dozen. The subject was referred to a special committee of five, with instrucovercharge for school books is one of the

abuse.

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now a land of liberty.

In Louisiana, and especially in New Orleans, large Republican gains are reported. Seven companies of regulars, with two Gatling guns, secured peace and order in the Southern metropolis, and the honest men of both parties rejoice in the fact that not a single act of violence is reported.

Even in benighted Kentucky a few faint streaks of light begin to dawn. Heavy Democratic losses are reported, and it is possible that the Republicans have elected one or two Congressmen.

A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION. WHENEVER a government fails to serve the true purposes of its creation, one of the most obvious duties of the people whose interests are injuriously neglected is to seek a drastic remedy. That the government of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as administered under the present Constitution, is a lamentable failure is admitted by all who have at heart the welfare of the State, and the reform efforts made from time to time have been so spasmodic and ineffectual that we must evidently sink deeper and deeper in the slough of legislative corruption, rapacity, and imbecility until a thorough revision of the Constitution is effected. The founders of the republic who were most deeply attached to liberal principles predicted that frequent remodellings of the State Constitutions would be absolutely essential to guard the public interests and to check the evils which from time to time would be developed; and this prediction has been verified by subsequent events. We believe that Jefferson thought that such changes should generally be made at least once in every ten years, but in Pennsylvania we have now suffered more than thirty years to elapse without calling a Constitutional Convention, and we are paying at this moment a heavy penalty for this neglect. The time has now arrived, however, when the public imperatively demand that their best citizens shall assemble in council to deliberate with untrammelled freedom, and with the aid of all the light afforded by the events of the last thirty years, on the fundamental principles of State government. The radical changes made in the National Constitution, the numerous reforms made in the constitutions of sister States, and the deplorable workings of our own system, all unite to impress patriotic Pennsylvanians with the necessity of calling a convention in this Commonwealth. When that convention meets the whole subject of reform. in all its ramifications, will be brought up for consideration under auspicious circumstances, and every good man will be encouraged to hope that at last something will be done to purify and elevate the legislation of the Commonwealth. The legislators who neglect this duty themselves will have no excuse for failing to give the people an opportunity to have it discharged by a convention, and we trust that a general disposition will be in plain fgures. Goods packed and shipped free of manifested among them to thus transfer it to charge.

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