

# Evening Telegraph

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AT THE EVENING TELEGRAPH BUILDING,

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PHILADELPHIA.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 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*, *Journal 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 1 1/2 o'clock, and the subsequent regular editions at 2 1/2, 3 1/2, and 4 1/2. 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.

**THE PAID FIRE DEPARTMENT.**  
The proceedings in Councils yesterday bought into hold relief the fact that the Democrats are determined to make resolute partisan opposition to a paid Fire Department, and to do everything in their power to postpone or defeat this necessary municipal reform. The disagreement between the two branches on some of the details of the bill were quickly reconciled by a committee of conference. Its decision was promptly approved by the Select Branch, but in the Common Branch the Democratic members resorted to filibustering opposition, which prevented final action. At the next session we presume the vote of the Select branch will be concurred in, and the bill will go to the Mayor. If that officer is animated by the spirit that prompts his partisan associates in Councils, with a few honorable exceptions, he will veto the bill, but even in that event we trust that, through the aid of a few just Democrats who have more regard for the welfare of the city than for petty partisan intrigues, it will still become a municipal law. Public sentiment clearly demands the new system. The volunteer department, full as it may be of past glory, has outlived its usefulness, and in this age of progress the highest interests require that it should give way to a more economical and effective and a less demoralizing system. The property interests at stake are so immense that it is imperatively necessary that the very best method of extinguishing fires should be adopted, while the population capable of running with the hose-carriages is so large that it is a fearful waste of physical force to call even a small proportion of the existing firemen into service. Practically, a few hundred men, with the powerful aid of the steam fire engines, can be more efficient in nine fires out of ten than an army of volunteers who spend half their energies in clogging up each other's way and in creating obstructions to the end which all profess to have in view. The good, faithful, vigilant, brave, and experienced firemen of Philadelphia deserve to be not only honored but paid for their laborious and heroic exertions. While a new department might not call all these men into its service, it would necessarily employ a considerable proportion of them, and as for the amateurs, they can be safely left to seek physical exercise in some less important direction. It is high time that the extinguishment of fires should be treated as a serious business, instead of a holiday pastime, with which riots, rows, murderous bickerings, and demoralizing associations are inseparably intermingled. And if the Democrats, as a party, oppose this reform, they will deserve the bitter condemnation of all good citizens.

THE BALLOT, it would seem, is not yet a universal institution in this country. Senator Morton yesterday introduced a bill providing that all elections for President, Vice-President, and members of Congress shall be by ballot, and in explaining the object of the measure, said it was intended to apply to Kentucky and perhaps one or two other States in which elections are still *visa voce*. It is about time for this matter to be bandied to. The *visa voce* vote in such a State as Kentucky is slightly out of place.

THE FRANKING PRIVILEGE occupied a great share of the time and attention of the House of Representatives at Washington yesterday. Mr. Farnsworth's modified project for doing away with this iniquity failed to pass, however; but the House struck from the new postal code every reference to the franking privilege, this negative action being even more radical than that which Mr. Farnsworth had endeavored to secure. The House last session passed a bill doing away with the franking privilege, but the Senate has not and will not assent to the measure. Nor is it at all likely that the Senate will agree to the action taken by the House yesterday, although it might have been satisfied with the proposition of Mr. Farnsworth to allow each Senator and Representative \$100 per session for postage, with provision for the distribution of public documents. Putting it all together, the prospects of a repeal of the franking privilege by the Forty-first Congress are rather meagre.

IT SEEMS from the proceedings of the Special Committee of the Board of Education, held yesterday, that the extortionate prices for a portion of the school supplies of Philadelphia have been realized through the agency of a ring made up, in part, of the male school principals. It is alleged that these gentry are not satisfied with teaching "the young idea how to shoot," but that they have been getting up ingenious devices for picking the pockets of adult tax-payers. We hope this charge will be thoroughly investigated, and that the guilty parties may be exposed and discharged from their present positions.

OUR DELINQUENT ALDERMEN were given another warning by Judge Paxson yesterday. This officer gives notice to the aldermen that if the practice of committing persons for a further hearing, and then letting them remain in prison without attention, is not discontinued, he will cause such aldermen as are guilty of it to be indicted for misdemeanor in office. One would think that there would be no necessity to wait for a repetition of this offense. Some of the aldermen have been addicted to it for so many years, that they have come to regard themselves as above all law.

POLITICAL ASSESSMENTS.—Senator Wilson yesterday introduced a bill to prevent the assessment of money upon Government employes for political or other purposes. Voluntary contributions by those in the civil service to the party organizations to which they belong are perfectly proper; but the system at present in vogue of extorting money from every Government employe is a mischievous one, and its abolition by law will constitute a good move in the direction of civil service reform.

### THE FINE ARTS.

The Art Reception at the Union League House. The Union League Club, having retired from politics, could not find a better way of expending its superabundant energies than by endeavoring to promote the art interests of Philadelphia by bringing the artists and the art patrons together in a manner most agreeable to both parties. The Union League is largely composed of gentlemen of wealth, culture and leisure; and to such a large and influential body of our best citizens the artists have a right to look for liberal aid and encouragement. If the encouragement of art meant merely affording facilities for the sale of pictures, such a body as the Union League Club might well be excused from interesting itself; but the fine arts have an intimate relation to the civilization of a country, and the pictures and statues, like good books, have values that money cannot represent. They not only confer pleasure but they aid in cultivating and educating public taste, and indirectly are important auxiliaries to religion and morality. One of the great difficulties under which artists in the United States labor is the lack of a highly cultivated class of patrons, who will be intelligently critical in their demands for thoroughly good work, and willingly aid the professors of art in their studies and labors liberally both with money and influence. Since the Academy of Fine Arts has been taking a resting spell after its enormous labors of more than half a century, the artists have been deprived of the opportunities for displaying their works afforded by the annual exhibition—a matter the less to be regretted as the exhibitions of the Academy were almost invariably badly managed, and did as much injury to the feelings they excited as they did good by making the public acquainted with the production of the studies. The proposition, therefore, of the Union League to hold a series of art receptions was received with pleasure both by the artists and the lovers of art in Philadelphia, and the display made at the first reception last evening was creditable, considering the short time the artists were given for preparation. The rooms were crowded with the beauty and fashion of Philadelphia, and although it was impossible for any one to make a satisfactory inspection of most of the pictures, the reception was a decided success, and appeared to be highly enjoyed by all present.

As compared with a regular exhibition, of course an informal affair of this kind labored under many disadvantages, and the display, considered merely as an exhibition, scarcely represented the full strength of the artistic talent of Philadelphia. Among the ninety-four works which adorned the walls there were, however, a number of very superior performances that will well repay a much closer examination than it was possible for any one to give them last night.

The honors of the occasion were carried off by Mr. D. R. Knight's fine picture of "Orpheus at the house of Brabantio," which we noticed in detail a few days ago, and by Mr. Edward Moran's striking illustration of the passage in the "Book of Job" descriptive of the staying of the waters. "Thus far shalt thou go and no further," etc. To the majority of those in attendance last evening both of these pictures were entirely new, for Mr. Knight's has just left his studio, and Mr. Moran's was only exhibited in this city for a couple of days last spring after it was finished. These pictures possess very great merit and were the centres of attraction last evening. Mr. Moran also was represented by a number of water colors. Among the most prominent among the other contributions are a landscape entitled "Solitude," by Mr. James Hamilton, which is marked by the poetical feeling that he infuses into his best works, Mr. George C. Lambdin exhibits several characteristic works, the most prominent of which is a very charming picture entitled "The Rustic Toilet," painted in his best style. Mr. Isaac Williams contributes several small canvases of Pennsylvania and Fairmount Park scenery, the most important of which we have noticed in these columns before. Mr. Russell Smith has a fine view of "The Brandywine Battlefield," which has a beautiful bit of middle distance in the centre of the picture, and "An Old Mill on the Wissahickon." Mr. W. H. Wilcox is represented by a "View on the Wissahickon," Mr. T. J. Pennington by several bits of Pennsylvania and New Hampshire scenery, Mr. A. G. Heaton by a portrait and several pen-and-ink drawings. Mr. F. P. Rothelmer by a couple of small bits of color entitled respectively "Ferdita" and "Sharp Shooter;" Miss Mary A.

Wyman, one of our youngest lady artists, by "Little Nell and her Grandfather," a picture of much merit; Mrs. E. A. Christie by "A Scene in the Wyoming Valley," Mr. N. H. Trotter by several animal pictures, Mr. Peter Moran by "A Fox Hunt," and Mr. E. D. Lewis by a couple of landscapes and a marine painted in his usual telling style. The pictures will remain on exhibition this evening and to-morrow, and lovers of art should take advantage of the opportunities to see what the Philadelphia artists have been doing lately. Another reception will be given in January, we understand, and we hope that an effort will be made to have an even better display. For such an occasion as this the artists should put the best foot forward, and if all parties interested do their best to make the receptions attractive, they ought to be productive not only of a great deal of innocent pleasure but of much positive good both to the artists and the public.

### NOTICES.

YOU CAN BUY CLOTHING BETTER AND CHEAPER OF BENNETT & CO., 707 N. 11th St., No. 515 MARKET STREET, HALF WAY BETWEEN FIFTH AND SIXTH STREETS, THAN ANYWHERE ELSE. THEY WILL NOT BE UNDERBID UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.

INVITING.—Crippen & Maddock, dealers and importers in fine groceries, No. 115 South Third street, below Chesnut street, have now in store an excellent assortment of the finest quality of all kinds of fancy groceries, suitable for the holidays, such as finest Dehesa Raisins, in whole, half, and quarter boxes; New Figs, Prunes, Grenoble Walnuts, Paper-shell Almonds, Pecan Nuts, Currants, Citron, French and English Cheese, Sardines, Peas, Mushrooms, Corn, Peaches, Tomatoes, Asparagus, Beans, Limes, Preserves, Jellies, Pickles, Sauces, and a general assortment of all goods pertaining to the business. Also the finest quality of Butter in small packages; extra fine Flour expressly for family use.

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### HOLIDAY GOODS.

Spring Horses, Rocking Horses, Children's Carriages, BOYS' SLEDS, WAGONS, VELOCIPEDS, Etc. Etc. H. J. SHILL, Factory, No. 226 DOCK Street, 129 1/2 BELOW EXCHANGE.

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R. & G. A. WRIGHT, No. 624 CHESNUT STREET, PHILADELPHIA. Have just received a large assortment of new and elegant PARIAN STATUETTES, BOHEMIAN GLASS VASES AND TOILET SETS, PERFUMERY BOXES, MEERSCHAUM PIPES, AND CIGAR HOLDERS, Together with a great variety of FANCY ARTICLES, Especially adapted for holiday presents, which they offer for sale at very reduced prices. 12 1/2 1st.

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### INVITATION.

Citizens and strangers are cordially invited (either as purchasers or visitors) to call and examine the many new and handsome patterns of Carpets and Oil Cloths, of newly arranged colorings, OF OUR OWN IMPORTATION, in addition to a great variety of goods of American manufacture, executed in such a manner as to gratify all interested in the progress of home production.

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