Evening Telegraph

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1870.

THE CITY CENSUS.

YESTERDAY afternoon we published the result of the second attempt made by Marshal Gregory to ascertain the number of inhabitants of this city. The first enumeration was so unsatisfactory to the people that the President ordered the work to be done over, and if our citizens are not wholly discouraged they will doubtless demand still another count. The first enumeration gave a population of 657,159-an increase since 1860 of 91,630, or 16:20 per cent. By the revised census the population is placed at 673,726an increase of 16,567 as compared with the returns of last June, and an increase since 1860 of 108,197, or 19:13 per cent.

With this we must be satisfied, as it is scarcely probable that another count would be granted us even if it were demanded. But it is almost as unsatisfactory as the first enumeration, and there can be little doubt that it falls below the truth. Take the case of the Eighth ward, for example. On November 10, an enumeration of the inhabitants of this ward was made by municipal authority, the number of residents on June 1 as well as on the day of the supplemental enumeration being ascertained. The three different attempts at getting at the population of this ward present the following comparison: -

Population of Eighth ward in 1869. Apparent decrease.
City Census, November 10, 1879...... Apparent decrease

While the revised Federal census of this ward shows an increase of 1919 over the count made in June last, it still falls 91 below the number of inhabitants on June 1 according to the city census, and 546 below the number of inhabitants on November 10 according to the same authority But, altogether, the result of the revised enumeration is quite satisfactory, so far as the Eighth ward is concerned. If the same rate of increase were shown all over the city, our aggregate population would foot up about 740,000, which would be somewhere near the truth. Instead, however, of Marshal Gregory's revised census showing a uniform increase throughout the city, as compared with the original enumeration made in June last, in twelve wards the revised figures actually fall 3734 below those of June, there being an aggregate increase in the remaining sixteen wards of 20,301, thus making the net increase in the city 16,567. The largest decrease is shown by the Ninth ward, in which it reaches 756, and from that point it dwindles down to a loss of 13 in the Third ward. The largest increase is shown by the Bighteenth ward, to which the revised returns give 5395 more inhabitants than it was credited with by the returns of June. While it is extremely difficult to account for the falling off of 3734 in twelve wards since June. the decrease of 672 in the Tenth ward especially is quite unaccountable. This ward is bounded by Arch, Seventh, and Vine streets and the Schuylkill river, and no one believes that its population at present is less than it was in June last. But the whole subject has become tiresome and its discussion unprofitable. Marshal Gregory has doubtless done as well as he could to ascertain the actual population of Philadelphia, and we must rest content. The imperfections of our census system, however, should not escape the attention of Congress, and before another decade rolls around, it is to be hoped that its

glaring defects will be remedied.

Jongs Kenney vesterday, in the House of Representatives, made an assault on the socalled "revenue reformers" and achieved a brilliant victory, the enemy being, to use an expressive term, nowhere. The following resolution, which was introduced by Judge Kelley, was adopted by a vote of 164 yeas to 6

"Resolved, That the true principle of revenue re-form points to the abolition of the internal revenue system which was created as a war measure to pro-vide for extraordinary expenses, and the continuof the faith and credit of the Government, of all stamp and other internal taxes; and that properly adupted rates aball to the Government, of all stamp and other internal taxes; and that properly adupted rates aball to retained on distilled annits. adjusted rates shall be retained on distilled spirits, tobacco, and mait liquors, as long as the legitimate expenses of the Government require the collection of any sum from laternal taxes."

This resolution undoubtedly expresses the only true principle of revenue reform, and Judge Kelley is entitled to the thanks of the community for having introduced it thus early in the session, and obliging the members of the House to put themselves definitely upon record as being in favor of the abolition of the internal revenue system, which was, in the language of the resolution, created as a war measure to provide for extraordinary expenses. The occasion which called for the present internal revenue laws has long passed, and the payment of the national debt is progressing in a sufficiently satisfactory manner to warrant the reform that Judge Kelley's resolution calls for. The mode of collecting the internal revenue, and the huge army of officers that it necessitates, are even more objectionable than the amounts it obliges every citizen to pay directly into the national treasury. This system was devised as a war measure, and it has fulfilled the purposes of its ereation. The corruptions that are inseparable from it were endured patiently so long as the necessities of the Government required the liberal and active support of every citizen; but the time has now come when a radical reform is imperatively demanded. Judge Kelley's resolution may be taken as an indication that he will push the true principles of revenue reform with energy during the present session, and the vote of yesterday indicates that he can commend a mejority large enough to discomut

the free-traders, who would reform the revenue by imposing additional taxes on the people of the United States for the benefit of foreign manufacturers.

ABOLITION OF NAVAL GRADES. ALTHOUGH the President magnanimously sent Vice-Admiral Porter's name into the Senate as a nominee for the position of Admiral, the House of Representatives is after him with a sharp stick, and it yesterday agreed, by a two thirds vote, to put on passage a bill abolishing the grade of Admiral, a proceeding which will dispose most effectually of Porter's pretensions. The American navy abounds, to a greater extent than any other organization in the world, with officers of high rank who draw large salaries without rendering useful service. General Logan said yesterday that "with a personnel of only eight thousand men in the navy, there were now 116 officers, with rank corresponding to those of general, lieutenant-general, major-general, and brigadier-general." He also remarked that "no such thing existed in any other navy," and he might have added that no other people would tolerate such an oppressive imposition. We are told time and again, that we have scarcely a war-ship fit for service, and yet we maintain more naval officers in princely grandeur greater than any other nation in the world. If these excessive emoluments were awarded only to real heroes, or to officers who have rendered long and efficient service, there would be comparatively little cause of complaint. But pay goes with rank, and rank has been acquired in many instances by dint of sticking to the navy as the barnacles stick to a ship, without rendering a particle of real service. A beginning towards the reformation of this gross abuse has been made by the raid against Porter; and now since it has commenced, it should be vigorously followed up by reducing the pay or by absolutely driving from the service dozens of high-salaried officers who have no legitimata claims on the national gratitude, and who are now, and have been for years, totally useless appendages.

MR. McCREERY, one of the Democratic Senators from Kentucky, gave the nation a foretaste of what it may expect from a complete restoration of Democratic ascendancy. by a joint resolution which he offered in the Senate yesterday. He proposed that a committee should be appointed to inquire into the ownership of Arlington Heights, preparatory to its restoration to the wife of Robert E. Lee, and not satisfied with a more return of the real estate, he wishes to have inquiries made in regard to the amount of rent the Government should pay for the occupancy of the property to the wife of the man who made desperate efforts to destroy the republic. He also wishes to ascertain "the necessary means for removing" the graves of Union soldiers now on the premises, and for learning the extent 1124 of Mrs. Lee's loss in Washington relies, so that the Government may be mulcted in vin dictive damages for the abstraction of such

This is altogether the coolest proceeding yet commenced, and it will furnish a fruitful subject for future agitation by the unreconstructed sympathizers who are auxious to exalt treason and humiliate loyalty in the councils of the nation.

A MOVEMENT was made in both houses of Congress yesterday to pave the way for the annexation of San Domingo by open legislation instead of the treaty process. Mr. Morton introduced in the Senate a resolution providing for the appointment of commissioners to visit the sunny shores of our proposed new sable sister, and to inquire into her extent, debt, resources, and the disposition of her people, while Mr. Banks offered JUDGE KELLEY AND REVENUE a similar resolution in the House. The wife of the head of the White House said some years age that "Mr. Grant was a very stubborn man," and he is now such a zealous advocate of the proposed acquisition that all the influence of the administration will be vigorously brought to bear in its support. If you want an office, gentle reader, write, say, or do something in favor of the acquisition of San Domingo. Those who wish to win special distinction should get up a monster meeting in favor of this project; while those who desire to have the gates of the kitchen cabinet forever closed against them have only to say that they can't, don't, or won't see the utility of buying this second-rate gem of the Antilles.

SENATOR CATTELL has finally determined to retire from political life, and will not be a candidate for re-election to the Senate, by reason of his failing health. This course on his part will be the occasion of universal regret by all who know and appreciate his worth and usefulness in the Senate.

THE FIRST COLORED MAN IN THE HOUSE .- HOD. Joseph H. Rainey, the colored member of the House of Representatives from the First Congressional district of South Carolina, and successor of Mr. Wnittemore, was yesterday sworn into office, and took his seat in the hall of the House. He is the first colored man who has held such a position, though not the first who has claimed it. He was born in Georgetown, D. C., in June, 1882 His parents were both slaves, who purchased their own They removed to Charleston, S. C., where his father and Mr. Ramey himself followed the occupation of barber. When young he had no educational advantages, and he has never attended a school in his life, but his thirst for knowledge was so great that by his own efforts he has acquired quite a respectable education. He married his wife in Philadelphia, and started to take refuge in this city during the excitement of the John Brown raid. For this offense, departing from the State and returning to it again, he was threatened with imprisonment. In 1862, while in Charleston, he was compelled to help in the construction of Confederate works, but he took the first opportunity to leave for the West Indies, where he remained until after the war. He returned to Charleston in 1866, and began business as a merchant. In 1868 he was a member of the South Carolina Constitutional Convention, and afterwards of the State Senate, where he was chairman of the Finance Committee. He is a light mulatto, of mediom height, with straight dark hair. On his credentials being presented to the House, he took the tron-clad oath, and his first official act was to vote for a resolution made by General Banks relative to Saz Demingo.

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