## THE DAILY EVENING TELEGRAPH-PHILADELPHIA, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1870.

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## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1870.

GT The earliest regular edition of THE EVENING TELEGRAPH goes to press at 11 p'clock, and the subsequent regular editions at 23, 35, and 43. 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 Mayor vesterday signed the Paid Fire Department bill, as we anticipated that he would, and the volunteer system, as his Honor sagely remarks, for so many years our pride. but for the last few years not so much so, ceases to exist. A great pressure was brought to bear upon the Mayor to induce him to veto the bill upon political grounds, but Mr. Fox, we are happy to state, was able to waive what he not unjustly considered imperfections that interfered with the rights of the political party to which he belonged, and refused

defeat a great measure for the public good for purely partisan reasons. When we consider how powerful political influences are, the Mayor is entitled to great credit for his action in this matter, and by appending his signature to the bill he has gained the good-will of the intelligent men of all parties, and has proved himself to be a public-spirited citizen and officer. The Mayor ought to have been met at least half-way by Councils in his desire to make the new Paid Department as free as possible from the influences of mere partisan politics by securing for each of the political parties proper representation upon the Board of Fire Commissioners. We regret, therefore, that the Republicans of Select Council should bave insisted upon nominating and electing. a Democratic commissioner yesterday, for such a proceeding cannot but cause dissatisfaction. Mr. George W. Plumly, the Democratic member of the board elected by Select Council, is entirely unobjectionable personally, and will, we believe, make a very excellent and efficient commissioner, while his attachment to the Democratic party cannot be impeached. This, however, does not alter the principle at stake; and the Democrats should by all means have been permitted to make their own nomination, and they can fairly contend that they are not represented upon the the board so long as the commissieners are exclusively the nominees of the Republicans. If the Democratic caucus should select a manifestly unfit person the Republicans would be perfectly justified in refusing to confirm their nomination; but unless they do this," fair play requires that they should be given no cause for complaint. We hope sincerely that Common Council, when it elects its four commissioners tomorrow, will not follow the example of the Select branch, but that it will give the Demoorats all they are entitled to in as liberal a spirit as is possible. Our principal fear in regard to the organization of the Paid Fire Department is that the Board of Fire Commissioners will allow themselves to be induced to purchase or lease more apparatus than is needed. All the old companies will undoubtedly endeavor to sell out to the best advantage, and the city will be called upon to pay for gewgaws and gingerbread work upon machines that for all practical purposes are worse than useless. The commissioners ought not to pay any more for apparatus than it is worth for actual, efficient working purposes, and all the machinery used by the new department should be made as plain and unattractive as possible, and every discouragement should be thrown in the way of unauthorized persons running to fires or hanging about the engine-houses. We do not pretend to say that the Paid Fire Department bill is perfect, and numerous imperfections will doubtless be discovered when it goes into practical operation. In its main features, however, it is, we believe, unobjectionable, and it at least answers the purpose of finally and forever putting a quietus to the old volunteer system, which has become an into'erable nuisance. The citizens of Philadelphia are to be congratulated upon the fact that a great reform has been accomplished by the creation of a Paid Fire Department, and now the commissioners, Councils, and the public generally should unite in endeavoring to make it as efficient as possible.

lean Governors of Territories and Superin- | he tendents of Indian Affairs in frontier regions have often countenanced practices which plain folks call downright stealing; and sub-agents have stolen so much of what was left after the big thieves were gorged, that we do not wonder at the conclusion some of the shrewd Indians have arrived at, viz., that our system invariably enriches the white officers and agents who administer it, while it impoverishes and kills the aborigines. If food or clothing for the latter is contracted for, it is either not delivered at all at the proper time, or articles of inferior quality are supplied. The public sentiment on the frontiers is uniformly hostile to the Indians, and few settlers in our new regions care how much a race they hate and despise are cheated. If the clothing contracted fer proves too flimsy to keep the red men from freezing, or if the food furnished is so scant, so rotten, or so unwholesome that death from starvation or disease ensues, our pioneers often regard such results either with indifference or illy-disguised satisfaction. Indeed, it has come to be a settled axiom in frontier regions that the real meaning of the traditionary policy of our Government is to temporize so as to kill the Indiana off gradually, without causing too many bloody wars, and at the same time enrich such white favorites to as may be empowered to steal by the rulers at Washington. In popular parlance, the men who have made a study and practice of such operations are known as the Indian Ring; and it seems to be well understood that, although this ring is occasionally changed in its details, reorganized, or modified, it perpetuates itself under new forms, and, like other parasites, it threatens to prolong its existence until the last Indian or the Government itself expires. It is amazing that, in spite of all the reforms set on foot during the last few years, and in spite of the earnest efforts of the President and the Indian Commission, this ring should still continue at the present day frauds as flagrant and rascalities as infamous as any which have disgraced its past history. Such persistence in wrong. doing can only be accounted for by the presumption that the thieves still have accomplices in high positions. We hope, however, in view of the earnest effort now being made by the Indian Commission and its energetic chairman, that official roguery will soon be ferreted out, and that the Augean stables of the Indian Bureau will be cleaned out at last. Let it not be said that the ring, in spite of the

manly'fight made against it, is stronger than

the Government itself.

WILL THE RINGS SURRENDER? ALL our advices from various reliable sources point to the possible loss of Republican power in our Republican Legislature, in the very outset of the session. It is clear that the reckless partisanship heretofore demanded by the Harrisburg rings will be repudiated by coming Legislature, and only by the wisest counsels and the most judicious actions can the hopeless disorganization of the Republican majority be prevented. Will the ring leaders be admonished in season ? or will they force the Republican power to speedy and utter destruction? No ring candidate can be successful for any position, and it is but madness to persist in such efforts. Who shall preside over the respective houses, and who shall be the custodian of the treasury, the people care but little, so they are honest and competent, and thus necessarily free from the loathsome taint of the unscrupulous political jobbers who have dragged the Republican party to the very verge of ruin. If Republican disorganization is forced by the insatiate demands of the corruptionists, they will reap a fearful whirlwind. If the retribution could stop with their discomfiture, the people of all parties would rejoice; but if the work of Republican disorganization is once commenced, the measure of its sweep will reach far beyond those who have invited the storm. It is known by his official declarations that the Executive is not in sympathy with the political leeches who have fastened like festering blots on the Republican party, and his official approval may be counted on for any measure necessary to restore the State to its ancient integrity. If the Republicans are permitted to act for the common interests of the party and of the State, we shall have capable officers, a liberal Convention bill, a fair apportionment, and a creditable record for the session generally. If they are distracted by the imperious demands of the ring, we may look for a combination embracing the Democrats and independent Republicans to elect the officers, pass a Convention bill and the apportionments, and in all probability revise the Registry law of this city. The only safety for the Republican party is for the spoilers to retire from the field and allow untrammelled Republican action to secure Republican unity. We can hardly hope for such a result, but if it cannot be attained by reason of the power of corruption, the honest and fearless Republicans owe it to themselves, to their party, and to the honor of the State to sanction no aspirations or purposes of unworthy men, no matter by whom commended. The bright morn of reform has dawned at last in Pennsylvania. Do the tricksters and pretenders understand? THE CONDUCT of the Rev. W. T. Sabine, an Episcopal clergyman of New York city, a few days ago, in refusing to read the burial service over the remains of the veteran actor, George Holland, cannot fail to shock all right-thinking men, no matter what their opinions in regard to the stage may be. To say that it was a scandal to Christianity is expressing in mild terms the disgust that the jublic at large must experience at such a display of pharisaical intolerance. We are happy to believe, however, that Mr. Sabine is in exception among the clergy of New York, and the friends of the late actor wers unfortunate in applying to the one man among hundreds who had so little appreciaential politicians who have from time to time tion of the spirit of the religion

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professes to teach as to refuse to perform the burial rites over the the remains of one who, by his pure, blameless, and honorable life, gave no excuse for such an insult to his memory or to the profession of which he was a distinguished ornament. Fortunately for the credit of the religious denomination to which Mr. Sabine belongs, another Episcopal clergyman, the Rev. George H. Houghton, was found "at a little church round the corner," as Mr. Sabine termed it, who unhesitatingly consented to conduct the religions services at Mr. Holland's funeral. It is difficult, in view of such an affair as this, to believe that we are living in the nineteenth century, for an exhibition of intolerance like that made by Mr. Sabine would have disgraced the dark ages, and it cannot fail to bring discredit upon the religion he professes to preach from his pulpit Sunday after Sunday. Mr. Sabine is evidently one of those Christians who forget that the charity that suffereth long and is kind is one of the main principles of Christianity, and the indignation that has been excited by his conduct ought to teach him that such things cannot be done with impunity in this day and generation.

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THE INDIAN RING.

IT has been charged for years that the Indian Bureau was notoriously corrupt. Repeated efforts to reform it have been made, but they have never been completely successful, and when frands of one description were temporarily suppressed, a new class of schemes to plunder the Treasury and cheat the aborigines were speedily invented. There is something in the very nature of the transactions between the Government and the Indians which seems to engender corruption. If a new appropriation is made for their relief. rascally gents protend that they have lobbied for it at Washington, and demand a tion's share of the governmental bounty either from the rude sons of the forest and plains or from disbursing officers. This proceas has been repeated over and over again until it has enriched successive generations of white jackals. Even when this form of extortion has not been practised, the influ-

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