THE DAILY EVENING TELEGRAPH—PHILADELPHIA, MONDAY, JANUARY 16, 1871.

SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

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Editorial Opinions of the Leading Journals upon Current Topics-Compiled Every Day for the Evening Telegraph.

CIVIL-SERVICE REFORM. From Every Saturday,

It sometimes happens that a man's real ser-vice to his country begins when he has thrown off the shackles of office and regained the independence of private life. This remark, however, cannot be applied to Hon. Jacob D. Cox -whose article in the last number of the North American Review on "The Civil-Service Reform" has given such an excellent impulse to public thought and discussion -because he has rendered the State, while still in early mankood, most valuable services, both civil and military, and because office has been no impediment to his efficiency. The moment it threatened to become so he left the office. No man, therefore, is better qualified, either by ability, character, or expe-rience, to unfold the evils of that official system of patronage which, wielded for partisan and personal purposes, has become an enormous and malignant goitre on our body politic, the removal of which becomes the great political duty of the times. An outcry, of course, will be raised, in certain quarters, that Mr. Cox is an interested party to the question under discussion; that, frustrated in some of his plans while in office, or otherwise so disciplined as to occasion his retirement, he has transferred to the public the dispute which went against him in the Department of the Interior. His reputation, however, is so strong he can afford to disregard all such insinuations a: these, while the people will do him the jus-tice-all he probably asks-to take his statements and arguments so far as they are susceptible of substantial verification.

As an exhibit of the evils of the present office-holding system we do not know that Mr. Cox's article gives anything particularly new or startling. The facts have long been known to the public; we might say too well known, for in every part of the country, down to the smallest school district, individuals are found who have assisted in pulling the wires of the great corruption batteries at Washington. Many people, seeing the de-plorable results of the present appointing system and despairing of a remedy-have been cortent to pass the whole question by on the other side-evincing the same disposition which good men often exhibited in the days of slavery, and which is now frequently manifested in regard to the Mormon ques-What was wanted, therefore, a bold, conscientious man to tion. W88 hold this subject up in the sunlight and compel the people to look at it. This Mr. Cox was the man to do, and he has performed his duty well. His article traces. although in outline, yet vividly and impress-ively, the chain of abuses, flexible, but tough as a snake's vertebræ, which binds the present official system together. Thus, a Presi-dent of the United States-and he does not of course refer to the present Executive-bent upon securing a re-election, neglects his high duties to stock the national offices with mercenary politicians, who cannot be expected to become good public servants. As he personally knows the names of but very few of the people of the Union, the members of Congress of his own party naturally become his office-brokers; and having their own election to pay for, and perhaps their next election to secure, and offices to their dependants being the acknowledged legal tender in both cases, they can hardly be dis-interested operators. Under these circum-stances a Congressman's idea of a useful officer, when he recommends a new name to any one of the Departments, is one useful to him, and not to the public service; and the appointee, if he becomes such, does not rely for retention and advancement so much upon his own worth as upon the gracious favor of "the member for his district." Then follows the result—poor officers, not likely to improve so long as they remain in office; terrible neglect and mismanagement of the public business, whether routine, executive, or legislative; and a constant play and interchange of corruption upon the people of this Union, to have withstood which so well as they have gives one the proudest right to boast "I am an American citizen. The remedy suggested by Mr. Cox is brief but sweeping, being mainly one of competitive examination, both for the admission of now members to the civil service and the promotion of those already tried. This, it will be seen, involves the entire divorce of the service from the control of partisan politics, otherwise the competitive examination, wherever lodged or however applied, would be but a farce. We have not the least doubt that it is in this direction that the reform is to be sought. Any specific measure that gives this, whether it is based upon Mr. Jenckes' bill or Senator Schurz's, will be infinitely preferable to the present system, for it will relieve the corrupting congestion at Washington, fed by and reacting upon the whole country. To use the words of Mr. Lowe, the British Chancellor of the Exchequer, it will "withdraw patronage from the dominion of party and give it to the people." Still, when the time comes for maturing such a measure-and come it must before long-there are some considerations, not directly treated by Mr. Cox, that should be taken into account. We will mention three. First, a new line will have to be drawn between what may be called political and CLEARE non-political offices. On the one hand Resident. it may be asked, If an inspector or weigher and gauger in a custom house, or the several grades of clerks in a department, are 11 14-2 all to pass through the gate of competitive examination, why should not the Col-lector or Head of the Department? On the 20162 other hand, Will it answer to cut off all the Janual real rewards of political activity now found in artist? then the civil service? Would there not be less voting than there is now, less interest in poliand same tics, less political education-objects of supreme importance in a republic? It is neces- Chai Illia sary that our civil service should not only be FLANM W elerically pure and efficient, but that it should .n . not be wholly divorced from current public opinion. In this point of view it might be advisable to make certain offices hitherto filled by appointment, like post offices, eleccompetitive examination of applicants for admission to the civil service is conducted, it cannot infallibly indicate good offi-3 3 1 4 3 4 11 cers, because it does not take cognizance of those habits, moral traits, and mental tig dierunden gen cational attainments. We should have, then, this alternatives either to allow the exdial of ann amining board a discretion in this mat-ter (which we understand to be the case ter (which we understand to be the case in Germany), or else to admit more into the lower grades of the service than might be wanted, in order, by judicions weeding out, to secure the right numbes for

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the safer course, for once open the door to personal discretion and all the old abuses would be crowding in again. Thirdly, it is not well to have official service in this country made a whit more attractive than is necessary to get the public business faithfully and steadily done. The pay, therefore, should be so graded as to invite only the requisite share of popular talent and worth, and to retain it when it has been officially trained. Let us, however, start the reform; its details will take care of themselves.

SINGLE WOMEN. From the N. Y. Tribune.

The social position of unmarried women of middle age in this country is an anomaly. While the matron and the young girl enjoy a liberty of action unparalleled in any other social system, the so-called "old maid" is set apart in an exceptional degree of seclusion and restriction. She is always a surplus—the one too many. If she makes a career or a home, it is by virtue of her own effort; neither work nor place is defined for her in the social machine.

In England, on the contrary, the unmarried woman of independent means, with the safeguard of a companion, frequently becomes a householder, and of equal weight with the matron in society. In countries, too, whose social organization has been moulded by the Church of Rome, the single woman-be she princess or peasant-finds her niche and honorable work awaiting her. Out of this de-ficiency in our society grows half the un-rest and feverish scheming which make woman now-a-days its most revolutionary member.

The story of a woman in a neighboring city suggests to us this difficulty, and hints at a possible cure. She is about thirty, we are told, possessed of good looks, a competency, and more than ordinary culture, but without a husband or any home ties. Curiously enough, she has taken up neither a mission nor reform. Going into an asylum for blind women, she fitted up apartments with the taste and elegance which her habits demanded, and has made the service of these poor creatures the work of her life, while she does not deny herself the pleasures of the outside world. There seems to us, in this course, not only a high morale, but a common sense and shrewd perception of the requirements of womanly nature, from which our reformers might take a valuable hint. "All women," they tell us, "cannot marry. Let them, therefore, be carpenters, lectucers, sea captains, if they will." Now, work of itself never satisfied any woman. It must have a certain element of devotion, romance, self-sacrifice in it, or it is incomplete.

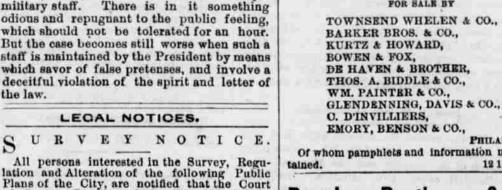
No "Advanced Female," we venture to say, finds in her lectures or the brokering business alone a recompense for the husband, the home, the baby at her breast, out of which fate has cheated her. The Church of Rome, with that keen knowledge of human nature from which we may always profit, provides for the "old maid" not only work and a sure and sufficient livelihood, but clothes her in a uniform which hourly appeals to her sense of romance and devotion. It surrounds her with symbols, pictures, and perfume; en-dows her with a mystical name, a patron saint, marries her with an actual ring to a heavenly sponse. She is not Miss Blank, nurse, needle-woman, or teacher; she is one with the great army of saints and martyrs gone before. Now, why cannot our theorists learn some-thing here? Work both for heads and hands and the chances for livelihood lie before Protestants as well as Catholics; the poor we have always with us. On the other hand stands the great army of unemployed single women. When we find among them the disposition to co-operate, to call out the productive capabilities in each other, even to make money singly, together with the common sense to recognize themselves as women, inexorably women, not striving to trample out the distinctive elements of character by which God set them apart as such, we discern at last a glimpse of steps in the Slough of Despond into which some of the sex seem to have fallen.

promotion. The latter probably would be | however, there was no law to forbid an army officer from becoming the private secretary of the President. Such is not the case at present.

The Army act approved July 15, 1870, pro-vides in section 18 that "it shall not be lawful for any officer of the army of the United States, on the active list, to hold any civil office, whether by election or appointment; and any such officer accepting or exercising the functions of a civil office shall at once cease to be an officer of the army, and his commission shall be vacated thereby." This provision utterly forbids the employment of military officers at the White House. But President Grant keeps three such officers about him in violation of this law. In the "Congressional Directory," just published at Washington, these officers are set down as secretaries of the President. They are General F. T. Dent, General Horace Porter, and General O. E. Babcock. In the official reports of Congress, General Porter, who habitually bears the messages of the President to the Capitol, is constantly represented as his secretary. This is a false representa-tion. General Porter is not a secretary of the President at all. It is well known that the only private secretary is Mr. Robert M. Douglass. But whatever else Mr. Douglass may do, he has never performed the most conspicuous function of the office, which is to bear the President's messages to Congress.

The three military officers who thus figure as the President's secretaries fall under that provision of the law which forbids any officer of the army to exercise the functions of a civil office. In the view of the law they have all vacated their commissions by violating this provision. But this is not the worst feature of the case. If President Grant wishes for three additional secretaries, it is his duty to apply to Congress for authority to appoint them, and also for an appropriation to pay for their services. This he has not been willing to do. He prefers to attain the purpose of keeping up so large a staff by subterfuge and equivocation, alike unworthy of the President and of the officers whom he puts in a false and illegal position. These three officers appear upon the rolls of the army not as secretaries of the President, but as aides-de-camp in the staff of General-Sherman. As such they are paid, and General Sherman details them for service about the person of the President. This piece of false pretense, this sneaking sort of illegality, is, we say, not creditable to any of the parties engaged in it.

If there be any reason why General Grant should have a larger number of secretaries than any of his predecessors, there is no doubt that Congress, on proof of the neces-sity, will grant them. But certainly they should not be military men. No civil officer, and least of all a President who has been a military man, should be surrounded by a military staff. There is in it something odious and repugnant to the public feeling, which should not be tolerated for an hour. But the case becomes still worse when such a staff is maintained by the President by means which savor of false pretenses, and involve a deceitful violation of the spirit and letter of the law.



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	Louisians, Arkansas, and Tannessee in connection with the Central Railroad of Georgia, Atlantic and Gulf Rail road, and Florida stesmers, at as low rates as by competing	
rs	lines.	OITY ORDINANCES.
ł,	The PIONEER will sail for Wilmington on Thurs- day, January 25, at 6 A. M. Returning, will leave Wil- mington Friday. February 3.	RESOLUTION Of Request to the Legislature of Penn vania.
	The PIONIEER will sail for Wilmington on Thurs. day, January 25, at 6 A. M. Returning, will laws Wil- minston Friday, February 3. Oonneots with the Cape Fear River Steamboat Com. pany, the Wilmington and Weldon and North Carolina Railroads, and the Wilmington and Manchester Railroad	Whereas, During the late Rebellion is amounts of money have been drawn from
on	Freights for Columbia, S. O., and Augusta, Ga., taker via Wilmington, at as low rates as by any other route.	"relief of families of volunteers," and
-	of lading signed at Queen street wharf on or before day	by Councils for those purposes, amounting eleven millions eight hundred and nine
mt	CIS WILLIAM L. JAMES, General Agent, No. 12 South THIRD Street.	thousand and sixty-eight dollars. And whereas, This large expenditure from
-	Sail every Saturday and alternate Wednesday to and from Glasgow and Derry.	Treasury of the city to aid in the suppression the late Rebellion was warranted only by
E,	Passengers booked and forwarded to and from al railway stations in Great Britain, Ireland, Ger	 occasion, and has vested in the city a just equitable claim on Congress for the full am

THE PRESIDENT'S MILITARY HOUSE. HOLD.

From the N. Y. Sun.

We notice that a professed sulogist of the administration comes forward to correct public opinion respecting the employment of army officers about the White House as aides-decamp, secretaries, and ushers. He tells us that there are excellent precedents for the practice, and that President Grant, especially in retaining General Horace Porter, "who was his aide-de-camp in military service, as his secretary, but follows the foolsteps of his most illustrious predecessors." It is false to allege that any previous Presi-

dent has ever kept about his person anything like a staff of military officers. It is a truth that on one occasion President Washington transmitted a communication to Congress by he hands of General Knox; but Knox was at that time a member of the Cabinet, and in the absence of a private secretary very properly carried to Congress a message from the President. The example of President Jack-

son is equally opposed to the present custom. The allegation of Grant's apologist is false that Jackson 'had as his private secretary, during his whole term from 1829 to 1837 Colonel Andrew Jackson Donelson, a West Point graduate, who was his nephew, and had served as his aid-de-camp." Donelson had resigned from the army years before, and was not a military man at all when he went to Washington as private secretary. He was the only official about the President, General Jackson himself signing the land warrants, a service now performed by a special secretary. The writer is equally mistaken in his other proofs that Jackson kept up a military retinue. "Major Lewis," he says, "lived in the White House during Jackson's administration, drawing his pay as Auditor of the Trea-sury; and General Call, who had served on Jackson's staff in Florida, was one of the leading personages in Washington during Old Hickory's days." By Major Lewis is meant William B. Lewis, Third Auditor of the Treasury. He was an old friend of General Jackson, and for a time was his guest at the White House; but he was not a military officer, held no official place in the household, and had no duties to discharge there. General Call was a private citizen, holding no office of any kind, and merely visiting President Jackson as a friend.

Next we have the example of President Taylor, who, we are informed, "did precisely what General Grant is now so berated for. He took with him to the White House his aid-de-camp Colonel Bliss, who acted as his private secretary until the President's death. when he returned to the army. The truth about this is that Colonel Bliss, who was President Taylor's son-in-law, was his Assistant Adjutant-General during the Mexican war; and after General Taylor became «President Colonel Bliss served as his private secretary, performing alone, without colonels or generals or givilians to help him, all the duties of the office until Taylor's death. At that time,

Quarter Sessions of the City and Con of Philadelphia have fixed WEDNESDAY, Fe ruary 15, 1871, at 10 A. M., at the Cou House, main building of the State House, consider said Surveys, Regulations, and Alte tions, and any objections against the same m be made by any freeholder then and there.

The plans, in the meantime, may be seen the office of the Department of Surveys, N 224 S. FIFTH Street. Public Plan, No. 18.—Revision of the grad

on part of the Fifth section of the Twenty-th ward, bounded North by Allegheny avenue. South by Lehigh avenue.

East by Kensington avenue.

West by Filmore street. Public Plan, No. 44.—Rearranging the lin and grades of Thirty-fourth street from Marl street to the Pennsylvania Railroad. Public Flan, No. 147.-Revision of street

grade lines in the Twenty-third and Twen tifth wards, bounded

South by Wheat Sheaf lane. West by Trenton avenue. North by Bridge street. East by Richmond street. Public Plan, No. 171.—Original plan of

Regulation of the Seventh section of Twenty-third ward, bounded

North by Cayuga street. South by Erie avenue. East by Twelfth street. West by Germantown avenue. Public Plan, No. 154.—Original plan of Regulation of the First section of the Twen third ward, bounded North by Erle avenue. South by Lenigh avenue.

East by Ninth street.

West by Tenth street and Germante

avenue. Public Plan, No. 234 .- Original plan of extension of Broad street from Chew avenu

County Line road. Public Plan, No. 132.—Original plan of First section of the late township of Bris

Twenty-second ward, bounded North by Fisher's lane and Rockl

street South by Annabury avenue and Wingoh

ing creek. East by Second street.

West by Sixth street. Public Plan, No. 204 .- Original plan of Ninth section of the late borough of Germ town, Twenty-second ward, bounded

North by Gorgas street. South by East Washington avenue. East by Township Line Road.

West by Chew street.

Public Plan, No. 139 .- Original plan of Second section of the late Blocklev townshi the Twenty-seventh ward, bounded

North by Market street. South by Baltimore avenue.

East by Fifty second street.

West by Fifty seventh street. Public Plan, No. 47.-Original plan of Third section, survey and regulation late t ship of Blockley, Twenty-seventh ship

bounded

North by Market street. South by South street.

East by Forty-seventh street.

West by Sixty-fourth street.

Public Plan, No. 121.—Revision of the gr on Thompson street, from Twenty-sixth Thirty-first street, in the Twentieth ward. Public Plan, No. 227 .- Original plan of

Water Line and Soundings between G wich Point and Broad street, and wer Broad street in the First and Twentywards.

Public Plan, No. 238 .- Plan of the resur a part of the Second and Third

bounded

North by German street. South by Wharton street. East by Delaware river.

19

West by Passyunk road. THOS. J. WORRELI

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Bowles Brothers & Co.,	Vice-President So. C. RR. Co. PHILADELPHIA AND SOUTHERN MAIL STEAMSHIP COMPANY'S REGU- LAR SEMI-MONTHLY LINE TO NEW OF LEANS LA. The JUNIATA will sail for New Orleans, via Havana, ow Wedneyday, January 18, at 8 A. M. SThe YAZOO will sail from New Orleans, via Havana,
PARIS, LONDON, BOSTON, No. 19 WILLIAM Street,	on, January THROUGH BILLS OF LADING at as low rates as by any other route given to Mobile, Gaiveston, INDIAN. OLA, ROCKPORT, LAVACOA, and BRAZOS, and to all points on the Missingpi rivel between New Orleans and bet Louis. Rad River freights resultioned at New Orleans
New York,	WEEKLY LINE TO SAVANNAH, GA. The WYOMING will sail for Savannah on Saturiay, January II, ats A. M. The YUNAWANDA will sail from Savannah in Saturi
Issue Gradita for Muovallana	day, January 21. ThROUGH BILLS OF LADING given to all the prin- cipal towns in Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Missessippi, Louisians, Arkansas, and Tennessee in connection with the Central Railroad of Georgia, Atlantic and Guif Rail- road, and Florida stesmers, at as low rates as by competing
Credits for Travellers	lines. BEMI-MONTHLY LINE TO WILMINGTON, N. C. The PIONEER will sail for Wilmington on Thurs- day, January 26, at 6 A. M. Returning, will loave Wil- mington Eriday 3.
IN EUROPE.	Connects with the Cape Fear Kiver Steamboat Com, pany, the Wilmington and Weldon and North Carolina Railroads, and the Wilmington and Manchester Bailroad to all interior points. Freights for Columbia, S. O., and Augusta, Ga., taken
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CITY OF BALTIMORE.	THE ANCHOR LINE STEAMERS Sail every Saturday and alternate Wednesday to and from Glasgow and Derry. Passengers booked and forwarded to and from all railway stations in Great Britain, Ireland, Ger- many, Norway, Sweden, or Denmark and America
\$1,200,000 six per cent. Bonds of the Western Maryland Railroad Company, endorsed by the City of Baltimore. The undersigned F. ance Committee of the Western Maryland Railroad Company offer	AS EALELY, Speedily, Comfortably, and cheaply as by suby other route or line. "EXTRESS" STEAMERS. ANGLIA, AUSTRALIA, TYRIAN.
through the American Exchange National Bank \$1,200,000 of the Bonds of the Western Maryland Railroad Company, having 50 years to run, principal	BRITANNIA, INDIA, COLUMBIA, EUROPA. From Pier 20 North river, New York, at noon. Rates of Passage, Payable in Currency,
and interest guaranteed by the city of Baltimore. This endorsement having been authorized by an act of the Legislatare, and by ordinance of the	to Liverpool, Glasgow, or Derry :- First cabins, \$65 and \$75, according to location. Cabin excursion tickets (good for twelve months), securing best accommodations, \$130, Intermediate, \$33; steerage, \$25.
City Council, was submitted to and ratified by an almost unanimous vote of the people. As an addi- tional security the city has provided a sinking fund of \$200,000 for the liquidation of this debt at maturity	Certificates, at reduced rates, can be bought here by those wishing to send for their friends, Drafts issued, payable on presentation, Apply at the company's offices to HENDERSON BROTHERS,
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rest, coupons payable January and July. WILLIAM KEYSER, JOHN K. LONGWELL, MOSES WIESENFELD,	largest in the world : OCEANIC, Captain Murray, A RCTIC, ATLANTIC, Captain Thompson, BALTIC, PACIFIC, Captain Perry, ADRIATIC, These new vessels have been designed specially for the transatlantic trade, and combine speed,
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occasion, and has vested in the city a just equitable claim on Congress for the full am in Great Britain, Ireland, Ger-waden, or Denmark and America of the same. comfortably, and cheaply as by "EXTRA" STEAMERS.

of the same. Resolved, By the Select and Common C cils of the City of Philadelphia, That the k lature of Pennsylvania be and they are he requested to make application to the Ui States Government to repay to the city of P delphia the said sum of eleven millions hundred and nineteen thousand and sixty-dollars, the amount expended as above-tioned. tioned

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions sent to the members of the Legislature from city of Philadelphia. HENRY HUHN

President of Common Coun Atlest-BENJAMIN H. HAINES.

Clerk of Select Council. SAMUEL W. CATTELL President of Select Coun Approved this fourteenth day of Jan Anno Domini one thousand eight hu and seventy-one (A. D. 1871). DANIEL M. FOX 1 14 1t Mayor of Philadelph

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