## THE DAILY EVENING TELEGRAPH-PHILADELPHIA, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1871.



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PHILADELPHIA.

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### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1871.

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.

WT The earliest regular edition of THE EVENING TELEGRAPH goes to press at 11 o'clock, and the subsequent regular editions at 23, 85, and 45. 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.

A VILLAINOUS AND DANGEROUS SCHEME.

THE last and most fatal blow at self-government in the city of Philad-lphia is about to be struck by a band of corrupt legislators at Harrisburg ! The resolutions ad pted by the Republican State Committee on the 15th instant, which were published in the TELE-ORAPH of yesterday, direct public attention to the magnitude and danger of this scheme, but earnestly as they denounce it, they do not fully portray the length and brandth of its iniquity, nor the extent of the perils which at this moment menace the taxpayers of this unh ppy community. For some weeks past ramors have been in circulation that unusually infomous and villainous legislation appertaining to Philadelphia was contemplated at the present sess on by a ring of affiliated D-mocratic and R-publican members of the House and Senate; but it is only within a few days past that the real character and hideons enormity of this scheme have been clearly exposed. Republican ascendancy in Philadelphia is to be threatened at the most vital points; the control of our citizens over their most important local affairs is to be taken from them; and a system of wholesale robbery and plunder, fashioned after that which makes New York the most terribly misgoverned and oppressed city in the world, is to be fastened as a perpetually galling yoke upon the necks of the tax-payers of Philadelphia. The scheme has even a deeper scope than this, for as the New York adepts in the art of plunder are the active agents in engineering it, so they are to transfer ready-made all the machinery by which they extract the life-blood from New York; and they will be false to all their instincts if they do not exact, in turn, a share of the profits wrung from our oppressed municipality. The agencies whereby the citizens of New York are plundered are manifold, and one of the most prominent is the affiliation of corrupt Republican leaders with the chiefs of Tammany Hall; and this is the underlying idea of the scheme which it is proposed to extend to Philade'phia by the creation of a Highway Commission, a Gas Commission, a Water Commission, and a Tax Commission for this city. Each of these departments, under the existing arrangements, is at once under the control of the Republican party, and, to a great extent, under the control of the people. If the proposed new law is adopted, however, the people of Philadelphia will at once lose all power over their highway, gas, water, and tax-assessing authorities, and this power will be transferred to cliques of confederated tyrants, who will act on many points, in harmony with the De mooracy, if not in their direct interest. To offect this end Tammany Hall has raised a corruption fund to buy outright some Republican members of the Legislature, and as a further bribe, some of their particular friends are to be placed on the different commissions; and, subsequently, tribute is to be levied forever, from the city, to fill the coffers of these cunning cormorants, their successors, and their partisan friends and favorites. There was a time when government was supposed to be for the benefit of the peop'e, but nowadays there is a constant tendency to convert governments into mere engines of extortion for the enrichment of partisan leaders. Nowhere has such a fearful | nic Society.

illustration of this tendency been given as in New York city, and yet, instead of sedulously shunning the evils made manifest by daily exposures in New York journals, faithless legislators are on the point of inflicting them on this community. The disclosure of such a design should incite the most vigorous and imperative remonstrances from every faithful Republican in Philadelphia and in other portions of this Commonwealth, as well as from every citizen who has not lost all faith in local self-government. The peril is great and imminent. All Democratic members at Harrisburg are said to be committed to the proposed project; several Republicans are also inclined to support it; and it will require resolute and determined efforts to defeat the most flagrant and dangerous scheme ever conceived in the brains of the robbers of the people.

THE ROBBINS DIVORCE CASE. THE divorce case of Robbins vs. Robbins, which has been on trial before Judge Peirce in the Court of Common Pleas during the past two weeks, was concluded yesterday by the jury rendering a verdict in favor of the respondent. This verdict has been anticipated by all who have carefully read the evidence produced on both sides and the admirable summing up of the case made by Judge Peirce in his charge to the jury. Mrs. Robbins is legally and morally acquitted of the scandalous charges made against her, but neither the verdict of the jury nor the sympathy of all decent men and women in the community can recompense her for the sufferings she must have endured previous to and during the progress of the trial. She was charged with most degrading offenses, and witnesses of the most degraded description were placed one after another upon the witness stand to swear her character away. The story they told, however, was too systematically straightforward to stand the tests of cross-examination and rebuttal, and long before the end of the trial it was perfectly evident that Mrs. Robbins was the victim of a vile conspiracy, the head and front of which was the man who had promised at the altar to love, cherish, and protect her. A more utterly disgraceful trial than this has never taken place in this city, and its result should have the effect of banishing forever from the society of decent people the man who caused it to take place. Robbins being tired of his wife-for he cannot be credited with being the victim of even so mean a passion as jealousy-seems to have deliberately planned to get rid of her by trumping up the vilest accusation a husband can bring against his wife.

The witnesses upon whom he chiefly relied to sustain his accusation are persons who would not be entitled to belief unless their testimony was strongly corroborated, and complete as was the disgusting story told by these people, all appearance of truth vanished from it when the witnesses for the respondent gave their version of the affair. The accusation against Mrs. Robbins was not sustained in one single point, but the case of the libellant rested entirely upon exaggerations of words and actions wholly innocent, and upon a mass of fabrication was evidently invented, and witnesses employed who were ready to swear to them as facts for a consideration. One of the witnesses was forced to confess himself a perjurer, while the majority of the others were clearly shown to be so. The charge of Judge Peirce to the jury was as impartial a summing up of the case as could have been made, but it was impossible for the Judge, even if he desired to, to conceal his opinion that Mrs. Robbins was clearly entitled to a verdict, and that no ground whatever had been left for the libellant to stand upon. The Judge balanced the evidence on both sides, and gave every point due consideration, and the only possible result of this method of treating it was to make the charge the strongest argument for Mrs. Robbins that could have been made. Mrs. Robbins has established her innocence, but nothing can compensate her for the outrage done her in being obliged to submit to such accusations as were brought against her, to the defence of her character in a long and tedious trial, exposed to the gaze and comments of hundreds of spectators, and all the sufferings which a lady must endure under such circumstances. She practically has no remedy for the great wrongs she has endured, but the people of Philadelphia owe it to her, to themselves, and to the cause of public decency, to make Mr. Robbins feel the weight of their indignation. He should be made to understand by the plainly expressed contempt of his fellow-citizens that men cannot perpetrate such outrages as he has been guilty of with impunity, and if he cannot be made to suffer any legal punishment, he can at least be made to feel that Philadelphia will not be a desirable place of residence in the future. Among the list of special bills introduced yesterday in the Legislature was one by Mr. Nagle, in the House of Representatives, authorizing the Philadelphia Polytechnic University to issue \$500,000 worth of stock, to borrow \$250,000, and to constitute themselves a board of underwriters, with a view of protecting the lives and property of orews and passengers on board vessels. The most that is generally known about the Philadelphia Polytechnic University is that the courts have decided that it has no right to the name it bears, but admitting that its name is all right, it is difficult to understand how such an institution will perform its legitimate functions by acting as a board of underwriters. Such a board, before it obtains such privileges as are accorded in Mr. Nagle's bill, ought to produce some evidence that it is composed of responsible men, and that it will carry out the objects of its creation in a proper manner. It would be well for the Legislature, before acting finally upon Mr. Nagle's bill, to find out who the parties are why are represented under the somewhat indefinite title of the Philadelphia PolytechTHE CITY TRUSTS.

Fon the first time in the history of the city the public have now presented to them, in a c'ear, explicit, and convenient form, a history of the various trust funds held by the city, a statement of how the funds have been used in the past, and a plain exhibit of their present standing. This document is the result of the labors of a special committee appointed on the 25th of February last by the Board of Directors of City Trusts for this special service. The committee consisted of Messrs, Edward King, Gustavus S. Benson, and Charles H. T. Collis. These gentlemen have labored faithfully for one year, and have examined thoroughty all the laws, wills, and documents connected with the various trusts. The report is a voluminous document, and gives all the information which is at all necessary, or, in fact, which it was possible to obtain. To the exertions of Mr. Charles H. T. Collis is due entirely the existence of the report in this desirable form, and the thanks of all who are at all interested in such matters are certainly due him. With this information, which heretofore it has actually been impossible to obtain, the private citizen can now judge understandingly of the workings of the new Board of Trusts, and abuses which were the order under the old arrangement can no more exist. The fair and open statement invites examination, and this in itself is a sure guarantee of a more satisfactory administration. The report gives the figures, principal and interest, for each trust in detail, and the expenditures in a like manner. It is printed in a distinct and neat form, for future reference, and is invaluable.

THE NEW FRENCH GOVERNMENT. THE cable despatches forwarded last night from France state that the delegates to the new Assembly will probably form a Provisional Republic, with M. Thiers as President. This Nestor of French politics is the ablest statesman in that unhappy country, and almost the only prominent citizen she posseeses who has had the courage and sagacity to discern and proclaim important truths at many critical periods during the last thirty or forty years. During a portion of Louis Philippe's reign he practically ruled France; during Louis Napoleon's career as President he led the opposition; after the Empire was proclaimed he detected, exposed, and denounced its blunders; when war was declared last year against Prussia, he warned his countrymen that tkey were not prepared for the contest they were provoking; when the Empire was overthrown, he begged, but in vain, for the establishment, by constitutional means, of a constitutional Government on its ruins, instead of a revolutionary Provisional Government; and yet after the Favre-Trochu-Rochefort organization was installed in power, he did what he could to relieve his distracted country. These are no slight recommendations, and the probable elevation of M. Thiers is a good augury for France in every aspect except one, viz., he is commonly believed to be a devoted adherent



ALWAYS ON

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THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY.

WARD GRA WILLIN Anne Leven - All Sources with the successive and the second second second second

of the Orleans dynasty, and he may so u his temporary power as to establish that dynasty on the French throne. If he is now animated by the honorable ambition of acting as the first of a long line of presidents of a bona fide French republic, he may render incalculable service to his country, if he intends to act merely as the catspaw of Louis Philippe's descendants, he may do more harm than good.

THE American Steamship Company is so near being fairly in a position to commence practical operations, that it is to be hoped a last final effort will have the effect of making the enterprise a complete success. Bonds to the amount of \$1,100,000 have already been taken by corporations and individuals, leaving only the comparatively small sum of \$400,000 yet to be raised. With this money in hand, the company will be enabled immediately to commence the construction of its vessels, and considering the vast importance of the proposed line, the amount ought to be obtained without serious difficulty. These bonds, it should be remembered, are indorsed by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, and are as good investments as any class of securities in the market.

THE REVENUE OF GREAT BRITAIN for the year ending December 31, 1870, was as follows, the pound sterling being valued at five dollars. The increase or decrease on the revenue of the previous year is also given :--

1	Source.	Revenue.	Increase,
	Customs	\$101,025,000	*\$9,340,000 .
5	Excise	119 185,000	8,490,000
	Stamps	45,100,000	*1,725,000
	Taxes	14,850,000	985,000
	Property Tax	37,300,000	*455,900
	Post Office	23,259,000	*250,000
	Telegraphs	2,580,000	2,500,060
	Crewn Lands	1,895,080	80,000
	Miscellaneous	18,234,775	2,387,905
	Totals	\$356,344,775	\$2,767,905

"Decrease. It will be noticed that, notwithstanding the freetrade policy of Great Britain, and the fact that her exports vastly exceed her imports, nearly one-third of her annual revenue is derived from customs auties. Absolute free trade would bankrupt her treasury, without taking into consideration its effect upon her industrial interests,

NOTICES.

VERY CHEAP, OUR ELEGANT OVERCOATS. VERY CHEAP, OUR WARM SKATING JACKETS. VERY CHEAP, OUR USEFUL CONDUCTORS' COATS. VERY CHEAP, OUR SPLENDID DRESS SUITS. VERY CHEAP, OUR BUSINESS SUITS, VRBY CHEAP, OUR YOUTHS' AND HOYS' CLOTHING, VERY CHEAP, OUR CHILDREN'S FANCY SUITS, WANAMAKER & BROWN, OAK HALL, THE LARGEST CLOTHING HOUSE, S. E. COR. SIXTH AND MARKET STS. LOOKING GLASSES, ETO.

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requires the ut est lidelity of latention on the par of its Representatives, in order to secure its triumph in the next Presidential campaign,

And whereas, The safety of the Republican party

the Democracy in 1872:

Therefore Resolved, That the proposition to misgovern the city of Philadelphia by Commissions, and the attempt by legislative action to place the property of its citizens at the disposal of persons not enjoying the confidence of the public, and to deprive the people of the right of self-government, meets with our unqualified condemnation, and we call upon the Republican Senators and Representarives at Harrisburg to vote against the same.

Resolved, That the people and the press be and they are hereby earnestly requested to take active measures to prevent the introduction into our midst of the odious system of government under which the people of New York City are now suffaring.

MAHLON H. DICKINSON, Chairman. ELIAB WARD. R. C. TITTERMARY, WM. ELLIOTT, CHARLES A. MILLER, WM. R. LEEDS, JOHN E. ADDICKS, DANIEL P. RAY, WILLIAM B. CONNELL, THOMAS C. PARKER, ALFRED C. HARMER, JAMES H. PUGH, HORATIO GATES JONES, WILLIAM RITTENHOUSE.

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