
(BUsDAYs EXCBPTED) at the evening telegraph but
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PHILADELPHIA.
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## $\frac{\text { Wednesday, marci } 1,1871 .}{\text { The Evening Trlegraph, from }}$

Its original establishment, has been in the York Associated Press, which consists of the Tribune, Times, Herald, World, Commercial Advertiser, and Evening Exour enterprise is, in itself, a sufficient evidility of the news which we have received
bersher from this source. Last March we entered Evening Telegraph has the exclusive 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 Press will appear. - The earliest regular edition of Thi 'colook, and the subsequent regular editions at, $2 \frac{1}{2}$, and 4 . Whenever there is im-
portant news of the progress of the Earopoan war, extra editions will be isgaed after early edition.
REDVCTIO AD ABBURDUM. Mr. Nacus, who is evidently a humorist of
rare attainments, yesterday introduced a bill
in the the public buildings controversy after a new and original fashion. Mr. Nagle, evidently
ired of hearing so much unprofitable discus ion with regard to the site for the publi
buildings, especially after the whole master has been definitely settled by the Legialature,
he votes of the people of Philadelphia, and the votes of the people of Philadelphia, and
the decision of the Supreme Court, prooeeds cauctio ad absurdum. His bill forbids the of Broad and Market streets, and direets that
truetures
for $\begin{array}{ccc}\text { of the municipal officers, with } & \text { the } \\ \text { xoeption of City Treasurer } \\ \text { and }\end{array}$ ontroller, shall be put up on one or two of
the Penn Squares at a cost of $\$ 1,500,000$, eoted at Fifth and Sixth and Chesnut of $\$ 500,000$. The idea of square, at a costering the oncentrating them in one elegant edifice, could only have originated in the brain of a legislator with a hugely-developed bump of
humor, and no better plan could have been suggested than the introduction of suoh
bill as that of Mr. Nagle to demonstrate the absurdity of all the clamor that has boen
raised against placing the publio buildings here the commissioners have proposed to
place them. There are times when a joke will accomplish more than serious argument, to the location of the public buildings is based solely upon the absurd ides that the whole
city of Philadelphia should be inconvenienced ein or Per that a few property-holders in the pied by the courts and municipal officers may be bènefited, it is just as well that the city
should be threatened with an arrangement surdity of the whole squabble about the pub-
lic-buildiugs site. As Mr. Nagle's bill is vidently intended for a joke, it will undoubt ypreoiatively berons spirit The in an of Philadelphia have given their deoision in ings, and there is no further pocoasion for commissioners are allowed to carry out their plans without impediment, they will give the oity a stracture which will be an objeot of pride to many generations, and which will
shame the prosent opponents of the Penn-
Square site into admiration. "ROOSTER" SMITHS GREAT PAVING Ws really do not sympathize to any greal
extent with the unfortuante inhabitants of the Sixteenth Legisiative distriot for the
anxiety which Mr. Wh. F. Smith's oourse, since he has been a momber of the Honse of IIopreentatives, munt have caused them. Mr. known, and also his accustomed style of representing the interesta of his constituents,
How he distinguished himself as a general touoh, when he was a member of Councils, in
it not written in the "Journal of Councils" of the redoubtable Smith would expand with the enlarged sphere of action which a
 Sisteenth district are obliged to pay tribute
to Smith and the "ring" of which he is the immediate representative, it is to bo hope
the deplotion of their pockets will at leas
teach them the importanoe of sending proper
men to Harrisburg to make laws for them. THE PHILADELPHIA DRINKING Tuz number of drinkings saloons offioially
reported in Philadelphia is 4159 , and it is
estimated that neearly 3000 places at which
liquor is sold are not ambraced in this list, so estimated that nearly 3000 places at whioh
liquor is sold are not ombraced in this list, so
that theree are about seven thonsand rum-
mills, of high and low degree, in constant mills, of high and low degree, in constant
operation. If we grant that it is neither
possible nor desirable to enforce a prohibitory
 inebriates or the insatiable appetites of
lovers of intoxicating beverages will prompt
them to override or evade all restrictive statutes, the great question still remains
whether a civilized and Christianized commu-
nity cannot and should not prevent snch an immenso number of saloons from flannting
temptation at every street corner, and hold-
ing out irresistible lures to the weal
 mer be acoomplished by diminishing
may number and extent of its allurements;
the num the temperanex men, moderate rinikerss,
and
and confirmed inebriates of Philadelphis, one and the temperance men, moderate drinkers,
and confirmed inibbriatee of Philidelphia, one
and all, shonld seriously inquire whether, for the interests of all concerned, the present system of licensing is not about the worst
that could possibly be devised. It springs in
a great measire out of the deep hostility
main a great measare out of the deep hostility
manifested by the temperance men some
years ago to the old system of having tamern years ago to the old system of having tavern
licensess granted exolosively by the courts, and
of punishing all who sold liquor without such a licenses and whatever may have been the
motives of those who urged this bhange,
there can motives of those who urged this ohange,
there can be no dobt that they
have practically made bad worse,
multiplied temptations, and inoreased the
number of victims on multiplied temptations, and increased the
number of victims of intemperance.
What ean be done to remedy so startling an evil? To let matters take their present
course is the worst possible policy. As a first
step towards reform the wholequent step towards reform the wholequastion should
be handed over, in a financoill sense at least,
to the control of the city. As mattera are to the control of the eity. As matters are
now arranged the whole burden imposed by
intemperance falls direetly upon this intemperance falls direotly upon this muniei-
pality, which they must pay, in supporting
the County Prison, the Almshonse, and the the County Prison, the Almshonse, and the
police, aboout two millions of dollars per
annum, while the Ste annum, while the State derives the whole
revenue from tavern licenses. It obtains revence from avern ioenses. Robtains from
this source but megre pitance -only a fow
hundred thousand dollars annually-or about one dollar for every ten that Philiadelphia
must spend in consequence of the sale of
liguor within her liquor within her limits. Such a regulation is
so manifestly unjust that it has been
abandoned elsowhere, and Philadelphia ia probably the only large city in the United
States
lation. Ahamefally swinded by unjust legis. lation. If there is no other way of getting
at this matter, lot the State Legislature pass at this matter, lot the State Legislature pass
a law requiring Philadelphia to pay the average sum now derived by the state from
the taveras in this eity, with the anderstand ing that our manicipal authoritios, or an
excise board, can impose such a tax as they excise board, can impose such a tax as they
deem proper upon our drinking saloons. By
dhis ehang this change a municipal revenne of fro
$\$ 500,000$ to $\$ 1,000,000$ could easily
raised the pole raised; the police force could be requirred to
insist upon its collection and to aid in the arrest of those who songht to evade it, an
in the financial aspeet of this matter,
crying gource of injuatioe would be remove crying source of inj antioe would be removed.
As an additional help, the system proposed
by Gerrit Smith, at a National by Gerrit Smith, at a National Tomperance
Convention, a few yeara ago, might also be
ndopted. It would make the hateirs of be and espocially injurious liquor allies, to some orvent, of the proabibitionist, instead of thoir
inveterate foes. This end could be attained
by subjecting to punisbment, by the by subjecting to punisbment, by the courta
the unserupulous venders of poisons labello
whitky or brandy whitiky or brandy, just as a noan who habita
ally poisooned his fellow.beings by dispensing
arsenic or strychrine would bo ailly poisoned his fellow. beings by dispensing
arsenio or strychinino would bo punishodi. A
woman died suddenly in the southern part of woman died suddenly in the southern part
this city a fow days
nesseas at and one of the inquest teatifled that the nesses at the inquest teatiined that the imme-
diate ounase of her death was "drinking tho


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