Evening Telegraph

(BUNDAYS EXCEPTED), AT THE EVENING TELEGRAPH BUILDING,

No. 108 S. THIRD STREET, PHILADELPHIA.

The Price is three cents per copy (double sheet), or eighteen cents per week, payable to the carrier by whom served. The subscription price by mail is Nine Dollars per annum, or One Dollar and Fifty Cents for two months, invariably in advance for the time ordered.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 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.

The earliest regular edition of THE EVENING TELEGRAPH goes to press at 11 o'clock, and the subsequent regular editions at 21, 31, and 41. 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.

REDUCTIO AD ABSURDUM. MR. NAGLE, who is evidently a humorist of rare attainments, yesterday introduced a bill in the State Senate which proposes to settle the public buildings controversy after a new and original fashion. Mr. Nagle, evidently tired of hearing so much unprofitable discussion with regard to the site for the public buildings, especially after the whole matter has been definitely settled by the Legislature, the votes of the people of Philadelphia, and the decision of the Supreme Court, proceeds to annihilate the anti-Penn Squareites with a reductio ad absurdum. His bill forbids the erection of the buildings on the intersection of Broad and Market streets, and directs that structures for the accommodation of the municipal officers, with the exception of City Treasurer and Controller, shall be put up on one or two of the Penn Squares at a cost of \$1,500,000, and that buildings for the courts shall be erected at Fifth and Sixth and Chesnut streets, upon Independence Square, at a cost of \$500,000. The idea of scattering the public offices about in this manner, instead of concentrating 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 such a bill as that of Mr. Nagle to demonstrate the absurdity of all the clamor that has been raised against placing the public buildings where the commissioners have proposed to place them. There are times when a joke will accomplish more than serious argument, and as the whole controversy with regard to the location of the public buildings is based solely upon the absurd idea that the whole city of Philadelphia should be inconvenienced in order that a few property-holders in the neighborhood of the shanties at present occupied by the courts and municipal officers may be benefited, it is just as well that the city should be threatened with an arrangement which demonstrates effectually the utter absurdity of the whole squabble about the public-buildings site. As Mr. Nagle's bill is evidently intended for a joke, it will undoubtedly be dealt with by the Legislature in an appreciatively humorous spirit. The citizens of Philadelphia have given their decision in the matter of the location of the public buildings, and there is no further occasion for legislative interference of any kind. If the commissioners are allowed to carry out their plans without impediment, they will give the city a structure which will be an object of pride to many generations, and which will shame the present opponents of the Penn-Square site into admiration.

"ROOSTER" SMITH'S GREAT PAVING

JOB.

WE really do not sympathize to any great extent with the unfortunate inhabitants of the Sixteenth Legislative district for the anxiety which Mr. W. F. Smith's course, since he has been a member of the House of Representatives, must have caused them. Mr. Smith's peculiarities as a public man were well known, and also his accustomed style of representing the interests of his constituents. How he distinguished himself as a general advocate of jobs which no one else would touch, when he was a member of Councils, is it not written in the "Journal of Councils"? and was it not to be expected that the schemes of the redoubtable Smith would expand seat in the Legislature affords him? The people of the Sixteenth district knew all about our friend Smith, and yet they sent him to the Legislature, and he, true to his principles, proposes to reward their confidence by making them bear the expense of some of the most magnificent jobs that have ever been introduced to the notice of the public by any of our law-makers who have no reputation for honesty or decency to lose. One of the principal measures proposed by Mr. Smith is a grand scheme to open a variety of new roads, and to pave them and a number of those already in existence at the expense of the property-holders of the Twenty-second and Twenty-third wards. Unlike Nagle's public buildings bill, this is no joke. On the contrary, the Representative from the Sixteenth district really means business, and is fully determined to make hay while the sun shines. If Smith can get the above mentioned bill, or indeed any one of his numerous measures of a similar character, through the Legislature, and secure the signature of the Governor-this last is not a difficult thing to do, by the way-he can afford to retire from public life and spend the balance of his days in making money out of paving contracts. It would be hard on the Twenty-second warders, we know, but as they were ambitious to be represented in the Legislature by W. F. Smith, Esq., they really have no good cause for complaint if he makes them pay handsomely for the luxury. It is sad to think, however, that as in all such cases the innocent must suffer with the guilty, and that those who did not vote for him will be compelled to pay as well as those who did. This is one of the inconveniences of our political system, and it must be borne with as good grace as the victims are able to command; and if the people of the Sixteenth district are obliged to pay tribute to Smith and the "ring" of which he is the immediate representative, it is to be hoped the depletion of their pockets will at least teach them the importance of sending proper men to Harrisburg to make laws for them.

THE PHILADELPHIA DRINKING SALOONS.

THE number of drinkings saloons officially reported in Philadelphia is 4159; and it is estimated that nearly 3000 places at which liquor is sold are not embraced in this list, so that there are about seven thousand rummills, of high and low degree, in constant operation. If we grant that it is neither possible nor desirable to enforce a prohibitory liquor law, and concede that the raging thirst of confirmed 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 community cannot and should not prevent such an immense number of saloons from flaunting temptation at every street corner, and holding out irresistible lures to the weak and wavering at every favorite resort. Even where vice cannot be extirpated, much may be accomplished by diminishing the number and extent of its allurements: and the temperance men, moderate drinkers, and confirmed inebriates of Philadelphia, one and all, should 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 measure out of the deep hostility manifested by the temperance men some years ago to the old system of having tavern licenses granted exclusively by the courts, and of punishing all who sold liquor without such a license; and whatever may have been the motives of those who urged this change, there can be no doubt that they have practically made bad worse, multiplied temptations, and increased the number of victims of intemperance. What can be done to remedy so startling au evil? To let matters take their present course is the worst possible policy. As a first step towards reform the whole question should be handed over, in a financial sense at least, to the control of the city. As matters are now arranged the whole burden imposed by intemperance falls directly upon this municipality, which they must pay, in supporting the County Prison, the Almshouse, and the police, about two millions of dollars per annum, while the State derives the whole revenue from tavern licenses. It obtains from this source but a meagre pittance—only a few hundred thousand dollars annually-or about one dollar for every ten that Philadelphia must spend in consequence of the sale of liquor within her limits. Such a regulation is so manifestly unjust that it has been abandoned elsewhere, and Philadelphia is probably the only large city in the United States so shamefully swindled by unjust legislation. If there is no other way of getting at this matter, let the State Legislature pass a law requiring Philadelphia to pay the average sum now derived by the State from the taverns in this city, with the understanding that our municipal authorities, or an excise board, can impose such a tax as they deem proper upon our drinking saloons. By this change a municipal revenue of from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 could easily be raised; the police force could be required to insist upon its collection and to aid in the arrest of those who sought to evade it; and, in the financial aspect of this matter, one

crying source of injustice would be removed. As an additional help, the system proposed by Gerrit Smith, at a National Temperance Convention, a few years ago, might also be adopted. It would make the haters of bad and especially injurious liquor allies, to some extent, of the prohibitionists, instead of their inveterate fees. This end could be attained by subjecting to punishment, by the courts, the unscrupulous venders of poisons labelled whisky or brandy, just as a man who habitually poisoned his fellow-beings by dispensing arsenic or strychnine would be punished. A woman died suddenly in the southern part of this city a few days ago, and one of the witnesses at the inquest testified that the immewith the enlarged sphere of action which a diate cause of her death was "drinking the

worsest whisky that ever was sold;" and such cases frequently occur. Trained moderate drinkers shrink from half the stuff sold in our saloons as they would shrink from the vilest compounds that were ever made by a professional poisoner. And there can be no doubt that the drinking saloons of Philadelphia actually poison (we do not mean in the prohibition sense, which implies that all alcoholic preparations are poisonous, but in a medical sense) thousands of citizens every year, sending them to their graves by preparations as deadly in their nature as arsenic or prussic acid. Men who occasionally take a gless of lager beer, wine, or brandy, know this fact even better than the temperance men know it, and the question is worth considering whether, as jurymen, they would not convict the dispenser of such infernal mixtures; and whether a series of such convictions would not go far to root out of the community thousands of the rum-mills which are now sowing broadcast fatal diseases, as well as perpetually flaunting temptations. If liquor must be sold in our midst, restrictions of some kind are better than no restrictions at all; and it is becoming especially necessary that the power of poisoning the community should be restrained, as well as that Philadelphia should be, in part, relieved of the heavy financial burden now imposed upon her by intemperance.

NOTICES. THE LARGEST CLOTHING HOUSE IN AMERICA.
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BROWN STONE RESIDENCE,

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Three Doors above Sumner St.,

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STREET. Four-story front, five-story double back buildings. occupied as offices, and suitable for an insurance

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New styles Linen Collars and Cuffs. New styles Linen Collars and Cuffs.

A large lot of Registered Edgings, 25, 38, 50, 56, 65, 75, 88c. a piece, 12 yards in a piece.

Bargains in Ladies' and Gents' Linen Hdkfs.

500 dozen Towels, at less than regular prices.

Heavy Huck Towels, 12½, 14, 16, 18, 20, 25, 816.

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I case Corded Piques, 25c., worth 31c.

New style Piques, 25, 31, 33, 38, and 50c.

Soft-finish Cambrics, Nainsooks, French Nainsooks.

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India Twill Long Cloths, etc. Satin Plaid Nainsooks, 18, 20, 22, 25, 28, 30, 31, 35, and 37%c.

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Imported to order expressly for our sales, and are very cheap, from \$3 up to \$10.

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Black Alpacas, 31, 37%, 40, 45, 50, 62%, 75c., \$1. French Plaid Poplins, \$1c
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Bargains in all-wool Flannels, 25, 31, 37%, 45, 50c.
7-8 and 4-4 Ballardvale Flannels. Domet Flannels.

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Genta' Shirt Fronts, all Linen, 25, 31, 38, 49, 45, 50, 56, 60, and 65c. Boys' Shirt Fronts.

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ANNUAL STATEMENT

NATIONAL

Life Insurance Company

United States of America.

For the Year Ending Dec 31, 1870.

Net Assets, January 1, 1870 \$1,924,489-40 RECEIPTS DURING THE YEAR.

8739,680-96 DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE YEAR. Claims by Death and Annuity...\$105,848-30 Surrendered Pelli

Taxes...... 10,511 19 Expenses..... 218,807-83 \$371,855 ST Increase in Net Assets during the year, \$367,825-0>

\$1,592,307-49

ASSETS, JANUARY 1, 1971. Cash on hand and in Bank... \$89,707.74 \$40,000 U. S. Bonds (cost).....452,597.60 \$26,500 Virginia State 68 (cost). 16,747-26

10,457-16 property..... - \$1,592,307-49 Present Value of Reinsured nually and Quarteriy)..... 94,443-00 Premiums in Course of Collec-

Market Value of Investments in excess of Cost. 33,265.00 \$173,289-74

1, 1871. 7,259 Amount of Policies in force, January 1, .\$19,543,637 OC The Annual Statement, as given above, shows that

this Company has accumulated, during the twentynine months of its existence, the sum of

\$765,597'23,

Which, with the Capital Stock of

\$1,000,000, Makes a total amount of available and valuable Assets of ONE MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED AND SIXTY-F-VE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND NINETY-SEVEN 28-100 DOLLARS, the whole of

which is held safely and profitably invested for the security of its Policy-Holders. A valuation of the Folicies in force on the first day of January, 1571, made by the most rigid method. and upon the same standard as to Interest and Mortality as that upon which its Premiums are based, shows that the full present value, or amount re-

quired to safely reinsure its risks on that date, was \$807,889. A careful examination of the above figures, and of the character of the Assets, gives conclusive evidence that the NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA affords to its Policy-Holders that which is the most desirable in any Life insurance Company,

namely, abundant security. The ratio of Assets to Liabilities is over 200 per cent; that is, the Company has more than \$200 for each #100 of liability. 8 1 wfm6t4p

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This Company will insure against Loss or Damage
by Fire, on Buildings, Furniture, and Merchandise

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Also, Marine Insurance on Vessels, Cargoes, and Freights. Inland Insurance to all parts of the Union.

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At 75 cents, a job lot White Kid Gloves.

At 50 cents, the balance of our Solled Gloves.

At 32 cents, Ladies' Cloth Gloves.

At 32 cents, Ladies' Plush Lined Gloves.

At 31 cents, Children's warm Gloves, 2 pairs, 25c.

At \$1, Children's Party Shades Kid Gloves.

At \$1, Children's White Kid Gloves.

At \$1 to, Gents' White and Party Shades Kid Gloves.

At \$1 to, Gents' Kid Gloves, all colors.

At 11 50, Genta' Rid Gloves, all colors. At 25 cents, Gents' English Half Hose, regular At 25 cents, Gents' English Half Hose, regular made.
At 25 cents, Ladies' Full Regular Made Hose.
At 55 cents, Gents' Scarfs, worth \$1; half price.
At 64 cents Gents Scarfs, worth \$1; half price.
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