THE DOOR INSTALL OF THE STREET ALLES PRESENTED AND THE PARTY MARKET LABOR.

SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 1871. SHOOTING SMALL BOYS AS PASTIME.

FRANK McGAUGHBAN, watchman on a coal wharf, being of a sportive turn of mind, and having the example of Richard Ficken, sugar refiner, before his eyes, celebrated last Christmas day by indulging in the luxury of shooting to death a small boy by the name of George H. Fury, just as Ficken commemorated the anniversary of St. Valentine a year ago in a somewhat similar manner. McGaughran proved himself the better marksman of the two, for he slaughtered his boy, while Ficken merely "winged," or to speak more literally, "legged" young Curran, and was thereby enabled to escape a liability to the penalty which the laws attach to the erime of murder. McGaughran was evidently inspired by the example of Ficken to celebrate the Christmas holiday in the way he did, and there certainly appears to be no good reason why a poor coal-wharf watchman may not shoot small boys on Christmas, if wealthy sugar refiners can with impunity indulge in the same sport upon St. Valentine's day. It was just here, however, that McGaughran made his greatest mistake. Shooting small boys is not yet recognized to any given extent by the general public or the laws of the State of Pennsylvania as a legitimate method of amusing the leisure hours of gentlemen of sporting proclivities. To be sure, a license to shoot small toys can be purchased in the shape of a general indulgence from the Governor of the State, who is endowed with the power of granting a free pardon to any one for all offenses, whether such offenses have been proved in a court of law to have been committed or not. This kind of a pardon, however, takes money, and it cost Richard Ficken the sum of \$50,000 for sending a bullet into Arthur Curran's leg.

As McGaughran killed his boy, it would probably have cost him at least \$100,000 to have been released from the disagreeable necessity of standing a trial upon the charge of murder. McGaughran being only a poor watchman, was unable to obtain any such sum as this, and the consequence has been that vesterday he was convicted before Judges Ludlow and Paxson of murder in the second degree and was sentenced to ten years imprisonment in the Eastern Penitentiary. This served him right, for he should have known that, although this is a republic, rich men have some privileges which poor men must sigh for in vain, and one of these is the privilege of shoeting small boys.

We doubt not but that McGaughran's counsel did what they could for him after a certain fashion, but as he followed in the footsteps of Ficken in one respect, why did the proposed treaty with Great Britain, and he not imitate him in another? He should | San Domingo. Underlying everything else by all means have obtained the services of Messrs. William B. Mann and Lewis C. Cassidy, who carry on the business of pardon brokers as well as that of attorneys and counsellors-at-law, and who have an influence with the Executive in matters of this kind which it would have been worth while for McGaughran to have availed himself of. Messrs. Mann and Cassidy might indeed have put the matter through with the Governor for a much smaller sum than \$100,000, and the friends of the unfortunate man who was convicted yesterday might, by begging, borrowing, or stealing, have possibly obtained enough cash to have spared him the pain of a public trial on the charge of murder and a sentence to such an unpleasant place of residence as the

Eastern Penitentiary. Indeed, the more the matter is considered, the more likely it appears that the thing could have been done at a comparatively moderate cost. With the precedent of the Ficken case before him. how could the Governor, to be consistent, have refused a pardon to McGaughran? Besides, McGaughran probably has some political influence, even if he lacks cash; and as the Governor, the Attorney-General, Mr. William B. Mann all aspirants for valuable public offices, and as they will certainly need all the political influence they can obtain, it is very likely that McGaughran could have got his pardon on comparatively easy terms. As the matter now stands the administration of justice in Pennsylvania is certainly open to reproach. Richard Ficken can walk the streets of Philadelphia a free man, simply because he is able to purchase with a certain amount of cash immunity from any of the legal consequences of what the law denominates to be a crime, while Frank McGaughran,

"Can such things be, And o'ercome us like a summer's cloud, Without our special wonder?"

for imitating his example, is tried, convicted,

and sentenced to the Penitentiary as a felon.

In the words of the immortal W. Shakespeare

THE OLD AND NEW CONGRESS. AT noon to-day the Forty-first Congress expired, and the Forty-second Congress] was ushered into official existence. This change is one of no little political importance, on account of the comparative diminution of Republican strength and the increase of the strength of the Democracy. This will be more apt to be felt now negatively, however, than positively, for the immense preponderance of the Republicans in the Senate will prevent the passage of any radical Democratic measure, and the worst that is to be feared for the present is that the diminished Republican strength in the House may prevent the passage of radical Republican measures in that body. The Democrats can no longer shield themselves under the pretext that they are utterly powerless. They will have strength enough to prevent hasty action on any question, and, if they secure the aid of a few Republicans, they can prevent the passage of any bill of an ultra partisan character or of any other measure which they unite in opposing. What the country needs above all other things is a party of economy and reform; and if a controlling majority of the

members of the next Congress are heartily | it is possible for a jury to be made up almost devoted to such a policy, it will matter comparatively little what is the comparative proportion of its Republican and Democratic members. The country is growing tired of abstractions, and intensely anxious that the burdens of tax-payers should not be maintained and increased by a reckless waste of the public money. Honest and prudent men opposed to such extravagance are to be found among the members of both parties, on the one hand, as there are champions of extravagance and slaves of corruption to be found alike among the Democratic and Republican members. The best thing Congress could do would be to lift the burdens from the people by abstaining from the expenditure of a single dollar unnecessarily; and after they have re-established an old-fashioned system of economy, they might quarrel to their hearts' content about the partisan issues. It is difficult to ascertain at this writing whether some of the appropriations about which the Senate and House differed have been passed or defeated; but the tendency of the times is illustrated by the Senate action favoring an increase of the salaries of a large number of Washington officials, the expenditure of large sums for new public buildings at the capital, and (most dangerous of all) the passage of an amendment authorizing the payment of claims of Southern loyalists for food, supplies, etc., furnished to the Union armies during the late war, as well as by the excessive liberality displayed by the house to some of its favorits. There is no nation on earth that has so much money fooled and flung away by its local, State, and national representatives, year after year, as the United States; and the plauder of treasuries is growing to be such a favorite science with the politicians of all parties that they have well-nigh come to regard all other studies as well as the remonstrances of the press and the sufferings of the people, as totally unworthy of their attention. The day is coming when issues arising out of these stereotyped robberies will absorb all others, and it is to be hoped that the change in the political aspect of the House will hasten this auspicious day, or at least make the members of both parties more mindful of the rising wrath of the people against foolish and criminal extravagance. Everybody and pretty much everything has been taken care of, of late years, except the able-bodied white tax-payer, who has footed the bill of all projects and all theories, but who does not intend much longer to suffer anybody's interests or any class of exciting questions to blind his eyes to the importance of holding those who vote away his money to rigid accountability.

Independent of the topic already referred to, the issues most likely to arise in the new Congress will probably relate to the tariff, the alleged outrages in the Southern States, will be the struggle for the Presidential succession. The Democrats, rendered as emaciated and hungry as Pharaoh's lean kine by their prolonged exclusion from national power, will make desperate and probably adroit attempts to regain it. The Republicans are to some extent divided in their counsels, and a long lease of power, with its accompanying patronage and responsibilities, has tended to develop intense jealousies and antagonisms. It remains to be seen whether the Republican party will prove equal to the task of reconciling and allaying them to such an extent that the political victories of 1860, 1864, and 1868 will be followed by a similar triumph in 1872. Aug attempt of the Democracy to revive old war issues will have a strong tendency to rekindle the irresistible enthusiasm that has so often swept the country; but it is not unlikely that comparatively new issues will attain paramount importance in the next Presidential campaign, and it behooves the Republican members to be on their best behavior, and to combine, as far as in them lies, the wisdom of the serpent with the innocence of the dove, if they wish to secure another triumph for themselves and their party in 1872.

RECOMMENDED TO MERCY. YESTERDAY afternoon the jury in the case of

Percy B. Spear, on trial in the United States District Court, rendered a verdict of guilty, accompanying their finding with a "strong recommendation" to the mercy of the Court. Spear, it will be remembered, was appointed an Indian Agent by the President, on the recommendation of a certain missionary association, and in his anxiety get his fingers on the money and goods belonging to the Government and the Indians, forged the name of Charles E. Smith, Esq., formerly President of the Reading Railroad Company, as one of the ureties to his bond, adding also that of John W. Jones, Esq., the Secretary of the Reading Railroad Company, as a witness to Mr. Smith's signature. The forgery of these two names was so completely proven the scoundrel had no that loophole through which he could possibly creep. Indeed, the only palliation of the offense that was attempted was the suggestion by one of Spear's counsel that some kind friend of the accused had filled up and signed the bond, intimating that this kind friend was a holder of public office, who did it "without a thought that there was anything morally or legally wrong in it." This intimation pointed plainly to Robert M. Evans, who was also one of Spear's sureties, and accompanied him to the office of the District Attorney when the bond was taken there for approval. What further connection Evans had with the matter did not appear in the evidence elicited, but until he is shown to have had nothing to do with the forgery, and to have been entirely ignorant of its perpetration, the court of public opinion will hold him equally guilty

But the defects in the law regulating the drawing of jurors in the United States Courts comes to the rescue of the forger. The Marshal has the selection of the jurors, and

with Spear.

entirely, if not completely, of the friends of a prisoner. The length of time taken by the jury in Spear's case to agree upon a verdict, and the "strong" recommendation to mercy, have a suspicions look in this case. The appeal of the jury in behalf of Spear is intended, of course, as a basis for an attempt to procure a pardon from the President, whereby the rascal Spear will escape the punishment he so richly merits. There are cases in which a recommendation to mercy is both plausible and proper, but it is incomprehensible bow such a recommendation could be made in a case of clearly-proven forgery. It is to be hoped, however, that Judge Cadwallader will give Spear a punishment commensurate with his deserts, and that the President will be persuaded, for consistency's sake, to keep his hands off. If his Indian policy is not a mere sham, he will surely not interfere with Percy B. Spear.

THE PUBLIC BUILDINGS. LAST evening the plans for the new public buildings which have been prepared by John McArthur, Jr., were exhibited at the Continental Hotel to the Judges of the Courts, the leading members of the bar, members of Councils, and others, for the purpose of receiving criticisms and suggestions- The plans exhibited the distribution of the offices in one large building at the intersection of Broad and Market streets. with the general architectural effect the proposed structure would have, and also the distribution of room in four buildings. These plans were freely criticized, and fa number of important and valuable suggestions were made, which will doubtless be made use of in the preparation of the plan which will ultimately be submitted to the Commissioners. There could be but one opinion, however, with regard to the great superiority in every respect which one large building in the centre will have over four small ones. Such a building as Mr. McArthur's plan pro-

poses will not only have an imposing architectural effect, but it will economize space and will be heated, lighted, and ventilated at much less expense than four edifices. All the advantages are on the side of one large and elegant structure, and we are confident that outside of the ring of property-holders who are clamoring to have the public buildings placed on Washington Square, there will be one opinion on this subject among the citizens of Philadelphia when the plans of the commission are fully matured and are submitted to public

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1		NOTICES.		
	Boys'	TO LADIES,	CHILDREN	
1	Boys'	AND ALL OTHERS WHO HAVE	CHILDREN	
ı	Boys.	THE SELECTING OF	CHILDREN	
	Boys'	BOYS' CLOTHING!	CHILDREN	
	Poys'	ON OUR FIRST FLOOR	CHILDREN	
	LOYS'	WE HAVE A SPECIAL DEPARTMENT	CHILDREN	
	Boys'	FOR BOYS' AND YOUTHS' CLOTHING.		
	Boys'	AND HAVE A BEAUTIFUL VARIETY	CHILDREN	
	Boys'	FOR CHILDREN FROM 3 YEARS	CHILDREN	
	Boys'	UPWARD, EMBRACING	CHILDREN	
	Boys'	"STRIPED SUITS,"	CHILDREN	
	HOYB'	"PRINCE IMPERIALS,"	CHILDREN	
	Boys'	"CONTINENTALS,"	CHILDRES	
	Roys'	"Knee Brekches,"	CHILDREN	
	BOYS'	"GARIBALDIS,"	CHILDREN	
i	Boys'	BISMARCKS,"	CHILDREN	
ij	Boys'	"Scorca Suits," RTC.	CHILDREN	
1	Boys'	AND FOR POYS AND YOUTH,	CHILDREN	
ı	Boys'	WE HAVE ALL STYLES AND SIZES.	CHILDREN	
1	BOYS'	WE MEAN THAT OUR	CHILDREN	
1	Boys'	"BOYS' DEPARTMENT"	CHILDREN	
Į	Boys'	SHALL BE WHAT OUR	CHILDREN	
ı	Boys'	GENTLEMEN'S IS, THE	CHILDREN	
1	Boys'	BEST IN PHILADELPHIA.	CHILDREN	
1		WANAMAKER & BROWN'S		
۰		OAR HALL		

OAK HALL,

LARGEST CLOTHING HOUSE,
S. E. COR. SIXTH AND MARKET STREETS,

THE SUDDEN CHANGES OF TEMPERATURE, together with the searching winds which are now so common, are causing severe Colds to prevail everywhere, and laying the foundations for many cases of Inflammation of the Lungs, Pleurisy, Asthma, and other Lung Disorders. Prudent people should now take especial precautions to avoid unnecessary exposure, and if unfortunate enough to contract Colds, would do well to resort at once to Dr. Jayne's Expectorant, a safe and reliable remedy, which will not only promptly cure Coughs and Colds, but will relieve and strengthen the Polmonary and Bronchial organs, and remove all dangerous symptoms. Sold everywhere.

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the store must be given up to-night. Will be sold, FINE SILKS, SHAWLS, POPLINS, PIQUES, AND DRESS GOODS GENERALLY. THOMAS BIRCH & SON,

Auctioneers

SELF-MADE MAN .-Somebody has remarked that a self-made man is

the highest type of mankind, possessing the noblest qualities with which God has endowed the race, and uniting with them the most energetic determination, a prerequisite to be useful in any avocation. Such a man, in our humble opinion, is Mr. John Mayer, whose reputation as a skilful designer and regenerator of hair is so widely known. This gentleman has talents of no ordinary character, and his ingenuity, which has found culmination in so many valuable developments, is worthy of special mention. His boyhood was passed in the United States Navy, and he has visited nearly every part of the globe. His extensive travels have added to his rich fund of information, and ripened his "superior judgment and experience." Many important inventions have been made by this consummate genius, who unites a thorough knowledge of the mechanics with a fine architectural taste. His splendid new marble edifice on North Ninth street, above Arch, is a lasting monument to his enterprise. His noble structure, now nearly completed, should be seen and admired by all our wise citizens and every visitor to the city-how out of an incongruous mass of nearly a dozen different plans Mr. Mayer evelved a harmonious whole. The good points of each were taken and eventually developed into the beautiful and unique building we have spoken of above. In manner Mr. Mayer is courteous; in dealing just; his movements are most active and rapid. It is stated that in his special business he is able to perform the work of three ordinary hands. Such a man is an acquisition to the city and our people, and they should 8 4 stu 21 4p be proud of him.

N The copartnership heretofore existing between the undersigned is this day dissolved by mutual consent. The business of the late firm will be settled by their successors, ROBB & BIDDLE. WILLIAM H. WELSH, JAMES M. ROBB.

Philadelphia, March 2, 1871.

THE UNDERSIGNED HAVE THIS DAY ENcarrying on the PRINTING AND PUBLISHING BUSINESS, and, especially, the publication of "THE AGE," in the City of Philadelphia, JAMES M. ROBB,

CHARLES J. BIDDLE. Philadelphia, March 9, 1871.

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> SHIRT FRONTS. BEST LINENS. STAIR CRASH FLOOR LINENS. DRESS LINENS. TOWELLINGS. SOFT DIAPER.

18 pieces Turkey Red Tabling. 200 dozen Turkey Red Doylies. Piano Covers \$10 up.

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able to sell them at the very lowest prices. "GUSTAV BECKER, "First Manufacturer of Regulators, "Freiburg, Germany.

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