Evening Telegraph

(SUNDAYS EXCEPTED). AT THE EVENING TELEGRAPH BUILDING, No. 108 S. THIRD STREET,

PHILADELPHIA.

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MONDAY, APRIL 8, 1871.

THE PUBLIC BUILDINGS. THE impartial citizens of Philadelphia who do not own property in the neighborhood of either Washington or Penn Squares, cannot but be surprised at certain features of the controversy about the site for the public buildings. Before the October election the total unfitness of Penn Square, and the impropriety of removing the public offices and courts so far up town, were eloquently dwelt upon by certain of our contemporaries in the neighborhood of Sixth and Chesnut streets. After the election the anti-Penn Squareites adopted a new line of action, and commenced to denounce the proposed plan of the commissioners to place the buildings at the intersection of Broad and Market streets, and now they have demanded that the commission itself shall be abolished, on the ground that its creation was "a direct and flagrant attack upon the fundamental principles of the American theory of government." There are several very curious features to this last phase of the public buildings controversy, to which we invite the attention of our readers: -

First. No fault whatever was found with the creation of the commission by the anti-Penn Squareites previous to the October election.

Second. Some of the most ardent advocates for the abolition of the commission on the ground that it is "a direct and flagrant," etc., were either the open advocates or the silent supporters of the project to p'ace the government of the city of Philadelphia in the hands of certain commissioners with far greater powers than have ever been conferred upon the Building Commissioners. What has the Bulletin to say to this?

Third. A number of the "friends of true reform" who are now endeavoring to have the Building Commission abolished as "a direct and flagrant," etc., are themselves members of commissions created by the Legislature, and which, according to their own theory, must be "direct and flagrant," etc. It is certainly a poor rule that will not work both ways.

On this last point we cannot do better than to quote from editorials of the Sunday Dispatch of yesterday and yesterday week. The Dispatch, referring to the meeting at Horticultural Hall, on Friday, March 24, says: -

The following eminent citizens, who are opposed to the Building Commission because "it was created by the Legislature," were among the vice-presi-dents:—Morton McMichael, member of the Fair-mount Park Commission, created by the Legislature in pursuance of "a direct and flagrant attack upon fundamental principles of the American theory of government, N. B. Browne, ditto, ditto, ditto.

N. B. Browne, divo, ditto, ditto.
J. Gillingham Fell, commissioner and member of
the Board of City Trusts, created by act of Assembly, being a "direct and flagrant," etc. etc. etc.
James L. Claghorn, a double-double commissioner,
being upon the Fairmount Park Commission and the Board of City Trusts, which are "direct and flagrant,

The chief advocates before the Legislature for the abolition of the Building Commission were Messrs. J. C. Bullitt and J. K. Findlay, who took upon themselves to represent at Harrisburg the latest conclusions of the Washington Square property-holders, being supported by the countenance of Mr. John L. Lawson, who accompanied them. The Dispatch of yesterday referred to these gen-

tlemen as follows: -Messrs. Bullitt and Findlay found their strong point in an assertion that such a thing as the creation of a commission of this character was unprecedented, a high stretch of power, etc., etc. This may be considered extraordinary. We are not disposed to find fault with Mr. Builitt for his ignorance of the law. There is an old adage which says, "Ig-norance of the law excuseth no man." But that means "no man who is not a lawyer." Men way are lawyers are well known to be ignorant of the law, else why the necessity of so many lawsuits in which one-half of the lawyers employed assert that the law is exactly contrary to what it is decided to be? We can excuse Mr. Bullitt's ignorance, therefore; we are not disposed to excuse the ignorance of John K. Findlay, or of his associate in the Harris-burg trip, John L. Lawson. Both of these gentle-men personally know that the law, which they do men personally know that the law, which they denounce as monstrous in its character and unexampled in all previous experience, is no
noveity. On the fifth day of April, 1863,
the Legislature, against the protest of the Councils of the city of Philadelphia, created a
commission to build a bridge over the river
Schuylkill, at South street, with authority to create loans to pay for the expense of the work, and to compel the city of Philadelphia to pay the interest and principal, and whatever expenses the commissioners should call upon them to pay. Against that law the city of Philadelphia was most obstinately opposed. Cuncils refused to do anything which the commissioners ordered. They refused to pay the interest on the loans which the commissioners created. At length the latter went to the Supreme Court, and, after a full argument, it was decided that the Legislature had a right to create such a commission, and that the city was to pay whatever requisitions they made. emissioners personally named in the Street Bridge acture John K. Findlay and John L. Lawson. They partic ipated in all the controversies which arose between them and Councils, and they are members of the South Street Bridge Commission now As we said before, we can pardon Mr. Bullitt, who perlaps never heard of the South Street Bridge Commission But we suggest that it is rather inconsistent for Messrs. Finding and Lawson to adopt a line of argument which they know is founded on gross error.

When the anti-Penn Squarites cannot do better than this, they had better give the whole matter up as a bad job, for they will never be able to convince the 51,625 citizens who voted for Penn Square last October that the present agitation is anything more than an impudent attempt on the part of certain property-holders to defeat the wishes of the people of Philadelphia, in order that they may enjoy a monopoly of the business of letting offices at exorbitant rates to lawyers and others having business with the courts and municipal departments.

GOVERNOR ALCORN, of Mississippi, proposes, in his late message to the Legislature, to deal with the Ku-klux by offering rewards for their arrest and employing bodies of payalry to combat them, with the understand- I and principal clause of the thirteenth amendment as

ing that the expenses of such anti-Ku-klux demonstrations shall be charged to and collected from the counties in which the masked midnight assassins make their appearance. This is one of the most sensible suggestions that has yet been made. It embodies an old plan that has never failed when rigidly applied to the correction of similar evils, and it places the burdens of repressive measures exactly where they belong-upon the people of the communities which tolerate such demonstrations. If Congress must legislate further on this subject, it should be understood that all the expenses to which the nation is subjected must be collected from the districts whose disorder necessitates national intervention. If the Ku-klux will continue their midnight masquerades, their special friends and supporters should be compelled to pay their funeral expenses.

THE Parisian revolt has assumed such threatening proportions that the Thiers Government can scarcely be blamed for the sanguinary repressive measures it has adopted. There is nothing so brutal and bloody as a Parisian mob, and a so-called republic which was a representative of its doctrines and decrees would be as vile and wicked at the present day as was the Reign of Terror during the first revolution. There can be no true republic in France until these rioters are repressed; but it is to be feared that the necessity of repressing them will furnish an excuse for the re-establishment of monarchical or imperial institutions. If M. Thiers can guard against both these dangers, he will render a greater service to his country than any statesman or ruler who has preceded him; and if, amid all the perils and temptations of his position, he remains true to his trust, he will gain immortal honors.

A COMMITTEE, appointed by the Legislature of Virginia to confer with the authorities of Philadelphia on the centennial is on its way to this city. They will, of course, be kindly received, and it is to be hoped that from their deliberations and those of similar committees from other Southern States will spring a revival of the old-time feeling that knit together Jefferson and Franklin, Washington and Wayne, Henry and Mifflin, and supplanted all sectional bickerings by sympathetic devotion to a common country. The centennial will, we trust, create new bonds of union, and while reviving ancient recollections, establish indissoluble new ties between the living Americans of all sections of the country.

THE MICHIGAN ELECTION .- To-morrow a general election is to be held in Michigan for an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court and two Regents of the University. The candidates for these positions are as follows :-

Republican.

James V. Campbell.

Republican.

Democratic.

D. Darwin Hugh D. Darwin Hughes.

John M. B. Sill, Charles B. Fenton. Claudius B. Grant, Judge Campbell, the Republican candidate for the urt, is one of the ablest jurists country, and has held the position for which he has been renominated ever since the organization of the Court twelve years ago. At the State election of 1870 the Republican candidate for Governor received 100,176 votes, the Democratic candidate 83,391, and the Temperance candidate 2710-a Republican majority of 14,075 over all opposition. The vote to-morrow will doubtless be comparatively light, but there seems to be little doubt of the success of the Republican ticket. There is to be an election of a Representative in Congress from the Fourth district, to fill the vacancy caused by the elevation of Hon. Thomas W. Ferry to the Senate. The Republican candidate is Hon, Wilder D. Foster; the Democratic candidate, Colonel William M. Ferry, a brother of the Senator. The Republican majority in the district in 1870 was 6467, and in 1868, 9329. There is no apparent show here for a Democratic gain.

OBITUARY.

Hon. Jacob M. Howard. The Hon. Jacob M. Howard, late United States Senator from Michigan, died at his residence in Detroit yesterday of apoplexy. He was the seventh in descent from William Howard, who settled in Braintree, Mass., in 1635, five years after the establishment of the town, and was born in Shaftesbury, Vt., on the 16th of July, 1805. A close student in early life, despite many obstructions and interruptions, he entered Williams College in 1826 and graduated in 1830. He then devoted his time to the study of the law, and in July, 1882, removed to Detroit, at that time the capital of Michigan Territory. Here he soon attained a leading position at the bar, which he continued to hold to the last. He early entered the political arena, becoming, in 1835, the Whig ca didate for a seat in the Convention to frame a State Constitution, for which he was, however, defeated. In 1838 he became a member of the State Legislature, in the proceedings of which he figured prominently. In 1840 Mr. Howard was elected a Representative

in Congress by a large majority, serving one term. but not again holding public office for many years. He remained, however, an earnest member of the Whig party, and took an active part in the Presidential campaigns of 1844, 1848, and 1852.

Mr. Howard was one of the earliest among the outspoken opponents of the slave oligarchy. While acting as counsel in the trial of a case under the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850, in the United States Circuit Court, before Judge McLean, he denounced that act as a challenge from the South to the North, which sooner or later be accepted, and denounced its would author, Mr. Mason, of Virginia, as an enemy of the country and a traitor to the Union. The repeal of the Missouri Compromise in 1854 resulted in the formation of the Republican party out of all the elements in the North which were opposed to the further encroachments of the slave power. The Republican party of Michigan was fully organized at a convention held at Jackson on July 6, 1854. Mr. Howard was a prominent member of this convention, and wrote the sterling series of resolutions adopted by it as the platform of the new party in the State. His name was placed on the ticket for Attorney-General, an office to which he was elected, and continued to hold by successive reelections, until 1861. He was also a delegate to the first National Republican Convention, held at Pittsburg in February, 1856, and acted as a member of the committee appointed to frame the address to the people. In January, 1862, he was elected to the United States Senate, to fill the vacancy created by the death of the Hon. Kinsley S. Bingham, being re-elected, without material opposition, for the full term which expired with the Forty-first Congress. In the National Senate Mr. Howard at once assumed a leading position. He was an active member of the Committees on the Judiciary and Military Affairs, and became chairman of the Select Committee on the Pacific Railroad at its first establish-

ment. He was an earnest supporter of all measures

for the prosecution of the war, occupying an ex-

tremely radical position. As early as March, 1862,

end of his Senatorial career, and both on the floor and as a member of the Joint Committee on Reconstruction, he was a firm advocate of the Congressional policy of reconstruction and a warm antagonist of the heresies of Andrew Johnson.

On his retirement from the Senate at the close of the recent session, that body lost one of its ablest members, and in his death the Republican party of the country, not less than that of Michigan, sustains a loss which can not easily be replaced.

Mattia Montecchi. A prominent Italian politician, Mattia Montecchi, died lately in Italy, from a sudden and unexpected attack of a disease from which he had been long a sufferer. Montecchi was elected a deputy of the Roman Assembly at the time of the proclamation of the Roman republic after the flight of the Pope to Gaeta. He was afterwards appointed First Minister of Commerce and subsequently Minister of War. He was then elected one of the Triumvirs of Rome, and he held this position until the French took the city in 1849. Being then driven from his native country, he fled to England, where he resided for ten years. In 1959 he again went to Italy, was active in the rising of the Papal dominions, and was chief of staff to General Farini, who became with the sanction of Cavour the Dictator of the "Emiliar." Montecchi was a member of the Italian Parliamen; at different times from 1860 to 1869.

THE FINE ARTS.

Bouguerean's "Orestes" and Vanderly n's "Arladue."

M. Bouguereau has hitherto been known on this side of the Atlantic as a painter of pastoral and home scenes, which are remarkable rather for their techical than their intellectual qualities, and no one familiar only with the class of works to which he has almost exclusively confined his attention would have supposed him capable of producing a picture of such tragic interest as the "Orestes pursued by the Furies," recently purchased by Joseph Harrison, Jr., Esq., and now on exhibition at Haseltine's Galleries, No. 1125 Chesnut street. The subject is a familiar one to all students of art and literature, as it has been repeatedly treated in some shape or other by artists and poets without number, from the time of Homer to the present day. With the Greek tragedians it was especially a favorite, and of the thirty-two plays which remain to us of writings of the three great tragic poets, seven introduce "Orestes" as a prominent figure. The murder of "Agamemnon" by "Clytemnestra" and "Ægisthus," the vengeance of his son "Orestes" in the slaughter of his mother and her paramour, and the torments suffered by "Orestes" at the hands of the pursuing furies, and his final release from them at the intercession of Apollo and Minerva, are treated by Æschylus in the only complete tragic trilogy which remains to us -the Agamemnon, the Chaphori, or Libationpowrers, and the Eumenides, or Furies, and the murder of Clytemnestra is the direct subject of the Electra of Sophocles, the Electra of Buripides, as well as of the second drama of the trilogy of Æschvlus. "Orestes," as a wanderer pursued by the demons of remorse, is also the hero of three other of the tragedies of Euripides-the Orestes, the Iphigenia in Tauris, and the Andromache. The story illustrated by the picture of M. Bouguereau is, briefly, as follows, it being premised that the death of "Agamemnon" was, in some respects, not unmerited on account of his own and his forefathers' crimes:-

The legend, which was first given definite shape by Homer, relates that "Agamemnon," upon his return from Troy, was murdered by his wife "Clytemnestra," and her paramour, 'Ægisthus," the pretext being the slaughter of his daughter, "Iphigenia," as a sacrifice to Diana at the setting out of the Trojan expedition. "Orestes," who had been sent from his home when a child, was frequent'y reminded by messengers from his sister "Electra" of the necessity of avenging his father's death, and finally he consulted the oracle of Apollo as to his duty in the matter, and was encouraged to become the avenger of blood by the promise of the countenance and protection of the god. After visiting his father's tomb and sacrificing a lock of his hair, he made himself known to "Electra," and discussed his plan of revenge with her, and with her aid both "Clytemnestra" and "Ægisthus" were slain by his hand. No sooner was the murder or "Clytemnestra" accomplished than "Orestes" was seized with the madness of remorse, and pursued by the furies, who claimed him as their prey, he became a wanderer and an outcast until Apollo and Min-rva interposed in his behalf and released him from his torments. Such an intensely tragic subject as this demands intellectual and imaginative abilities of no common order for its adequate representation, and the highest compliment that can be paid to M. Bouguereau's

picture is to say that it is intensely and horribly tragic. It is at once an embodiment and an idealization of the theme, and it is no less admirable in its poetical than in its technical qualities; it is both a great picture and a masterly piece of painting, and in all the higher artistic qualities it is certainly by far the most important work that has been exhibited in this city during many years. "Orestes" is represented as rushing towards the spectator; his hands are pressed to his ears to shut out the dreadful cries of the flends who pursue him, while his eyes are dilated with horror, as if they ever beheld the freshlymurdered corpse of his mother. Behind him come the furies, snakes writhing in their hair, their eyes distilling blood, and pointing to the corpse of "Clytemnestra," which one of them bears on her arm. The one on the right, who rushes along almost in advance of "Orestes," is pale and deathlike, and bears in one hand a torch. The one in the middle is of a jaundiced, yellow color, and flourishes in one hand a whip of snakes with which she lashes the fugitive. The one upon the right, who bears the corpie, is of a purplish tint, as if her veins were clogged with black and bitter blood. All these are yelling vociferously, and more fearful embodiments of the powers of remorse can scarcely be imagined. It is worthy of remark that the corpse of "Clytemnestra" is not pale and deathlike, but is warm and full of color, the artist intending to represent "Orestes" as having ever in his mind's eye the figure of his mother at the moment when she received his sword in her bosom. Æschylus makes "Clytemnestra," when apprised of the murderous intentions of her son, appeal to him in the strongest manner, by baring to him the breast at which he had sucked; and in the picture the hands of the murdered mother are represented in the act of parting her garment in order to display her breast to the fugitive. This action and the dagger which is driven to its hilt into the body add greatly to the pathos as well as to the tragic horror of the work. The four figures are admirally composed, and a black and threatening sky against which they are

relieved is an appropriate background for such a M. Bouguereau is famous as a flesh painter, and if we except a slight tendency to hardness which is one of his common characteristics, there is little in this work that will not excite unqualified praise. The figure of "Orestes" might perhaps be objected to as not Greek, if we accept the antique statues as true Greek models, but we are of the belief that the picture gains rather than loses by the nonadherence to a strictly classical model. It is an objection, and a very serious one, however, that the legs, from the knees down, are much too slender for the rest of the figure, which is that of a very thick-set and muscular young man. The defects of the picture, however, either as regards conception or execution, are of small importance in comparison with its very extraordinary merits; and while we are far from wishing that the artists of our day would make a habit of treating such norrible subjects, we certainly do wish that more of them had the ability to do so in adequate style. 'The "Orestes" is not a work to please the fancy of mere pleasure-seekers any more than is such a tragedy as Macbeth, but it cannot fall to excite the admiration of those who appreciate the

he urged the President to dismiss General McClellan higher aims of art. from the command of the Army of the Potomac. The masterly painting upon the "Orestes" has a As a member of the Judiciary Committee he was somewhat damaging effect upon Vanderlyn's "Ariadne," also the property of Mr. Harrison, which hangs among the first to urge an amendment to the Connear it. This is nevertheless a picture of much stitution abolishing slavery, and drafted the first merit, and it is probably the best life size nude

is some bad drawing in it, notably in the hands and the feet, and the pose, while it is graceful, is too evidently studied. The flesh painting is solid and excellent in its way but the color is too pinky, and the shadows are badly rendered, all the reflected lights being too pronounced. Some of these technical defects are doubtless due to the bad treatment the picture has received at the hands of the cleaners and restorers, but to perceive that Vanderlyn was not such a master of the brush as is Bouguereau, it is only necessary to make a comparison between the painting upon the backgrounds and foregrounds of the two pictures. Mr. Ruskin would construct a theory of total depravity upon the style in which the trees in the "Ariadne" picture are executed. In spite of its palpable defects, the "Ariadne" is a truly poetical work, and is not unworthy of the high reputation it has enjoyed for many years. The figure of the sleeping woman is very beautiful, the face being especially charming. This picture was painted by Vanderlyn in 1812. It was exhibited at the Sanitary Fair in 1864, and attracted much attention and criticism. Mr. Harrison has covered it with glass, and it is sincerely to be hoped that the cleaners and restorers will not have another chance to ope-

-For some days past there has been on exhibition in the window of Messrs. Bailey & Co., Twelfth and Chesnut streets, a very pleasing bust, by Mr. Howard Roberts. It is an ideal head of a little girl, with a wreath of ivy twined in her hair and falling upon her neck, and like all the previous performances of this artist, it is characterized by a charming grace and refinement. This bust was cut in marble by Mr. Roberts himself, with more than usual care, and it is a very beautiful piece of workmanship.

-At Earles Galleries there is a picture, by Janssen of Dusseldorf, of "Peter Denying His Master," which is deserving of attention. We will notice this work more in detail hereafter. The "Cinderella" of Van Lerius, a remarkably interesting work, is still on exhibition at Earles' Galleries, and should be seen by all lovers of art.

NOTICES.

CHILDREN'S PANCY STRIPED SUITS. CHILDREN'S FANCY STRIPED SUITS. CHILDREN'S FANCY STRIPED SUITS. BOYS' SCHOOL SUITS. BOYS' SCHOOL SUITS. BOYS' SCHOOL SUITS. YOUTHS' NEW STYLE CHESTERFIELDS.

YOUTHS' NEW STYLE CHESTERFIELDS. YOUTHS' NEW STYLE CHESTERFIELDS. YOUTHS' STRIPED CASSIMERE DERBYS AND SUITS. YOUTHS' STRIPED CASSIMERE DERBYS AND SUITS. YOUTES' STRIPED CASSIMERE DERBYS AND SUITS. PERFECT NEATNESS IN GENTS' SPRING SUITS. PERFECT NEATNESS IN GENTS' SPRING SUITS. PERFECT NEATNESS IN GENTS' SPRING SUITS. BRAUTIFUL SPRING OVERCOATS. BEAUTIFUL SPRING OVERCOATS.

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