# THE DAILY EVENING TELEGRAPH-PHILADELPHIA, THURSDAY, MAY 4, 1871.

#### THE GAS TRUST.

in law or equity bound merely to register the

decrees of their masters, but that as the

representatives of the people it is at once

their right and their duty to exercise some

control over the people's property and over

the expenditures of the people's money. By

the unfortunate bargain made when the city

assumed the control of the Gas Works, their

management is entrusted to a set of men who

are practically independent of Councils in

nearly everything, but Councils certainly have

the right to say whether money shall or

shall not be appropriated, to be expended

none but the members of the gas ring know

how, and it is an absurdity to say that they

are bound to hand over to the ring any sum

that may be demanded, while there is no

assurance or guarantee that it will be ex-

pended for the public benefit. If the Gas

Trustees can demand half a million dollars

now, they can demand ten millions next

The Gas Trustees demolished the works at

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### THURSDAY, MAY 4, 1871.

83" 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. In March, 1870, 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 TELE-GRAPH will be the only evening paper published in this ity in which the afternoon despatches of the Associated Press will appear.

year, and Councils will be as much obliged SOME CRIMINAL STATISTICS to give them the last as the first-named sum, THE statistics contained in the annual report and there will be no limit whatever to the of the inspectors of the Eastern Penitentiary public debt. are of the utmost interest and importance not Twenty-third and Market streets entirely upon only to the law-makers of the State, for whose especial edification they are particularly pretheir own responsibility, and without any pared, but to all classes of citizens. Where apparent necessity for such action. There every man has a voice in the government, are, it is true, objections to the site, as the wise criminal legislation will more likely value of property is deteriorated by the ensue if all are informed, to some extent at proximity of the Gas Works, and if least, upon subjects connected with the pronew works are built, therefore, they gress of crime and the causes which influence should be located at a point remote its increase or decrease; and the elaborate from the heart of the city. This is a matter tables contained in the inspectors' reover which Councils should have some conport for 1870 are full of facts that trol, for there is no assurance that the truscannot be too earnestly considered by all tees will not build upon the old site, or that who feel the importance of good they will not select an equally or more obgovernment. The first table in the report jectionable one. Apart from all this, sets forth a number of facts of great imhowever, it was a great outrage portance. We find by this that of the perto destroy the old works before the public sons imprisoned for crimes against property were informed of the necessity, if any existed, during the five years from 1866 to 1870 infor new ones, and before any means had been clusive, 42 were entirely illiterate, 28 could provided for their erection. By taking the read only, and 279 could both read and write. course they did, the trustees hoped to force Conncils to grant them all the money they Of those confined for crimes against persons, 18 were illiterate, 6 could read only, and 66 were disposed to demand, for fear that serious could both read and write. This would indipublic inconveniences would occur; but we cate that educ tion or partial education does appeal to the representatives of the people, who will consider the subject in the not diminish crime, but the true value of the figures, of course, can only be obtained by Select branch this afternoon, not to comparison with those representing the allow this trick to influence them, and educational relations of the entire poputo absolutely refuse to grant the lation. Such a comparison, however, loan, and thus throw the responsibility of any would probably demonstrate that the proportion of criminals who can both read and write is very large; while, on the other hand, the proportion of reasonably welleducated persons confined for crimes is very small. More definite information can be obby a comparison of the tained figures in the table which gives the industrial relations of the prisoners. During the five years mentioned, of those confined for crimes against property 289 were unapprenticed, 45 were apprenticed and left, and 15 were apprenticed and served; of those confined for orimes against persons 77 were unapprenticed, 4 were apprenticed and left, and 9 were 'apprenticed and served. Here is a positive proof that a vast majority of the robberies of all grades are committed by those who have not been trained to earn their bread and butter by honest industry. One of the causes of this condition of affairs is the decay of the apprentice system, and the obstructions thrown by the workingmen themselves in the way of boys learning useful trades. It is now a matter of extreme difficulty for a boy to apprentice himself, and it is not to be wondered at that a great number of young men fall into idle and dissol ute habits, and ultimately become criminals. For the misdeeds of a large number of the persons now confined in the Penitentiary the trades unions are directly responsible, as they have practically broken up the oldfashioned apprentice system, and have made no effort to provide a substitute for it. In 1866 the number of prisoners sent to the Penitentiary for crimes against property was 54, in 1867 it was 66, in 1868 it was 55, in 1869 it was 99, and in 1870 it was 75. In 1866 the number confined for crimes against persons was 66, in 1867 it was 79, in 1868 it was 62, in 1869 it was 125, and in 1870 it was 107. This is a record in the highest degree complimentary to District Attorney Sheppard. He sent to the Penitentiary nearly twice as many criminals per annum as his predecessor, notwithstanding the fact that for six months of the two years that have passed since his election he was excluded from office. In 1869 and 1870 he succeeded in having locked up more offenders against persons than Mr. Mann did during the three years preceding, and the ruffians who infest the community have been made to respect the law as they had not done for a long time before. The figures above given are evidences of Mr. Sheppard's efficient performance of his duties. and they clearly demonstrate the importance of having an honest and able District Attorney to conduct the criminal prosecutions of a great city like this. JOHN C. BEECEINBIDGE, of Kentucky, lately evinced good sense, and a very proper feeling, by declining to serve as a delegate to a Democratic convention, and by stating that he did not intend to re-enter the political arena. He staked his hopes for future preferment upon the success of the Rebellion, and having lost, he acts wisely and properly in abiding by the result and in leaving others to manage the Government which he tried in vain to destroy.

DESPITE the precautions taken by the Board SELECT COUNCIL will this afternoon be called of Indian Commissioners in obtaining cheap and reliable supplies for their red wards, the upon to consider the new gas loan of \$500,000 savages will be fearfully discontented if the which was authorized by the Common branch last week, the opposition to it being silenced war paint furnished is not of the best possible quality. A shoddy blanket, or an edgeby the threat that a portion of the city would less butcher-knife, will cause less dissatisfacbe left in darkness if the Gas Trustees did tion in the lodge than vermilion or indigo not get the meney. We hope sincerely that a vigorous opposition to this loan will be which does not come up to the savage standard. The gentle aborigines may be humdeveloped in the Select branch to-day, and bugged in their whisky, their clothing, or that nothing will be left undone by the independent members to defeat it. Councils have their implements, but not in their war paint. too long been the servants of the gas ring, That is entirely too important to escape keen and it is high time that they had at least made criticism. an attempt to prove that they are not either

WOMAN SUFFRAGE seems to meet with more favor in England than in this country, for a motion to bring in a bill favoring it was defeated yesterday in the House of Commons only by a majority of 69. Mr. Gladstone, while opposing the measure proposed, expressed a disposition to support the Italian idea of female suffrage, which is founded on preperty but exercised by proxy. It will hardly do, however, for American agitators to advocate this theory, for here suffrage is founded on manhood and not on propertyand Woodhull, Dickinson, Davis, and company must go for the bondless as well as the bond-owning portion of their sex, or none.

## OBITUARY.

### Hon. Thomas J. Boynton.

The Hon. Thomas J. Boynton, late Judge of the United States Court of the Southern District of Florida, died at Bellevue Hospital, New York, on Tuesday, at the early age of thirty-two. He was born near Cleveland, Ohio, on August 31, 1838. He received his education at the West, and, having studied law, was appointed by President Lincoln United States District Attorney for the Southern District of Florida in 1861, when only twenty-two years of age. The people of Key West, where the Court was held, were at that time generally in sympathy with the Rebellion, and the position was one which demanded unflinching patriotism and courage, and more than usual ability. All these qualities he amply displayed, and in 1863, on the resignation of Judge Marvin, he was appointed by President Lincoln District Judge. At the time of his appointment to this responsible post, he was the youngest United States Judge on the bench. On the reconstruction of the State, he was unanimously chosen by the Legislature Chief Justice of the State, a position which he declined. About a year ago, he was obliged by failing health to resign, and his death was the result of a surgical operation which was the only hope of saving his life.

### NOTICES.

WE ARE SELLING SPRING CLOTHING WE ARE SELLING SPRING CLOTHING WE ARE SELLING SPRING CLOTHING FOR GENTS AND LADS, FOR GENTS AND LADS, FOR GENTS AND LADS, AT LOWER PRICES AT LOWBE PRICES AT LOWER PRICES THAN THE Same class Garments can be purchased in any other establishment in Philadelphia, WE HAVE THIS SEASON THE HANDSOMEST STOCK.



unpleasant consequences that may occur upon the shoulders of the trustees. Since the Gas Works have been under the present system of management, the profits have doubtless been large enough to pay for the erection of a dozen gas-manufacturing establishments. Trustee after trustee has grown rich from his connection with the gas ring, and the whole theory of the ring has been, that so long as the interest on the loan was paid nobody has any right to enquire into the management of the Gas Works, and the public and their representatives in Councils have no rights that the trustees were bound to respect. It is certainly high time that a reform was inaugurated, and if Councils refuse to give half a million dollars for the erection of new works, and the people of Philadelphia suffer serious inconvenience on account of an insufficient supply of gas, public indignation will be excited against the gas ring to such an extent that a new order of things may be expected to follow. Now is the time for the members of Councils who have the interests of the public at heart to make an exhibition of manly independence that cannot but have a most salutary effect, and that will greatly increase their popularity with the long-suffering tax-payers of Philadelphia.

THE report of the Board of Managers of the Philadelphia and Southern Mail Steamship Company, which was presented to the annual meeting of the stockholders yesterday, exhibits a gratifying increase in the current business of the year, and affords good ground for the hope that it will be in every sense remunerative when its inward freights are increased, as they will be after the American Steamship Company furnishes facilities for the transportation of surplus Southern products from this port to Europe. A turningpoint seems to have been reached in the commercial destinies of Philadelphia, and the Southern Steamship Company cannot fail to be greatly benefited by the new order of things which is being rapidly developed.

JOSEPHS and ELLIOTT, members of the State Legislature, stoutly contended yesterday that the House had no business of sufficient importance to justify a session on Satur-This is queer doctrine, considering day. the immense number of bills now on file, the magnitude of the interests of the State which are habitually neglected, and the hot haste in which laws are enacted when the members are in a working mood; and its true explanation is probably to be found in the sonvenient opportunities afforded by a Saturday trip to Philadelphia for seeing and being seen by the men who pull the legislative puppets.

It is said that there are now 1723 bills on the file of the State Senate and 1738 bills on the file of the House. As about ninety-five out of every hundred of these bills were drawn up purely tor private accommedation, and as many of them grant special, impelitie, or unjust privileges, it is to be hoped that they will nearly all be killed by the dead-lock between the two branches of the Legislature.

