THE POULTE - CHILLISTIAN IN THE STATE OF STATES

# Evening Telegraph

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PHILADELPHIA.

SATURDAY, MAY 27, 1871.

The earliest regular edition of the THE EVENING TELEGRAPH goes to press at 11/2 o'clock, and the subsequent regular editions at 2%, 3%, and 41. Whenever there is important news of the complications in Europe, extra editions will be issued after this hour, and before the regular time for the early edition.

MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE.

It is gratifying to find that the attention of thoughtful men is being seriously directed to the great necessity for a thorough and radical reform in our marriage and divorce system. The word "system," however, is a misnomer in this connection, for the evils which exist result from a total want of system, and of such uniform national laws as will alone prevent the scandals which are constantly occurring under the loose and irregular enactments of the several States. Civilized society depends upon a maintenance of the sanctity of the marriage relation, and there is ample evidence to prove that nothing conduces more to social demoralization than laws which permit these relations to be dissolved at pleasure. In Indiana the scandal created by the divorce laws has become so great that it has been found necessary to inaugurate a reform, and under existing regulations a residence of three years is required before a divorce can be granted. This is a move in the right direction, but it does not go far enough, and even if Indiana were to institute a radical reform the root of the evil would not be reached, as there are other States equally as bad. Governor Jewell. of Connecticut, in his inaugural address, a few days ago, called attention to the mischievous manner in which the divorce laws of that State work, and he presented some facts and figures that are well worthy of candid consideration. He said: -

"Cur divorce laws, unless changed, bid fair to bring us into disrepute. They are netoriously loose—more so than in any other State except Indiana and Illi-nois. In the year 1870 there were in this State 406 divorces and 4871 marriages—a ratio of about one to twelve, which has been about the proportion for several years. In Vermont the ratio is one to twenty-one, in Ohio one to twenty-seven, in Massa chusetts one to forty-four. Divorces may be granted n this State for too many causes; in fact, for almost no cause atall. Discontented and victous people come here from other States to get divorces which the more strict legislation of their own States deny, thus creating much scandal and tarnishing the fair fame of our State. Some marked cases of this kind have occurred the past year, which loudly call for reform in our laws.

It is well for the men and women of Connecticut and other States where free and easy divorces are permitted, who are capable of appreciating the great danger to the nation that will result if the doctrines of the free love branch of the Woman's Rights party are generally accepted, to agitate for an immediate reform in their State laws; but they should do more than this, for the existing evils cannot be properly cured until the regulation of marriages and divorces is taken away from the States and placed in the hands of the General Government. In this matter a system of uniform laws for the whole nation is imperatively needed, and it should not be possible for the citizens of one State to go to another and obtain a severance of the marriage ties which they could not obtain at home. The power of granting divorces should be taken away from the State Legislatures, who continually use it most corruptly and unjustly, and it should only be entrusted to the United States courts, which, in all human probability, will wield it justly and impartially. To accomplish this important reform a constitutional amendment will be necessary, and we do not believe that there will be any difficulty whatever in obtaining such an amendment if the matter is properly agitated. The power of regulating marriages and divorces is of no earthly advantage to the several States, and the most enthusiastic stickler for State rights can offer no valid reasons why it should not be transferred to the General Government. We believe that the vast majority of the people of the country would cordially endorse such a change as this, if the matter were once properly nrged upon their attention; and the only difficulty about effecting the muchneeded reform is in getting a proposition for the necessary constitutional amendment fairly before the public. This can be done, howeyer, with comparative ease, if those who appreciate the importance of uniform marriage and divorce laws, and who look with abhorrence upon the licentious doctrines that are openly advocated in certain quarters, will bring their influence to bear upon our lawmakers to urge them to take the proper initiatory steps.

JEFF. DAVIS has been making another speech at Augusta, Georgia. Warned by the effect of his impudent harangue at Montgomery, delivered some months ago, he stated at Augusta that he was fearful to trust himself to speak; but he still ventured to express the opinion that "he did not conceive that the principles of the Lost Cause were dead," and he stated that he looked forward "to the time when he might with propriety speak to his fellow-citizens as his heart moved him." Does he mean that, after a Democratic President is elected, secession will once more become fashionable?

LITTLE BAVEN, Powder Face, Chief Bird, and Buffalo Good, after critically examining Philadelphia, consider it decidedly injured by the varied labors performed here since William Penn began to sell town lots. The narrow streets, thick walls, and huge collection of houses are, in their enlightened judgment, a poor exchange for primeval forests full of game. They think that the old elm tree was put to the worst possible use when its branches were converted into a canopy for treaty-makers; and they see little to admire save our pretty squares, war paint, rifles, revolvers, and blankets of brilliant hues. Little Raven, Buffalo Good & Co., however, have not yet fathomed the mysterious arts by which our chiefs plunder their white brethren. When they fully understand the perfection to which this noble science has been brought. they will be forced to confess that civilization is not, after all, a failure.

THE effort to amend the Registry law seems to have been totally inefficacious. If anything can excuse the Republican House for strenueusly opposing modification of any description, it is the character of the avowed leaders of the Democratic party; but even though McMullin and Wallace are to marshal the Democratic legions in the city and State, we think it would have been just and politic to provide that the returns of Philadelphia elections should hereafter be counted in the presence of the judges of our city courts.

We are glad to notice that Ku-kluxism has so far subsided in South Carolina that Governor Scott has stated to the President that no present necessity exists for placing the Palmetto State under martial law. The late act of Congress and the warning given by General Grant have brought murderous midnight marauders to their senses, and the relics of chivalry are rapidly arriving at the conviction that it is better to cultivate corn and cotton than to devote their time to frightening and killing freedmen.

SLAUGHTERING without mercy, shooting prisoners, burning splendid edifices, firing off shells filled with petroleum, so that, if possible, a whole city may be destroyed, is still the order of the day in Paris. Instead of being the paradise of pleasure-seekers it has become a pandemonium; and the massacre of all the survivors of the Communist forces seems to be reserved as the crowning tragedy.

A CHINESE DOCTOR, Lipotar, has been permitted to testify in a California court; but this act of grace seems to be attributable solely to his determination to appeal from the barbarous code of the State to the higher law of the American Union. Thus civilization and justice are made to radiate from the National Capitol at the command of a majority of the whole people to the remotest frontier.

#### OBITUARY.

General Jeroslas Dombrowski.

A cable telegram from Versailles announces that the French Government has caused several of the insurgent leaders who were in custody to be shot, among the number being General Jeroslas Dombrowski, the Polish adventurer who, since the fall of Bergeret, has been the principal military commander of the Communists.

Dombrowski was born at Cracow in 1826. In 1863 he served as slonel in the insurrectionary Polish army. In 1865 he was charged with being engaged in the forging and uttering of false Russian notes, but was released in consequence of the withdrawal of the prosecution. He, however, appeared a second time upon the same charge before the Assize Court of the Seine, and was acquitted. Jeroslas Dombrowski dealt in forged passports and false certificates, in which he attested that certain of his countrymen whom he honored with imaginary rank had taken an active part in the insurrection, while, in fact, they had had no share in it. These certificates were used to obtain for the holders certain pecuniary benefits as refugees. In the month of February last Dombrowski endeavored to provoke an insurrection at Bordeaux, and a warrant for his arrest was issued. He, however, escaped into Switzerland, where he remained until the end of March. During the siege of Paris, being suspected of communications with the Prussians, he was several times arrested. He had even passed through the enemy's lines with a forged pass. Very shortly before the recent outbreak he was arrested at a moment when he was expressing his desire that the whole French army might be destroyed.

#### NOTICES.

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