

BUSINESS NOTICES.

OUR FOREIGN RELATIONS. Here are huge appropriations. Being bristly made. For these cases "foreign relations," While I'm much afraid, Most of us have relations here...

EVENING BULLETIN.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 1866.

THE LOBBY AT HARRISBURG.

A report made to the State Senate, by a Committee appointed at the last session of the Legislature, makes some revelations that are of interest to the public. A certain foreign railroad corporation, that is seeking to obtain extra-ordinary privileges from Pennsylvania, and at the same time divert trade from Philadelphia to New York, sent its agents to Harrisburg to procure the passage of a bill. The agent was supplied with thirty thousand dollars for his business. He gave twenty-five thousand to a person who promised to put the bill through, and the remaining five thousand was divided between this person and two others. None of the money appears to have gone into the hands of any member of the Legislature.

THE COST OF PAPER.

The price of paper continues so high that many of our book and news publishers have found it to their advantage to import their supplies from abroad; principally from Belgium, where the extremely low rate of labor affords peculiar advantages for the competition with our American manufacturers. The free-trade legislation of the last Congress reduced the duty on printing paper to twenty per cent., while it left the heavy duties upon the various chemicals and other materials used in this branch of manufacture untouched. This is one cause for the present condition of the paper market. But there is another cause more direct in its influence. The opening of the whole South to trade has created an immense demand for paper. The Southern States, which do not manufacture paper to any extent, were completely bare of every description of books, and the demand, especially for school books, has been and still is enormous. In addition to this, is the supply needed for the newspapers throughout the South. Most of them were discontinued during the war from actual inability to procure the necessary materials for publishing, and those that contrived to exist at all were printed on paper inferior to the commonest wrapping paper. Of course this extraordinary demand is a temporary one and the literary vacuum of the South is being rapidly filled. The cessation of the war has taken the Government out of the

market to a great extent, and few persons have any idea of what a consumer of paper the war has been. The mere army or correspondence alone was so prodigious that its discontinuance must be powerfully felt upon the market. What the requirements of the various departments of the public service, especially those connected with the War Department, have been, we have no means of ascertaining, but the withdrawal of this tremendous customer from the paper market must have had a most depressing effect but for the counteracting influence of the pressing wants of the South.

The present high prices of paper are to be accounted for mainly upon these grounds. High wages, heavy taxes, a light tariff upon the manufactured article, a heavy one on chemicals and other material, and a brisk demand from the South all combine to make our paper cost us so much that publishing of any kind is very far from the profitable business that many uninformed people imagine. The idea that the price of printing paper is controlled by a combination of the manufacturers is the purest fiction. No such combination exists or can exist. As a rule, paper-making has not been a very profitable business in this country, and the manufacturers who have grown rich are very "few and far between." The majority of them are moderate operators with limited capital, who are unable, if they were willing, to hold their goods for any length of time, and the necessity of quick returns, on the part of needy manufacturers, has speedily broken down the one or two attempts at something like combination which have been tried.

We are satisfied that the present high prices will break down during the coming summer, and that we shall have little more of importations of Belgian paper into our market. A period of greatly reduced consumption of most kinds of paper is at hand, and we do not think that it requires any high order of vaticination to predict that the close of the present year will find the price of paper lower than it has been for five years past. No one will rejoice over the change more than the publisher of the daily newspaper.

This whole matter resolves itself into the simple question of an unsupply vacuum at the South, which is operating powerfully upon all values and must operate until it is filled. Every other branch of manufacture feels its influence, and must continue to do so, until the demand abates. That result, as we have already said, is being rapidly approached, and with it will come a return to "living prices" for all manufactured articles.

THE VACANCY IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS.

The lamented death of Hon. Oswald Thompson causes a vacancy in one of our most important local courts. The deceased judge was a man of such singularly pure character, that it would appear, at first, as if his place could not be adequately filled. But we are fortunate in having several gentlemen who are qualified in every way for the position. None is better qualified than Hon. Joseph Allison, and his appointment would give great satisfaction to the bar and the public. Ex-Mayor Henry is also spoken of, and he too would make an excellent judge. Governor Curtin is so well acquainted with the judiciary and the bar of Philadelphia, that we have no fears that the emergency caused by the deplorable death of Judge Thompson will not be adequately met.

Whatever may have been the apprehensions of theorists about an elective judiciary, here in Philadelphia it has worked extremely well. We have elected able and learned judges, who were not politicians, who resorted to no partisan manoeuvres to secure nomination or election, and who, during their entire terms of office, have never been suspected of unfairness or of being approachable in any dishonorable way. It is creditable to the community that on several occasions both political parties have united on candidates for judgeships, and so long as the disposition to do this continues we need have no fears of an elective judiciary. Judge Thompson, if he had lived and preserved his faculties, would most assuredly have been re-elected at the expiration of his term. In filling the vacancy caused by his death, we hope and feel sure that the Governor will give us a man in whom the people have such confidence that they will give him their votes when the term expires.

MR. GIVEN'S DEFENCE.

Mr. John Given has filed his answer to the allegations made against him in the matter of the contest for the City Commissionership. He makes no attempt to explain away the shameless fraud of the pretended army vote; but he raises new issues by assuming that there were frauds or irregularities in his disadvantage practiced in October last in some of the election divisions of the city. It will be borne in mind that the only ground upon which Mr. Given received a certificate was the fact of the receipt of these bogus army returns, and he still holds the office while tacitly admitting the fraudulent character of these returns. Mr. Given was repudiated by his own party at the ballot box; the Mayor and Councils of the city have refused to approve his securities because he had no official status, and the City Controller will not recognize his official acts. Mr. Given, scorned and repudiated as he is, is evidently determined to hold on to the place he has usurped until he is ejected from it by a peremptory order of the Court, and the more speedily this order is issued and acted upon the better for the cause of justice and the better the people will be satisfied.

RECONSTRUCTION—A HOME ATTEMPT.

A public meeting has been held at Atlanta, Georgia, and steps have been taken to organize a regiment of militia "to clear the city of murderers and robbers." From the accounts made public in nearly all the journals issued in the late rebellious States, we should judge that this kind of police movement was quite necessary. "Reconstruction" of this character is decidedly necessary if Southern society is ever to present anything but an anarchic aspect. The defeated rebels have been so "demoralized" by the result of the war that they have, to a great extent, lost their energy, and have allowed violence and misrule to reign in their towns and cities, with scarcely an effort to punish offenders. Cities like Memphis, Nashville and Mobile, where the strong arm of Federal power is not heavily felt, are just now the scenes of robbery, murder and every class of violent crime. The sooner the residents of such localities go to work and "reconstruct" their police system and reorganize their society, the better it will be for their domestic tranquility and prosperity.

LYNCH LAW THREATENED.

A telegraphic despatch published yesterday describes the people of Titusville as being greatly excited at certain incendiary demonstrations made in their town. The despatch says: "Three incendiaries are being tried by the Village Committee, which numbers thirty of the best men in the town, and who are dreadfully in earnest. A gallows has been erected to hang the incendiaries if found guilty." The people of Titusville should bear in mind the old adage that two wrongs do not make a right, and the "best men of the town" should remember that they are amenable to the laws, in common with the worst men of the place. Let them hunt down and bring to justice all offenders; but let them remember that there are laws in Pennsylvania to punish all wrong-doers, and let them avoid setting an example of lawlessness. We want no Lynch law in our good old commonwealth.

"A LIGHT AND A DARK CHRISTMAS," the new Christmas story by Mrs. Henry Wood, has been published by Messrs. T. B. Peterson & Brothers, from the author's advance proof sheets. It is short and marked by all the peculiar characteristics that have made Mrs. Wood's writings so popular.

Sale of Valuable Real Estate.

Messrs. Thomas & Son's sale on Tuesday next closes a large number of valuable pieces of real estate without reserve, by order of the Orphans Court. Also, 100 acres of land in the county of Chester.

Sale of a German Town Residence.

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Published this Day.

MRS. HENRY WOOD'S GREAT Christmas Story.

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A SEQUEL

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