THE DAILY EVENING BULLETIN. PHILADELPHIA. SATURDAY, LECEMBER 1, 1866 - TRIPLE SHEET.

EVENING BULLETIN.

its effect.

BATURDAY, DECEMBER 1. 1866.

CANADIAN ANNEXATION. The old world and old time theorists, who have insisted that the American Republic was too extensive for permanence, must have awakened from their delusion. It is expanding steadily, and whatever the present generation may think and feel on the subject, it is pretty certain that it will expand until the whole northern continent shall be in the Union. The last foreign war-that with Mexico-added to its extent. The only serious rebellion in the history of the Republic was meant to diminish its extent. and the anti-republican theorists | fire ten times over. And not only in the of Europe rubbed their hands with a "We-told-you-so air," as they declared the Union destroyed. But the Union was not destroyed, and the great Republic emerged from its only civil war stronger, richer and more prosperous than ever. Now it is really believed by many that there will be more Mexican annexation on the southern frontier, while on the northern there is a prospect of Canadian annexation.

It is a singular fact that there is not a party-there is hardly the germ of a party-in the United States, that is anxious for the annexation of Canada, or any portion of British America. But throughout all the British provinces there is a growing party in favor of it. After all the abuse of the United States during the period of their adversity, it was hardly to be expected that, before the second year of peace passed, there would be meetings held in various Canadian cities in favor of annexation. But that is the right way to begin the movement. The people of the United States should remain inactive and even indifferent. until it is ascertained that a large proportion of the Canadians wish for annexation. Then it will be time enough to decide upon the advantages or disadvantages likely to attend it. The Canadians must ask it as a favor, and the Americans must decide whether they will grant the favor. At the present time it is quite certain that annexation would be of more advantage to Canada than to the United States. But, in the not very remote future, it is equally certain that it would be to the common advantage to have all under one government, with no custom houses or fortifications dividing them, and with a community of interests, instead of an antagonism. But this opens a wide subject, which need not be considered in the present embryonic condition of the annexation question.

Great Britain would probably part with her North American provinces very cheerfully, provided that the separation were the result of a friendly negotiation. They have long ceased to be a benefit to her, but they have not ceased to be an ex-

One of the results of this is the large damage caused by an excessive and indiscriminate use of water at fires, which has lately been a subject of much complaint. This has been in part the cause of the recent rise in the rate of insurance, a subject of much importance to the community, and one which comes home to every property-holder. Sometimes. where the fire has been confined to one room only of a house, and has been his business, and is able to undersell his shortly extinguished, so that had noth. ing more been done the damage had been but slight, yet the engines have continued to play until the whole house has been completely washed out, and the damage by water exceeds that by building in which the fire was thus used. but often the adjoining houses come in for their share, and their windows are broken and carpets and furniture ruined. An instance of this kind occurred only a day or two ago, in the fire at the Chestnut Street Theatre. There the fire simply damaged the wood work in the engine-room; a loss of perhaps five hundred dollars. But the water being poured on long after

any yestige of fire remained, the loss. was about four thousand dollars. Surely a large portion of that was unnecessary, aud although every credit is due the firemen for their prompitude in appearing on the ground, yet, had there been proper discipline among them, much of the loss would have been prevented. And not only on this account but on many others is the present volunteer system undesirable. After all that has been said and done upon the subject, the engine-houses will too often become loafing places for young men, encouraging them in dissipation and idleness, and affording them pretexts for leaving their legitimate occupations, and thus tempting those to become rowdies who otherwise would make respectable citizens. There is also another and important consideration for our tax burdened community. The city annually appropriates one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars for the support of the different fire companies, besides the large amounts (fully equal to that sum) contributed by our citizens, either in the shape of subscriptions or for ball and fair tickets, or in other ways. Now the cost of a paid department would not exceed one hundred thousand dollars per annum, all told. The Fire Association offered a short time ago to support it for seventyfive thousand dollars a year, and would no doubt repeat the offer; and, although, from our experience of municipal contracts, we perhaps would not advise the

acceptance of that offer, yet most certainly the city could take the matter in its own hands and put out all the fires for less than the amount they now pay to the present irresponsible department, with the additional advantage of preventing much of the present damage pense; nor will they, so long as from water. The subject is not a new one. The paid departments are used in every city of Europe and nearly every considerable city in the Union, and have been found extremely advantageous. Rowdyism and crime have decreased and fires have been extinguished with much less damage and greater promptitude. Philadelphia has always been proud of her volunteer firemen; they have done their duty faithfully and well, and served her not only against the flames but against her enemies in the field. But their day of usefulness is pasf; the city is too large and has outgrown them, and now demands a thoroughly organized and disciplined force, ready at all times, under proper and responsible officers, to put out fires; and to have that we must have a paid fire department. Reform, strictly speaking, is not sufficient. The evils of the volunteer system are inherent in it. and although we have the best department possible under that system, we need a radical change, and it is to be hoped the new Councils will give it to

cause of public morals. The exposure of these frauds has become a matter of almost daily record. The heavy taxes operate directly to the disadvantage of the fair dealer and to the advantage of the rogue. A distiller who makes a fair return of his business and pays his taxes fully, must of necessity add two dollars to the price of every gallon of whisky which he sells. The rogue, upon the other hand, conceals the real extent of honest neighbor to precisely the extent of his own dishonesty. Then there is a very large class of illicit distillers who pay no tax at all: who cheat the government out and out, "stealing their brushes ready made."Supposing that the proprietor of a private still turns out but a single barrel of whisky a week, and that he realizes no other profit upon it than the amount of the tax of which he has defrauded the Government, he still earns sixty dollars within the period named, and enjoys a larger income than many honest dealers. With such a temptation to roguery it is no wonder that private stills are numerous. Put down the tax to fifty cents a gallon, and the illicit business would be broken up, because it would not pay those who are engaged in it, and it would be cheaper to pay the tax than run the risk of playing the rogue.

The same causes that tend to the encouragement of frauds in other respects, promote dishonesty in a direction where it does more mischief than a mere loss of public revenue, inasmuch as it is destructive of public health. Not only is pure liquor drugged and "doctored" to increase its bulk after it has passed through the hands of the government officer, but whisky is distilled from the worst materials. Everything from damaged grain to the abominable compound of bilge-water and the waste from sugar and molasses casks, technically known as "pumpings," is converted into liquor, and, as such, poisons all who swallow it. A reduction of the tax upon whisky

would, of course, result in an immediate fall in the price. This the manufacturer understands perfectly well, and he consequently throws his liquors upon the market with the least possible delay in order to realize upon them before a reduction of taxes brings ruin to the holders of large stocks. Thus the consumer is furnished with an article which from its newness would be unfit for use, even though it was made of the best materials.

The benefits resulting from a reduction of seventy-five per cent. in the excise upon whisky, may be summed us as follows: Increased revenue; discouragement of fraud; encouragement of fair dealing; a saving of the public health by lessening the temptation to drug what men will swallow; and all this, without, in the opinion of sound thinkers, increasing the consumption of di

uncertain and generally inadequate in | done much towards subserving the | dent of Executive patronage. Judge Kelley's bill is a step in the right direction; and we hope it will receive the early attention and favorable action of the approaching session of Congress.

MUSICAL. CARL WOLFSOHN'S FIRST MATINEE.-The Foyer was occupied yesterday by a refined and elegant assemblage of musiclovers, to hear Mr. Wolfsohn interpret the works of old and new masters, who have written for the piano. He was highly successful in opening to the minds of his hearers the history of the progress and literature of his special instrument, All who study or have studied the piano should avail themselves of the instruction imparted by these artistic exhibitions of the various styles and manners incident to the different degrees of mechanical improvement and technical skill peculiar to the periods which have marked the history of the piano since its invention to the present day.

Mr. Wolfsohn's versatility and many sidedness were exhibited in the excellent rendering of the programme which included compositions of Bach, Haydn, Schumann, Chopin and J iszt; and it is to his credit that he did not fall short in any of the requirements of the widely different schools and epochs. Mr. Pollak made a very agreeable impression upon his hearers, and was recalled in the song, In Dunkler Nacht, by Luther (not Martin Luther, as many might erroneously suppose, but a modern writer), and being assured of his good standing with his audience, sang his encore with

increased confidence and effect. He is a Hungarian, of very fine presence, and is said to be a superior operatic artist. He will doubtless grow in fayor here. FRENCH OPERA.-The musical public of

Philadelphia will be glad to learn that the French opera company, of New York, will give two performances at the Academy of Music next week. On Friday evening they will appear in Herold's charming opera of Zampa, which the opera-goers of twentyodd years ago will remember as one of the most successful works of the repertoire of the English opera company then here. On Saturday, for a matinée, La Fille du Régiment, by Donizetti, will be performed. The price of tickets is put at the very low rate of one dollar for a reserved seat in the best parts of the house, and 50 and 25 cents for

the upper tiers. Such attractions at such low prices should fill the house at both performances. Death of an Old Philadelphian. The funeral of Mr. Nathan Jones, a wellknown citizen, took place this afternoop. Mr. Jones was in the eighty-second year of his age. The deceased was for many years engaged in business in what was known as "The Old Stocking Store," at the Northwest

corner of Second and Chestnut streets. The building was of frame and but a single story in height, and tradition said that when it was built the timber for its construction was cut in the woods about the neighborhood of Fourth and Market streets. The primitive structure, with several similar buildings on the west of it, were torn down by Mr. Jones about thirty years ago, and a block of granite buildings was erected upon its site. These were the first buildings constructed entirely of this material that were ever erected in Philadelphia. The experiment was considered so hazardous that many persons refused to pass along Chestnut street upon the north side of the street. long after they were finished, for fear they might fall down! Mr. Jones was out of business for many years prior to his death THE CROSBY ART ASSOCIATION .- It matters not how philosophers may talk about the absurdity of trusting to chance, the human race have a natural tendency to believe in the fickle goddess. Under these circumstances we confess to feeling a keen sympathy with all those whose pulses have been quickened during the past week by the announcement that the twenty-first of next January is to settle the point as to the future possessor of the monster premium which Mr. Crosby offers to bis subscribers. Au even still warmer eympathy do we feel for those-and of course there will be scores of these-who delay their intended purchase until the books are closed, and will subsequently be left out in the cold, at a time when all America, from Nova Scotia to Mexico, and from Behrings' Straits to Florida, will be in a fever of axcitement only to be allayed by the "tap, tap," of the telegraphic wire announcing their fate. We consequently advise all of our friends not to leave themselves in this miserable condition. Let the faint-hearted go at once and spend their \$5 in the fall conviction that Mr. Pugh will at once give them an engraving fully the worth of their money. If they lose, they at any rate have the satisfaction of having ventured to win by risking nothing, such fine engravings are offered to the choice of the purchasers of certificates. choice of the purchasers of certificates, John B. Myers & Co., Auctioneers, Nos. sez and 234 Market street, will hold during next weak the following important sales, vis: ON MONDAY, December 3, at 10 o'clock, by cata-logne. on four months' neutring full lines of french and Domestic Dry Goods, including full lines of rich im-prited Dress Goods, Merinos, Foolins, Reps Persians, Alpacas, Episplines, Delaines, Coburgs, Mohairs, Em-grees Cloh. & C: Silas, Froche and Woolen Shawis, Ecarls. Bornet Velvets, White Goods, Embroideries, Balmorsi and Hoop Ekirts; Ribbons, Gloves, 9 casee Fancy Gcode, Toys, & C., full lines Dress and Cloak Silk Ties and ccarfs, Suspenders, Umbrelias i Also, to be sold for cash 4 bales and cases of Do-mestic Gcods, Blankets, Flannels, Muslins, &c ON TUREDAY, December 4 at 10 o'clock, by cata-logue, on four months' credit, about 1 200 packages Goots, Stoes, Balmorals, &c, of city and Eastern manufacture.

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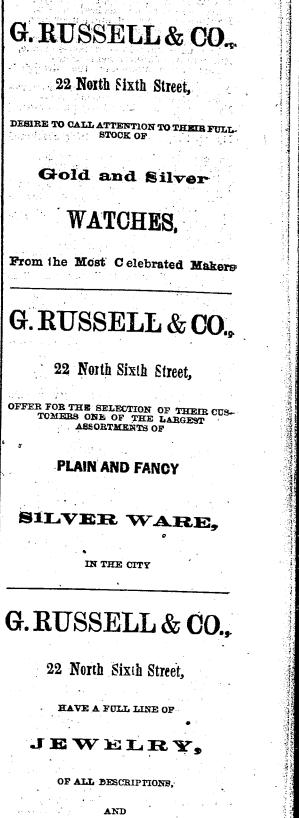
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the present political connexion continues. If she had parted in a friendly way with her old American colonies, a hundred years ago, it would have saved her much loss of money and of honor, and their people would have had a much kindlier feeling towards her than they now have. After the lesson of the Ame. rican Revolution, she is not likely to endeavor to use force to make her other American colonies continue their connexion with her. These and other colonies, indeed, do not add to her military or naval strength. The little contribution made by Canada to the British force, during the war with Russia, was not worth speaking of. Lately, too, when a few hundred Fenian adventurers from the United States threatened Canada, there was no organized local force to resist them, and since then, regiment after regiment has been sent from Great Britain to Canada, to be ready for other Fenian raids. This has weakened the home force so much that the real Fenian outbreak in Ireland finds England comparatively weak. Whether intended or not, the Fenian forays on the Canadian border last summer have answered the purpose of beautiful strategy. This fact alone ought to be sufficient to prove to the English that Canada, as a British province, is a useless and costly establishment. As a member of the Ameridan Union, she might, with her English blood and feelings, be of great value in maintaining relations mutually advantageous. But the annexation idea is as yet so crude, that it is hardly worth while to speculate upon it. The United States can afford to wait, and see whether Canada is worth admitting into the Federal Union.

PAID FIRE DEPARTMENT. The resolution introduced a short time since in the City Councils, to provide fer a Board of Fire Directors, suggests at once the expediency of a still greater and much needed change. While the subject is before' the public and meeting with its consideration, there seems to be no reason why we should not go to the bottom of it and remedy at once all the evils of the present system. As it stands now there seems to be little or no authority exercised over the firemen while in active service; for although there is an officer who is supposed to have some power, yet it is seldom if ever put in force, and the men apparently do just as they please. This is a state of things which in all human probability will continue to exist as long as the authority to command is vested in an officer who is elected by those he should govern and dependent upon them for his office; is not held to a strict ecountability for what he does or fails Aflo; and who can only enforce his stances of false returns, perjury and mand or punishment

THE TAX ON WHISKY.

When the accumulation of a huge national debt, as a consequence of the war, became a fixed fact, and the necessity of meeting the interest thereon by increased taxation became equally certain, Congress was much perplexed 'to create such a tax bill as would accomplish the desired purpose the most effectually, and at the same time the least oppressively to the people. Acting upon the correct principle that luxuriesshould bear the principal brunt of taxation, a levy of two dollars a gallon was laid upon whisky. It was also argued that if this heavy duty upon the product should cause a diminution in the consumption of the article, the cause of public morals would be the gainer thereby, even though the Government should be the loser.

But experience has proved that none of the ends designed have been accomplished, and it now becomes a grave question whether the Government would not receive a larger revenue from this source, and the public good be more affectually subserved by reducing the tax on whisky fully sevent; five per cent. It is estimated that there were two hundred million gallons of whisky distilled in the United States, during the past year. If the tax was honestly paid upon this immense quantity of distilled spirit, a revenue of four hundred million dollars a year, a sum of about double that needed to pay the interest on the national debt, would have been the result. As it was not honestly paid, but forty millions, or ten per cent. of the whole amount was collected. Fraud, with all its attendant circumdeception, was of course practiced, and

spirits.

JUDGE HELLEY'. REVENUE BILL We learn that Judge Kelley has prepared an act to create and organize a department, to be called the Department of Internal Revenue. It vests the appointment of Commissioner in the Supreme Court, upon the nomination of the Chief Justice, and allows the Commissioner to appoint all his subordinates. Until this bill shall be presented and its details made known, it is of course impossible to decide upon its precise merits, but there can be no reasonable doubt as to the general expediency of the proposition. The regulation and collection of the Internal Revenue of this country must, for years to come, occupy a place in the affairs of the Government so vast in its extent and importance that it may well demand the establishment of a separate Department, such as is contemplated in Judge Kelley's bill. In times of peace, no one of the present Heads of Department occupies a more responsible and difficult position than the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, and there is an obvious propriety in that officer being enabled to administer the business of his branch of the Government with every facility

and with every safe-guard that can be thrown around it. In vesting the appointment of the Commissioner in the Supreme Court upon the nomination of the Chief-Justice, the bill proceeds upon the strict

provision of the Constitution which gives Congress this power. The advantage to the country at large of removing this class of appointments beyond the reach of the periodical changes of the Executive department cannot be overestimated. It is venturing nothing to assert that Mr. Johnson, in his recent wholesale removal of faithful revenue officers, for mere adherence to their principles, has caused the loss to the Government of millions of dollars. The whole vast machinery of Internal Revenue, with all its delicate details and nice machinery, requiring not only personal integrity, but that intelligent experience which comes by time and practice, has thus been suddenly turned over to a class of men, who,as whole, have none of the qualities, natural or acquired, needful for an honest, correct and economical discharge of duty. Our whole system of frequent rotation in subordinate offices is fraught with the most demoralizing influences, and nowhere could a reform in this particular be better commenced than in the department of Internal Revenue. The vast sums of money that are daily to be handled; the army of officers and agents necessary for their collection; the temptations offered on every side for corrups tion, bribery and peculation make this department a power which should be kept as far as possible from any connecimand or punishment, dilatory to that extent heavy taxation has not tion with politics, and rendered indepen-

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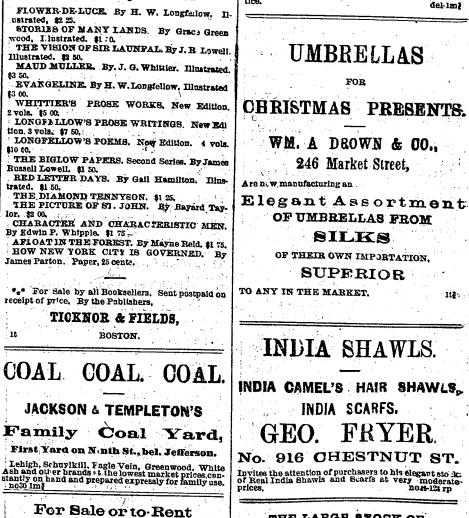
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