The Suffrage Question.

To the Editor of the Evening Bulletin:-The question of suffrage, or "Universal Suffrage," is the absorbing topic in our domestic affairs, and the arbitrament impending will not admit of neutrality. Publicsentiment has at length felt its necessity, accords its justice, and will award the just ultimatum as a finality.

The traditional fallacy that manhood depends on origin, caste, or descent is culminating in disruption, and finds a habitation only with those who, from some cause, imagine themselves inferior to others in manhood, and erroneously conceive that if the freedmen and the disfranchised people or the South generally are permitted to raise themselves up, some one else must go down and they being in the habit of looking up to

and they being in the habit of looking up to some, wish to look down on others. This country has selected the race of African descent for the disfranchised, as the victim of its prejudice, while in Oriental countries the aristocracy use all the "lower classes" without regard to origin or descent as theirs.

There is an apprehension, that if the ballot, that stupendous, conventional arbiter, and symbol of political power is conferred on the freedmen, and the disfranchised of African descent in general, that, with their natural affinities and sympathies all gravitating in the same direction, they would be a unit on any question and might emerge unwittingly a mercantile commodity to be tampered with by the unstruphlous. That apprehension—based not on caste, but misconception is the inherent stumbling block of some, who have a longing for the final adjustment of the question. But unless it can be demonstrated, that those of African descent in the North and the "Freedmen" of the South possess less acumen, perception, instinctive judgment and moral courage than others of dirferent origin in similar circumstances, the apprehension or pretension should fall to the ground, as it is speedily doing. the apprehension or pretension should fall to the ground, as it is speedily doing. The ballot, as all know, is a natural but a conventional right, the representative of will er power, and is presumed to express the convictions of the balloter; to this end the full exercise of personal freedom and the full exercise of personal freedom and private judgment are indispensable; any adverse influence controlling the voluntary use of the ballot is a perversion and the ballot so cast is substantially wrongfully cast. The primary elementary purity of the ballot consists in the personal freedom of its use; extraneous influence is usurpa-

After loyalty and integrity, as the pre-ponderant motives, prompting the use of the ballot, there is but little difference in the ballot, there is but little difference in detail between men, politically considered, where all are equally free and interested; whether a voter is a freed man or born free, of whatever origin or location, all are governed by the same, conspicuous, universal law—the common welfare of a common country. If the white man's subsistence is made to depend on the direction of mon country. If the white man's subsistence is made to depend on the direction of his ballot, to serve the selfish end of some despotic employer, and he cannot shake off the incumberance, he votes per force, not choice; in that instance his personal freedom is extinguished and the ballot abnormal. The freed man, in similar circumstances, for identical reasons, will do the same, because like the white man, for the time, he cause, like the white man, for the time, he cannot do otherwise. Parallel cases are parallel in effect, irrespective of origin, education or location. To yield from necessity a not reprehensible, but to omit to provide a preventive for a similar contingency in

a preventive for a similar contingency in the future, would certainly be.

No matter what disposition the freedmen and all the disfranchised might make of the ballot in the future, there are purposes, he and they would not, if he and they could, appropriate it to at this time: provided always, that his and theirs was, as every balloter should be in the full enjoyment of personal freedom: namely:

That the voter would not, if he could, cast a ballot to secede a State from the Union. That he would not, if he could, vote to recognize the independent of the vote to recognize the independence of the Southern Confederacy nor any other government having slavery for its chief corner stone! That he would not, if he could, ballot to repudine would not, if he could, banot to repudiate the loyal national, nor to assume the rebel debts! That he would not, if he could, so to re-enslave himself! That he would not, if he could, knowingly, vote for a rebel nor an ex-rebel in preference to a man who had always been loyal, for any office of honor, profit or trust! That he would not, if he could, vote to compensate the late master for his; emancipation! He and loyal whites have volunteered their services and lives to preserve unteered their services and lives to preserve the integrity and unity of this as a Repub lican Government. Query. Can any white man, opposed to his suffrage, anywhere say man, opposed to his suffrage, anywhere say more? Can his fate white master, with a large majority of the white population of the South and many in the North, say as much for themselves? Man is governed more by circumstances in daily life than by choice, and the "ruling class" act on this fact.

To render the hallet as improvious the To render the ballot as impervious to abuse as possible in the hands of all, permit each to place himself as far as possible out of the absolute control of despotic influence, by making all, as they really are, mutually dependent on or equally independent of the state. dependent on or equally independent of each other. Let capital be, what it really is, the mutual friend of the capitalist, industry and personal freedom; not the master and usurper of either or both of the latter as it is

rule all and possess all.

If the "freedmen," or any other class are, If the "freedmen," or any other class are, from necessity, involuntarily congregated on large plantations, or in any other business, under the entire control of a covetous, ambitious, austere employer, and, like minors, compelled to remained for a fixed period, under the penalty of arrest or forieiture of pay for past services, or both, in the event of leaving, for refusing to yield the ballot to the wishes of the employer,—like the white man similarly situated, no choice might remain for the time.

The question is naturally asked—How could the evil be remedied, provided suffrage was conferred? The writer thinks there is a remedy, or a partial remedy at least, at hand in the South. The freedman, as all know, is a ruralist, accustomed to agricultural pursuits, with fair mechanical

prone to be under the dominant desire to

agricultural pursuits, with fair mechanica agricultural pursuits, with fair mechanical tact, so far as he has had opportunity to display the latter. The writer proposes that the freedman and every other person who desires it, shall be placed in possession of a small landed homestead, and removed the properties and in the operation and in the contraction and in t of a small landed homestead, and removed as far as possible from the operation and in-fluence of capital over his personal freedom; in other words, give him soil and the ballot; send the teacher with the Primary Reader and its accompaniments; let him derive his own individual subsistence and that of his family from his own individual territory and leave him to work out his own salva tion as best he can, and the result assuredly will be favorable. Before the war it was intimated that less than one-twentieth o the soil of Louisiana was under cultivation Now there is less; perhaps not more than a thirtieth. There is a large area of United States lands in Louisiana. Besides there are millions of acres of unoccupied school lands belonging to Louisiana. In addition, since the war closed, private land owners were offering to sell on easy terms. Moreover, there is an act of Congress which, it is said terminates by limitation on the first over, there is an act of Congress which, it is said, terminates by limitation, on the first of January next, granting to actual settlers eighty acres of public land for the nominal sum of ten dollars, payable during five years. But not one freedman in a thousand on ever heard of it, and indeed but few faits. Consequently, in the embarrassed of affairs, but little advantage has actually should be renewed and especial used to make the fact known.

Withstanding, much of the low fertile of Louisiana is liable to inundation neglect of levees, and there are vast

neglect of levees, and there are vast

unsubdued swamps, and much of the upland or rolling country is less fertile, there is fertile territory enough for tens of thousands to locate on, and procure a comfortable subsistence, with less labor than in most regions of the North. The remarks are confined to Louisiana, because the writer is better acquainted in the matter of affairs referred to there than in other Southern States.

There then is an immense unoccupied territory open for improvement, containing boundless forests of the best pine and oak timbers, with mines of coal, sait, kaolin and iron, and interspersed with many of the finest water mill streams, and producing sugar, cotton, indigo, oranges, figs, wheat corn, peaches, apples, and numerous other varieties of fruit, and no country has equal or superior water navigation.

Here there is a field for the humanitarian right where the freedman stands; go there then and see him located, secure him as far as he may be from the evils incident to an illiterate homeless itinerant, who, from erritory open for improvement, containing

illiterate homeless itinerant, who, from force of circumstances, is subject to especial

force of circumstances, is subject to especial abuse on account of origin.

See that he is placed in possession if he wishes, of the domain offered by the United States, at least on the condition mentioned. Then if he misuses the ballot, will be time to pass judgment on him as is done against the white man fer similar voluntary abuse. The ultimatum of the suffrage question is a contest of, white men, the disfranchised race, are the dependents, almost impotent to aid in the matter, and when the ballot is conferred, it is accorded by the white man, not as a favor but an act of simple justice, which has been withheld by usurpation.

To confer the suffrage on the disfranchised some party must take the initiative and be-

some party must take the initiative and be-come the instrument of the people to con-summate the result. No considerable numsummate the result. No considerable number of the State Conventions have endorsed t, even of the Republican party, and none of the Democratic. Neither of the two great parties of the country, in National Convenions assembled, have slipped such a plants nto their platforms, even to recommend the measure. The Republican party was a necessity of the times when it was ushered nto heing: it became a living body moving nto being; it became a living body moving forward or onward, while the Democratic party stood still, contented with, and depending on its former prestige or moved backwards; the former never contemplated even the abolition of slavery; that idea was confined to a corroral's grand of critical confined to a corporal's guard of original, zealous abolitionists who meant the full zealous abolitionists who meant the full civil and political rights of all men. All the Republican party aimed at was to confine the "peculiar institution" to the limits it then occupied, beyond this it did not look nor care to look.

The head of the nation, and at the same The head of the nation, and at the same time the representative of the Republican party of this country, declared the abolition of slavery a "military necessity," literally conceding it was not a choice. And that he was a truthful representative of the party that elected him at the time there is no doubt. It remains to be seen whether the Republicans will continue to represent the living cans will continue to represent the living

It remains to be seen whether the Repub.icans will continue to represent the living present, or, like the Democracy, be content with the dark past, and share a like fate. The party that is right, and moves—wins. The other wanes. This is the irreversible decree of the nineteenth century. Former prestige is a broken reed; all that is alive, lives from the influx of to-day. The disfranchished and their friends, north and south, now naturally look to the Republican party to finish a work it involuntarily commenced, their sympathies are in it and with it, and hopefully looking upwards.

That party has not done all it could and should have done, but as before stated, it has involuntarily done something, while the Democracy has done worse than nothing, unless we count the aid rendered the rebellion, and thereby the extinguishment of slavery. The disfranchised, and their friends, we believe, North and South, in times past and at the present, most certainly the freedmen, instinctively regard Democracy, secession and slavery as synonpmonterms. The Democratic party is not dead, as some assert, but it has lost much of its cohesive force by the loss of public plunder. It had the misfortune to stand still or move backwards, come in collision with and was run over by the Republican party, got badly bruised and wounded. still or move backwards, come in comision with and was run over by the Republican party, got badly bruised and wounded, and to repair its fortunes it recently, very unwisely, took stock largely, got assured in the great "Accident" Insurance company in which the great and got run over by the Washington, and got run over by Republican party the second time, and is worse damaged than ever—and what adds still more to its misfortunes is that the great 'Accident" Insurance company at Washington is a failure, insolvent, going inti-liquidation. Still the Democracy is not dead, it is only waiting for something to turn up, casting about for new stock and more capital; but even if it was dead, the more capital; but even it it was dead, the Democracy believes in the resurrection. Let the Republican party but delay or decline to confer the suffrage on the disfranchised and the Democratic assume it

promptly, then the latter would spring up and stride huge glants in the land, and the disfranchised would seek an asylum in it, and repudiate all other, and when the suf frage should be consummated, would act allies, and it must not be in that they would hold the balance of power in every Southern State, and the party that has this vete must win for the time being until new issues and combinations should spring up, and the voting question shall be lost in the distance of time and other events. If the suffrage is not conferred, the distranchised man must in the future, as in the past, make the necessity of patience a virtue; but in the event of a foreign war, and his own native country having failed to give him rights equal to its other citizens, and that foreign power guaranteeing to him all the rights common to its own subjects, it requires but little foresight to discover that he would ally himself with that power, and although there is no doubt but that the although there is no doubt but that attnough there is no doubt out that the result would be disastrous to him, yet the world would justify him for doing so, and condemn his native country for forcing him to that attitude; still he would have nothing to lose in a political point of view by the experiment, because perpetual disfranchisement in this country means ultimate exter-

mination.

But the adjustment of the question by admitting the suffrage as a principle of justice. is, numanly speaking, speedily approaching, for the American will not much longer permit a loyal people to remain disfranchised and ostracized on account of the accidents of caste or origin.

ALFRED JERVIS. ALFRED JERVIS.

*The writer is compelled, however reluctantly, to acknowledge, that as the Government is now constituted in Louisians, there is no security from abuse, insuit, and personal harm, to those who are unionists, especially such as favor negro suffrage, and cannot be until there is a radical change in the government there which is a radical change in the government there while the hoped Congress will secure at once, and thus open up Louisiana to a permanent improvement by en igration, and the application of treindustry now dormant within its borders, languishing for capital and stability in seciety.

Fire in Mobile.

Mobile. Dec. 4—A large and destructive fire occurred here this morning, destroying six stores on the corner of Dauphin and Royal streets, occupied by the Sazo Gigar Store, Woolverton & Co., T. J. Hatton & Co., B. Levy & Co.'s clothing store, D. & W. K. Sterling's barber shop, Kelduff's bar-room, and Turner's club room; also a large milinery shop of Messrs. Lloyd & large milinery shop of Messrs. Lloyd & Kennedy. The total loss will probably reach \$300,000, but partially covered by in-

Martial Law for West Missouri. St. Louis, Dec. 4.—Governor Fletcher has declared martial law in Ray and Platte counties of this State, and has marched a strong force to those counties. It was not safe for a Union man to show himself out of his house there. Horse thieves, robbers and murderers infest the frontier of Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska, but the detectives are there at work, and it is expected they will pick them all up.

The Trial of the Fenian Prisoners.

The Grand Jury had the indictments against the Fenian prisoners submitted to them at 11 o'clock this morning, and were at work at them until 6 P. M. They will probably make their presentment to-morrow. Their counsel is ready to proceed at once with the trials, which it is believed will commence on Thursday afternoon, as the murder case will then have been dis

the murder case will then have been disposed of.

The prisoners had a lively time this afternoon. Two of them, Crawford and Dan Coburn, had a fight in the Fenian ward, and Coburn, who is a po werfully built man, pummeled his antagonist. Orders have been given that in future two or three policemen shall remain in the ward with the prisoners to preserve order and prevent the repetition of any attempts at incendarism. All is quiet in the village, there being but few strangers here from the United States.

In the fight between Coburn and Craw-

strangers here from the United States.

In the fight between Coburn and Crawford the latter was greatly damaged, having one of his eyes knocked out by Coburn's boot. The difficulty arose out of a discussion as to which of them had rendered the greatest service to the Fenian cause. The jailor and his assistants entered the ward, secured Coburn and removed him to a solitary cell, where he will be fed on bread and water and deprived of his allowance of to-bacco.

Scarcely had his affray been disposed of Scarcely had his affray been disposed of when it was followed by a new excitement. About fifteen minutes afterwards the jallor entered his ward to lock up the prisoners for the night, and found the door of an under compartment of the ward shut. On opening it he discovered Thos. Madden, one of the prisoners endeavoring to set fire to the jail.

FORTRESS MONROE, Dec. 3,—The 36th United States colored regiment, which recently arrived from New Orleans on the steamship Merrimac, will be paid off tomorrow by Paymaster Stanton, of the Richmend Department, and disbanded. They are now encamped a short distance beyond Hampton.

The 9th United States colored regiment is expected to arrive here shortly. They will also be paid off and sent to their homes. The Freedmen's Savings and Trust Company, of Norfolk, has been reopened. It has had quite a harvest in the way of deposits made by the soldiers of the colored regiments which have been paid off and mustered out in this vicinity.

The 7th U. S. colored regiment deposited the sum of \$33,000 in this institution, and the 36th regiment has already deposited \$30,000. The Bank is managed by a board of directors in New York, and has branches in many of the principal southern cities. Its advantages to the Freedmen are manifest, and the facility with which they can withdraw their deposits at any time, are sufficient sureties of its stability and usefulness. The oystermen of Norfolk, in accordance with a previous notice, held a meeting last saturday avening for the purpose of the interest of the started avening for the purpose of the started. The oystermen of Norfolk, in accordance with a previous notice, held a meeting last Saturday evening, for the purpose of taking into consideration such measures as would cause a modification of the present law, which, to say the least, has many arbitrary features, to the detriment of the oystermen's interests. The objects of the meeting were fully stated by the President. T. T. Cropper, Esq., offered a series of resolutions for the consideration and action of the meeting, which provided for the modification of the present law, to remove the tonnage duty, and for every bushel of oysters shipped from the waters of Virginia a tax of two cents per bushel cents per bushel. The resolutions were unanimously adopted. waters of Virginia a tax of two

Hungary, and the other in Elmira, New

SUITE OF

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Carpéted and Elegantly Furnished,

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FINE ALMERIA GRAPES.

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Havana Oranges.

FRESH CANTELOUPES. FEACHES, TOMATOES, CORN, PEAS, MUSH-ROOMS, ASPARAGUS, DATES, WHITE CLOVER HONEY, NEW RAISINS,

CURRANTS, CITRON, FIGS IN SMALL BOXES. ROBERT DONNELL & SON.

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The attention of Shippers to South American Porta, and the Trade generally, is called to the following Celebrated Brands of FLOUB made from NEW WHEAT and of which they are the sole receivers in this city.

R. J. RIDDELL& CO. S. W. corner Broad and Vine streets.

FRANKLIN MILLS SELF-RAISING BUCKWHEAT

A new and very choice article. Every family shoul use it. Directions—When ready to commence baking, mix the batter to the usual consistency. For sale by PICTURES, FRAMES, &C.

Sweltsburg, Dec. 4.—The Court opened oday at ten o'clock, and is occupied with the trial of one Emery. Chamberlain for a murder. They adjourned before the case was finished. Mr. Deklin, counsel for the Fenian prisoners, arrived here this morning. Gen. Averil, United States Consultance. General, is expected here to-morrow, to watch the case on behalf of his Govern-

From Fortress Monroe.

beyond Hampton.
The 9th United States colored regiment

PETER BOTA was hanged in Williamsport Pa., at half past 12 o'clock, yesterday afternoon, for murdering his wife last March. In his confession he states that he killed two men previous to killing his wife, one in

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Balmorals Gaiters, Slippers, et
made in the latest styles and of the best materials, Our facilities for getting up fine work are unsurpassed by any establishment.

CUMMINGS & KERPER. RIGHTH Street, above Vine.

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No. 16 NORTH SIXTH STREET MANUFACTURER OF VENETIAN BLINDS

WINDOW SHADES, lowest prices, Store Shades made and lettered,

VANKIRK & CO., No. 912 Arch Street. MANUFACTORY AT FRANKFORD, PHILADA.

We would respectfully call the attention of our friends and the public generally, to our choice and elegant assortment of GILT and BRONZE OHANDELIKES and GAS FIXTURES, constantly on hand all of them of the very latest and BKST DESIGNS Also a fine selection of PORTARLE, with FANOY CHINA, PORCYLAIN and other SHADES, to suit rurchasers.

CHINA, PORCYLAIN and other SHADES, to suiturchasers.

A fine and cheice selection of IMPORTED BRONZE STATUARY. CARD. RECRIVERS. ANTIQUE YASES, INK STANDS, THERMOMETERS, &c. always on hand atvery reasonable prices.

We would invite those who are desirous of procuring any of the above enumerated articles, to call at our storr before Furchasing elsewhere, and examine our ascortment, feeling confident that they will be favorably impressed with the character of our goods.

OUR PRICES ARE REASONA BLE, and the work in all cases guaranteed to give satisfaction to the purchaser.

N. B.—Particular attention paid to the renewing of old work.

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SHOTWELL SWEET CIDER.

Our usual supply of this celebrated OIDER, madfrom Harrison Apples, just received.

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WM. GRANGE & SON, Have opened their new and commodious building, No. 711 North Second Street.

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Plain Gold Band and Decorated French, China TEA,
Plain Gold Band and Decorated French, China TEA,
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CHINA and GLASS COLOGNE BOTTLES,
CHINA, PARIAN and LAVA VASES,
HINA and GRYSTAL CARD RECEIVERS,
BOHEMIAN TOILET SETS, STATUETTES, etc. Constantly on hand, a full assortment of the best makes of WHITE IRON STONE WARE, no22-lm

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NO. 607 CHESTNUT STREET,

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Now on hand one of the largest and best assorted Stocks of Ready-made Clothing in the Country—at prices very reasonable. Also a handsome line of Piece Goods for Custom Work, Oct-Smrpf

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Of their own MANUFACTURING, suitable for Bri ial and Holiday Gifts. Presentation Sets on hand or furnished at short no-

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Have on hand and are constantly receiving a large and splendid assortment of GOLD AND SULVAR WATCHES of all styles, varieties, makes and prices. All Watches warranted to keep good time. DIAMONDS IN GREAT VARIETY at less than usual prices. A large stock to select from. SILVERWARE and JEWELRY of all kinds, in cluding FAROY SILVERWARE SUITABLE FOR BRIDAL GIFTS. WATCHES REPAIRED in the best manner and DIAMONDS Bought for Cash. Also, Old Gold and Silver. Oct.

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No. 120 South Eleventh Street, Below Chestnut has opened a new and carefully selected atock of fine Watches, Jewelry.

N. B.-Chronometer, Duplex, Patent Lever and Plain Watches carefully repaired and warranted.

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PHENERVED TAMARINDS.—20 kegs Martinique amarinds in sugar, landing and for sale by J. B. BUSSIEB & CO., 108 South Delaware avenue.

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G. D. WISHAM, No. 7 North Eighth Street.

I have now in store and for sale a most complete and elegant stock of

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PLAIN POPLINS,
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ORDER SILK POPLINS,
One case of SILK STRIPE POPLINS, only 75 centry
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I have just opened a full line of FRENCH MERI-NOES, of all desirable shades and qualities. New additions in DRE & GOODS made daily from the Philadelphia and New York Auctions. Muslins! MUSLINS The Cheapest Muslin Store in the city.

JUST OPENED. 2.500 yards extra heavy Brown Sheeting, wide, for 24 cents.
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Large assortment Flannels from 25 to 37% cents per vard

Heavy Canton Flannels 25 c's. CLUI HS for Ladies Cloakings from \$175 to \$18, very hesp.
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Pointe Lace Handkerchiefs,
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Pointe Lace Sets, from \$5.
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Valenciennes Collars and Sets,
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A choice stock of Trimming Laces, in old Pointe,
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J. F. IREDELL,
No. 147 NORTH FIGHTH STREET.
East side, above Cherry street.
has now on hand a fmi line of FALL and WINTER
GOODS, at reduced prices.
Ladies's Merino Vesia and Drawers.
Gents' White, Clouded. Grey and Red Merino Shirtz
and Drawers.
Boys' Merino Shirts and Drawers.7,
Hosiery, Gloves. Suspenders, Thes, Scarts, &c.1
White Shirts on hand and made to order. A perfect
fit guaranteed. Has now the FALL AND WINTER STYLES and a

fit guaranteed.

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lowest market rates.

TOWIN HALL & CO., 23 SOUTH SECOND Street,
are now opening their Fall and Winter Importations of SILKS, DRESS GOODS, OLOTHS, &C.
Heavy Black Silks.
Heavy Colored Silks

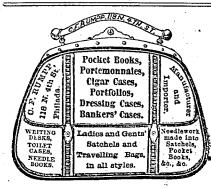
"Firm's' Real Irish Poplins,
French and German Poplins,
Black Goods in great variety.
Broche Long and Square Shawis.

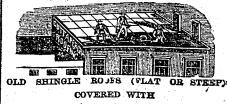
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Ladies' and Gentlemen's REFECTORY. 727 and 729 ARCH STREET. These spacious Saloons have been elegantly fitted up and re-opened by EVAN ELWELL, a Caterer of Thirty Years' Experience.

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Four spacious Supper Rooms added for the accommodation of Societies.

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JOHNS' ENGLISH ROOFING CLOTH, AND coated with LIQUID GUTTA PERCHA PAINT, making them perfectly water proof
LEAKY GRAVEL ROOFS repaired with GuttaPercan Paint, and warranted for five years.
LEAKY SLATE ROOFS coated with liquid which LEARY SLAVE ROOFS coated with liquid which becomes as hard as slate.

TIN, COPPER, ZIN C, or IRON coated with Liquid Guita Fercha at small expense. Cost ranging from one to two cents per square foot Old Board or Shingle Roofs ten can be per square foot, all complete.

Material constantly on hand and for sale by the PHILAD RIPHIA AND PENNSYLVANIA ROOF-ING COMPANY.

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