SUFFRAGE IN THE DISTRICT. The bill extending the principle of universal suffrage to the District of Collumbia yesterday passed the House by more than a two-thirds' vote, and will become a law, with or without the President's consent. In accordance with his uniform course of opposition to all legislation for the benefit of the colored race he will probably veto the bill, but with the present strength and temper of Congress there will be no difficulty in pass-

ing it over his head. The passage of this bill marks an important era in the history of this country. It is the first step towards the adoption of universal suffrage throughout the land. It is the introduction of a new principle into the system of this Republic, or rather it is the first practical application of the original principle of equality laid down in the Declaration of Independence. And yet it has passed through Congress without a ripple of excitement, and almost without debate, except such as was excited by Mr. Cowan's attempt to throw ridicule upon the bill by the introduction of the principle of female suffrage. Nothing could more clearly indicate the influence which the late elections have had upon Congress than its action upon this most important

measure. The responsibility of establishing unlimited suffrage in the District of Columbia has been assumed deliberately by more than two-thirds of a Congress fresh from contact with the people, and comprising as much solid intelligence, ability and patriotism as any Congress that ever sat in this country. Such action carries with it a powerful moral influence; and yet there is a vast body of intelligent, thoughtful, earnest-minded people, who look with unqualified concern and anxiety upon this great experiment, if experiment it may be called. They accept and maintain the principle of Impartial Suffrage as a great safeguard to Republican institutions; but, in view of the wide-spread corruption and abuse that have grown out of the universal white suffrage, they see only an increase of the evil in the addition of universal black suffrage. That the corruption and abuse do exist cannot be denied, and it is impossible to avoid the logical deduction that the evil must increase in proportion as the limits of suffrage are extended. Mr. Wilson's new doctrine of the advantages of ignorance will make converts but slowly in this land of school houses, for the people have never heretofore been taught that ignorance, like the national debt, is a national blessing. The step taken yesterday by Congress is based upon the broad and sound principles of human freedom: but it is a fixed axiom that no truth can conflict with any other truth, and if the glaring abuses which now confront usat the ballot-box have grown necessarily out of an uneducated, unqualified use of the privilege of voting, the extension of the same sort of suffrage to other hundreds of thousands of voters would seem to be in conflict with the public welfare and not based upon a sound principle. It will be a long time yet before the best classes of American citizens will surrender the belief that what is really wanted for the preservation of a pure republicanism is less, and not more suffrage. For Impartial Suffrage, most bonest and intelligent men can see good and sound reasons. For Universal Sufnage they entertain wholesome and

NATIONAL TAXATION. In one of the most important points considered by Secretary McCulloch in his recent report, we believe that the great majority of the enlightened and reflective portion of the people of this country will entirely dissent from him. Mr. McCulloch is of opinion that the present heavy rate of national taxation should be continued with a view to paying off the National Debt. Almost the only argument by which he supports his theory is that the Southern people will always object to being taxed on their portion of the interest of the war debt. In other words, those who were the means of putting the whole of this heavy load upon the country, are to be humored in their objection to paying their small disproportionate part. During and since the war they have paid nothing, or next to it, and Mr. Mc-Culloch has repeatedly expressed himself in favor of forgiving them their portion. For some years to come they are likely to pay very little, especially if they continue to prefer to occupy themselves with political agitation rather than with useful industry. During all this time we pay pretty much the whole of the interest, and if we accept the advice of the Secretary we shall continue to pay, ourselves, and to blot out as large a portion of the principal as possible, in the interval before the South comes to bear its just proportion of the burden-if indeed any portion short of the whole can be justly so designated.

well grounded fears.

We believe that every loyal American will look with great satisfaction upon the large payment that has been already made, of the principal of the debt. It is a striking proof of both our ability and our honesty, and it is a financial effort which has never been equalled in the history of the world. This is enough; we have shown our resolute determination that the interestshall be punctually met, and further, we have given the most striking proof that, were it really advisable, we both could and would rapidly pay off the principal.

But we believe that it is not so. Our

should be raised to pay for a very economical administration of the government, and the punctual payment of the interest. Then a simple continuation at the same rates will in itself lead to an extinction of the debt. For the business of the South will gradually resume its former, and more than its former importance, and as the Western portion of the country is peopled and brought under cultivation, the basis of taxation will continually enlarge, and the receipts from any fixed rate will year by year be larger. This increase might legitimately be applied to the extinction of the debt.

It does not seem right or just that the immediate present, which has scarcely completed the gigantic task of subduing the rebellion, should be further loaded with the extinction of the principal of this debt. The enormous loss of life has made labor very scarce, and every department of business is suffering from this. This scarcity of labor is the main and real cause of the high prices which exist: these prices are now in many cases higher than when gold was 280 simply because wages are higher.

We believe then that the intelligent opinion of this country is and ought to be opposed to forcing the payment of the principal of the debt, and that taxation should be reduced so as to provide for expenses and interest only. Especially the most onerous and odious of all taxes, the income tax, should be removed. At the time it was imposed, it was the general understanding that it was essentially temporary, and that a year or two would see its end. Its heavy amount. made in a single payment, its inquisitorial nature and the publicity given to private affairs, all unite to make it an especial subject of dislike. It should be the first repealed, and as many others as possible should follow after. This is the ground which we hope to see taken | ten miles long, with a width of 113 feet, and by Congress, which will probably not be | straight as an arrow. There are yet about to screen the South from the payment of its just share of the burden it has placed upon us all. Further, whilst we are very far from believing a national debt to be a national blessing, we do believe that its existence is a check upon useless foreign wars. And even if the debt were paid, we are by no means quite sure that taxation would be correspondingly reduced. If ,at the end of fifteen, twenty or twenty-five years of very heavy taxation, this extinction were completed, there would be no small temptation to continue a burden to which the people would have become, to some extent, accustomed, and to find some new object to which the income could be appropriated. We repeat, therefore, that the right way is to pay our interest with the exactest punctuality, and to devote the natural increase of revenue arising from the will be the policy of Congress.

BAILBOAD CROSSINGS.

One of the most serious defects in railroad management in the United States is, first, the grand cardinal error of allowing lines of roads upon which there are frequent trains run, to cross at grade rail or other roads upon which there is constant travel. Every person familiar with the neighborhood of Philadelphia will remember scores of cases in our own vicinity where railroads along which trains thunder every few minutes cross other railroads on the same level where travel is as incessant, and where streets, turnpikes and common roads are intersected by rails upon which locomoives are run. The danger attending this system can scarcely be over-estimated, and the only wonder is that serious accidents from it are not more frequent. The allowing of railroads to cross each other and other roads at grade is the primary evil, and next come the careless employment or the nen-employment of such agencies as have been brought in use to avoid accidents. Engineers sometimes fail to give the needful signal at the propertime, and the drivers of ordinary vehicles sometimes find themselves in situations of peril without a moment's notice; while such precautions as flagmen, at critical points, gates to shut off travel through a crowded street, while a train is passing, and other well known expedients, are entirely neglected.

In these days of tunneling and bridging, the avoidance of the evils referred to is not so difficult a matter as might be imagined. Tunnels through mountains are common as railroads themselves, and there are several instances where roads are run far below the foundation walls of the houses in large cities. A newspaper correspondent, writing from London, gives an account of what they are doing in the way of subterranean railroading in the Metropolis. He says:

roading in the Metropolis. He says:

"I found myself in Euston Street Station, London. Having to proceed some distance into the city, we determined to take the underground railway, which, by the way, is not such a myth as our American underground, but is a very pleasant reality, for it is removed far from the dust and noise of the crowded streets. The Metropolitan is still in its infancy, having been constructed but a few years. On reaching the station we were much struck with the novelty of descending some thirty or forty feet beneath the surface before we found the train, and when we did find it, we were hustled in by an officious porter (all porters are officious in England), the whistle blew and we were off. We expected to experience some disagreeable sensations on this, our first trip; but our expectations were never realized. The carriages are very comfortable, and much like the common English carriages, being divided into comparts. never realized. The carriages are very comfortable, and much like the common English carriages, being divided into compartments capable of holding six persons; these compartments are of three grades, first, second and third, the doors being at the side. The stations are supplied with light from above by means of reflectors, and the carriages are lighted with gas. The tunnel is aired by a system of flues, which keep up a continual circulation, so that no unpleasant odors arise from the smoke or use of gas. odors arise from the smoke or use of gas. When we arrived at our destination-Far-

London, we noticed numbers of buildings in process of destruction to make room for a further extension of these subterraneous routes. The idea of building these railways was to relieve the streets from a great deal

If engineering skill and enterprise can devise such a mode of passing from one part of a city to another, there can be but little excuse for the construction of roads in such a way that travel upon intersecting streets and highways is continually interrupted by passing trains, and where the peril to life and limb is

Broad Street-A Grand Improvement. Another link in the extension of our great thoroughfare—Broad street—was yesterday formally thrown open to publicuse, and the event was celebrated by a most agreeable social gathering at the house of our enterprising townsman, James D. Whetham, Esq., at Broad street and Nicetown lane. A large number of the dignitaries of the city were present, including his Honor, the Mayor, the Judges of the Supreme, District, and Common Pleas Courts, Strickland Kneass, Esq., City Surveyor, the members of Councils having supervision of the extension of roads and streets, prominent military gentlemen, and a number of distinguished citizens. The section of the city thrown open by this important improvement extends from Nicetown Lane to Fisher's Lane, and the value of the improvement can only be properly appreciated by a visit. Large numbers of choice building sites, that have hitherto remained unimproved because of the want of convenient access to the city, will now be built upon and the cost to the city in the way of grading and bridging will be compensated for in the increase of taxable property, without taking into account the general improvement and beautifying of the city and the convenience of citizens.

The next step will be to complete the work by curbing and paving and the construction of a bridge on the ReadingRailroad, at Nice town, when Philadelphia will have one of the grandest streets in the world; an avenue disposed to share Mr.McCulloch's desire | two miles to open to reach the northern limits of the city, when it is believed that an effort will be made to extend the street still farther north, as a State road, even to the Delaware River at, or near New Hope,a dis tance of some thirty miles from League Island the southern terminus of the road

In the improvement of this street, the owners of property along its line are desirous to avoid the use of cobble-stone paying on the carriage-way and adapt a de scription of paving more in accordance with the progress and want of the age. Much will depend upon the success of the Nicolson pavement now being laid on Broad street, between Jefferson and Oxford streets. These who have seen this pavement in use in Chicago and St. Louis are strongly impressed with its superiority over the stone causeways over which which Philadelphia horses have been doomed to clatter ever since the streets of the city were arat payed. The experimental pavement ow going down on a portion of Broad street will give our citizens an opportunity to growth of the country to gradually test it practically, and there is but little wiping out the debt, and such we hope | doubt that its advantages will be so far appreciated that an effort will be m axiend them over the new portions of our

reat local thoroughfare. The Atlantic for January. Messrs, Ticknor & Fields begin the year 1867 with a capital number of the Atlantic Monthly. The first part of a new story by Dr. Holmes, called "The Guardian Angel," gives promise of something fully worthy of his great reputation. A humorous story in verse, by Lowell, is also excellent. Mr. Parton's sketch of Henry Ward Beecher, his church and his congregation, is graphic and very pleasant. Whittier, Emerson and Stedman each contribute a characteristic poem, and Mr. Bryant a vigorous translation of a scene from the Riad of Homer. There are also good articles by Bayard Taylor, Higginson, Trowbridge, Shanly, Walter Mitchell, Frederick Douglass and others. Persons wishing to procure this number, or to subscribe for the Atlantic, can do so at Mr. Pugh's, in the BULLETIN bullding, where Our, Young Folks, which likewise begins the new year well, may also be obtained.

The Artists' Fund Society. That excellent association of Philadelphia artists, known as "The Artists' Fund So. ciety," have recently got possession of beautiful new rooms at 1834 Chestnut street, oposite the Mint, which they intend to keep always open for the free exhibition of pictures by the members of the Society and

A fine collection of original works is now on exhibition, which will be sold at auction on Tuesday evening next, beginning at halfpast seven o'clock. Among the artists contributing to this sale are Hamilton, Sully, E. Moran, T. Moran, P. Moran, W. T. Richards, F. DeB. Richards, George C. Limb din, Waugh, Winner, Knight, Milne Rim sey, Winner, E. B. Wood, Jr., Schuessele, J. Sartain, S. Sartain, T. H. Smith, Willeox, I. L. Williams, Blauvelt and Trotter, each of whom is represented by one or more most excellent works. The proceeds of the sale are for the maintenance of the gallery.

Madame Ristori.

The old fashioned classical drama of Ra cine, Corneille and Alfieri, in which there is such rigorous regard for the "unities," is not pleasing to modern taste, and it require: a great genius to make a performance of uch a play interesting. But last evening an Italian version of Racine's Phidre was performed at the Academy, by the Ristori troupe, and the surpassing talent of the great actress was displayed in such a way, that the dreary old drama interested every bearer, from first to last. Every passion of the human breast was portraved with extraordinary vividness. Love, jealousy, hatred. vengeance, remorse and grief were by turns expressed, and the auditors were aroused to extraordinary enthusiasm. There is scarcely any play of the repertoire that requires so much real genius as Phèdre, and none in which Ristori is morefully equal to the work.

This evening Mme. Ristori will appear in the great drama of Elisabetta, for the repetition of which there is such a desire that there is already a certainty of a crowded house. For various reasons it has been determined to begin the performance at halfpresent taxation is very onerous, and ringdon street—we once more ascended to past seven o'clock, and though the play is should be lightened. Enough only the upper regions. In our rambles over in five acts, and the entr'actes, owing to the

changes of dress, are long, persons from the country will still be able to take the late SUNDAY TRANSCRIPT HARDING'S EDITIONS trains for home; On Monday eyening will be given Deborah, an Italian version of Leah, the copy-right of which Mme. Ristori bought from the author, Mosenthal, and which she has played with extraordinary success all over Europe.

MR. J. A. GETZE, of No. 1102 Chestnut street, advertises on this page the Weber Pianofortes, of the merits of which, both in the grand and square, he furnishes ample and most flattering testimonials.

John B. Myers & Co., Auctioneers, Nos. 22 and 23 Market street, will hold during next week the following important sales, vis:

On. Monday, December 17, at 10 o'clock, by catalogue, on four months' credit, about 700 lots of French, india. German and British Dry Goods, including French Merinos, Poplins, Kpitglines, Alpacas, Mohairs, Coburgs Delaines, Plaids, Silas, Shawis, Scarts, &c.; invoice of superior Winter Gloves, Suck and Gauntiets, Beaver, Castor, Calf, Kid and Silk, Plain and Fleeced. Also, English Merino Hose, Shirts an Drawers. Also, ishino able Furs, Muff., Collars and Capes. Also, finien cases of very rich Fancy Go ds, Toys Eurniture and Coina Sees, Jolls, &c., for Holiday 11 tesents. Also, finied Chemise Collares, &c. Balmoral and Hoop kkirts, Ribbous, Trimmings, French Cornets, A'so, large invoice rich Muslin Draperles and westbuie Muslin and Lace. Also, handsome Carriageand sleigh Robes, Domestic Goods, &c. of city and Eastern manufacture. Also, Traveling Eags, shoe Lacets, &c. On Thurbaday, December 29, at 10 clock, by catalogue, on four months' credit and part for rash, 700 packages and lots of Foreign and Domestic Dry Goods, including Cleths, Francy Cassimeres, and Coatings, Chinchillas Fancy Cloakings, Beavers, Satinets, Leeshins, Italiana, &c.

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Orphans' Court and Executors' Sale of Valuable Real Estate, Stocks, Loans. &c., Tuesday Next.

Thomas & Sons' sale, on Tuesday, 18th inst., at 12 o'clock noon, at the Exchange, will include écairable risidences northwest corner lighteenth and Delancey Place, 26 feet front; northwest corner Tweifth and Wallace; No. 1518 North Broad; No. 1129 Mount Varnon, and several very desirable small dwellings valuable hotel known as the "Abbey," Township line road; farm and cuntry east, 70 acres, Washington lane; stores, South Second. Front Water and Arch sire is; building lots; lorge amount of stocks, leans, &c. See pamphlet catalogues, which may be had at the Auction Rooms.

Sale of a Valuable Store, Third street, be-low Vine, the Estate of Peter Boyoudt, deceased.

James A. Freeman's sale on Wednesday of next week includes among other valuable estates that of Peter Roward. deceased being a desirable Store, No. 256 h ORTH THIED SILES, 15 pt 84½ feet.

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Philip Ford & Co., Auctioneers, will sell at their store, No. 506 Market street, on Monday morning, December 17, commencing at ten o'clock, a large and desirable assortment of Boots, Shoes, Brogaus, Bal-To which the attention of the trade is called.

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or me,

1 hanks to your care and foresight, it came in perfect
order now libstanding the frequent handling to which
it bad necessarily been subjected on its larg passage
from Boston to B riin. The instrument, in regard is
its elegant and tastful exterior or well as its he autiful
ione and perfect action, is everything that I could
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All those who have seen, heard, examined and
played upon it—among them the very bet judges in
Berlin, plane players as well as piano mak. rs.—cannot sufficiently admire it, and provounce it superfor to
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"Betchlein" it sbuments of this civ. The quality of
the tone of your spiendid instrument is found to be so
refined and ture. It sings," so beautifully, as the Germans express it the quality of its tone is so full, round
at dample; the graduation of strength from the lower
to the upper registers so complete and even, and its
actions and mechanism so perfect, that all concur in
the of ind on that its squal in excellence and perfection
has not before been seen in Berlin.

So numerous have been the encomiums passed opon
it, in many intainess, from local pride, given only be
cause their sense of justice and leve of truth compelled
the emlinest gentlemen to give them—and for that reason all the more valuable—that I assureyoungentlemen,
I esteem it a rivilege, and feel proud to bein possession
of his splendia specimen of American art, ingenuity
and skill.

With my for me.

1 hanks to your care and foresight, it came in perfect

and skill. With my compliments and best wishes for your continned well deserved success,
I am gentlemer, your obedient zervant, H. KREISMANN.

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