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EVENING BULLETIN.

Saturday, July 27, 1867.

CITY RAILWAY FARES.

Two cause are assigned by the advocates of the city railway managers of Philadelphia for keeping up the fare on their cars. One is the old standard one of the high price of horse feed; the other the dishonesty of conductors. As a class, the city railway conductors cannot be regarded as more dishonest than other men. There is no reason to believe that a man born to be a conductor is born to be a thief. There is no reason to believe that conductors are more prone to steal than presidents or treasurers who handle money or bonds. There is some reason to believe that good pay would secure good conductors, and that the saving effected by their honesty would greatly exceed the amount of the increased wages. But all such suggestions are hooted at, and it is solemnly declared that it is as absolute and unavoidable fact that no railway company can secure the services of a set of conductors that are proof against the temptation to pocket regularly a certain per centage of their daily receipts. Spies and detectives, female as well as male, have been employed. Pilfering conductors have been dismissed and others put in their places, only to pilfer more and to be detected and dismissed. The evil has declared to be irremediable, and the people of Philadelphia have the pleasant assurance given them, that when they pay for a ride in a car, a portion of the price goes to support thieves.

One is reluctant to believe that the advocates of the high fare system are right in declaring that conductors will steal. If they are, it must arise partly from the bad association or the bad example of their employers; partly from a consciousness that the companies are wronging the public by their high fares, and that they are fair game for all who can make money out of them. But it would seem that some scheme might be devised for checking the vice of stealing, which, according to the railway people, is spreading fearfully through their own agency. It is a wicked thing in them to be encouraging vice among conductors, at the expense of the innocent public. If, as they assert, the companies could afford to let us ride for five cents a trip. But as they are not honest, we must pay seven cents, the two extra cents being the conductor's premium for committing a crime. Certainly this is a business that ought to be brought before a Moral Reform Society, for it is a dreadful thing to have these corporations promoting vice on such an extensive scale, and making the whole community a *participeps criminis*. There will have to be missionaries sent among the horse-car conductors to preach to them, with the eighth commandment as a text.

If the temptation to steal were removed, many a conductor's soul might be saved; and the Board of Presidents ought to make and seriously study out some plan for removing it; combining with the philanthropic purpose, a purpose to reduce the fares to the old rate. It would, seem that officers could be established in various parts of the city for the sale of packages of tickets for the various roads, to be pocked on any of them. If people could buy a package of twenty tickets for a dollar, the cash fare in the cars being still seven cents, there are few who would not go to some trouble and expense to buy the packages. There would thus be very little money put into the hands of conductors. The expense attendant on the offices, would be comparatively in proportion to their capital stock, or the number of their cars, would not be heavy upon any one of them. This plan, or something like it, is not impracticable, and it is worthy of the serious consideration of that august body, the Board of Presidents.

THE SURRATT TRIAL.

After sixty days of trial the testimony in the Surratt case has, at last, closed. Several days will yet be consumed in arguing law points, and in the main arguments of counsel before the jury, so that another week will probably elapse before the case is concluded. If the jury is an honest one, as it is generally reputed to be, there can be little doubt as to the conviction of the prisoner. The defence has rested mainly upon an attempt to prove Surratt's presence in Elmira on the 14th of April, at a time when he could not have reached Washington on the evening of the 14th. Beyond this the efforts of the counsel have been chiefly confined to assaults upon the credibility of the witnesses for the prosecution. On both of these lines of defence they have broken down. The prosecution has demonstrated that even if Surratt had been in Elmira, at the time alleged, he could easily have been in Washington on the night of the assassination. More than this, the ferryman at Williamsport is produced, who identifies Surratt as having crossed the river in a southerly direction on the 14th, at a time when it was quite possible for him to make the railway connections through to Washington. There are few things more dangerous to manage than an unsound plea of *alibi*, and when it breaks down it damages the case beyond repair. It shows the jury that counsel have attempted to prove for their client what both he and they know to be untrue, and the chances of avoiding the direct evidence of those who have seen the accused elsewhere than the point selected for an *alibi*, are too slight to be depended on.

In the business of breaking down the characters of the witnesses for the prosecution, the defence has met with indifferent success. They have discredited one or two witnesses, but in the main line of this portion of their case they have failed, while they have been compelled to sustain a damaging attack from the prosecution in the same direction. Dr. McMillan's credibility has been well sustained, while Dr. Bissell's, on the other side, has been seriously impugned. The Rev. Mr. Boucher, upon whom the defence set great store, has been made to appear in a most unenviable light, as an accessory to the assassination after the fact. His statements in reference to Dr. McMillan are, in several essential points, fully contradicted in the rebutting evidence.

The chain of evidence, as it comes to be arranged before the jury by the able gentleman who have conducted the prosecution, will be found to be a complete one; and, if faithful in the discharge of their duty, the jury will not fail to mete out the long deferred award of justice to the guilty criminal who so long escaped the ministers of the law. The case has been patiently and laboriously tried. It has been signalized by conduct on the part of the counsel for the defence which might have justified the postponement of the trial both by Judge Fisher and the prosecuting officers, but for the higher considerations of public duty which have controlled them. The public will be glad to have this case concluded, and then to have General Butler's investigating Committee sift out, if possible, the still hidden mystery which surrounds the terrible crime with which Surratt stands connected.

When John Tyler turned traitor to his party and to the grand old Henry Clay upon whose herculean shoulders he had been borne into office, he managed to create something resembling a party and he was taken up as a candidate for the Presidency in 1841. He could not have drummed up a corporal's guard in a single State in the Union, for the Whigs had the same hereditary hatred of the sneaking Virginian that the Republican party now feels for Andrew Johnson, and the Democrats openly declared that he should be voted for because they despised the traitor. Still, John Tyler was talked of for the Presidency for a second term, and he managed to secure the unnecessary trouble of declining a nomination by the Democratic National Convention which met in 1844. Andrew Johnson, like John Tyler, was disowned by his party, and it is hardly conceivable that he could betray his old friends and create for himself a party from the ranks of bread and butter men; but his blunder and its consequences are more colossal than that of the renegade Tyler, and now that all parties are informally casting about them for candidates, the Tennessee apostate finds himself left so completely out of the question that he will not be put to the trouble of declining a nomination. Grant, Sherman, Butler, Colfax, Sheridan, Wade and others are spoken of in connection with the office, but there are none so poor as to do reverence to the apostate of the White House. With all the Democratic patronage which he manages to control in spite of civil tenure laws, he cannot secure a single delegate. The time for a nomination comes around, the Bread and Butter Brigade will fall away from him like rats from a sinking ship, and he will fall into merited obscurity and contempt. Judas Iscariot went and hanged himself under somewhat similar circumstances. It is to be hoped that the egotistical ingrate of the White House will not imitate the example of the eminent traitor just referred to. The lesson which the world teaches to unfaithful men in the contempt and scorn that is shown for them when they are shorn of the power to do further mischief, is valuable. Tyler, the despised, sank into a dishonorable grave, and it is to be hoped that the life of Andrew Johnson will be spared sufficiently long after the fourth of March, 1869, to afford an example for all men to shun. The country wants no more John Tylers or Andrew Johnsons.

The evidence that has thus far been taken by the impeachment committee of Common Council, in the matter of the attempt to bribe Hope Engine house by a mob of ruffians, led on by Councilman Barnes and Alderman William McMullin, makes out as clear a case for the prosecution that there should be no trouble about impeaching the leading rioters, and convicting and punishing the entire batch of evil-doers. Among other things that were proved against this Killer gang is the fact that at a recent fire in the lower part of the city, these official ruffians, with their hangers-on, took the hose of the Hope Engine Company from a plug and compelled them to desist from service. The pretence that they are firemen and engaged in a philanthropic work, has blinded the eyes of a good-natured public to the scandalous misdeeds of this organized gang of blackguards. Their philanthropy consists in destroying the apparatus of rival fire companies, and in preventing them from saving the property of citizens from destruction! In any other civilized country upon the face of the earth such fellows would be under sharp police discipline. Our liberal laws allow them to become aldermen and councilmen, and it remains to be seen whether the author, Mr. Hill, will perform their duty, and put an end to this reign of brutal ruffianism. The people of Philadelphia demand that this shall be done, and the official who fails to perform his duty will be held to a strict accountability. Any form of tyranny is bad enough, but when it takes the form of mob-law, with vulgar ruffians as the leaders in scenes of crime and outrage, it becomes as disgusting as it is oppressive. We want no master but the law, and least of all the mastery of brutal ruffians, whose every instinct is beastly and cruel, and whose only argument is the logic of the black-jack and the pistol.

The excellent address of the Union Republican State Central Committee, which will be found in our columns to-day, will be read with interest by all who have the good of the Commonwealth at heart. It is short but comprehensive. It sets forth some of the good qualities of Judge Williams, our candidate for the Supreme Court. It also expresses respectfully but plainly, part of Judge Sharswood's peculiar political record, and especially his long adhesion to the pernicious States' Rights' doctrine, and other heresies of the pro-slavery Democracy.

The bringing forth of a million of dollars worth of the precious metals in a day from the mines of California, Montana or Idaho would be deemed a matter of national importance and a subject of general congratulation as a substantial increase to the wealth of the country. But each day is now adding tens of millions to the national means in the way of the growth and the garnering of bread stuffs. Instead of golden ingots and nuggets, a kind Providence is giving us golden grain in abundance, and the rich fields of green corn that are waving all over the land are more than equivalent to great treasures of greenbacks. Gold is a very excellent thing in its way; but the treasures yielded by the mines of California are not as precious as the products of the fields of the great grain-growing States. When the famished traveler in the Arabian desert found a sack which he hoped would contain dates, his disappointment upon opening it took form in the expression, "Alas; they are only pearls!" The beneficent Providence that is adding millions daily to our national wealth in these glorious harvest times is carrying more substantial comfort into the homes of the people than their money equivalent in gold or precious pearls would amount to.

The Republican organization is going on prosperously in all the Southern States, whites and blacks meeting in convention and adopting resolutions in conformity to the principles of the great party that sustained the government through the war and preserved the Union. The Copperheads look with very jealous eyes upon these movements, and they are trying their best to induce the colored men they once despised to fraternize with them. Failing in this, they resort to violence and outrage. In Tennessee, where the first State election with impartial suffrage is approaching, there is a most violent contest raging, and scarcely a day passes without accounts of Republican meetings attacked by the so-called Conservatives, who are simply returned rebels and copperheads. The Republicans generally bear their opponents off, though they are compelled to defend themselves by arms in many cases. This first election is looked upon with a great deal of interest outside of Tennessee, and is a test of the impartial suffrage system, its operation and its results will both be important.

The telegraphic cable, which is soon to connect Cuba with Florida, will, of course, be a very great public convenience and if the Spanish authorities are not too rigid in the over-valuing of despatches, it will be liberally patronized, and will pay well. The laying of ocean cables is an expensive business but after they are laid, they cost much less than and lines of telegraph. The great Atlantic cables have only needed repairs once or twice, and their receipts for tolls are nearly all clear profit. Land lines are liable to damage by storms, or falling trees or other accidents, and they are exposed also to injury from misguided men, or boys. But a well constructed cable is protected from all this by the sea, and is only liable to injury near the shore, where anchors may get atoul of it, or dragging nets may catch it. The cable to Cuba will, at least, be safe from icebergs. Its completion will doubtless lead to the laying of cables to the other islands, and ultimately South America will be brought into communication with this country by the electric fluid.

This week's number of that excellent journal, the *Commercial List*, is accompanied by a supplement containing a well written account of the cemeteries of Philadelphia, with well executed views of the entrances to the Mount Vernon and the Gardell monument. It contains also a variety of other useful and entertaining reading matter.

SUMMER TRAVEL.—At this season of the year citizens who desire recreation, or who need relaxation, are wont to seek a change of air and scene. Some visit the capes, others fancy a stay at the springs, yet others weend their way to Niagara, and those who are still more adventurous, and who are blessed with a sufficient fund of time and money, work their way across the Atlantic and visit the Exposition. Now, to travel wisely and profitably is an art, and thanks to the great mechanical facilities of the age, it is an art that can be readily practiced. We have no scarcity of magnificent scenery in our own State and in the neighboring States, and railroads and steamboats open up districts to the tourist that were scarcely known to our grandfathers. It enables us to compress into a fortnight's trip an amount of travel and sight-seeing that thirty years ago would have been the work of months. Among the most complete and economical arrangements for summer tourists is the grand system of excursions gotten up by the Camden and Amboy Railroad Company, and under the special management of Mr. A. W. Gore, General Ticket Agent, who has opened an office at No. 828 Chestnut street.

This arrangement includes within its grand and comprehensive scope, trips to Niagara Falls, Lake Ontario, The Thousand Islands, Rapids of the River St. Lawrence, Montreal, Quebec, River Saguenay, White Mountains, Lake Champlain, Lake George, Lake Memphremagog, Mt. Mansfield, Saratoga, Sharon Springs, Trenton Falls, Catskill Mountains, West Point, Gorham, Portland, Boston, Newport, Cape May, Long Branch, Schooley's Mountain, Delaware Water Gap, &c. The most liberal concessions are made in respect to fare, and the traveler can take his pleasure at a schedule of over a hundred different routes, all centering points of great interest. The present generation has nothing to complain of in the way of cheap, expeditious and comfortable travel.

EVERY SATURDAY for August 3d has laid under contribution for its numerous readers, a full dozen of the best English Monthlies and Weeklies. Prominent among the gems is Dickens's Feast of Roses," from *Hardcicke's Science Gossip*, an interesting paper on "London Squares," by Walter Thornbury, and a sketch of the "Kabyles of the Djurdjura."

Sale of Real Estate and Stocks Next Week.
Thomas & Sons' sale, at the Exchange, on Tuesday next, of valuable real estate, comprising 1000 acres timber, Dwellings, Building Lots, Farms, &c., under the Orphans' Court Executors, Trustees, Guardians and Others. Trade sales of stocks and other things also will be sold promptly. See pamphlet catalogues, 10 pages, 3c. Sales at 1 P. M.

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