

# Daily Commercial Advertiser

GIBSON PEACOCK, Editor.

OUR WHOLE COUNTRY.

F. L. FETHERSTON, Publisher.

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PHILADELPHIA, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1867.

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## THE EVENING BULLETIN

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THE EVENING BULLETIN ASSOCIATION.

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Postpaid.

THE RECEPTION.

TO THE

RIGHT REV. BISHOP WOOD

in postpaid for the present, on account of his

NON-ARRIVAL FROM EUROPE.

Due notice will be given when the

RECEPTION AND FESTIVAL

will take place.

FRANK McLAUGHLIN.

Wm. J. Powell, Secretary.

PHILADELPHIA AND SOUTHERN RAILROAD COMPANY.

Philadelphia, September 19, 1867.

We hereby acknowledge the receipt of the following sums for the Southern Yellow Fever Relief Fund, which have been forwarded to the Treasurer of the Society, Messrs. Williams & Co., No. 125 S. Third Street, Philadelphia.

A. Williams & Co., \$50

James C. Hunt & Co., \$50

Jay Cooke & Co., \$50

James K. Smith & Co., \$50

Westcott & Thompson, \$50

C. H. Grant, \$50

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## RASH STEPS.

LV.

(Correspondence of the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin.)

I have just learned the particulars of the burning of Titian's great picture, the "Peter Martyr."

It was on the night of the 15th of August. The hour when a leader loses a victory, when a light-house is blotted from the chart, when a sun darkens in the heavens, is but a blank hour for history, for navigation or astronomy. On that unlucky night a patch of blackness took its place in the empyrean among the highest stars. The blot is permanent. These sons of light, come no more, you know.

The future Venice has a beam gone, a color off the palette, a plume from the Lion. Future Sir Joshua have one text fewer for their discourses. Future Ruskin one criterion less to steady them. Future Turners one graduation lost from the chromatic verrier. The young American of the future, stealing to the western shores with his silent reverence, his beautiful belief in the past—bowing from shrine to shrine with his eyes crowded with miracle, his heart like wax to the seal, a little faded of commentaries and annotations and authorities all ready to help him into the room, goes henceforth to one idol broken.

In the last century, when all was precedence and goldstick, this was classed as the third picture in existence, ranking after the "Transfiguration" and the "Communion of St. Gerome."

They used to like that kind of enumeration. We of to-day have lost the propensity to call up the masters one behind the other to be meddled. To our scientific, c'est leur ensemble.

My last, but not my first, study of the "Peter Martyr" on the 15th May, I now recall with a kind of awe. I remember the zondola. I remember the bold beggar who held it to the step with a hook when we disembarked. I remember the old black bronze of the *Cavalliere Colonna* frowning down from his horse in the Place before Santi Giovanni e Paolo. This church, often called by its nickname *Zanti-Job*, is of Italian Gothic, severe for Venice, but still bright, and I recollect the sheets of sunshine poured from its unshaded windows upon the crowd of dogs, the

rolling from their tombs all around its walls. The temple is a sort of Venetian Pantheon, a museum filled with the principal ducal mausoleums. It is fortunate that the flames spared those venerable sepulchres, which the Dukes went through so much agitation to win. The fire was confined to a particular chapel, that of the Rosary, but unfortunately the principal art-treasures of the Church were gathered temporarily into this alcove during the restoration of the interior. I recall the scaffolds hiding the walls, and the clamor of the workmen molesting the peace of the dead company of mighty ones. And I remember gladly pushing through it all to a little asylum of peace and repose, in which I knew I should find the great master-work I had so often pored over at home by means of whatever could be had in the way of copy, engraving or photograph. Here was dropped the spark that conquered our greatest Titian.

The 15th August is the great festival of the Assumption, when the Romanist world everywhere honors the apotheosis of the Mother of God. At home, in her own special cathedral, the Librarian Basilica, or Great Saint Mary's, the Pope attends to hear high-mass performed by the arch-priest, who afterwards blesses the people from the balcony. In Paris, the Imperial Fete coinciding with the day, a celebration takes place unequalled throughout the year: the theatres all perform gratis, fireworks are shown, the Avenue of the Elysees is a chain of lights which touch each other, every shop is closed, and the beggars are allowed to beg from dawn to midnight. On this high day, the masses were sung at *Zanti-Job*, in Venice, notwithstanding its encumbered state, and the vespers were concluded, most importantly, without any attention to extinguishing the lights. Oil lamps, and even the large tapers, were left burning at the altar at the closing of the church for the night.

At five next morning a passer observed smoke issuing from the chapel of the Rosary, and gave notice to the parish priest and wardens. Assistance was only in time to prevent the fire from spreading to the interior of the church. From the chapel door-way the mortified Venetians could at first see their glory, their paragon, their unequalled Titian unharmed, shining and beaming as it had never shown before, and wrapping the color of the conflagration around its own shaft of heavenly and angel-pooled splendor. But it was impossible to penetrate the flames, and directly after the canvas crumpled, blistering to a cinder. The famous "Peter Martyr" from that moment was a tradition, a legend, a fancy feated upon engravings and copies.

Such was the lead work of this festival night. But was it simply the dumb agency of the festival fire that did it? These are grave and reasonable doubts, suggesting a degree of shameful vandalism that would contradict all our age, and which was never believed to linger even in Italy. Why did the fire, instead of spreading from the high altar, take place in a side chapel? Why did it fasten here, sparing the combustible scaffolding in the aisle? Why was the alarm given when it was just possible to spare the church, but not the chapel? Why did the accident occur the day after the meeting of the City Council? On the 14th, an assembly of the Municipality had decided that the art-treasures of the church in question should be removed to the Fine Art Academy; this resolution was in connection with a plan in operation ever since 1858, of removing from time to time the famous works of art from the custody of the churches, where they were deteriorating from smoke and gloom, to the excellent light and protection of the Academy. The angry church has been taken from her grasp, one by one, the old traditional ornaments that had been her pride and boast from the dark ages and renaissance. Everybody suffered, from the archbishop who lifted the vail in front of the famous altar-piece, to the last drawing of the custode who got a half-lira for dragging the curtain. In Venice, the consecration of church property implied in her annexation to the Italian crown has been followed up by this additional blow. An infidel and excommunicated King having laid his hand on the monasteries, here was a proud, meddling city stripping the cathedrals of the jewels. No doubt, whether guilty or not, the priest swung his incense in Zanti-Job on that Assumption-day with a raging heart, while they sung hosannas to Saint Mary. How then came the fire? Did a rat carry a light candle-end to some oily, priceless canvas? Did some inebriated and diabolical Kolossal

## VERGE OF THEIR CONSTITUTIONAL POWER

FOR MEANS TO meet such an emergency. *Salus populi suprema lex esto.* WESDELL PHILLIPS.

## THE ANTIETAM CELEBRATION.

The Theoretical and Practical Program—The President Insults the Northern Governors—The Diplomatic Corps and Everybody Disgusted with the Ceremonies.

The Washington correspondent of the New York Herald, a Copperhead sheet, thus details the heinous behavior of Mr. Johnson at the Anti-etam celebration:

WASHINGTON, Sept. 18.—The dedication of the National Cemetery at Antietam took place yesterday. The invitations were sent to the President, and a limited number were sent to the members of the Diplomatic Corps. The special train from Washington started at half-past six A. M. and reached at twelve o'clock, where there was a large crowd awaiting our arrival. The party, perhaps two hundred in number, left the cars; the carriage provided for the President was crowded together, and there seemed to be no commander, no general director or manager. Some of the invited persons at the Capital, including the President and his cabinet and the Diplomatic Corps. The special train from Washington started at half-past six A. M. and reached at twelve o'clock, where there was a large crowd awaiting our arrival. The party, perhaps two hundred in number, left the cars; the carriage provided for the President was crowded together, and there seemed to be no commander, no general director or manager. 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