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Of the newest and most stylish materials, well and neatly made, which have been sold at $20
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BALMORAL JACKETS.—The best assortment in the city, all of very low $3

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BOYS' OVERCOATS, in great variety, at prices to suit everybody.

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STEINWAYS PIANOS RECEIVED THE HIGHEST HONOR—the Medal of Honor, at the Great Exhibition, Paris, 1867. See Official Report, at Steinway Warerooms, No. 103 Chestnut street.
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EVENING BULLETIN.

Tuesday, January 12, 1869.

THE PROPOSED CITY BUILDINGS.

It is a fortunate thing for Philadelphia that the public and the press are generally humane in speaking of the City Buildings. The erection of new city buildings on the South side of Independence Square. For a wonderful partisan politics has not yet learned to interfere with a candid and liberal consideration of the question. This is partly because there is an absolute and undeniable necessity for the buildings, and partly because the gentlemen composing the Commission are not politicians or jobbers. There is a general admission, also, that Independence Square is the best site that is available, without heavy cost to the city; the only other site talked of—that of the Penn Squares—being away from the business centre, and consisting also of four small squares, neither one of which would accommodate such a spacious edifice as the city requires.

The Independence Square project contemplates, of course, the removal of the ugly court houses, the Mayor's office, the hall of the American Philosophical Society and the row offices, leaving Independence Hall alone on the centre of the square. These old and venerable edifice will thus stand alone, as it did originally, and with a suitable enclosure and other surroundings, it may be preserved and kept in better better than it can be now, especially as the City Councils and Courts now occupying parts of it will be accommodated in the new buildings. The removal of the shabby structures that flank it on either side will make open and unobstructed approaches to the new edifice from Chestnut street, and as there will be no necessity for trees and grass plots, there may be a fine open space on the north front, affording opportunity for embellishments like those that adorn the "Places" that are found in front of all the great public edifices of Continental Europe.

The members of the Building Commission will, doubtless, consider the propriety of making the northern part at least as ornamental as the southern one facing Walnut street, and there are a good many reasons for regarding the northern as the principal front. The vast open space will be, for all the purposes of public demonstration, finer than anything of the kind to be found in any city of America, if we except the City Hall Park of New York, which is susceptible of great improvement, for such a purpose. The new City Hall in Boston, which is the noblest finished municipal building in the country, has but a small open space in its front, and this cannot be enlarged without excessive and costly demolition in the streets adjoining. But the Bostonians have made the most of this small space they possess, adorning it with statues and substantial ornamental gateways.

The projected city buildings in Philadelphia are not for the public of this year or the next. Indeed, their benefits will be chiefly felt by future generations, for while there is no desire for delay in their construction, it is expected that the work will go on with such deliberation as will insure solidity, and at the same time distribute the cost to the tax payers through a long series of years. Nor is there any desire that any great expenditure should be made upon external sculptural ornamentation. Of course a great and growing city, building an edifice for its government that is expected to endure for centuries, ought not to have a shabby or mean in appearance, any more than it ought to have it unsubstantial or inconvenient in the interior. But a well-built structure, simple but elegant in appearance, is certainly expected from the labors of the Commission. To secure this, there ought to be no undue haste, and especially should time be given to architects to mature and prepare good designs. A great public building is monumental in its character; and it ought to illustrate, in some way, the art of the age in which it is reared. The abominations in brick and mortar, that have passed for city buildings in Philadelphia for generations, were got up on the cheap and hurried system. They are not architectural and they are not monumental; they are happily soon to disappear, and the memory of them will only live in the rude wood-cut drawings that local annalists may preserve in scrap-books. But the new City Hall of Philadelphia, which is to be a monument of the taste and liberality of the city in the latter half of the nineteenth century, must be a work of decided study in its planning, so it must necessarily be a work of a long time in its construction. The gentlemen on the Commission, however, need no advice on this subject. But if they ask for any additional legislation to enable them to perform their work in what they consider the best manner, we hope this will be promptly granted by the City Councils. At the meeting of the Commissioners held yesterday a committee on this subject was appointed, and their propositions to the Councils ought to receive early and favorable action.

THE TWITCHELL CASE.

In discussing some of the features of the Twitchell case, we have commented upon the extraordinary looseness of the proceedings of the Coroner in permitting, and of the District Attorney in not preventing, the occupation of the premises by the accused and his counsel during the days immediately following the murder. The language of the Commonwealth's counsel was very explicit in its implication of this state of things. Both Mr. Hagert and Mr. Sheppard, in their closing arguments, gave the impression that the premises were taken possession of "in hot haste" by the prisoner's friends, and that the Commonwealth was compelled to go to them for permission to search the house.

This was not precisely in accordance with the facts of the case, which we have since ascertained were as follows: The murder occurred on Sunday night. During the three following days the premises were in charge of the Coroner. The District-Attorney was trying another homicide case and could not examine the house until Thursday, when a partial examination was made, resulting in the discovery of the bloody coffin. Meanwhile, letters of administration had been taken out, and the administrator had applied to the Coroner for possession of the property. That officer, however, was instructed by the District-Attorney not to surrender the premises, as he had not yet completed his examination. This was strongly urged by the District-Attorney, who requested the Coroner to bring the keys to him, in case of any difficulty with the administrator. Notwithstanding this distinct direction, the Coroner, on the following morning, delivered the property over to the administrator or to his counsel, and then the Commonwealth had to go to them for permission to visit the premises. These we believe to be the precise facts of the case. They relieve the counsel for Twitchell of the Commonwealth's charge of "hot haste," while the responsibility of preventing a full search by the Commonwealth rests the more heavily upon the Coroner, who requested the District-Attorney, with a full knowledge of the condition of affairs, and without any pressure of official responsibility, to postpone and by having been assumed by the District-Attorney.

We still hold that the District-Attorney was very careless in not making his examination immediately after the murder was committed. If his other duties prevented his personal attention to it, nothing was easier than for him to have procured the services of an expert detective, and to have made a complete search of the house, before sunrise on Monday. This duty ought to belong to the police department, without any interposition of the Commonwealth; but, with our clumsy arrangement of authorities, it does not seem to belong anywhere in particular. If we ever succeed in getting what we greatly need, a first-rate murder-detective, we shall not have the ends of justice jeopardized, as they have been in this case. And with the great increase of capital crime that there seems to be in these days, the sooner such an officer is added to our police force the better.

THE CONTESTED ELECTIONS.

After a delay of nearly three months, the examiners have at last commenced their investigations of the frauds of the Democracy at the late General Election. The respondents certainly cannot complain that they have been hurried in this matter, and now that the hearing of the testimony has commenced, we trust that none of those frivolous motions for further delay, so common in these cases, will be permitted. It will be greatly to the credit of the Philadelphia bar if the counsel on both sides of this case, while vigilant in protecting the rights of their clients, will discard every approach to those pettifogging devices which are such certain signs of a bad case, and confine their contest upon the fair and honorable basis of a desire to arrive at a true, just and legal conclusion. If the Democrats recently inducted into office were fairly elected by the people, let them enjoy the fruit of their victory. We have no doubt that the people will be abundantly satisfied, by the experience of a single term, that the worst Republican government is better than the best Democratic one would be—and the present is very far from the best. But if, as we firmly believe, these offices are held by virtue of the most outrageous frauds, let the fact be legally established as rapidly as possible, and the lawfully-chosen officers be placed in their seats.

Enough has already been developed in the case of the Bayonity to show that a new weeding will work a wide-spread demoralization in the police force. The guillotine is not yet fairly at work; but a number of excellent officers have already been displaced to make way for men of whom the very least that can be said is that they are without experience, and are no better, in any sense, than those whom they have displaced, while, in some cases, the new appointments have been made in deference to the wishes of Alderman Dallulin, and, in others, Mayor Fox has actually selected members of the Vaux police as the recipients of his favors.

But even if Mr. Fox were a person of the most eminent administrative ability, and of the most impregnable virtue, and the most Roman power of resistance of the party pressure that is bearing down upon him, the fact would remain that he holds his seat by no right that has not been conferred by violence and fraud. And so of the other offices. There has been ample time afforded for all the preliminary proceedings, and now there should be no delay. Delay not only deprives the contestants of their offices, but entails a greatly increased expense, and an illusory action cannot change the final results, we trust that it will be avoided and resisted to the uttermost.

The question of a great park for Chicago is agitating the press of that city, and a lecture, on the subject of parks in general, was lately read before the Academy of Science by Dr. Rauch. He gave very interesting accounts of all the principal parks and pleasure grounds in the world, including Fairmount Park, with its proposed extensions. On this topic he concluded by saying: "With these additions it will not be presumptuous upon the part of Philadelphia to claim that no other city of this continent, and probably the world, has more natural advantages and unsurpassed beauty than are included within the limits of Fairmount Park."

Sale of Elegant Vases, Statuettes, Plaque Ware, Table Cutlery, &c.—This evening, at 7½ o'clock, will be sold at Birch & Son's Auction Store, No. 1140 Chestnut, a large assortment of Elegant Vases, Marble Ornaments, Groups of Figures, Silver Plated Ware, Table Cutlery, &c.

WANTS.

WANTED TO RENT.
On or Before the 15th of March,
A MODERATE SIZE HOUSE.
Must contain all the modern conveniences and be in good order, for which a good rent will be paid and the best of care taken. Address, Box Drawer 1, Ledger Office, stating location and price.

WANTED TO PURCHASE FOR CASH—A Piano of a well known make, from Steck to Steinway, or better stock, between Fourth and Eighth streets, north side preferred.
Address Box 3,164 Post Office.

HOUSES FURNISHED—A FINE SOFA BEDSTEAD, it has the appearance of being a fine sofa, with spring hair and silk cover, and yet in less than one minute's time, without unscrewing or detaching in any way, it can be extended into a handsome French Bedstead, with half-inch spring mattress, and all the bedding and bedclothes complete. Seen at 1108 Chestnut street.

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WANTED—A GOOD WAITER AND CHAMBERMAID required for boarding-house. Apply at 1027 Chestnut street