BUSINESS NOTICES.

CONRAD MEYER, INVENTOR AND Manufacturer of the celebrated Iron Frame Pianos, has received the Prize Medal of the World's Great Exhibition, London, for The Best Pianos, and the only Medal ever exhibited. Warerooms, 922 Arch street. 4-17-3t

THE WHITE SEWING MACHINE. "Stills the Third on the Throne." Warerooms, 914 Chestnut street. Agents wanted. Wm. Hill, Manager.

THE GREAT PIANO AWARD—THE Highest award (first gold medal) for Pianos, was awarded to HORACE WATERS & SONS, at the Paris Exposition. 4-17-3t

HORACE WATERS & SONS, MANUFACTURERS AND DEALERS IN PIANOS, MELODEONS AND VOCALIONS, Warerooms, No. 519 Broadway, New York.

THE CELEBRATED PIANOS RECEIVED THE highest award at the Paris Exposition, are sold at Wm. Hacker's, No. 1006 Chestnut street.

THE CHICKERING PIANOS RECEIVED the highest award at the Paris Exposition. Warerooms, 30 Chestnut street. 4-12-1t

EVENING BULLETIN.

Wednesday, April 21, 1869.

THE SCUTTY OPERA.

The smutty opera has had its day. The EVENING BULLETIN, now claiming to monopolize all the virtue and good taste of the Philadelphia press, has, nevertheless, been compelled to bear its testimony alone against the demoralizing indecencies of the style of French operas which has been forced upon the community during the last two years. It has seemed, at times, as almost hopeless that the tide of growing familiarity with the vulgarity and immodesty which was first tolerated, then made fashionable in New York, and then transplanted to this city to contaminate the minds and hearts of the youth of this community. But the principle asserted in the opposition to the introduction of the vile range of indecent drama upon the respectable American stage is one that was sure to vindicate itself, sooner or later, and so it has come to pass that one respectable journal after another has come to our support, until there is scarcely one of the daily or Sunday papers that has not come out in bold and telling denunciation of what everybody now begins to see is an evil and a nuisance not to be tolerated in decent society. The one or two papers that undertook the special championship of French obscenity and smut already show that they feel the influence of the turning tide, and where open *bouffe* comes to Philadelphia again it will either come with such decent modifications as will secure a paying patronage, or it will find the whole press occupying the position which the EVENING BULLETIN has hitherto had the honor of maintaining alone.

The smutty opera has had its day. As Goldsmith's proverb remarks, "vice employed in dressing up obscenity, is like the art used in painting a corpse; it may be thus rendered tolerable, to one sense, but fails not speedily to offend some other." Lively music, humorous situations, graceful attitudes and figures have painted the corpse of French immorality, and cheated a decent-minded public for awhile into patronizing performances, such as have lately been made common to Philadelphia audiences. Respectable gentlemen have taken their wives and daughters night after night to witness scenes and sentiments and gestures and attitudes upon the stage, until they have forgotten to blush at what would have outraged every standard of morals and every instinct of propriety a decade, two years ago. But the "corpse" has forced the recognition of its own corruption upon the dullest senses of the people, and the revolt is seen in the united protest of the press, which speaks the true sentiment of the people.

Again and again have the honest critics of the stage, both in America and in England, joined forces in driving the smutty opera and drama from the stage. One hundred and fifty years ago, the *Spectator* did the same good work in reforming the indecencies of the stage, in which the respectable press of Philadelphia is now enlisted. Steele, with his keen satire, writes: "If the audience would but consider the difficulty of keeping up a sprightly dialogue for five acts together, they would allow a writer, when he wants wit, and cannot please any otherwise, to help it out with a little smuttiness." And again, in the same paper, he says: "If men of wit, instead of this pitiful way of giving delight, would turn their thoughts upon raising it from such good natural impulses as are in the audience, but are choked up by vice and inurbanity, they would not only please, but befriend us at the same time. All men of taste would call a man of wit, who should turn his ambition this way, a friend and benefactor to his country; but I am at a loss what name they would give him, who makes use of his capacity for contrary purposes."

Smutty opera will disappear from the respectable American stage the moment it ceases to pay; and it will cease to pay as soon as it ceases to be fashionable; and it will cease to be fashionable as soon as a few fashionable family circles begin to reap the bitter harvest which they are now sowing for themselves. The native modesty of young girls or of young men cannot be tampered with, blunted, perverted with impunity; and so it will come to pass, and that at no distant day, that such opera *bouffe* as has degraded the standard of social morals, and offended the good taste and refined feelings of the best people of this and other communities, will be hissed from the stage which it now pollutes and disgraces.

However much opposition there may be in England to liberal measures towards Ireland, the Queen and royal family cannot be re-elected in it. Her Majesty has entered with apparent earnestness into Mr. Gladstone's project for the Disestablishment of the Irish Protestant Church. She has acted, by way of showing her interest in Ireland and her confidence in the people, just sent her third son, Prince Arthur, to make a tour through the island. The fact was not considered important enough to be communicated by the cable. But the London papers announce that on the 5th instant, the Prince, attended by Major Elphinstone and suite, left Holyhead and arrived in Dublin, where he had a very hearty welcome. A great many fêtes in honor of the visit had been organized. Prince Arthur is said to be a fine young man. He will be nineteen on the 1st of May. If English royalty were to show itself more frequently in Ireland, the effect would undoubtedly be good. The presence of a tour through the House of Commons on the Church bill, are sure to conciliate many malcontents. If England had been as liberally disposed towards Ireland twenty years ago, as she seems to be now, Fenianism would never have been heard of. But Fenianism, or something like it, seems to have been required to bring about liberal treatment, and the enfranchisement of the Irish by legitimate peaceful measures may be set down as a Fenian victory that is even more honorable than one that might have been won in a civil war.

From various parts of the country we have rumors of the fitting out of expeditions to Cuba in aid of the rebellion. It is very possible that most of these stories, which are given in detail, are invented as limits to detract attention from the parts in which assistance for Cuba really is being organized. That such enterprises have been successful and are now preparing may be regarded as entirely certain, and it is hardly worth while to attempt to dispute the fact that everybody is glad of it. The duty of the government is of course plain; and the administration intends, we seriously believe, to enforce the neutrality laws to the best of its ability. But it is quite possible that United States officials at different ports close their eyes upon many occurrences which would excite them to speedy action if their sympathies lay in another direction. We are sorry that the administration cannot fulfil the popular wish by recognizing the belligerent rights of the rebels. The present condition of the Alabama claims controversy with England is given as the excuse, and with considerable force; for our recognition of Cuba would, in some measure, weaken our position upon this question. The two cases are by no means entirely parallel, but they are sufficiently like for England to claim recognition of Cuba by us as a justification of her course towards the Southern rebels.

If we cannot go to this extreme there are at least two things that we can do in behalf of the heroic islanders. We can deny to the Spaniards the right to procure munitions of war here by the quantity, as they have done, and we can, after our proper protest in the name of humanity and civilization against the shocking barbarities practised by the Spanish troops in Cuba. These have been so enormous, so cruel and wicked and unnatural, as to demand instant intervention on the part of the American people. We have a right to do this, and it is our duty. If the American nation cannot conquer this unarmed people without recourse to barbarity—without butchering men, women and children, in cold blood, it ought to lose the island. It may be questioned, indeed, whether the Spaniards have invented, or put into practice, any method too inhuman for the civilized rebellion, and demonstrated their unfitness to rule any people.

Now that the contracts for cleaning the streets have been awarded by the Board of Health, we suggest that an inspector shall be appointed to overlook the work and see that it is properly done. Among the successful bidders are persons who have been interested in street-cleaning contracts in former years, and if their failures in the past are to be accepted as an augury of their incapacity in the future, the amount of scavenger work performed will be unpleasantly small. It will be profitable to the city to have their operations superintended by a trustworthy man. Let the Board of Health select some honest, active and reliable person, known to the members of the Board, and not a politician; authorize him to make frequent inspections of the various districts, and require him to report every dereliction of duty on the part of the contractors. He should have a fair salary, because a good man cannot be procured for a trifling sum, and because there will be less temptation to wink at negligence for the sake of a consideration. If such an appointment is made, the contractors can be spurred up to their work and we shall have a clean city. If it is not, possibly we may be as badly off as before, however sincerely the members of the Board may desire a better result.

In the Senate yesterday, Senator Ross attempted to explain away the reported difficulty between him and the President. In the course of his remarks he charged President Grant with having removed certain good Republicans from office in Kansas, simply because they were the friends of Ross; and he declared that his confidence in the President was shaken. The opinion of Ross cannot possibly be of consequence to President Grant, under any circumstances; but his announcation is deprived of any value in this instance by the fact stated by Senator Pomeroy that some of Ross's "good Republicans" were sold old Democrats while Andy Johnson was in power, and that their virtue was assumed suddenly after the election of Grant. We advise Ross to subside. He may be a wise man and a bold man, but if he undertakes to place himself in opposition to Grant and the Republican party, with the hope of winning honor in the party, he will ascertain that he has undertaken an impossible task.

It is reported that the French Atlantic Cable Company have determined to land the American end of their cable at Cape May. It is possible that a better place could not have been selected upon our coast. It is within ready distance of the great seaport towns, a circumstance which may be a partial guarantee of liberal patronage, and it can easily be reached by repairing parties in case of accident. We do not perceive, however, that any special advantages will accrue to this city from its close vicinity to the terminus. New York, Baltimore and other cities are not more distant by telegraph than we are, and they will reap the benefits of this enterprise quite as freely. When electricity forms the connection it is comparatively an indifferent matter where the cable is landed from Maine or Florida. The only essential is that it shall end upon American soil, so that a foreign power shall not control our communication with Europe in time of war.

Mr. Birch will sell on this and to-morrow evenings, at his Gallery, No. 1110 Chestnut street, one hundred and thirty-four pictures, by native and foreign artists, including some paintings of a choice description.

Paintings, Crystal Medallions, &c.—The sale of the Paintings, Crystal Medallions, &c., from the Assistant Art Gallery, New York, will be continued this evening, at Bonte's Art Gallery, 1020 Chestnut street. The catalogue embraces over 500 specimens of art, by good artists and enterprising Landscape, River and Marine Views, and will be sold without reserve.

CLOTHING.

Bunting, Burbridge & Co., Auctioneers, Nos. 232 and 234 Market street, will hold, this to-morrow (Thursday), April 22, at 10 o'clock, a large and important sale of Foreign and Domestic Dry Goods, on four months' credit, including 195 packages Domestic, 160 pieces Cloths, Cassimeres, Coatings, Doeskins, Meltons, Tricots, Italian, Satin de Chines, Drap d'Ete, &c.; full lines Shirtings, Housekeeping and Fancy Dry Goods, Linen Goods, Hosiery, Gloves, Ribbons, Silks, Velvets, Merino Shirts and Drawers, Traveling and Umbrella Shawls, Brown and Bleached Sheetings, Quilts, Wool Goods, Flannels, Tie, Sewing, Lace Curtains, Umbrellas, Tailors' Trimmings, &c.

On FRIDAY, April 23, at 11 o'clock, by catalogue, on four months' credit, 300 pieces Brussels, Ingrain, Venetian, Hemp, Cottage, List, and Rag Carpetings, Floor Oil Cloths, Cocoa Matting, &c.

Sale of Paintings.—The Sale of McClees's collection of High Class Oil Paintings commences this evening, at 7½ o'clock, at Bliss & Son's Auction Store, No. 1110 Chestnut street.

DR. J. THOMAS, THE ONLY OPERATOR AT the Principal Dental Rooms, has, in new use, the only one in Philadelphia to be devoted to painless and proper extraction of teeth, absolutely without pain. Artificial teeth, inserted on Gold, Silver, Rubber, Celluloid, Cheap, &c. 1027 Market street.

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HENRY PHILLIPPI, CARPENTER AND BUILDER, No. 102 SANSOM STREET, Below Eighth, Philadelphia.

WARBURTON'S IMPROVED, VENTILATED Spring Mattress, Manufactory, 1044 Market street. Patentee of the celebrated "Charlton" spring, one door to the Post Office.

PURE, CLEAR, AND JELLY MOULDS, PERFUMED Butter, Dessert Silk Rollers, and a variety of other Brooms, for sale by THOMAS W. SMITH & SHAW, No. 422 (Eight Thirty-two) Market street, below Ninth.

PAINT AND UNIVERSAL HAND BELLOWS, FOR household use in removing dust from pictures, furniture, fine ornaments and carvings, and from crevices and cornices which cannot be reached by brushes, sold by THOMAS W. SMITH & SHAW, No. 422 (Eight Thirty-two) Market street, below Ninth.

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