BUSINESS NOTICES.

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FIRST-CLASS SHAWLS, SILK PLATES
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Fig Dates, Smyrna, New Crop Muscatel Raisins, Sugar Plums, Nonpareils, Sugar Almonds, Sugar Candies, Fine Confectionery, Fruit Cakes, Fruit Jellies, etc., etc., are having great sales at the
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Since the Great Fire, Steinway, Wm. Knabe & Co., and HAINES BROS. PIANOS to rent, $5 per month. Pianos to rent allowed on purchase of price.
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EVENING BULLETIN.

Tuesday, January 4, 1870.

JUDGE OF THE SUPREME COURT.

In accepting the resignation of Judge Grier, it was the pleasure of the President to write him a very kind and complimentary letter, from which the following is an extract: "In looking upon your long and honorable career in the public service, it must be especially gratifying to remember, as it is my agreeable duty and privilege on this occasion thus distinctly to recognize, the great service which you were able to render to your country in the darkest hour of her history, by the vigor and patriotic firmness with which you *upheld the just power of the Government and vindicated the right of the nation under the Constitution to maintain its own existence.*"

We have italicised the last sentence of the paragraph to indicate our sense of the importance of the idea it conveys, that under and by virtue of the Constitution, the Government has the right to maintain its own life; and we consider this the more important from the fact that there was, strange as it seems to us, a very large number of good citizens, and eminent jurists among them, who, in substance, denied that very thing. Our principal purpose, however, in calling attention to the subject to-day is, to allude to the fact that the high compliment thus paid to Judge Grier is equally and strikingly applicable to another of our citizens, him in a high and authoritative position, who is now looked to by many among us as most admirably fitted to be Judge Grier's successor. We need hardly say we refer to Judge Strong.

At the same time that Judge Grier's massive powers were brought to bear upon the question alluded to, Judge Strong was called upon to grapple with them in an area only less important than that of the Supreme Court of the United States. The crisis of danger over, we are apt to forget, at least to dismiss from our minds, the periods of intense anxiety we passed through in the progress of the struggle for life that the President alludes to, and it well that we should at least occasionally recall them. If we carry our minds back to the time when Chancellorsville was lost and Pennsylvania was invaded by a large and powerful army; and when the States of New York and New Jersey had chosen men for Governors who were not in sympathy with the National Administration or friendly to its policy; and when the firm measures of Congress for raising money and men for defraying the national life were denounced as unconstitutional and opposed by mobs, we may begin to realize the dangers and the services that the President alludes to. We may then appreciate more in period of intense concern to its here. The rebel army was within our borders; and we were besides in the beginning of a most important political contest for the election of a Governor and a Judge of our Supreme Court, when the democratic party had selected Judge Woodward as their candidate for Governor and Judge Lowrie for re-election. They were both then judges of the Supreme Court of this State, and both denied the constitutionality of the measures that the President compliments Judge Grier for maintaining. We were in an extremity of danger and threatened with hated breach. It is true we were gloriously relieved by the events at Gettysburg and Vicksburg. But we still had a powerful enemy in arms in the field, as we were soon after taught at Chickamauga, and we had a powerful party to oppose at home, who denied the constitutionality of the laws under which we were defending the national life. In that crisis, Judge Strong had a voice on the bench of the Supreme Court. The Court was composed of Judge Lowrie (whose time was about to expire, and who was a candidate for re-election), Woodward, Thompson, Strong and Read. The four first named Judges were elected by the Democratic party, and the three first denied the constitutionality of the measures that Judge Grier (who was also a Democrat) is complimented for sustaining. Judge Strong, in the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, together with Judge Read, coincided with Judge Grier, that the Government had the right to maintain its own existence.

It was a happy thing for Pennsylvania and the nation that Judge Strong did so, for had he concurred with his Democratic confreres, no matter who had been elected in the place of Judge Lowrie, the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania would have denied the constitutionality both of the legal tender and draft laws, and declared them null and void, and thus have, in effect, stripped the national government of the right to use either the purse or the sword. But happily, we say, Judge Strong was not willing, however powerful may have been party ties, to strangle out the national life, and he made it possible, by the election of Judge Agnew, the Republican candidate for the Supreme Court, to vindicate the right of the government "to maintain its own existence." The position of Judge Strong was a difficult and trying one, but he proved himself fully equal to it, and gave his support to his country in preference to yielding to the behests of his party.

Upon these grounds, then—the grounds that the President thinks so important as to induce him to go out of the way in an official and formal communication to specify and applaud, Judge Grier can have no more worthy successor than Judge Strong, as he can have no seller as a judge and statesman. We consider that the truth of history, and sheer justice requires this much at our hands.

The theme is a tempting one, but we will not pursue it. We will merely say that, considering the opinions and feelings of Governors Seymour, of New York, and Parker, of New Jersey, had Pennsylvania failed to re-elect her War Governor, Governor Curtin, or had she tied his hands by placing men in the Supreme Court who would deny the power of the nation to draft men or to pay them, and the question was then pending the condition of the country would have been fearful to contemplate. The result of that election in 1863 was one of the most important events in the history of that great struggle. It silenced such as Seymour and his "friends" in the New York mob—and gave renewed hope and confidence to every friend of the Union, in the cabinet and the field, and indeed in every walk of life.

EXTRA-OFFICIAL ZEAL.

It is telegraphed from Baltimore that Mr. District-Attorney McLaughlin of Carlisle has been in that city for several days, hunting up evidence to attack the authenticity of Miss Steinecke's will, and that he has found persons there, willing to swear that it is a forgery. The despatch adds that Mr. McLaughlin says that this *"will place the guilt of the accused beyond doubt."*

We trust, for the honor of the Pennsylvania bar, that both of these statements are incorrect. The District-Attorney of Cumberland county exhausted his official dignity when he procured his verdict against Dr. Schoeppe. Repeated intimations have come to us that he has since been actively engaged in procuring the execution of the sentence of the condemned man, intimations which we have discredited and are still willing to discredit, as unworthy of the official position of any prosecuting officer. We are disposed to put a somewhat more favorable construction upon Mr. McLaughlin's Baltimore investigation than that conveyed by the despatch referred to, and for this reason: The will which Miss Steinecke made in favor of Dr. Schoeppe has been, in reality, the battle-ground of this whole prosecution. Until it was discovered, her heirs were silent and satisfied with her death. Then, when it was found that her property had passed out of their hands into those of a stranger, the outcry of murder was raised, and the attack begun. In the trial, a feeble and unsuccessful attempt was made to impugn the authenticity of the will, but, under the instructions of the Court that the prosecution must first examine the subscribing witness, the Rev. Mr. Schoeppe, the attempt was abandoned. The moral effect of a charge of forgery, however, was made upon the jury, and such good use was made of it that an impression was set afloat in the community that the will had been proved to be forged, when nothing of the kind was really done. Not only has there been no proof adduced against the genuineness of this document, but we are satisfied that none could be adduced. The facts which we are stating are not quite sure ought to be made public at this time, point with unmistakeable certainty to the authenticity of the will, and we have been made aware of the insinuation of its forgery has been, as we believe, as unjust as it has been injurious.

We prefer to believe that District Attorney McLaughlin, anticipating the release of Dr. Schoeppe, either under the action of the Supreme Court or by the direct act of the Executive, is simply preparing himself to prosecute a charge of forgery against Dr. Schoeppe, when he is set at liberty. This he has a right to do, if he believes any forgery has been committed, and it cannot be objected to. But it would be most unworthy of any public officer to endeavor to prejudice the public now against the accused, secure for this man, condemned, not for forgery, but for murder, the opportunity of a hearing before the Supreme Court, by any such insinuations. We are contained in the despatch we have quoted. It is just and proper for the accused to bring forward everything that throws light upon his innocence, and overthrows the theory of his guilt; but it is anything but just or proper for a public prosecuting officer, who has secured the conviction of a man upon an indictment charging him simply with having murdered a woman by prussic-acid, to assert that he hopes to prove death by poisoning from the forged signature to a will; and to work on, with a degree of zeal that looks more like personal prejudice than professional duty, in hunting up evidence to prove a point which was in no way connected with the bill of indictment which he was called upon to try.

The Supreme Court, yesterday, by agreement between the Attorney-General and George Northrop, Esq., appearing in behalf of Dr. Schoeppe's counsel, fixed the 15th of February for the hearing of argument for a new trial. While we are clearly of the opinion that Dr. Schoeppe is entitled to his liberty on the simple ground of the total failure to prove the death of her or anybody else murdered Miss Steinecke, if a new trial is granted, with the change of venue that we hope and believe will be allowed, this now famous case will terminate in the acquittal of the accused, and the vindication of his innocence of the monstrous crime laid to his charge.

We are well satisfied that Attorney-General Brewster has no desire to press this case from any feeling of prejudice against Dr. Schoeppe, and it would be well for his subordinate, the District-Attorney of Cumberland county, to preserve the same proper official attitude in the premises.

A BAD START.

Both branches of City Councils organized yesterday, Select Council electing Mr. S. W. Cattell, and the Common Council electing Gen. Louis Wagner as respective Presidents. The inaugural addresses of the two presiding officers are interesting and satisfactory, the one confining itself to the overshadowing financial question, and the other touching upon a number of important local topics.

Common Council, however, made a terribly bad start for the new year, upon one of the most important measures which it is likely to deal with during its term of office. If there was one act of the last Councils thoroughly popular with the community, it was the initial step taken toward the disbanding of the Volunteer Fire Department. The bill withholding the usual appropriation from twenty organizations, famous hose companies, was passed by both branches and sent to the Mayor for his signature. The act called forth the universal approval of the community, and was received with gratitude generally. But no sooner had the new Common Council convened than an effort was made to back Councils out of their advanced position, by rescinding the ordinance from the Mayor, for reconsideration. The first attempt failed, but so strenuous was the pressure of the repudiated firemen that the effort was repeated, and with success. By the following vote, Common Council passed the resolution to recall the ordinance: *Yeas*: J. S. Allen, Rep., Black, Rep., Bowker, Rep., Canning, Dem., Cresly, Rep., Currie, Rep., Ehret, Dem., Fagan, Dem., Gilbert, Rep., Gill, Dem., Gloninger, Rep., Grant, Dem., Griffiths, Rep., Hamilton, Dem., Hargadon, Dem., Hetzell, Dem., Hubn, Rep., Jenner, Rep., Judge, Dem., Ladner, Dem., Logan, Rep., W. F. Miller, Rep., Myers, Rep., Nickels, Dem., Shaw, Rep., Shields, Rep., Shisler, Rep., Souder, Rep., Stockhale, Rep., Stockhale, Dem., Willits, Rep. Republicans, 10; Democrats, 12. *Nays*: W. S. Allen, Rep., Allsopp, Rep., Calhoun, Rep., Glass, Rep., Hall, Rep., Hanna, Rep., Kline, Rep., Lewis, Rep., Martin, Rep., S. Miller, Rep., Oram, Rep., Ray, Rep., Stewart, Rep., Stockham, Rep., Walker, Rep., Widener, Rep., Wagner, Rep., Republicans, 17; Democrats, none. So, it is interesting to observe that every Democrat voted against this reform, the opposition to the recall from the Mayor being wholly from Republican members. It would by have been in accordance with the will of the Republican party of Philadelphia if every one of its representatives in Common Council had been found standing firmly by a measure which has no object in view but the good of the city.

It is not to be supposed that Select Council will make a similar surrender to the clamor of these dissatisfied firemen. That body has declared its independence of such clamor so distinctly that it is in no danger of receding from its honorable position, and the action of Common Council will therefore be null and void. It ought to have been made so by Mayor Fox's signing the ordinance promptly, last week, when it was passed. Why this was not done, we have no means of knowing. It would have been right and proper in itself, and it would have saved Common Council from putting itself, most awkwardly, in this very bad strait. Real reforms, like revolutions, "never go backward," and the reform of the Fire Department, if it is to be thoroughly real, and so widely popular, that we trust that there will be no mere retrograde movements, like that of yesterday, regarding it.

A TALK FROM WINNIPEG.

From the Red River district we have some information which would be very startling if it was trustworthy. The adherents of the new republic declare that Governor McDougall, being filled with wrath and indignation at the moral support and sympathy extended to his enemies by the American people just over the border, has organized certain bands of Sioux Indians for the purpose of swooping down upon the American settlements with fire and slaughter, when the spring opens. To prevent this unpleasantness, the United States government is invited to assist the brave rebels in resisting the Canadian authority and in subduing the Indians to a proper comprehension of the American power. We are inclined to regard this story with some degree of doubt. The Red River people desire above all things the material assistance of our Government in the struggle into which they have precipitated themselves. As it seems to be unlikely that this will be offered under existing circumstances, it may be that diplomacy has been resorted to to obtain it. But the plan adopted is not deep enough to deceive the sagacious. Nobody believes that any Canadian official, even if he were such a fool as McDougall, would deliberately organize savage warfare against the United States Government, and invade our territory, merely to avenge a purely sentimental grievance. Every Canadian with a spark of intelligence knows perfectly well that the adoption of such a policy would be the very surest method of defeating the designs of the Dominion Government in attempting to obtain control of the Hudson's Bay territory. It might, indeed, even result in the overthrow of the entire Dominion. But if, as the Winnipegers hope, we hearken to their call, the immediate consequence will be an increase of active sympathy for them among our citizens, an instant flow of material contributions to their cause, the refusal of our Government to permit Canadian and British troops to cross our territory, and the reinforcement of their little army by numbers of our citizens who are eager for a fight. We apprehend, however, that the only consequence of the circulation of this story will be an increase of our Government's precaution against the efforts of the fleeing. This measure seems to be required by common caution. Such an Indian raid may be made, improbable as it appears to be, and a decent regard for the safety of our citizens in that quarter demands that we should be prepared for even a possible emergency of this character. We are almost afraid that the rebels will have to fight their own battles in this contest. The indecement to interference in their behalf is so small that we really cannot afford to accept the great risks.

CAUTION TO THE LEGISLATURE.

In returning, yesterday, to the Legislature which assembles at Harrisburg to-day, we called attention, in general terms, to those broad principles which should govern those who have been chosen by the people to frame their State laws. There is a special phase of legislative duty to which it may not be amiss to refer at the opening of this session. That proper reference which ought to be paid to the opinions and wishes of members from portions of the Commonwealth, in regard to legislation proposed for those localities, has gradually grown into an abuse which needs to be checked. It has become the practice at Harrisburg to defer to local representatives to such a degree that almost any local legislation can be procured if the members from that quarter agree to ask for it. A striking illustration of this bad practice was given, last winter, in the case of the infamous Twelfth and Sixteenth Streets Railway bill. This bill, editors of this was and is to the people and authorities of Philadelphia, was crowded through both Legislature and Governor, upon the simple consideration that the city members unloaded its passage upon the City Councils of Philadelphia for it. What their bond of union was, has never been made known, publicly; but it has been made apparent that it was brought about by any particularly fair means. Now it was well known to influential members of both branches of the Legislature that the bill was a very objectionable one, strongly opposed by large numbers of the best citizens of Philadelphia. But the city members agreed to have it, and that was enough. The Governor was imposed upon, the Legislature hoodwinked and cajoled, and the people of Philadelphia robbed of a most valuable franchise, by the operation of a legislative practice which often produces still more mischievous fruit than in the case just cited.

The Legislature is supposed to be composed of intelligent men, capable of independent action, and of clear comprehension of the merits of any local measures they are called upon to enact. Legislation for Philadelphia, especially, with all its commanding interests, should be had, only after the Legislature has inquired into its merits from other sources besides those of the city members. Their opinions should be consulted and respected; but when they unite upon any such local measures as the one we have taken as a specimen, the Legislature should look and feel beyond their narrow circle, and be sure that the legislation is demanded by the people of Philadelphia, as well as by their representatives.

M. Emile Ollivier has at last succeeded in forming a Ministry for the Emperor of France. Three of the former Ministers, Le Boeuf, Rigault de Genouilly and Marshal Vaillant, remain in their places. The others are chiefly said may be called conservative liberals, and the whole "state" is quite unsatisfactory to the advocates of reform and free government. There is, indeed, a report that it is already broken up, but this we do not credit. Still we have no idea that the Ministry will be satisfactory and able to keep long in place.

The national debt was reduced during the month of December by the snug sum of $4,812,781; making the whole reduction since March 1st, 1869, $76,016,306. This is a handsome fulfillment of the promises made by Grant, and by the Republican party when they voted for him. The Democratic papers and orators find nothing to commend in this noble work of reducing the burdens of the people. But the people seem to like it.

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THIRD EDITION

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