BUSINESS NOTICES.

Steinway & Sons'

GRAND SQUARE AND UPRIGHT PIANOS.

Great reduction in prices to accordance with the decline in the precious metals.

Steinway & Sons manufacture also an entirely new style of instrument, the

SCHOOL PIANO,

Precisely to meet a want, interior mechanism and works models as their highest priced square, but in a plain rosewood case, with legs and lyre for sale at $500, or offered to those who desire to possess a first-class "Steinway Piano," yet are limited in means, at very low prices.

Special attention is also called to Steinway & Sons' new PATENT UPRIGHT PIANO,

With Double Iron Frame, Patent Resonator, Tubular Metal Frame Action, which for simplicity, ease in use and touch, and unrivalled in durability.

Every Pianoforte is warranted for five years.

Pianos to rent, and also sold on monthly installments. Old Pianos taken in exchange.

CHARLES BLASIUS, sole Agent for the sale of Steinway & Sons' world-renowned Pianofortes.
warerooms, 1006 Chestnut street.
m28 2t

Conrad Meyer, Inventor and Manufacturer of the celebrated Iron Frame Pianos, has received the prize Medal of the World's Great Exhibition, London, England. The best piano awarded were and wherever exhibited. Warerooms, 752 Arch street.
Established 1853. m21 s3m w tf

Geo. Steck & Co.'s Grand, Square and Upright Pianos. Pianos to rent.
J. E. GOULD,
No. 923 Chestnut street.

EVENING BULLETIN.

Monday, March 28, 1870.

THE SAN DOMINGO SCHEME.

The time allotted for the ratification of the San Domingo treaty expires to-morrow; and although there is no doubt that Baez, in his intense anxiety to secure annexation, will consent to an extension of the time, it may be regarded as pretty certain that if the treaty is not approved by the Senate to-day or to-morrow, it will never be ratified. It is very hard to determine, even now, exactly what are the chances of the success of the scheme. It has for its friends a number of influential men in the Senate, among them Senator Morton; but its opponents, led by Senator Sumner, are able, ardent and deeply in earnest. We believe that these latter represent truly the sentiment of the mass of the intelligent people in this country, and that their triumph in this contest would be hailed with delight. Thoughtful men regard with evil foreboding a scheme which threatens to add to our population a million people of another race, of different political ideas, customs, language and religion; which imposes upon us the government of such a community, for removed as this is from the direct influence of our institutions; which compels us to expend a large sum of money instantly, and makes us responsible for the debts of another nationality, which promises to embroil us in a ceaseless war for the retention of our rights after we have acquired them.

Besides these considerations there is a degree of uncertainty about the whole matter which is very suspicious. We are to make ourselves responsible for a debt of the size of which we know nothing at all. It has been stated at half a million of dollars; but we have before us official figures which assert that the debt amounts to more than ten millions; and it is well known that the Baez government, in anticipation of annexation, has been negotiating in London, at a heavy discount, a loan which we will have to pay at par. More than this, we have no assurance whatever that this treaty has the approval of the people of San Domingo. We know that the Constitution under which Baez holds his office positively prohibits the sale or cession of a portion of the territory; and there is, upon the Dominican statute books, a law declaring that the man who proposes the alienation of any part of the soil is a traitor. An election has been held in some portions of the island, and the returns are unanimously in favor of the scheme. The fact itself is suspicious. In a fair election there would at least have been an appearance of opposition; and we have great reason to doubt the truthfulness of these returns, because exactly the same result was secured when President Santana sold the island to Spain, and yet the Spaniards recall only bold the island by force, and were at last driven from it after great loss of life and treasure. We are afraid that Baez's election was managed in this one way, and does not represent the popular will any more correctly. But even if these overall honest votes, the election cannot be regarded as perfectly fair, because, for more than eight months past, Cabral, the revolutionary leader, has ruled the whole southern province, which contains thirty-five or forty thousand people and several large and important towns. These have not been heard from, and there is good reason to believe that they support Cabral, their ruler, in his fierce opposition to the Baez scheme of annexation. Our government, taking this fact for granted, sent Admiral Poor to San Domingo to inform Cabral that any demonstration on his part or from his people against the scheme would be resisted by the United States. It is ominous that this threat was necessary. If there had been absolute unanimity among the subjects of Baez, we need not have feared the interposition of Cabral. Men who are so sure of the success of any scheme as Baez's people are said to be for annexation, do not require to be kept out of the reach of the arguments and entreaties of their brethren of opposite opinions.

It is to be feared, too, that this first warlike act of our Government is but the prelude to others of a much more serious character. We believe that if this treaty is ratified we shall have to hold San Domingo by force. Certainly we shall have Cabral and his adherents for enemies, to begin with; and he will be joined by all the disaffected Dominicans and assisted by the people—perhaps by the government—of Hayti. The advocates of this treaty might as well face the fact that its ratification means war, upon a larger or smaller scale. We need not discuss at length the questions involved in these considerations. Nothing is better assured than the fact that we do not want another war of any kind, with any people, for any purpose whatever; and it is equally certain that we cannot afford to assume the payment of the debts of any nation, no matter how small the amount may be, while our own people are struggling under heavy burdens. If it is absolutely essential to the well being of this nation that we should possess an island in the West Indies, we can buy St Thomas for a small sum, and be assured of the good will of the inhabitants; if we wish a larger island, Cuba can be had nearly for the trouble of recognition of the rebels, or at the worst, at the cost of half the fighting which will have to be done in San Domingo. Our own opinion is that we have enough territory now; and that this business of annexation should be abandoned entirely. But even Cuba would be better than San Domingo, and much less costly. We hope the Senate will refuse to ratify the treaty, even if it has to forgive to Baez the $150,000 already paid him on account.

A LEGISLATIVE MYSTERY.

We publish, to-day, a bill in reference to the collection of outstanding taxes in this city, about which there is a most disagreeable mystery. This bill creates a new officer to be appointed by the Receiver of Taxes, who is to hold office for three years, the Receiver of Taxes himself only holding office for two years. This Collector is clothed with very great powers, and becomes, so far as the emoluments of the office are concerned, the real Receiver of Taxes. This bill is certified as having been passed by both houses of the Legislature and signed by the Governor.

With the merits of the bill itself we are not, just now, chiefly concerned. Its extraordinary feature consists in the well-founded charge that *no such bill has ever been passed by the Legislature!* It is boldly asserted by gentlemen eminently qualified to express an opinion on the subject, that this bill, by a clever trick of legerdemain, has been foisted upon the Speakers of the Senate and Assembly, in place of a very different bill which was passed early last week, and that this bill, which went to the Governor in due form, and received his signature, was never *before the Legislature at all*, much less has it ever received the consideration of that body.

That our readers may judge for themselves as to the extraordinary nature of this legislative jugglery, we will state what we have learned about its history, premising that our sources of information are both direct and reliable.

The bill in question was reported from the Committees of Councils in this city have had the subject of the non-collection of taxes under serious consideration for some time past, and they recently agreed upon a bill, conferring upon Councils such of the present powers of the Receiver of Taxes as were thought necessary to enable Councils to secure the collection of these outstanding taxes. This bill was presented, and referred to the Committee on Municipal Corporations, and was then either stolen or lost. At any rate, it disappeared, and a duplicate was prepared in its place. This second bill came back to the House, with an amendment conferring the appointment of collectors upon the Receiver. This amendment was stricken out, and *the bill passed*. It went to the Senate, and *was passed there also*. At this point it disappears from view, and is no more heard of. But, to the amazement and consternation of the authors of the bill, they get, in its place, the bill which we print to-day, and which bears a much less resemblance to the bill which they passed than chalk does to green cheese. Inquiry was at once made at Harrisburg, but no one seems able to throw any light on the subject. No one has any recollection of seeing or voting for the bill, while those who were actively interested in the bill prepared by the committees of Councils flatly say that any such bill as this *was ever before the Legislature in any shape*.

The matter will be made the subject of immediate and searching investigation. It is susceptible of being cleared up, we shall be most happy to aid in explaining it to the public. We hear of no one as being connected with this remarkable fact of legislative legerdemain, and certainly know of nobody capable of perpetrating such a fraud. But, unless our informants are the victims of some unaccountable delusion, we have simply narrated facts which actually occurred at Harrisburg last week.

Until the mystery is cleared up, it is not worth while to discuss the merits of the bill alleged to have been passed. If the tale as told to us, be true—and we can find no ground, as yet, for doubting it,—the bill will be repealed, for no member of the Legislature can possibly hesitate as to his duty, even if he should fully approve the bill itself. If the tale be not true; if this important bill really did go through both Houses, without those who were most directly interested in it knowing anything about it, it will be time enough to look carefully into some of its leading features and to determine whether it is such an economical, judicious and fair measure as all right-minded citizens would desire to see applied to the important question of the collection of taxes in Philadelphia.

CABLE TRASH.

The news-gatherer, in London, for the New York Associated Press, is sometimes "hard-up" for items. But when he fails to learn any important fact which the American public would like to know, he can often fall back on a horse-race. But winter not being a racing-season, he looks around the sporting world, and exercises his genius in reports of principles or billiard-matches. Lately he gave some stunning reports of games of English billiards, especially referring to certain extraordinary runs on the "spot-ball"—a kind of game which has long been forbidden among American billiardists. He seems to have had warning from his employers that the public here do not care a fig for English billiards and spot-ball performances, and for some days the billiard department of the New York cable news has been abandoned.

Driven to his wits' end for material for his despatches, and not being able to discriminate between what is important and what is not so, the Associated Press newsmonger still is able to recur to the editorial columns of the London papers, and forthwith he proceeds to announce that the *Times* thinks so-and-so of our Mormon policy, or of the Darien ship-canal, or of our finances, or of our railroad system; just as if the opinions of a cockney journalist on our affairs were worth half as much as those of an average American citizen above the grade of an idiot. In fact, although the London *Times* is called the leading journal of Europe, and although it has been considered to have great influence, its opinions on American topics have nearly always been wrong, either wilfully or ignorantly, it matters not which. At elevents, on this side of the ocean they have ceased to have any weight, and our papers quote less from it than from other London journals. Still the London genius that so well represents the whole system of the New York Associated Press continues to tax its supporters for quotations from the *Times*' leaders, transmitted by cable. It is his chief resource, when there is no horse-race, since the "spot-ball" performances have been excluded from the despatches.

THE BONAPARTE TRIAL.

Prince Pierre Bonaparte has been acquitted of the charge of murdering Victor Noir, in the High Court at Tours. The jury was out only one hour, and then rendered a verdict of not guilty. The Prince is still held on a demand for damages, which are put at 100,000 francs, or $20,000. To those who have read all the reports concerning the affray in which young Noir lost his life, the verdict of acquittal can create scarcely any surprise. There was only one living witness besides the Prince himself, and that was Noir's friend, De Fonvielle, who took part in the fracas, and who so completely lost his head during it, that he fired his pistol at random, and then ran out of the house in a terrible state of excitement, which must have incapacitated him for giving a wholly trustworthy statement. There was, consequently, no evidence that could be depended on that the first blow was not struck by Victor Noir. There was thus a doubt as to whether the crime was murder, and in the laws of all civilized countries such doubt is sufficient to warrant an acquittal. The final appeal of the Procureur General, for a verdict of "guilty, with extenuating circumstances," shows that there was such doubt in the minds of the prosecution. We are no advocates of violence, and especially of violence on the part of men whose high social position may sometimes protect them from punishment. Prince Bonaparte is not blameless in this affair, is true, a bad man. But he was grossly outraged by the *Marseillaise*, and when confronted with two of its writers, one of whom, at least, was armed, it is not surprising that he became furious and violent. The verdict of the jury acquitting him has created some excitement in Paris, but the excitement has been a fair one, and this excitement will subside, like the previous excitements created by Rochefort and his followers.

Postmaster Bingham, in a circular letter to the newspapers, announces that from this day four of the branch offices will be discontinued. The arrangements, however, for the collection and distribution of letters will be improved rather than impaired. A collection from all the lamp-post boxes in the built-up part of the city will be made at half-past seven in the evening, and letters deposited in them up to that hour will be in time for the night mail leaving the general post-office. General Bingham's letter will be found in another part of this paper.

Special Sale of Fine Horses, Carriages, &c. Mr. Berkowe will hold a special sale of valuable Horses, Carriages, &c., on Tuesday morning, at the Bazaar; comprising two extra driving establishments, one of which belongs to a gentleman who is giving up their stable. See auction advertisement.

Sale of Valuable Rights and Titles Sign. By order of the Orphans' Court, James A. Freeman, Assignee, will sell, April 9th, a Valuable Property, southeast corner of Ninth and Vine streets. The lot is 19 feet front on Vine street by 50 feet on Ninth street to Hazelhurst place. This is an attractive location for a fine improvement.

Thomas & Sons' Sale, Absolute.—That fine property, No. 20 Dock street, known as Jones' Hotel. A fine opportunity for a good investment.

AUCTION SALES.

AUCTION NOTICE.

Undersigned will offer, Without Limit or Reserve, to Close an Estate, at Auction, on Tuesday, March 29, at 10 o'clock, at the Bazaar, No. 1020 Chestnut street, a large and valuable collection of Oil Paintings, Water Colors, Engravings, Etchings, Etc., Etc., Etc.,