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EVENING BULLETIN.

Wednesday, April 13, 1870.

FRANCE AND THE NEW PLEBISCITUM

Louis Napoleon apes Cæsar, and he desires to have modern France resemble old Rome. So he calls a decree of his Senate a *Senatus Consultum*, and a vote of the French people a *Plebiscitum*, which is pulled out into a *Plebiscite*. The existing trouble in his government, just now, is about a new *Senatus-Consultum* and a new *Plebiscitum*. When these ninny-bags were formed, three months or more ago, he made some gushing promises to his people, and he now proposes to fulfil them. He proposes to have the Constitution of France amended, but he insists on his own way of amending it. He proposes the amendment to the Senate; the Senate, obedient to his nod, puts it into the form of a *Senatus-Consultum*, and the people are expected to adopt it by a *Plebiscitum*. The popular branch of the national legislature is not expected to have anything to do with adopting or rejecting this or any future constitutional amendment. Indeed it is the work of the Emperor from the beginning, and if the people do not approve of it by their votes, it is to be regarded as a sign that they are opposed to reform, and desire to remain under an absolute personal government. The constitution must remain unaltered and unamended. This seems to be the plain English of the existing political difficulty in Paris. It is not that the proposed reform is not a real one, but the mode of making it is objectionable. If the scheme had originated with the people, or their representatives in the Legislative Body, if it had been carried there and in the Senate, and then approved by the Emperor, it would have been considered a splendid triumph of liberal principles. For the new *Senatus-Consultum* will change the character of the Senate, and make it closely resemble the English House of Lords. It gives the Legislature Body the exclusive right of originating laws for taxation, as in the English Parliament and our Congress and State Legislatures. It allows cities and towns to elect their own Mayors, instead of having them appointed by the Emperor, as heretofore. These undoubted yet are great concessions; concessions that would have seemed impossible a year ago, even in September last, when the Emperor first astonished his people and the world by his overtures to the liberal party of France.

But the fundamental fault remains in the new scheme of making the Emperor the only power to propose amendments to the Constitution. Heretofore this power was confined to the Senate, which is a body made up of his creatures. But under the new order of things, when the Senate will be more of a popular body, it will not have the right to touch the Constitution, except under direction of the Emperor. While pretending to yield a great deal to the people, it still holds back from them the real essence of all popular freedom. It makes the amendment of the Constitution more absolute than ever, and assumes for him what the *Opinion Nationale* describes as the counterpart of the Papal Infallibility. The people and their representatives cannot ask for or propose any reforms. They must wait till the notion of a reform enters the head of the Emperor, and take it in the exact shape in which he prescribes it, or do without it. When he graciously offers it, the Senate must ratify it, and then it must be submitted to a vote of the whole people.

The opposition to the *Senatus-Consultum* seems to grow and even to become virulent. It has driven one member of the Olivier Ministry from his post, and made the rest seem very insecure. It has induced Ollivier to ask for the adjournment of the Legislative Body until after the *Plebiscitum*, which is to be voted on in the beginning of May; for the agitation of the subject in the Chamber seems to be considered as endangering the peace of the country; and, as the Emperor has his mind fully made up, he does not wish his course to be made a subject of further wrangling. He thinks, and Ollivier thinks, or pretends to think, that the concessions proposed are great, and so they are, with the one qualification that the Emperor has the sole right to propose constitutional amendments. If the people, acting under the advice of those who consider this intolerable, should reject the *Plebiscitum*, it will be taken as a proof that they do not want any reform at all; that they reject the favors offered them in the Senate and Legislative Body; that they refuse to elect their own local magistrates, and all the liberal offers made to them, and that they prefer to go back to the old system of the absolute personal government of one man. The inference will not be a fair one, but it will be taken by the Emperor and his supporters.

It would seem best that the *Plebiscitum* should be accepted by the people of France, on the simple principle that a half loaf is better than no bread. Suppose that they do not at once acquire the right of amending, or proposing to amend, the Constitution; they gain many privileges which will so add to their power that at a future day they can demand and obtain the one great right that is now denied them. A vote, by an overwhelming majority, in favor of the Emperor's plan would indicate such confidence in the sincerity of his recent promises, that he would be more inclined ever disposed to carry them out. On the other hand, an unfavorable vote would make him lighten the reins that he has been disposed to relax, and assume once more all the authority of an absolute despot.

Chief Justice Chase is out in a loving letter to the colored people of Cincinnati, who are about to celebrate the adoption of the Fifteenth Amendment. It cannot, however, be very palatable to his admirers among the white men's party, or the "conservative" Democrats such as were the rulers in the now defunct insurrection at Ninth and Arch.

TRIFLING WITH A SERIOUS MATTER.

When Councils, after a hard struggle, were induced to make an appropriation for the purpose of securing proper musical instruction to the children in the public schools, we hoped that the matter had been settled for a time, and that an opportunity would be given to Prof. Louis, to prove the worth of his system. But the Board of School Control yesterday interfered again in a very ungracious manner, and after passing a resolution which virtually dismisses Prof. Louis and his assistants, appointed a committee of five to prepare another plan for musical instruction in the schools. The Board, by this action, indicts injury, not only upon Prof. Louis, but upon the schools. It appointed this man to the position, induced him to enter into this business and compelled him to devote to the perfection of a plan many months of arduous, earnest labor. When he had begun the work, but before he had had any opportunity of demonstrating the excellence of his method, the Board ruthlessly interfered and put an end to his operations. If, as is proposed, another plan of teaching is adopted, it is certain that it will have to be carried into effect under the direction of a superintendent, unless, indeed, the Board, in its folly, intends to trust it hap-hazard to irresponsible and unfit teachers, selected by the Sectional Boards. And, if another superintendent is desired, who will accept the position? Certainly no musician who has a particle of self-respect, or who is at all competent to do the work properly, will give up his private business and assume this office with the fate of Prof. Louis staring him in the face; with the knowledge that the next spasm of spite or jealousy in the Board of Control may insure his dismissal, and that, too, without a chance having been given him to prove his capability for the position. Doubtless men can be found who will undertake the duties; but they will either be teachers who have not succeeded in private life because of their ignorance, or else one of the many guerilla professors whose longe and unsystematic operations in the schools in the past have deserved only ridicule and contempt. It will be better to have no musical instruction at all than to entrust any system, good or bad, to such hands.

As far as it has been applied, the plan of Prof. Louis has proved itself to be an excellent one. In all of the schools in which the principals gave it their hearty support and approval, the children have learned rapidly, and in a short time would have mastered the rudiments of the difficult science; where the system has failed utterly, as it has in a few cases, even though it has hardly had a trial, the responsibility rests with the school teachers who have displayed bitter animosity to Prof. Louis, at the bidding of the Sectional Boards, the rivals of the Superintendent, or of their friends in the Board of Control. If we are to have music taught in the schools, this kind of petty opposition must cease. There must be a single system, and it must be directed and carried into operation by one responsible person, who must himself be a competent musician. Any plan of operations which divides the authority of the schools will result in failure as disastrous as would an attempt to conduct a military campaign with an army without a commanding head. The Board of Control acknowledged this fact when it chose Prof. Louis as the Superintendent. Having given him the office, he should have kept in it until his fidelity or incompetency was made manifest. If this course had been followed, the matter would have been satisfactorily settled for him. As it is, the Board not only kick him out, but they kick his system to pieces, overthrow the fabric he has built, and propose to begin again in another manner from the foundation. We protest against this folly, not in the interest of Prof. Louis, but in the interest of the schools, which are the victims of this trifling and childish conduct, and which are without that instruction in music which is given in the public schools in every other large city in the Northern States. We do not know what the report of the committee of five will be; but it ought to consist of an endorsement of Prof. Louis' system, and the Board ought to accept it, and, after turning a deaf ear to the slanders and insinuations of other aspirants to the Superintendency, take measures to compel the Sectional Boards and the school teachers to give to this system their support, and to permit its application to the children.

Although an immense number of bills were passed by the Pennsylvania Legislature during the late session, only four of these were what are known as "general laws." Of these none were important except two relating to the State Treasury. One of these requires the State Treasurer to give bond in half a million of dollars, with ten sureties, raise his salary to five thousand dollars per annum, and prescribes the manner in which his accounts shall hereafter be kept. The other bill was prepared by the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund. The first section authorizes the State Treasurer in his collections and disbursements to conform to the decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States on the subjects of interest and legal tender; and the second section empowers the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund to purchase and cancel the obligations of the State whenever they have any funds on hand. This is expected to prevent the accumulation in the Treasury of what has been known as "the unexpected balance," which is thought to have often been used in temporary loans to favored banks and individuals. For these laws to secure the public funds, the Legislature is entitled to some credit at least.

Senator Revels, of Mississippi, whose dark skin excluded him from the Academy of Music, in which the matinées of *Genevieve de Brabant* and the nudities of *The Black Crook* were so often tolerated, is to lecture to-morrow evening in Horticultural Hall. He lectured, a night or two ago, as our readers are aware, in the Brooklyn Academy of Music, the Directors of which do not seem to think it was in the least injured or degraded. There is much curiosity to hear and see the first colored Senator of the United States, the successor of Jefferson Davis. The subject of to-morrow evening's lecture is "The Press." He proposes to consider its origin and history, and to illustrate its value to mankind. Especially will he endeavor to show in its importance as an educator of the people, and the influence for good that the loyal portion of the press of the country exerted during the rebellion. He hopes to have a crowded assemblage of the people of this ever-loyal city.

Upon an inside page, to-day, we publish five letters written to Mrs. McFarland by two of her female friends. The authors are women who have drunk deeply from that stream of free love and spiritualism which flows from the *Tribune fountain*; and the loathsome and disgusting appeals to Mrs. McFarland to abandon her husband, kidnap her children, defy public opinion and fling herself into the arms of her paramour, Richardson, are dressed up in the sentimental verbiage which is peculiar to the free love fanatics and scoundrels. Mrs. Colburn pretes about her "dream life," her "spiritual intimates," and "the New Jerusalem," while she pours into the ears of her willing victim such poisonous stuff about her husband and her duty to herself and children, that the bitter words used against the writer by Mr. Graham, one of McFarland's counsel, are wholly justified. Both of these women are disciples of the *New York Tribune*; they are members of the body of which Horace Greeley is the head. When we read this infamous correspondence we are not surprised that a weak woman, as Mrs. McFarland is, fell; but we feel that the stern retribution which punished Richardson for his crimes left unscathed others who shared his guilt in an equal degree.

The letter of our Petersville correspondent which will be found on another page, gives a great deal of information concerning the coal region of Schuylkill county, the mines and the mode of working them, which will be new to many of our readers.

Bunting, Darborow & Co., Auctioneers, Nos. 232 and 234 Market street, will hold on to-morrow morning, April 14, at 10 o'clock, at their store, a very large and extensive sale of Foreign and Domestic Dry Goods, including 200 packages Domestics, 500 pieces Spring Woolens, Italians, Satin de Chenes, &c., &c. Fine Shirting, Tailoring and Hosiery Goods; also, Linen Goods, Linen Damasks, Linen Towels, Linen Sheetings, 300 Dozens Ladies' Linen Handkerchiefs, Linen Table Covers, &c. Also, large lots of Cloths, Cassimeres, Suckings, &c., from a jobber's stock.

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In connection with the change which has taken place in the organization of our firm on the 1st inst., we desire to ask attention to the remodeling of our WATCH DEPARTMENT, which has been placed under the personal supervision of one of the most experienced members of our firm. Our workmen, for the repairing of fine Time-keepers, are very skillful; the system adopted for "REGULATING" very perfect, and we intend to make this department the most satisfactory one in our establishment.

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SOLE AGENTS IN PENNSYLVANIA

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Gold Medals awarded at the Great World Exhibitions of

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Each one of these Watches has been carefully regulated to position, heat and cold, and is accompanied by a certificate from Messrs. Patek, Philippe & Co., of ourselves, guaranteeing it to run well and keep correct time.

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SECOND EDITION

BY TELEGRAPH.

WASHINGTON NEWS.

THE COLE-GORHAM DIFFICULTY

The Release of the Lloyd Aspinwall

THE AMNESTY QUESTION

Judge Chase on the Fifteenth Amendment

A Bitter Pill for His Democratic Admirers

FROM WASHINGTON.

[Special Dispatch to the Phila. Evening Bulletin.]

The Cole-Gorham Difficulty—Charges Against Secretary Cole.

WASHINGTON, April 13.—The Republican Senators were in caucus over two hours to-day, on the Cole-Gorham difficulty, but arrived at no definite conclusion thereon.

Senator Conkling made a very bitter speech against Secretary Gorham, reciting at length the reasons which led him to make the charges and ask the removal of Gorham from office.

Senator Stewart replied for Gorham, and refuted the assertion of Mr. Cole.

Pending full proofs, the caucus adjourned until Friday next, when the consideration of the subject will be resumed.

[By the American Press Association.]

The Release of the Lloyd Aspinwall.

The Secretary of the Navy has released Fish yesterday received a number of letters from Minister Sickles, announcing that the Spanish authorities not only ordered the instant release of the steamer Lloyd Aspinwall, with the payment of damages, but made satisfactory apologies, and the Commander in the family of Portolando, the naturalized Cuban who was shot. Secretary Fish communicated these facts to the President at the Cabinet meeting.

Universal Amnesty.

Reliable information states that the President has no present intention of proclaiming amnesty. He may possibly have entertained the idea, but less pled with entreaties of Southern entrapes that he has concluded the time is not ripe for the proclamation.

The Senate on the Georgia Bill.

The Senate will vote on the Georgia bill today.

The Funding Bill—The Income Tax.

Secretary Boutwell will immediately prepare the Funding scheme and will resist the abolition of the Income tax.

FROM THE WEST.

[By the American Press Association.]

Colored Celebration of the Fifteenth Amendment Ratification—Letter from Chief Justice Chase.

CINCINNATI, April 12.—The following is the substance of an important and remarkable letter from Chief Justice Chase to the committee of colored citizens corresponding in relation to the celebration of the ratification of the Fifteenth Amendment:

NEW YORK, CINCINNATI, O., March 30th, 1870.—Accept my thanks for the invitation to celebrate on behalf of the colored people of Cincinnati the adoption of the Fifteenth Amendment. I permit me to be present except by good will and wishes.

"Almost a quarter of a century has passed since the first of your fellow-citizens of color (May, 1845) that all legal distinctions between individuals of the same country, founded on any such circumstances as origin and the like, were hostile to the genius of a free State and incompatible with the true theory of American liberty. Since that memorable day makes no inquiry about the color of the skin, or the place of birth, or any other similar circumstances of outward form, but excludes the exclusion of the colored people as a body from the privilege of voting, is incompatible with true Democratic principles.

"I cannot doubt that these principles have been at length made part of the supreme law of the land. Many, no doubt, will differ from me, and I know that they, if the great work consummated by the ratification of the Fifteenth Amendment, shall have been accomplished, through the State, through the amendment of the State Constitutions; but the delays and uncertainties prejudicial to every interest, and especially to those made of proceeding seemed to necessitate the course actually adopted. Nor does the amendment impair the real rights of any State. It leaves the State Constitutions and laws, with the whole people of each State, subject only to the limitation that the right of no citizen to vote shall be denied or abridged on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude. At the same time it opens the way, and so conform its constitution and laws to this fundamental law of the nation, which was given for legislation by Congress. But the best vindication of the amendment is in the justice of the amendment must be found in the conduct of the large class of persons whom you represent. On the occasion to which I have referred, I ventured to say that the best way to insure the peaceful dwelling together of the different races, was the mutual reciprocation of benefits, and not the mutual infliction of injuries. I cannot now give you other counsel than I offered then. Go forward, having perfect faith in your own manhood, in God's goodness, adding to your faith virtue, and to virtue, knowledge; and to knowledge, temperance, and to patience, temperance; and to temperance brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness charity." Why not signalize your rejoicings in the rights secured under the Fifteenth Amendment by urging upon Congress the propriety of removing all political disabilities imposed upon our fellow-citizens by the Fourteenth Amendment, so that through universal suffrage and universal amnesty, peace, good-will and prosperity may be established throughout our country? Every good man must rejoice in the progress which the colored citizens of the United States have made in education, in religious culture and in the general improvement of their condition. Every good man must earnestly desire that the colored citizens may continue progress in the same direction; all public and private interests will be promoted thereby, and it will insure at no distant day the cordial recognition of their rights, and the good will of their fellow-citizens who have most earnestly opposed them. Many a man can now be found who would restore slavery if for years hence, if the colored men are wise, it will be difficult to find a man who will even allow himself in favor of denying or abridging their rights to vote.

"S. P. CHASE."

Libel Suit.

The *Enquirer* $30,000 libel suit has been dismissed, and the press restored in the proper censors of immoral exhibitions and the parties presenting the same.

Destructive Fire—Loss, $34,000.

Two considerable fires occurred last night, at nine o'clock. The factory of Forsythe and Ehler's stash and blind factory were destroyed. The total loss is $34,000, on which there is an insurance of about $18,000.

Corner Stone Laid.

The corner-stone of the Sangerfest Hall was laid yesterday.

The Sangerfest.

A daily paper will be published in connection with and during the Sangerfest. The first number will appear next week.

The Bremen and Hamburg line of steamers refuse to reduce their rates in favor of attendants from Europe.

Railway Fares.

The six-cent street railroad fares are being agitated in this city.

Coal Oil Vein Struck.

A special despatch received here states that the workmen in the stone quarries at the Soldiers' Home, in Dayton, have struck a valuable vein of coal oil. There is much excitement in consequence.

Railroad Enterprise.

The Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton Railroad has declared a dividend of four per cent. payable on the 20th inst. The gross receipts for the year were $11,175,000. The operating expenses were within $297,000, or nearly 50 per cent