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EVENING BULLETIN.
Saturday, April 30, 1870.

PERSONALITIES OF THE PRESS.

A newspaper is meant to give news, but there are widely differing ideas concerning what constitutes news that should be printed and published. The worst, most dangerous and most wrong of these ideas is that which makes into news remarks concerning the personal character, the movements, the dress, the sayings and doings of private individuals, women as well as men. And yet this idea prevails and seems to be spreading in the United States. It has been cultivated and encouraged in New York to a greater degree than anywhere else. One paper there makes a speciality of mousing about for society gossip and printing a regular list of engagements of marriage. To people of any sort of delicacy, this practice is simply disgusting. But the present degradation of the popular taste is shown by the fact that the practice is encouraged and many people even take pains to have their engagements, or those of their friends, furnished for publication.

A still more general custom is that of publishing accounts of weddings, parties, receptions, dinners; with the names of the guests, descriptions of the dresses, and sometimes the bill of fare. "A wedding in high life" is a caption that a reporter of this sort of stuff delights to pen; and if he can put in his report, and his list of the company, the name of some high government functionary, or a distinguished general, or a "genial and gentlemanly" (these are pet words) member of Council, or a member of Congress, or of that honorable body, the State Legislature, he is made very happy. If, at a wedding, he can get a list of the presents to the bride, with the names of the donors and the cost of each, and if he can find out in the kitchen, or from the caterer, or the wine merchant, the cost of the entertainment, so as to print it, his happiness becomes supreme. And this kind of stuff is honored with the name of news, and is printed and read as news.

Another kind of personality is indulged in by some newspapers that cater to the vulgar appetite. They make allusions by name to ladies and gentlemen who detest newspaper notoriety and shrink from it as they would from an exhibition of themselves in the nasty burlesques that are admired by the same kind of papers. For instance, they will give us news, though wholly without authority, something of this kind: "It is said that the beautiful Miss _____ (giving the name in full), whose fine dramatic talents have long been appreciated in private society, is about to appear on the stage." Or they will tell their readers that "Mrs. _____ (again giving the name) is said to write" articles concerning so and so in such and such a paper; and then, by way of covering up the insolence of such an unwarrantable personal allusion and gross lie, they praise the articles and their style, they themselves having neither style of their own nor brains to judge of the style of others. There are many women, and most excellent women, too, whose professions, as a writer, an actress, a lecturer, a reader, or an artist, make newspaper notoriety not only desirable but necessary, and allusions to them in the public journals, when they are made in a respectful way, are perfectly proper. But no well-conducted and decent newspaper will ever print the name of a lady, who is not in this category, without her consent being first obtained; and even when the consent is obtained, or when the publication is requested, there are many cases in which an editor of proper judgment would feel bound to refrain from the publication. There are silly women who like to read of themselves in print, and a sensible man ought to teach them better.

Here in Philadelphia a license has lately been indulged in by some papers, in printing whatever their Washington correspondents may choose to write concerning Philadelphians visiting the national capital. It is perfectly fair to tell the public of the movements of public men, and of the object of those movements, if it is really known. But now-a-days a private citizen of Philadelphia cannot go, with his wife or family, to Washington, on a mere trip of pleasure, or to visit friends, without having it announced in some of the newspapers. In some cases gross comments, or allusions to a supposed object of the visit, are made. In one recent instance, a highly respected gentleman, who had no object but that of personal recreation, was made the subject of most insolent comment, and, worst of all, the name of the wife of the President of the United States was also introduced in some paragraphs referring to him that were meant to be witty, but were simply vulgar. This and similar stuff are given as the "news" of the national capital.

It may be that the publishers of papers that commit the improprieties we have been considering find a profit in it. They would also find a profit, perhaps, in descending to a lower grade of society and printing the "personal news" of the gambling halls and the brothels, and the movements of celebrated rakes and prostitutes, of all which they could probably obtain accurate information. But along with the profit must come degradation, and the decent portion of the community should condemn the existing evil, as they would the grosser evil we have suggested.

A SUGGESTION.

In view of the discussion of the "woman question," which is evolving considerable heat among some classes of the community, just now, we submit that the old maxim, "in medio tutissimus ibis," should be borne in mind. In the present controversy over the question of admitting women to the clinical instruction of the Pennsylvania Hospital, the bulk of the medical profession has arrayed itself uncompromisingly against the innovation. Large numbers of physicians, among whom are many of the most intelligent, skillful, respectable and eminent of their profession, regard the admission of women to the Hospital as destructive to its very existence. Many of them have no faith in the honesty of anybody who advocates the cause of the woman; many of them openly deny to the most well-behaved and pure-minded women the ordinary attributes of their sex if they venture upon the study of medicine. They will listen to no compromises. They will make no concessions. They write over the doors of the Hospital: "Who enters here leaves womanhood behind." On the other hand is a much

smaller, but equally violent, class. These are the advanced enthusiasts in the woman movement. They would sink all distinctions of sex in the pursuit of science. They demand for woman absolute equality of privilege and opportunity, and they conquer successive positions, not for their intrinsic value, but merely that they may be made stepping-stones for new conquests. They would solve the present question in one of two ways. They would either sink all distinction and insist upon indiscriminate clinics, or they would demand the exclusive appropriation of the female wards of the Hospital for the use of female students. This last expedient will, as we understand, be urged at the annual meeting.

The true and safe path lies between these extremes. Women will study medicine, and it is therefore as highly important that they should be well taught, as if they were men. But women are now, and probably will always be, greatly in the minority as medical students, and upon the admitted principle that the majority should rule, we submit that it would be very unfair that a large class of male students should be debarred from the study of the general cases presented in the female wards of the Hospital—quite as important to the doctor as the doctress,—on account of the comparatively few cases which constitute the inseparable objection to mixed clinics. It would be to give the small class of female students a great deal more than their share of the benefits of the Hospital, and a great deal more than they ask or desire.

Our suggestion is this: There are two weekly lectures during the winter, each consisting of an hour of medical and an hour of surgical instruction. Let the medical staff be so organized,—and there is no practical difficulty on this point,—that the women shall attend the whole clinic on one day, and the medical clinic on the other day, reserving the remaining surgical hour for such cases as are improper for mixed classes. The compromise of last winter, under which the women were to be exposed, was well enough as a temporary expedient, but the plan involves much needless embarrassment both to the lecturer and the female students. An arrangement upon the basis which we have indicated will give the men all that they have ever had, and will give the women all that they ask or are entitled to. It may need some modification of detail, but the principle is the true one upon which to effect an adjustment of the difficulty.

THE MCFARLAND TRIAL.

The McFarland trial has become utterly disgraceful to all parties concerned in it. The causes which led to the trial, the antecedents of the murder of Richardson, the mock marriage of the woman who was the central figure of the affair to the man upon whom her husband had avenged his outraged rights, the complicity of prominent clergymen like Beecher and Frothingham in sanctioning the fraudulent divorce, the indecent violence and indecorum with which both prosecution and defence have been conducted, are all in harmony with each other, making up a disgraceful picture of New York morals and New York professional ethics, of the pulpits, the bar and the bench, which becomes more and more odious as scene after scene of the wretched drama is developed.

To those who are accustomed to the dignified decorum with which the most exciting criminal cases are conducted in the Philadelphia courts, it is almost impossible to realize the professional blackguardism which is tolerated, without interference or remonstrance, by the judiciary of New York. Mr. Recorder Hackett sits in judgment over a grave capital case, a question of life and death, affecting not only the highest personal interest but the broadest and deepest considerations of public morals, and permits the most flagrant insults and outrages to be committed upon witnesses by the opposing counsel, without appearing to be aware of the existence of the smallest impropriety. The counsel assail and abuse each other in open court, like a crowd of tipsy fish-wives, and the court pockets the affront.

Yesterday, matters nearly reached a crisis. Immediately after the adjournment, while the Recorder and the City Judge were still on the bench, a violent scene was enacted between Mr. Graham and Judge Davis, the former rushing at the latter with the following choice remarks: "I'll spank you like a baby, you big jettifogging thief; you have insulted every witness I brought on the stand; and you've been paid money to hang this man!" By-standers interfered in time to prevent an exchange of blows, and the crowd gave three cheers for John Graham.

It is difficult to imagine any lower depth of degradation to which the administration of justice can sink in New York, or a more complete demoralization than that which can tolerate such scenes and acts as have clustered about this miserable McFarland case from the beginning.

BANK OF STAFF-OFFICERS IN THE NAVY.

The Hon. A. F. Stevens, of New Hampshire, has given attention to the question about rank which has been long in controversy between the line and staff-officers of the Navy. During more than a year he has listened to the opposing parties, and after as full an investigation as a landsman can give profitably to a conflict of technical opinions, he has presented the result of his studies in a bill, "to regulate rank in the Navy of the United States and for other purposes." The military service rendered by General Stevens during the rebellion helped him to an experience which necessarily gives weight to his opinions about the details of military organization, and they will be respected accordingly.

The object of the measure seems to be to restore to staff officers the degrees of rank conferred upon them in 1863, by a general order issued by Mr. Welles, Secretary of the Navy, after consultation with the Attorney General, and the members of Mr. Lincoln's Cabinet, which general order was revoked in the very first days of Mr. Bore's administration of the Navy Department, bringing to many highly respectable gentlemen a painful sense of unjust humiliation, as well as a reduction of the very moderate pay of those who have been placed on the retired list on account of age, long service or infirmity resulting from a faithful discharge of duty. This bill proposes no change in the rates of pay at present provided by law for staff officers. It gives those on the active list degrees of rank from Master to Captain,

and to those who are retired after forty-five years' service—a very long period—the rank of Commodore. The rank proposed is, compared with lineal rank, united in its properties. It has no virtue in selecting quarters, as the rank of staff officers in the Army has. And the line officer duly assigned to command a ship or station has precedence of all placed under his orders without reference to their degree of rank or seniority. Staff officers cannot command or exercise authority in the line, nor in any staff corps other than that to which they belong. The authority of the line is very properly and carefully preserved, so that there can be no conflict in this respect between the line and staff, ascribable to the degrees of rank conferred upon the latter. The details of the bill seem to have been carefully and cautiously considered. The measure seems to be well calculated to terminate an unhappy controversy, and at the same time render the naval service more acceptable and alluring to gentlemen of the several vocations employed in it. Whether it will be adopted by Congress will depend, in a great degree, upon the acquiescence of certain line officers, whose warlike renown has given to their opinions on all subjects much weight and influence, without regard, often, to the intrinsic value of their views. National pets, through assumption and interference, often mar wise legislation, especially when their minds are prejudiced or possessed by sentimental rather than logical conclusions. But we hope this bill will meet with the favor which, in our judgment, it seems to deserve, in spite of representations of extremists of either party to the contrary.

THE QUAKERS AND THE HOSPITAL.

The Quaker City has undoubtedly outgrown most of its external Quakerism. The Society of Friends, whose influence, in the early history of Philadelphia, controlled all the departments of social life, has fallen into a minority, as the great population of modern times has grown up around it. Numerically, the once all-powerful Quaker element has become a very small body, but its leaves still work out in the various departments of life, and its impress is clearly seen in almost every relation in which Philadelphia differs for the better from her sister cities. The Society of Friends, as a religious body, has not kept pace with the general expansion of the community; but there are abundant evidences that Quakerism has not died out. The substantial business character of old commercial houses; the unostentatious but solid comfort in which the majority of the people live; the practical efficiency, the honest administration, the neat, quiet, orderly economy of the older charitable institutions, are among the abiding works of the early followers of William Penn and George Fox. Quaker blood ramifies in the veins of thousands of Philadelphia families, whose present members have formed other religious associations, and wherever it runs it influences character, while it keeps up a sympathetic connection with the solid and worthy Society which once reigned supreme in the colony of William Penn.

Under these circumstances, it was a most shortsighted policy on the part of the engineers of the scurrilous anonymous pamphlets recently aimed at the management of the Pennsylvania Hospital, to turn a torrent of abuse upon the alleged "Quakerism" of the institution, as a reason for changing the management. Even if these low tirades had spoken the truth, which they have not, or been ordinarily decent in their tone, which they are not, or had been written with cleverness or ability, which they are not, they would have accomplished nothing for their purpose, by giving Quakerism in the management of the Pennsylvania Hospital as a reason why the contributors should revolutionize it.

The distinguished Dr. George B. Wood, in his address at the centennial celebration of the founding of the Hospital, June 10, 1851, showed the precise relation which Quakerism has borne to the institution, and the following extract is precisely as true to-day as it was when delivered, nearly twenty years ago:

"We not infrequently hear it referred to as the Quaker Hospital; and a disposition has probably existed, in some degree, to leave the burden of its support to those who were supposed to enjoy the honored advantages of controlling it. Now, if the fact that members of the Society of Friends have from its very embryo state cherished and sustained it, and have at all times freely contributed money and personal service toward its maintenance, entitles it to be considered as the Quaker Hospital, we must with all humility submit to the sectarian designation—but that is now or ever was governed exclusively by Friends; that the peculiar views of this religious sect have never been especially consulted; that members of that Society have beyond their fair share reaped any of the honors and emoluments flowing from the confidence reposed in them by the contributors, who are of all sects, and all shades of religious sentiment. The truth is, that the Institution is quite free from sectarian bias. It is open indiscriminately to all. Any one, whatever may be his religious attachments, may become a contributor; the contributors may elect whom they please as Managers; the Managers are bound, in their selection of officers, to be guided by qualification and not by profession of faith; and every patient in the Hospital may have recourse to the religious council or administration of the churchmen of his own choice."

What Dr. Wood here asserts is strictly true. The Pennsylvania Hospital has always had a strong element of Quaker influence in its management, because the contributors knew that such a management was desirable, on many accounts. But it has always been conducted upon a broad, liberal, non-sectarian principle, and the slurs cast upon its Quakerism are as silly as they are destitute of truth. The Pennsylvania Hospital, like most of the charities of Philadelphia, has been greatly indebted, throughout its entire history, to the systematic liberality and wise economy of the Quaker element in its management, and we can conceive of nothing more stupid than to attack any charitable institution in Philadelphia on the ground of its Quakerism.

We publish upon another page an article upon the subject of the proposed public baths in this city; together with a statement of the character and operations of the free bathing institutions in Boston, and of the good results that have flowed from these establishments.

A single fact will illustrate the popularity of these baths in Boston. During last year one million and twenty-four thousand persons visited and used them. We venture to say that not only the physical health but the morals of the people were improved by these washings. Cleanliness is very near to godliness, if it is not exactly next to it. If men's mortal bodies are well scrubbed, their immortal souls are apt to become cleaner. A dirty man cannot very well be either a good citizen, or a consistent Christian; and the most eloquent missionary, working in the slums of a large city, will find that he will succeed better if he will preach first to the outside of his heathen with soap and water, and then to their inside with bread, before he tries to touch their souls with Gospel truth. Our own Bedford street missionary has proved these facts by his experience, and he has secured the best results by acting upon them. Because we want to have the principle applied upon a grand scale, we urge upon Councils the adoption of the scheme for a series of great public baths submitted to them on Thursday last.

If England is ever going to tremble because of the Fenians, the time apparently has come. The grand army of Fenia has begun to move. It is a small army, but it is evidently in deadly earnest, because it passed right through Boston without heeding the seductive songs of the intellectual sirens of that Athenian city, without stopping to see where Warren fell, and without going to hear the great organ. The despatch says that these Fenians numbered twenty; that they were clad in Irish frieze and carried pickaxes. It would be a heroic achievement to capture Canada with twenty pickaxes, and these audacious fellows evidently mean to try it. But we do not feel as sorry for the Canadians as for the orderly-sergeant of this corps. If each one of these forty warriors has as long a name as Lieutenant-Colonel Rudolph Fitzpatrick, Assistant Adjutant-General of the Fenian Brotherhood, and Acting Secretary of War, the ingenious organizer of battle and grand disposer of the fate of Canada, Ireland, Winnipeg, and other British provinces, the man who calls the roll deserves not only extra rations and a powerful pair of lungs, but the heartfelt sympathy of the American nation. We hope he will come through the frightful ordeal as safely as the Canadians who war with his troops; for in that event he will continue in a robust condition.

The meanness to which small minds will descend to gratify petty malice is forcibly illustrated by the following facts: Yesterday, Mayor Fox telegraphed to Richmond to the Secretary of State, that a subscription for the sufferers in the recent calamity had been opened in this city, and that Mr. George W. Childs had headed the list with one thousand dollars. This information was sent back to Philadelphia through the Associated Press, and the morning papers, with one exception, printed it with the name of Mr. Childs. The *Inquirer*, however, struck out the name, and said that "a gentleman had headed the list" with the sum named. This small spite is more pitiful, because, even if Mr. Childs wished to retaliate in kind, the opportunity assuredly will not be given him, even if he should undertake to publish the Philadelphia subscriptions daily.

Mr. Charles F. Haseltine advertises the sale by auction of his entire collection of paintings, next Thursday and Friday evenings. They are now arranged for exhibition at his galleries, No. 1125 Chestnut street, where the peremptory sale will take place, without reserve. Our crowded space to-day will not allow an adequate notice of the pictures; but to the wise a word is sufficient, and Mr. Haseltine's reputation as an expert, and especially as the representative in this city of the very choicest French art, obviates the necessity on our part of any notice beyond the mere statement of the sale.

We publish elsewhere an official statement of the Fire Insurance Companies of Messrs. Evans & Hare, General Insurance Agency, No. 431 Walnut street. They stand the test of the most critical examination, and are known at home and in this State for their good reputation, sound financial condition, and promptness and liberality in the adjustment of losses. Messrs. Evans & Hare's long experience in fire underwriting, and assiduous attention to the interests of their customers, render their services valuable to insurers, and we cheerfully commend them to all who may require the aid of reliable and experienced insurance agents.

Until this year, we have never been obliged to issue triple sheets at this season. But the pressure of advertisements makes it necessary to-day, as it has several times before, this spring. The *EVENING BULLETIN* is, in fact, so well known as one of the best advertising mediums in Philadelphia, that we sometimes fancy we shall have the triple sheet permanently.

For Sales of Real Estate, Stocks, Furniture, Machinery, &c., see Thomas & Sons' advertisements and catalogues.

Hunting, Durbrow & Co., Auctioneers.

Nos. 222 and 224 Market street, will hold during next week the following important sales, to-wit: On Monday, May 2, at 10 o'clock, on four months' credit, 300 lots of Foreign and Domestic Dry Goods, including full lines imported Dress Goods, black and colored Silks and Satins; 200 Paris Printed Cashmere Shawls; 100 rich Silk Shawls; full line Groceries, Raisins, Florida, Navy, White Goods, Trimmings, Blankets, &c. Also, special sale of 800 cartons Ribbons, by order of Messrs. Knit, Luckemeyer & Co., the importation of Messrs. Gilling, Hodge, Johnson and Hoop Shirts, Linens, &c. On Tuesday, May 3, at 10 o'clock, on four months' credit, 200 cases Boots, Shoes, Travelling Bags, Hats, Straw Goods, &c. On Thursday, May 5, on four months' credit, 500 packages and lots of Foreign and Domestic Dry Goods, including Cloths, Casimeres, Meltons, Doonings, Sateens, Lisleens, Sateen Tricoots, Velvets, &c. Also, Dress Goods, Silks, Shawls, Linens, Shirts, Hoopery, Gloves, Hosiery, and other goods. On Friday, May 6, at 11 o'clock, on four months' credit, 200 pieces Lisleens, Venetians, Hoopery, Cottage, List and Bag Carpetings, Oil Cloths, 500 rolls White, Red, Check and Fancy Canton Matting, &c.

Valuable Cotton Machinery at Public Sale.

The valuable cotton machinery, belonging to the estate of Hood Simpson, deceased, to be sold by Messrs. Thomas & Sons, Auctioneers, on Monday, May 2, at 10 o'clock, is now arranged for examination. Catalogues can be had on the premises and at the auction rooms.

JAMES L. WILSON, HOUSE PAINTER.

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