EVENING BULLETIN.

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PEACOCK, FETHERSTON & CO.

Monday, July 18, 1870.

☞ Persons leaving the city for the summer, and wishing to have the EVENING BULLETIN sent to them, will please send their address to the office. Price by mail, 75 cents per month.

THE WAR.

Our Cable telegrams from Europe grow more and more interesting. Although no trustworthy report of any severe engagement is given, the news indicates that when hostilities do begin, they will be on a tremendous scale.

France seems to be trying to bully the South German States, the chief of which is Austria, into fighting on one side or the other, the latter expecting that they will join her in the grand effort to revenge Sadowa. We shall know in a day or two whether this effort will be successful.

On the other hand, Russia is said to be on the point of entering into an alliance with Prussia. This will add to the magnitude of the contest on sea as well as on land. Russia has a grudge against Napoleon, and wants her revenge for Sebastopol. If France can be beaten in this war, the Czar will find the way to Constantinople made much easier for him and his armies.

RECEPTIONS.

The reception business has been sufficiently overdone in Philadelphia to warrant the hope that it will soon begin to cure itself. Every roving organization of any kind that chooses to get up an excursion for itself, be it military, civic or public,—to adopt an adjective for the companies,—considers itself entitled to a public reception at the hands of the people of Philadelphia. Thereupon great preparations are made, contributions are levied upon good-natured and liberal citizens, or extorted from merchants who are frightened into the absurd idea that they are buying trade by subscribing for banquets and brass bands. Committees of arrangements are created, whereon ambitious young gentlemen connect with each other for the preeminence. Large displays of "fuss and feathers" are made over the strangers. They are taken to Independence Hall and shown the bell that Mr. Logan wants to ring. They are taken to the New Ledger Building, and perhaps to Fairmount Park. Speeches are made to and by them. Money is spent, and the recipients leave, with their way voting that Philadelphia is a pattern of all hospitalities, and then some fresh arrival sweeps them out of the public mind.

Philadelphia has lately had somewhat of an excess of this costly amusement. A body of New Orleans firemen opened the season. They were "some of our best citizens," we were told. They could run faster, climb higher, shout louder and squirt higher than anything that has ever been produced. They had a reception which must have cost at least ten thousand dollars. In return they offered to give an exhibition of their prowess, but, Mayor Fox rather sensibly considered that our model Fire Department did not need any additional stimulus in that direction, and the New Orleanists went off without the proposed exhibition, to make way for the New York Seventh.

What the total cost of entertaining the Seventh Regiment was, we do not know. Apart from the expenditure at Cape May, which must have been very heavy, six thousand dollars were swallowed up in their entertainment in this city. The entertainment was profusely generous and fully sustained Philadelphia's good name for open-handed hospitality. There seems to be a very generally accepted doctrine in the public mind, whether this six or ten thousand dollars might not been as advantageously spent on our own military organizations, many of which find it very difficult to bring their own citizens enough to encourage them to make a handsome appearance on the parade-ground. It cannot be denied that the general impression left by the visit of the famous "Seventh" to Philadelphia and Cape May, is not likely to promote liberal contributions from our people for similar purposes in the future.

Following the Seventh Regiment, we are to have another "Reception," and again a levy is made upon the patient purses of our citizens. This time it is to be an ex-rebel regiment from Baltimore, famous for its services in Stonewall Jackson's brigade or division. The *Post*, this morning, tenderly refers to some "events which may have transpired during the last ten years" with which this regiment may have been connected, but does not consider the fact of any serious importance." There is still some difference of opinion on this subject, and there are a good many families in Philadelphia to whom those events are, to-day, of the serious importance. But the point we are now pressing is not particularly personal to the Maryland Fifth Regiment. Indeed, it will probably be urged by the military gentlemen who now have charge of the "trade" of Philadelphia, that as Dixie and several other governments were disappointed in their last projected visit to Philadelphia, in the summer of 1865, in consequence of a previous "engagement" in Adams county, there should be special honors paid to it at this time.

The point we desire to make is against the whole business of such receptions as these. They are of no practical value to Philadelphia. The pretence that they bring trade of any consequence here is a shallow mistake. They cost a great deal of money. They waste a great deal of time. They puff up little men into undue importance. They generally produce a large crop of jealousies and misunderstandings. They promote provincialism and flunkeyism to a high degree. They are often the occasion of much vulgar display and snobbishness. The momentary gratification which a street parade may afford to the masses of the people is no compensation for these undesirable results, and we are glad to learn that some of our most liberal citizens have found in this visit of the Maryland regiment the feather that breaks the stoutest camel's back.

There was one class of public receptions which Philadelphia used to regard with just pride. During the dark years of the war we gave daily and nightly receptions to visiting regiments. Not to regiments bound on "gay and festive" excursions to sea-side ball-rooms. Not to regiments whose bayonets pointed northward and whose traitor colors were riddled with loyal bullets. But regiments pressing sternly to the perilous front, to save their country and win for it the peace which now teaches her to forget them, and to patronize their foes. Regiments halting for brief hours to be refreshed and fed and hid "God speed" by the patriotic men and women of our Refreshment Saloons, or halting again as "Johnny came marching home," with thinned ranks and tattered banners, from victorious battle-fields, or with tottering limbs and haggard eyes, and skeleton forms from the hateful Southern prison pens. Those were receptions over which Philadelphia never grew weary; over which her purse-strings never closed; out of which the noble men and women who formed their "Committees of Arrangements" never sought their own glory, but only to do their best duty to their country's cause. Thanks God, these "Receptions" are at an end. But the recollection of them,—and we trust that it is not treason against the "trade" of Philadelphia occasionally to recall their memory,—the collection of them dwarfs these show receptions, even the very best of them, into very small insignificance.

The establishment of a Paid Fire Department, whenever that millennial blessedness shall come, will relieve us of one class of these costly and useless pageants. But it would better become the dignity of a great city like Philadelphia, which has so many claims to metropolitan eminence which she so often weakens by displays of needless provincialism, if she would not wait for the days of a Paid Fire Department, but set her face at once against a practice which has certainly run to great abuse.

SAN DOMINGO.

The question of annexing the Dominican Republic to the United States is at rest for the present. It may be revived at the next session of Congress. It is not a partisan question, nor a sectional question. It is not a question of the acquisition of more territory, for we have enough at present. So far as we are concerned, there could be nothing gained by the annexation but a station and a depot for our naval vessels in the West Indies. It is not worth while to pay millions for this, with the risk of having to pay many more millions for keeping up a government in the island, preserving peace among the Dominicans, and preventing incursions of the Haytiens.

Whoever would like to have a clear understanding of this San Domingo question should read an article on the subject, by H. Hargrave, in the August number of *Lippincott's Magazine*. He knows the republic of Dominica, its history, its people, and those of the neighbor republic of Hayti. He demonstrates very plainly that it is not desirable that the annexation project should be carried out; and that, in spite of reported votes in its favor, the people are opposed to it. He shows also that, by a treaty with Hayti, Dominica is forbidden to allow herself to be annexed by any foreign power. Of course, if we chose, we could sustain Dominica in disregard of a treaty with an insignificant state like Hayti. But this would not be decent or honorable, and a petty war would follow it, which would cost more than the island would be worth to us.

If we require a naval station on the island, Mr. Hargrave does not consider the peninsula of Samana the best site for it. He prefers a narrow belt of land, separated from the rest of the island, stretching from the Bay of Manesalla, on the Haytian frontier, to that of Samana, being about 120 miles long and 6 to 10 wide, and having an area of about 1,500 square miles. This, he assumes, may be secured for any period, and while a naval and coaling station may thus be secured, the land could be relet to colonists, who could make it very profitable. It seems to us that it would be better to make an experiment of this kind than to undertake to annex all Dominica. If the experiment succeeded, and the new colony prospered, then annexation might be tolerated, and perhaps the whole native population of Haytiens as well as Dominicans—could by that time find it to their interest to ask for the admission of the whole island as a State of the American Union.

HOME FROM THE WAR.

Since Napoleon and King William have resolved to spend the Summer in the Rhine country, American tourists have given up the idea. Visits to Strasburg, Mayence, Bingen and Ehrenbreitstein will be about as cheering and enjoyable as were visits during our war to Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, and other places on the Rappahannock. Two huge armies will be striving to drive one another from the picturesque and historic river. Of course, there has already been a stampede of foreigners that had thought to pass the Summer in that part of Germany. Of course there has been, or will be, a similar stampede from places beyond the Rhine—from Dresden, Munich, Leipsig, Berlin, and other haunts of luxurious Americans who love art and want to avoid the Income Tax. Even Switzerland will not be considered a safe refuge for these; for France and Germany are on both sides, and the noble little republic, though it spunkily declares itself neutral, may be made a scene of strife. At any rate, crossing its frontier, to come to America, may be a difficult matter. Italy is naturally too hot in summer for pleasure-seekers, and Belgium and Holland are likely to be made too hot by the war.

So there is a sudden end put to ten or twenty thousand plans for spending the summer in the continent. Our rich friends and relations are hurrying out of Germany and Switzerland into France. Most of them will hurry out of France, either to come straight home, or go to England for a while and then come home. Because Paris is not very pleasant in summer, and it is not fashionable to be there. Besides, the war will raise the price of everything in France, and the income that would suffice for a summer in some quiet retreat in Germany or Switzerland, will not suffice for a summer at the resorts that are fashionable in France, such as Vichy or Eaux Bonnes, or Biarritz, or the different bathing places on the coasts of Britany and Normandy. Instead of going to these places, our luxu rious absentees will be driven home in midsummer, the advance guard of them appearing in the steamers that will be due in about a week. As this returning tide begins, the outward current is checked. The German steamers at New York are forbidden to sail by the all-powerful authority of Lloyds. So a good many passengers that might have gone in them have concluded to remain. But hundreds who had secured their state-rooms and intended to sail this month or next, in the English and French steamers, will forfeit their passage money rather than go over at a time when the very regions they wanted to visit are being devastated by war.

Suppose that five thousand Americans come home, or, having intended to go to Europe, stay at home, on account of the war. At a moderate estimate, a traveling American spends on the average about five hundred dollars a month—some much more and some much less. If the war lasts a month, there will be a saving to this country, from this source, of about two and a half millions; if it lasts a year, of about thirty millions. This is all very nice for the country at large, and it is a comfort to find any advantage from such a horrible thing as war. But the rich papas who have to come back to taxes, and the rich mammas that have to forego possible dukes, barons or counts as sons-in-law, will consider the war must calamitous. The well-laid plans for Switzerland, the Rhine and the Tyrol, this summer, and for Paris and Italy next fall and winter, are all destroyed. The multitudinous miseries thus caused, by Prim's nomination of Leopold, are incalculable. If Prim had dreamed of all this, he would not have nominated Leopold. Perhaps if King William had dreamed of it, he would not have snubbed Benedetti. Perhaps if the Spanish revolutionists had dreamed of it, they would not have driven Isabella out of the throne. For Isabella being driven out, a King was needed, and Prince Leopold was nominated, and France got angry at King William, and sent Count Benedetti to bully him, and King William would not be bullied and snubbed Benedetti, and Count Benedetti told his master, Napoleon, and Napoleon told the Legislative Body, and so there was war. Like the calamities of the House that Jack Built, all of which were traced to the Rooster, the calamities of this war are to be traced to Isabella; and among these the homeward stampede is considered the worst, by American tourists.

THE FIREMEN.

It is a good sign, and one worth noting, that the Sunday papers, yesterday, with one exception, had nothing to say in defence of the Volunteer Fire Department, whose rowdyism on the previous Sunday had been so severely commented on by the daily papers. Even the *Dispatch*, which has heretofore been its devoted champion, admits that the disturbances "have caused a reaction in the mind of the public towards the volunteer system." It deprecates the epithets, however, of all the firemen on account of the conduct of the most of them. Of course, the firemen are not all rowdies; but the rowdies among them are numerous enough to create such scenes as those of last Sunday week at any moment. No laws, or ordinances, or rules can control such men, when they are bent on a race or a fight. There are twenty times as many firemen in Philadelphia as are needed, now that steam has superseded muscle in working the engines. Five hundred disciplined men, paid for their service, like regular soldiers or policemen, would be quite enough for any emergency. Under the volunteer system, the number of members to each company is unlimited, and a dozen rowdies in a membership of one hundred, are capable of bringing disgrace on all. A large number of the respectable firemen know this and are willing that the volunteer system be abolished and a Paid Department established. There ought to be no delay in taking the preliminary steps at least. The Mayor ought to convene Councils at once, and Councils ought to appoint a committee to devise a plan, after studying the systems of other cities, and to be ready to report at the next regular meeting after the summer vacation. If this were done, we might, in a few months, have such a Fire Brigade as would be not only a benefit but an honor to Philadelphia.

Mr. J. E. Kingsley, of the Continental Hotel, deserves more than a passing notice for the admirable manner in which he handled the New York Seventh Regiment during its visit to Philadelphia, last week. To receive and accommodate nearly six hundred men in a hotel doing the large business of the Continental, and that without any serious inconvenience to the regular and permanent visitors, is no small task. But Mr. Kingsley proved himself master of the situation, and the incursion of the "Seventh" found him ready to give his guests a warm and cordial reception. The habit of systematic subordination which pervades every department of the Continental enabled Mr. Kingsley to march a full regiment into his house, each company moving to its own rooms, in regular and unbroken order, and every officer and man finding ample provision for his refreshment and comfort, without confusion or delay. Mr. Kingsley's generosity on this occasion was the best feature of the visit of the Seventh Regiment. Cool, vigilant and ubiquitous, Mr. Kingsley gave his personal supervision to the prompt and perfect execution of all his admirable arrangements for the accommodation of his hundreds of tired and hungry and thirsty guests, and we doubt if there is a hotel in the world where such arrangements could have been so smoothly, quietly and satisfactorily carried out.

The postage-stamps, of the new issue, contribute largely to the little miseries of human life in this hot weather. The gum on the back is of such consistency that a stamp will stick to anything that touches it, without moistening. The only way to keep them is to pin a sheet of them, gum-side out, against the wall or a desk. But even then they are apt to curl up in dry and cool weather, the perforated lines splitting, and one stamp fastening itself to another in the most fantastic fashion. With a little ingenuity a fine-class barometer might be made of paper coated with this gum of the P. O. D.; for it is extremely sensitive to every change in the weather.

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