EVENING BULLETIN.

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PEACOCK, FETHERSTON & CO.

Tuesday, July 26, 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 SECRET TREATY.

The strangest development of the war, just begun yesterday, was made yesterday. It was that in 1866, about the time of the Luxembourg difficulty, France proposed a treaty to Prussia, in which it recognized her acquisitions from Austria, and acquiesced in the union of the North German States, except Austria. In consideration of this condescension, Prussia was to facilitate the French acquisition of Luxembourg, and "*France finding it necessary to absorb Belgium,*" Prussia was to lend her assistance in that measure. How far Prussia had proceeded in the negotiation of this extraordinary compact does not yet appear. But there is naturally great indignation among the Teutons, especially in England, that such a project should have been proposed by France, and that it should have been entertained for a moment by Prussia. The authenticity of the proposed treaty is doubted; but the London *Times*, which made it public yesterday, declares to-day that it can give proofs of its genuineness.

A deliberate plan like this for extinguishing the free, enlightened and brave little kingdom of Belgium, and annexing it to France, must be viewed in this republic with even more indignation than it has excited in Europe. Everybody knows that the Emperor Napoleon has long coveted Belgium, but no one dreamed that his desire for it could have been countenanced by any other power; and if it shall be proved that Prussia seriously listened to the proposal, and took any steps towards making the treaty, it will excite as much feeling against her as against France. As Great Britain is the sole friend of Belgium, and as her independence is guaranteed by treaties, the secret negotiations to extinguish her are regarded as an insult to all the other powers, but especially to England. There is a great deal of interest in secret history about this affair which will have to be brought out, and the hostility between the two powers that were engaged in the plot may hasten its development. It is such things as these that increase the disgust of true American republicans with empires, kingdoms, dynasties, and all the middle-age institutions and superstitions that oppress the different peoples of Europe. Happily, nothing of the kind can ever exist on this continent.

A NATIONAL VICE.

The Honorable John Morrissey, member of Congress from New York, encouraged by the great success of his gambling establishment at Saratoga during this and past seasons, expects to increase its attractions in such a way that ladies will be tempted to visit it, and join in the elegant little amusements of the place, the chief of which is faro. The Honorable John Morrissey hopes to make Saratoga the Baden-Baden of America; that is, in the way of gambling. Enlarging his establishment to the dimensions of the famous Conversation House of Baden-Baden, and introducing games, in addition to faro, that have been made fashionable there and at Homburg, Monaco and other of the genteel hells of Europe, the Honorable John Morrissey hopes to render his country-house resort more than he has been able to render it as the representative in Congress from the great city of New York.

It is frankly stated that such are the views of one of the representative men of New York city, who is the chief lion—or tiger—of the chief island watering-place of New York State. The women who read the statement cried no surprise, for it does not. People have grown so used to the idea, if not to the habit, of gambling that they would not be surprised even if Congress made an appropriation for a national faro bank, or if a New York senator delivered a sermon on the pleasures and advantages of the "sport." Everybody knows that Mr. Morrissey is a professional gambler; that he made his fortune in his profession, and that, without that fortune, he never would have been elected to Congress. His case is a fine example to the youth of the country, showing that if they wish to rise, grow rich and go to Congress, they must follow the precepts of the Sunday school books, but study faro and learn how to run a bank—be winner in the city and in summer at a fashionable resort.

The gambling at faro and at other games with cards is not, however, the main question of that which is practiced in this country. Gambling in stocks and gold is a million times more extensive, and it is even more demoralizing. Then the betting that accompanies every event of public interest is only another form of gambling. We all know how even in so grave a matter as the impeachment of the President of the United States, there was bets made all over the country on the result. Of the betting on elections that goes on all over the country continually, no estimate can ever be made. The late steamboat race on the Mississippi was made the subject of bets said to have exceeded a million of dollars. On the ocean yacht race now pending there is very heavy betting. People are also beginning to bet on the European war, as to which party will win the first battle and which will be the victor in the end.

Horse-racing, cricket, base ball and other amusements are made the occasion of continual gambling, or betting, which is the same thing; for when money is gained or lost without any exercise of honest industry, or without an honorable business understanding between parties, it is nothing but gambling. During the last year or two base ball—in itself a fine manly game—has been degraded by occasional scandalous scenes that have lowered it very much in the estimation of good citizens. Some of the clubs of professional players, who make their living by it, are suspected or accused by rivals of resorting to very low expedients in order to win money. If this goes on, the "national game" will soon become a national disgrace.

Of the smaller kinds of gambling and betting, such as the boot-blacks, the news-boys, the fire-runners and other youngsters indulge in, a good deal might be said. They acquire in their pursuits in youth a training for the greater forms of the vice that are opened to them when they come to manhood. Another form of gambling, in which silly women as well as men are duped, is that of lottery policies. Although the business of lotteries of all kinds is strictly forbidden by the laws of this State, it is carried on to a shameful extent in all parts of Philadelphia. No one can imagine the pernicious effects of indulgence in this kind of gambling. The victims of which are, unfortunately, the poorest and most ignorant among the people. Much more might be said by way of illustrating the spread of the habit of gambling, in one way or another, among the American people. It has become a national vice as much as intemperance. The two vices, in fact, promote one another, for gambling as often leads to drunkenness as drunkenness leads to gambling. If the temperance advocates would take up the gambling question and fight the two vices at one and the same time, the effect might be excellent.

DONE AND TO BE DONE.

The Citizens' Association, when it brought its detailed report of the condition of the railway tracks of Philadelphia before the public, in its appeal for relief to the Court of Quarter Sessions, failed in its humediate purpose, but succeeded in accomplishing a most important improvement in the condition of the streets. Never, since the street railways began to be laid down, has there been such an awakening among the public-spirited gentlemen who have so disinterestedly undertaken the development of the suburbs of Philadelphia, and the international transportation of the people, all for seven cents per head. On every line of road, gangs of men are at work, filling up the gulleys, levelling off the hillocks, and restoring the roadway to a condition of good order. That this is being done voluntarily, on the mere suggestion of the Citizens' Association, and not upon any compulsion, is greatly to the credit of these much-abused corporations, the railway companies. They seem to have needed a formal reminder of their neglect of the provisions of their charters, and a specific statement of the work which was to be done; but this reminder being given, they have gone to work vigorously and have really effected as much of an improvement in the condition and appearance of the streets as is possible under the cobble-stone dispensation.

The Citizens' Association deserves great credit for what it has done in this direction. There is another important work remaining to be done, and needing to be done at once. Having persuaded the Board of Pensioners to wake up to their duty, the Association can scarcely do better than to take another of our Boards under its friendly care. The Board of Health offers a wide field for the energies of the Citizens' Association, and we invite the immediate attention of its officers to some of the more striking points of the Board of Health's neglect of duty, hoping for the same happy results in this as in the former case. And we would recommend the Association to proceed upon the same principle of action, namely of publication, in detail, of the work to be done by the Board of Health.

If the Citizens' Association will take up a single branch of this work at a time, it will be easier for it to procure publication in the daily papers, for not any single general statement of these delinquencies would be too much for any ordinary daily paper. And to begin with, we call attention to the condition of most of the unimproved lots within the limits of the compact portion of the city. These are usually made the dumping-ground for all the ashes, kitchen slop and other garbage of the surrounding neighborhood, becoming gradually heaped up with these deposits until the sidewalks are invaded and eventually obliterated, covered out to the curb with a medley of nuisanceous which constitutes a first-class nuisance. As an illustration, selected from hundreds of similar cases, there is such a vacant lot as this on South Twelfth street, between Shippen and Fitzwater streets. For years past this lot has been a favorite receptacle for all such rubbish as we have described, the side-walk being covered with it, at some points quite out to the gutter. Last summer we devoted several weeks to an experiment upon the Board of Health, the object being to ascertain if it was possible to get that particular side-walk opened, and that particular nuisance suppressed. We made the case very familiar indeed to the Board of Health.[2] For a matter of six weeks that lot was the subject of oral and written communications. We made it a matter of public interest. We made it a matter of personal favor. We invaded the *sanctum sanctorum* of the Board, and lavished the most persuasive diplomacy upon Presidents, Secretaries, Clerks, Inspectors, Committees. Nor were we ungraciously received. Our statements were booked. Elaborate notes were taken. Orders were issued to the placid Inspector who was so accustomed "not to do it." After a lively campaign of several weeks we gained an important point. Notice was given to the owner to clean and fence his property! At last we were approaching success. It only needed the expiration of the legal time of notice, and the Board of Health was to march in, spade, scrape and fence-rail, and occupy the ground. We reposed upon our arms, with the comfortable consciousness of having done at least one good deed for our country. The days passed on, and so did the summer; and then our dream of good deeds accomplished was rudely broken by a visit to our lot. There it lay, sweltering in all its old filthiness, and there it is, to-day, uglier and filthier than ever, a perpetual protest against the neglect of the Board of Health.

This case is not at all an exceptional one. Scores or hundred of similar ones can be found in various parts of the city, and as they involve not only the question of municipal cleanliness, but that of serious obstruction of the sidewalks, they come fairly under the jurisdiction of the Citizens' Association, and we hope they will receive its early attention. It would be well if the Inspectors of the Association were to prepare a list of the properties whose owners thus habitually violate the city ordinances, and the publication of such a list would be sufficient, in many cases, to redress the evil, while it would prepare the way for the prosecution of those who can only be approached through the fear of impending damages.

DEAD MEN'S SHOES.

There is something peculiarly repulsive in that eager thirst for office, which, setting aside that decent regard for the solemnity of death which is one of the characteristics of all human nature, starts in pursuit of the emoluments and honors of every vacant position before the breath is fairly out of the dying incumbent's body, and bestows the appointing power with petitions that are often the first intimation which the Executive receives of the death of some faithful public officer. A few years ago, this indecent haste shocked the sensibilities of those who witnessed it, and shamed the few hungry aspirants who practiced it. But time and custom have hardened public sentiment on the subject, and public sentiment is the worse, as it always is, for every indurating process.

The last illustration of this undue haste to wear "dead men's shoes," which we have had in this community, is in the case of the death of General Wm. A. Leech, the late Register of Wills. General Leech's term of office has only six months to run, and the natural suggestion was immediately made that during this short time his wife and children should continue to receive the emoluments of the office. This seems due, not only on account of the excellent character of the deceased, and the high reputation which he enjoyed as a patriotic and valuable soldier during the Rebellion, but also by reason of the fact that the long contest at law, which finally terminated in his favor, deprived him of a very large portion of the legitimate emoluments of the office. Under these circumstances there was a manifest propriety in letting this dead man's shoes alone, and allowing his family to enjoy whatever proper income belongs to his office for the unexpired term.

Instead of this, General Leech was scarcely dead, before petitions for his "shoes" began to pour into Harrisburg, and long before he was buried, *thirty applications* had been made by or in behalf of different persons, eager to grab the six month's emoluments of his office. If it were attainable, it would be a good thing to publish a list of these applicants for an office whose incumbent was scarcely yet cold in death. Not that the case is exceptional, for it is, unfortunately, the fashion of the day; but it is such an exceeding bad fashion that whatever would tend to discontinuance it and break it up would be an advantage to our public morals. Who these particular thirty applicants for "dead men's shoes" are we do not know or wish to know. They have only followed common precedent in their conduct. Each has done what he knew all the rest would do, and will justify himself accordingly. But Governor Geary will do himself honor if he makes this case the opportunity to establish a new precedent, and to rebuke a practice which can scarcely be called thoroughly decent. If he will ignore every application sent to him prior to General Leech's funeral, and carry out the suggestion made in this paper several days ago, by making such arrangement of the office of Register of Wills as will secure its profits to the widow and children of the late incumbent, he will effect the double good of doing an act of justice to a worthy officer and rebuking a growing practice which ought to be broken up.

FIREMEN'S RIOTS AND INSURANCE.

Under the laws of this State, and probably of all others, a city or borough is liable to pay for all losses of property caused by riots within its boundaries. Such laws are salutary, and indeed essential; for every municipal government, with the knowledge of such a law, takes measures to keep the peace within its limits, and by maintaining a police force sufficient to control all riotously-disposed persons, is able to preserve property from destruction, and then avoid damages. Philadelphia, in times past, has had practical illustrations of the operations of the law.

Philadelphia is likely to have new illustrations of the law, though under a somewhat different phase. It will be remembered that early in the morning of Sunday, July 10, there was an outrageous rioting among our volunteer firemen, and, as part of the revelry of the preceding night, an incendiary fire occurred on Broad street, near Vine, which destroyed a great deal of valuable property. One piece of the property was insured to a considerable extent in an Eastern Company. That Company, we understand, refuses to pay the amount claimed of it, taking the ground that the fire which destroyed the property was the result of a riot, and the city of Philadelphia is responsible for all destruction of property, within its limits, that is caused by riots. It is probable that there will be litigation in this matter, and the public will await the result with considerable interest. If it shall be decided that the city is to pay for all losses caused by the disorderly volunteer firemen and their followers, it will probably be thought that a Paid Fire Department would be cheap if it were to cost ten times the amount estimated. The question raised by the insurance company we have referred to is a very interesting one; so much so that it is a wonder it has never been raised before; for our firemen, even when not incendiaries, are often nothing but an undisciplined mob of rioters, who destroy with water as much property as they save.

We see it stated that 20,000 Germans in New York are ready to volunteer for the war with Prussia, and that General Sigel offers to lead a division of volunteers in a descent on the French coast. Of course such statements as this are to be taken with great allowance. But we rather think if anything like volunteering for either Prussia or France were undertaken in any part of this country, President Grant, whose duty it is to see that the neutrality laws are not violated, would have something to say. Let Germans and Frenchmen go to their respective countries and volunteer, if they wish to; but organized expeditions from this country cannot be tolerated. As for General Sigel's proposed filibustering movement, it may be set down as all gammon.

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FORMER REPORTS CONFIRMED

FROM EUROPE.

[By the American Press Association.]

The Secret Treaty.

LONDON, July 26th, A. M.—The *Post* and *Standard* unite in ridicule of the secret Prussian treaty, which the *Times* publishes, which the French published along with what purports to be the negotiations between Napoleon and Bismarck concerning it. The whole paper is pronounced a forgery, and characterized as "bad French written by a German."

The *Times*, however, again asserts its authenticity, and promises that the proofs shall be forthcoming.

Preparations of Belgium—The U. S. Squadron—Small Pox.

The Government of Belgium has ordered from the harbor of Antwerp a detachment of the American squadron in European waters which had rendezvoused there in order to watch the progress of events in that, the North Sea and Baltic. The commander was informed that the neutrality of Belgium forbade the presence of a foreign squadron in that harbor.

Small-pox had broken out in the squadron, and the fleet will be obliged to proceed to sea under difficulties.

The London Stock Exchange.

LONDON, July 26.—The market and the Stock Exchange are dull, and business is stagnant. The rumors of the negotiation of a secret treaty between France and Prussia imparted an unsettled feeling to the market, and speculation was to a considerable extent arrested. Consols opened at 89½ U. S. Bonds, 83.

FROM WASHINGTON.

[By the American Press Association.]

Government Receipts and Expenditures.

WASHINGTON, July 26—The books of the Treasury Department show that the actual receipts of the Government from all sources for June 30, 1870, were $468,000,000. The expenditures amounted to $377,000,000, showing an actual saving in round numbers of $116,000,000.

The receipts for the month of June for the year 1865 were $1,200,000,000, and for 1866 over $500,000,000.

Artificial Limbs.

Congress has appropriated $50,000 for artificial limbs for the year 1870-71. The demand for artificial limbs is so great that the supply is not equal to the demand, and only limited quantities can be furnished when orders come in from the country. The daily activity was in the foremost, when the Rebellion was at its height, and Congress, in 1866, and Congress in 1867, passed a law for the relief of the soldiers, which was followed by the unprecedented flat that the limbs of England was likely ever to advance the rate of disease. Bonds cannot better in the aforementioned. Bonds cannot better in the aforementioned. Bonds cannot better in the aforementioned