

Evening Telegraph

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MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1868.

Alaska and the Lobby.

The purchase from the Russian Government by Mr. Seward of several million tons of ice for the next consideration of \$7,200,000, was, perhaps, the coolest operation of that cool diplomatist. Yet the operation was altogether too ridiculous to meet with universal commendation on the part of the people who are obliged to provide Mr. Seward with the means required for carrying on the ice business on such a magnificent scale. By hook or crook—perhaps from the mere audacity of the scheme—Alaska slipped through the Senate as if it had been so many million tons of grease. By the ratification of the purchase treaty by the Senate, the nation was unfortunately bound to pay over the \$7,200,000 and make the best of its icy bargain. There was no other horn to the dilemma, except a never-ending wrangle with Russia, to culminate in war. For this reason alone, the House of Representatives, after much quibbling, finally passed a bill appropriating the money, and with that we had hoped that the end of the farce had been reached.

Yet the appropriation bill was scarcely through all its stages before the air began to be loaded down with rumors of the corrupt practices which had been resorted to in order to get it through the lower house of Congress. These rumors have at last taken tangible shape, and the Hon. Robert J. Walker, some time a Governor of a State, a Senator of the United States, and a Secretary of the National Treasury, has the brazen effrontery to come before the American people with the confession that he received from Baron Stoeckl the sum of \$25,000 in return for helping to push the iceberg through Congress. With indignation Mr. Walker repels the insinuation that he did this in the character of a lobbyist, asserting that he regards his action in the matter as perfectly legitimate, and his services well worth the fee he received.

It appears that Mr. Walker began his career as agent and attorney for the Russian Government in the Alaska business as early as 1845, while he was still acting as Secretary of the Treasury. He then recommended the purchase of that Esquimaux paradise to President Polk's administration, and from time to time contributed articles to the newspapers in support of the scheme, and finally, about a year ago, succeeded in this manner in attracting the attention of Baron Stoeckl. Then Mr. Seward entered into the business, and Mr. Walker pitched upon the Washington Chronicle as the future organ for his icy effusions. Mr. D. C. Forney, the publisher of that journal, it appears, willingly gave up its columns to Walker's long-winded disquisitions, and the queerest part of the whole proceeding is the reluctance exhibited by Mr. Forney about accepting from Baron Stoeckl a gratuity of \$3000 in return for his kindness. It was only after Colonel J. W. Forney, the proprietor of the Chronicle—and of another "daily" also, as is well known,—had declined the gratuity because of his scruples as an officer of the Senate, and after Mr. Walker and the generous Russian Baron had repeatedly urged its acceptance upon him, that Mr. D. C. Forney finally consented to pocket the \$3000. We are not quite certain that we are entirely right in the matter of Mr. Forney's motives, but we think that he at last yielded to the entreaties of the Baron and the attorney simply to get rid of their importunities, like the man in Scripture who crawled out of his warm bed to drive the beggar from his door by giving him the three leaves which he demanded.

Whether there was anything more reprehensible in the final consummation of Mr. Seward's ice bargain or not, we are not as yet informed. The House Committee on Public Expenditures, however, are still engaged in probing the matter, and in due time we shall probably learn what became of every dollar of the \$7,200,000. But, even if it should be found that we have reached the most reprehensible part of the business already, we think all candid persons, and more especially those who bear the burdens of taxation, will unite in denouncing Mr. Walker's course, as well as that of the amiable Baron Stoeckl. If an ex-Senator and ex-Secretary of the Treasury is at liberty to accept of \$20,000 for doctoring up the ideas of Congressmen to \$7,200,000 worth of ice, pray where is this thing to stop! It is our opinion that Senator Sumner is quite as good an authority on the market value of ice as the ex-Secretary, and that his four-hour speech in the Senate was irritating enough to provoke Congress into purchasing all the ice in the Polar Sea if a less quantity would not suffice to cool the fevered and bewildered brows of members. In other words, the House of Representatives is supposed to know a thing or two; and even if there are a few facts lying without the scope of their knowledge, we doubt if all of its members subscribe for the Chronicle, and if those who do subscribe to it are in the habit of perusing two-column letters on the ice trade as an appetizer before breakfast. Call yourself what you will, Mr. Walker, the mass of the American people are stupid enough to believe you to be a lobbyist, and they have good cause to regard the whole tribe of lobbyists with feelings anything but complacent. As for Mr. D. C. Forney, we hope that he will strive to recover his peace of mind, which cannot be otherwise than disturbed at present, by devoting every cent of the \$3000 in gold forced into his contracted pocket by the Baron and attorney, to the establishment of a mission at Sitka for the conversion of the natives to the true faith.

The Cure for Georgia's Troubles. The proposal of Senator Pomeroy for the re-assembling of the Constitutional Convention of Georgia is one which seems to be the easiest way of unravelling the gordian knot with which the State authorities have tied themselves. The condition of affairs in Georgia is one which demands the attention of Congress. The convention adopted a constitution giving the right of citizenship to men of color, and providing for the election of certain officers. It said nothing about who should hold office as it seemed only just that any man who was a citizen, properly qualified by age, should not be excluded because of color. The Legislature was elected and met, and immediately expelled all the colored members, on the ground that, as the Constitution was silent, the old State law was the guide, and as it prohibits men of color holding office, therefore they were illegally elected, and ineligible. The consequence is that the whole work of reconstruction in that Commonwealth has been virtually overturned. The proposition of Mr. Pomeroy seems easily effected and thoroughly practical. Let the Constitutional Convention reassemble, declare that all men are eligible who are citizens, and by that means take away the feeble pretext by which these semi-Rebels have sought to evade the spirit of the Reconstruction laws. It seems probable that such a law as that proposed will be passed.

Laird and Johnson.

LAIRD AND ROEBUCK are two representative Englishmen for whom the American people can afford to entertain a certain amount of respect, for they openly avowed a hostility which others felt but did not dare to express. We have no cause to love either of them, however, but our official representative in England is of a different mind, and he has apparently considered that the most important part of his mission was to seek out these men for the purpose of assuring them that all was forgotten and forgiven, that the building of the Alabama was only a trifling indiscretion which was not to be thought of in these piping times of peace, or to be allowed to interfere with the Johnsonian digestion while discussing the turtle and claret of Laird and Roebuck's friends. People will be unreasonable, however, and the American people have given Reverdy serious annoyance by ungraciously refusing to look at the thing in the same light that he does; so his new friend Laird has come to the rescue, and, by publishing the correspondence between the American Minister and himself, relieves Reverdy from the discredit of having made the first advances. It seems that Laird, long before the Liverpool banquet, where he was folded to Reverdy's bosom, invited Johnson to visit his establishment at Birkenhead, to see the very skids from which the Alabama was launched, to hear his promises never to do the like again—we presume this—and his wishes for a lasting peace between England and America. On this last point we have not the slightest doubt about Laird's sincerity: Both he and Roebuck desired to strike us a death-blow when they thought that we had our hands so full at home that we would be unable to defend ourselves, and neither of them probably have other than the most pacific wishes at this time, when we would be competent to meet any hostile advances on the part of England more than half-way.

Minister Reverdy Johnson appears to have been more than willing to accept the olive branch which Laird held out, and while regretting that he would be unable to accept the invitation to visit Birkenhead, he assured the builder of the Alabama that "notwithstanding you sympathized with my Southern brethren during the late war, I shall have much pleasure in making your acquaintance and to hear your sincere wishes for peace." Perhaps we ought not to be too hard on Reverdy Johnson; the man is getting old, and his actions in England seem to indicate the approach of "second childishness and mere oblivion." He apparently went to England under the impression that a rupture between that country and the United States was imminent, and that the only means by which peace could be preserved was for him to conciliate our avowed enemies and to make as many friends for us as possible—a serious mistake, for the thought of a war with the United States was never further from the minds of Englishmen than it is at present. The American people have been sorely afflicted with the Johnsons. To come out of a four years' civil war with the tremendous job of reconstruction on hand, and to have Andy fastened upon us for a Presidential term, was bad enough; but to have this supplemented by the appointment of another Johnson by the name of Reverdy to the most important foreign mission is misery indeed. There are a great many respectable men in the country belonging to the Johnson family, but for some years to come we shall hesitate before we advocate the claims of any of them to any higher office than postmaster. It is a long lane which has no turning, however, so let us bear up under our trials with the best grace we can. Andy has but a few months more in which to trouble us, and there is very little doubt but that his namesake Reverdy will follow him shortly into a retirement from which we devoutly hope that neither of them will ever emerge.

B. Disraeli, to Quitor.—"Come what may, history must record that I have been three times Chancellor of the Exchequer, and once Prime Minister of Great Britain!"

A. Johnson, to Quitor.—"Come what may, history must record that I have been an Alderman of my native village, a member of the State Legislature, a Senator in Congress, a Governor of the State, and"—'tis true, but pity 'tis 'tis true—"once President of the United States!"

PHILADELPHIANS IN PARIS.—The following is a list of Philadelphians registered at the banking house of Draxel, Hargis & Co., Paris, for the week ending December 21.—Mr. and Mrs. George W. Childs, Dr. and Mrs. R. E. Peterson, Mr. L. S. Curtis, Mr. Henry Huddy and wife, Mr. James V. Ingham, Mr. J. Dundas Lipnick, Mr. John B. Miller, Mr. Asher T. Myer, wife and family, Mr. Edward B. Taggart.

DRY GOODS. EXTRAORDINARY REDUCTIONS.

ALPACA POPLINS. 10 yards of ALPACA POPLINS of the choicest shades, reduced from 50 cents per yard to 25 cents per yard.

RICKEY, SHARP & CO., No. 727 CHESNUT Street.

RICH CHANGEABLE CORDED SILKS. 250 yards of RICH CHANGEABLE CORDED SILKS at \$1.45 per yard.

RICKEY, SHARP & CO., No. 727 CHESNUT Street.

PLAID SILKS. 500 yards of RICH PLAID SILKS at \$1.25 per yard. A Decided Bargain.

RICKEY, SHARP & CO., No. 727 CHESNUT St.

SUPERB STRIPED SILKS. 400 yards SUPERB STRIPED and CHANGEABLE SILKS at \$1.50, \$1.75, and \$1.90 per yard. A Great Bargain.

RICKEY, SHARP & CO., No. 727 CHESNUT Street.

CLOAKING VELVETS. Superb Quality of 28 inch, 30-inch, and 32-inch BLACK LYONS CLOAKING VELVETS. A Great Bargain.

RICKEY, SHARP & CO., No. 727 CHESNUT St.

VELVETEENS, VELVET CLOTHS, AND SUPERB ASTRACAN CLOAKING in great variety.

RICKEY, SHARP & CO., No. 727 CHESNUT St.

PARIS "LA BELLE" SKIRT. All Styles of this justly celebrated SKIRT.

RICKEY, SHARP & CO., No. 727 CHESNUT Street.

BALMORALS OF THE BEST MANUFACTURE.

RICKEY, SHARP & CO., No. 727 CHESNUT St., PHILADELPHIA.

DRY GOODS. JOHN BURNS, No. 247 SOUTH ELEVENTH STREET, ABOVE SPRUCE.

HOLIDAY AND WEDDING PRESENTS. One Invoice of those beautiful Swiss Damask Table Cloths, in rich designs, 2 1/2, 3, 3 1/2, 4, and 4 1/2 yards long the cheapest ever offered in the city. Loom Table Linens, 1/2 yds. wide, 55, 65, 75c. to \$1. Fine Bleached Table Damask, 1 1/2 yds. wide, 75c. 2 yds. wide fine Bleached Table Damask, 87 1/2c. 2 1/2 Turkey E. of Table Damask, best make, \$1.45. All-India Towels, 10, 12 1/2, 14, 15, 18, 20, 25. Beautiful Damask Towels, 21, 27 1/2, 30, 35, and up Barnsey Linen Towels, red and blue damask borders; barans.

Spotted Damask Napkins, only \$1.00 per dozen. HDKFS. HDKFS. All-India HDKFS, 5 1/2, 10, 12 1/2, 20 to 60c. Ladies' and Gents' Hemstitched HDKFS, barans. Plain Embroidered Colored and Mourning Border HDKFS. HOSIERY. HOSIERY. HOSIERY. Cutwight & Warner's Ladies' and Gents' Merino Underwear. Gents' Merino Shirts, 50, 75c. \$1, \$1 1/2, to the finest. Ladies' Merino Vests, 87 1/2c. \$1, \$1 10, \$1 25, \$3. Ladies' silk embroideries; genuine Balabagan hose, all sizes, 87 1/2c. 11 21 94 Boys' and Misses' Merino Underwear. Best Imported heavy English half hose, 87 1/2c. BLANKETS AND FLANNELS. All wool Blankets, from \$1 to \$20 per pair. All wool Flannels, 25, 35, 45, 55c. to \$1.75. Yard wide Ballardvale and Shaker Flannel, 50c. Canton Flannels in every grade, 12 1/2 to 40c.

E. R. LEE, No. 43 North EIGHTH Street.

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Elegant Bronze Groups, Figures, Vases, Statuettes, etc. Alabaster Hebe Vases, Vestibule Ornaments, etc. Handsome carved marble copy of Canova's Dancing Girl. Fine Carrara marble bust, Bashful Venus. Fine Carrara Pastoral Group, from the Antique. Beautifully carved Castellina Stone Group, "Paul and Virginia." Finely carved Figures, Tragedy and Comedy. Agate Hebe Vases, Amalthea Hebe Vases, and finely carved Carrara Marble Psyche of Canova. Elegant carved figures, Dancing Venus, etc. Superb Bronze Groups, "Mazappa and Antiope."

The above goods were purchased at the Auction Sale of Vint Brothers, and will be "sold at less" than

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An Invoice of VIENNA FANS, painted on silk. An entirely new article. A charming present. Also, Gilt Stick Fans, White and Black. 100 Silk Fans, all colors, at very low prices. 100 Children's Colored Silk Fans, at 60c.

LACES, HANDKERCHIEFS, HANDKERCHIEFS, LACES. White Lace Collars, from \$2.75 to \$7.50, from auction. Lace Barbets, Veils, Collifures, etc. 1000 Lace Collars at 37 1/2c. 250 Real Valenciennes HDKFS., \$2.25 to \$4.00. 75 Elegant do., \$5 to \$10. Some ELEGANT GOODS.

500 Cluny and Imitation Pointe and Val. Handkerchiefs, 60c to \$1.25. 200 dozen Hemstitched all Linen HDKFS., 25c. FINE FRENCH LINEN HDKFS., STITCHED AND CORDED. CHILDREN'S COLORED BORDER HDKFS., 12 1/2 to 15c. Gents' Fine Hemstitched and Colored Border HDKFS. Gents' Plain Linen HDKFS., 15 to 50c., cheapest ever offered. Gents' English Cloth Gloves. Gents' Finest Kid Lined, Imported. Misses' and Children's Fine French Gloves, elegant colors. 500 yds. Dress Goods, reduced to 25c. Handsome Stripe Poplins, 30 to 38c. Fine French Plaid Poplins, 75c; reduced from \$1.50.

Fine Silk Umbrellas. Paragon Frame Umbrellas. Would invite special attention to the above line of Goods, as they comprise many novelties. Very desirable and useful HOLIDAY PRESENTS at very moderate prices.

E. R. LEE, No. 43 North EIGHTH Street, PHILADELPHIA.

HOLIDAY PRESENTS OF INTRINSIC VALUE.

EDWIN HALL & CO., No. 28 South SECOND Street,

Will offer the balance of their stock of new and desirable goods at a still further reduction. BEST BLACK SILKS, CHOICE SHADES OF COLORED SILKS, FANCY SILKS AND STRIPE SATINS, IRISH AND FRENCH POPLINS, SILK SERGES AND VELOURS, STRIPE AND PLAID POPLINS, LOW-PRICED DRY GOODS, CHINTZES AND CALICOES, SILK CLOAK VELVETS, SILK PLUSHES, BROCHE SHAWLS, BLANKET SHAWLS, LADIES' CLOAKS, ASTRACAN CLOTHS OF THE FINEST QUALITIES, BEST QUALITY VELVET CLOTHS, DESIRABLE CLOAKINGS, VELVETEENS OF SUPERIOR FINISH, WHITE CLOTHS, EMBROIDERED LINEN AND LACE SETS, LACE COLLARS AND HDKFS., EMBROIDERIES, LACES, ETC., SCARFS, NECK TIES, 12 1/2 to 4 1/2 ASTRACAN MUFFS, ETC.

1826. GREAT INDUCEMENTS—REDUCTION OF PRICES. CRIPPEN & MADDOCK, (Late W. L. Maddock & Co.) NO. 115 SOUTH THIRD STREET, BELOW CHESNUT.

Have now on hand one of the Largest and Finest Assortment of FINE GROCERIES Ever offered to the citizens of Philadelphia, provided expressly for the Approaching Holidays. Finest quality Dehesa Raisins, quarter, half and whole boxes. Finest quality London Layer Raisins, quarter, half and whole boxes. Finest quality Loose Muscatel, Seedless, and Sultan Raisins. New, Fresh Nuts, Paper Shell Almonds, Paradise Nuts, English and Greenish Walnuts, Pease Nuts, Filberts. Havana and Florida Oranges, Lemons, New Layer Figs, Guava Jelly, Marmalade, Havana Preserves of various kinds.

CHEESE. English, Requefort, Neufchatel, Parmesan, Sage, Cream, Young America, Pine-Apple, Etc. Etc. New Crop Spanish Queen Olives, by Quart or Gallon.

Our W. G. FAMILY FLOUR is the FINEST KNOWN IN AMERICA.

We call especial attention to our FRESH ASSORTMENT OF FRENCH DELICACIES, such as French Peas, Mushrooms, Truffles, L. Henry, Pate de Foie Gras, Boneless Sardines, and a great variety of other brands. Potted Game in Pate form, such as Snipe Woodcock, Wood Plover, Partridge, Quail, Grouse, Pheasant, Venison, Duck, Etc. Etc. Fresh Goshen Butter, in small tubs, to suit families, selected expressly for family use.

Just received, a fine assortment of HAVANA CIGARS, of the finest brands. GREEN AND BLACK TEAS, Finest Quality.

WHITE ALMERIA GRAPES, IN LARGE CLUSTERS. All Goods sold to families in unbroken packages at wholesale price, and delivered free of charge.

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FANCY SILKS In Great Variety, at One-half their Former Prices. 50,000 YARDS DRESS GOODS

To be sold without reference to former prices, embracing his entire stock of Winter Textures, every yard of which must be sold before the close of the year.

Silk Chain Rolled Poplins, Reduced to 50 Cents. INDIA CAMEL'S HAIR SHAWLS, India Scarfs, Fine Broche Shawls, French Blanket Shawls, Tartan Plaid Shawls.

KID GLOVES. Five Hundred Dozen Kid Gloves at \$1.10, every pair warranted perfect, or exchanged if not so; French Cloth Gloves, Children's Gloves, Ladies' and Gents' Neckties, Satin Scarfs, etc.

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GREAT BARGAINS IN SILKS, FANCY SILKS, LIGHT SILKS FOR EVENING DRESSES, PLAIN SILKS, CHOICE COLORS, CLOSING OUT AT GREATLY REDUCED PRICES.

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RICH PRINTED FRENCH FLANNELS, RICH PRINTED FRENCH CAMBRES FOR GENTS' AND LADIES' WRAPPERS, FINE DRESS GOODS, LYONS CLOAKING VELVETS AND SHAWLS.

SUITABLE FOR HANDSOME HOLIDAY GIFTS AT GREATLY REDUCED PRICES.

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