

Evening Telegraph

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TUESDAY, AUGUST 17, 1869.

THE WOMAN QUESTION IN THE LABOR CONGRESS.

MISS SUSAN B. ANTHONY made her appearance yesterday as the disturbing element in the National Labor Congress, and the Congress, after hovering undecided for a time between gallantry and a desire not to be overwhelmed by the invincible champion of woman's rights, took the only course they could with safety to themselves, and excluded the lady from participation in their deliberations.

Miss Anthony in her two or three speeches explained her position at length, and if the matter stands exactly as she stated it, it is difficult to see why her association was not entitled to representation and a hearing as well as the other labor organizations of the country.

One of the delegates yesterday, in protesting against Miss Anthony's admission to the deliberations of the Congress, contended that the Working Women's Association of New York, which she professed to represent, was an organization of male and female agitators for the advocacy of female suffrage, and that it was not in reality a labor organization.

That the right to vote would increase woman's wages is a notion as crude and illogical as any of the absurdities advanced by some of the male participants in this congress, and this is saying a good deal for its worthlessness as a practical question; and it is a very good thing that Miss Anthony was not admitted to the deliberations yesterday, as there will be enough nonsense perpetrated by the band of political economists at the Assembly Buildings without speeches from her every five or ten minutes.

The determination on the part of its advocates to have notoriety at all hazards has been the base of the woman's rights movement, and the really important questions connected with it have been set aside or brought into discredit, in order that a set of noisy agitators, whose ideas are frequently as nasty as they are crude, may keep themselves before the public.

As for the Labor Congress, it has apparently as much as it can attend to with the knotty questions that have been and will be brought before it for discussion and decision, without having an additional complication to deal with in the shape of woman's rights; and the rejection of Miss Anthony's credentials is the less to be regretted, as it will give the Revolution a topic to vituperate upon for many weeks to come, and we may rest assured that it will receive full justice at the hands of the editors of that sheet.

THE TWO NAPOLEONS.

SUNDAY WAS THE centennial anniversary of the birth of the great Napoleon. The event was celebrated in France with appropriate festivities, and by an act of amnesty on the part of the Emperor towards all press and political offenders, prisoners convicted of evasion of taxes, deserters from the army and navy, and sailors who had abandoned their ships.

The first Napoleon was the wonderful but legitimate product of the French revolution. Of all the men who figured during that terrible period, he was the only one who appeared to have a right understanding of the situation, or the ability to grapple with the shifting events and ideas of the day and mould them to his purpose. The elevation to the Imperial throne of this plebeian, who did not possess the merit even of being a Frenchman, excited the awe and wonderment of the other powers of Europe no less than their hatred and rage.

The second empire is but a reflex of the first. It is founded on different principles and under different circumstances. The present Emperor obtained the throne by trick, intrigue, and violence, and he lacks that personal magnetism that attracted so many to his uncle. The policy which was well adapted to the condition of France at the end of the last century will not suit the present time, and after nearly twenty years of endeavor to make the French people esteem the revived Napoleonic system a blessing, it has resulted in a practical failure.

The present Emperor, it is true, has done much for France; but the conviction is deepening in men's minds that there can be but one Napoleon, and the son of Hortense is beginning to be the butt of the wits and satirists, whose hits at his weaknesses are largely enjoyed by the people—a fact that proves conclusively how feeble his hold is upon their regards.

When a man becomes ridiculous he is no longer either feared or admired. The first empire was a government of force, but then the times required a strong arm and a firm will. The second empire is also a government of force; but the times have changed, and the men of the present day ask why they should submit to be ruled like children; why the foremost nation of the world in science, art, manufactures, and all the evidences of the highest civilization, should be practically under the same system of government as the savage nomads of the Asiatic deserts?

The Emperor has been slow to read the signs of the times, and such concessions as he has made have been forced from him by an unmistakable popular demand that he could not resist. These concessions seem to us like mere child's play, and so they must seem to intelligent Frenchmen. The celebration of the great Napoleon's one hundredth birthday by an amnesty to political offenders has the appearance of a bid for popularity among the ignorant peasantry who still worship the name of Napoleon, but it will probably make but little impression on the men for whose benefit it appears to be particularly designed.

Such men as Victor Hugo and Rochefort are not to be propitiated thus, for they do not acknowledge having committed offense, and it is their enmity that the Emperor has most to fear. The indications are clearly that another great upheaval in France is imminent. Napoleonism, whatever its other merits may be, has not apparently that of stability, and the world now awaits anxiously to see what the next change will be.

THE PRATT CASE was brought to a summary termination yesterday afternoon by the discharge of the prisoner from the custody of the United States, on the ground that there was not sufficient evidence to warrant his detention. Although that model New York jurist, McCunn, had nothing whatever to do with his discharge, it is claimed by his friends that the result of the whole affair is a vindication of McCunn's course, and practically a victory for him.

"A BIG JOB."

"We have a big job before us!" exclaimed Mr. C. H. Luckner, the President of the so-called National Labor Convention now being held in this city, in the course of his address yesterday afternoon. This "big job" is nothing less than the capture of Washington in 1872, "not with bullets, but with ballots."

Mr. Luckner proposes to go about the "big job" in systematic fashion. Mixed up with a great deal of frothy nonsense and tortured rhetoric, we discover here and there a sentence that reveals the horrible schemes which Luckner has espoused. For one thing, he proposes to go into wholesale agrarianism as a means of overthrowing our present "villainous land system."

Landlords have no business to collect tolls on the food, shelter, and clothing of smart fellows like Luckner, who could set the Delaware on fire if they should choose to do so, and who do not set the Delaware on fire simply because they have another "big job" on hand of far greater importance. Then there is "the present iniquitous money system," which Luckner proposes to upset while he is in the revolutionary business.

He entertains as profound a regard for the Constitution as did the late Andy Johnson, and the present financial system, in addition to being so glaringly iniquitous, is not "consonant" with that wonderful document. Luckner proposes, moreover, to go into the legislative line, and "to restrict by law the gains of all distributors, both of men and goods," whereby he expects to overthrow another grand iniquity and establish "the principle that the trafficker is the servant of the producer, and not his master."

But Luckner discovers one great impediment to the success of his projects, and that is the coming man, John Chinaman. This John Chinaman Luckner regards as the very quintessence and consummation of baseness—so base, in fact, that "in California, where he is known, all parties, by common consent, have, in their political platforms, condemned him as totally unworthy of being made a citizen of the United States."

Luckner, of course, believes that a Chinaman is a brute; that his very existence is an offense against the Almighty; that he deserves to be knocked down and dragged out whenever he appears in the presence of a genuine man; and that only by knocking him down and dragging him out can the "big job" be consummated, and the faces of all the toilers in the land saved from the fresh grinding process which is otherwise so imminent.

From all of which it would appear that Luckner is about as narrow-minded a specimen of humanity as has lately embraced an opportunity for holding himself up to the ridicule of the world.

THE WATER SUPPLY.

PHILADELPHIANS may well rejoice over the showers which are falling to-day, and pray for their continuance. Never before was rain so essentially necessary to the health, comfort, welfare, and prosperity of the city. The main source of supply, the Fairmount works, is nearly exhausted, and nothing but rain, rain, and plenty of it, will prevent a water famine productive of terrible inconvenience and fearful injury to manufacturing interests.

THE AFTERNOON SESSION.

was opened with prayer by Rev. Dr. Richardson, pastor of the Fourth Presbyterian Church of Trenton, J. W. Bulkley, New York, President, and L. Van Bokkelen, Maryland, remained in office from last session. By permission of the association, several papers not upon the regular programme were permitted to be presented, read, and discussed by various superintendents.

A paper from Rev. Charles Brooks, of Medford, Mass., was read by Professor Hart. The writer, as a septuagenarian and a faithful advocate of popular education, urged that Congress should be memorialized to establish a national system of education.

As Napoleon III was about to establish a system similar to that proposed, he trusted the United States would awaken to the fact that in this country one million of children cannot read, write, or cipher, and would devise liberal plans for the removal of such a blemish. His labors to accomplish this had convinced him that Congress did not possess the power to establish a national system of education, and he trusted a constitutional amendment would soon remedy that deficiency.

A memorial from Dr. Edwin Leigh, of St. Louis, Mo., was read by the author, although several interruptions occurred on the ground that the article was not properly in order. He regretted that a large number of the scholars in the public schools did not remain long enough to receive the common elements of instruction.

As neither of the papers presented any practical features or recommendations, they were quietly referred to a special committee. The President addressed the assembly, congratulating his co-laborers on the auspicious circumstances of their session, and the general interest apparent in the objects of the association.

They had met again to contribute to the common stock of knowledge, to compare notes, to relate experiences, to learn of the educational wants of the community, and to devise measures for supplying them. He commended the attention of his associates to the present anomalous position of the National Educational Bureau, that from its original independence had sunk to a mere dependency of the Interior Department.

It was incumbent on them to declare their confidence therein and aid in its development, or to withhold their sympathy and support. "I speak as to wise men; judge ye!" Dr. Daniel Reed, President of State University, Mo., was glad that this subject had been brought to the association's attention, and he trusted the body would not adjourn without giving an expression of its desire to have a National Superintendent of Education, vested with fitting power for the performance of his invaluable duties.

At present, Mr. Parton did not possess official power to demand a single statistical report from a State or Superintendent; all information desirable could only be sought in the modest form of a request. A vast amount of good had already been accomplished in spending needed statistical matters before the teachers of the country; and he desired that the General Government should be prompted to better support that department.

On motion of Andrew J. Rickoff, of Cleveland, Ohio, the address of the President was referred to a special committee to be reported upon. George F. Sears, of Newark, read an essay upon "Primary Education," containing suggestions well worthy of being acted upon. He believed that the very best talent should be placed at the source of a child's education, that the fountain-head of instruction might be pure and undefiled.

But the salaries for such positions were so poor that superintendents could obtain only inexperienced apprentices or broken-down hacks. The former could do more good and less mischief in the higher departments, and would be the better fitted for little ones if they had had several years previous experience in teaching. He would advise that teachers of experience, and of successful experience, too, should alone be entrusted with the nurture of these tender children. There would be secured teachers who would tell a little child two or three times to do a thing, if necessary—teachers who would believe that a child of six years may be as forgetful and as peevish almost as a teacher of eighteen. Only the teacher that has studied the vagaries and inconsistencies of the human heart, whether the subject be weak and little or full-grown, is fitted to take these little ones and tend them very gently, so that the pressure is scarcely felt, and hold them there. He would recommend as the first essential that the teachers should resolve to make their schools pleasant to themselves and to their pupils; and, in conclusion, he trusted the primary school might receive hereafter the attention it deserved, in view of the great importance of the first year's moulding of a child's nature.

THE EVENING SESSION.

At the opening of the evening session, routine committees were constituted as follows: Nominating Committee—Messrs. Richards, of Washington; Cruikshank, of New York; Marble, of Massachusetts; Smith, of Arkansas; and Hobbs, of Indiana. Publication Committee, on the part of the National Superintendents' Association—Prof. John S. Hart, New Jersey.

The hall of the Normal School held a good audience, and the intelligent sympathy of the listeners was often testified by hearty applause. By appointment, B. G. Northrop, Secretary of the State Board of Education, Connecticut, read a suggestive paper upon the subject, "Should Public Schools be free, or supported in part by rate bills?"

The plan of supporting schools in part or wholly by rate bills was adopted early in this country. It was first abandoned by Massachusetts, and the schools made free in that province, in 1802; by Pennsylvania in 1784; by Ohio sixteen years since; Iowa eleven years ago. West Virginia started with free schools, prevailing by her sad experience endured in the "Old Dominion." Missouri gave up her rate bills when she became a free State. New York followed these examples in 1867. Rhode Island and Connecticut came in the following year and a half since. In all the other Northern and Western States the schools have always been free; and now the only exception in this country of the rate bill yet remaining unrepelled is the State of New Jersey.

One dozen forcible arguments are suggested in favor of free schools, in preference to rate bills. These are:—1. No State which has ever tried the free system has afterwards adopted the rate bill. 2. In all the States where the rate bill has been repealed the results of the change have met general approval. 3. The free system has greatly increased the whole number of pupils in attendance. 4. It has lessened irregularity and truancy, and thus greatly increased the average attendance. 5. It dignifies and elevates the school in the esteem of the pupils. 6. It insures the interest of parents. 7. It quickens the educational spirit of the whole people. 8. In every State where it has been tried, it has lengthened the school term. 9. It has led to the erection of better school-houses. 10. It economizes expenditures of money; better results are secured at the same cost. 11. It tends to break down the distinction of social rank. On the other hand, the rate bill is everywhere a prolific source of strife.

An interesting intermission was made by the readings of Miss Potter, of New York. The well-known poems of "Abou ben Adhem," and "The High Tide on the Coast of Lincolnshire," were ably delineated by the fair reader, and well applauded. H. F. Harrington, Superintendent of Public Schools, New Bedford, Mass., most ably discoursed upon the topic—"The true ideal of a system of American Public Schools."

The speaker briefly reviewed the systems of education throughout Continental Europe, and adverted to the English systems of education, which he characterized as dominated by the intense spirit of caste throughout all classes which had modified all the institutions of that land. For centuries the upper classes there have, as a whole, received a one-sided training worthy only of contempt and scorn, in view of the completeness of culture adapted to the use and furnishing of the faculties in symmetrical proportion, in accordance with the standard of absolute manhood. Meanwhile the middle classes were still more wretchedly educated, and the lower classes have been left to take care of themselves. How they have taken care of themselves, and with what results, let the condition of ten millions of agricultural laborers, groveling in the lowest depths of poverty, ignorance, and crime, without one hope for the future, reply.

Let any frank inquirer who has fair means of observation and judgment, ask himself, "Do the public schools of our own land justify our hopes?" They have at least disseminated knowledge enough to operate with marked effect in fostering and perpetuating our institutions. Knowledge is power, and universal knowledge distributes universal power. They have saved us from positive evils, but they truly have not wrought out the great benefits which might have been expected. Their defect has been an inherent one, and has arisen from the fact that they were not constituted with direct reference to the wants of American citizenship. The school system in Massachusetts was a fair sample of the character and results of public instruction in this country.

It is a startling fact that anybody who has a little spare time and a willing disposition, no matter how ignorant and morally unfit for the position, is thought of as the best person available to serve on a school committee, and to cripple the earnest endeavors of cultured, conscientious teachers. Again, anybody who is decently moral and tolerably educated will do for a teacher. In fact, a large number of schools are conducted as if the best teachers were concerned, as mere mercenary institutions, in which young girls who cannot otherwise get a livelihood are supported at the public expense. Where there are several competitors, very often the one who is in most need of the amount of the salary is awarded the position, and the real test—efficiency. And many a teacher who has proved herself to be incompetent is retained year after year, because to supplant her would be to take the food out of her mouth; although it seems to be no matter how much she is starving the souls of her scholars.

We need to devise and set forth on the eternal principles of right a school system that shall be in harmony with our free institutions, and so instinctive with power and energy as to bloom in perennial vitality into the best form of national life. Thus, and thus alone, will we be able to boast ourselves possessed of the standard by which all projects of reform shall be tested. We need not to tinker up the worn-out systems of the older nations, or to engage in a patchwork of makeshifts, or an unpracticable. It is the crowning pride of our American institutions that when our children are trained in the spirit of the truest wisdom, they are the best trained to occupy the position and fulfill the duties of the American citizen. In other words, it is the truest wisdom that they may be cultured to become men. Thank God! we dwell in a country whose political axioms, institutions of government, and governing powers are of such a character and in such harmony, that to discuss the qualities of true citizenship is to discuss the qualities of true manhood! This truth was never realized in all the world's history until the stars and stripes took their place among the symbols of government as the symbols of true democracy.

Three leading points were further dwelt upon at length by the speaker. First, how should the children in our public schools be educated? Secondly, how should their education be extended? Thirdly, how far should their education be extended? The principle underpinning these considerations was that character, and not mere scholarship, should be the ultimate end of all education. The schools should be free to all; there should be a law making education compulsory; there should be a modification of the terms of admission to the High Schools, so as to extend and not limit the admission of the girls; and the girls should be educated as fully as the boys.

After these addresses the meeting adjourned till 9 A. M. to-morrow. LAIRD.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

U. S. OFFICE OF ARTIFICIAL LIMBS.—An appropriation (\$50,000) having been made by Congress for purchasing ARTIFICIAL LIMBS FOR OFFICERS of the United States Army and Navy mutilated in the service, application may now be made, in person or by letter, by officers entitled to the benefit of the act, and who desire the best Artificial Limbs, to

ELLIS' IRON BITTERS.—"HAVING used your Iron Bitters in my practice, I can testify to its superior tonic properties for invigorating the appetite and promoting digestion. I can unhesitatingly recommend it to all cases of general debility and dyspepsia, and as a reliable and safe remedy in all cases of nervous prostration. Its agreeable flavor must recommend it to all. Yours, respectfully, CHAS. S. GARDNER, M. D., Professor in the Philadelphia University of Medicine and Surgery."

OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR OF THE DELINQUENT MILITIA TAX.—The undersigned respectfully informs the citizens of the City and County of Philadelphia that he is now prepared to receive the above tax at his office, No. 120 North Second and Arch streets, second story, Office hours from 9 till 4.

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DARING ATTEMPT TO ROB HERRING'S PATENT FRANKLINITE BANKER'S CHEST. PERRYVILLE STATION, PENNSYLVANIA RR., June 12, 1869. MESSRS. FARRER, HERRING & CO., No. 629 Chesnut street, Philadelphia.

Genls.—A persistent but unsuccessful effort was made on the night of May 29, 1869, to drill the Banker's chest received from you a few months ago. From facts that have come to our knowledge, it is evident that the attempt to open it was renewed on Sunday evening following. Finding all efforts to drill it useless, the effort was then made to break the lock. The hammering was heard by parties in the neighborhood for several hours, but supposing it to arise from the railroad men replacing a defective rail, ceased no alarm. The tools, with the exception of the drills, were left. It is evident that they were not only prepared, but perfectly familiar with the construction of your Chest. That they failed is another evidence that your Banker's Chests are what you claim for them, Burglar-Proof. Respectfully yours, J. BALSBACK, Agent.

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