

Evening Telegraph

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1890.

THE RUSH BEQUEST AND THE PHILADELPHIA LIBRARY.

The stockholders of the Philadelphia Library yesterday decided, by a vote of 298 to 293, to accept "the legacy of Dr. James Rush according to the terms expressed in his will." The rooms of this ancient and honorable institution presented a scene of unusual activity while the ballots were being deposited, and the number of votes polled, as well as the closeness of the contest, afford abundant evidence of the earnestness of the contending parties. The decision in favor of an acceptance of the bequest was won under the most unfavorable circumstances, and it by no means fully or fairly represents the disposition of a large body of stockholders.

The number who were opposed to such acceptance, under all circumstances, is comparatively limited, but their ranks were largely reinforced by those who were influenced by the opinion of eminent lawyers that the proper time for a decision has not yet arrived, as well as those who favored acceptance on condition that a distinct circulating library should be maintained on the present or some other equally central location.

The proposition to maintain a separate library was also submitted in such a confusing and perplexing manner, that although it was defeated at the election yesterday, we have little doubt that it would meet the approbation of a large majority of the stockholders if it was unencumbered by other issues. Of the two leading parties one recommended the passage of the following resolution:—

"Resolved, That so much of the present collection of books and other property of the company as may be retained in the present or some other central position for general use and circulation."

This resolution was defeated by a vote of 213 yeas to 362 nays, mainly in consequence of the opposition of the other leading party, who at the same time advocated the passage of the following resolution:—

"Resolved, That the acceptance of the stockholders of the Library Company is upon the express provision that so much of the present collection of books and other property of the company, as may be retained in the present or some other central position, for general use and circulation."

This resolution was defeated by a vote of 239 yeas to 216 nays, in consequence of the opposition of the party in favor of an unconditional acceptance; the portion of this party who desired two libraries making their wishes on that subject subordinate to their hostility to the "express provision" clause.

As a practical result a majority of the stockholders apparently condemn the maintenance of a circulating library on the present site, while there is little reason to doubt that at least three-fourths would favor such a policy as an independent proposition.

The voting indicates the existence of several distinct shades of sentiment which were not properly represented by the resolutions. All that is certainly known is that a small majority of those voting favored an unconditional acceptance of the bequest, and we presume the Directors will not, under the circumstances, consider the apparent decision against a library on the present site as binding and conclusive.

The following article in the monthly gossip of Lippincott's Magazine for November probably foreshadows the course they had intended to pursue if all the resolutions recommended by Messrs. Fraley, King, Marsh, Longstreth, and Carson had been adopted:—

"The Library Company of Philadelphia, it is understood, will accept, on the conditions prescribed in his will, the magnificent bequest of the late Dr. Rush, amounting to more than a million of dollars; so that in a few years its priceless collection of books will be safely housed in a fire-proof building. It is intended to keep the circulating department of the institution in the present location—the Ridgway Branch, at Brown and Christian, being designated rather as a library of reference, like the Astor Library and the British Museum. It is estimated that, after the executor of Dr. Rush has completed the fireproof building provided for in his will, there will remain a handsome endowment to be handed over to the company for the maintenance of the Ridgway Branch. The Library Company will then become one of the most useful and creditable institutions in this city. Already we hear of two large and valuable private libraries—one of theology and the other of jurisprudence—which are to be added to the collection when there shall be a fireproof building in which to deposit them, and donations of money will not be wanting to place an institution in which Philadelphia has a just pride upon a solid foundation. Ultimately, the present offices at Fifth and Arch streets and the Law Buildings adjoining will be torn down and replaced by a fireproof building, to come out to the line of the street, and to be erected at the expense of the fund now in hand and accumulating for that purpose. As the space required for the circulating department, reading-room, etc., will be limited, a considerable part of the proposed new building in Fifth street will be reserved for offices, which will bring in a handsome income. Altogether, the future prospects of this ancient and honorable company are most flattering."

We see no reason why the vote yesterday should lead to an abandonment of this policy, and certainly the project of maintaining a circulating library on the present site should not be given up before the stockholders distinctly approve such a change. Under such an arrangement the legacy will become an unimpaired benefit, as it will provide for a structure in which the treasures of literature can be garnered up in Philadelphia until they assume proportions scarcely less imposing than the volumes which adorn the British Museum, and also furnish an income to replenish and sustain it.

MISS DICKINSON AS A NATURAL CURIOSITY. Miss ANNA DICKINSON has a certain kind of celebrity as a public speaker that suffices to attract a crowded audience whenever she is announced. This was proved last evening by the immense concourse of intelligent ladies and gentlemen that filled the auditorium of the Academy of Music to hear her discourse

upon the Mormons and Mormonism, under the taking title of "Whited Sepulchres."

The audience was one that was in the highest degree complimentary to the lecturer, and it was for the most part composed of ladies and gentlemen who are not in the habit of patronizing any but the highest class of entertainments. It was such an audience as any speaker might have felt proud to appear before, and one that had a right to demand that the lecturer should put forth all her strength, and give the best performance she was capable of. It is doubtful, however, whether there was a single person in all that great assembly that, as the lecture proceeded, did not feel admiration merging into pity, and give a grand sigh of relief when the affair was over. The enterprising manager of the "Star" course of lectures esteemed Miss Dickinson to be a sure paying card, or he would not have selected her to inaugurate his series of entertainments. She did not belie his expectations, as the large attendance last evening sufficiently proved, but the question now arises, what are Miss Dickinson's attractions? Do people attend her lectures because they expect to hear a thoughtful and eloquent exposition of a great subject, or is the lecturer looked upon as a natural curiosity like the double-headed girl, the bearded woman, the lightning calculator, the what is it, or the great American pie-biter? We have no wish to be disrespectful, but such an idea is obviously suggested by the discourse to which we were treated last evening. Our opinion has always been, that women are entitled to all the liberty they can claim, to fill any honorable field of employment for which they are competent. On the stage the women rival the men, and often surpass them, for there are now before the public no such male artists as Ristori and Janauschek. If women are endowed with the gift of eloquence, there is no good reason why they should not ascend the rostrum and entertain and instruct their audiences with words of wit and wisdom. This field is one that is, in many respects, suited to women, but we have a right to demand that female lecturers, like female actresses and female authors, shall be amenable to the same rules of criticism as their male competitors. If women have anything that is worth saying, and if they know how to say it, by all means let them appear as lecturers. But an intelligent public expects that those who do so shall treat us to something more than weak twaddle and coarse vituperation about subjects that they do not half understand. Miss Dickinson has a certain ability as a speaker, and there her merits end. She has never started a new idea or shed a new light on any of the subjects she has taken up, and her discourses, from first to last, have been made up of the commonest of commonplace upon the usual topics that occupy the minds of the little knot of female rightists who mistake their own clamor for interest on the part of the public in their schemes. It was announced that last evening Miss Dickinson would relate her opinions of the Mormons as gathered during her recent visit to Salt Lake City, and her audience fully expected an exposition of the Mormon system from a woman's standpoint. It is needless to say that such a lecture could be made intensely interesting; and although some persons in the audience, whose estimate of Miss Dickinson was critical rather than enthusiastic, knew pretty well what to expect, a great number were sadly disappointed and left the house under the decided impression that they had been imposed upon by false pretences. Miss Dickinson related nothing about the Mormons that was not well known already to every one of her hearers, and her only references to them were a few side remarks, brought in without any pretense of connection, merely for the purpose of seeming to carry out the promises made, while the lecture itself was a mere drab on the subject of women's rights, a repetition of which has been said over and over again by the Susan Anthonys, Cady Stantons, Dr. Mary Walkers, and other aspiring females who are ambitious to wear the breeches, and who are at once objects of ridicule with the men and of contempt with their own sex. If the public like this sort of thing, of course they have a right to patronize it, but if one of the male gender, gifted with twice the oratorical ability of Miss Dickinson, were to make a practice of spouting such stuff, he would not attract a dozen auditors to any one of his discourses. We are, therefore, forced to conclude that Miss Dickinson is not esteemed for the elegance of her style, the splendor of her eloquence, the profundity of her thought, the brilliancy of her wit and humor, for she has none of these, but that the public look upon her as a *lusus nature*, and experience the same sort of delight in listening to a vituperative woman on the platform as they do in beholding Mr. Pearce putting his hand into the lion's mouth, the Japanese juggler ascending his ladder of swords barefooted, Lydia Thompson in spangled tights dealing out indecent witticisms, or any of the other monstrous novelties that are afforded under the name of amusements. Miss Dickinson pretends to appeal to a better class of auditors than the performers we have mentioned, and intelligent people, such as assembled to hear her last evening, have a right to be treated to something better than the entertainment that was offered; and if Miss Dickinson could have stood in the lobby and heard the remarks that were made as the audience passed out, we entertain a hope that she would have felt heartily ashamed of herself. In a matter of this kind it is the duty of the public press to speak plainly, and in expressing this decided opinion we have nothing but the heartiest good will for the lady and the best wishes for her legitimate success in the profession she has adopted.

AT IT AGAIN.

We have received a copy of a call for a Woman Suffrage Convention to be held in Cleveland, Ohio, during the month of November, appended to which is a modest request for us to copy all the names appended—about one hundred in number—"as they are important to show the people the character of the movement." Just so, and as full half of the signers of the call are of the masculine gender, "the character of the movement" will be evident to our readers without troubling them with the full list. But the list, such as it is, presents a very curious mixture. Henry Ward Beecher, the model evangelical preacher, is cheek by jowl with Andrew Jackson Davis, the "crazy philosopher of the 'harmonious coronation' school of infidelity; George William Curtis, one of the most elegant scholars and effective speakers in the country, in close association with such dribblers as Lucy Stone, Antoinette Brown Blackwell, and Mary A. Livermore; and Alfred H. Love, the Philadelphia apostle of peace, in kindly sympathy with Amelia Bloomer, whom we take to be the great original Bloomer of all time. From all of which, "the character of the movement" is still further evident, and the publication of the complete list quite a waste of our valuable space.

THE RAILWAYS OF INDIA.—During the "late oppressions" in this country, immense sums were expended in England to foster the growth of cotton in her Indian possessions, and by the aid of this lavishness several great lines of railway were constructed. The two principal, the East Indian and the Great Indian Peninsula, have now 2250 miles in operation, and when completed will extend 2763 miles, one-half more than the Pacific Railroad. These lines will connect Calcutta with Delhi, Madras with Bombay, and Calcutta with Lahore and Kurrachee. The miles now in operation are 2842, and the miles under construction are 1655. For the building of these works, 3,229,000 tons of goods, of the value of \$116,260,000, were shipped from England in 5239 ships. The capital required was secured by a five per cent. guarantee by the Government in India, and a total of \$111,000,000 has already been paid on interest on the capital by the Government, of which amount \$47,600,000 has been repaid out of the earnings of the roads. Last year 12,746,000 passengers were carried on these roads; of this number all but 700,000 were in third-class carriages. The passenger receipts were \$6,880,000, and the freight, \$16,600,000. The rolling stock comprises 937 locomotives, 2733 passenger cars, and 18,226 freight cars. The persons employed number 29,099, of whom 86,048 are natives. The effect of these increased facilities for travelling and for the interchange of commodities upon the semi-civilization of that country cannot be easily estimated; but the extension of commerce, education, and religious instruction must now be increased in a ratio far exceeding that of the past.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

For additional Special Notices see the Inside Pages.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

THE STAR COURSE OF LECTURES. SECOND LECTURE, BY R. J. DE CORDOVA. ON THURSDAY EVENING, Oct. 21. Subject—"THE SHAM FAMILY AT HOME." The remainder of the series will be given in the following order:—

FRANKLIN INSTITUTE.—THE STATED Monthly Meeting of the Institute will be held THIS (Wednesday) EVENING, 20th inst., at 8 o'clock. JAMES H. MILLER, F. R. S., Marine Engineer, of Glasgow, will read a paper on the "Electric Undersea Cable." WILLIAM HANCOCK, Secretary.

OFFICE OF THE DIAMOND COAL COMPANY.

NOTICE.—A dividend of FIFTY CENTS per share has been declared by the Directors of this Company, payable on and after the 15th inst. S. A. FORD, Secretary.

BANK REPORTS.

ABSTRACT OF THE REPORT OF THE CONDITION OF THE NATIONAL BANK OF THE REPUBLIC OF PHILADELPHIA, made to the Controller of the Currency, as shown by its books at the close of business on the 9th day of October, 1890:—

Table with columns for RESOURCES, LIABILITIES, and Total. Includes items like Loans and Discounts, United States Bonds, Capital Stock, and Deposits.

JOSEPH P. MCMFORD, Cashier. Philadelphia, October 15, 1890.

Constitution. To-morrow another election is to be held to fill two vacancies on the bench of the Supreme Court, the term of office being for a period of ten years. Lorenzo Sawyer, one of the present Judges, and O. C. Pratt, are the Republican candidates, and J. B. Crockett and William B. Wallace the Democratic candidates. During the past few years the State has been virtually Democratic, although General Grant received a majority last November of 506, in a total vote of 108,660. At the election for Judges of the Supreme Court just previous, the Democratic majority, on a very tight vote, was 2530, and in 1867 it was as high as 9546. In the last Legislature there was a Republican majority of 4 in the Senate and a Democratic majority of 24 in the House, giving a Democratic majority of 20 on joint ballot. With all these facts in view, a Democratic triumph to-morrow is to be anticipated. There appears to be but little interest in the result, and the vote will probably be a light one. The election of Judges was recently separated from that of the other State officers, to secure, if possible, the selection of capable men without regard to their party affiliations; but thus far the plan appears to have worked badly. Little interest is taken in the judicial election by the mass of the people, and thus a few zealous politicians are generally enabled to fix the thing up as best suits their own views and interests.

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VII. BEYOND THE REEF. A Novel, Part XI. By Hon. Robert Dale Owen. VIII. THE SQUADRON USUAL. AMONG GENERAL TERMS. IX. THE GREAT FLOOD. X. JAZZA TO JERUSALEM. XI. WATCHING FOR DAWN. A Poem, by Prof. Henry Hartshorn.

XII. GEORGE D. PRENTICE. XIII. FIRST AND LAST OF THE BUCCANERS. XIV. REDEEMED FROM AN ATLAS. XV. OUR MONTHLY GOSSIP. XVI. LITERATURE OF THE DAY. For sale at all the Book and News Stores. Yearly subscription, \$4. Single number, 50 cents.

SPECIAL PREMIUM. The numbers of Lippincott's Magazine for 1890, from July, containing the commencement of Mr. Trollope's Story, will be mailed to any party sending one subscription (paid) to the Magazine for 1890, between this date and December 1.

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IT WILL HEM, FELL, BRAID, CORD, QUILT, TUCK AND GATHER. All machines finished in the highest degree of the art. All Cabinet Furniture of the most beautiful and chaste designs.

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