

Evening Telegraph

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1869.

PROSCRIPTION IN THE SOUTH.

A large portion of the American people cordially endorse the sentiments contained in Greeley's appeal to General Butler against continued proscription for participation in the Rebellion, which was recently published in THE TELEGRAPH. The work of reconstruction is now nearly completed; the freedmen have been converted into citizens in all the States which formally seceded, and they will gain the right of suffrage in the whole Union as soon as the fifteenth amendment is ratified; no organized opposition to the national authority is manifested in any quarter; the Rebel swords have been turned into ploughshares and the Rebel spears into pruning-hooks; and as a fitting sequel to the triumphs of peace already effected, the political rights of the late enemies of the Union should be restored at the earliest possible moment. If the policy pursued by the nation since the surrender at Appomattox, in reference to the Rebel armies and Rebel property owners, is not a grievous error, it is unwise to withhold this additional display of magnanimity. No good can arise from a perpetuation of the bitter memories of the war. The one thing essential, a fortification of the Union against new assaults of treason, is practically accomplished; and this great end being gained, it is impolitic to place any considerable portion of America under a ban for their past actions. The doctrine of universal amnesty and universal suffrage has many enthusiastic advocates, and if, as is confidently believed, the negroes are about to secure the universal recognition of their political rights, it is proper that their old masters too should have a legal voice in the decision of the political questions which deeply affect their present and future welfare. In Tennessee, where the proscriptive system has prevailed up to this time, it has accomplished no permanent good, even in a partisan point of view, for the worst of Rebels could not form a less reliable Republican organization than that which inflicted upon the nation Andy Johnson, Senator Fowler, Emerson Etheridge, and Governor Senter. In the future, as in the past, the men who participated actively and prominently in the Rebellion will exercise a deep influence upon the political action of the communities in which they reside. If the Republican party, as a party, continue to ostracize them, they will inevitably antagonize it, as a body, and the resultant loss or damage will be far greater than any advantage that would accrue from their exclusion from the polls and the right to hold office. But aside from these considerations, their deep interest in the future welfare of the South, arising from their ownership of a large portion of the soil, renders their active and personal co-operation in matters relating to local government essential to the general welfare. Whatever may have been their errors or their crimes, they acted under the impulse of what they believed to be patriotic motives, and thousands would now vote and legislate according to the best lights they could obtain. It cannot be doubted that their aid would hasten the recuperation of the South, and that war-devastated region should receive all the help that any portion of her own citizens can give. It has still very perplexing problems to solve, and all of its best talent is needed to promote in the highest degree, its future welfare.

THE JEWS IN RUSSIA.

A DELEGATION of Jews waited upon the President yesterday with a request that he would use his influence, through Minister Curtin, in behalf of the Jews of Russia, who are now being subjected to a cruel persecution. The answer of the President was frank and to the point. He said that it was too late in this day of enlightenment to persecute any race, color, or religion, and he promised to aid in procuring more humane treatment for the people of the Hebrew race in Russia by interceding for them with the Czar. President Grant's language was a little remarkable, considering his position, and it has created considerable commotion among the foreign diplomats at Washington, who conceive it to be an indication that our Government in the future intends to adopt a policy of interference in the affairs of other nations for the protection of the oppressed and for the propagation of republicanism. The President's words, however, will not bear any such interpretation; he merely said plainly what he honestly thought, and there is no probability that he will attempt to interfere in this matter except in a perfectly proper and dignified manner.

Although the despatches from Washington speak of an Imperial ukase against the Russian Jews, there is reason to believe that the present persecution is due to the revival by subordinates of an ancient law of the empire against them, and that it is without the sanction of the Czar. The cordial and friendly feeling that has always prevailed between the United States and Russia will give President Grant's request in a matter of this kind more weight than if it came from any of the monarchs of Europe. It is a perfectly proper request to make, and it is to be hoped that it will succeed in accomplishing the desired object. During the last Presidential campaign General Grant was bitterly assailed because of a military order directed against certain Jewish traders, and many persons of the

Hebrew race were foolish enough to vote for the Democratic candidate in consequence. They can now see what Grant's real sentiments are with regard to them and their religion, and how free he is from any of the narrow-mindedness and bigotry that they would attribute to him.

THE SPANISH GUNBOATS.

AN effort will be made during the present week to secure the release of the gunboats which have been constructed in New York for the use of the Spanish Government, and a legal controversy of national interest is likely to arise from this procedure. The pretext on which they were originally seized may prove untenable. The Peruvian Minister asserted that he feared they might be employed to wage war against his Government, but as active hostilities between Spain and Peru ceased many months ago, and as Spain is probably willing to give the most decisive assurance that the gunboats will not be used against Peru, their discharge can scarcely be successfully resisted if new grounds for their detention are not presented. Fortunately an amendment of our neutrality laws which was made in 1817 will apparently forbid the departure of the gunboats during the continuance of the Cuban insurrection, even if the Peruvian pretext is overruled. Half a century ago, when the South American republics were striving to gain their independence, Spain was exceedingly anxious that the United States should abstain from every form of interference in her wars with her refractory colonies, and at her instance Congress passed a law forbidding the fitting out or arming of any vessel in our ports which was intended "to cruise or commit hostilities against the subjects, citizens, or property of any foreign prince or State, or of any colony, district, or people with whom the United States are at peace." This law has a direct application to the matter at issue. We are certainly at peace with the insurgents, and the force of the enactment can only be broken by a denial that they constitute, in a legal sense, a colony, district, or people. The law manifestly forbids us from permitting the Cubans to fit out cruisers in our ports against Spain, and it is alleged that it is equally potent in prohibiting Spain from fitting out gunboats in our ports to cruise against the Cubans. The question will probably arise, however, whether the insurgents can have any status in our courts, or any valid claim to be considered a colony, district, or people, in advance of the formal concession of belligerent rights; and it is not unlikely that, even while this discussion is pending, Congress may give to Céspedes and his compatriots the recognition they have so long sought in vain. Under these circumstances, there is comparatively little danger that the American people will be humiliated by an acknowledgment that Spain can forge weapons on our soil to perpetuate her tyrannical rule over a contiguous island.

The London Times has espoused the cause of Denmark in the matter of the St. Thomas cession, and not only urges the United States to complete the bargain, but expresses the expectation that the purchase treaty will be ratified by the Senate. "The Americans," says the Times, "can lose but little, while they might gain a great deal." This is all very true. The only thing we should lose would be a trifle of ten millions of dollars, which is certainly a mere bagatelle by the side of our national debt; while we should gain a first-class assortment of volcanoes, earthquakes, and tidal waves, which are certainly very handy things to have on hand in these dull, piping times of peace.

THE IRRECONCILABLES showed their hand at the first meeting of the Corps Legislatif yesterday. Impertinent questions were put to the Government concerning the postponement of the time for the meeting of the Legislative Body, and other embarrassing points, Deputy Raspail even going so far as to demand the impeachment of the Ministers. Great excitement was produced by the introduction of these measures, and the session is described as being a stormy one. It is very evident that something more substantial than mere promises on the part of the Emperor will be required to satisfy the demands of the French people, in their present temper.

WYOMING TERRITORY, as is the case with all frontier countries, contains a large surplus male population. Women are therefore in great demand, to serve in the capacity of wives, mothers, etc., and to induce a large immigration of the sex the council has passed a bill conceding to them the privilege of the elective franchise. If the other branch of the Territorial Legislature should concur in this action, the statesmen of Wyoming can flatter themselves that they have done a good thing in the interests of population.

ALL THE OLD LADIES in the country are in a flutter at the announcement that the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives have agreed to recommend the reduction of the tariff on tea to twenty cents per pound. But they are still indignant at the announcement that such a vile bean as the coffee is to be taxed but one-fifth that amount. If the rates were reversed, the old ladies would be better pleased.

It was a tight squeeze in Minnesota, but the Republican State ticket did contrive to stand the pressure, and the indications are that there will be a majority of over two thousand, which is enough for all practical purposes at present, although rather meagre for future speculations.

STARTLING NEWS reaches us from Havana, which city, we learn, is greatly excited over the fact that the Government of the United States has caused the Spanish gunboats in New York harbor to be disabled, in order to prevent their sailing. Evidently the Habanese are prepared for anything.

A MEDAL IN COMMEMORATION OF THE PACIFIC RAILROAD. THE officers of the United States Mint, being public-spirited gentlemen and deeply interested in everything connected with the development of the

resources of our great West, have designed and struck a most beautiful medal commemorative of the opening of the great national highway, the Pacific Railway. The idea was first suggested in May last, and William Barber, Esq., the engraver of the Mint, was at once instructed by Governor Pollock as to the plan and general features of the medal. Work was immediately commenced, and about two weeks since the die was finished. Since then a number of the medals have been struck in silver and bronze, and one in gold. This one is enclosed in a crimson velvet cover, and is intended as a testimonial from the officers of the Mint to the President of the United States. The following description of the medal, including the devices thereon, will give the reader some idea of the exquisite skill employed in getting the affair up.

The medal intended for General Grant measures nearly two inches in diameter. On the obverse is a most artistically executed raised bust of the President, and it is most excellent likeness. Forming a circle over the head of the President are the words: PRESIDENCY OF U. S. GRANT.

Immediately beneath is the following: THE OCEANS UNITED BY THE PACIFIC RAILWAY, May 10, 1869.

The reverse exhibits, in as great fineness of detail as the small space of a medal would permit, the most striking characteristic of the road, its binding together with iron bands the two great oceans of the world, the Pacific and Atlantic, on the right and left of the medal, and by a few masterly touches presenting the most noticeable features of the great interior plateau and the great traverses. This great plateau, elevated several thousand feet above the sea-level, is traversed by a few mountain ranges, presenting detached peaks rising many thousand feet above the plateau, wholly different from the comparatively tame and level-topped ranges of the Atlantic slopes. The peaks constitute the most prominent feature in the medal, and on a nearer foreground to the left is a rough column of rock, exhibiting the characteristic horizontal stratification, and remaining as a monument of the huge deposits of rock which once covered the whole great interior plain, but which the waters have gradually washed away to a lower level, leaving a few castellated columns which resist deprecation. The train of cars passing around these elevations, on the elevated plateau, occupies the middle ground of the medal, while the more immediate foreground presents a well-executed representation of the great canon system, a series of troughs often cut down thousands of feet in depth, and with vertical walls of rock, at the bottom of which the streams flow. By way of remark we may add that the Great Canon of the Colorado, or rather the series of canons, is some nine hundred miles in length, and is perhaps the most striking topographical feature of the North American continent, as distinguishing it from all the other continents of the globe.

In a scroll over the picture we have described are the words: "EVERY MOUNTAIN SHALL BE MADE LOW." "Underneath is the following: "Medal Struck at the U. S. Mint, "JAMES POLLOCK, Director."

The silver and bronze copies of this medal are now being struck, and are for sale at the Mint. The bronze medal will be sold at \$1.25.

A noteworthy fact in connection with this medal is that ex-Gov. Pollock, when a member of Congress, twenty-one years ago, gave the feasibility of a railroad from ocean to ocean his official attention, and was the chairman of the first Congressional committee ever formed on this subject.

ANOTHER POST OFFICE IMPROVEMENT. GENERAL BINGHAM is indefatigable in his efforts to bring the Philadelphia Post Office up to the highest state of efficiency, and to make it a model of its kind. His latest improvement is an extension of the hours for the transaction of money-order business. A few days ago General Bingham notified the Post Office Department that he proposed to keep open the money-order department of the Philadelphia Post Office on Wednesdays and Saturdays until 9 P. M., in order that the laboring classes might avail themselves of its facilities without inconvenience. The Postmaster-General has approved of this change, which will go into operation to-day. This arrangement will be appreciated by all classes of the community, and it will undoubtedly have the effect of making money orders more popular than ever. General Bingham is entitled to the thanks of the community for this and other important improvements he has introduced, as well as for the very efficient manner in which he has managed the Post Office in this city with a view to the convenience of our citizens. It is not often that a public officer gives such entire satisfaction as General Bingham has done, and he is undoubtedly the most efficient and capable Postmaster that Philadelphia has ever had.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

For additional Special Notices see the Inside Pages. TO COUNTERACT an opinion prevalent among some who have not tried us, that, because we are on Chesnut street and deal only in a class of clothing finer than ordinary Ready-made garments, our prices must be enormously high, we here publish a

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THE STAR COURSE OF LECTURES. HON. CHARLES SUMNER, ON WEDNESDAY EVENING, Dec. 1, 1869. Subject: "The Question of Casts." FRIDAY EVENING, Dec. 3, 1869. REV. ROBERT COLLYER, D. D., Subject: "Clear Grit." Dec. 7-MARK TWAIN, Dec. 9-DECEADOVA, Dec. 16-WENDELL PHILLIPS.

Admission, 50 cents. Reserved seats, 75 cents. Tickets for any of the lectures for sale at GOLD'S Piano Warehouse, No. 92 CHESTNUT STREET, and at the Academy on the evening of the lecture. Doors open at 7. Lecture at 8. Orchestral Prelude at 7:30 o'clock. 11 30tr

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will commence a Course of LECTURES ON COOKING, THURSDAY Dec. 2, at 11 A. M., in the ASSEMBLY ROOM, at GOLD'S Piano Warehouse, No. 92 CHESTNUT STREET, and at the Academy on the evening of the lecture. Tickets, 50 cents. Single Lecture, 75c. Tickets at the hall. 11 30tr

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