

Evening Telegraph

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1869.

THE REVIVAL OF AMERICAN COMMERCE.

It has lately been shown by the committee entrusted with the duty of urging upon Congress the consideration of measures designed to revive the drooping shipping interests of the United States, that their decline has kept pace with the substitution of iron steamships for wooden vessels. The infamous course of Great Britain during the war accelerated the downward tendency which had commenced before the Rebellion, and it caused the real or pretended transfer of many American vessels to British owners; but it was, after all, only a secondary cause of the change which has so seriously damaged our commercial marine. In former times American vessels not only did the bulk of the carrying trade of the United States, but a large share of the carrying trade of other nations. Now all that is left us is but a small fraction of the carrying trade of our own country, as a very large proportion of our imports and exports are transported in steam vessels belonging to foreign nations. The profits arising from this trade can never be restored to American citizens in any other way than by the construction of American lines of steamships. It would be as idle to attempt to re-establish any large number of lines of sailing vessels as to make Conestoga teams successful rivals of railways in the land transportation of merchandise. The new movement is one of real progress and of such a character that its force cannot be averted. Our only remaining resource is to imitate it, to show the world that we can build steamships too, and to regain our wonted supremacy by acquiring as great a superiority in the modern mercantile marine as we achieved, in former times, in the old sailing vessels. In achieving this end the aid of the Government, in some shape, will be inevitably necessary; and in view of the interest manifested in this subject by the various departments at Washington, the allusions to it in the annual message, the promise of a special communication from the President, the comments of the Secretary of the Treasury, and, more recently, the views submitted to the Naval Committee of the House of Representatives by Admiral Porter, decisive and beneficial action will, we presume, not be long delayed. In this connection one of the statements of Admiral Porter possesses special importance. He says that "the value to our Government of the use of thirty vessels like those of the British mail lines would, in case of war, more than equal the combined strength of our present navy."

This is true, why should not a fair proportion of the sum now granted to the support of the navy be used to subsidize mail steamship lines? Ironclads, monitors, and other vessels of war are indispensable in time of actual conflict; even in time of peace they are occasionally useful in inspiring respect for the American flag in distant ports, or in reminding belligerent nations that we can speedily prepare for a desperate naval contest; but as they do not directly serve any useful commercial purpose, it would be a thousand times better to organize our naval system on the plan outlined in Admiral Porter's significant suggestion. By helping to construct and maintain steam lines similar to the British mail ships, we would accomplish at once a commercial object of the highest national importance, and, at a comparatively small expense, double our present navy. Surely this proposition is worthy of the attentive consideration of Congress, as a partial substitute for the system which squanders millions annually without even a remote prospect of securing direct pecuniary returns. As other nations have called their lines of steamships into existence by liberal governmental aid, this policy should also be adopted here. It would be far better to pursue this course than to grant the prayers of those who ask for such changes of the tariff as would lead to the construction of the proposed new American steamships of foreign material. Let us have the new lines American throughout—made of native materials and machinery constructed on our own soil, commanded by American officers, and supported or subsidized by the Government. On the Pacific this policy has already been virtually established. Now let it also be carried into effect on the Atlantic coast. If we cannot compete with the older European lines, we can make a beginning with lines to Cuba, Mexico, South America, and gradually extend them in other directions, wherever it is probable that "commerce will follow the flag."

THE NEW CENSUS.

By the late action of the Senate it remains an open question whether the next census will be taken substantially in the old method, by the United States Marshals, or whether the new officials contemplated by the House bill will be appointed; but as both branches of Congress have already consented to a suspension of the old law until February 1, 1870, it is probable that by that time the new system will have been adopted. The politicians are more deeply interested in this question than the people, who care but little who distributes the attendant patronage, but every intelligent American is anxious that the returns shall be as perfect and full as possible. As great diversities of opinion are expressed by speculative statisticians about the population and wealth of the country, and the relative rank

of its industries, we hope that these disputes will be set at rest by the closest approximation to the exact truth that can be reached. One great obstacle to a complete census in former years was the institution of slavery, inasmuch as the Southern Representatives and Senators insisted upon the preparation of such schedules as would best conceal the disparity of wealth in the slaveholding and non-slaveholding States. Through their efforts a great many false ideas were disseminated, and the new census, if properly taken, will for the first time give a just presentation of national wealth.

THE ALABAMA CORRESPONDENCE.

The official correspondence of the present administration on the Alabama question, which was transmitted to the Senate yesterday, will attract attention from the marked ability displayed by Mr. Fish in recapitulating the causes of complaint against Great Britain. The force of his argument is strengthened by the fact that it is made in no irate and belligerent spirit, but rather with the desire to promote a peaceful settlement by a full statement of the matters in issue. The first step was taken on the 15th of May, when Mr. Motley was instructed to explain, in general terms, the American view of the controversy after the rejection of the Johnson-Clarendon Treaty, and to propose a suspension of negotiations until a better feeling prevailed in both countries. On the 23d of June Mr. Motley was asked to request that when the proper time for reopening negotiations arrived they should be conducted at Washington instead of London. On the 25th of September he was requested to announce that in the judgment of the President sufficient time had elapsed to subside the irritable feelings that were likely to retard negotiations, and to read to Lord Clarendon a despatch in which our grievances are fully described. No definite mode of adjustment, however, was proposed in this letter, and Lord Clarendon was invited to take the initiative. His answer is given in a letter to Mr. Thornton, the British Minister at Washington; and while it is couched in a friendly spirit, it is indecisive and evasive. By imploring he consents to open negotiations at Washington, but this is not done formally or directly; and as he refuses to make any new proposition for an adjustment of the existing difficulties, he evidently desires to compel Mr. Fish to take the initiative. No document of a later date than Lord Clarendon's letter (November 6) is published, but since that period Mr. Fish has probably made propositions on which the future discussions will hinge.

We are pleased to learn that David Jones, Esq., who has ably filled a responsible position in the Custom House since the appointment of Hon. Henry D. Moore as Collector, will, after the instalment of the newly-elected City Treasurer, return to his former position as chief clerk of that office. Mr. Jones deservedly won great popularity by the prompt, skilful, and obliging manner in which he served the public during Mr. Bunn's administration, and his return to his old post will meet with general approval.

The President has signed the Georgia bill, and as Governor Bullock has issued a proclamation reconvening the Legislature on the 12th of January, the Rebels of that State will speedily discover that they gained nothing and lost much by the scurvy trick they played when the State was first reorganized. The remedy administered by Congress was severe, but the disease seemed to require it, and if it serves to teach treacherous traitors that reconstruction must be carried out in good faith, it will accomplish a useful purpose.

We learn from the Boston Traveller that the generous offer of \$100,000 for buildings for the Boston Theological Seminary, made by Isaac Rich, on condition that the Methodists raise \$100,000 more by a certain time, is likely to be accepted. One gentleman of Lynn, Mass., has put down his name for \$10,000 of the last-named sum, and there are numerous smaller ones.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

For additional Special Notices see the Inside Page.

HOLIDAY ANNOUNCEMENT.

We call attention to our special preparations for the coming holidays.

We have had manufactured a large assortment of GOWN, JACKETS, and WRAPPERS, suitable for Christmas Presents and New Year's Gifts, made of a variety of fine materials, and most handsomely shaped and trimmed.

DRESSING GOWNS.

SMOKING JACKETS.

BILLIARD JACKETS.

MORNING WRAPPERS.

STUDY GOWNS.

A variety of New Styles of HOLIDAY SCARFS, TIES, and GRAYVATS.

Toilet and Fancy Articles, Gases and Umbrellas.

CHRISTMAS BOXES.

Containing one-half dozen Fine Handkerchiefs, a very appropriate present to a gentleman.

Besides many other articles of such combined beauty and utility as must make them most pleasing and acceptable gifts.

THE CHESNUT ST. CLOTHING ESTABLISHMENT.

JOHN WANAMAKER, Nos. 515 and 520 CHESNUT STREET.

BOOKS UNDER GARMENTS.

A NOVELTY!

A Preserver of Health.

A Preventive of Colds.

A Sure Cure for Rheumatism.

CALL AND EXAMINE THEM at the

SOLE AGENCY.

JOHN WANAMAKER'S CLOTHING ESTABLISHMENT.

Nos. 515 and 520 CHESNUT STREET.

See other advertisements of this House.

EAST MAHANAY RAILROAD COMPANY.

Office No. 27 S. FOURTH STREET, PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 23, 1869.

Notice is hereby given to the Stockholders of this Company that a Dividend of Three Cents per Cent. free of State taxes, has this day been declared, payable in cash on the 15th day of January, 1870.

RICHARD COE, Treasurer.

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SPECIAL NOTICES.

SAMPLES OF THE PRICES

Now prevailing at the

GRAND CLEARING SALE

In progress at

JOHN WANAMAKER'S,

NOS. 515 AND 520 CHESNUT STREET.

A Fine Peterham Overcoat (handsomely trimmed), Worth \$22, reduced to \$15.50.

A Fine Chinchilla Overcoat, Worth \$38, reduced to \$29.

A Business Suit of Tricot or Melton, Worth \$35, reduced to \$22.

A Black Dress Coat (swallow tail), Worth \$25, reduced to \$18.

A Pair of Fine Pants, of fashionable make, Worth \$9, reduced to \$5.

A Vest of Cloth or Fancy Cassimere, Worth \$3.50, reduced to \$2.

The Whole Present Stock is

To be disposed of

At Prices

Like the above,

at

THE CHESNUT STREET CLOTHING ESTABLISHMENT,

NOS. 515 AND 520 CHESNUT STREET.

JOHN WANAMAKER.

COACHMEN'S OVERCOATS,

WITH

DRIVING GAUNTLETS. 12 13

GROCERIES, ETC.

ESTABLISHED 1826.

Holiday Appliances.

A LARGE ASSORTMENT

OR

FANCY GROCERIES,

Comprising all the Delicacies known in the trade, purchased expressly for the Holidays, is now offered for sale, at reduced prices, by

Crippen & Maddock,

(Late W. L. Maddock & Co.),

No. 115 South THIRD St.,

BELOW CHESNUT.

White Almeria Grapes,

In Large Clusters.

Finest Quality Dehesa Raisins, in quarter, half, and whole boxes.

New, Fresh Nuts, Paper Shell Almonds, Paradise Nuts, English and Genoese Walnuts, Pecan Nuts, Filberts.

Havana and Florida Oranges, Lemons, New Layer Figs, Guava Jelly, Marmalade, Havana Preserves of various kinds.

TEAS—GREEN AND BLACK.

Have been selected with great care, directed to their purity and fragrance. Special care has also been taken to procure

COFFEE

Of the finest mark imported, such as Liberia, East India, Mocha, African, Gov. Java, Maracabo, etc. etc.

MEW MESS MACKEREL,

SHAD AND SALMON.

We call special attention to our FRESH ASSORTMENT OF FRENCH DELICACIES, such as French Peas, Mushrooms, Truffles, L. Henry; Pates de Foie Gras, Boned Sardines, and a great variety of other brands.

FRESH GOSWEN BUTTER, in small tubs, selected expressly for family use.

Agents for the sale of M. Work & Co.

Golden Sparkling Catawba Wine.

All Goods sold to families in unbroken packages at wholesale prices and delivered free of charge.

CRIPPEN & MADDOCK,

No. 115 South THIRD Street,

BELOW CHESNUT, Philadelphia.

Dealers in and Importers of Fine Groceries.

THOMAS M. FREELAND,

PRACTICAL FURRIER,

No. 522 ARCH STREET.

Having made up a large stock of Ladies' Furs of every quality, we are determined to reduce our stock before the end of the season. We are offering great bargains to those who give us a call. Every article warranted as represented, and, if desired, a warranted bill will be given. No money, and our prices will be found much lower than those who handle the people by selling common Muskrat for Sable, or Rabbit for Four-avenue Siberian Squirrel. These goods are all of our own manufacture, and no deception used in making sales.

HUDSON BAY SABLE,

DARK MINK SABLE,

ASHTONIAN,

SIBERIAN SQUIRREL,

AND ALL

the low-priced goods for wholesale trade. Children's sets suitable for Christmas presents.

We warn the public against the many tricks resorted to now to sell cheap goods.

Trick No. 1—Changing genuine articles after the purchase is made for some common imitation.

Trick No. 2—Sending a customer home with an empty bag, or part of the set left out, very carefully tied up.

Trick No. 3—Asking \$40 to \$50 for an imitation Sable, and taking anything offered from \$5 to \$20.

All we ask is a fair examination of our goods; our store is light, and every opportunity given to make a selection at a good article at low prices.

THOMAS M. FREELAND,

No. 522 ARCH STREET.

SENSIBLE HOLIDAY GIFT—A BOX OF CHALLENGE'S Initial Paper, embossed or in colors, 40 cents to \$2.

No change allowed on dollar trash sold.

W. H. GATZMEI, Agent,

No. 128 CHESNUT Street.

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