

Evening Telegraph

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 1870.

REDUCTION OF THE NATIONAL TAXES.

But, when, in commenting upon the difference between the national characteristics of Americans and Englishmen, ascribes to his superior foresight and energy, but claims for his countrymen better capacity to prepare for and meet impending emergencies than we possess. He contends that while the American seems more clearly the distant future, he is not equally ready to make adequate provision for rapidly approaching events. It is difficult, he says, to induce an English statesman to give studious attention to the interests of posterity. He does not care a fig whether the coming generation will be compelled to bear the burden of the national debt or not, and he spends no time in sentimental re-primands over the woes they may possibly suffer. On the other hand, however, he exercises extreme care in adjusting the inevitable burdens of the present, and in making taxation innocuous to industrial interests. If a British statesman were to propose at this time to raise an annual surplus revenue of one hundred millions of dollars for the purpose of diminishing the English debt to that amount, he would be regarded as a fit subject for Bedlam, and no party which defended such a policy could ever hold or retain office. In this country a generous zeal to accomplish grand results for posterity inspires many of our public men. But, laudable as this feeling may be, it is easy to carry it too far, and to inflict vital injury upon future generations as well as upon the living men who have passed through the trying ordeal of the last decade. It is time that the national system of taxation should be based upon immediate necessities and actual wants instead of a pyrotechnical programme. We have had enough of glory, and have won enough military and financial triumphs to enjoy and to imperatively need temporary repose. The spectacle of an annual surplus of one hundred millions of dollars rolling into the Treasury may be very gratifying to the custodians of the public moneys, and it may exert a highly desirable influence in improving the national credit, and in satisfying even the most timid capitalists that the people are able and willing to redeem all the national obligations; but even these results do not afford a sufficient justification or compensation for the subjection of American interests to an unnatural, undue, and unnecessary strain. We are not astonished, therefore, at the cry now going up from all sections and parties for a practical and forbearing, instead of a sentimental and oppressive, financial policy. The people are willing to provide means to defray all necessary expenses and to maintain the public credit, but exaction of an annual surplus larger than the whole national expenditure was ten years ago should be immediately discontinued. No other people on earth would, under similar circumstances, peacefully submit to it, and no other statesmen would think of demanding such a sacrifice. The public are thoroughly satisfied that America is a great country, and that her citizens can do great things, but they do not care about being perpetually stuck upon a pedestal as objects of admiration, and they have acted the role of model tax-payers long enough to be anxious to dispense with all superfluous items in the bills of collectors of internal revenue.

THE LEAGUE ISLAND NAVY YARD.

The bill for the transfer of the Philadelphia Navy Yard came up for consideration in the National House of Representatives yesterday, and it was bitterly opposed in a long speech by Mr. Dawes of Massachusetts. This may be considered as a last effort of the faction who advocated New London or some other New England port as the site for a great national naval station in preference to Philadelphia. What is expected to be gained at this time by throwing obstacles in the way of a transfer of the Philadelphia Yard to League Island it is not easy to see, and the speech of Mr. Dawes indicates chagrin at the non success of the favorite project of his own constituents rather than a cordial desire to benefit the nation. His whole argument is based upon the expense of the transfer and the impropriety of the Government spending money at this time except for purposes of absolute necessity, and there would be a certain amount of force in what he said on this point if it had not been proved over and over again that the cost of removing the Philadelphia yard to League Island can be nearly, if not quite, covered by the amount to be realized from the sale of the old site. It is here that Mr. Dawes descends to a mere quibble when he says that, under the present bill, the Secretary of the Navy could sell three millions' worth of property at private sale in the Philadelphia Navy Yard to whom he pleased, and on what terms he pleased, the only obligation on him being that he should obtain the approval of the President, who, from the nature of his duties, could pay no personal regard or attention to the proceedings. The Secretary of the Navy could sell the property to any person or political friend on any terms he chose, and could apply the proceeds to such purpose as he pleased on League Island. He did not see why, in regard to League Island, the representatives of the people should be relieved of the duty of appropriating that money from time to time.

LET CONGRESS, IF IT THINKS IT EXPEDIENT TO

do so, order that the money accruing from the sale of the old yard be paid into the Treasury, let it appoint a commission to see that the sale is conducted in the best interests of the Government; let it appropriate the money for League Island in the same manner that it does other funds; and, in fact, let it place all the safeguards possible around the transaction, but let it not in this matter with some degree of fairness, and not be led away by the querulous fault-finders of those who now oppose the League Island site simply because the Government finds it to its interest to make a choice different from what they desired.

Mr. Dawes admits that League Island must ultimately be converted into a great naval depot, but he wishes to postpone the work of putting it in order, for no other purpose, that we can understand, except to disappoint the citizens of Philadelphia who are anxious to have the new yard in active operation as soon as possible.

The facts of the matter are just these: The Government is at the present time totally unprovided with a navy yard of the size and capacity that the needs of the naval service of the present day demand. It is obliged to depend on private ship yards and shops for the construction of its vessels, machinery, and all the appurtenances of naval warfare. That a great naval depot is needed for the proper maintenance of the efficiency of the navy is admitted by all disinterested persons who are competent to give an opinion on the subject, and that League Island in the most suitable place for such a depot has been sufficiently demonstrated. This site was a gift to the Government from the city of Philadelphia, and the cost of erecting the necessary structures for a navy yard is all that is imposed upon the nation. It is idle to say that because we are now at peace with all the world, without any prospect of a war, that we ought to delay this great work, which is of far more importance in every way than the erection of the New York post office, or any other of the expensive enterprises in which the Government is now engaged. We hope sincerely that the members of Congress will look at this matter without prejudice, and with the idea only of acting for the good of the nation, without permitting themselves to be overborne by the opposition of those who are disposed to cry sour grapes.

BEECHER ON BAPTISM.

The Christian Union, which is understood to be the "organ" of the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, has made the startling discovery that all Christendom has gone astray on the subject of baptism. Even the Baptists, who have striven so hard to put themselves right in this matter, are declared to be more wrong than right. The only true and original apostolic method, says the Beecher organ, was by immersion; but, contrary to the custom of all sects who now insist upon this plan, the converts were required to go down into the water as they came into the world—without the incumbrance of clothing. The following passage, from Acts vii, 12, is quoted to substantiate this position:—"They were baptized, both men and women," which means clearly, to the Beecher organ, that the males were immersed, in a nude state, by males, and the females, in similar undress, by females! Mr. Beecher, having already revolutionized the accepted theories upon the marital relation, and set up a precedent which will stand for all time to come for the benefit of free and easy lovers, has now wisely turned his attention to another point too long neglected by him.

In consideration of the marked success which has attended his new remedy for domestic infelicity, the Trustees of Plymouth Church, a few days ago, by a unanimous vote, raised Mr. Beecher's salary from \$12,000 to \$20,000; but this advance the latter-day apostle declined, with thankfulness in his heart and tears in his eyes. He does not believe that he has as yet inaugurated as many reforms as would warrant such a princely compensation, and postpones the acceptance of the extra \$8000 per annum until he can put his novel baptismal theories in practical operation. Then an increase will be found quite acceptable; and not only that, but the Plymouth people will find it necessary to make material additions to their church, to accommodate the great crowds of pious people who will rush to witness the imposing and solemn spectacle of an apostolic baptism.

A PHILANTHROPIC and devoted lady yesterday presented a copy of a Bible to each member of the Senate of New Jersey, and by this donation evinced intuitive knowledge of the peculiar necessities of the times. Corruption and heathenism are enthroned in many of the halls of legislation, and our own capital, Harrisburg, affords a more fruitful field of missionary effort than either Greenland's icy mountains or India's coral strand. The politicians who neither respect the rights of their fellow-men nor fear their Creator, while they offer up their manhood and integrity on the altar of Mammon, are in greater need of instruction than savages addicted to fetish worship.

OBITUARY.

Francis Vincent Raspail. Francis Vincent Raspail, the celebrated French savant and political agitator, died in Paris yesterday morning. He was born at Carpentiers, in the Department of Valenciennes, on the 29th of January, 1794, and severely lacked but a few days of completing his seventy-sixth year. He was educated at Avignon for the Church, but subsequently devoted himself to law and the natural sciences, and was destined to take the highest rank in the latter department of knowledge. While still a student at the Seminary of Avignon, he delivered, in the year 1811, when but seventeen years old, a course of lectures on philosophy, and in the following year another course on theology. Condemned to his determination not to enter the Church, he went to Paris after the second restoration of the Bourbons, and supported himself for some time by private teaching. In 1824, he presented to the Institute his first memoir, which was a treatise upon the classification of grasses; in 1826 he became attached to the *Ducluth des Sciences de France*, and in 1829, in conjunction with M. Saigey, established the *Annales des Sciences d'Observation*. To this latter he contributed a number of valuable scientific articles, containing

particular attention to chemistry, and presenting strong claims to being considered the creator of the specialty of organic chemistry. He became, about this time, involved in a sharp controversy with Curvier and Geoffroy St. Hilaire, and in 1839 launched against them a work with the novel title of "*Champs de la Science Scientifique*," or, "A Scientific Horowhiping."

Early in life he had become attached to democratic principles, and from the first participated in the most political movements of the French capital, taking an active part and receiving a wound in the Revolution of July, 1830. He opposed, however, the elevation of Louis Philippe to the throne, and held himself entirely aloof from that sovereign, refusing both official employment and the Cross of the Legion of Honor which was tendered him by the King. His hostility to the new regime was so decided that he participated in the organization of the *Amis du Peuple* and other secret political societies which were designed to effect the overthrow of Louis Philippe, and was also chief editor of the *Reformateur*. In this way he became an object of persecution at the hands of the Government, being punished by a fine and fifteen months' imprisonment for one of his ferocious newspaper attacks upon the King, and suffering, altogether, over six years' confinement in prison. This involuntary lack of opportunity to take part in the political agitations of the day was taken advantage of to resume his scientific pursuits, and during his long imprisonment he wrote several elaborate scientific works. His prison experience also afforded the material for a work on Penitentiary Reform, published in 1839, in two octavo volumes.

His eccentric genius turned his attention to a special medical question, which was first developed in 1840, when, on the trial of Madame Lafarge for poisoning her husband, he attempted to convict the testimony of Orfila to the detection of arsenic in the intestines of the murdered man, by asserting that this proof amounted to nothing, as arsenic was diffused through all bodies and could even be detected in the wood of the chair on which the judge sat. This statement was supported in detail in the *Reformateur*, published by Raspail by the defense, and gave rise to a great deal of controversy. He then embraced the theory that disease is most frequently given rise to by the presence of parasites, either externally or internally, and fixed himself upon camphor as the surest general agent for their destruction. He then set himself up as a vendor of camphor cigarettes, but afterwards administered his favorite nostrum in other modes and in connection with other remedies. Several works, explanatory of his theories, on the mode of his system, were given to the public by Raspail; he opened an office, and tendered his gratuitous advice to the sick; and, although several times prosecuted, and even thrown into prison for the unauthorized practice of medicine, met with great success and reaped large pecuniary profits.

When the revolution of 1848 burst upon Paris, Raspail was once more in his element, and placed himself at the head of the crowd which, on the evening of February 24 of that year, assembled at the Hotel de Ville, and there proclaimed the republic before the arrival of the provisional government. He again refused political preferment, and established a radical daily journal style *the Amis du Peuple*, with this heading:—"God and fatherland; full and complete liberty of thought; unlimited religious tolerance; universal suffrage. The side of affairs, however, did not please him, and he was one of the leaders in the insurrection of May 15, 1848, in sympathy with Poland. For this he was placed under arrest, and confined until April, 1849, at Vincennes, when he was given a trial and condemned to an imprisonment of five years at Douliens. This harsh decree of the authorities so increased his popularity with the people that in September, 1849, he was elected a member of the National Assembly from the Department of the Seine, in December following received 25,000 votes as a candidate for the Presidency of the Republic, and while still a prisoner was again elected a deputy, being unable, of course, to discharge the duties of the position. On his release, in April, 1854, from imprisonment, the empire was in full blast, and Raspail could do nothing but leave the country. He repaired to Boffalora-Verona, near Mantua, in the Province of Lombardy, and there for a long time devoted himself entirely to scientific pursuits and the publication of a periodical entitled *Revue Complimentaire des Sciences Appliquees*.

Returning finally to Paris, without molestation on the part of the Government, Raspail last May announced himself as a candidate for the Corps Legislatif in the Fourth arrondissement of Paris. M. Garnier-Pages, another radical, was also a candidate in the same district, and the vote stood for Raspail, 14,062; for Garnier-Pages, 14,133; and for Levy, the Government candidate, 7044. Although lacking the necessary majority in Paris, Raspail was returned for the First Circumscription of the Rhone, Lyons, and took his seat in the Legislative Body as the most respectable of the irrecusable. When it was finally announced that the Government had postponed the meeting of the new Corps Legislatif several weeks beyond the appointed time, the irrecusable were retained for a time for the purpose of repairing to the place of assembling on October 26, 1859, the regular time for the opening of the session. This demonstration, however, was abandoned, and the leading opposition members, about the 20th of October, signed a manifesto in which they avowed their determination to await the opening of the session, which would give them an opportunity "to call the Executive to account for this new insult to the nation." The constituents of Raspail had addressed him a letter dissuading him from participating in the threatened demonstration. This document was a curious one. After excessive laudation of the veteran agitator, and the expression of the warmest respect for his judgment, "to which it left the entire decision of the propriety of persevering in his project," the address argued that it would be prudent for the deputy from the Rhone to abstain from taking part in a manifestation which was, in the opinion of the signers, a manoeuvre against the Democracy. The fact that Raspail's name was not affixed to the document signed by the opposition led all Paris to believe that he had, despite the appeal of his constituents, proceeded to the Chamber alone on the 26th, and protest single-handed against the tyranny of the Government. The veteran agitator, however, failed to put in an appearance, and the 26th of October passed without unusual commotion. When the Legislative Body finally met, Raspail joined hands with Rochefort, and the two from that time were in thorough accord, fighting the Government in the Chamber. Some weeks ago he signalled his Parliamentary career by presenting a remarkable bill which provided for the entire reorganization of the French Government. The last notable incident in his stormy career occurred on January 13, the day of Victor Noir's funeral, when, coming down the Champs Elysees in company with Rochefort, and followed by a great crowd chanting the "Marseillaise," he and his companion were known in their way and they were forced to proceed to the chamber without any further demonstrations on the part of the people.

With the death of Raspail, a name that has long and prominently figured in the affairs of France will disappear, and the Red Republicans will lose their most earnest and formidable leader. His career was a characteristic one, but it did not prevent the accumulation of a large fortune, which enabled him to live in great ease and the enjoyment of the most refined amenities of life. The day of his funeral will be a great day in Paris, and the fear of disturbance is already expressed, as delegations to attend it are expected from other cities.

It is reported that a line of Russian steamers, to run from the Black Sea to Bombay by the way of the Suez Canal, is soon to be established. Contracts have already been made with the company, by a Moscow house, to transport for it 4000 bales of cotton per week.

The United States Branch Mint property at Dahlonega, Ga., consisting of ton cars of land, a large two-story brick building, 135 feet by twenty-five, and an all brick fifty-five foot, which cost originally about \$250,000, has been sold at auction in Atlanta for \$125,000.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

The cost of clothing at 815 and 820 CHESTNUT STREET. JOHN WANAMAKER, CHESTNUT STREET CLOTHING ESTABLISHMENT, 818 AND 820 CHESTNUT STREET.

THE STAR COURSE OF LECTURES.

THE SECOND SERIES, COMMENCING JANUARY 21, MONDAYS AND THURSDAYS. T. E. PUGH has the honor to announce to the intellectual public of Philadelphia that he has arranged for the SECOND SERIES OF TEN LECTURES to be given in the following order:— WENDELL PHILLIPS, January 21. Subject—"The Questions of Tomorrow." FREDERICK W. FARBY (D. R. LOCKIE), February 1. Subject—"Social Life in America." REV. R. H. CHAPIN, D. D., February 18. Subject—"The Role of Honor." PHOENIX W. WILLIAMS, February 24. Subject—"Our National Policy—The Civil War." JOHN ROBERT R. ROBERTS, February 28. Subject—"Chemical Forces in Nature and the Arts." BAYARD TAYLOR, March 5. Subject—"French Folk at Home." JOHN G. SAXE, March 12. Subject—"French Folk at Home." FREDERICK W. FARBY, March 19. Subject—"Solar Eclipse." JOHN G. SAXE, April 7. Subject—"Down Brakes." LOGAN W. WILSON, April 14. Subject—"Down Brakes." G. R. TISDALL, April 21. Subject—"Down Brakes." G. R. TISDALL, April 28. Subject—"Down Brakes." G. R. 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