

Evening Telegraph

SATURDAY, MAY 13, 1871.

THE LAST MOVE OF THE WASHINGTON SQUARE RING.

The Washington Square property-holders having failed to procure the abolition of the Building Commission, have made a fresh start by procuring the introduction of a bill in the Senate to suspend the operations of the commission until the next general election, when the question of its continuance or discontinuance shall be submitted to the voters of Philadelphia. This bill was introduced by Mr. Connell yesterday morning, was reported almost immediately by the Committee on Municipal Corporations, and was finally passed yesterday afternoon. This was tolerably lively legislation, to say the least of it. The anti-Penn Squareites are evidently playing this bill as their last and strongest card, relying upon the apparent fairness of it and upon the popular obliviousness to the large-sized snake concealed under it to secure the object for which they have been laboring.

The primary object of the bill is to get the subject of the Building Commission before the House, when it is hoped that a majority can be commanded who will do the bidding of the ring of property-holders who desire to have the public buildings erected on the site that has been rejected by the people of Philadelphia. If this bill is brought before the House, it will be an easy thing by the aid of a simple majority to amend it so as to abolish the Building Commission absolutely; and this is just what the men at whose instance it was passed by the Senate expect to accomplish. Let the Committee on Municipal Corporations of the House therefore resolutely refuse to consent to this or any other proposition to interfere with the commission, which is engaged in carrying out the wishes of a vast majority of the people of this city in an eminently satisfactory manner. The commission has done nothing, from the day of its appointment to the present time, to justify the clamor raised against it by men whose interested motives deprive their arguments and vituperations of all force, and if allowed to carry out the work it has in hand without interference, it will give Philadelphia a handsome municipal edifice that will be an ornament to the city and a source of pride to future generations. The erection of the public buildings has certainly been delayed long enough, but if it depends upon the Washington Square party they will never be erected at all unless upon that or some contiguous site; and the only way to settle the matter is to let the commission go on with its work without further interference. The people of this city are heartily sick of the whole controversy about the public buildings, and we appeal to the Legislature to interfere no more, but to permit this great municipal enterprise to proceed in accordance with the already plainly-expressed will of the majority. If Mr. Connell's bill passes and the anti-Penn Squareites suffer another defeat at the polls, they will start some new issue and perhaps demand another popular vote; and so the contest will go on for years without any practical results. The whole difficulty can be settled now in a proper manner by the House of Representatives refusing to accede to the demands of the anti-Penn Squareites, and by giving them plainly to understand that they can expect no aid of any kind at Harrisburg now or in the future.

AN INSURANCE DEPARTMENT.

A BILL creating an Insurance Department has recently been presented in the State Legislature and published in THE TELEGRAPH. Its leading feature consists in the transfer to a new official of the business and duties connected with insurance which are now entrusted to the Auditor-General—a change which in itself will be of comparatively little utility unless it tends to awaken increased interest and attention to the general subject. In one respect the proposed reform would be likely to be detrimental to the State. The Auditor-Generals, being an elective officer, chosen by the people of the whole State, is usually a man of wide reputation for honesty and capacity, whereas the proposed Superintendent of Insurance would be an appointee of the Governor; and if he proved a mere mercenary spoils-hunter he might enrich himself by blackmailing good insurance companies and by conniving at the operations of fraudulent institutions.

At the same time there is no doubt that insurance has attained such a magnitude that additional legislation is needed to protect the public from imposition and to secure an honest and faithful administration of the affairs of the respective companies. Perhaps the best method of attaining this end would be to apply a principle like that Sidney Smith proposed to apply to railway travel as a preventive of accidents. He suggested that directors should be put on the locomotives of passenger trains, and it would be well to provide that the directors of insurance companies should not only be made liable pecuniarily for the acts of the companies they control, but that they should also be punished criminally for any specially grievous act of wrong-doing. It is becoming a practical question, in some instances, whether there is not a necessity for insuring those who have undertaken to insure property and lives; and while good and responsible companies abound, an overabundance of "tricks that are vain" are practised by agents and officials connected with some of the companies. Insurance is, inherently, such a useful and essential part of the economy of modern life, that it would be exceedingly unfortunate if the public confidence in it was materially diminished or destroyed; but in view of the numerous misrepresentations made from time to time by untruthful agents, the obscure clauses inserted in some policies, and the occasional efforts to evade their obligations, as well as the financial con-

lapse, now and then, of an insurance company, it is evident that new safeguards must be thrown around the system before it can be made as perfect as it ought to be. This is not an easy task, but it would be a very proper and commendable one for the Legislature; and if that body will seriously undertake to devise means for discriminating between good and bad companies, and for prosecuting criminally, as swindlers, all directors or agents who obtain the money of the public by false representations, it will do a great deal more good than is to be accomplished by the mere creation of a lucrative new office. The subject of insurance should be carefully considered in all its bearings, and a comprehensive system adopted that would ward off all the existing dangers and reform all the prevailing abuses.

"THE PUBLIC RECORD" to-day completed the first year of its publication. It is seldom that a new journalistic enterprise can make such a good showing on the first anniversary of its establishment. By a studied attempt to meet a popular demand, enterprise in obtaining the latest and most reliable news without regard to expense, and a calm, dispassionate, and impartial discussion of the questions of the day, the *Public Record* has fairly achieved the large measure of success which it has merited.

NOTICES.

"LET US HAVE PEACE." THE GRAND PEACE FESTIVAL

OF OUR
GERMAN FELLOW-CITIZENS,
ON MONDAY, MAY 15, 1871.

ALL PERSONS IN ANY WAY INTERESTED IN THIS,
THE MOST
MAGNIFICENT PAGEANT
EVER DESIGNED IN PHILADELPHIA, WILL PLEASE
OBSERVE CAREFULLY THE FOLLOWING
SUGGESTIONS:

TO PARTICIPANTS IN THE PARADE!

1st Suggestion.—Much depends upon the appearance of each individual, and to look exactly right, you should be clad in clothes from

WANAMAKER & BROWN'S OAK HALL.

2d Suggestion.—If you must have a pair of Black Pants, remember you can get them for from \$5 to \$10, warranted the best in town, at

WANAMAKER & BROWN'S OAK HALL.

3d Suggestion.—You will need White Gloves, and, perhaps, a new Cravat. These, and all other Furnishing Goods, are to be had also at

WANAMAKER & BROWN'S OAK HALL.

4th Suggestion.—Waste no money in buying your clothes, but get good clothing at the very lowest prices, for which you must go to

WANAMAKER & BROWN'S OAK HALL.

TO SPECTATORS.
Suggestion 1st.—To fully enjoy this grand display you must have on a new Spring Suit from

THE LARGEST CLOTHING HOUSE,
W. & B.'S OAK HALL.

Suggestion 2d.—As the boys are going to have a holiday of it, improve the opportunity by bringing them to

THE LARGEST CLOTHING HOUSE,
W. & B.'S OAK HALL.

Suggestion 3d.—Remember that for men and boys there are no prices so low as at

THE LARGEST CLOTHING HOUSE,
W. & B.'S OAK HALL.

TO STRANGERS.
One Suggestion.—Do not fail to call and look through the greatest business house in America. You will be heartily welcome whether you come to buy or not by

WANAMAKER & BROWN,
AT

OAK HALL, MARKET AND SIXTH STREETS.
Nos. 532, 534, 536, and 538 Market street, and 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, and 13 South Sixth street.

VALUABLE PROPERTY.—M. Thomas & Sons will sell at the Merchants' Exchange on Tuesday, May 16, the desirable property known as the "Phoenix Hose House," Filbert street, above Seventh.

CLOTHING.

SPRING, 1871.

Coachmen's Coats.

GREAT BROWN HALL.

We are now making a specialty of Coats for Coachmen.

We have in store a splendid lot of them ready for immediate use.

Fine Driving Coats

for gentlemen who drive in the Park, or elsewhere.
Light Spring Overcoats of every description
Fine Spring Suits from \$10 upward.
The best and the cheapest of everything,

AT
ROCKHILL & WILSON'S

GREAT BROWN HALL,
603 and 605 CHESNUT STREET,
PHILADELPHIA.

HABILLEMENTS
No. 324 CHESTNUT ST.
CHARLES STOKES & CO.
CONTINENTAL HOTEL
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

ELEGANT

AND

FASHIONABLE

CLOTHING TO ORDER.

Sold Cheaply

and always

Finished Promptly.

Both of which our unusual facilities enable us easily to do.

PHILADELPHIA CLOTH HOUSE

WILLIAM T. SNODGRASS & CO.

N. W. Corner of Ninth and Market Streets.

NEW STYLES STRIPED CASSIMERES,

HANDSOME SPRING COATINGS,

GENUINE SCOTCH CHEVIOTS,

In Black, Dark Blue, Light Blue, Stripes, and Neat Mixtures.

TWENTY THOUSAND YARDS BOYS' CASSIMERES,

RANGING FROM 50 CENTS TO \$1.25 PER YARD.

LINEN DUCKS AND DRILLS.

LADIES' SACQUEINGS,

In Great Variety. White Sacqueings a Specialty.

CLOTHS FOR LADIES' WRAPS.

COMPLETE STOCK OF

WOOLENS FOR FRIENDS' WEAR.

WILLIAM T. SNODGRASS & CO.

N. W. Corner of NINTH and MARKET Streets.

REEVE L. KNIGHT & SON,

1222

CHESNUT STREET,

IMPORTERS AND DEALERS IN

CARPETINGS,

OIL CLOTHS,

MATTINGS,

DRUGGETINGS,

Rugs, Door-Mats, Etc.

WINES.

SHERRY WINES.

TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY CASKS

In stock of our

Favorite Table Sherry,

At \$2.00 per gallon by the cask of 50 gallons, or \$1.75 by the five-gallon demijohn.

E. BRADFORD CLARKE,

(SUCCESSOR TO SIMON COLTON & CLARKE),

8. W. Corner BROAD and WALNUT,

131 tuthst/4p PHILADELPHIA.

JEWELRY AND SILVERWARE.

ROBBINS,

CLARK

AND

BIDDLE.

SILVER.

An immense stock of Sterling Silverware, Made to our order by Gorham Mfg. Co.

SILVER.

Dinner and Tea Services. Punch and Berry Bowls, Large pieces suitable for Bridal or general presentation.

SILVER.

SPOONS, FORKS and KNIVES, Over twenty different patterns, in 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 8 dozens, Leather, Walnut, and Maple Cases.

SILVER.

We have one of the largest and best selected stocks of SILVER in this city. Prices always satisfactory, as evinced by our sales, which doubled the past year.

SILVER.

ROBBINS,

CLARK

AND

BIDDLE,

BAILEY & Co

JEWELLERS,

CHESNUT and TWELFTH Sts.,

Invite attention to their wedding outfits o

STERLING SILVER

FORKS AND SPOONS,

Of which they have nineteen patterns, all of the finest quality, and at lowest prices.

J.E. CALDWELL & Co

No. 902 CHESNUT Street.

NEW DESIGNS IN

PLATED WHITE METAL

TEA SETS.

PEARL AND SATIN FINISH.

\$40.00 20 LOAN IN SUMS OF \$16.000 and upwards. Apply to LEWIS H. REDNER, No. 1st WALNUT Street.

BEDDING PLANTS OF EVERY SORT, well grown, and at the lowest prices, at H. BUST'S Nurseries, 613 1/2 SIXTY-SEVENTH St. and DARBYP Road.