

of the money to be raised chiefly by city rates. Some of my friends here are opposed to the measure, declaring that such public works are never executed with economy, nor thriftily managed. The taxation always falls on some districts, which derive no profit from the enterprise, and they demand other grants of public money as a compensation, and these are laid out with equal extravagance. The good sense of the New Englanders, say they, has almost invariably checked them from entering upon such undertakings, and in one of the few instances in which they have deviated from sound policy, they have repented. For when, in opposition to the richer inhabitants, a branch railway was made to connect Bridgeport, in Connecticut, with the main line of road, the bonds of that small inland town were pledged as security for the money borrowed. The traffic proved insufficient to meet their liabilities, and a majority of the citizens then determined to repudiate. The rich alleged that they had opposed the project, and the poor, who had voted away their money, were quite willing that no new taxes should be imposed. The creditors, however, went to law, and, by aid of the courts, compelled payment, as the Supreme Court might have done in the case of the delinquent states (had not the original constitution of the Union been altered before any of them repudiated), which might have given a wholesome check to rash enterprises guaranteed by state bonds.

The booksellers tell me that their trade is injured by the war-panic, and I observe that most of the halfpenny, or cent papers, are still very belligerent on the Oregon question.

On Sunday, I attended service, for the first time, in a free black Episcopal church. Prayers were read well by a negro clergyman, who was evidently an educated man. The congregation consisted wholly of the colored race. Where there is a liturgy, and where written sermons are read, there is small opportunity of comparing the relative capabilities of Africans and Europeans for the discharge of such functions. In the Baptist, Methodist, and Presbyterian services, the success of the minister depends much more on his individual ability. I was glad, however, to see a negro officiating in a church which confers so much social rank on its clergyman, and in no city more than Philadelphia