Evening Telegraph

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THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 1866.

The Philosophy of Crime. WHEN philosophers begin to speculate about the origin and laws of crime, they involve themselves in a great deal of perplexity. One of their favorite questions is, whether there is, in fact, such a thing as human conscience, and if they settle that affirmatively, they then go on to dispute whether conscience is innate or acquired. The Scriptures tell us that man is desperately wicked, and inclined to evil as the sparks fly upward. The authority of the Divine Book is quite sufficient to solve the first problem of the moralists, namely, whether crime is natural or not. There can be no doubt in the mind of a Christian that all men are disposed to sin by inheritance. ADAM and Evs, though reported to have been created in perfection, were seduced by the Devil, and fell from their high estate. They were forthwith turned out of Paradise and left under the dominion of Satan. All their descendants have partaken of the effects of their disobedience to the Divine law, and human nature, ever since, has been prone to

iniquity. But ADAM and EVE went out of the Garden of Eden with a painful sense of their disloyalty to God and His law; and that sense of wrong, and moral suffering under it, has been imparted and bequeathed to all their posterity. And it is that hereditary sensibility, mental and moral, in consequence of any violation of the religious code, which constitutes what is called, technically, con-

From this follows one very obvious conc'usion, and that is, that in the degree that we educate conscience, according to the revealed will of God, we restrain men from the transgression of God's law. Human laws, in so far as they prohibit cruelty, injustice, and violence, are only declaratory of the Decalogue. They are merely designed to enforce, by temporal direction and sauction, the commands of the Divine Lawgiver. But the mere knowledge of law is not always sufficient to secure obedience to it. The heart of the subject must be brought into harmony with it to the fullest possible extent. When any one is required to obey a particular precept, especially if that precept is in direct opposition to his natural proclivities, he needs selfishness will be satisfied with nothing less. Personal religion should be founded on gratitude alone. Every man's love of God and respect for God's law should be built altogether on a filial sense of God's parental love. But human selfishness has, too often, much more to do with human piety or its profession, than a child's affection for a forgiving and indulgent tather.

Eut, nevertheless, crime in this world can only be effectually restrained by an intelligent and sincere religious faith. Our criminal laws, and magistrates, and police, and prisons, and gibbets, may exercise a certain measure of restraint on the evil passions and dispositions of mankind. But they cannot entirely prevent crime. They do not reach down to the moral depths of human nature. They do not impress and control the conscience of men. They deter from violence by fear of temporal inconvenience and suffering. But that is all. When the human soul has no other restraint from sin, no sense of responsibility beyond this life, human laws and punishments fail in their effect.

There can be no doubt, we think, that the fiend who murdered the DEARING family is an infidel or an atheist. He either believed that there is no God, or that, if there is a God, He has no concern about the creatures of this world. His notion of his own life probably is, that he came into this sphere of being like a brute, and that he will die like a brute. Thus estimating his own life, he naturally cared very little for the lives of his fellow-creatures. The step from a wrong conception of his own nature and existence to that of a false valuation of the nature and existence of other human beings, was quite short. He probably thought no more of killing a man or woman or child, than he thought of killing a dog or a snake. We would not excite any commiseseration for PROBST, because he has effectually put himself beyond the pale of human sympathy; but we would earnestly, in view of his awful crime, enforce the doctrine that a sound religious morality is the only sure basis of civil society, and the most effectual protection against the commission of capital offenses. An eminent English divine has truly and eloquently said: "That to extinguish human life by the hand of violence must be quite a different thing in the eyes of a skeptic from what it is in those of a Christian. With the skeptic it is nothing more than diverting the course of a little red fluid called blood; it is merely lessening the number by one of many millions of fugitive, contemptible creatures. The Christian sees the same event an accountable being cut off from a state of probation. and hurried, perhaps unprepared, into the presence of his Judge, to hear that final, that inexorable sentence, which is to fix him

forever in an unalterable condition of felicity or woe. The former perceives in death nothing but its physical circumstances; the latter is impressed with the magnitude of its moral consequences. It is the moral relation which man is supposed to bear to a superior power, the awful idea of accountability, the influence which his present dispositions and actions are conceived to have upon his eternal destiny, more than any superiority of intellectual powers abstracted from these considerations, which invest him with such mysterious grandeur, and constitute the firmest guard on the sanctuary of human life."

Some Points in Mr. Stephens' Testimony. THERE are some points in the testimony of Mr. ALEXANDER STEPHENS before the Reconstruction Committee worthy of comment. He testifies emphatically to the industry and general good conduct of the freedmen. He says that they are generally at work, and that their behavior is "much better than the most hopeful looked for." So much for predictions that the freed black man would not work, and would become a vagrant.

Mr. STEPHENS thinks that the Southern people still adhere to their belief in the abstract right of secession, but that they would never again attempt to exercise it to the extent of inaugurating war. This change of opinion as to the policy of seeking to carry out their views by force he ascribes mainly to the operations of the war among themselves, and the breaking down of individual rights of person and property by their own authorities. The wrongfulness of attempting to overthrow a free, representative Government by force does not seem to be comprehended by Mr STEPHENS or the Southern people generally.

Upon the point of suffrage and representation Mr. STEPHENS is quite emphatic. The people-that is, the white people-of Georgia, he thinks, would neither be willing to bestow the right of suffrage upon the negroes, nor, on the other hand, to exclude them from the basis of representation; and if the proposition were made to the State, as a condition precedent to the admission of her representatives in Congress, either that suffrage should be conferred upon the colored population, or that they should be excluded from the basis of representation, he things such a proposition would and should be rejected. That is to say, Georgia proposes to disfranchise nearly one-half of her whole population as unfit to be trusted with political power, and yet to augment her representation in Congress and in the Electoral College by counting in this same disfranchised population. To show the monstrous character of this proposition, we shall adduce a few figures and institute some comparisons. Mr. STEPHENS testifies that the present voting population of Georgia is 80,000. This is evidently a liberal estimate, but we will accept it. Her representation in Congress, under the apportionment of 1860, is seven. to be convinced of its reasonableness and its But, as in that apportionment only threefitness to secure his own welfare. Human | fifths of the colored population-then slaveswere counted, while now, as tree men, the whole number would be counted, another Congressman would be added to the Georgia delegation, making eight. However, we will take seven as the standard. Eighty thousand voters in Georgia, then, are to be represented by seven Congressmen. New Jersey, last fall, polled over 132,000 votes, yet she has but five representatives. According to the Georgia rate she ought to have eleven. Hence, each reconstructed Rebel in Georgia, according to STEPHENS' plan, would wield more than twice the power in Congress of a loyal citizen of New Jersey.

Iowa, in 1864, polled over one hundred and thirty-six thousand votes. She has six representatives. According to the Georgia rate she ought to have twelve.

Hence Georgia is to have twice the power in Congress that Iowa has; or, to be more specific, eleven voters in Georgia will wield as much power as twenty-six voters in Iowa.

Take our own State. Pennsylvania polled in 1864 over 572,000 votes. She has twenty-

four representatives. According to the Georgia rate she ought to have flfty-two ! In other words, eleven voters in Georgia are to have as much influence in all national affairs as twenty-three voters in Pennsylvania.

We need not pursue these comparisons further. They show that Mr. STEPHENS' plan of reconstruction is one which never can

and never ought to be accepted. There are only two more points in this testimony to which we will allude. In reply to the question, whether he was to be understood as holding the opinion that the Government bad no constitutional power to exact conditions precedent to the restoration of political power to the lately rebellious States? Mr. STEPHENS replied that such was his opinion. In reply to the further question, whether he held the same opinion respecting the constitutional amendment abolishing slavery? be said that he did. This, it will be seen, opens the door to the future repudiation of the amendment by the Southern States, although Mr. STEPHENS took occasion to avow his belief that said amendment had been adopted in good faith.

Mr. STEPHENS claims in his testimony that immediately upon the cessation of the war the rebellious States were entitled to resume their old relations and claim all of their old rights under the Constitution. In other words, a State may secede, rebel, wage war, join a fereign power, exert its utmost endeavors to overthrow the Government, and yet the very moment it is conquered, may step back into the full enjoyment of all its former rights. This may be good doctrine for Rebels, but it certainly would be a premium upon rebellion and civil war such as no civilized community would be justified in offerring.

any means-dwelt upon by CARLYLE, in his inaugural address before the University of Edinburgh, wortly of special attention by those who are so constantly clamoring for what they call a "practical" education. It is this, that the true function of schools, colleges, universities, is not to store the mind with facts, but to confer upon it the power of thought. Discipline, not knowledge, is the true end of education. The power of any store of mere tacts, however rich. Facts, unless classified and orderly arranged, accord-

Practical Education.

THERE is one thought-not a new one, by

patient, continuous, unflagging thought is at the foundation of all mental greatness, and is worth more to a man in any walk of life than ing to some principle or law, are mere rub bish in the mind. Not the student who reads the most law will make the greatest lawyer, but he who most thoroughly masters the iundamental principles of the law. It is this power of mastery, this comprehension of principles, this capability of classification, which it is the true province of education to give. A "practical" education is that which gives a man the best control of all his faculties, and thus best enables him to meet and control the facts of life as they occur.

DIRECTORY OF THE UNION PACIFIC RAILWAY, EASTERN DIVISION .- At the annual meeting of the Union Pacific Railway Company, Eastern Division, held on the 2d instant, the following gentlemen, two of whom it will be seen are citizens of this State, were elected directors for the ensuing

John D. Perry, St. Louis; Adolphus Meier, St. Louis; John P. Devereux, St. Louis; Thomas L. Price, Jefferson City; George Partridge; St. Louis; William H. Clement, Cincinnati; H. J. Jewett, Zanesville; Thomas A. Scott, Philadelphia; and John McManus, Reading.

At a subsequent meeting of the Directors, the following officers of the company were

President, John D. Perry; Vice-President, Adolphus Meier; Superintendent and Chief Engineer, R. M. Shoemaker; Secretary and Treasurer, William J. Palmer

Mr. PERRY has been associated with the road nearly from its incipiency, and to his energy and perseverance, in the face of difficulties which would have daunted most men, the present advanced condition of the enterprise is in no small degree due.

More Disasters of Travel.—The steamer Financier, bound from Pittsburg to New Orleans, was burned on the night of the 12th instant at Remington. Ten lives were lost. The boat and the cargo were totally destroyed. One of the boilers of the wrecking steamer Alpha exploded Monday night, three miles below Wilmington, N. C., seriously injuring the crew and

BIGAMY IN INDIANA .- A woman from one of the southern counties of Indiana went to In-dianapolis recently to bunt up her husband, who mysteriously disappeared some weeks since. To her astonishment she learned that he had married a respectable young woman, and had resumed agricultural pursuits in that neighbor-hood,

THE PAPAL DEET.—A satisfactory arrangement has been arrived at by the French and Italian Governments respecting the Papal debt. Italy assumes one-balt the debt as it stood in 1860, and the interest thereon, which has up to the pre-sent been paid by the Court of Rome, will here-after be met by the Cabinet of Florence.

A SEVERE MARCH IN MINNESOTA, -The St. Paul (Minn.) Pioneer says, that last month was the coldest that has been experienced for nine years. A comparison of mean temperatures goes to show that every year the thermometer falls lower. Is not this due to the relentless wood-axe of the pioneer?

MORE MISCHIEF FROM KEROSENE OIL .- The New England glass works at East Cambridge were damaged to the amount of fifty or seventy thousand dollars by fire Thursday afternoon. The disaster was caused by the explosion of an

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SPECIAL NOTICES. (See the Second Page for addition! Special Notices.) UNION PRAYER IETING THIS evenius, a quarter betore delock, at Dr. Kennard's Church, Elight H Street bore Green. Young men and ladies especially invited a bipresent. HOWELL & BROTHERS,

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THOMAS BIRCH & SON respectfully announce that on TUESDAY MORNING, April 24, at 10 o'clock, at the Auction Store, No. 1110 CHESNUT Street, they will, sell by order of Signor G. B. Pandolfini, an invoice of Carrara Marble Groups and Figures. Also, Garden Statuary. Vases, Ornaments, Bohemian Glass Ware, Plated Ware, Etc.

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