THE NEW YORK PRESS.

EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF LEADING JEURNALS UPON CURRENT 10PICS.

COMPILED LYFRY DAY FOR EVENING TELFGRAPH.

The Calandar of Losses.

From the Tribune. During the quarter ending last December, the losses in 110 considerable fires throughout the country are reckoned above \$20,000,000, and those for the whole year double the year previous, and far exceeding many former years. This is accounted for by extraordinary losses In certain fires, such as the burning of cotton, and Government and city warehouses, and one or two extensive factories. 75 fires occurred in New York State, with a loss of nearly \$8,000,000. 25 houses were destroyed in a single fire at Lima, N. Y., and 100 in Belfast, Me. The severest loss of life during a fire occurred at Charleston, where a score of people were killed by falling walls. Cotton burned in store and on snipboard, 7000 bales. In nine years the Zotal in fires of \$20,000 and upwards falls

short of \$72,000,000. We are here generally estimating only land and house fires, and perhaps not in all respects from an insurance point of view. Let us add a review of the recent quarter, ending with the last of April. In thirty-eght ares of \$100,000 loss and upward, the total destruction amounted to \$10,670,000. We compare this with the former quarter, in which thirty-eight fires of the same degree occurred, with a general reported loss of nore than \$18,000,000. The chief losers have been the cities of New York, Concinnati, Philadelphia, Buffalo, the Oil Regions, the Michigan Central and Pennsylvania Rallroads, and the peneral Government. Cotton, amounting to between three and four millions of dollars, was burned in Mobile. Pike's splendid opera house was lately destroyed in Cincinnati; and in the last eight months, chiefly in the quarter just past, a score of fires dried as many wells in bil regions. Fires on ship, steamboat, and rail-road have not yet been reckoned, but make up a large supplement to the other volume of losses The amount of cotton thus destroyed in the last two quarters would easily reach 12,000 bases—a fact of further warning against careless shipment and storage.

Statistics of radical disaster are still of pre-vailing interest, and full of grave suggestion. From September to January the number of acciclents, involving loss of property and life—say at least an average of two deaths to each occurrence-were 76, of which 23 were outright col lisions. In eight cases trains were precipitated; eight more were explosions; in three, bridges broke down; in four, switches were misplaced; and in one or two justances the cars ran off trestles. On several railroads as many as three or four locomotives were destroyed in twenty four hours. The railroads of New York were debited with twenty accidents. On all the railroads of the country, estimating from the quar-2erly figures, the accidents were not lar less 2han 200 during the year 1865.

Contrasted with this statement, the quarter gone by shows either improvement or good for-zone in the management of the roads. We count only twenty-three accidents, the worst of Them two collisions on railroads near New York. and one case of bridge-breaking; the whole with a loss of between fifty and seventy lives. A phenomenal crime, the attempt by one person to cause a train to be thrown off the track, was lately frustrated on the Shore-line Road. We see 2 hat in eight months very nearly one hundred railroad accidents take place, more than one-jourth of the number collisions, and at least one-

Here it is worth while making a general count of explosions. Out of 31 which occurred be-zween September and January, 8 were on rail-roads, 10 on steamboats, 8 in shops and factories; 8 were from gun powder, and I from glinoine oil, or nitro-glycerine. Between January and May occurred 28, some of them of most terrible character, and nearly all explosions of eagine boilers. By the explosions of the steamers Missouri and Miami, and the steamboat Carter, on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, more than 400 lives were The new explosive essence known as mitro glycerine has already cost three accidents, and nearly 100 lives. By 56 explosions, in the last eight months, it is not improbable that 1000 rsons have been killed. This dry statement is The index of most appalling catastrophies.

Steamboat accidents and losses have a similar painful variety. Out of 70 boats lost or destroyed, principally on the Western rivers, 13 had collided, 10 exploded, 7 were burned, and 29 lost through leakage. Five disasters took place on the Lakes, for seven or eight on the Mississippi; 12 steamboats and barges were lost by the St. Louis ice-gorge. By the explosions and collisions probably 300 lives were lost. In the succeeding quarter we reckon forty-two steamers lost, but these include such fearful clisasters as the burnings and explosions of the steamers Missouri, Miami, Carter, and Lockwood, with an aggregate loss of about 500 lives. Altogether, 117 valuable steamers and their more precious freight of human life and wealth have been sunk or destroyed in eight mon hs. Add to the calendar seventy-five marine disasters, tour of them collisions and eight burnings, with a loss of 259 lives, in the quarter ending December; and 48 wrecks between January and May, with about 170 lives lost, most of Them in the steamers Constitution, Narcissus, and other vessels-an aggregate, for eight months, of 123 disasters, costing 429 lives. In These eight months the earthquake showed several alarming symptoms in Canfornia, and a storm on the Gulf coast swept away a number ot villages. Recapitulating, we observe that in the two tast quarters occurred 217 accidents by which railway cars and steamboats were strosed, 56 severe explosions, and 123 ship wrecks on the American coast. It is not a little remarkable that disasters to inland travel have been more frequent than upon the sea.

The Crops.

From the World. The recent steady advance in the price of wheat is setting inquiries on foot touching the prospects of the summer and tall crops. Flour is very high, even allowing for the gold premium and the large wages of farm laborers; and there does not seem to be much prospect of a reduc-Zion of the price until some of the new crop of wheat is marketed.

From the accounts which reach us through our exchanges and by private advices, we judge that the maturing wheat crop promises well. The winter wheat looked thrifty upon the opening of spring, and, though the season has since been backward, nothing has so far occurred to injere the grain. We do not think, however, that a very large area of ground has been devoted to wheat. The prices last fall were very discouraging to farmers, while farm labor was and has remained to this time, very high.

The deficiency, however, may be made up by larger quantities than usual of Southern wheat. As food was the first necessity of the Southerners upon the close of the war, they went to work to raise such vegetables and grain as would supply their immediate wants. The freeing of the megro will tend to increase the supply of small grain at all points in the south where cotton cannot be grown profitably. White labor takes more kin ily to grain raising than to cotton cul-Ture, and there are far more white people now sat work in the field in the Berder States than

But the surplus wheat sent to market by the South will be but a very small proportion of what will be needed to supply the wants of the country. It will be marketed early in the season, and where one bushel will come north in July, firty bushels of Western wheat will go to the Cotton States later in the season; for, notwithstanding the diversion of labor to wheatgrewing in the Border States, there has been a far greater diversion of labor to cotton-growing wherever that fibre can be raised. The enor-

mous profits which cotton culture promises has turned the whole available industry of the cotton region to its cultivation this year. It follows, therefore, that the Cotton States will require nearly all their grain and meat from the Middle and Western States, and hence next fall will probably see a vast commerce spring up between the West and South.

t these considerations have any weight, there is a reasonable prospect that the price of wheat well tremain high all this year. It is now satisfactorily ascertained that the wheat crops of 1864 and 1865 were not large, and we there-fore begin a new wheat year with scarcely any surplus. Taking into consideration the discouragements of farmers at the planting season, and the probability of a large demand South next tall, there does not seem much likelihood of cheap flour during 1866. The low price of corn which has obtained up to this time will, no doubt, have its effect in increasing the hog crop of the present year. There is reason to believe, also, that meats of all kinds will be cueaper next fall than now.

English Statesman on American Democracy.

From the Times . The debate on the English Reform bill has brought out some expressions of opinion in regard to our form of government which are somewhat amusing. A portion of the speech of Mr. Lowe possesses this character. He is of those who, adopting the letter of Lord Macaulay, written in 1832, on receiving a copy of Jefferson's works, as their guide, assume at once the functions of a judge and the profundity of a prophet. In Mr. Lowe's eyes, the method of representation among us is a huge mistake, and its consequences fraught with the direct disas. ters. We are to die of democracy. When our towns have increased to European dimensions they will swamp the country beneath a flood of poverty and ignorance. It is only the agricultu-ral interest which has preserved us so far; but that will be overbalanced some day. Then, some great question will arise upon which the people

will be divided, and anarchy will follow, and a

usurper will succeed it. The opinion of Mr. Macauley was written thirty-four years ago; and since then the cities of the United States have grown to proportions equal to the largest in Europe, with a single ex-ception, and rivalling those of antiquity. Dur-ing a civil conflict, which as far exceeds in magnitude the civil wars of England as this conti-nent exceeds in size the British Islands, the young but great and growing cities of the republic showed a devotion to the principles of liberty, an energy in the struggle for national life, and a readiness to make patriotic sacrifices, which have never been paralleled in the history of human government. If Mr. Lowe does not know this, he might consult with advantage the record of New York, Philadelphia, Cincinnati, Chicago, Pittsburg, Buffalo, and Boston, at that epoch in American history when the question was being tested whether this Government should surrender to slavery, and whether, thus surrendering, it should continue to be a Government at all. The agricultural community did nobly during the war. But the cities of the loyal portion of he country did their tull proportion of patriotic

uty, in men and in means. Mr. Lowe asks what, if democracy is adopted in England, will become of the House of Peers and of the Established Church? nay, even of the House of Commons itself? What, indeed! Why, Mr. Lowe himself might lose his own seat, since the borough of Calne would most surely be abolished as a separate constituency. His

a arm is just, and we sympathize with it.

Mr. Lowe dreads, as following an extension of the suffrage, the dangers or revolution and anarchy. He cites the condition of the Louises of France and others as instances where the up-setting of thrones resulted in terrible popular suffering, to be tollowed by despotism. And he alludes to the love of the English people for their sovereign as a guarantee of peace within the nation. What if France had been always a republic-would the great revolutions there bave arisen if there had been no kings? Why, even in England, is there not already a vast un-derstratum of vice and poverty which is a constant terror in all times of political agitation. Suppose that a bad monarch now ruled the Enghish people, to whom would they be loyal, to him or to themselves? The question is not an unfair one. But let us remind such as Mr. Lowe that we try to educate our voters, and with some success. Our failure to educate some of them is due to the ignorance which they bring with them from Europe. The very element which is most troublesome here is the poor, untaught element which pours forth from every emigrant ship that leaves the Old World. If here, with liberty and representation, these new-comers are for the most part safely trusted, how need they be feared if they were represented at home, and with all the associations of home around them, and where they constitute a power unheard, but never forgotten? The truth, as we read it, is that no harm comes of trusting the people, and that if the people are xasperated by injustice and wrong-doing, they will give a shape to their teelings which will be equally pugnacious under all the forms of government ever invented, but the resort to public violence will be longest postponed where the fullest expression of public opinion is freely

Condition of Utah-The Radical Party on the Twin Relics of Barbarism.

We published yesterday some interesting correspondence concerning affairs in Utah Terri tory. A party who says that he has resided there for some time denies the accounts of frequent murders said to be committed by the Mormons. The stories of assassination which we published the other day attracted the attention also of General Sherman, who sent a cautionary despatch to Brigham Young on the subject. The Mormon leader answers by telegraph that there is no foundation for the reports, except that a soldier, not a Mormon, shot a man in the streets of Great Salt Lake City. and that a Mormon, whose wife had been seduced by a Gentile, shot the offender. Several citizens of Utah have also assured General Sherman that Brigham's statement is correct, We gave all these documents in yesierday's issue; but they do not prove that violence and an utter disregard of the rules of Christian society the laws of the land do not exist in Utah. Brigham Young says that the Mormon comnunity is not responsible for these two murders; but we have not heard of a coroner's jury fixing the responsibility upon any one, nor of the law having been vindicated in any way. The fact that the Mormon institution is per-mitted to exist at all within the jurisdiction of

the United States is a disgrace to our form of Tue first plank laid in the platform of the Republican party adopted at the Pittsburg Con-vention of 1856 was the destruction of what the eaders then denominated "the twin relies of bart arism"-slavery and polygamy. With this motto inscribed upon their banner a large porion of the people rallied around them, and ormed a powerful and, finally, a dominant party. Have the pledges been redeemed? As far as lavery is concerned the war settled that ques ion. Slavery is no longer in existence. But the Republican party seem to have forgotten the other relic of barbarism, polygamy, against which they proposed to make war and to utterly exterminate, Everything still thrives in Utah. Brigham Young and his thirtyfive wives are in a flourishing condition. A standing army of respectable proportions has just been fully organized in Sait Lake City with a view to resist any encroach-ment upon their territory or any interference with their peculiar moral or immoral code by the Gentiles. This grossest vice known in the catalogue of sins is practised in a portion of the American domain, under shelter of the law, and what have the Republicans done to prevent it, after all their promises to uproof polygamy? They admit a delegate from the Territory of Utah, a representative of one of the "twin relies of barbarism," to a seat

in Congress, while they deny the same right to representatives from the Southern States which have ratified, by the enactments of their Legislatures, the Constitutional about on of the other twin relic of barbarism, slavery. The Southern States have given evidence of their conscientious adherence to the law by abandoning, freely and cheerfully, an institution which was as much a part of their system, from the time that they had existence as colonies or States, as the brain or the heart is part of the human system; but the Mormons of Utah Territory have made no concession. They are as audacious as ever in their adherence to polygamy. Whatever sine the South may have com-nitted in the recent attempt to break up the Union, it is willing to make amends for. Bloodshed, desolation, ruined homes, intolerable taxa tion, and the thousand other evils that have be tallen the South, have wiped away the stain of slavery and made penitential offering for the crime of Rebeltion; but polygamy, the other relic of barbarism which the Republican party itself to wipe out, still boldly both the Christian code and the law of the land. It is certain that reports of murders and other arful atrocities are common in Utah, and the radicals in Congress have no measure to propose or they are not willing to introduce any measure. to suppress the evil which they denounced at the Pitisburg Convention. But the most curious feature in the conduct of the Republican party in connection with slavery are the facts recently developed by the operation of the Freedmen's Bureau. Slavery in a worse form than ever existed under the old institution has been introced in the Southern States by the officials this Bureau. These parties, many of sem New England clergymen, who no doubt of this Bureau. have been denouncing stavery from pulpit for many years, are cultivating cotton antations and compelling freedmen to work opon them under a system of treatment more nhuman than was ever known in the days of Southern slavery, which we have abolished. What is the conclusion to be drawn from all this? That the radical faction is a humbug. That settishness and avarice and fraud lie at the bottom of all their action. The people are bocurning to see this, and a few more development of the workings of the Freedmen's Bureau will convince them of the complete demoralization of the hypocritical faction which is throwing obstacles in the way of the reconstruction of the

SPECIAL NOTICES.

THE GREAT NATIONAL FAIR.

THE LADY DIRECTORS OF THE

National Soldiers' and Sallors' Orphan Home

Will commence to hold A PUBLIC FAIR, in the CITY OF WASHINGTON, on the 15 h of MAY NEXT, the proceeds of which are to be devoted to the Support and Maintenance of the Orphans of National Soldiers and Sallors, not otherwise provided for in their respective States and Territories.

The ladies invite all who can to contribute towards representing their State by a table at the Fair The charity is a poble and deserving one, and it is noped that each State and Territory will be liberally

represented.
All contributions should be addressed "NATIONAL S LDIERS'AND SAILORS'ORPHANHOME, WASH-INGTON, D. C." and forwarded, if possible, ten days be ore the opening of the Fair.
The Institution will be opened for the reception of Children on the 1st of June next, and applications for a comission may be forwarded immediately to MRS, J. CARLISLE, Secretary, Washington, D. C. Papers triet dly to the cause please copy. 4 25t5 15

THE VIRGIN

Gold Mining Company of Colorado. 1250 Original Interests, 8100 Each,

Ot which 250 are Reserved for WORKING CAPITAL The property of the Company consists of twelve Leages, in extent nearly half a mile in length situated near fentral City. Colorado, luberibers elect their own officers and themselves manage the affairs of the Company. Each "eriginal interest," 8400, gives a subscriber his prografized on these properties.

The Books for Sub-cription are now open. For a prospectus giving full particulars, or to secure one or more of these "original interests," address at once, or apply to DUNCAN M. MITCHESON,

N. E. cor. FOURTH and WALNUT Streets, Philada. TO THE SOLDIERS OF PENNSYL-

Harrisburg, May 1. 18:66.

In obedience to authority vessed in me by a resolution adopted by the Convention of Soldiers, neid in this city on the eighth day of March 18:66. I do hereby request the honorably discharged soldiers of Pennsylvania to meet in their respective Legislative Districts and elect Delegates, not exceeding five in number, to represent their district in a Soldiers' Convention, to be held in the city of Pittsburg, on TUESDAY, the fith of June next, at 10 o'clock A. M.

Where any Representative district comprises more than one county, the manner of electing the delegates is respectfully referred to the soldiers of the district for such conference as will result in a fair representation of HARRISBURG, May 1, 1866. ich conference as will result in a fair representation of Citizens who have borne arms in defense of the nation calizens who have especial interest in the purposes this Convention, and it is desirable that as 'tal a rep sentation of the brave defenders or the country as p

sible should be secured on this occasion

J. F. HABTBANFT,

Late Brevet Major-General U. S.

Papers favorable to the cause will please publish

above. THE UNION STATE CENTRAL COM-Union Club, No. 1105 CHESNU i Street, Phi adelphia, on WEDNESDAY, the 16th day of May, instant, at three

c ock P. M.
The attendance of every member is earnestly solicited.
51 12t
FR.JORD and Chairman. THE GRAND ORGAN.

J. C. B. STANBRIDGE, ST. CLEMPET'S CHURCH,
TWENTIETH and CHERRY Streets,
will be formally opened on
FRIDAY EVENING, May 11, 1866,

at 8 o'clock.

At 8 o'clock.

It is the largest organ in Phiadelphia, and its resources will be displayed by

Messrs M. H. Cross, Hugh Clarke, Massa Warner,

A. Getze J C. B Stanbridge and F. Darley.

Professor THOMAS BISHOF has volunteered his

TICKETS, ONE DOLLAR. For sale at Trumpler's, Seventh and Chesnut; at Bener & Co.'s, No. 1162 Chesnut; and at Lippincot's Drug Stere, N. W. corner of Twentieth and Cherry No tickets will be so dat the deors of the Church. THE LITERARY UNION OF PENN-

SYLVANIA. READINGS AND RECITATIONS,

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At MUSICAL FUND HALL LOCUST Street.
Above Eighth,
FRIDAY, May II, 1866, at 8 P. M.
ckets, flity cents. Reserved Seats without extra charge.
For sale at T. B. Pugh's, S. W. corner Sixth and Ches

THE GREAT LECTURE, "THE TWO Thirteens." by Major A. R. CALHOUN, late this or Scouls under General Grant, will be delivered in CONCERT HALL May 12 at 8 P. M.
Tickets to be had at Fugh's store. Sixth and Chesnut streets; Martlen's, No. 668 Chesnut; and at the Hall on Saturday.

Admission, 35c. Reserved seats, 56c. BIERSTADT'S LAST WORK-"STORM BIERSLADI'S LAST WORK—"SIGKAL
IN THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS"—now on exhibition by permission of the Artist, for the Benefit of
the 'Lincoin Institution and Soldiers' and Salors'
Orphan Boye' Home," at WENDEROTH, TAYLOR &
BROWN'S, Nos. 912 and 914 CHE-NUT Street, for one
month only. Open from 10 A, M, to 10 P M.
Scason Ticket, 8100 Single Ticket, 25 cents. [4 21 Im

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD COM-TERASURER'S DEPARTMENT, THEASURER'S DEPARTMENT, ?
PHILADELPRIA MAY 2, 1866 5
Directors have this day declared a semi annua dividend
of FIVE FER CENT, on the capital stock of the Company, c'ea of National and state taxes, payable on and
after May 30, 1866.
Blank powers of attorney for collecting dividends can
be had at the office of the Company, No. 238 S. THIRL
Street.
1HOMAS T. FIRTH,
5 3 30t

5 3 301 PHILADELPHIA AND READING RAILROAD COMPANY, Office No. 227 South FOURTH Street.

FOURTH Street.

PHILADELPHIA April 28 1866.

Notice is hereby given to the Stockho ders of this Company, that the option of receiving their Dividend in Stock or Cash, under the resolution of the Board of 11th December, 1855, will cease on and after the 31s of May, 1866, and that such Stockholders as do not demand their Dividend to be paid to them in Stock on or before that day, will be thereafter entitled to receive it in Cash only.

[4 36 lm] S. BRADFORD, Treasurer.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

OFFICE OF THE ROYAL PETROLEUM COMPANY.

An adjourned meeting of the s'ockholders of the ROYAL
PETROLEUM COMPANY will be held at the office of the
Company, No. 237 S. 7 HIRD Street Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. (n b ONDAY, May 14, 1966, a 3 o'clock P. M.,
to act upon a proposition to reduce capital stock to two
hundred thousand dollars (\$290 600), and to take measures to reduce the expenses of the company, and promote general interest o' he same
5 2 wim6t JOHN GALLAGHER, JR., Secretary.

A PHYSIOLOGICAL VIEW OF MARRIAGE:—Containing nearly 300 pages, and 130
fine Plates and Engravings of the Anatomy of the Human
Organs in a State of Health and Disease, with a Treatise
on Early Eirors, its Deplorable Consequences upon the
Mind and Body, with the Author's Plan of Treatment—
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LADIES. PHILADELPHIA, February, 1866.

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Livery Messenger employed by the Company is required to give treehold security to the amount of fifty dollars, and the Company wil be responsible for that amount intrusted to their Messengers.

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Each Messenger is surplished with a printed Table of that is and tickets in place of written receipts the Table showing the amount the Messenger is allowed to charge and the Ticket the payment received for any particular errand or for a certain time.

Every complaint against a Messenger must be proven by a licket, and the Fublic are therefore earnestly reques ed to insist upon the delivery of a ticket whenever a Messenger is employed, thereby guarding themselves and the Company against fraud. The advantages intended to be procured to the Public by this new insitution are DESPATCH and SAFETY in the delivery of Messages or small Packages, and facility in procuting the assistance of any number of men for any purpose. The Messenger Corps being formed by RETURNED SOLDIERS, the Public will certainly assist these men in their endeavors to carn their ivellhood by honest labor at the same time promoting the comfort and extending the means of communication in this large city. Similar institutions have been in success ul operation or years in all the larger cities of Europe, in New York and Roston, and the Company feel satisfied that their efforts to introduce in this city an institution beneficial both to the working classes and the public generally will be appreciated and rewarded by a liberal patronage.

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