## THE NEW YORK PRESS.

EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS.

COMPILED EVERY DAY FOR EVENING TELEGRAPH

# Opening of the Grand Conflict in Europe.

From the Times. The news from Europe on Tuesday is up to the 24th of June. There has, as yet, been no great battle fought. Lives were lost and blood was spilled, and the suicidal war in Germany has not only commenced, but there is no end to it until the victorious sword commands peace. At present no one can foretell who will be the happy one to bring peace to distracted Germany. Everything is at odds and ends, and at this distance, and with the abbreviated account of late occurrences in Germany that we have received, we are enabled neither to prophesy nor to give what we would call a complete picture of present affairs. Nevertheless, we endeavor to present our conception of military matters between Prussia and Austria and their

It appears that Prussia has taken full posses sion of Saxony, even removing the royal arms of Saxony, and replacing them with the arms of Prussia. We may regard this as a great melitary advantage to the Prussian army. Austria is proverbial for her slowness, and at this time she has lost, in fact, the first campaign. The Prussians have occupied Lobau, Zitand Sckeuditz, which, like a triangle inclose the northern frontier of Bohemia. It was even reported, as the latest news indicates, that the Prussians had advanced into Bohemia. This we consider doubtful; but it so, it shows that Prussia is determined to push her first ad-vantage to the utmost.

We cannot forego this opportunity to express our surprise that the Austrians did not anticipate the Prussians in the occupation of Saxony. As a matter of military tacties it was most cer tainly in the interest of the Austrians to keep the Prussians out of and away from the plains of Saxony. But, whatever reasons there may have been, whether justifiable or not, Prussia is in Saxony and Austria has to drive her out of it. There is but one line of news, And that may mean something important. It is said that an Austrian patrol crossed the Silesian frontier, and after firing at and pressing back a Prussian patrol, other Austrian troops were following. It that be so, it is possible that from Silesia the Austrian general may succeed in isolating the Prussians in Saxony. To do this, however, it would be necessary that Wurtemberg, Bavaria, and in fact the whole force of the Diet should It appears they have concentrated near Frankfort, and, it is said, a great battle was impending at that place, all the troops of the southern States of Germany having been advanced to that point, and Prussia, on her way southward, having taken Frankfort in a central march of attack against the Diet.

Italy is said to have made an official declaration of war against Austria, and a report comes to us by way of Vienna that Prussia has sent one hundred and thirty millions of francs to Florence to aid Italy in its proposed fight against Austria. No other military movements of the Italians are reported, except that they had crossed the Mincio, and had proceeded onward unopposed. It must be understood that the world-renowned Quadrilateral is some distance east from the Mincio, and that, consider-ing the present attitude of France, and her guarantee of the inviolability of the Italian kingdom, Austria will most certainly keep on the defensive in the south so long as either a great victory or overwhelming defeat in the north shall not have made an aggressive movement against the Italians necessary or desirable.

The most unexplainable position occupied by any power in Europe is that of Russia. Rumors are flying to and iro on the Continent of an alliance between Austria and Russia, but nobody knows enough about the matter either authoritatively to contradict or to confirm the report. One thing appears to be certain, that Russia has concentrated a large number of troops on her western frontier. That this has not been done to attack Austria all know; but whether the object be to help Austria no one can as vet pretend to say. Napoleon is also watching, and it may be that he expects to come to an under-standing with Russia about a new map of Europe. But events may travel faster than man's mind. and if a battle in Germany should change the relations of the two great powers at war, who knows but what Russia and France may be

found in battle array again? The next mail from Europe will bring us the tidings of the first great battle in Central Europe between Germans and Germans, and also whether, as always heretofore, foreign powers have taken advantage of this purely German quarrel, and are about attempting to reap the

#### The Military Strength of the European Belligerents. From the Herald.

We published on Monday some interesting statistics, collated from official sources, showing the military strength of the present European belligerents. From these figures it would appear that vast armies are in the field, and that the clash of arms, when it comes in earnest.

will be tremendous, and rock Europe to the

centre.

It is a well-established fact, but one not gene rally noted, that the numerical strength of armies in actual and active service is greatly exagge-rated. The immense armies of the ancients, numbering in some instances, according to sacred and profane history, millions of men, were un-doubtedly composed more of camp followers and other non-combatants than men capable of bearing the rude and cumbersome arms of the period. The fabled myriads included in the armies of the ancient Persians, Tartars, Egyp-tians, Assyrians, and the other warlike powers of the early ages, were no doubt impeded in their marches and battles by the great number of useless and unserviceable characters that hung upon the rear and flanks of the main armies. It

s a curious circumstance that while ancient historians mention the interminable numbers of those ancient hosts, they neglect to state how the men were supported; how the commissariat was supplied while traversing through unknown and desert regions; where the quartermaster replenished his stores for his famishing horses, elephants, camels, and other beasts of burden and transportation. They had no railroads in those days. They had no magnetic tele-graph then. They could not talk from point to point and transmit orders with the regularity and despatch of personal communi-cation. They had no light artillery then. They had no spherical shot or five-hundred-pounder shells; no torpedoes, no two-mile rifles, no sub-marine batteries, no iron clad war ships, no electric tuses, no gunpowder—except the Chinese-no gun cotton, no nitro-glycerine and other explosive material. They had huge battering rams, weighing some tons; immense bow guns, mounted on carriages and throwing very heavy arrows; stone slings, javelins, and all these articles of warfare the careful student of ancient military history is familiar with. But although it would require a great physical force to manage these implements, we doubt very much whether history is correct in placing the

numbers of these ancient armies at the large figures it does, for the simple reason that the hordes could not be fed in the hostile countries they traversed. We presume the extent and condition of the armies in the United States during the Rebellion were larger in number and better equipped, better fed and clothed, and better disciplined than any armies of half the number in ancient or modern times. In April, 1865, the Union armies had on their rolls one million three hundred thousand men. At the same time the Rebels had on their rolls seven hundred thou-sand men—making together two millions of

fied places, protecting six thousand miles of | posts, lying sick in bospitals, and otherwise not in the field.

All the great battles of the Rebellion were fought with less than seventy-five thousand men on each side, except the battle of the Wilderness, when Grant had about one hundred thou-sand, and Lee about the same number. This sand, and Lee about the same number. This was the greatest and most stubborn battle of the war, the men not being out of the hearing of musketry for ten days. The other battles, like most of those of the Grecians, Romans, Carthaginians, and the First Napoleon, were fought with between fifty and sixty thousand men, except the battle of Waterloo, when protwo hundred toousand men were engaged on both sides in deciding the final throw in the came of settling the destinies of Europe.

It will be thus in the present European war For, although Austria will have an army esti-For, although Austria will have an army estimated at a million and a quarter, Prussia and its allies, exclusive of Italy, some eight hundred thousand, and with the army of that power nearly a million and a half, we shall be very much surprised if we hear of a battle numbering over one hundred thousand on each side at any time while the war lasts, be that period brief be protracted.

# Defeat of the English Reform Bill-A Ministerial Crisis.

From the World, The Ministry have been beaten on the Reform bill by a vote of 304 to 315-the majority against the Government being eleven. The immediate consequence is, that the Ministry are supposed to have resigned. We say supposed to have resigned, because, while it is known that they have made an important communication to the Queen, it is not known precisely what that communication is. Her Majesty is at Balmoral, 600 miles from London. The defeat took place on Monday night, June 18. On Tuesday, at the instance of the ministerial leaders, in both Houses, Parliament adjourned over to the Monday following; and Earl Russell in the Lords, and Mr. Gladstone in the Commons, in language so similar that it must have been concerted, stated that the Ministry "had made a communication to her Majesty." This must have meant either that they had tendered their resignation, or that they had advised a dissolu-tion of Parliament. That it could have been nothing less serious than one or the other of of these, is evident from Mr. Gladstone's reter-ence to the "state of abeyance in which the unctions of the executive Government are

placed. The absence of the Queen, at a place so dis tant and inconvenient, is a pretty good indi-cation that neither sie nor the Government suspected the near approach of anything so serious as a ministerfal crisis. There were reasons for supposing that Parliament would not care to push this ministry to an extremity. The Parliament is only five or six months old, and the elections gave the Ministry a clear majority of seventy. The average election - expenses were probably five or six thousand pounds, and members would be unwilling to incur this expense again so soon, at-tended as it would be, in many cases, with the hazard of loss of their seats. Beincur tended sides, the time is most inopportune and in-convenient, either for a dissolution of Parliament, or a change of Ministry. Just at the point when a great and portentous war is breaking out on the Continent, and when the country approved of the foreign policy, confided in the experience and accepted the guidance of Earl Russell and Lord Clarendon, a dissolution, either of Parliament or of the Ministry, must be rerarded as a hazard, and almost as a calamity. Both the Queen and her ministers seem to have relied too much on these considerations; the Queen in placing herself out of convenient reach at a time when the Reform debate was approaching its crisis; the Ministry, in incauiously staking their existence on the success of this measure.

There has been something of a positiveness, almost amounting to arrogance, in the bearing of Mr. Gladstone towards the opponents of the bill; as if the continuance of the Ministry in office was so indispensable, at this time, that they could exact a compliance with their wishes. It was probably on this idea that, in an earlier stage of the debate, he announced the determi-nation of the Ministry to stand or fall with this measure; and that, on the night of their defeat he chose to make an amendment offered by Lord Dunkellin a question of confidence.

Lord Dunkellin claimed that his amendment did not affect the vital principle of the bill, but only one of its details. His lordship is the Irish member for Galway. In Ireland, the suffrage is regulated, not by the rent of the house, but by its "rateable value"—that is, by the assessment for texes. The principle of Mr. Gladstone's Reform bill was, to give the borough franchise to all householders paying £7 annual rent.
Lord Dunkellin proposed that instead of £7
rental value, £7 "rateable value" should be the
standard. This was doubtless what we, in political slang of our country, call a odge" It enabled many members who disliked reform, but durst not vote directly against it, to strike at its life while apparently aiming at one of its limbs. The rent of tene ments is higher than their rateable value.

Mr. Bright expressed the opinion, in his speech in opposition to the amendment, that a £7 rateable value, as a basis of the franchise, would be equivalent to £9 rental value.

Mr. Gladstone stated that his bill would enfranchise. chise only 144,000 persons; that the proposed amendment would reduce it by at least 60,000; and that he would not consent to its reduction at alt. "From that moderate amount of en-franchisement," he said, "we are not, under any circumstances or conditions, prepared to recede. By it we intend to stand." After using this language, the Ministry could do nothing less, on the adoption of the amendment, than to either offer their resignation or advise the Queen to dissolve Parliament. The opinion in London is rite that they have resigned; and speculation is rife as to whether the Queen will accept their resignation. Just at the moment when Europe is kindling into a general conflagration, will she consent to dispense with a Ministry in whose foreign policy both she and

the country have full confidence? That she was wholly unprepared for having such a question forced upon her for decision, at this time, is evident from her absence. She is understood to have great personal respect for Lord Derby; but it is doubtful whether he can form a Ministry, and next to certain that, even if he could, it would be of brief and uncertain tenure. The Conservative party, which Lord Derby leads, is in an acknowledged minority. The Reform bill has been defeated by dissen-sions in the ranks of the Liberals. A Ministry sions in the ranks of the Liberals. A Ministry entering power with a Parliamentary minority, could not long stand up against the vigorous, the vigilant, the vindictive opposition of the Liberals. Another ministerial crisis would unavoidably and speedily come; and perhaps at a period as inopportune and inconvenient as the present. The instability of such a Ministry is a reason why statesmen will be unwilling to enter it; and is the chief obstacle to Lord Derby's sucit; and is the chief obstacle to Lord Derby's suc-cess in forming one. It is also a strong reason why the Queen should not desire him to undertake it. The friends of the present, hope that she will graciously refuse to accept their tendered resignation; that they will consider their honor satisfied by the offer; and that, in dutiful submission to the royal wishes, they will consent to

retain their places.

However this may be, it is certain that, by this defeat, Mr. Gladstone suffers great loss of prestige. His political stature is shortened by a full cubit. It is alleged that his management of the Reform bill has been a tissue of blunders; that he had described his convenience. that he has demonstrated his incapacity for parliamentary leadership. Brilliant as an orator, clever and successful as a financier, and for some time past the rising hope of his country, it is elleged that he is stranded in his first considerable attempt to navigate parliamentary waters alone. In a newly elected Parliament, with a ministerial majority of seventy, he has squandered his pairimony in a few months, and become a political bankrupt troops. Of this number at least one-third were not in the field at any one time, but were engaged in doing garrison duty, occupying forti- lout specific instances of mismanagement, and This may be a harsh judgment, as any minister is liable to defeat, but his critics point

what they consider as gross blundering. It was a lack of judgment to have undertaken so great a measure at all, until, by other questions, he had tested the devotion of his followers, and assured himself of his power to mould them to his wishes. It was a mistake to present the measure by halves, and to have been compelled to crudely extemporize the second half in the progress of the discussion. He was unwary in so committing the existence of the Ministry to the immediate success of the bill, that he could not retire and await a more favorable juncture pressing it. He gave his enemies an advantage in allowing them to defeat him on a sub-ordinate question, instead of bringing them to a square vote on the £7 franchise, and covering then with the odium of direct opposition to reform. In all these particulars, Palmerston would have acted differently; and it is most unfortunate for the reputation of Gladstone that, coming immediately after that consummate leader, he makes the contrast so keenly felt between Palmerston's address and his own

#### Look Here!

From the Tribune. Every time; we have enacted a protective tariff, the Evening Post and its school have insisted that one necessary effect of such a measure would be the destruction of our revenue from customs or duties on imports. Let us see how these predictions have been fulfilled. We copy the official returns of Receipts from customs from Appleton's Cyclopædia:-TARIFF OF 1828.

1826 1827	28,841 881	1831 1832 1833	24 224 441 28 465,287 29 082 508
Total	\$100,119 985 Increase, \$		126,826,542
1889 1840	\$16,158 800 23,187,924 13,499,502	Four years 1843* 1844. 1846.	814 003 686 26,183.570 27 528,112

.867,283,442 Total . . . . . 891,518,025 Increase, 827,235,863. Total.....867,283,442 \*As the fiscal year began now to be computed from Juve 30 to June 30, we have but half a year's duties for this year, which we have doubled to give

the full year. These facts tell their own story. Read the future in the light of the past.

#### The Atlantic Cable.

From the Daily News, The graver political questions that have distracted Europe for the past few months have diverted the public mind, bent on information from that quarter, from the preparations for laying the Atlantic cable, which are now nearly completed. About the 8th of July is named as the time when the Great Eastern, with the cable aboard, will depart from Valentia on her errand of laying the cable. The former failures to effect this result have suggested many improve-ments in the method to be followed on this occasion, and the most sanguine hopes are entertained that, what with the newly acquired information, and the calmness of the ocean at this season, the work of connecting the two Continents by telegraph will prove at last successful In view of the great war in Germany, the course of this important enterprise will be watched more eagerly at the present time than under other circumstances; for in a struggle that promises the most vital changes in the entire European system, the interest of the people of America will be proportionately aroused. With the Atlantic cable a fixed fact, our people will be able to follow the campaigns of Austrians, Prassians, and Italians with nearly as precise a knowledge as they did those of Les or Grant. It is to be hoped that the sanguine expectations of those in charge of the cable may not be again disappointed, and that, at an early day, it may be given us to peruse St. Peter-burg news of the day before over our breakfast coffee the next morning.

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Cierk of the Faculty.

EASTON Pennsylvania, April 4, 1868.

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PHILADELPHIA, June 20, 1866

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The Transfer Books of this Company will be closed on Saturday, June 30th, and re-opened on Friday, July 13th, 1866.

A Dividend of FIVE PER CENT. has been declared on the Preferred and Common Stock, clear of National and State taxes payable in cash, on and after July 12th, to the holders thereof, as they shall stand registered on the books of the Company on the 30th instant.

All payable at this office.

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TREASURY DEPARTMENT Notice is hereby given to holders of Certificates of Indebtedness, issued under acts of Congress approved March I and I7, 1862, that the Secretary of the Treasury, in accordance with said acts, and the tenor of said Certificates is prepared to redeem, before maturity, all Certificates of Indebtedness falling due after Angast 31, 1866 with accrued interest thereon, if presented for redemption on or before July 15, 1866, and that hereafter such Certificates will cease to bear interest, and will be paid on presentation at this Department, with interest only to the said 15th of July.

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HUGH McCULLOCH. Secretary of the Treasury. NOTICE TO SHIPPERS.—ALL goods heretofore shipped by the WALLOWER LINE, will, on and after this date, be received and forwarded from the Pennsylvania Railroad Depot, FIFTEENTH and MARKET Streets.

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Via North Pennsylvania Railroad,

SECRIEST AND MOST PLEASANT ROUTE TO WILKESBARRE, MAUCH CHUNK,

EASTON. ALLENTOWN. BETHLEHEM. HAZLETON. AND ALL POINTS IN THE

Lehigh and Wyoming Valleys. Commodious Cars,

Smooth Track, Fine Scenery, Excellent Hotels

Are the Specialities of this Route. Through to Wilkesbarre and Msuch Chunk without The new road between the summit of the mountain and Wilkesbarre opens up views of unsurpassed beauty, and the new listel provides the best and most ample accommonations for summer visitors. Excursion Tekeis from Philade phis to principal points, issued FROM TICKET OFFICES ONLY, atraduced rates, on Saturdays, good to return till Monday Excursion Tickers to Wilkesbarre, good for ten days,

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Cars leave the Depot, THIRD and THOMPSON Streets at 730 A. M. 530 P. M., and 5-15 P. M.

For carticulars, see time table in another column.

6 9 2mtp ELLIS CLARK, Agent.

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CAMDEN AND ATLANTIC BAILROAD.

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Five trains daily to Allantic city, and one on Sunday.
On and at er 'HURSDAY, June 28, 1866, trains will leave Vine Street Ferry as follows:

Special Excursion.

Mail.

Freight, with Passenger Car attached.

Express (through in two hours).

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BETURNING, LEAVE ATLANTIC.

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Special Excursion.

Mail.

Freight

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BETURNING

Leaves Haddonieid. 100 P. M. and 3:15 P. M.
Sunday Mail Train to Atlantic leaves Vine street at
738 A. M. and Atlantic at 45 P. M.
Fare to Atlantic, 82. Round trip tickets, good only
for the day and train on which they are issued, 43.
The Phi adelphia Express Company. Principal Office
No. 26 S. Fifth street, Branch Office No. 329 N.
Wharves, above Vine will attend to the usual branches
of express business along the line of the road, and deliver baggace, etc., to and from all trains
Goods of every description called for and forwarded
by express to Atlantic City, and all way stations on
the road Baggage checked from residence at Philadelphia to hotel or cottage at Atlantic City.
6252m

JOHN G. BRYANT, Agent.

CAMDEN AND AMBOY, PHILADELPHIA WARE RAILROADS. GRAND EXCURSION ARRANGEMENT

TOURISTS AND PLEASURE TRAVEL NIAGARA FALLS, MONTREAL, QUEBEC, THE WHITE MOUNTAINS, LAKE GEORGE, SARATOGA, DELAWARE WATER GAP, ETC. ETC.

These excursion routes are arranged for the special accommodation of tourists and pleasure travellers, enabling them to visit the celebrated watering places of the North, at much less than regular rates of fare.

Tickets good until November 1st, 1868, and entitle the holder to stop over at any point on the route.

For Tickets, information, and circulars descriptive of the routes, apply at the Ticket Office of the Company, No 828 CHESNUT Street, Continental Hotel.

630 2m W. H. GATZMER, Agent.

FOR CAPE MAY. Commencing MONDAY, July 2, 1866. Trains will eave (Upper Ferry) Market street, Philadelphia, as

follows:—

9:00 A. M., Morning Mail.

2:00 P. M. Cape hay Accommodation.

Returning will leave Cape Island—

6:30 A. M., Morning Mail.

5:00 P. M. Cape May Express.

Ticket Offices, at Ferry foot of Market street, and No.

828 Che nut street. Continental Hotel.

Persons purchasing tickets of the Agent, at No 828

Chesnut street. can hy leaving orders, have their baggage called for and checked at their residences by

Graham's Bagyage Express.

6:28 J. VAN RENSSELAER, Superintendent.

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