THE NEW YORK PRESS.

EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS.

COMPILED EVERY DAY FOR EVENING TELEGRAPH.

Who Are the Revolutionists? From the Tribune.

If the partisans of the President had undertaken no more than to prove that the martyred Convention at New Orleans was simply illegal, they might have escaped the reproach which the outraged conscience of the land, reasoning from the manifest right of every citizen to be loyal and free-spoken above all things, casts upon every aider and abettor, by word or deed, of the atrocious slaughter in that city. But the chosen organs of the Government base thought it wise to approve and defend by implication the murder of nearly forty men of undoubted loyalty, and the wounding of more than a hundred others as good, in a one-sided butchery, the fiercest of any known in a Southern city. How hard it is to prove that the police of New Orleans. led on by notorious Rebels, under command of the vindictive traitor Monroc, were only so many lambs outside in the street, using their revolvers against so many wolves penned in the Convention room, may be imagined; but even this has been attempted.

What a terrible rolling of argument up hill to show that all the murdered and mariyred men. knifed, clubbed, and shot-lying out in the Coroner's rooms, with no Rebel dead to offset them --were revolutionists and conspirators ! What should be the interence? Simply this: that Rebeis and desperadoes, whose names were by words in NewOrleans; sworn champions of disloyalty, whose acquiescence in a forced situation is bardly a year old; rulers of New Orleans when it was the most profligate, violent, and retrac-tory city in the world; mon of the class whose counsels have encouraged the outrage and kill ing of white and black Unionists in every county of Louisiana; that these men and their confede rates in authority were the righteous upholders of the law, and the preservers of the peace! Who is tool enough to believe it? If the autnorities of a great city bave one responsibility more than another, it is to save life. The butchers of New Orleans slew nearly two score of men without mercy.

The Northern enemies of freedom at the South have not cea-cd to pour out scorn and abuse of the men who lost their lives for the same cause in New Orleans, as that for which men no more noble late down theirs on battle-fields a httle more than a year ago. We are told that the men of the Convention began the rioting, know the assertion to be absolutely false. It is said that, at the meeting held before the Con-vention, every speaker induleed in incentiary language; but, on referring to the reports, we found that the most suspicious terms employed were but a reply to daily threats, and such an appeal to the detense of civil rights as has be often heard with no bad results. We are told that the Unionists-Dostie, Henderson, and the Rev. Mr. Horron-were either lunatics or m n of no standing, abeit, they died firm in their faith of freedom to the last. Does the lunacy of the victim justicy murder? Or are loval lunatics any worse than convict Rebels? Would these same crazy men, or any body of radicals and fanatics in the land, bitter as the provocation might be, have allowed a Rebel Convention to assemble in a public hall in order to kill it one by one? What journal in the North friend or foe, would not have declared its horror and disgust? Haynau's butcheries, the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, the Memphis riots, and the massacre at New Orleans, are things which do not admit of apology.

It was to be expected, of course, that the organs of the Government would be ready to neriminate Congress for the awful and blo blunder of the Presidential instructions to the rioting power at New Orleans. Congress and the slaughtered Unionists were, after all, the conspirators, and the Rebels and negro-baters were for once localists. What is levalty? Should we admit that General Sheridan was correct in saying that the leaders of the Convention were political agitators and revolutionary men, and ought to have been arrested, we have still his own word for it that their cruel batchery was without excuse, and that the prime-mover of all the horrible work was "a bad man." Nothing more is wanted to set at rest all judgment as to the nature of the riot itself: but the Times of this city and the Intelligencer of Washington-both intimately related to the Government-continue the absurd and infamous work of slandering the dead. General Sheridan to the contrary notwithstanding, the legality of the New Orleans Convention was and is a mooted question among the people and their authorities -one to be termined by the Courts or Congress of the United States, and not by the Rebel Mayor of New Orleans. General Banks, who ordered the election and original assembling of the Convention under military order, declares that it was legal; and, morally, no higaer authority has spoken. The State Government of Virginia was erected by the same miluary authority, and the Convention of Alexandria met and remet in 1863 and 1864, and finally amended and remodeled the Constitution which now governs the whole State. But whatever be the trath as to the question of legality (and the Convention seems to have a burden of official proof on its side in the testin ony of General Banks and of Governor Wells), we hold that the President might as consistently reopen Rebel insurrection through the South, as have promoted the undoing of his own work by means of the subversive telegrams ad-dressed to the organizers of the rlot in New Orleans. He will find that, from Virginia to Texas, Southern judges are ready to dispute the legality of such enforced Conventions and Legislatures as have amended their State Constitutions by direction of the President himself. He may find that his own power in the premises to convene and legitimatize the late insurgent States, without the concurrence of Congress, was more than a mooled question. We hope he will yet understand that his blunder tumbling down a State of his own recognition, along with the Governer elected by its people was, after all, the worst offense which he could commit against his own theory of government. He, indeed, the President of the United States, was the only overt revolutionist, and that, too, by his own self conviction, in the events of the dreadful day in New Orleans. He it was who deposed a Governor, and directly and rudely interfered in the affairs of what he is pleased to term "a sovereign State." The loyalists, with the supreme power of the State on their side, accomplished o overthrow, but were, thanks to the Presidant, bloodily overthrown. The Rebels of New Orleans have not concealed their opinion that the very government under Mayor Monroe acted out the riot was itself illegal. If we believed the press of New Orleans, Governor Wells, administering a Constitution written down at the bayone!-point, has no more right to public recognition than the Louisiana Convention. According to Chief Justice Ruffin, of North Carelins, the Convention and the new Constitution of that State are alike illegitimate; President Johnson was a despot, and Governor Holden his vsurping agent. Take the Rebel voice for it, and Gov. ernor Pierpoint, of Virglula, Governor Holden. of North Carolina, and Governor Wells, of Loui-stana, had no more right to rule than the Con-ventions of those States had to make laws. But Rebels or ex Rebels are willing to take the President's word for their law, and so "accept the situation," in the cheerful belief that the Government is doing all for them that it can. They have ceased to inquire what is legitimate, except when loyal men demand equal rights, at least, with the recreants and miscreants of the land; and they have no scruple, according to their own showing, to use illegal weapons in the interest of disloyalty to extermi nate an illegal convention in the interests of freedom. Well, we have yet to be informed that honest and loyal men have less right to meet and declare their views than perjured and

unrepentant Rebeis have to vote. Is lovalty to be rewarded only by the bullet, while trea-son is honored by the ballot? Herein is the Is lovalty epitome of the President's own plan of reconepitome of the President's own plan of recon-struction; and history will hold him to it, that he actually undid his own work, trampled on his own theory, and confessedly went out of this own way to put his foot, as it happened, on the dead bodies of the men whose worst crime in the eyes of their enemies was a loyalty and devotion to the flag contemporary with his own. If he had a right to nullity the Government of Louisiana, and make its worst Rebel the ar-biter of its most important crisis, he has also a biter of its most important crusis, he has also a right to overturn every Constitution from Virginia to Texas, notwithstanding his own thousand-times asseverated conviction that States are sacred. He has shown his mistrust alike of the law of the land, of its law-making power, and of the doctrine which he set up for himself. He interiered to make sure of the late of the New Orleans Convention, long before any Court

of high authority, or the legislative and judicial for decision. It is not time for the President and his organs to accuse Congress, after he has condemned himself. He cannot escape the odium and the consequences of his bad act. Let us take hope at last from Dostie's grave, Monroe's crime, and the President's blunder.

The Philadelphia Convention. From the Times.

The Philadelphia Convention is now only a week off. Would it not be possible and desirable for some of our Union friends to suspend their vehement and vituperative denunciations of those who favor it, for that short space of time? They have seemed thus far to think that unless they could discredit and destroy it in advance, it would certainly do them incalculable damage. They have assumed, therefore, not only without reason, but in the face of the plainest facts, that its object is to break up the Inion party; that it is to be in the hands of Rebels and Copperheads; that it will aim to put the Government into the hands of those who have been trying to overthrow it; and that there is very great danger of its success. the practical interence which they draw from ali this is, that no man who favors or takes part in it in any way can possibly remain a member of the Union party, or even pretend to support Inion principles.

These presses may be wise in thus taking time by the lorelock. If they do not thus denounce and vilify the Phila elphia Convention in advance, they may not be able to do it at all. its proceedings may utterly belle them predictions. It may be in the hands of Union men-it may not tollow the lead of Rebels and Coperheads-its spirit may be as thoroughly and eartily in favor of the Union as that of any Convention ever held; and the result of its ction may be to strengthen the cause of the Inion and to make the Government in the ands of Union men stronger and safer in every ection of the country than it ever was before. fet if this should be the case we do not expec to see it enlisting any more or radical favor and support than it does now. The leading journals and managers of the radical movement realous in committing themselves and their fol owers against the Convention, whatever may

be its character and whatever it may do. But the Albany Evening Journal certainly has othing to gain, and a good deal to lose, by dealing in such assertions upon this subject a these:---

"It is already settled that freason is to constitute no barrier against admission at Philadelphia. authors of secession are chosen aclegates from the states they led min the war. The Vien-Prosident of the Shavehoiders' Confideracy, generals who fought in its armies, political leaders of rebellion, with the company the p-stient Va landighams and Pendle-tons and Sevmours of the North, to dictate the terms upon which a buffled and beaten cllearcay will consent to renew its allegiance to the Government, which has magnanimously refused to exert its power to crush

If the Journal did not carefully suppress declarations and proceedings which reach it daily rom the Southern States, its readers would see that these strong statements are without foundation. They would see that, in no stugle Southern State have the "authors of secession" been chosen delegates to the Philadelphia Convention, and that in repeated cases where men wh were dragged into the Rebellion against their convictions have been thus chosen, they have de clined to go for fear that their presence would not aid the Union cause. Governor Brown, of Georgia, has written a letter precisely to that effect. A. H. Stephens has expressed similar entiments. None of the original authors and plotters of secession have been chosen delegates out such men as Judge Sharkey and Senator Alcorn of Mississippi, Cuthbert Bullitt of Loui siana, Governor Parsons of Alabama, Governor Johnson of Georgia, Governor Orr of South Carolina, A. H. H. Stuart of Virginia, Judge Bryan of Tennessee - old-line Whigs and Union men of school of Henry Ciay and General Taylor, the have been almost uniformly chosen to represent the people of the Southern States. The Evening Journal may not like these men, or approve their political action ; but it has no business to pelle their position or misrepresent their characters. Equally false is the statement that the "Valandighams, and Pendletons and Seymours" are to dictate terms of restoration through the Philadelphia Convention. There is nothing whatever to lead the *Journal* to believe that these men or those they represent are to control that convention, or exercise any considerable influence upon its action. On the contrary, there are very strong indications that the great body of the Democratic party-that portion of it which seeks in good faith the restoration of the Union upon Union principles-will discard them and all who have held their position during the war, as their representatives at Philadelphia. In Vallandigham's district his eat will be contested by a War Democrat elected by Democratic votes. The same is true of hees, in Indiana, and of the Woods in this State. And no candid person will for a moment claim, upon a knowledge of the facts, that the Copperend element is likely to be that by which the Democratic party will be represented. And if the Journal cannot judge fairly and justly the facts that are occurring daily before its eves, can at least affords to awayt the action of the convention before pronouncing decisively upon its character. The Philadelphia Convention, as we regard it. has been called to promote the restoration of the Union of the States, upon principles at once honorable and safe, and in the spirit of harmony and of peace. It is hoped and believed that if will be made up of men from the North and South who thoroughly and sincerely desire this result, who will do all in their power to aid it and who have no purposes or principles hostile to the liberties, the peace and prosperity of the nation, or to the constitutional rights of all its people. It has no nominations to make, and no new party to organize; but it will doubtless put before the people a declaration of its principles and its aims, and will take such steps as it deems most likely to give them effect. No man changes his relation to any other party by simply taking part in its proceedings, nor will assent to its principles and its action involve the necessity any such change unless they are at war with those of the party with which he may have been connected. Its influence will probably be rather moral than political, and it is quite as likely to accomplish the purpose it seeks through its effect upon the action of existing parties as by organizing a new one.

Such gatherings are doubtless contagious, and we shall expect to hear that they have been followed by similar demonstrations in all the Inrger towns of the United Kingdom. It would seem as it the English people were determined at last to arouse themselves from their lethargy. and to show that now they are really in earnest about the question of retorm.

Indifference on their part has led to the failure of every attempt which has been made in that direction since 1832. It was this confessedly-the want of interest taken in the question out of doors-which led Earl Russell to abandon his proposed reform bill of 1854. The reproach is to rest upon the people no longer. It will be well for themselves, new that they have taken a well for themselves, new that they have taken a stand, if they be not too easily driven from their purpose. They have put their hand to the plough—they may not safely look back. It is evident that the Ministry are gravely embar-rassed, and not a little disposed to yield to the popular sentiment so forcibly expressed, if we can judge irom the mild and conciliatory speeches of Derby and Disraeli tu particular.

These demonstrations, if they become at all general, cannot fail to have an important bear ing on the fate of the present Government. There are low, we believe, on either side of the Atlantic, but wish them a fair chance of success The circumstances, however, under which the assumed the reins of power were not peculiarly favorable, and they can scarcely count on popular support. In a few more days the sit igs of both Houses will be discontinued, and Munisters will be sate until the next session of Parliament. Reformers, however, are not likely to be inactive during the interval, and i the scenes of London are repeated in the various centres of population throughout the country. we may expect to find, on the reassambling o the Houses, that the cry for reform has become louder and more imperious than it has been since the days of the first Reform bill. The resignation of the late Ministry virtually put this reform question in the hands of the people. It practically said, We have done what we could; we have redeemed our pledge, but have been unsuccessful; it rests with you whether you will have this question settled at once or indefinitely postponed.

Eesults, we have little doubt will show that the trust has not been misplaced, and that the people are alive at once to their rights and to their duty. In such circumstances what will Ministers do? They have but two courses open to them. They must either introduce a Reform bill of their own or give place to those on whon the task would seem more naturally to devolve. Distacli, who is the maste -sp rit of the new Cabinet, promised the people that it any bill was introduced it would be an "English Reform bill. There may be more chance of reform being obtained under the Tory Government than under that of Lord Russell, with all its profes sions of liberalism. The force of circumstance may compel the present administration to abanden their rigid conservatism in favor of popular rights.

There is nothing in the antecedents of the present Government which forbids them to in troduce a measure of reb rm. Lord Derby took an active part in the pa-sing of the first Reform bill, and aithough he has long since talien from his first love, and grown in obstructiveness as he has grown in years, he yet gave a reluctant consent to the Reform bill of his colleague i There is nothing inconsistent in Mr. Disraell making a tresh attempt to supply the detects of his "fancy franchise," Disraell has most comprehensive and enlightened mind in the Government. The same instincts and class of thought which places the Hobrew race foremost among the financiers and statesmen of the world, directs the course of Disraeli and litts him far above his aristocratic colleagues. Hebrew intellect has developed itself for turnes past in Europe. It has given it a Fould and a Rothschild.

Spam and Portugal have received their best finance ministers from the Hebrew race, and now, in the English Chancellor of the Exchequer, we see the guiding talent of that people prominently displayed. Lord Stanley is notoriousiy a liberal at heart, and he is retained in present political connection only by the strength of family ties. But will the reactionary party, with whom they are compelled to act, permit the more liberal-minded of the present Government to move in the direction of reform ? Not, we tear, willingly. Even if such a step were taken and a Tory Re orm bill introduced, what chance- are there that the measure woal

plete system of internal communications, and a more widely extended commerce; Prussian Germany has at least as thorough a military organization; and Austria has a territory at once more easily defensible and more abounding in natural wealth. But what each of these States possess in a measure larger than France, France possesses in a measure nearly as large; while of all the European States, France is the only one which stands in the front rank in regard to each and all of these national advantages. If we coufine ourselves, however, for the present, merely to absolute population and to density of population, we shall find Europe represented, according to the programme now proposed at Prague, after Austria shall have given up Venetia, and Prussia formed her German

realm, by these six great powers following :-

Population, Square Mile, 179

18 16 8



Ita y..... Upon the same line of comparison, and to show how important is the part played by other elements than these in the decision of the point under notice, we may and two striking illustra-tions of the two extremes of civilization and nternal communications :--

Population. Square Mile.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

GEARY AND VICTORY

GRAND UNION

IN OLD BERKS!

REPUBLICAN MASS CONVENTION

AT READING,

ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22, 1866.

In obedience to a resolution adopted by the CENTRAL GEARY LEAGUE of the city of Reading, and the Repuolican Executive Committee of Berks County the Union nepublicans of the Eastern and Middle Countles of Fennsylvania, invorable to the election of

MAJOR-GENERAL JOHN W. GEARY.

For Governor of Pennsylvania,

Are requested to meet in Grand Mass Convention, in the dry of Reading.

ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22, 1866.

Arrangements will be made with all the Bailroad Comonnies to carry delegations from all parts of the State at the lowest rates. The Committee of Arrangements will make ample provision for the accommodation and comfort of delegations from abroad

With a reasonable effort on the part of the Republions of Lancaster, Chester, Lebanon, Dau hin, schuylkill, Lehigh, Northampton, Montgomery, Delaware Bucks, i hiladelphia, and other counties in Fasters and Middle Pennsylvania, this meeting will be the larges ever held in the State. The seven thousand true and tried Republicans of Old Berks will not fall to be repreented in fail force.

Our sim is totally to collpse the recent failure to rally the Vemocracy in this city on the 18th of July. Such a meeting as we expect here on the 22d of August will not tall to infuse confidence into the Republicans everywhere, and so far to convince the honest Democrats o Old Berks that rea: patriotism, and such mode of reconstructing the Union as will insure peace and goodwill among the people of every section, North and South, can only be round in the measures of the Republican arts.



London Reform Meetings and the Prospects of the Tory Government. From the Herald.

Monster reform meetings in London seem to be the rage of the hour. Attempts to suppress them promise to be as vain as they appear to be unwise. The scene in Hyde Park on the 23d ultimo must have convinced the Government that these meetings cannot be put down without risking a collision with the people. It will surprise us if strong popular feeling has not by this time proved too much for the will of the Home Secretary, and if Sir Richard Mayne has not been induced quietly to retire from the field.

pass or that the country would accent it at their Still, the Derby Government may be hanos? torced to try the experiment.

The Great Powers. From the World,

All speculations as to the future balance of power and influence in Europe must necessarily be unsate and superfluous, until we learn in a plain and positive way upon what terms peace has actually been made in Germany. Meanwhile, however, it may be worth while to correct the loose fashion in which the English press and a portion of our own have begun to talk about the reduction of Austria to a secondrate and even to a third-rate position in Europe. Such language is quite unjustified by any of the propositions for peace which have yet been puphahed to the world. Neither by her with-drawal from the Germanic Confederation, which is but fifty years old, nor by her surrender o Venetia, which she never possessed at all until the end of the last century, which she lost after Wagram in 1809 and which was reconfirmed to her in 1815, would Austria's rank as a great European power be lost.

To see this plainty, let us glance for a moment at what constitutes a "great power." On the 18th of June, 1866, there existed in Europe five States recognized as being of the tirst rank, and styled in diplomatic parlance, "great powers." These were:--France, Eng-land, Russia, Austria, and Prussia. Numerical population, of course, was one element in deciding the pre-eminence of these States over the rest of the European political family; but it was not the only element by any means. The population of Turkey, for example, was more than twice as great as that of Prussia; but Turkey was not regarded as a power of the first rank. The population of Italy was larger by three millions than that of Prussia; but the claims of Italy to a seat by the side of the five great powers on equal terms, though presse since 1859, has not yet been acknowledged, Considerations of geographical situation, of political organization, of general civilization, of commercial energy, all enter into the determi-nation of this hierarchy of nations. All these considerations being taken into the account, there can be no doubt that, at the conclusion of such a peace as is now expected to be made at Prague, Italy will take her place at once as a sixth great power in Europe; and just as little doubt that Austria, while she must lose prestige, relatively to Prussia, will still retain her absolute rank as one of the most formidable States of the Old World.

Relative density of population is one of the most important elements of that sort of avail-able strength which is the basis of calculation in deciding upon the rank of States, and since the establishment of the railway system the relative extension of that system which supplements density of population by mobility of population must also be considered. Hence it is that the United States, with a population numerically equal to only about one-half the population of Russia in Europe, and with a relative density of population inferior even to that of Bussia, must yet, by reason of oar vastly more perfect system of mobilization, be regarded as a more powerful empire than that the Czar. The weakness entailed upon Russia by her sparseness of population and her wretched internal communications, threw her, with her sixty millions, at the mercy of her enemies in the Crimean war and in any European conflict beyond her own borders would put her on a footing of no more than equality with such a well-organized power as Prussian Germany or Austria. The predomi-nant position of France, on the other hand, mainly upon the extraordinary degree in which the French empire combines all the elements of available strength. Russia has a larger population; Turkey a population at least as large; England has a more minutely comTHE BOYS IN BLUE

Of the several counties are especially invited to come en masse-by hundreds and thousands. The Republican iatch-strings of Reading will be out. They will have a cordial welcome

Grand Torchlight Procession.

On the evening before the great meeting (on Tuesday August 21) there will be a G and Torch ight Process in Reading, in which the Boys in Blue, the old Wide-Awakes, and other Union organizations are cordially invited to participate.

Marshals or leaders of delegations from the several counties or districts are requested to report by mail to either of the undersigned, not later than August 19, 1866, the probable number who will attend Major-General GEARY, the next Governor, will post

twely attend the meeting. The following distinguished speakers have been invited to be present and address the meeting :-

Hen. Thaddeus Stevens, Bon. John Cessna, General John A Logan. Hon. John K Ferney, Hon. John W Ferney, Hon. John W Ferney, Hon. S. E. Dimmick, Wayne McVergh, Esq. Additional speakers will be invited. Also, some to address the meeting in the German language J. HOFFMAN.

Chairman Republican Ex. Com of Berks County. E. H. BAUCH. President Central Geary League of Reading. Rooms UNION STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, Rooms UNION STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, PHILADELPHIA, July 25, 1886. § The above call is heartive approved and the Union Republicans of the Fastern and Middle Counties of the State are earnestiv requested to respond. F. JORDAN. Chairman State Committee. 812w Chairman State Committee. JUST PUBLISHED-By the Physicians of the NEW YORK MUSEUM, 92

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