## THE NEW YORK PRESS.

EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS.

COMPLET EVERY DAY FOR EVENING TELECHAFH.

License to Murder.

From the Tribune. The President, by an order dated December

22, has dissolved the Military Commission, held at Richmond, for the trial of Dr. James L. Watson. The prisoner, who recently murdered a negro in Rockbridge county, Virginia, has therefore been discharged from custody, and is secured from any punishment. The facts in this case deserve to be universally known.

A few weeks ago, a negro, named Echolsdrove violently against a carriage in which the family of Dr. Watson were riding, breaking it, but injuring no one. The next day Watson went in search of the negro, found him at work in a in search of the negro, found him at work in a field, and attempted to beat him. Echols re-sisted and ran, pursued by Watson, who threat-ened to shoot him unless he stopped. Echo's preferred flight to a struggle, and Watson drew a pistol and shot. him through the body. He died in a few hours. The murderer then sur-rendered himself, and his trial in the County Court resulted in antica condition. General Court resulted in entire acquittal. General Schoffeld, before whom these facts were brought. Schofield, before whom these facts were ordered issued an order, under authority of the Act of Congress of July 16, 1866, for a Military Com-mission in Richmond, and on the 19th instant Watson was brought before it. His conviction, had not the President interfored, was certain, for he confessed that he had committed the

Mr. Johnson, in dissolving the Commission, chose to accept the recent decision of the Su-preme Court, that military trial of civilians in the toyal States is illegal, as his authority. His Cabinet, it is said, agrees with him. This interpretation will surprise no one, though it would have been better had a test case been submitted to the Supreme Court from the Rebel States. We are not yet prepared to admit that Virginia and Indiana stand in equal relations to the Government. But any argument on this point is superseded by the fact that the President's action has taken from the freedmen their last hope of protection, from their oppressors the hope of protection, from their oppressors the last fear of punishment, Watson killed this neero brutally. It was a murder without a shadow of justification, and freely admitted and boasted of as an act of courage. Yet the civil au-thorities of Virginia acquitted him of any crime, and virtually excluded the wanton killing of a page of the extension of murder. and virtually excluded the wanton killing of a negro from the category of murder. He may kill another to-morrow, and there is no power that will punish the act. This is not an excep-tional case; in Georgia, 300 freedmen have been killed since Christmas, 1865, and but three of their murderers have been punished by the civil courts. Our correspondent at Savannab civil courts. Our correspondent at Savannah writes, under date of December 19:-"It would be just as easy to get a jury in the State of New York to convict a person of manslaughter for shooting a mad dog, as to get a jury of Rebels to find a Rebel guilty upon a charge of killing a negro," Sweeping as this assertion may be, the escape of Wat-on is an instance of its truth, as the New Orleans massacre, the acquitta' of as the New Orleans massacre, the acquitta' of Perrin, in Columbus county, Georgia, of the murder of Henry Thomas, and hundreds of other cases, are proofs. The civil courts in the Rebel States positively refuse to try such cases, while in the few cases where the fear of mili-tary interference has induced then, to parade the form of duty, the jury has acquitted the prisoner without the pretense of deliberation. No more need be said: we may simply and that the construction which President Johnson puts upon, the decision of the Supreme Court, whether it be right or wrong, has left the freedwhether it be right or wrong, has left the freed-men without a particle of legal protection. The whole subject must come before Congress, which will not, we may hope, neglect its duty of immediate action.

Old Greek Heroism Revived in Candia. From the Herald. Our Athens correspondent has given, in a

expressed by Webster, Clav, and Everett, and in expressed by Webster, Clav, and Everett, and in niemorable verse by Fitz-Greene Halleck. We are glad to learn that Dr. Howe, of Boston, who, like Lord, Byron, devoted himself perso-nally to the Hellenic cause, has set on foot a project for the immediate relief of sufferers in the Caudian revolution.

English "Financing." From the Times.

The published statement of Mr. J. H. Gurney, late of the firm of Overend, Gurney & Co. (limited), together with the proceedings in the Court of Bankruptcy, present a significant and at the same time, deplorable picture of the system of English "financing." There is hardly a sitting of this Court of Bankruptcy in which there is not presented a number of applications for the "winding up" of this or that company, financially prostrate, and unable to carry on its operations any longer. Without troubling our readers with any details, as much that was of any interest on this side of the water has already appeared in our columns, we only take occasion to point out the rottenness to which English financial corporations have reached within the last ten years.

That England is wealthy, perhaps the wealth-lest country in accumulated capital in the world, no one will or can deny. But the mangement of this capital in its scattered operations, covering the whole globe, is anything but healthy. The statement of Mr, Gurney that his house by a tew points of business, under a new management since 1857, had actually sunk over four nillions sterling, or ever twenty millions of dollars in "exceptional operations," and that the pariners for a number of years did not divide the profits of the house, amounting to about a h indred and ninety thousand pounds, or nine hundred thousand dollars, shows to a certainty that this concern was bankrupt as long ago as 1861. And yet it continued to enjoy the confidence of the public, and did not blash finally to betray it. Other companies, though not as prominently known to the financial public, have done no better, and now, when confi-dence is utterly wiped out, they all, one after the other, come to grief, and amplify the records of bankruptcy

We believe that these monster concerns and private speculative corporations could never have risen to the capacity of doing so much mischief, had it not been for the huge monetary monopoly enjoyed by the Bank of England, There is no greater drawback from which legitimate commence suffers in Great Britain thau this very bank. All kinds of "com-panies (limited)" have the car and purse-strings of the Governor and Directors" of the bank at their service, and commercial enterprise has to rely upon these "Com-panies" as go-betweens for assistance in time of need. When money is tight, for some reason or other, and often for the reason that these very "Companies" have tied up large amounts speculative movements abroad, and when the time has cone that the bank ought to succor the suffering commercial and manufacturing communities, the bank is the first that shuts down its gates, contracts its discounts, raises its rates of interest, and thus gives the first show of a panic. When money is abundant, when everybody that needs it in legitimate transac-tions has it or can easily get it, the bank throws open its coffers and distributes it with a lavish hand among these very "Companies," while the sound branches of trade can get it only in drib-lets from this very institution. That the English people, so clusely wedded to free trade in overy-thing, should so long have submitted to this monopoly, is really a subject of wondermeut.

It is not much better in France, though the Bank of France is managed with a great deal more consideration for the general welfare of the mercantile and industrial interests. But even here large speculative companies have usurped the place of legitimate combinations of capital for one distinct and express purpose. The *Credit Mobilier*, for instance, is rapidly coming to grief. Its shares, which a year ago commanded a premium of a thousand francs upon five hundred, are now down to six hun-dred and fifty. We doubt not that France will soon experience the same results as England of faulty "financing."

## Maximilian. From the World.

Without altempting to disentangle the new complication which has arisen in Mexico we

overshadow and eclipse the Minister he accompanied, could so easily be interpreted as a n enace against the independence of the country, that our Government ought not have fur-nished such a bandle to the Church and Imperial factions. All menace, either express or implied, is undignified and offensive, and if not followed up, contemptible. The sending of General Sherman may not have been meant as a menace, but since it was susceptible of that interpretation, it was, so long as Maximilian remained in the country, a mistake, Such botching is a new demonstration that the State Department is in incompetent hands, and that the removal of Mr. Seward has been by far too long delayed.

## SPECIAL NOTICES.

DR. ROLPH LEE HAS ADMINIS TERED NITROUS OXIDE or LAUGHING GAS to thousands, with perfect success for Dental, surgical, and Medical purposes, and for annusement. Only firly cents per tooth for extracting ; no charge for extracting when artificial reeth are ordered. Office, No 26 WEST WASHINGTON SQUARE, below Locust street. CASE

216 w.201 w.201 washing pass the door. Don't be foolish street. Feventh street cars pass the door. Don't be foolish enough to so elsewhere and may \$2 and \$3 or gas. N. B -1 continue to give instructions to the dentai profes sin. 10 12 fmw3m

CORN EXCHANGE NATIONAL BANK The Vice-President of the Bank, Alexander Whilden, FullADELFIIA, October 16, 1866. The Vice-President of the Bank, Alexander Whilden, Feq. having in May Inst. Lavrew of a prolonged absence in Europe resulted his position, the Board of Directors o cay elected J. W. Torre, Esq., Vice-President, and I. F. chetky, Feq. Cashier. 10 17 ALEXANDER G. CATTELL, President. Feg. h

FARMERS' AND MECHANICS' NA-日明

FARMERS' AND MECHANIUS NA-TIONAL BANK. PHILADELPHIA December 7, 1846. The Annual Flection for Directors of this Bank will be hed at the Banking House on WEDNE-DAY, the 0<sup>th</sup> day of January next, between the hours of 19 o'clock A. M. and 3 o'clock F. M. 12 11 26t W RUSHTON, Jr, Cashler.

SOUTHWARK NATIONAL BANK. FRILADELPHIA, December 10, 1550 The Annual Election for Directors wil, be hed at the Ranking Fous, on TUESDAY & ORNING January s, 1867, between the hours of 16 and 12 o clock. 1, 10 mwillst P. LAMB, Cashier. PHILADEUPHIA AND READING RAILROAD COMPANY, Office No 247 S

FOURTH Street.

FOURTH Street. PHILADELPHIS, December 13, 1966. DIVIDEND NOTICE. The Transfer Rooss of this Company will be closel on TUESDAY, December 18, and reopened on TUES DAY, the 15th of January next. A Dividend of FIVE FER CENT, has been declared in the Preserved and Common Stock closer of National A Dividend of FIVE FFR CENT, has been declared in the Preierred and Common Stock, clear of National and State taxes, payable in cash or common stock at par, at the option of the noider, on and after the slat instant to the holders thereof, as they shall stand registered on the books of the Company, on the 18th instant. All payable at this office in Philadelphia. The option as to taking stock for this dividend with cease at the close of business hours on Saturday, 30th Match Dext. orders for dividends must be witnessed and Match next.

S. BRADFORD, Treasurer, 12 14 254

PHILADELPHIA AND READING 100

RAILROAD I.OLIDAY EXCURSION TICKETS, Good from December 12, 1866 to January 2, 1867 will be issued at reduced fares between all stations on the main r, ad and branches. 12 20 lot General Superintendent. s on the

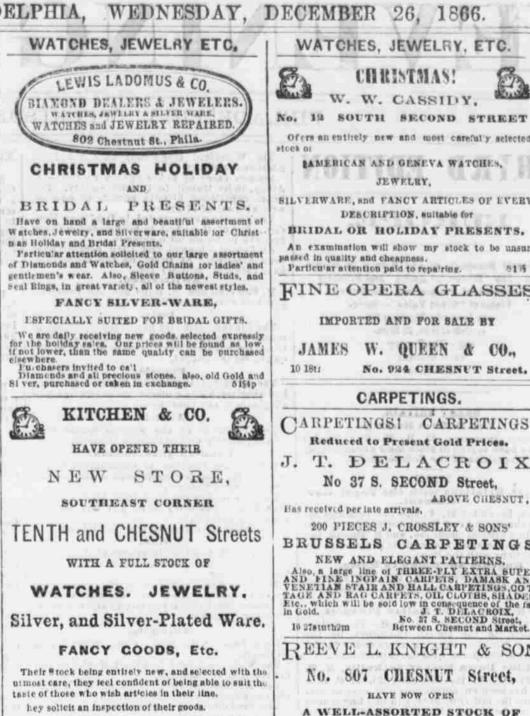
OFFICE OF THE PUILADELPHIA AND TRENTON RAILROAD COMPANY. FULADELPHIA December 21, 1855 The Annual Meeing of the stockholders, and an Electron for Directors for the ensuing year will be held at the Company's office on MONDAY, the 14th day of Innuary 1857, at 1 o'clock P. M. 12 24mw; ti 14 J. MORRELL, Secretary.

SHAMOKIN COAL COMPANY. PHILADELPHIA, December 22, 1866 The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the SHAMOKIN COAL COMPANY will be held at their Offree, No, 226 WALNUT Street (Room No. 3), on WEDNESDAY, January 16, 1867, at 11 o'clock, to elect Directors for the ensuing year. The inansfer Books will be closed on and after the 25th instant. 12 22 20t CHARLES R. LINDSAY, Secretary.

NEW YORK AND MIDDLE COAL FIELD BAILBOAD AND COAL COMPANY PHILADELPHIA, December 22, 1838 The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the above Company will be held at their Office. No 226 WALNUT Street (Room No. 3), on TUENDAY, January 8, 1897, at II o'c.oek to elect Directors for the ensuing year. The Transfer Books will be closed on and after the 26th Instant.

19 99 12. A CHATLES B. LINDSAY, Scoreta y.

A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE Stockholders of the FOWELL RUN AND SL(P-PERY ROCK OIL COMPANY will be held on FRIDAY, 4th of January, 1867, at 3 o'clock P. M., at No. 108 MARKET street, to consider the affairs of the Company, and determine whether its estate and property shall be sold.



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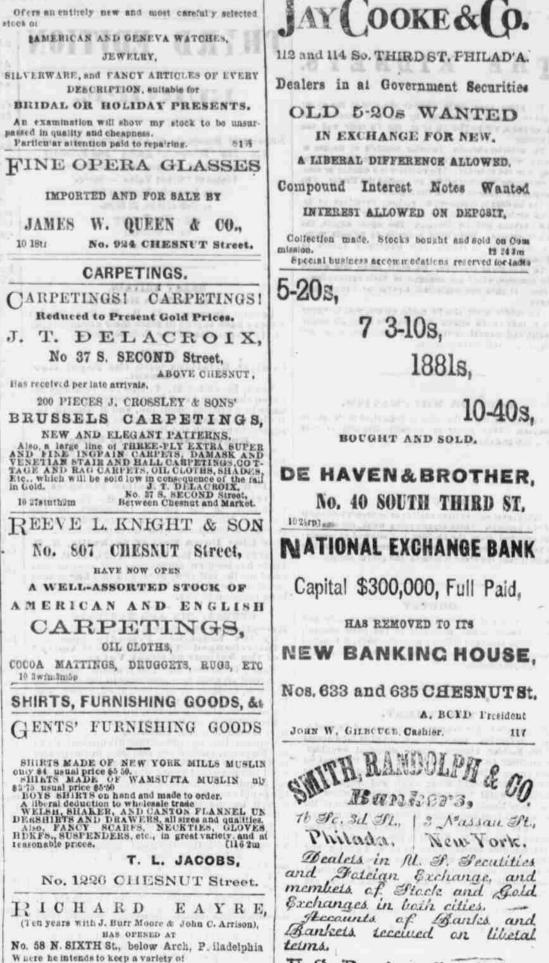
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FINANCIAL.

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## THE DAILY EVENING TELEGRAPH.-PHILADELPHIA, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1866.

2

letter recently published, the details of the fighting and indiscriminate slaughter of Turks and Greek Christians at the convent of Arcadion. This convent, which is situated in a strong position in the department of Rethymnos, was occupied by five hundred and forty persons, three hundred and forty-three of whom were women and children, leaving one hundred and ninety-seven men capable of bearing arms. On the 20th of November Mustapha Pacha left his headquarters at Episcopi, with twelve thousaud men, and advanced upon the convent, demanding the surrender of the garrison. The refusal of the Cretans was followed by a tremendous fire from the Turkish artillery, and the bombardment was kept up for two days and mghis.

At length, a breach having been effected, the Turks, who had suffered heavy losses, poured into the court of the convent. Barricading themselves in the surrounding cells, the Christiana bravely resisted for six hours, and then desperately resolved to fire the powder magazine. A monk applied the match, and a tre-mendous explosion killed two thousand Tarks on the spot, wounding large numbers besides, and destroying all the Christians except thirtynine men, and about sixty women and children. The latter were taken prisoners and carried off to Rethymnos. Among upwards of a thousand wounded Turks was a brother in-law of Mustapha Pacha. The Turkish army is reported to have been sorely dispirited by the disaster. This incident in the Candian revolution

This incident in the Candian revolution should, on the other hand, encourage the Cre-tans and enlist in their behalf the sympathies of the whole Christian world. It reveals the fact that the old heroic spirit still survives to which, according to Herodotus, the Greek Demabore testimony when asked by Xerxes after the latter had surveyed the immense hosts wherewith he was about to invade Greece by land and sea, whether the Greeks would presume and and sea, whether the Greeks would presume to resist his power. "You may depend upon it," replied Demaratus, "that your propositions which threaten Greece with servitude will be rejected, and if all the other Greeks side with you sgainst there, the Lacedemonians will engage you in battle. Make no inquiries as to their number; for if they shall have but a thou-

sand men, or even fewer, they will fight you," The same spirit animated Leonidas, of whom Plutarch relates that when asked how he dared to encounter'so prodigious a multitude as composed the army of Xerxes with so few men, he replied: "If you reckon by numbers, all Greece is not able to oppose a small part of that army; but if by courage, the number I have with me is sufficient." This was the spirit which fired Leonidas and histhree hundred Sparians when they defended the pass of Thermopylie and immor-talized its name. All are familiar with the numerous instances in which this spirit again broke forth gloriously during the seven years struggle of modern Greece against Turkish oppression. From 1821 until the battle of Navarino in 1827, when the Turco-Egyptian fleet annihilated by the combined squad-rons was of England, France, and Russia, this re-markable content was availed by the Turkish markable contest was carried on by the Turks with such atrocious barbarity, and by the Greeks with such hereic bravery as to engage the sympathy and the active interference of all Christian nations. It is a shame that sym-pathy and interference should be withheld from the Cretans who are now displaying the same heroism in struggling against the same tyranny. A remonstrance at least should be made at once by the United States Government—now, far more emphatically than in 1821, one of the great powers of the earth-against Turkish crueities and ravages in Candla, which pain-fully remind us of the blood shed at Constanthropie, the execution of the patriarch, the massacres of Scio, and the other horrible scenes of the Greek revolution. The universal feeling awaked in America at that time was eloquently

may safely pronounce the recent mission, sent to that country by our Government, a mistake. Mr. Seward himself virtually confessed it to be a blunder in the remonstrance he sent by telegraph to Paris, shortly before the opening of Congress. He complained, in substance, that, duped by the promise of Napoleon, the President had despatched a mission to counsel with Juarez at the critical point of transition, and thus was involved in the awkward dilemma of recalling his ministers and countermanding their instructions, or supporting them in opposilion to the de facto Government of the country Mr. Seward ought to have learnt, by his experi ence in the inception of the empire, that the assurances of the French Government needed to be taken with some abatement. But the failure to withdraw a division of the French troops at the appointed time would have been a trivial matter, if Maximilian had not, meanwhile, taken it into his head to disappoint all the expecta-tions, and disconcert all the arrangements, which had been founded on his assumed abdication.

Maximilian refuses to abdicate, and is engaged in the attempt to reorganize the empire on a popular constitutional basis. His plan is sembly a Congress or Convention of all the conflicting interests to have this Convention devise a new organic law on a liberal basis, and to transform the empire, with the consent of the nation, into a limited constitutional mo-narchy. If Maximilian possessed the sagacity, address, and strength of character of his impe-rial French patron, this might be possible; but Maximilian being what he is, it is the desperate struggle of a proud man against the destiny which threatens to degrade him from the rank of sovereigns to that of subjects, and consign him to history as the most signal failure of the age in which he lived.

But, for the present, our Government, by his indiscreet haste and its unwary reliance on French promises, is placed in a position which cannot be considered as enviable. By arresting Ortega, by snubbing Santa Anna, by bullying Maximilian, by a resentful remonstrance to Napoleon, and, though last not least, by sending a great soldier to support our envoy, our Gov-ernment has contrived to do all that any Government could do to combine and concentrate all the internal and all the external opposition to Juarez. The affronted Mexican leaders must have influence enough in the country to distarb Juarez, or our Government would not have thought it necessary to obstruct them. The sending of General Sherman may be too easily construed as a military menace to please the great body of the nation, which aspires rather at independence than a change of foreign masters.

Maximilian must naturally resent it as an attempt to put him in his coffin before he is dead, and the Church party is understood to be adverse to the United States. All parties and interests in Mexico, and all parties and interests out of Mexico, except the supporters of Juarez, have thus been furnished with tresh motives for resisting American influence. A statesman skil-ful and energetic enough to manipulate and combine these elements of opposition might perhaps support himself on the throne. Each factious Mexican leader would prefer his own chances of ascendancy to the continuance of the empire; but as between the empire and Juarez, he might find it easier to submit to a monarch than to a rival. But Maximilian does not possess the vigor or the stateoraft to work up such a situation.

Our Government could not do otherwise than support Juarez; but it was not necessary to take any hasty, ill-judged steps. Till Maximilian was fairly out of the country, it would have been better to have connived at the efforts of the Santa Anna and Ortega factions against Maximilian, than to have turned them against Juarez by indignities and provocations. The sending of a great soldier, with fame enough to

12 22 41\* JOHN OAKFORD Secretary. MERCANTILE BENEFICIAL ASSOCI-ATION.-The terms of admission arejas for Q.

THE UNDERSIGNED, TREASURER Der. of the OTRADIA ION CONFID. THE ASOLOGIES for the OTRADIA ION CONFIDENT OF THE ASOLOGIES IN-ters sted in and opposed to seeling the GERMAN LUTHE-RAN EURIAL & ROUND EIGHTH Street, below Vine, is sutherized to receive moneys and subscriptions to carry out the above object. Frompt a tention re-guessed. 12 20 5t\* No. 432 CHESNUT Street.

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