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EDITURIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS DPON CURRENT TOPICS COMPILED EVERY DAY POR THE EVENING THEEGRAPH.

The Gallo-Prussian Complication.

From the Independent. Human nature now is much as it was of old in spite of the march of mind, the spirit of the age, and other formulas by which we of the nineteenth century sometimes try to perguade ourselves that we are much ahead of our ancestors. Captain Lemuel Gulliver, that only authentic traveller, told his four-footed master in the land of the Houghnhms, more than a century ago, that one of the justifiable causes of war between two Princes is "to decide which of them shall dispossess a third of his dominions, where neither of them pre-tend any right." This is precisely the case at present between France and Prussia, Luxembourg, about which they seemed like to go to loggerheads the other day, belongs to neither of them. If it do not belong to the inhabitants-a theory which would be scouted by politicians of every stripe—it belongs to the King of Holland. But the King of Holland would be but a mouthful to either of his Brobdiguagian neighbors; and therefore his rights are nothing to the purpose. For here comes in another maxim of the sage Gulliver. that a war may be entered upon because our neighbor has the thing we want, and because he is too weak to help himself. And again, it is justifiable to enter into war against our nearest ally, when one of his towns lies convenient to us, or a territory of land that would render our dominions sound and complete. Which is the very case in hand.

Bonaparte, having seated himself upon the throne of France by perjury and treason, and having lost much of the Napoleonic prestige which was the only divinity that hedged his title, he must do something to regain it. The King of Prussia, having just absorbed the biggest part of Germany, and claiming to be the chief power in Europe, must maintain the hegemony of the contiment as against France, who is sorely disinclined to yield that preëminence. So they were going to war to get possession of a territory which confessedly belongs to neither of them, to decide which of them should have the privilege of intermeddling with the affairs of other kingdoms, with which, also, they have no business whatever. Thus they are like to illustrate another of the sagacious propositions of the great voyager-"Sometimes one prince quarrelleth with another for fear the other should quarrel with him." The King of Prussia, knowing that Bonaparte must quarrel with him as soon as he is ready, is making haste to begin before he is so. And so the festival of peace which has just been in-augurated in Paris is likely to be interrupted by the clash of arms and the roar of artillery. Thousands of brave men will bite the dust, the world will be filled with widows and with orphans, and the fairest portions of Europe will be laid waste, to settle the question which of two men shall help himself to what belongs to neither of them, and shall enjoy the prerogative of putting a potential finger in othes people's pies.

It would be well if these two monarchs would listen to the words which the youth of France are addressing to the youth of Germany. The students of Paris are signing an address to the German students, which shows that youth is sometimes wiser than age. They say to them:-"Is not the time of national hatreds past? Far be from us the 5deas of another age! Peoples are great not by their territories, but by their institutions. not the extension of their frontiers, but of their liberties, which both France and Germany should desire." Brave and noble words, and as wise withal! But who will listen to the voice of Wisdom crying aloud in the streets of Paris or of Berlin? She will be, much more likely, gagged and locked up in the conciergerie. We expect to hear that this address has been suppressed, and its promoters punished. But the fact is significant. It shows the direction of the undercurrent of French thought, and is prophetic of the force it may yet gather as it runs; for it is of the leaven which will work its way gradually through the lump until it is all leavened. But it will take a long time to work its wholesome fermentation.

We do not believe that the London Conference will do more than delay the breakingout of the war. Neither party could well refuse, when so entreated, to assume a pacific disposition, whether felt or not. The occasion of the war which is to come lies deeper than dynastic or territorial interests. It will proceed from out of the hearts of men, whence come all wars and fightings. Passion, and not calculation, will be the inspiring principle of the conflict. Prussia has never forgotten the humiliation of Jena, nor France that of Waterloo. The desire on the part of each of the two peoples to give the other a satisfactory thrashing, will be the secret spring of the strife that is to decide which shall be the great Continental power. The manifest destiny urges Prussia forward, and the instinct of self-preservation must keep Bonaparte from holding back. A successful war with Prussia would secure his throne for at least his lifetime. And he is not the man to hold back from a game, however desperate or dangerous, which is played for such a stake. Kings can find quarrel in a smaller straw than Luxembourg. whenever a fight will suit their purposes. And so it will be now, the London Conference notwithstanding.

Encroachments of Military Power in the

From the Times. The authority of Brigadier-Generals is fast making itself a reality at the South. The reasonable interpretation of the intent of the Reconstruction act is, that military power shall be absolute in all that pertains to the purposes comprehended within the law, but no further. It is, in fact, merely the agency created for working the machinery of the law, with a view to the reorganization of civil au-2hority, and for meeting possible emergencies arising out of the present provisional arrangements. The duty of the military commander, as we understand it, is to rectify wrongs and errors of omission or commission perpetrated by existing local anthority. Apart from these contingencies, his functions would seem to be restricted to whatever may be necessary to the execution of the plan of Congress as embodied in the law.

Under a rigid adherence to this construction of military duty, perhaps General Sheridan's removal of Mayor Monroe and other obnoxious officials might not have admitted of justifica tion. It was an exercise of power which comes properly into play only when provisional func tionaries seek to annul or circumvent the law. In this particular case, however, the proceeding elloited little criticism, because of the notoriously bad record of the officials removed.

General Sheridan is held justified on the ground that their positions would unques-

tionably be used adversely to the law.

The orders of Gen. Sickles, altering the civil and criminal codes of North and South Carolina, were of a more doubtful character. the extent that local statutes conflicted with the provisions of the Civil Rights act, the General's interference may have been neces-sary. But there is nothing that we know of in that act, or in the Reconstruction act, which, in letter or spirit, warrants a commanding officer to say what offenses shall be elonies, or how offenses shall be punished; or which, by any process of reasoning, can be made to justify interference with the claims of creditors, or the disposition to be made of property subject to liens. And yet the orders, dthough extraordinary and on their face unlawful, called forth no protest from the communities concerned, and only exceptional condemnation from the press of the country. In the Carolinas and throughout the Southern States there has been an evident desire to judge the orders charitably-to attribute their promulgation to peculiar local circumstances best understood by the commanders of the districts, and in some degree also to a humane desire to mitigate the penalties of poverty, so far as these may be affected by the operation

In Virginia, military authority has maniested itself in forms that are wholly inexisable. The order of General Wilcox forbidding a fellow who has neither character nor talent to deliver a lecture on "Southern Chivalry," was the result of consummate official folly. General Schofield's "warning" to the Richmond Times was equally arbitrary and unwise. Neither is susceptible of palliation nor defense. It would be as sagacious to command donkeys not to bray as to prohibit Pollard from indulging in rant and nonsense at street corners or in any room that he may hire for the occasion. What Pollard might say could harm nobody; when he does any-thing contrary to law, the law will be quite sufficient for its own vindication. Until the civil law fails, General Wilcox has no right to meddle. So again with regard to General Schofield and the Richmond newspaper. The establishment of a censorship is simply usur-pation, and a usurpation which challenges the judgment of every man who values freedom of speech and the press. For our Richmond namesake, though hostile to the Reconstruction law, has not transcended its right, and the right of every man, to comment upon both the law and its administration.

The Southern press, indeed, is entitled to a great deal of credit for the moderation of its tone, and for its prevailing inclination to deal fairly with the momentous problem which is now undergoing solution. Here and there a rabid Rebel sheet may be found, but the number throughout the South is so small as to be unworthy of notice. The greater number of journals published in that section are pursuing a course which cannot be too highly praised. They may not applaud the law on its merits, but they counsel compliance with its requirements, and are earnest in their desire to get back to the full fellowship of the Union. Of few can this be said more justly than of the Times and Picagune, of New Orleans, which, according to a statement in circulation, have been "unofficially warned" touching their articles on the Reconstruction act. The statement is scarcely credible, so temperate, and withal so sensible, have been the observations and recommendations of both the journals named since the passage of the law. The proceeding of General Schofield at Richmond, however, renders possible the exercise of the censor's authority at New Orleans, though from this wrong we trust General Sheridan's good sense will preserve him.

Still another encroachment is reported from Texas. An order issued by General Griffin excludes from the juries of the State all citizens who may have directly or indirectly aided the Rebellion. Henceforward, General Griffin decrees, the test oath shall be applied to jurors, and only they who can take it shall be permitted to serve. The legal authority for this order has not been cited, and none can be found. The Reconstruction act contains no provision upon the subject. It declares who shall be disfranchised and who shall be excluded from office, but in respect of jurors it is silent. General Griffin's order, then, is arbitrary and unjustifiable. It is anomalous, moreover, since, while ex-Rebels or their sympathizers may not act as jurors, ex-Rebel Judges are permitted "provisionally" to continue their functions as administrators of

These incidents demonstrate the tendency military power to trespass beyond the boundaries of reconstruction at the cost of the liberty of the citizen. It is to be hoped that the forthcoming opinion of the Attorney-General will define the powers and duties of the commanding Generals with a fullness and precision that will obviate difficulty, and prevent needless interference with the law, the press, or the people of the South.

The Reasons for Protection. From the Tribune.

There was a preliminary gathering yesterday at the Astor House of some two hundred citizens, interested in or otherwise favorable to protection to home industry. Mr. Peter Cooper presided, and ten or twelve States were represented. Governor Pierpont, of Virginia, was present, and in full sympathy with the meeting and its object. A committee of organization was appointed, and, after much animated discussion, an adjournment was had to the 22d inst., when it is intended to organize for a vigorous, determined canvass of the whole country by means of meetings, speakers and documents.

It was high time. The importers have substantial control of the newspaper press of this city, the Tribune and one or two other journals excepted. We do not, in saying this, charge any party with corruption. It happens that the importers are free traders, and that they, with the jobbers of their goods, are very large and constant advertisers, as most American producers of metals, wares, and fabrics are The importers advertise mainly in journals which talk as those importers would have them on the tariff question; and the great majority of our journals talk so as to please their most liberal advertisers. All this is rather natural than otherwise, and we are not blaming either party. We state facts which explain other facts, and demand public atten-

That miners and manufacturers who seek protection are monopolists, extortioners, rob-bers, is the general drift of our city contemporaries' political economy. That the essayists who condemn protection are unquestionably right, while those who uphold it are knaves or fools, is a style of argument which our neighboring journals find at once easy and profitable. That a Pennsylvania ironmaster profitable. who has to pay twice to thrice as much for labor, etc., as his British rival, who can export his product to this market (as ballast for dry goods), at a lower freight than the Pennsylvanian must pay, evinces exceeding rapacity

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on imported iron, is quite currently believed here. New York is more largely inhabited by Europeans than by Americans, and very many of our merchants are more intent on "taking home" a large pile within a few years, than on building up the country wherein their fortunes

are made That American manufactures are exceptionally, enormously profitable, is constantly asserted by our free trade neighbors; and every scrap of news that favors that assumption is conspicuously paraded, while the scores of facts that prove the contrary are quietly suppressed. It is in vain that we say to the fre traders:-"You have among you adequate capacity, energy, and capital, and you are not averse to making good profits. Now, if it be true, as you constantly assert, that manufactures are generally sold too high here, and that large profits are realized by those who produce them, why do not you embark in their fabrication? Here are water-power, fuel, ores, and all manner of raw material in abundance; why will you persist in some pursuit which pays you meagrely, when you might (if you state the truth) make 20 to 50 per cent. by smelting iron or weaving fabrics What can induce you to act so insanely They do not answer: how could they, with-out confessing that they have been per-sisting in untruth, to the injury of their neighbors ?

"But why not buy where we can buy cheapest?" ask the free traders. "Why deny or fetter a man's natural right to 'do as he likes with his own ?"

We answer:-To buy our iron, wares, fabrics, precisely where we can buy them cheapest, and because we can there buy them cheapest, is our plan. We uphold the Protective system, because we are sure that thereby can our people's wants be supplied more cheaply (for them) than in any other way. We hold, and have often demonstrated, that the ton of iron which costs \$100 if made here, and \$75 if imported, actually costs our consumers considerably less (not in dollars, but in days' works) if made here. In other words-the cost of the American ton is made up of ore, coal, wood, charcoal, feed, taxes, schooling, etc., which would not have brought \$75, nor even \$65, had our iron been made in Europe. We of the Tribune, example, are this year paying at least \$40,000 for presses, etc., mainly made of iron; and we can better afford to pay \$40,000 if our supply of iron were wholly made and fashioned in this country than \$30,000 with our furnaces, foundries, and workshops in Europe. We can make this truth plain to any one who is not steeled against conviction. -"But what do you say as to the right of

every one to sell his own labor or its product as he sees fit?" Just this, sir; that, as you interpret that right, it leads directly to anarchy. Governments subsist on taxes; and, if it be conceded absolutely that a man may do as he likes with his own, then collecting taxes must be stopped, and treasuries filled by voluntary gift or not at all. If the sweeping free trade assumption on this point be sound, then the construction of the Erie Canal was a gigantic crime; for that was done by means of taxing away the money and pledging the credit of tens of thousands who sternly opposed the whole project, and

protested that they ought not to be taxed for

its realization. We talk of losses and calamities by flood fire, drouth, or pestilence; we consider, and with reason, our taxes very heavy; but all other taxes combined do not bear so heavily upon us as that imposed by involuntary idleness. Not less than one million people in this country are to-day out of employment, therefore useless and miserable. Not one dime less than \$300,000,000, and we think \$500,000,000, are annually lost to the country on this account. Now we do not insist that unequivocal protection would secure every one constant work; but we do hold that more have work and all work more efficiently, where employ ments are multiplied and diversified by pro tection than elsewhere. A purely agricultural community, still more a lumbering one, has many more idlers or drones, and produces far less wealth per hand, than Lancashire or Massachusetts. Diversity of pursuit is one main element of efficiency in production; and such diversity is promoted by protection.

-But we did not mean to say half so much at present. We intended only to express our joy that the friends of protection have met, resolved to organize, and to canvass the whole country. Slavery-which so long excluded us from most of the South-is at last dead, and labor votes there henceforth instead of being chattelized and sold on the auction block. We protectionists never yet were beaten by the votes of those who can read, and their number is rapidly increasing. We have but to work to

The Struggle for Territory in South

From the Herald. For more than two years the war for territorial aggrandizement on the La Plata river has been waging, and as yet all parties appear to be further removed from the objects for which they entered the contest than they were at the beginning. On the part of Brazil the war is but the result of a long announced and steadily pursued policy of the imperial family. The Parana and Paraguay rivers must be the boundary of the empire. At first glance the map would appear to show that Brazil should be contented with her territorial area; but when it is considered that the valley of the Amazon is naught but a vast jungle; that of the 3,340,000 square miles (Humboldt's measurement), there is scarcely one-fifth available for settlement by men that the only really valuable part lies south of the fifteenth degree of south latitude; and that Brazil has never ceased her efforts to extend her territory to the south and west, we shall see that this grasping for a more remote boundary line is natural. So steadily has this policy been carried out in Uruguay, that today the port of Montevideo may be considered a Brazilian city. Even before the date o Spanish American independence, this effort to overrun Uruguay, Paraguay, and the strip of Argentine territory lying between them called Missiones, was the cause of long and bloody warfare. From the founding of Montevideo, in 1726, the Portuguese commenced their struggle for the extension of Brazil. Uruguay has always been the principal battleground; for whoever holds the northern bank of the La Plata dominates the whole of its immense and magnificent valley, even to the heart of Bolivia.

The lodgment which the Fortuguese effected on the La Plata early in the eighteenth century have rise in 1776 to the most formidable mill tary expedition which up to that time Spain had fitted out to the New World. The Portuguese settlement was laid in ruins, and the attempt of the Portuguese to hold a point on the great river was signally defeated. Brazil has, however, staked her future on this desired boundary; and as she has already waged nearly a century of war to accomplish her purpose, it is not to be supposed that she will now desist. When the present war opened the little and "cheek," in asking for a protective duty | dictatorship of Paraguay, with seventy thou-

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sand square miles and five hundred thousand inhabitants, was scarcely less ambitious than its more colossal neighbors. The country having been at peace for more than half a century, and during that time rapidly developing its wonderful natural resources, began to feel the wants that every nation feels as it unrolls its resources-a commercial outlet on the ocean and territorial extension. Both could be obtained in one direction, and Paraguay looked southward to the richest and most beautiful of the Argentine States, Cor-rientes and Entre Rios—the latter with a fine contact with the great estuary of the La Plata, and both provinces bounded by rivers navigable for a large class of sea-going vessels. Already powerful in an impregnable position, hanging like a shadow over the great Brazilian province of Matto Groso, preventing the set-tlement of southeastern Bolivia, and the Gran Chaco, she threatened to shove, wedge-like, between the two great adversaries, Brazil and the Argentine republic, and control the whole vast interior of a valley which, for natural productions, fertility of soil, and wealth, both mineral and vegetable, has no equal in connected area on the surface of the globe.

But the objects of the Argentine republic in this strange territorial contest were not dissimilar from its neighbors. Under the Viceroys Paraguay was a dependency of Buenos Ayres; but in 1811, when the Viceroyalty was overthrown and a Provisional Government established, Paraguay refused to recognize what it called a central usurped authority, and immediately declared its independence of Spain. The effort of the Buenos Ayreans to restore her to the Viceroyalty was unsuccessful; but the Argentine republic has always clung to the hope that her old province would some time return to her either peaceably or by force of arms; and this notwithstanding the recognition of Paraguayan independence in the treaty made between the two countries in 1852 The great prize, it will thus be seen, for which the combatants are striving, is the control of the La Plata Valley. The prize is magnificent; but the allies, in an alliance unnatural and equally unfortunate, are paying very heavily for the attempt to remove one of the three contending parties and narrow the contest down to two. Paraguay was the first to invade one of the provinces which she coveted, but, attacked by her powerful opponents, she has, like an armadillo, rolled herself in her shell and laughed at all their attempts to penetrate even her outworks. It is probable that the close of the war will find Paraguay relatively stronger than she was at the beginning; while the allies, exhausted of men and money, will require a long time to recuperate and reopen the great contest.

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