# THE DAILY EVENING TELEGRAPH-PHILADELPHIA, TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 1869.

## SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS DFON CURRENT TOPICS-COMPILED EVERY DAY FOR THE EVANING TELLORAPH.

#### The War Cloud Over Europe. From the N. Y. Herald.

It is only a few days since we called the atention of our readers to the probability of an early and gigantic war on the Continent of Rurope. There were not a few who thought that we wrote with too much confidence, and that our conclusions were not warranted by facts. Not a day has passed since but news from the different European centres has justi-fied our view of the situation. War rumors fill the air. War preparations on the most extensive scale are everywhere being hurried forward. The preparations are more particu-larly noticeable in Prussia and France. The attention of the French Government seems to be directed chiefly to the equipment of the army, while Prussia multiplies and strengthens her fortresses. It is stated on what seems good authority, as we recently mentioned in our news columns, that the French Govern-ment has actually asked explanations from the Government of King William regarding the centration of troops in Hanover, Frankfort, and generally on the French frontier. Austria, we are also told, impressed with the dangerous character of a war in which it might be impossible for her to refuse to take part, has expressed a desire that any difficulty likely to lead to hostilities should first be submitted to a conference of the powers before it is regarded as a casus belli. It is a circumstance calculated to excite suspicion that, in view of the approaching elections, the Emperor by abolish-ing the livrets has made a bold bid for the suffrages of the wokringmen. The most important item of news bearing upon the general question is that contained in one of our latest cable despatches, to the effect that, in spite of the bitterness of the opposition, the Senate has approved the so-called defensive measures of the Government. The concluding words of the speech of M. de la Valette, "It is the obloy of France to maintain resolutely a digaified peace," mean that France is now ready for war.

It thus becomes more and more apparent that, much as conferences have in the last two Burope the hope of a permanent peace. The London Conference on the Luxemburg ques-tion, and the Paris Conference on the Eastern question staved off war for the time, but they ttled no great question-they removed none of the great outstanding difficulties. The Eastern question is as unsettled as ever, although in abeyance for the present; and the demolition of the fortress of Luxemburg has not put an end to the jealousy which has so long existed between France and Prussia. The two nations seem less willing to shake hands than ever. The truth is, conferences even do but little se long as such enormous armaments are maintained. It will not be wonderful, however, if, in the event of any actual cause of war presenting itself, an attempt is made to preserve peace by means of another conference. It is not the interest of Austria that war should break out between two such powerful neigh-bors as Prussia and France. England has no desire to see the Continent in flames. Both these powers, it may be taken for granted, will go in for a conference, and among the lesser powers they will find no lack of support. We have no idea, however, that Na-poleon will be influenced in the least degree port. by any such proposal. No conferences can bend Prussia to his wishes. No conferences can gives him what he wants. We know that It was the imperfect condition of the French army which prevented Napoleon from going war with Prussia when Bismark, after the battle of Sadowa, snubbed him so effectually for asking the Rhine provinces as French com-pensation for Prussian gain. It was the same cause, we know, which prevented him from at-tacking Prussis when Bismark refused to yield in the Luxemburg difficulty. But that cause exists no longer. The two years and a half which have since elapsed have brought up the French army to a high standard of perfection. Mar-shal Niel has exerted himself to the utmost, and Marshal Niel is now satisfied that France need fear no foe. In other words, the Emperor is ready to try the genius of Bismark on other fields than that of diplomacy. No conference could have prevented him from taking the field against Austria in 1859. Should any reasonable pretext be found, no conference will prevent him taking the field against Prussia in 1869. He is ready; France is ready; and if occasion offers he must fight or lose his throne. Under him France will have no more Mexican blunders, no more Sadowa miscalculations, no more Bismark snubbing. He knows well the character of the people whom he governs. He knows that no further compromise would be tolerated, and now, and on this great question, he and his people are of one mind. The people are of the present situation is that there is no immediate intelligible cause of war. It is difficult to believe that Napoleon, for the sake of any uncertain gain that might result, for the mere sake of flattering French vanity, would rush into open hostili-ties without some satisfactory reason. It might be dangerous to bring down upon his head the indignation of Europe; and we may feel well assured he will run no such risk. Whence, then, is cause of war likely to emerge? There is the Belgian difficulty, for the settlement of which a mixed commission has been appointed. How this commission will decide we know not. It is difficult to believe that the Belgian representatives will be plucky enough to separate the interests of Belgium from those of France. But it is not im-possible. It is the object of the commission "to give mutual proof of friendship and confi-dence." Its result will be "to develop the commercial and industrial relations of the two countries," and hence it will "examine the divers industrial questions arising from the existing relations, and from the treaties re-contly proposed for the cession and working of the Belgian railways." It is not difficult to see hew a casus belli might be manufactured by this commission. The Belgians, as we have said, may not prove sufficiently yielding. What then? Will Napoleon use force? If he does, will not Bismark imitate his example A French army in Belgium, the English people would force the Government to interfere. Sapposing, however, that some treaty is signed which meets the wishes without wounding the pride of either party, it is not conceivable that trouble will not grow out of it. Whatever the treaty may be, France is certain to obtain such a footing in Belgium as shall be found ultimately to jeopardize the life of the little kingdom. The Great Luxemburg Railway in the hands of France, Prusaia would be more in danger of a surprise than ever. On the doings of this commission Bismark will keep doings of this commission Bismark will keep fixed sjealous eye. It will not be wonderful if before the commission has concluded its labors the volce of Bismark is heard, and if this Great Luxemburg Railway becomes another great Luxemburg question, on the solution of which, will depend the destinies of Europe. This is one of the irons which Napoleon has in the fire, and it will serve his purpose as well as any other. Whether war shall spring from this source, or whether it shall not, it cannot much longer be delayed. The cloud, already

The Late Session of Congress.

The thirty-three days to which the Forty-first Congress limited its first session were, on the whole, well spent. We are grat-fal for some excellent legislation completed, for some very bad legislation prevented, and for the early adjournment. One or two measures that ought to have passed were lost between the houses; but on the other hand some exceedingly worthless ones shared the same

The act by which the session will be longest emembered is one for whose prompt passage we have to thank the sagacious statesmanship of General Grant. We mean the law that olores the series of reconstruction measures, and provides for "the crowning of the edifice." No timelier, wiser enactment has, in these latter years, marked our progress towards resto-We hail it as the end of the policy of hatred and revenge; the end of irritating and nseless disfranchisements; and the means of bringing to the next session of this Congress a full representation once more-for the first time since 1860 -of every State in the Union. It has another and not less grateful siguificance. It is the first movement of the new administration in matters of national policy. Next to this we reckon the act to strengthen

the public credit, a measure which this Con-gress only gained the honor of passing because of Mr. Johnson's perversity in depriving the last one of it through his pocket veto. Its excellent effect was immediately perceptible; if now we can only reinforce it by using our surplus gold to buy up our bonds in the market, and by a relentless and thorough collection of our sustoms and internal revenue, we shall soon be on the highway to an era of sounder finances. The bill to enlarge the judicial system by the addition of one justice to the Supreme Court, and by the appoint-ment of circuit judges who shall relieve the Supreme Judges of a part of their present onerous duties, is a measure the necessity of which the court dockets have long demon strated, and the good results of which may soon be seen in the more rapid disposal of causes throughout the various circuits. The conclusion of the Tenare-of Office discussions we can hardly commend so highly. It retains the principle which we hold to be im-portant, but does it in a blind, bangling way that was only accepted with satisfaction be-cause it seemed under the circumstances to be the best thing then attainable. The long-disputed Indian Appropriation bill, which was finally cut down to six and a quarter millions, ought, we fear, to have been reduced yet lower. The experiment of giving two millions of this amount into the hands of a commistion of Friends, to be disposed of according to their best judgment among the Indians, pro-mises well, but, after all, it is one of those measures which can only be judged by the result. We have the consolation that, in any event, they can hardly make things worse than at present. The grant of further time to the liquor dealers for taking spirits out of bond is one of those unfortunate pieces of legislation which now and then become a law in some mysterious and doubtful manner.

We have enumerated the main features of this short session's work. The Memphis and El Paso bill, effering a chance to a company which proposed to build a Pacific railway without a subsidy, failed; and so did the Census bill; but, on the other hand, three or four objectionable measures that once seemed likely to pass, the national bank tinkering, the West India buncombe, and the beggarly "disability" peddling, met the same end. Alto-gether, these thirty-three days of the Fortyfirst Congress have given us some valuable legislation and nothing very bad. It is not always that we are able to signalize the close

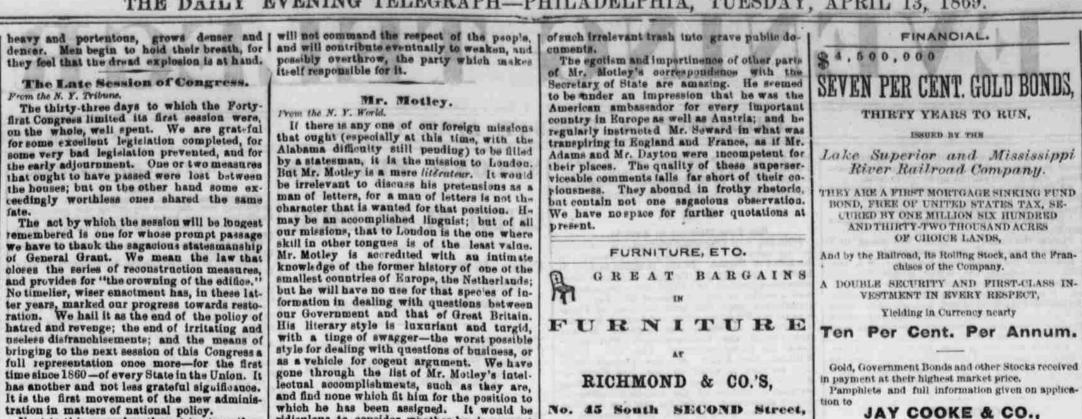
possibly overthrow, the party which makes itself responsible for it.

Mr. Motley. From the N. Y. World.

If there is any one of our foreign missions that ought (especially at this time, with the Alabama difficulty still pending) to be filled by a statesman, it is the mission to London But Mr. Motley is a more literateur. It would be irrelevant to discuss his pretensions as a man of letters, for a man of letters is not the character that is wanted for that position. Hmay be an accomplished linguist; but of all our missions, that to London is the one where skill in other tongues is of the least value. Mr. Motley is accredited with an intimate knowledge of the former history of one of the smallest countries of Europe, the Netherlands; but he will have no use for that species of information in dealing with questions between our Government and that of Great Britain. His literary style is luxuriant and turgid, with a tinge of swagger-the worst possible style for dealing with questions of busicess, or as a vehicle for cogent argument. We have gone through the list of Mr. Motley's intel-lectual accomplishments, such as they are, and find none which fit him for the position to which he has been assigned. It would be ridiculous to consider whether he is a great statesman, a mediocre statesman, or a small statesman; whether he is a bold and vigorous or a prudent and cautious statesman; he has not the slightest claim or title to be regarded as a statesman at all. He has none of the solidity of faculties or reach of penetration which lie at the basis of that character.

Having reviewed the accomplishments which Mr. Motley possesses, but which do not qualify him for the London missionaccomplishments which, though no great helps, are not fatal impedigreat ments-let as now attend to some of his positive disqualifications Among these the most to be regretted is his lack of genuine American feeling and pride of country. He belongs to that snobbish Boston coterie which servilely apes European culture and habits of thought, which takes pride in corresponding with for-eigners of distinction, which catches the newest mode in pronunciation and phrase, as our fashionable ladies do the newest mode in attire; which turns up its nose at the rude ness of all American life out of its own fastidious circle. Mr. Motley is a perfect type of this intellectual and social snobbishness. He completed histeducation in Earope, and affects to scorn such culture as can be acquired in this country. He has devoted his life to European studies, and employed his pen only on European subjects. All his pride of association is in European circles, and such American society as bestows its admiration on people who are saturated with Buro-pean sentiments. Mr. Motley would never willingly reside in America if he could live abroad with advantages for social intercourse. Even his abolitionism is not of indigenous growth. He adopted it as a reflex of European opinion, regarding slavery as a stain upon his country more because it was the fashionable topic of reproach in foreign society than from any deep moral repugnance to the institution.

Such a minister is not made of the stuff to stand up resolutely for the rights of his coun-try. His strongest sympathies are with its cultivated foreign critics; it being more essen-tial to his personal comfort to be well es-teemed in society abroad than to have the approbation of his countrymen at home. He can never be expected to make a vigorous assertion of our rights against the general tone of European sentiment. He has, in full measure, the morbid and ridiculous vanity which satirists like Swift, and writers of comedy like Molière, are fond of holding up to derision as characteristic of a certain type of literary character. The volumes of the Diplomatic Correspondence furnish curious specimens of Mr. Motley's foibles and a pretty fair measure of his capacity. We will city a few samples; but to show the extent of this man's weakness we should have to copy a great share of his contributions to that prolix collection. The despatch giving an account of his re-ception at Vienna, his first interview with Count Rechberg, and his presen-tation to the Emperor, is an uncon-scieus satire on the writer. "He repeated with emphasis," wrote Mr. Motley to the Sec-retary of State, "that the news of my appoint-ment had been received with especial satisfacment had been received with especial satisfaction by the Emperor and his government. and that I was already well known to them by reputation. He added other observations personally complimentary, which I do not repeat; but I think it necessary to inform you, even at the risk of being charged with egotism, that my reception by the minister was ex-tremely flattering. \* \* \* I con-sider it important that the administration should be informed that its representative here has thus far met with as much courtesy and consideration as could be extended to the minister of any foreign power." \* "I took pains, says Mr. Motley, further on, "to go very fully into these matters, because ! doubt if he has ever before heard any such exposition of our policy." Still further on, he recounted to Mr. Seward his modest boasts to Count Rechberg of being on a fa-millar footing with the leading public characters of Europe. "I told him that I had recently had very long and full conversations with Lord John Russell on the subject, and that I was perfectly sure, from a long and intimate acquaintance with that statesman, that he was sincere when he assured me, as he had done with earnestness, that there was no dis-position on the part of the English Govern-ment," etc. "I told him that I had received similar assurances from other members of the British Cabinet, and that I was confident so long as the present administration held their places," etc. \* \* \* "He asked me what I thought of the attitude of Frauce, and I told him that M. Thouvenel had assured me, in a recent interview, as strongly as words could give such assurance," etc. "Lord Bloomfield, the English ambassa-dor, gave a dinner to Mrs. Motley and myself, at which the new French ambassador, Duc de Grammont, the Balgian minis ter, the Bavarian minister, the Swedish minister, the Danish minister, the Saxon minister, and others, were present." Could anything be more in the spirit of a parvenu," whose head was turned with vanity at being lifted into social importance? Mr. Motley's account of his presentation to the Emperor is even more ridiculous, as he makes it the occasion of boasting to Mr. Seward of his marvellous perfection in the German language. "As I made scrupplous temper with which he pursues his political ends. It is very generally understood that in his own State, Indiana, as well as in Ohio, New York, and perhaps some others of the larger and more powerful of the old States, the sentiment of the people is opposed to the amendment. In neither of them would its friends venture to submit it to the popular vots. The object of Mr. Morton's amendment, therefore, was to dispense entirely with the states which are seeking readmission to the Union to vote in its favor, and thus render the votes of these States by coarcing the Southern the votes of the others meedless. By this de-vice the amendment may be adopted. But it my address to him in German, he had responded in that language, and thus continued the conversation. His first question was. Are you a German? I told him, no; but that I had been much



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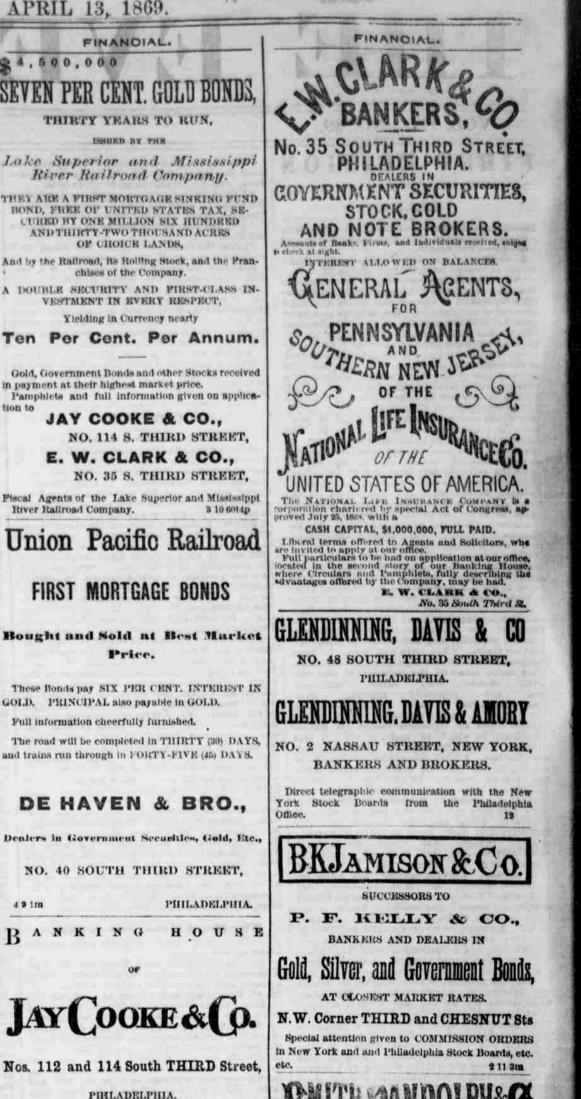
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of a session by a verdict so complimentary.

#### The Fifteenth Amendment. From the N. Y. Times.

The new Reconstruction bill, allowing Virginia, Mississippi, and Texas to return to the Union on condition that their legislatures ratify the fifteenth amendment to the Constitution, has become a law, and will undoubtedly accomplish its objects. There can be no deubt those States will ratify the amendment, for it simply imposes on the Northern States negro suffrage, which the Northern States have already imposed on them. While, therefore, it does not in the least affect their own political condition, it gives them an excellent opportu-nity to pay off the Northern States for what they deem an act of gross oppression, in their own coin. Human nature, and especially Southern human nature, must have greatly changed, if they do not esgerly embrace it. But we confess we do not like this method

either of admitting these States or of amend-ing the Constitution. It is a departure both from the original act of reconstruction, and from the fundamental principles of our Government. The Reconstruction law laid down certain acts and principles as conditions of re-admission for all the States that had engaged in the Rebellion. A requirement to vote for this amendment was not among them. It is now added as a new condition. Senators Trumbull and Conkling both justly denounced it as a violation of good faith, and a departure from the original principles of the whole policy of reconstruction.

But as a means of amending the Constitution it is open to still graver objections. We say nothing of the character of the constitutional amendment itself, which certainly is not beyond criticism. But it is to be passed, if passed at all, by the vote of the people, in theory at least. But this new measure leaves the people no voice in the matter, no freedom of action whatever, and without such freedom of action all pretense of a vote is sheer mockery. They are to be coerced into voting for the amendment, by act of Congress. They are to be excluded from the Union, not because they are not loyal, not because they have failed to do any act indicating their fitness to return, or to comply with any of the conditions originally prescribed, but because they fail to join in forcing negro suffrage upon the Northern States. If the Constitution is thus amended, it will be the sheerest folly to talk of its having been done by the will of the people or by the action of the several States. It will have been changed by act of Congress-nothing more and nothing less. This amendment to the Reconstruction act

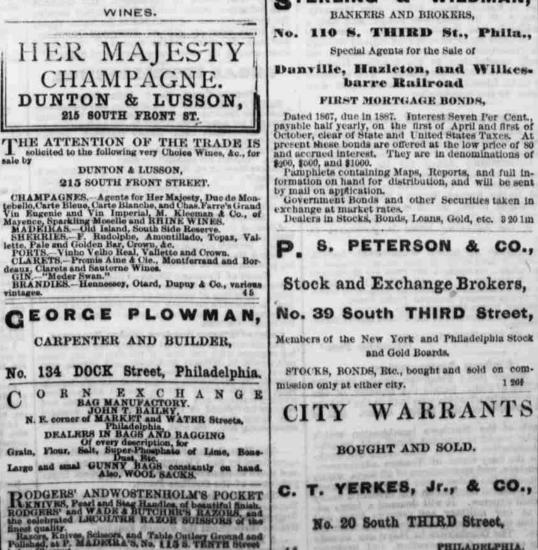
will add greatly to the difficulties which surround the peaceful settlement of the whole question, and eventually involve the country question, and eventually involve the country in embarrassments quite as great as any from which it has escaped. It is the work of Mr. Morton, one of the Senators from Indians, and is another illustration of the reckless and un-scrupulous temper with which he pursues his

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not be surpassed by any, giving her personal atten-tion to all branches of her department. The acknow-ledged superiority, both as regards their reliability and designs, and the patronage extended to her,

and designs, and the patronage extended to her, render comment unnecessary. "A POSITIVE FACT." Mrs. Binder has the finest assortment of Ladles' Dress and Cloak Trimmings in the city, at the lowest prices. Dress and Cloak Making; Dresses made to fit with ease and elegance. Orders executed at short notice. Embroiderics, Handkerchiefs, Laces, Rib-bons, Bridal Vells and Wreaths, Fine Jeweiry, and Fancy Goods. Pinking and Goffering. Cutting and Fitting. A perfect system of Dress Cutting taught; price §2:50, with chart. Patterns sent by mail or ex-press to all parts of the Union. Do not forget our new location, N. W. corner ELEVENTH and CHES-NUT Streets. 36 stuth! NUT Streets. 36 stuthi





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LEGAL NOTICES.

IN THE ORPHANS' COURT FOR THE CITY AND COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA. Estate of JOHN'S AUNDERS, Jr., decoused. The auditor appointed by the Court to audit, settle, and of ARLES SAUNDERS, Jr., decoused, and to report distribu-tion of the balance in the handle of the seconntants, will meet the parties interested, for the purpose of his appoint in of the balance in the handle of the seconntants, will meet the parties interested, for the purpose of his appoint is office, No. 433 WALNUT Street, in the city of Phila-delphia. THOMAS J. WORRELL, Altitutes

Autom. IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE EASTERN DIS-TRICT OF PERNSYLVANIA IN BANKBUPYCY. The underskied by eights motices of bis suppointment as Assignee of CHARLES P. BARNAED, of the eitz and county of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania, who has been adjudged a bankrupt by the District Court of the United States, upon his own petition. To the creditors of said bankrupt. The LEXANDER P. COLESBERRY, Assignee. 46 tubt No. 307 CHESNUT 202

LETTERS TESTAMENTARY TO THE ES TATE OF ELL S. BURNETT, deceased, having been granted to the undersigned, all persons having risks a sealest the estate will present them for as it ement, and all persons indebind to the estate will

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