#### SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

EDSTORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURBENT TOPICS-COMPILED EVERY DAY FOR THE EVENING TELEGRAPH.

GREELEY'S "POLITICAL ECONOMY."

From the N. Y. World.

Mr. Greeley will devote the summer to the preparation of a work on what he calls "Political Economy," to consist of an elaborate defense of protective tariffs. When completed, it is to be printed and put in the market as a book; but he will publish the successive chapters, week by week, as he writes them, in the Tribune, having given the first ou Saturday. Such an undertaking, at this time, is a practical confession that his darling hobby of protection is in danger; it is a confession that the protectionists were deluding themselves with vain hopes when they fancied that our colossal public debt had decided the tariff question for this generation. Mr. Greeley rushes to the support of a tottering cause. Those who read his chapters will have an opportunity to see how filmsy and foolish are the best protectionist arguments which can be mustered by its foremost advocate in this

Mr. Greeley's first chapter, filling more than three columns of the Tribune, consists of an irrelevant and sprawling rhapsody on the moral advantages of labor, in the course of which he ntroduces two long quotations, one from Carlyle, the other from "our own great Channing (as Mr. Greeley calls him), setting forth the benefits of labor as a moral discipline. Mr. Greeley is unfortunate in his selection of authorities; for, so far as those writers have ever expressed themselves on the protectionist conroversy, they have eviuced a strong leaning to the free-trade side. "Our own great Channing repudiated with scorn the idea that trade and industry require the nursing interference of governments, as may be seen in the following

"All our great interests are left to ourselves; and governments, when they have interfered with them, have obstructed much more than they have advanced them. For example, they have taken religion into their care only to disfigure it. So education, in their hands, has generally become a propagator of servile maxims, and an upholder of antiquated errors. In like manner, they have paralyzed trade by their nursing care, and multiplied poverty by ex-pedients for its relief. Government has almost always been a barrier against which intellect has had to struggle; and society has made its chief progress by minds of private individuals, who have out-pped their rulers, and gradually shamed them into truth and wisdom.'

This is good anti-protectionist doctrine vigo-ously expressed. We commend the whole passage from which this brief extract is taken to the attention of Mr. Greeley, and hope it will not abate his admiration for "our own great Chan-ning." He will find it in the second part of that writer's famous dissertation on Napoleon Bonaparte. Carlyle, too, in his quaint way, has aided the free trade cause. His article on "Corn Law the free trade cause. His article on Rhymes" was written in the incipient stages of the great movement by which protection was overthrown in England. It contributed to call attention to the subject and conciliate favor for the arguments of the obscure rhymester who pleaded for cheap bread. Mr. Greeley's chosen authorities are against him; so difficult is it to find recent writers of mark in any department who do not discard the obsolete theory which he

Mr. Greeley, with intrepid defiance of facts, attempts to convey the impression that the supporters of free trade are mere "college pedants" and "blear-eyed book-worms." We insert the following extract from his rambling first chap-

"Let us suppose that the new kingdom of Italy was ruled by some great genius like Czar Peter or Napo-leon I; can you believe that he would not find or make some way of setting these idle hundreds of thousands at work 7 that he would be withheld from attempting it by some college pedant or blear-eyed book-worm, who should magisterially admonish him that governments have properly nothing to do with industry or commerce; that the extent of their legitimate function is to keep you from breaking each other's heads, or picking each other's pockets; that they transcend their sphere whenever they meddle production, and seek to make two blades of grass flourish where but one has hitherto been

We ask Mr. Greeley to note that the principle which he thinks that none but a college pedant or blear-eyed book-worm would be likely to advocate is the very principle we have quoted from "our own great Channing." The fact is, that studious men and practical men alike, if they are intelligent and keep abreast of the spirit of the age, are either already on the side of commercial freedom or are verging rapidly towards It is true that sagacious theorists, like Adam Smith and his disciples, gave the first impulse to sound public thought on this subject in England; but the actual free-trade battle, when it became strenuous, was fought by men of as practical a turn as any that ever lived. The life, the soul, the organizing spirit of the anti-corn law league was Richard Cobden, a calico printer, the son of a Sussex farmer, who had never seen the inside of a college, and was as little of a pedant as any man of his time. His chief lieutenant and co-worker was John Bright, a man of the same stamp as himself, and of a similar training. The hosts of their abettors consisted of hunger bitten men whose outery against the tariff was extorted by the pale, gaunt faces of their famishing wives and children. The first bold free trade speech ever made in Parliament (three months before Cobden's first) was by Lord Palmerston, whom nobody ever thought of calling a pedant. The repeal of the corn laws was finally carried through Parliament by Sir Robert Peel, as practical a statesman as ever lived, then a recent convert whose protectionist prejudices succumbed to the irresistible force of evidence. Brougham, who, though a good deal of a pedant, did not lack practical ability, was its first energetic advocate in the House of Lords. France s advancing towards free trade under the direction of the Emperor, one of the shrewdest and most practical minds in Europe. Mr. Greeley, with an equally brazen defiance

of notorious facts, pretends that there is a natural alliance between free trade and slaveholding, as if he did not know that England was a protectionist country until after the emancipation of her West India slaves, and then within dozen years became a nation of free-traders: and as if he did not know that the foremost Bri tish abolitionists were also leaders in the freetrade movement; and as if he did not know that the most strenuous opposition to our earliest protective tariffs came not from the slave-holding South, but from free New England. How consciously weak must be the side that needs to be propped up by such false pretenses as are put forth by Mr. Greeley to create prejudice against a cause which he cannot successfully assail by argument! Why will he insult the intelligence of readers by trying to make them believe that Cobden, and Bright, and Mill, and Brougham are to be ranked among the supporters of slavery? Does he not know that George Thompson, who made himself so notorious by his anti-slavery speeches in this country, was one of the leading orators of the anti-corn-law league? Has he forgotten facts so recent as the free-trade speeches of William Lloyd Garrison and Henry Ward Beecher? Mr. Greeley is driven to such pitiful, such dishonest fetches and subterfuges by his consciousness that the protectionist cause cannot be main tained upon any solid ground of argument. For If he does not need the aid of such appeals to prejudice and ignorance, why does he put his reputation at hazard by making them?

SHALL THE HATCHET EVER BE BURIED?

From the N. Y. Times.

The North and West have had their Decora tion Day, and the published reports lead to the conclusion that it has not been a great success. In this city it was a conspicuous failure, and we see no reason for believing that it was anywhere much else. As a military display it challenged no particular notice. As an attempt to organize and consecrate a new national ceremony to degleate a day to the memory of the dead, in the name of the cause for which they died-it commanded little support. However creditable the motives in which the movement originated, it is apparent that the movement did not commend spending to the judgment or feeling of the country.

and betrayed may kin her seducer is all will all the covered. The result was that the historian was this with impunity, if she is black, brown, or supparent that the movement did not commend yellow, while her seducer is accounted white; but there is a case pending in Washington which but, alas! not so. Among the brightest and manded little support. However creditable the motives in which the movement originated, it is apparent that the movement did not commend

lowed by the associations of heroic service. The friends of the Union are not disposed to forget the brave men whose blood has at once cemented and sancified the Union. How this remem-brance may be best manifested, is a question which the leaders of the Grand Army of the Republic have evidently falled to answer satisfactority. In a material age, it is not surprising that a proposal to build up a solemn lestival on the fleeting foundation of sentiment has not elicited more than a feeble and occasional response. The claims of wounded and malmed living are felt e more urgent, because more practical, than those connected with patriot graves. The living comorials of war are a burden not to be born ightly; they have need of a care constant and stantial, and one worthy of being cherished apart from the temptations and vicissitudes of politics. The graves, on the other hand, exact less formal attention. The adornments most petitting them are those of genuine affection where that exists tributes will not be wanting and in its absence parade and show must nece sarily degenerate into a hollow formality, which no amount of speechmaking will ennoble or per-

There is another aspect of the question which as probably not been without effect. Decoration Day, as it has been inaugurated, is a day hat can never become national. It is an appea o the patriotism of one section at the expense f the pride and feeling of the other section. It a memorial of the triumph of Northern loyalty over Southern rebellion. It is a method of re minding the North that it is a conqueror, and the South that it is conquered. It is an attempt to convert even the graves of the dead into testimony affecting the history of millions who are As managed by reverend gentlemen here and at Washington, and elsewhere, it is an occasion for heaping epithets of infamy upon one set of graves while piling flowers upon another set -for reviving the bitter memories of conflict scattering afresh the seeds of hate, and, under he pretense of glorifying Union heroes, invoklng curses upon the misguided but scarcely less heroic Confederate dead. Such a ceremony might have its uses in the midst of war. it is incompatible with the restoration of peace -utterly incompatible with that renewal of cordial feelings between the peoples of the two sec tions which alone can impart lasting vitality and strength to the Union. The common interests of the country, the dictates of a magnanimous patriotism, the promptings of a consistent Christianity, all point to a certain forgetfulness precursor of an era of good Both sides must concur in burying the hatchet or a happy alliance will be impossible. And Decoration Day, as we now have it, is an ostentatious display of the trophies of victorious war, which tends to beget a dictatorial and aggressive spirit on one side, and feelings of miliation and revenge on the other. To a festival admitting of this construction, and marred by these tendencies, the generosity and good ense of the country will not be easily recon-

We do not forget that the South furnished a bad example. It, too, has its decoration days— days for renewing floral testimony to the virtues of slain Confederates. The practice is not improved by the precedent. The purity of the affection may be doubted which out of regard for the dead insists on fresh indictments of the living. On the vulgar ground of expediency it should be abandoned. For if the South insists on hallowing one day to the Rebellion which was conquered, the Grand Army of the Republic will have a plausible excuse for hallowing another day to the Union, which is the conqueror. And while the rivalry lasts we cannot lope for more than the semblance of peace. The good feeling and mutual respect which are essential to the realities of peace will continue wanting.

# LAIRDS' LAW.

From the N. Y. Tribune, The fact that the Messrs. Laird have been driven to the publication of a letter in defense of their construction of the Alabama, only proves that the currents of public sense and of blic opinion are setting strongly against them. in England. Men's minds must be changing there when these arrogant shipwrights, who, for the sake of private gain, have endangered the peace of nations, find it necessary to justify themselves at the bar of society. It was not so a few years ago, when the building of the Alabama was declared by thousands of Englishmen to be a meritorious action and legitimate enter-prise. The letter of the Messrs. Laird is the first rational and coherent and intelligible response to the speech of Mr. Sumner.

The plea set up by the Lairds is merely an attorney's quibble, and however much it may help them, it proportionately damages the Government of England. The just complaints of this Republic cannot be successfully met by a resort to technicalities. If a ship is built in England, in every respect a man-of-war except that she has no armament; if that ship then proceeds to another port for men and arms; if from a port of England men and arms are sent out to her, then we say that in equity all these circum stances must be taken as part and parcel of one transaction, and that (as in the case of the Alabama) the offense which was consummated at the Azores was initiated in England, and that the beginning is equally tainted with the end.

But the quarrel of the American Government, t should be understood, is not with the Messrs. Laird. In demanding compensation for injuries we ignore them altogether; and whether they publish five or five hundred letters, our dispute will still be with their betters. They may plead, if they please, that England had no laws to prevent them from perpetrating a grievous and contemptible wrong, for the sake of pecuniary profit—a crime against the spirit of the age, against humanity, and against the public peace. What have we to do with the defects of English legislation? How are we to be held responsible if that legislation has failed to meet the requirements of public law? That law should create the statutes, not the statutes the law. It is not for a nation to plead its own neglect. It is not for England, in her own defense, to aver that her legislation has been clumsy. We know noth-ing about that. We are not responsible for her failure to provide the machinery through which doctrines admitted by the whole civilized world could be enforced, just when their en-forcement was necessary. The inadequacy of the law proves only the incompetency of the

law-makers. When the history of these transactions comes to be considered collectively, the intelligent reader will be surprised to notice how completely, from the beginning, and especially in the ases of the Alabama and the Rappahannock, England has relied upon special pleading. She has never considered, she has never ventured to consider, these questions in the light of the great, predominating principles of public law.

# IMPUNITY IN CRIME.

From the N. Y. Tribune. A villain recently lured a young girl of respectable family from her home in this city by ardent professions of honorable love and solemn promises of marriage. Having thus got her com-pletely into his clutches, he seduced and soon deserted her at Chicago, having never intended to make her his wife. Finding herself alone in a strange city (Chicago), with no alternative but a life of shame or a suicide's death, she chose the latter, and was a corpse scarcely two weeks after she was enticed away from her parental home. This is an old, old story—a tragedy which, with some variation in the catastrophe, probably occurs in this country many thousand times per

What shall be done about it? Can we do no better than sit down in stolid apathy, and say, "So it has been, is, and will be, and there is no

help for it? As yet, but one partial mitigation has established itself—that of homicide. It has become a part of the unwritten, jury-made law of our country (and we note its recent extension to the Canadas) that the woman who has been seduced and betrayed may kill her seducer if she will and

And yet no one can justly accuse the American people of indifference to the dead—least of the victim's brother, father, or husband may all to those of the dead whose memories are halact as her proxy, in case she is too tender or too

timid to do the deed herself.

The moral of this justification of homicide not that libertinism is forbiliden or condemned. but that it is only allowed within certain limits. If a man will be lecherous, and hav any serious ection to serving as a target for loaded revolvers, he must choose me game from that large class who are neither homicidally inclined nor hedged about by sanguinary male relatives. his lawless desires lead him into wellguarded preserves, he must abide the serious

—Is that the last word of Christian civiliza-tion on this grave theme? Has the law no terrors for libertines who make the timld and de-

fenseless their only prey?
We think it should have, and that it should lnaugurate a reform by proclaiming every ceper of a house of infamy a felon, and forfeit to the State all property devoted to the base uses of prostitution. This would speedly strip the horrible trade of the false glitter which now surrounds its early stages. The haunts of in-famy are the nurseries of crime, the aidingplaces of felons. Forfeit all property devoted to the uses of barlotry, and send the bawds (male or female) to prison, and leehery would be fatally crippled. The young girl who has been misled and betrayed is generally hurried to and hidden in one of the more sumptuous of these haunts of sin, where every art is exhansted to reconcile her to a life of shame; and thus-"but once beguiled, and evermore begulling"-she, still a victim, victimizes many, and avenges her own fall by transforming mere sensualists into defaulters, bankrupts, embezziers, felons, and suicides.

Every brothel is a focus of perpetual conspiracy against the virtue and peace of the innocent and pure, inciting pollution as the receive of stolen goods incites theft. A true State would diminish crime by destroying the facilities that incite to its perpetration. But the rulers of our city depend on the keepers of every haunt of debauchery to swell their fraudulent majorities, and thus iniquity, in league with magistrates. laughs at the terrors of law. Shall it never be otherwise?

THE LATE PRESBYTERIAN ASSEMBLIES.

From the N. Y. Herald.

Tuesday was the eleventh and last day of the Old School Assembly. The New School Assembly had already adjourned, and its members had eparted for their respective homes, well satisfied, on the whole, that union must now be re garded as un fait accompli-a fixed fact. But at the eleventh hour or day the Old School Assembly, which had also assented to union with apparently hearty good will, hatches a lot of eggs out of which a full brood of future discords may be expected. After an interesting and gratifying report from the "Chairman of the Committee on the Narrative of the State of Religion," the announcement of the estimateeight hundred and twenty-five thousand doll .rs of the moneys required by the several boards to carry on the work of the church during the ensuing year, and the report of the Committee or Theological Seminaries, a minister from Kentucky brought to the notice of the Assembly an important memorial relative to matters of difference between the Old School Presbyterian Church between Kentucky and the civil courts of that State, involving the rights of property in Kentucky of the Northern Church as against the claims of the Southern Pre-byterian Church. This is a revival of the question of the North against the South in a new shape. It is a fresh exemplifica tion of the usually unperceived extent to which the question of fifthy lacre is mixed up with the so-called religious questions of the day. Here is betrayed the cloven hoof of the devil, who would fain kick vigorously against any such co operation on the part of his Christian foes might possibly result from carrying out the spirit of union manifested by the two General Assemblies which have recently met in New York. The action of certain courts in Kentucky was denounced by one speaker as the first at tempt to subject religious bodies to the civil courts on religious matters. The attempt, he added, should be crushed under foot. Another speaker elieved the question of civil Hhorty I because, if civil courts can override the decision of ecclesiastical courts in matters purely eccle siastical, religious liberty, he said, is gone. however this may be, the question at issue involves so vast an amount of property in the shape of church edifices and church funds that to outsiders, at least, it seems mainly to be a money question rather than a question of religious liberty. Provision was made to sustain the expenses of an appeal to the Supreme Court. If the Presbyterians have to go to law so soon after having solemnly resolved upon union, the prospect for lasting union is not so encouraging as we had hoped. If, however, all divisions of the doughtlest disputants and most belligerent sectarians in the Christian world should harmoniously combine their forces in a perfect and permanent union, we shall believe that the age of miracles is not past.

THE BROKEN IDOLS OF PHILADELPHIA

From the N. Y. World. During the war loyal folks-and especially Loyal League folks-all over the country had many droll idols at whose feet they grovelled Many of these little queer gods, like Bel in the Apocrypha, have of late come to grief. Espe cially has this been the case with the foreign divinities, English and Continental. Peto came, like Jupiter, in a shower of gold, and was honored; and Peto is long since bankrupt alike of his dollars and his divinity. Cobden was much worshipped, but luckily died in time to escape iconoclasm. John Bright had all manner of in cense flung under his nose; but, now that he shakes his head about the Alabama and turns up that much incensed nose irreverently at Sumner, he is served with unsavory odors and esteemed no true delty. The radicals fear that England, counting on our past wor-ship of him, may send him to negotiate with Secretary Fish, and they feel it in their bones that they will find him as dogged a John Bull as the bluest-blooded peer of the British realm. The Duke of Argyli himself, on whose drawing-room table, amidst the tears of titled women, Sumner spread his bloody shirt, is more than half suspected since the World named him as a discreet and safe person to treat with us. Goldwin Smith, at vhose restless itinerant feet garlands were so lavishly strewn, has fallen into absolute disgrace. Has he not southed Sumner, and actually alarmed the St. George's societies? Even Philadelphia—a community where intellectual mediocrity is rarely felt to be offensive; and any form of intellectual, not to say moral, perversity if loyal, is easily forgiven—lets her Forney loose on Goldwin, and recognizes in the European Sodom no righteous men left save Newman Hall and Edmond Laboulaye, and a few more sprightly French and English folks of that des-cription. But poor Philadelphia is unusually sour, for she has recently had one wound sharper than all others. Every one acquainted with that metropolis knows that, if there be one point on which its local sensitiveness amounts to disease, that point is the fair fame of "The Founder." , years ago, Lord Macaulay (very unfairly as we think) implicated William Penn with the

maids of honor, great was the wrath of Phila-It is said, and Philadelphians believe, that the statue of Penn at their hospital—roused to life, like the lion of Percy on Northumberland House by the insolence of George IV—shook itself with un-Quakerly indignation, and stamped its foot. The Historical Society certainly went mad into print. Mr. Carey for a time was thrust aside in the press, and long essays in vindication of the sainted Quaker replaced his dreary diatribes upon British free trade in the daily journals. Forney hurled his then Democratic thunder at the slanderons peer. One eminent lawyer, who for years had William Penn under his especial eare, died not long after, overtasked, it wasupposed, by intellectual effort in the cause, leaving a legacy of pamphlets and addresses, of which Macaulay probably died, and from which Philadelphia has never yet quite re-

dearest idols of loyal Philadelphia during the war was one Victor Hugo. His bust and that of Gasparin stand at the Union League, alongside of that of the great moralist, Thaddeus Stevens. His antipathy to Napoleon, that arch sympa-thizer with the Rebellion, particularly endeared him to those loyal circles of the city of brotherly and sisterly love in which his language and its literature are most profoundly unknown. are not sure the University of Pennsylvania did not make him LL. D., and the Historical Society an honorary member. Will it be believed that Victor, in his last large novel, called "By the King's Command," has ventured to class the tounder of Philadelphia among the man-stealers and men-sellers of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries?

"In England, under Jeffrers, after the tragical ad "In England, under Jeffee's, after the tragical adventure of Monico ath, many a lord and gentleman was despitated and quartered. These victims left wives and daughters, widows and orphans, whom James II presented to the Queen, his wife. The Queen soft these ladies to William Penn. What is surprising is, not that James II should have sold these women, but that William Penn should have bought them. The bargain by Penn is excused or explained herein, that Penn, having a desert to sow with near had read of women. The women were with men, had need of women. The women were a part of his implements. These ladies were a good thing for her gracious Majesty the Queen. The young ones brought a high price. One has the uncomfortable sense of a complicated scandal in reflecting that Penn probably got the old duchesses

Now, in justice to the aristocracy, the "loyal aristocracy, of our neighboring city, the de-scendants of those who came out with Peun, we are bound to say that we utterly disbelieve in this female nobility by purchase of their fore mothers. We reject with equal scorn the high priced young ladies and the cheap old duchesses But Victor's ignorance does not excuse his in Could be not have vilified the casteridden England of the past without performing this disgraceful historical cancan on the grave the great Quaker to whose humility modern Philadelphia pays the homage of a boundless pride, and for whose pacific fame she is ready to fight all comers ?

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Office, Nos. 435 and 437 CHESNUT St. Assets on Jan. 1, 1869, \$2,677,37213

UNSETTLED CLAIMS, 823,788 12. INCOME FOR 1869, \$360,000.

Losses paid since 1829, over \$5,500,000 Perpetual and Temperary Policies on Liberal Terms.
The Company also issues Policies on Rents of Building of all kinds, Ground Rents, and Mortgages.

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ASBURY LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY,

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\$125,000 Deposited with the State of New York as Security
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Organized to promote LIFE INSURANCE among numbers of the Society of Friends. Good risks of any class accepted. Policies issued on approved plans, at the lowest

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ICHARTERED BY OUR OWN STATE. MANAGED BY OUR OWN CITIZENS. LOSSES PROMPTLY PAID.

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This Company insures only first-class risks, taking no specially hazardous risks whatever, such as factories, mills, etc.

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INCORPORATED 1804—CHARTER PERPETUAL. No. 224 WALNUT Street, opposite the Exchange-Tais Company insures from loss or damage by FIRE.

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WILL FORM A REGULAR WEEKLY LINE
The steamship PROMETHEUS will sail on
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Through bills of l\ding given in connection with S.
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Insurance at lowest rates. Rates of freight as low as by any other route.

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PRICE OF PASSAGE in gold (including wine).
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EVERY SATURDAY,
At noon, from FIRST WHARF above MARKET

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LORILLARD'S STEAMSHIP LINE FOR NEW YORK. Salling Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.

REDUCTION OF RATES. Spring rates, commencing March 15. Salling Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. On and after 15th of March freight by this line will be taken at 12 cents per 100 pounds, 4 cents per foot, or 1 cent per gallon, ship's option. Advance charges cashed at office on Pier. Freight received at all times on covered wharf. times on covered wharf. JOHN P. OHL.

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Steamers leave regularly every Saturday at noon from the first wharf above Market street.
Freight received daily.
No. 14 North and South Wharves.
HYDE & TYLER, Agents, at Georgetown: M.
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FOR LIVERPOOL AND OURENSTOWN. Inman Line of Mail Steamers are appointed to sail as follows—
City of Paris, Saturday, June 5, at 1 P. M.
City of Boston, via Halifax, Tuesday, June 15, at 11 A. M.
And sach succeeding Saturday and alternate Tuesday, from Pier 45, North River.
RATES OF PASSAGE.

BY THE MAIL STEAMER SALLING EVERY SATURDAY.

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BY THE MAIL STRANGE SAILING EVERY SAFURDAY.
Payable in Gold. Payable in Unrency.
FIRST CABIN. \$100 STEERAGE. \$35
To London. 105 To London. 40
To Paris. 115 To Paris. 47
PASSAGE BY THE TUESDAY STEAMER, VIA HALLWAY.
FIRST CABIN. STEERAGE.
Payable in Gold. Payable in Unrency.
Liverpool. \$30
Halitax. 20 Halitax 15
St. John's, N. F., 45 St. John's, N. F., 30
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Passengers also fotwarded to Havre, Hamburg, Bromen.
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Tickets can be bought here at moderate rates by persons wishing to send for their friends.
For further information apply at the Company's Offices, JOHN G. DALE, Agent, No. 15, BROADWAY, N. Y. or to 100 NELL & FAULE, Agents.

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Steamers leave daily from first wharf below Market
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Goods forwarded by all the lines running out of New
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Freight received and forwarded on accommodating terms.
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The business by these lines will be resumed on and after the sth of March. For Freightts, which will be taken on accommodating terms, apply to

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