SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

Editorial Opinions of the Leading Journals Upon Carrent Topics-Compiled Every Day for the Evening Telegraph.

STEAMING AND ROWING-AN GINEERING PARALLEL.

From the N. Y. Times. One of the most remarkable features of modern steam navigation is the general substitution of the screw for the paddle. In-deed, the screw steamer has nearly driven its rivals from the stormy Atlantic, where the merits of submerged propellers and heavy spars are most manifest, and is fast chasing them from more pacific waters the world over. The Persia, which but fourteen years ago was considered the perfection of naval architectnre, was last year sold for £15,000 to be changed from paddle to screw. Just as the Cunarders were experimenting with their first screws, the new French line to this country was started with paddle ships. One of them, the Washington, which formerly steamed ten miles an hour with 96 tons of coal per day, has since been fitted with screws and now steams 11.8 miles with 83 tons of coal, and the new ships of all Atlantic lines are invari-

ably propelled by screws. The greater economy of the screw ship with a given speed and load, or her greater speed with the same fuel, are not due entirely to the fact that the efficiency of her propellers as compared with that of paddlewheels is less impaired by the rolling of the vessel-not entirely to the fact that the serew steamer, by reason of the submersion of her propeller, and its independence of the rolling of the ship, can carry more canvas and can sail on her beam ends as well as on an even keel, as far as applying the engine power is concerned. Nor does the superiority of the screw ship lie entirely in her greater capacity for stowage, by reason of the greater compactness of her engines, nor yet in the improvement of her machinery for generating, superheating, distributing, and condensing steam, since all these may apply equally to

the paddle steamer. One of the notable differences between the new practice and the old, both in ships and locomotives, is the high speed of piston adopted in modern engines. The paddle engine is a great lumbering, heavy machine, moving at the moderate speed suited to the paddle-wheel. The screw engine is compact, light, and lively, and it pulls the quick strake demanded by the screw. A horse power is 33,000 pounds lifted one foot in a minute, or one pound lifted 33,000 feet in a minute. Now, the paddle-steamer principle earried to excess would illustrate this law by lugging around the 33,000 pound weight, and lifting it a foot, while the screw steamer would be burdened only with the one pound, which it would lift 33,000 feet. The total power is the same, but while, in the one instance, a large percentage of it is neutralized in carrying itself-in carrying the cumbrous enginery by which its great force works through a small space, in the other instance, the enginery is small and light, because it has only to transfer a small force through a great space, and speed does not weigh anything.

There are many illustrations of this law in practice. The old style of locomotives with immense driving wheels, big cylinders, and ponderous parts, has given place to lightmoving parts, small drivers, and quick stroke A small cotton cord running at sixty miles an hour through a machine shop does the work of cumbrous cranes crawling a few feet a minute.

This engineering law and these illustrations establish the correctness of the quick stroke adopted by the Harvard oarsmen as compared with the long, slow, beam-engine stroke of their opponents. Speed is an ele ment of power that weighs nothing. If some element that is ponderous is substituted for it, a part of the total power is lost in the machine itself.

The Herald, in a late article on the international race, propounds a mechanical theory of the quick stroke, which we commend to the consideration of learned bodies. Says the Herald:-

"The oftener the oar falls into the water with a pull the faster will the boat be propelled. It is on this principle that the blades of the steambout wheel have been multiplied, and placed aix inches apart, instead of three feet, as formerly."

Although this illustration does not apply to the case in hand, it is very correct, except that, as a matter of fact and practice, the floats of steamboat wheels are placed four to six feet apart instead of six inches, because, if placed at six inches the slip would be excessive-the wheel would roll in the water like a barrel without taking hold, and the vessel would hardly move at all. We hope the Harvards' practice will not illustrate the Herald's theory.

PRINCE ARTHUR IN CANADA. From the N. Y. World. The reception given to the third living

scion of the House of Brunswick in the colonial possessions of his mother, do not seem to bear out the notion which the Canadian press and the Canadian orators are so anxious to inculcate into the American mind of the boundless and exuberant loyalty which flour-

ishes as scarcely any other growth does among

those singular populations. It is the more extraordinary that this royal wouth should not have been wept and slobbered over far more profusely than he has hitherto been, since Canada has been crying out ever since her erection into a dominion for a vicercy if she remained in the condition of a dominion, or a king in case it suited the metropolis and the colony alike to make the latter a kingdom. In case her fervent prayers in that behalf were granted, there is no more likely person to be chosen the incumbent of her vice-regal or her regal throne than the youth who now offers himself to the Canadians for their immediate hospitalities and possibly their ultimate suffrages. The Prince of Wales, eldest hope of that hopeful house, is, of course, predestined. He has a previous engagement with a higher throne than Canada can offer. It is almost equally unlikely that the Duke of Edinburgh could be prevailed upon to accept any colonial post, or that the exigencies of the parent State, as interpreted by Downing street, would allow him to if he could. But rather than that Canada should remain in her present acephalous condition, Prince Arthur probably could and would be spared to her. Yet his arrival within her borders is not hailed with half the enthusiasm which greeted either of his

brothers. The present Prince is, besides, a more reputable youth, so far as is known to common fame, than either of his brothers If not native goodness, the ingenuousness of youth has forbidden him to figure, like the Prince of Wales, in the character of a person who "insists upon playing eards for money, always exacts what he wins, and never pays what he loses. This description, by the way, of the English potentate's manner of conducting a great gift enterprise may furnish a hint to our American potentate, who-less wise or more | Quesada only because it covets power for

honest than his English analogue, who ven- [itself ? And even if the insurrection should tures nothing-does really give the valua- be quelled, Spain would find herself incumble consideration of seats in his Cabinet, and other lucrative places of trust, in exchange for horses, houses, and cigars. Neither has Prince Arthur attained to the fulness of the stature of his mother's second son, the Duke of Edinburgh, of whom we hear, on the excellent authority of the Pall Mall Gazette, that he has the "cheek" to send in bills to Parliament, to the extent of thirty-five hundred and odd pounds sterling, for the presents which he dispensed during his sojourn in Australia. The worst we hear of Prince Arthur is that once in Switzerland he indulged himself in the rather indecorous, but not grossly flagitious, pastime of taking shies at the chignon of a female fellow-being with hailstones, and pleaded with his tutor for a continuance of the sport on the ground that he had just got the range. But these indiscretions of his salad days ought not to weigh against him now, and it is not probable that

The fact is that princes are no longer rarities to the Canadian vision. The much ado about a Prince of Wales was a tribute as much to his novelty as his station or his aptitude for filling it; and so far as it may be supposed that the last consideration entered into it, those who helped to make it have subsequently seen the unwisdom of their course, and refrain from any special fervor of demonstration at the coming of a callow strippling like Prince Arthur. They prefer waiting to see whether or not he will turn out to be "a thing to thank God on" or not. The American temper is similar. If Prince Arthur chooses to come to us, it is not likely that we shall bottle the water consecrated by use in his sacred toilet, nor that the floor of the Academy will give way under the crowd which assembles at the Academy to give him

THE PROPOSED LABOR PARTY. From the N. Y. Sun.

That the members of the Labor Convention just held in Philadelphia, acted wisely in declining to adopt the proposition of Mr. Helper to form a political party based distinctively on the interests of wokingmen and opposed to those of capitalists, admits, we think, of little doubt. Nothing but the extremest necessity, such as would justify a revolution, should induce the taking of such a step. In a country like this, especially where all the avenues to wealth and honor stand open to every one alike, it is as unwise as it is wicked to attempt to foment dissensions and discord between employers and the employed. Their political interests are not antagonistic, but identical, and whichever class seeks to legislate against the other, by that very course injures itself. We trust that the day is far distant when the workingmen of the United States will need to band together in political array in order to obtain the rights to which they are justly entitled. and we are quite sure that they will not undertake the task for any meaner object. The assumption is constantly made in the

discussion of questions connected with the subject of labor, and too often yielded by the friends of the workingmen, and even by the workingmen themselves, that they do, in fact, occupy an inferior position in society. There is a widespread notion—the legacy of bygone ages of ignorance and mistake-that all labor is a curse, and that kind of labor most so of all which deals with material substances. In spite of our democratic talk, nine-tenths of our people are fixed in the belief that to live in idleness and have somebody else do the necessary work of the world is better than to work oneself. Every man almost is anxious to accumulate money enough to live on the income of it-which means that other people shall take and use the property that he will not and cannot use himself enough for his expenses and even his luxuries, besides returning to him or to his children the property itself intact. This idea developed itself most fully in the Southern States in negro slavery. White men there were too proud and too lazy to handle a mechanic's tools or the implements of husbandry. but left all that sort of thing to their bond slaves. Here at the North we had no slaves, but we had and still have a great deal too much of the slavish idea of work.

This false assumption the workingmen must themselves aid in overthrowing by their own efforts. They must not admit, or allow any one to admit on their behalf, that they deserve sympathy or compassion, or are in any way objects of pity, because they earn their living by the sweat of their brows. The capitalist who employs them should in no manner be dealt with or spoken of otherwise than as an equal, and neither envied nor hated because he does not himself put his hand to the tasks they are engaged in. That they do not associate with him and his family when their work is done is no proof of social, much less of political inequality. Every man has a right to choose his own company. and it is proper for the mechanic to take it for granted that his employer keeps aloof from him as much from a sense of inferiority or unworthiness, as for the contrary The time is rapidly approaching reason. when there will be no ground for even a suspicion of contempt on either side on this account, and when the question will not be asked in social circles whether a man make goods or sells them, or whether his work deals with bricks and wood and metal, or with pen and ink and paper; whether he comes from the workshop, the counting-room, the studio, the sick room, or the court house. But the advent of that time would be greatly retarded if workingmen were to array themselves in a hostile attitude to the rest of the body politic, and openly proclaim that they were a caste by themselves. Their true course is to break down and obliterate as much as possible the distinction between themselves and other men, and not make it permanent. Let them show the nobility of soul which they really possess by their industry, their virtue, and their patriotism, and they need not trouble themselves with the fear that they may be trouden under foot because they cannot make and unmake the fortunes of political candidates.

SPAIN AND CUBA. From the N. Y. Tribune. We have no further information of special value respecting the rumored treaty for the cession of Cuba, but the French and English papers discuss the project with so much eagerness and such decided approval that we can hardly doubt Spanish agents have been manufacturing opinion favorable to this short and easy method of solving the Cuban problem. The authority of the mother country has been so thoroughly undermined in her chief colony that it would fall to pieces if the insurrection were only a little better organized, and it must be clear even to Spanish pride that the Spanish troops are losing ground every day. What hope can they have of reducing the island to obedience when they cannot even maintain a Captain-General in security, and the party which professes allegiance to the mother country is anxious to keep the government out of the hands of

bered with a devastated and impoverished island, no longer capable of yielding the rich tribute it has paid her in past years, but costing, on the contrary, large sums for the sup port of a military government. In this dilemma we can easily understand how the proposals said to have been made through the agency of Mr. Forbes should be received with downright gratitude. The chief points of the scheme are that Cuba shall buy herself of Spain for the sum of \$100,000,000 in bonds guaranteed by the United States, we of course taking a mortgage upon the sovereignty of the island as security. This bears a suspicious appearance of annexation, but it saves Spain the humiliation of confessing a defeat, and relieves her distressed treasury of a very serious burden, She will never get anything out of Cuba again, except what she may realize by the sale of her rights of sovereignty, such as they are; and her statesmen seem to be fully aware that the longer they wait the more unsalable those rights will become. Whether the bargain would be a good one, either for Cuba or for us, is another matter altogether.

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