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

WOMEN'S PAY AND WOMEN'S WORK. From the N. Y. Tribune.

The Tribune aims to do its full duty in demanding for women as well as men a fair day's wages for a fair day's work. We count it rather contemptible to send female clerks from Washington to New York to straighten out the public accounts, and yet to pay them less than the men whose hard knots they unravel. We view it as that celebrated boxingmaster, the Game Chicken, viewed the conduct of Mr. Toots in refusing to carry off Florence Dombey by main force. "It's mean, you know. That's what it is! It's mean."

The trouble is that this is not the whole of the question of wages. Grant that all labor should be paid according to its merit. Grant that in the lighter kinds of labor, where no great strength or skill is required, women work as well as men, perhaps better, because of their great conscientiousness and fidelity. Still the difficulty remains, that their sex thus limits them to a smaller range of employments. They cannot furnish the strength for rougher work. And for work requiring skill, the trouble is that women, as a class, do not learn it thoroughly enough to command the highest wages. The reason they do not learn it thoroughly is because the prime of their lives is, or ought to be, given to home duties. No doubt there are a myriad exceptions. But no woman expects to be an exception, and therefore women do not, as men do, train themselves for some life-work and become skilled laborers. Individuals doubtless do, but they find to their cost that the scale of wages is adapted to the habitual condition of the whole class. In Virginia Penny's invaluable "Cyclopædia of the Employments of Women in America" we find employer after employer pointing out this as the chief drawback on the compensation of women. "Nine out of ten get married as soon as they are fairly initiated in work." "They are very apt to marry just as they become skill-ful enough to be reliable." One china dealer in New York "thinks it best to get homely girls, rather advanced in age, to attend store, because the young and handsome ones will get married." All agree that women are lost to business pursuits by marriage, while men become more attentive to business when they have a family to support. Hence the supply of untrained women is always being renewed; as a class they are in the position of apprentices, and earn apprentices wages.

see the same result in the one profession in which women predominate, that of teaching. No one doubts that women are by nature peculiarly fitted for training the young; and for this reason, and because their labor is cheaper, they are very extensively employed. But these teachers are usually very young girls, imperfectly educated, or else they are widows, the prime of whose life has been otherwise spent. The School Committees all complain that their ablest teachers are soon transferred to homes of their own. Did anybody ever know a country clergyman whose wife had not taught school? The parsonage gains, but the school-house loses, and the whole profession loses. It is the universal opinion of foreign observers that one great reason why our schools are inferior to those of Germany is from the far lower grade of culture among the teachers, who are inexperienced girls, instead of university-trained men. "The American preference of women as teachers," says Matthew Arnold, in his report on European education, "gets no sanction from the practice of the Continent. Competent foreign observers who have studied the American schools report that, as a general rule, though something is to be learned from them as to providing and maintaining schools, little or nothing is to be Jearned from them as to teaching." The reanon is that, with women, teaching is a tempopary pursuit, and that, nevertheless, the American school-room is becoming so monopofized by their cheaper labor that the ablest men are generally tempted to other fields.

All this we say with infinite regret and with desire for light. Beyond the cruelty of employers, the unjust prejudices of society, and the brutality of Philadelphia medical students, there are obstacles in the very organization of woman to her earning the highest wages. The ballot can only affect other obstacles, not these particular ones. The ballot does not equalize the pay of men, though it may help to equalize it. The wages of the tailoress are not so far below the tailor's as are the tailor's below the lawyer's. And yet lawyer and tailor both have the ballot, and in this city, at least, the tailor has the upper hand. But the difference of wages between the sex which works for wages continuously and inevitably, and that which works exceptionally, is one which voting alone cannot mend

But one thing, at least, women can effect. They can train their daughters to do thoroughly whatever their hands find to do. So strongly does this habit of superficiality attach to the work of women that even the leaders of emancipation hardly get beyond it. It is but a few days since we heard two persons prominent in the woman's suffrage movement admit with regret that there is not yet a woman in the country who is fitted to preside over a difficult convention. And this, not for want of dignity, nor of presence, nor of tact, but simply because not a woman has as yet taken the pains to master those simple rules of parliamentary law which are to be found in any small text-book on the subject. These rules are to a public meeting what military drill is to an army—the only means of keeping it from confusion. Jean Paul says that no female general would ever give the plain command, "Halt!" but she would say, "All you people, as soon as I have done speaking. I command you all to stand still in your places; halt, I tell you." No person can have read the reports of the stormy meetings of the Equal Rights Association in this city. last spring, without perceiving that nine-tenths of the trouble could, have been prevented by a competent presiding officer. Yet Mrs. H. B. Stanton is a woman of unquestioned ability, and has been steadily attending conventions for twenty years. It is for the sake of women themselves that we wish to see this want of thoroughness corrected. "Young men exhort to be sober-minded," saith the Scripture. "Young women exhort to be business-minded," say we.

ELECTION-FRAUD PREVENTIVES. From the N. Y. Tribune.

The power to make, amend, and abolish laws intended to shield the rights of legal voters from violation by 'repeaters' and all manner of illegal voters, has passed com-pletely into the hands of our Democratic politicians. Hitherto they have simply stood off and found fault with the efforts of Republicans to achieve the desired end. Now they must act. We shall be most agreeably disappointed if they shall honestly and earnestly try to suppress illegal voting. For every act

voter. Take every ballot that is offered without hesitation or question, and you can receive one thousand votes at a poll without difficulty, and no one need be delayed fifteen minutes; but, if you undertake to confine the voting to legal voters you must afford time for sifting pretensions and establishing rights either at the poll or previously. We believe no other device can be substituted for a registration of voters, with reasonable time for scrutiny between the close of the registry and the opening of the polls, that will prove equally efficient without being far more in-

convenient and troublesome. But we have no plan to suggest, no experiment that we want to see tried. The responsibility is now with our political adversaries. and we shall rejoice to find them meeting it honestly and manfully. Frankly, however, we do not believe they will do anything of the sort. They know that the thieves, swindlers, and grog-shop loafers, who take to illegal voting as a duck takes to water, are naturally Democrats; and they know that whenever twenty five thousand illegal votes are cast at an election, these cannot fail to add at least twenty thousand to the Demo-cratic majority; and they are not inclined to forego the advantage thus proffered. Some of them will, while others will not, instigate and pay for illegal voting: but the mass of those who will not are apt to chuckle over the net result as heartily as the rest. So what we expect is that they will repeal the Registry law and enact in its stead something

that will in practice amount exactly to nothing Mr. A. J. H. Duganne is more hopeful or more spooney. He thinks the Democrats only want to be shown how, and they will proceed at once to throw all requisite safeguards around the ballot-box. So he proceeds to instruct them as follows:-

1. He would double the number of election districts in our city, making them 700 instead of 334, so as to reduce the voters in each district to about 200.

2. He would provide in each district "a suitable polling-place in the form of a booth, shed, or other shelter, either portable or per manent, constructed purposely for the accommodation of 200 voters, and located as nearly as might be in the centre of the voting population of the district;" said polling-place to be an iron structure, located on a square or street-crossing, to resemble a palace or other passenger car, and to be taken to pieces and carted off to some corporation yard or other depository after the counting of the votes shall have been completed.

3. He would have the vote taken in these polling-booths within two specified and advertised hours of each election day, as fol-

"Let it be understood: - First, That before a fixed hour (say 10 A. M.) the voters of each district mus have presented themselves at the door of their poli in the position of the clock striking to a M. M. (If that nour be agreed upon, the entrance doors of all the polling-places in all the election districts of the city shall be closed, and that they be kept closed, the balloting to begin by calling the registered names of voters from the position. manner that year and mays are taken in legislative bodies; each voter answering to his name, tender-ing his ballot, and, if unchallenged, depositing it, and then leaving the polls by a door opposite to the closed entrance-door. The name and residence of every voter being thus called, in the presence of all the voters of the election district, he may be challenged, for cause, under suitable regulations provided by law: or, his vote being given, it is checked at once as received against his name moust the poll. at once, as received, against his name upon the pell-list. Having voted and passed out of the exit-door, no voter can return until the balloting shall be com-pleted, when the door will be opened for public witness of the canvass of ballots.

-This plan would certainly bother "repeaters;" wherefore it will never be adopted by a legislature whereof William M. Tweed master-spirit. Yet it has merits, and possibly may receive consideration at some future day. For the present we are at the mercy of politicians who believe in voting early and voting often, and will legislate ac

OWNING UP AT LAST.

From the N. Y. World, The Independent, a religious radical paper, has a leading article this week on the "Lost Battle." It boldly declares that the Republican party lost the State on account of the corruption in the party, and "because the leaders in this State had forfeited the public confidence and exhausted the patience of the rank and file.

Of the last Legislature, it says:-"The late Legislature was the most corrupt body for convened outside the City Hall Park. The beaker of the Assembly—who is rated higher than speaker of the Assembly—who is rated higher than his fellows, because not suspected of accepting pecuniary bribes—is, nevertheless, believed to have bartered the committee-places in his gift for votes for his candidate for United States Senator. His committees, when formed, were understood to be marketable, and the votes given by the two houses for all series of them." for all sorts of 'lobs.'

The State Committee also comes in for abuse and the declaration that "in its formation no regard was paid even to appearances. Of the city members of that committee, two had enriched themselves, in the capacity of Supervisors, by such schemes as the New York Court House, and a third was tainted by his complicity with the West Washington Market and Fort Gansevoort jobs." with all this indignation of this religious political sheet, we do not see any evidence, in the returns of the election, that the Republican party desires honest men for office. Greeley, for instances, did not poll a full party vote in the State. All those men who are called corruptionists in the Republican party ran ahead of their ticket wherever nominated. Even one of the very Supervisors whom the Independent grunts about being on the State Committee has the largest Republican vote of any other man on their city ticket. From all this, we infer that the party prefers that class of men.

PROPHETS.

From the N. Y. World.

Prophets appear to have a mighty hard time of it in this age of universal skepticism, not only enjoying no honor in their own respective countries, but having themselves blown upon" as failures, if not "frauds, all over the newspaper-taking world. The latest of these failures is Falb, who predicted for South America those tremendous October earthquakes and high tides which didn't come. Falb will have to put up his shutters now, and paste on his shop door a bill, "To We are not acquainted with the antecedents of Falb; but it is just possible that he may be the German savant who, in 1857, made such startling calculations concerning the comet known as Charles Quint, which made its appearance in March or April of that year. He predicted that it would come into contact with the earth some time in June following and knock all mundane things into Massachusetts hash. It didn't do anything of the sort, though it frightened a good many aged females into fits, and caused some thoughtful persons to prepare their wills, as though testamentary documents could be of any use in the event of a general smash-up. A good many years ago, a writer in a Canada paper, under the terrific signature of "A Believer in Impending Doom to the Whole of the Human that tends to this result necessarily implies Race," gave a graphic description of a lumi-

inquiry, suspicion, precaution, scratiny; and I nons horn beheld by him growing from the these involve delay and loss of time to the brow of the moon as he wended his way voter. Take every ballot that is offered with homewards one fine night. The writer in question did not state how many horns be had had himself previous to his remarkable observation. The worst he did was to set people moon-gazing: and then, like all modern prophets, he folded his mantle about him and retired into that obscurity to which even Cumming is going and must arrive at last.

DEGREES IN MURDER.

From the N. Y. Times. A question of great importance in the practice of criminal law has been at last decided by the Court of Appeals. It is nothing more than whether the greater includes the less indictments for murder, and it came before the Court in the case of Keefe vs. The People: the appellant, upon an indictment containing only the single count of murder, having been convicted of murder in the second degree. The point nrged was that the verdict and judgment entered upon it were erroneous, because the indictment did not set forth that at the time of the commission of the homicide the prisoner was in the commission of a felony, which is the statutory definition of the crime of murder in the second degree.

The court, after an exhaustive examination of the point presented, has decided that under the statute, upon trial on an indictment for murder a conviction for a lesser degree of that crime is legal and proper where the acts alleged and proved are the same, although the indictment may not state the particular intent and circumstances required by the statute to constitute that lesser degree. All that is requisite is, that there shall be no material variation between the acts charged in the indictment and those established at the

The conclusions of law and common sense are for once identical. The decision works no injury to the rights of accused persons, and will essentially serve the ends of justice. Especially will it be of great practical benefit to this city, where murder in the first degree is a comparatively rare occurrence, while homicides are every-day events.

SPECIE PAYMENTS.

From the N. Y. World. Our despatch from Washington on the 5th, announcing the probable resumption of specie payments, gained the attention and provoked he comments of the press throughout the country. The general impression seems to be that it is possible to resume specie payments with the next six months; and perhaps no more pungent argument for the change could be presented just now than that from

The Hon. E. G. Spaulding, of Buffalo, the reputed framer of the Legal-tender act, has publicly declared that that act was intended to apply to the emergency of the war, which has lapsed, and that its essential unconstitutionality ought to render it a dead letter in this time of peace. Chief Justice Chase, who, when Secretary of the Treasury, suggested the greenback system embodied in the act, is now reported to be of the same opinion. He decided last winter that coin was still a legaltender as well as currency—that contracts for coin were legally payable in coin.

Recently he decided that contracts in the South during the war, payable in Confederate currency, can be collected in so much gold as the sum called for in Confederate currency was worth in gold at the time such contracts were made. These decisions pave the way for the expected decision by the Supreme Court that the Legal-tender act is unconstitutional. If contracts made under the Rebel Legal-tender act, which is now declared null and void, can be collected in gold, then contracts made under the Federal Legaltender act would be decided as collectable in gold on the same principle, after that act should be declared null and void. That is, in case of the retirement of the greenbacks and the resumption of specie payments, all debts previously due in greenbacks would still be due in so much coin as the greenbacks were worth when the debts were incurred.

So strong is the impression that the Supreme Court will soon decide the Legal-tender act to be unconstitutional, and that the Secretary of the Treasury will either anticipate or supplement the decision by the retirement, or funding, or redemption of the greenbacks, that gold falls and greenbacks advance in value. There are now in the Treasury about one hundred millions of dollars in gold. The banks are glutted with gold. The export of the large cotton crop will be succeeded by an immense access of gold from abroad. This gold in the Treasury lies idle and unproductive. The surplus in the bank vaults is a drug, liable, however, to be employed at any time by gamblers in distracting and ruinous speculations. It would seem to be the most favorable period for setting these enormous and inert masses of coin in invigorating motion through the veins of

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