SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

THE UNION LEAGUE CLUB AND MR STANTON.

From the N. Y. Times.

The honors paid by the Union League Club on Thursday evening to the great War Secretary formed a becoming and well-merited tribute to one to whom not only the "Union League" but the Union itself owed so much. The practical and generous form which the feeling of the club took when it resolved, in accordance with Mr. A. T. Stewart's report, that it would support heartily the movement for the Stanton fund, "not only as an ex-pression of gratitude, but also as an example which will encourage a fearless, unselfish, honest and patriotic discharge of the public duty," was worthy of the association and of the patriot whose memory they revere.

Stanton was a type, a representative man, of that vast "League" of loyal men who, in their devotion to the Union, resolved that, come what would, "government of the people, by the people, and for the people, should not perish from the earth." He gave to the Union all that any man ever gave to it—time, for-tune, energy, and life itself. Whatever honors are due to those who periled all for the country, are due to Stanton; whatever remembrance and return should follow, after life's struggle is over, to those whom the patriot holds dear, should come to the family of Stanton.

It is, perhaps, a sad commentary on American public life in general, that we instinctively honor with regards so distinguished an officer whose highest praise is that he was upright and disinterested in public affairs; that we speak of his career as a kind of marvel. Is it so in all countries? Is public life everywhere a career of plundering and recklessness, and is it so strange a phenomenon that we must make wondering mention of it, when a man controls billions in a few years, and yet is se exact a steward that he dies poor? Whatever be the truth elsewhere, and whatever be the reflection it suggests, the careers of men like Stanton and Rawlins are impressive and honorable. "In the age in which we live," said the Nestor among poets, Mr. Bryant, "a mercenary. venal, self-seeking age, when public men seek to win popular favor by the lowest arts, and enrich themselves by the basest means, this is a shining example." We are so accustomed to the jocular, half-excusatory phrases with which public dishonesty is cloaked-we are so habituated to the spectacle of men going into places of honor and trust comparatively poor, and coming frem them loaded with wealth-that the fact of two successive Secretaries in the War Office-places most auspicious for illicit bargaining and moneygetting-leaving their families dependent on the public, after lives of economy, strikes us with a kind of amazement.

But it is a happy reflection that disinterestedness in public service does not go unrewarded among the American people; in this respect, at least, "Republics are not un-grateful." And what comparison is to be made between that honorable income, made up by the spontaneous gratitude of the fellowcountrymen of one who has died in the nation's service, and the accumulated pilferings and plunderings of the dishonest public servant, wherewith he and his kin flaunt their brazen dishonesty in public places?

Such was the tenor of some of the speeches on Thursday evening. And the eloquent tributes then made to Stanton's self-sacrifice, indifference to personal interest, nobility of character, generosity, resolution, sagacity, courage, energy, power of will, power of work, and spotless, exalted all-conquering patriotism, were well deserved. We may believe with Mr. Bryant that Secretary Stanton "never thought of gaining anything for himself by any office which he held—neither popular favor nor fame nor fortune. He thought only of serving his country." With Dr. Bellows we may declare that the Union League Club and the whole nation owe "reverence and gratitude for the great and glorious services, the true patriotism, the tempted and tried yet spotless public character of Edwin M. Stanton." With Dr. Thompson, we may describe his zeal as that which sought to "drive out with a scourge the profaners of the public temple, and overturn the tables of the money changers." With General Van Buren, we may declare that Stanton "acccomplished a greater work than fell to the lot of Pitt or Carnot, or any other War Minister of history.

Above and beyond all this, it is evident that all honors paid to Stanton are incentives to public virtue. They are counter-agents to the loose public official morality of the time; they instruct and inform all our youth that there is something better in public life than self-seeking and pelf, and that the sterner and rarer virtues are still not without honor and reward in our day and generation even as in the day and generation of the fathers.

"PENNSYLVANIA DUTCH."

From the N. Y. Nation. It is an acknowledged fact that children of German immigrants cease to speak German properly if left to themselves, or to the mere practice afforded in the intercourse with their parents, and that the second generation, under the same conditions, almost wholly loses, if not the knowledge, at least the faculty of speaking the native tongue of their grand-parents. The language hardly forms even a connecting link between the different decades of immigration. In 1819 the Germans of Philadelphia, then the most German city of this country, were no longer able to keep the records of their "society" in German, immigration having all but ceased in consequence of the great continental wars. In New York, where immigration was smaller still, the Germans were in 1794 already unable to write German. A child born here naturally receives impressions from its surroundings only. The air it breathes, the lan-guage it hears, the commonwealth in which it grows up—in short, all its relations to the outside world, are American. What a child hears about Germany from its parents, and what it afterwards learns from books about it, are acquirements, ideas, and conceptions, but no living views, no immanent reality. Thus America, to those born here, is the native country, the home; Germany, naturally wellnigh as foreign as any other European country.

The exceptions to the rule that the grand-children of immigrated Germans never speak German are to be found only in families of a higher culture or in some out-of-the-way rural districts. The process of forgetting the mother tongue and acquiring the new is constantly going on, and will continue as long as immigration lasts. It is the same with the descendants of all other aliens who come here, but it is most conspicuous in the case of the Germans on account of their larger numbers. If immigration from Germany were to ceasewhich it is far from doing at present we should see but few German papers published in this country, while the Germans in politi-

rate class as they now do in business.

The majority of German-born citizens, bowever, have a vague notion that they can stop this inevitable tendency by having their children taught the German language, and hence their arxiety to get instruction in German introduced into the public schools. But, just as one may learn a foreign language without denationalizing himself, so he may adhere to the language of his forefathers without denationalizing himself. The Pennsylvania German native-born farmers were, at the time of the Native American movement, the most pronounced Know Nothings, and many of them are still so, as every "German" settling among them soon finds out; and yet they not only speak a German dialect, mixed with words Germanized from the English, but this, their ordinary language, is also spoken by their fellow-citizens and neighbors of Celtic, Anglo-Saxon, and African descent. Indeed, the writer of these lines has seldom been more surprised and at the same time moved to hearty laughter than at being addressed by a venerable negro in a Pennsylvania village in the most approved Pennsylvania-German dialect, and with all the nuances with which that dialect is spoken by immigrants from the Palatinate or their descendants in Pennsylvania, this very day, to the sixth generation. The idea of an African acquiring, not the German language, but a dialect of it. and that thoroughly—connecting, by the association of ideas, African barbarism with the particularism of a small German territoryseemed at first highly ludierous. It was contrary to all experience in regard to the capacity of that race to acquire foreign idioms, while it proved, besides, the tenacity with which the dialect has taken root in that section, and thus outlived the language itself -the "Hochdeutsch" or High German originally spoken by German immigrants and lost by the second generation.

The importance of dialects has at times been undervalued by scholars; but it is now perceived that they are the roots out of which language grows, and from which it constantly draws new nourishment. From them only arises the language of letters, or, as Max Muller expresses it, the "Hochsprache." Jacob Grimm, in his history of language, compares them to a comfortable morninggown, in which you feel at ease, but in which you do not venture to go out. In them the greatest wealth of a language lies hidden, and it may be conceded that for the German they have been of more importance than for other languages on account of the greater number of tribes composing the nationality. Grammars of Low-German as well as High-German dialects have of late been published in Germany, and the success which works written in dialects have met with there shows a strong scientific and popular movement in their favor. Nor can we wonder that it be so. Fritz Reuter, the Low-German poet, owes his success not less to the poetical merit and unsurpassed humor of his works than to the happy idea of writing them in a dialect. At first it might seem as if readers not yet acquainted with it might be repulsed rather than attracted, most of them being obliged to take pains to read it; but Germans are apt to overlook that difficulty for the enjoyment they find in being reminded of "home." As to the vitality of dialects, it may be mentioned that in the provinces of Alsace and Lorraine, wrested from Germany by France centuries ago, the Alsatian-German dialect is still the language of the peasants, and that only recently have the inhabitants of the latter province petitioned the Emperor to have the German language introduced into the public schools.

AN ATOM OF CUBAN SENSE. From the N. Y. World.

"The next thing done was to purchase a small

"The next thing done was to purchase a small schooner, and place on board a small cargo of arms. A large vessel and cargo were not risked, for the Junta believed that, though Secretary Fish said they could ship them, and Collector Grinnell said he would clear the vessel, the United States Marshal would not permit her departure. "Marshal Harlow was invited to go on board the schooner. The Marshal examined the ship's papers, found them "all right," and said he had no obstacle to place in the way. At 4 P. M. the schooner, the Maria, Captain Imgard, sailed for Cuba with 1200 muskets, and a due proportion of cartridges and muskets, and a due proportion of cartridges and other munitions. "The Government was duly informed of what was

"The Government was duly informed of what was going on last evening. The State Department telegraphed that if all was regular as represented, no hindrance could be placed in the way.

"This is all the Cubans ask. They need no more." -N. Y. Sun.

We publish the above statement, not because we have reason to believe it truthful. but because it displays the folly which has thus far marked the conduct of the Cubans. The organ of the Junta in this city now declares that the permission of this Government to purchase in and ship from its ports arms and munitions of war, as a commercial transaction, "is all the Cubans ask." This permission they have always had, but the fact seems never to have dawned upon the fatuous managers of the cause of Cespedes till now. Traffic and commerce in warlike materials are not forbidden to its citizens by a neutral government during a foreign war, for war is the only promoter of such traffic and com-merce. No more are venders of arms and powder in the United States bound to inquire of a customer from Cuba, seeking such contraband of war, what relation the latter bears to the legal authority of the island Outsiders can not only sell such articles to insurrectionists in another country, but can transport the same on the high seas, subject only to the belligerent right of capture. This, with a brief exception in 1836, has been the law of this country, from the famous declaration of the first Secretary of State, Mr. Jefferson, in 1793. to Mr. Ternant, the French Minister, that "our citizens have always been free to make, vend, and export arms," down to the declaration of the last Secretary of State, Mr. Fish, early in the summer of 1869, to members of the Cuban Junta, that they could buy in this country as much munition of war as they pleased, and that the Government itself would sell to them. This rule of neutral right and duty was distinctly announced by this Government during the Crimean war, by the annual message of the President to the Congress of 1855.

The only exception to this rule was made by this Government during the "Patriot War" in Canada, in 1838—(See Vol. V., Statutes at Large, p. 212)—when our customs officers were required to seize all arms or munitions of war about to pass the frontier, for any place within any foreign State or colony "conter-minous with the United States." But this law of 1838 was limited to a life of two years. and was careful to provide that nothing in it should "extend to or interfere with any trade in arms or munitions of war, conducted in vessels by sea, with any foreign port or place whatsoever, or with any other trade which might have been lawfully carried on, before the passage of this act, under the law of nations and the provisions of the act hereby

Nobody now disputes that trade in contra band of war between a belligerent and neutral, within the territory of the latter, is lawful both by municipal and international law.

cal or in social life would as little form a sepa- | Our merchants may sell, and the Cuban Junta can buy, to the content of their hearts and the extent of their purses.

If the Junta had looked among the decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States, they would have seen the declaration of that tribunal, that "there is nothing in our laws or in the law of nations that forbids our citizens from sending armed vessels, as well as munitions of war, to foreign ports for sale. It is a commercial adventure which no nation is bound to prohibit, and which only exposes the persons engaged in it to the penalty of

confiscation. But, while such commercial transactions are permitted, our municipal law as peremptorily forbids any person to provide or prepare the means for "any military expedition or enterprise" to be carried on from our territory against a foreign power with which we are at peace. The exportation of arms, accompanied by men enlisted here, either to be used in the foreign country or to protect the arms from capture in foreign waters, is denounced both by the statute of this country and that of England. The Catharine Whiting was libelled by the District' Attorney, as that officer informed the public at the time, not 'solely on the ground that she was about to carry arms to the Cuban insurgents" as cargo. but because she was furnished and fitted out as part of "a military expedition" consisting of arms and enlisted men.

OPENING READING ROOMS ON SUNDAY From the N. Y. Sun.

The Young Men's Christian Association is a benevolent institution, having for its object the providing of rational and harmless amusement for the young men of the city, finding them proper boarding houses and employment, and in other ways looking after their moral and social welfare. It has just been enabled, by the liberality of its patrons, to complete a commodious and magnificent club house on the corner of Fourth avenue and Twenty-third street, containing a lecture room, where very nice concerts are given every week at a low price, and a reading room well supplied with the periodical litera ture of the day. The obvious use of the building and appurtenances is to afford a comfortable and attractive place of resort for young men, which will in some measure counteract the temptations of barrooms and theatres, and the still more objectionable

places with which the city abounds. The Mercantile Library Association is an other institution of the same benevolent character as the Young Men's Christian Associa-It, however, confines itself more tion. strictly to furnishing young men with intellectual entertainment. It has an ample library and a well-supplied reading-room, and every winter classes are formed for the in-struction of its members at moderate charges in the languages and practical sciences. aid it in its work a corporation called the Clinton Hall Association, composed of a number of our leading merchants and philanthropists, purchased some years ago the building in Astor place, now known as Clinton Hall and gave the Library Association a lease of it at a low rent. This Association is still in the occupation of the building, and naturally cherishes feelings of gratitude and respec towards the corporation that owns it.

The reading-rooms of both these institu tions-the Young Men's Christian Association and the Mercantile Library Association-are closed on Sunday. On that day the thousands of young men who, during the rest of the week, are hospitably admitted to the rooms, are bolted and barred out, and driven to seek refuge wherever else they may find it. A movement is on foot to change this practice, and open these reading-rooms on Sundays, sincerely hope it may succee

In the case of the Young Men's Christian Association, we presume nothing more than vote of a majority of its members is necessary to secure the needed reform; and that this will soon be given, there is no reason to doubt. In that of the Mercantile Library Association, the members have already voted overwhelmingly in favor of the measure, but their officers desire, out of courtesy to the Clinton Hall Association, to which they are so much indebted, to secure also the consent of that lody. The matter was laid before the Clinton Hall Trustees last spring, but thus far they have taken no definite action upon it. It has been referred by them to a Special Committee, and that committee has not yet reported.

The chief objection made by those who oppose opening these rooms on Sunday is probably the supposition on their part that in some way it will conflict with the proper observance of the day required by the fourth commandment. It is thought that the practice would involve servile labor on the part of the persons in charge, which ought not to be exacted of them on the Sabbath. Besides this, there may also be a lurking fear lest the attractions of books and newspapers may prove superior to those of the pulpit, and that young men may prefer going to the reading-room to going to church.

Of course no argument will be of avail with persons so bigoted as to take this narrow view of Christian duty. Men who can draw a distinction between the labors of a sexton and those of a reading-room keeper, or who can see a worse crime in reading a magazine or a newspaper in public than in doing the same thing in private, or who suppose that young men will go to church from any other reason than because they like to, are not worth arguing with. The young men who want to have the two readng-rooms we have mentioned opened on Sunday are in the majority, and they will persevere in the effort until they succeed. If their elders will not consent, they must be overruled, and if the officers whom they have heretofore elected will not comply with their wishes, others must be elected who will. It is about time that antiquated prejudice gave way to enlightened sense.

THE YEAR'S WORK.

From the N. Y. Tribune. The year 1869 has witnessed the completion of some of the greatest works of the century, and carried the world forward with grander strides in the pathway of material progress than any other single year in the recollection of the present generation. It has rarely been given to any one man to witness the realization of two schemes so important to the pros perity of all civilized nations as the opening of a canal through the desert and a railway across a whole continent; but that these great events should have been crowded into one short year is indeed a remarkable and significant circumstance. The French engineer, with a rare combination of enthusiasm and patience, has succeeded in carrying out a proect as old as the ages of the Pharaohs. this fast land of ours a project that is worth anything is never suffered to grow old: and men had scarcely begun to talk about cross-ing the uninhabited plains and mountains with three thousand miles of iron rail before the pick and the shovel commenced clearing the way, and years before the most saugaine dreamed of seeing the end, the work was finished. Thus by two wonderful achievements of engineering the distant East is at the same mo- for cash.

ment brought next door to America and next door to Europe; the old currents of trade are changed; and with the change commerce prospers and life is felt in desert and decayed

These are the chief labors which have been crowned during the year 1869. Others hardly less important have been planned out or begun. As France cut through the sands of Suez, so America is preparing to cut through the forests and mountains of Darien, and open a new ocean route which will be easier, safer, and more practically useful than the dangerous path from the Mediterranean to the Arabian sea. The year 1870 will doubtless witness the beginning of this work, and a date by no means distant may be set for the celebration of its close. By that time perhaps all our Western wildernesses will be crossed by the locomotive and dotted with settlements; and great American steamship lines will be ready to take their freight at the Atlantic and Pacific ports, and pass through the new channel which will be opened between the two oceans.

If few great political changes have marked the year, the principles of political justice have made cheering progress in nearly all the great countries of the world, while no countries can be said to have gone backward. In Great Britain and France especially the rights of the people have been more fully recognized, and the despotism of centralized power and privileged castes has been rudely shaken. At home we have made some steps towards the realization of the American ideal of equal rights for all, and have been cheered by a steady improvement in the faithful administration of our laws and the regulation of our finances. We have presented to the world a noble spectacle of a people rising with unbroken energies from a devastating war, and by hard work, economy, intelligence, and the honest rule of a good President, repairing with unparalleled rapidity the ravages of four years of conflict. We, at all events, have abundant reason to look back upon 1869 with gratitude and satisfaction. May the record of the year now begun prove equally bright!

NATIONAL HOODWINKING. From the N. Y. Tribune.

Unfortunate is the American newspaper which merits the fatal praise of the London Times. On the other hand, that organ of what a distinguished Englishman has well named British Philistinism has reason to rejoice and be exceeding glad whenever it finds an American to its mind. Such a coincidence is apt to be that of the spider and the fly. We take nothing from the proper credit of a newspaper which is formidable on its own side of the water. It is the representative of the worldly wisdom and the worldly folly of a great metropolis and empire; it is the most compact establishment known in current literature of that high order of intellectual vice whose business it is to work into daily history the cowardice of the hour. Mr. Bright and Mr. Cobden have described it with equal felicity. Too calculating a student of expediency to delude itself with the notion that it possesses a conscience, its science is to tell how the wind blows. If such a newspaper is stupid, it is most elaborately so; if it is wrong, the chances are that it is altogether wrong-root, stem, and branch.

Accordingly, at this moment, the Times cherishes the absurd expediency of mistaking the temper of the American Government and people. That temper is neither trivial nor menial, and is most ably, amicably, earnestly set forth in the letter of Secretary Fish. By this letter the Times is advised that the United States, while sincerely desiring to approach the negotiation of the settlement of claims with an effort to set this vexed queson at rest, fully realize the nature and extent of those claims, and await a proposition to open their negotiation rather than beg for one. There is probably nothing so well assured in the American mind as, first, that we have proper cause of complaint; and 2d, that we can afford to wait. Our grievances, like their guarantees, have only to grow, not with any help of ours, but merely through English neglect.

We repeat these truths with emphasis in order that the firm faith of the people in their diplomatic cause shall not be misrepresented or misunderstood. Especially and indignantly do we repudiate the unworthy and un-American plea made by one of our journals to the English Government for the reopening of negotiations at Washington. Our people, remarks this authority, "would have no cause for suspecting that their agent had been hoodwinked if the arrangements were discussed and settled at their own doors. Though it is common for all peoples, French as well as English, and English as well as American, to suspect that their agents may be overreached, we believe that no nation has ever erected its suspicion into a positive plea for being indulged by some other nation anxious to outwit it. The petition to have our people humored because their representatives are not wise, or those whom they represent are foolishly sus-ceptible, would sound better in London than here, but would in neither place be sensible. When England concedes to us it will be with an indubitable recognition of equality in every point of view, and for her own advantage as well as ours. It will be with a wholesome sense of what is due to a nation which has fought and conquered those causes which produced the Alabama claims, and whose cause is too safely invested to be put in jeopardy by a quarrel.

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LEGAL NOTICES.

account of your absence.

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CATHABINE A SQUIRE, by her next triend, etc., vs. William H. SQUIRE. Decumber Term, 1969. No. The lifetone.

The William H. Squire, the respondent.

The William H. Squire, the respondent.

The William H. Squire, the respondent.

The William H. Squire, the notice that a rule has been exacted as you at the store a vinculo matrimani chould not be decreed therein. Heturnalide SATURDAY, January 8, 1910, at 10 o'ctock A. M., personal service having faited on account of your absence.

THEO, MAUVADDEN,

Attorney for libellast. SHIPPINO.

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