

SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

COUNT BISMARCK AND THE PAPAL SYLLABUS.

From the N. Y. Herald.

A cable despatch has it that Count Bismarck is desirous to get up a Bismarck protest against the Papal Syllabus. This telegram is not very complete, but it leaves no little room to doubt that the Count is just as willing to fight the Pope as he was some time ago to fight Austria—which he did, as all the world knows, with some success—and, as later, he has been to fight France. It was the opinion of many that because King William was magnanimous enough to present to the Holy Father for the use of the council a costly carpet, that Prussia as a whole and Count Bismarck as an individual were to be passive and indifferent spectators of the doings of the council. Those who know the feelings of the Protestant populations of Northern Germany, and who had formed a correct opinion of the character of Count Bismarck, were not so rash in arriving at a conclusion. The announcement to which we call attention shows which was right.

We cannot think that this piece of intelligence, although communicated to us very imperfectly, is a baseless rumor. It must have some solid foundation. Intellectually Germany is now, as she has been more or less regularly for the last three hundred years, at the head of the nations. During the last three hundred years we have had in Fatherland all sorts of actions and reactions in politics, in science, in religion; but intellectualism has never ceased to be the dominant characteristic of the German race. True, the Protestant North, this has been scarcely less true of the Catholic South. True of the Germans in Europe, it is not less true of the Germans in the New World. A true German insists on having a reason for the faith that is in him. He may be a Catholic, a Protestant, a rationalist in matters of religion, a monarchist absolute or a monarchist qualified or a republican in matters political; but whatever his opinions may be he can explain and, from his own standpoint at least, justify them. It was this spirit that developed Luther and begot the Reformation. It was this spirit that, in the first instance, gave the First Napoleon the mastery of Europe and that, in the second instance, prepared, hastened, and determined his downfall. People who think and who have some faith in their own judgments cannot be long deceived. This latest news from Germany, taken in connection with many recent and deeply important facts, shows that the old spirit still lives in the sons and daughters of Old Fatherland.

We do not forget that the opposition to the Council and its programme has been mainly German. Voices have been raised against the Council in other quarters. In France and Spain and Italy there are not a few who have spoken and written extensively, in the first place, against what it meant to do, and, in the second, against what it has done and tried to do. In Great Britain those who have not been in favor of the Council have ridiculed it rather than reasoned against it. With one or two exceptions it has been the same in the United States. North Germany has not by any means been indifferent; but, being Protestant, and therefore not so immediately interested, it has hitherto waited and watched rather than been aggressive. In South Germany it has been quite otherwise. There the Council was felt to be a great and dangerous instrument. It might do good, but it might do evil. Its every act was certain to touch them and to affect their position. It might justify their past struggle with the Protestants of the North, or it might make them ridiculous in the eyes of their brethren and before all the world. Hence it is that South Germany, although it has not been opposed to the Council in itself considered, has poured forth such warnings, and instructions, and remonstrances that at the present moment the Council halts, hesitates, trembles, and knows not what to do. The Allgemeine Zeitung, inspired by Southern genius, commenced the fire before the Council began. The searching work by "Von Janus" appeared almost simultaneously with the opening of the Council. The Primate of Austria, the Prince Primate of Bohemia, and a greater than either, although he has no place in the Council—Dr. Dollinger—has been firm, active, and forceful in their opposition. The recent letter of Dr. Dollinger on Infallibility, which is now being reproduced and commented upon in every journal in Europe, has fallen upon the Pope and his friends like a thunderbolt. The sentiments of Count Hohenlohe, the Prime Minister of Bavaria, and of Baron Beust, the Austro-Hungarian Chancellor, are well known. South Germany, in fact, is in a state of fierce ferment on the great questions before the council. It would be the easiest thing in the world to provoke another Reformation. The people are ready. They require but a skillful leader. It is not the Immaculate Conception or the Bodily Assumption they care for. It is the Syllabus and Infallibility. These last they cannot and will not swallow.

It is this state of feeling which gives point and importance to the announced attitude of Count Bismarck. Bismarck has no interest in the two questions that relate to Mariology. But as a statesman he has much to do with both infallibility and the syllabus. If the Pope is pronounced infallible, it is easy to see how the Church may be brought into a deadly and dangerous collision with the secular powers. If the syllabus is endorsed by the council the war is actually begun, for every true Catholic, from the highest dignitary down to the humblest member, in almost every country on the face of the earth, is placed in an attitude of opposition to the civil government. This is not all, although it is the point which most concerns such men as Bismarck. If the propositions of the syllabus should be shaped into law and enforced, we should not now, even in this free America, be safe in writing this article. No New York Herald, rising every morning like the sun, would shed its blessed light on the millions of this Continent. If, as we have said before, the syllabus is right, the world for the last six hundred years, especially for the last three hundred years, has been terribly off the rails. In a country like Prussia, where the population in one section is Protestant and in another section Catholic, the doctrines of the Syllabus, if enforced by the Church, would work, and, indeed, could not fail to work, serious mischief. It will be strange if the Council should yet be the occasion of another Reformation, and if another Luther should be found in the person of Count Bismarck.

The position of the Roman Church at the present moment is critical in the extreme. It seems to us to have swung away its last chance. We have watched this council and have never failed to offer it sound and wholesome advice. We have warned it of danger, and we have

often pointed out a way of deliverance. But our warnings and our instructions have been equally disregarded. The council seems bent on ruining the Church. While the world rushes on with lightning speed towards a grand and glorious future, towards an immense unity—a unity which shall know no differences in religion, no conflicting nationalities, no confusion of tongues; a unity which will meet all the high requirements of prophecy and satisfy the highest aspirations of the human race—the Church, looking back, sighs for a dead and buried past, and with feeble hand tries to apply the brake. But the force is irresistible. If the Church cannot follow it must remain behind, and as another monument of folly take its lonely place on the deserted highway of time.

AN HISTORICAL PARALLEL—THE DAN- GER BEFORE ENGLAND.

From the N. Y. Times.

M. Thiers, in his recent speech to the French Corps Legislatif on the question of a higher tariff on English goods, drew an historical parallel which must have often occurred to students of history, and which is by no means comforting to the pride of England—between the Holland of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries and Great Britain of to-day. At that period, as is well known, the Dutch Republic, like the present English monarchy, had spread its roots to the most distant soils. It had explored with unexampled hardihood the Arctic regions; it had founded colonies in India, the Indian Archipelago and Japan, and possessed almost the entire trade with the richest tropical islands. It had secured footholds in the West Indies, and seemed about to control the North American continent by possessing its most important river and its best harbor. The Dutch Republic could justly boast, in those centuries, of being the Queen of the Seas, her sailors, in daring and skill, were without equal, and her merchants showed such enterprise and wisdom that they soon held control of all the vast carrying trade from the East to Europe.

Holland stood in commerce, in experience of colonizing, and as a well-tried and victorious naval power, as England does now. Like the inhabitants of this storm-beset island, the Dutch were sailors almost by nature; and in struggles with the ocean or in battles on the sea they showed a pluck which nothing ever seemed to subdue or bend. Like England, Holland also became a great center of capital and manufactures. Through a little country, she was the richest and, financially, the most powerful in Europe. The vast warehouses and rich cathedrals, and spacious dwellings and costly galleries, which yet survive, show what an immense wealth was once stored up in those Dutch cities, as similar records of riches bear witness now to the prosperity of England. For a time the finance of the world centred in Holland, as it does now in England. She was the money changer and money lender of Europe. Her manufactures, too, in lace, woollens, arms, steel wares, and costly products of art, flooded, like the English, the whole civilized world, and were exchanged for the most distant products of India and America. She had, as Great Britain has now, most experienced manufacturers, with vast capital behind them, and a population of skilled and industrious laborers, who could surpass all other nations in the economy and efficiency of their production. Yet, with all this remarkable success in commerce, colonization, manufacture and accumulated wealth, her position was, as Thiers observes of England now, and for similar reasons, an insecure one; by no means so solid, as the French statesman remarks, as that of France, which was so much behind her in material success.

In one most important respect, the position of Holland in the seventeenth century was much stronger relatively than that of Great Britain in the nineteenth century. The Dutch republic had no vast proletarian class, and no population of paupers and criminals increasing at a prodigious rate, which the State could neither relieve nor get rid of. She had no such tremendous questions to solve as national education, the treatment of pauperism, and a fair division of land. There was no rebellious Ireland threatening her; no dangerous under class ready to shake society to its basis; no such ineradicable divisions of class as divide England. On the contrary, her polity, like our own, was founded on popular education. Her "common schools" became the model for the New England free schools. Her great men often came from the common people. In a moral and educational point of view, she had a better future before her in 1600 than England has in 1800. She perished or fell from her high position, undoubtedly because her soil could not feed her people. A single unsuccessful naval war stripped her of her supremacy on the seas and injured her commerce; a change of relations between different parts of the world destroyed her carrying trade; her colonies were lost, or their trade was competed with by other countries. With the decline of commerce came a loss of capital and a decline of manufactures, and in her veins she had no agricultural interest to fall back upon, and gradually sank to the position of a feeble power, while France, with not one-half the enterprise or the capital, being sufficient to herself in feeding her own population, steadily grew, and is now, as M. Thiers observes, on a more solid position than her wealthy commercial rival over the Channel.

The dangerous fact for England is that her resources lie so much outside of herself. Her soil does not feed her people, and she depends for her wealth on manufactures and commerce. Let a great naval war come and the English supremacy on the seas be destroyed, and her commerce for a time annihilated, without internal agricultural resources, she would be obliged continually to consume her accumulated wealth. Vast bodies of laboring people would be thrown out of employ; the paupers and dangerous classes would become a countless horde; discontent or revolution would shake society to its foundations, and production be so impeded that England would soon lose its financial position and sink as Holland sank. Having more conflicting and dangerous elements of population than ever had Holland, and her fall would be by no means so gradual or peaceful. The sun of England, when it does set, will go down in storms and disasters, the worship of the glory of its meridian. That warlike and degged people will die no peaceful or easy death.

We do not forget the claim of the English authorities, that their present commercial system renders their people more independent of agriculture; and that the unworn vigor of their stock will enable them yet to bear many reverses. All this may put off the evil day, but if the past has any lessons, the fate of Holland is before England.

TROUBLE BREWING IN ENGLAND.

From the N. Y. Sun.

Agrarian troubles are increasing in Ireland, and Mr. Gladstone will soon discover that by stirring up the land question he has perhaps been opening the floodgates of revolution. The working classes will not always consent that the national territory should vest in a few hands. All the recent political reforms in Great Britain must be regarded as a prelude to a vast social reform, the commencement of which will depend only upon the circumstances of the period and temper of the people. If the present administration had not made the Irish question the pivot of its existence, the proverbial sluggishness of the English mind would probably have staved off public agitation on social questions for another generation; but the prominence given to the grievances of the Irish peasantry tends to arouse the English masses from their apathy, and opens a fair field of action to the conscientious reformer as well as to the demagogue. When aggressive and liberal statesmen like Lord Grey are in favor of coercive measures in Ireland, and of crushing in its bud an agitation which threatens the supremacy of the British oligarchy, Mr. Gladstone's motto is put to a severe test; and the appeal for forbearance which he addressed to the Tory leader, Disraeli, betrays a consciousness of weakness which bodes no good to the stability of his administration.

OUR NATURALIZATION LAWS.

From the N. Y. Tribune.

A bill proposing a radical revision of our naturalization laws in the direction of stringency is now on the files of the House of Representatives. It confines naturalizations to the Federal Courts, and allows any immigrant of good character to declare his intention to become a citizen at any time after he shall have taken up his residence among us, but requires of him a probation of four years thereafter before he is entitled to full citizenship. Thus his entire probation is reduced from five to four years; but he must declare his intention at the beginning of it, not at the expiration of three years. The remaining provisions of the bill are designed to prevent and to punish frauds in naturalization. There is a particularly nasty Joe Millerism which narrates how a generous churchman was once impelled to move, in parish meeting, an increase of the pastor's meagre salary; on hearing of which, the alarmed shepherd rushed into the meeting, and thus expostulated:—"For Heaven's sake, friend, no higher pay allow; I'm plagued to death to get what's granted now. We are like mind with the parson, and beg Congress to heed the following considerations:—"This city is the 'head-centre' of all election villainies, and, having many more European-born than American-born adults among her inhabitants, is unsurpassed in the amount of her fraudulent naturalizations and fraudulent voting. By means of these, Cornelius W. Lawrence (Democrat) was chosen Mayor over Gulian C. Verplanck (Whig) in 1834; by means of these, James K. Polk was chosen President over Henry Clay in 1844; by means of these, General Grant was swindled out of the vote of our State and John T. Hoffman swindled into the Governor's chair in 1868; by means of these, Hon. A. Nelson was made Secretary of State over General Franz Sigel last fall. There has been no gigantic villainy in voting or counting votes yet devised which did not take rise in this city; witness the forty thousand naturalizations by wholesale in October, 1868, and the contemporary issue of thirty thousand bogus certificates to aliens who had never even applied for naturalization. That the result in our State was determined by these frauds is as notorious as a fact well can be. Here, then, is the wrong—gigantic, flagrant, palpable—how does this bill propose to redress it? There are and will be election districts wherein the voters are nearly or quite all Democrats, such as the Five Points, Corlear's Hook, Mackerelville, etc. At the Five Points, the vote last fall stood Sigel 15; Nelson, 910; while we are confident that the legal voters residing in that district number less than 500. At such places, the poll is surrounded throughout the day by an excited, shouting, drinking crowd, not very sober in the morning, but growing steadily drunker as the day wears on—all intent on swelling the vote and the Democratic majority to the utmost. No Republican ventures to stand before the inspectors and challenge all whom he believes not legal voters. If he does, the cry is soon raised that he is seeking to obstruct and prevent the polling of the full vote, so as to reduce the Democratic majority, and he is advised to make himself scarce directly—which he does, or soon wishes he had done. Very often, he is admonished by the policemen present to get away from that, or he will be smashed—so he gets away. No Democratic inspector will try to arrest the avalanche of illegal voting; no Republican inspector dare seriously undertake it. Practically and substantially, therefore, every one votes who chooses to claim the privilege, provided he professes "the regular straight-out Democratic ticket." Thousands vote in one of these "throughholes," and then repair directly to another to vote again; and so keep on till night or drunken stupor arrests their progress. And now there is a bill before our Legislature to open the polls at 6 A. M. and keep them open till 7 P. M. Should that pass, it will increase the vote and the Democratic majority over many thousands, though not one more person should vote than voted before; because it will enable the repeaters to vote twice or thrice more each. We are not partial to compromises; yet we would be willing to allow every alien to vote after a year's residence among us; provided we could thereby be assured that no one should vote more than once at any one election. The aliens would beat us here, of course; but it takes the repeaters to knock the breath of life out of us. Now what good can be secured by rendering naturalization more difficult, so long as thousands vote on bogus certificates, thousands more without having been naturalized at all, and these and other thousands keep voting once and again till night or drink stops them? "Sir," said a veteran disciple of Tammany, in a recent grog-shop discussion, "I would have you know that I have voted these twenty-seven years, and always the regular Democratic ticket!" "The—you have!" was the contemptuous response; "well, I've voted that same ticket twenty-seven times at one election." The old fog knocked under at once. Whatever Congress may do or leave undone, we trust all who have in good faith declared their intentions will be guaranteed their right to citizenship at the time stipu-

lated in the laws under which they have thus far acted. It would be scarcely consistent with good faith now to lengthen their term of probation. If Congress should render naturalization more difficult, the States will soon be found amending their constitutions so as to allow aliens to vote on proof of settlement and a brief residence. Then the proposed act will have no other effect than to render our immigrant population more unanimously and bitterly hostile to those who passed it. Wouldn't that be quite superfluous? On the whole, we trust Congress will think twice—yes, thrice—before passing any such law.

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A dividend of FIVE PER CENT. has been declared on the Preferred and Common Stock, clear of National and State taxes, payable in CASH on and after January 11, 1870, to the holders thereof as they stand registered on the books of the Company on the 31st instant. All payable at this office. All orders for dividend must be witnessed and stamped. S. BRADY, FOR, 141 Chestnut Street. S. S. HELMHOLD, Treasurer.

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CHAMPAGNE.—Agents for Her Majesty, Duc de Montebello, Carte Blanche, Carte Blanche, and Charles F. Martell, Vin Eugene, and Vin Imperial, etc. Also, Co. of Mayenne, Sparkling Brandy, etc.

WINE.—Old Island, South Side Reserve. SHERRIES.—F. Dupuis, Amontillado, Topas, Valletto, Fain and Golden Star, Crown, etc. PORTS.—Vinho Velho, Real, Valletto, and Crown. CLARETS.—From Alto e Cima, Montemar and Bordeaux, Clerice and Sauternes. White of France. "Meder Swan." BRANDIES.—Hennessey, Otard, Dupuy & Co.'s various varieties. 1/3.

OFFICE OF THE LEHIGH COAL AND NAVIGATION COMPANY. TREASURY DEPARTMENT, PHILADELPHIA, January 31, 1870. Certificates of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company, due March 1, 1870, will be paid to holders thereof, or their legal representatives, on presentation at this office on and after that date, from which time interest will cease. 141 Chestnut Street. S. S. HELMHOLD, Treasurer.

HELMHOLD'S CONCENTRATED EXTRACT BUCHU is the Great Diuretic. HELMHOLD'S CONCENTRATED EXTRACT SARRAPENILLA is the Great Blood Purifier. Both are prepared according to rules of Pharmacy and Chemistry, and are the most valuable that can be made. Price, 1/3.

PHILADELPHIA AND READING ROAD CO., Office, No. 227 S. FOURTH Street. PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 23, 1869. DIVIDEND NOTICE. The Transfer Books of the Company will be closed on FRIDAY, the 31st instant, and reopened on TUESDAY, January 11, 1870.

A dividend of FIVE PER CENT. has been declared on the Preferred and Common Stock, clear of National and State taxes, payable in CASH on and after January 11, 1870, to the holders thereof as they stand registered on the books of the Company on the 31st instant. All payable at this office. All orders for dividend must be witnessed and stamped. S. BRADY, FOR, 141 Chestnut Street. S. S. HELMHOLD, Treasurer.

FOR NON-RETENTION OR INCONTINENCE OF URINE, irritation, inflammation, or ulceration of the bladder, or kidneys, diseases of the prostate glands, stone in the bladder, or ureters, or any other urinary complaint, use HELMHOLD'S FLUID EXTRACT BUCHU.

BACHELOR'S HAIR DYE.—This splendid Hair Dye is the best in the world. Harmless, reliable, instantaneous, does not contain lead, nor any other poison, and produces no itching or death. Avoid the cheap and delusive preparations bearing various names, and do not purchase the genuine A. Bachelor's Hair Dye has had the highest and best reputation to uphold its integrity as the only Perfect Hair Dye—Black or Brown. Sold by all Druggists. Applied at No. 103 DORSET Street, New York. 42mwt.

HELMHOLD'S EXTRACT BUCHU gives health and vigor to the frame and blood in all cases of debility