#### SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

THE MISSING STEAMSHIPS.

From the N. Y. Times. It is now thirty-five days since the City of Boston sailed from Liverpool, and forty since the Schmidt sailed from Bremen, anxiety of those who have friends on board these ships is fast sinking into despair, and, while we would gladly counsel them to hope as long as hope is reasonable, the figures of the underwriters imply what it is idle to affect to conceal. Both ships may be safe, but it is not very likely that either is still afloat. The melancholy probability is that their names will be added to that list of calamities to great steamers which, considering the chances of the seas and the numbers of such vessels, has been so wonderfully short. There is, however, room to trust that their passengers may still live, since total disappearance with the loss of all en board has been among the rarest of disasters re-

corded of ocean steamships. The President, which left New York March 11, 1841, having among her passengers Tyrone Power, the comedian, a son of the Duke of Richmond, and other noted persons, is in this dismal catalogue, and so is the City of Glasgow, lost in 1854, and the Pacific in 1856; but we recollect no other vessels of similar character that have so vanished and 'left not a rack behind." Consequently the chances would seem to be that, as in the cases of the troopship Birkenhead, and the packets St. George, Central America, Sarah Sands, Austria, Anglo-Saxon, and London, a greater or less number of the passengers of the two missing craft may have been saved. Such, it will be remembered, was also the fact as regards the Lady Elgin, sunk by collision on Lake Michigan, September 8, 1860. Of her 385 passengers, 287 perished, among whom were Mr. Herbert Ingram, M. P., the founder of the Illustrated London News, and his son. Of the passengers and crew of the Hungarian, on the other hand, which was wrecked on the coast of Nova Scotia, February 19 of the same year, all on board were lost. The Birkenhead, wrecked off Simon's Bay, South Africa, February 26, 1852, lost 454 and saved 184. The St. George, which was bound from Liverpool to New York, and was destroyed by fire at sea, December 24, 1852, lost 51, while 70 were rescued and taken to Havre by the American ship Orlando. The Central America, which foundered on her way from Havana to New York, September 12, 1857, carried 579 persons, of whom only 152 were saved. Of the 538 on board the Austria—burned in the middle of the Atlantic, September 13, 1858—but 67 survived. The Sarah Sands, which sailed from Portsmouth for Calcutta in August, 1857, took fire in November, and afterwards experienced a tremendous gale, carried all on board safely into port. The Anglo-Saxon, wrecked on a reef off Cape Race during a dense fog, April 27, 1863, lost 237 out of 446 individuals. The London, which foundered in the Bay of Biscay January 11, 1866, on the passage from England to Melbourne, lost 220 lives, among whom were Dr. Woolley, Principal of the University of Sydney, and Mr. G. V. Brooke, the tragedian. Two instances have befallen during the past few years, when the romantic incident, so much used by novelists and dramatists, of a single life being saved from among all on board a lost ship, has really been exemplified. These were in the cases of the Dalhousie, wrecked off Beachy Head, October 19, 1853, and the Danbar, wrecked off Sydney, August 20, 1857. In the latter instance the survivor was thrown by a gigantic wave into a tiny aperture high up in the face of a precipice-the

the acclivity by ropes. The facts we have named, and others that might be cited, indicate a strong preponderance in favor of the supposition that even should the City of Boston and the Schmidt have been overtaken by calamity, many and perhaps all of their passengers and crews may have been saved. We do not, however, like to abandon the hope that a joyful telegram may yet flash over the Atlantic cable, announcing that these fine ships themselves, as well as those who entrusted their lives to them, are still above blue water.

chance of such a thing occurring being about

the same as that of throwing a pea into a

nail-hole in the side of a wall-where he lay

insensible for many hours, but was finally discovered and saved by a daring fellow, who

caused himself to be let down from the top of

THE GOLD RING. From the N. Y. World.

Since the days of Walpole, when members of Parliament shut their eyes to evidence in cases of contested elections, and blindly "divided" into Whig and Tory sides, even until now, a Parliamentary or Congressional "minority report" has come to mean a mere piece of special pleading in behalf of the party principles of the opposition. The absence of such a spirit in the report of the minority of the committee appointed to investigate the causes and propound the remedy of such financial panies as that which disgraced Wall street in September is a signal and honorable exception. For the candor and cogency which distinguish this paper the country is doubtless indebted to the acumen and accomplishments of the Representative from the Sixth district of New York, Mr.

There is no doubt that, of all the parties to the infamous transaction, Corbin appears the most contemptible, if not the most culpable. His lack of scruples when money was to be made is beautifully balanced by his cant of piety when reputation was to be retrieved. Beside him, all the other parties to the transaction rise to a kind of moral sublimity. The pleasing frankness of Mr. Fisk and the prudent patriotism of Mr. Gould are noble, even what looks so like the venality of Mr. Butterfield is venial, beside the double treachery and the whining sanctimony of the

President's brother-in-law.

It is as certainly not the fault as it is certainly the misfortune of the President to have a kinsman of the character of Mr. Corbin. A man is no more responsible for his brother in-law than he is for his mother-in-law; and the victim of an irritable and cohesive mother-in-law is always an object of profound pity. There is no doubt in any mind capable of being convinced by evidence that Corbin traded on his relationship to the President. We have shown over and over that his alli ance was of no conceivable benefit to the ring for any other purpose than the one purpose essential to their desire of knowing accurately, if not of influencing corruptly, the Executive mind. The testimony taken by the committee makes this clearer than ever. The only question remaining was, what authority had Corbin for the representations which it is undeniable that he made, This question we looked to the committee to clear up. And this question remains as cloudy as ever.

General Grant are, however, made more strikingly manifest than before. A man of sense might have known that men in general were not prone to make presents to a public functionary out of pure admiration without expecting some direct or indirect return. A man of delicacy would have disdained putting himself under personal obligations which he might have a chance of officially discharging. But General Grant was as willing to receive as the daughter of the horse-leech, and the gold ring deemed it blessed to give. Those who had cast their bread upon the Presidential waters, now after many days looked that it should return to them. Mr. Fisk gave Mr. Grant a free ride and a free supper, and re-lied upon a little private information in return. Mr. Catherwood had been active in obtaining subscriptions for a house, and was trusted to get the same information in return.

It is not monstrous that a President of the United States should suffer himself to be bought and sold in this way? The only ex-cuse for him that can be made is that, though he suffered himself to be bought and sold, he did not suffer himself to be delivered. This, if it were made out, would rather worsen than better his predicament. And this is not

made out. After the gravest suspicions had been fastened upon him, suspicions which nobody, friend or foe, was willing to credit, but which it needed his own explicit statement to rebut, he declined to make that statement. The committee courteously gave him to understand how deeply his reputation was involved in the sworn evidence before them. He declined to vindicate his reputation. His partisans will tell us that it was "beneath his dignity" to appear before a committee of

Congress. But it was not beneath his dignity to write vague denegations for publication in Mr. Bonner's Ledger. His acquiescence under accusations so grave, and all the graver for not being formally made, but irresistibly deduced from a series of circumstances established by a cloud of witnesses, is as painful as it is astonishing. Under the most charitable construction, such carelessness about a matter which so nearly concerned his fidelity as a public servant and his rectitude as human being shows that he is not possesse of that "sensibility of principle" and of that "chastity of honor" which "feels a stain like a "Gentlemen of the jury," said a wound.' wise old English judge, "I charge you, as matter of common law, of common justice, and of common sense, that everything is to be taken against that party which can show and which will not show.

### ANTEDATING.

From the N. Y. World.

We have always had a sincere respect for chronology and dates. It is a comfort to know that George Washington was, beyond peradventure, born on the 22d of February (N. S.), 1732, and independence declared on the 4th of July, 1776-though there is some confusion about the signatures, and so on, with all the accredited dates of our story, down to Mr. Lincoln's Good Friday. To have one's time-table disturbed is always annoying. Then, too, the law steps in and insists on the sanctity of dates. If a man, in order to promote his own interests and mislead others, executes a promissory note, or a bond, or an indenture, and puts a false date to it, he is amenable to penalties and his deed is good for nothing. These simple traths seem, however, likely to be overset, and this, too, under the auspices and by the direct agency of no less a person than the "sainted" Presi dent Lincoln.

In the "Chronicles of the Great Rebe we read, and it is no doubt so recorded in the archives of the War Department:-"1862-January 13. Simon Cameron resigned his position as Secretary of War. Edwin M. Stanton,

of Pennsylvania, appointed in his place." The simple-minded reader receives this as verity; and yet it now turns out that there is not one word of truth in it, either as to time or facts (and for this we are indebted to the Tribune); that Cameron did not resign, but was turned out; and that all this occurred long before the date to which it is credited. The actual story, as given by the Tribune, runs thus --

"Colonel Alexander K. McClure, of Pennsylvania in a letter over his own signature, says that Cameron was removed from the War Department by Mr. Lincoln without previous notice. The letter an-nonncing it, and that Stanton had been appointed, was delivered by Secretary Chase. Colonel McClurs says he saw this letter soon after it was delivered. and remembers the indignation with which it was received by Mr. Cameron."

Then follows a statement, precisely and categorically made, to which we beg the at-tention of all the loyal historical societies of the country, and compilers of chronological tables and dictionaries of dates:— "Mr. Lincoln's letter of dismissal was withdrawn

and the substitution of a correspondence, antedating the removal, was suggested to Mr. Cameron in my presence, and Mr. Lincoin's generous disposition was discussed and confidently relied upon to make was discussed and confidency relied upon to make him consent to such a correspondence. He was appealed to on the subject, and agreed to it. Letters were then prepared giving the dismissal of Mr. Cameron the appearance of a voluntary and cordial retirement from the Cabinet."

Really, this is very refreshing; and the per-fect equanimity with which Mr. McClure, an accredited Pennsylvania politician, records the fact that the conspirators to falsify historical truth "discussed" the question whether Mr. Lincoln's "generous disposition" could be relied on to such an extent is marvellous. Fancy General Washington-whose function, according to some pictures or engravings, has lately been to welcome his martyred successor to the realms of bliss-being asked, after he turned Edmund Randolph out of the State Department, as he did, to antedate a letter and substitute a gentle, friendly resignation. Imagine Cameron's friend, Andrew Jackson, when in behalf of Mr. Eaton he made a Cabi net becatomb, agreeing to "antedate" and salve over. And yet this Mr. Lincoln did without a scruple, and Colonel Alexander McClure, who worships at his shrine, sees no harm in it, and the Tribune utters no dissent!

HANGING FOR MURDER.

From the N. Y. Sun. It seems to us that in determining the question of the abolition of capital punishment for the crime of murder, society ought mostly to be influenced by this one consideration— Without the death penalty, will there or will there not be an increase in the number of murders committed?

This question cannot well be answered satisfactorily. Capital punishment has no-where been abolished for any great length of time; and even if a diminution of the number of murders has been recorded in those countries where the punishment of crime by death has been the longest prohibited by law, we cannot be sure that the decrease is not owing to causes ether than the non-existence of capital punishment.

Several recent crimes in this country bear evidence that there is among us a large class of rufflans who can be deterred from the most atrocious and horrible murder only by the certainty and swiftness of retributive death.

The case of Reynolds, who was sentenced

The mischievous results of the abnormal in the Oyer and Terminer last week, receptive faculty developed in the career of is in point. Had he not believed, to quote his vulgar expression, that hanging for mur-der was "played out" in New York, and had he felt certain of the doom which should await his orime, the hand that drove the knife to the heart of the unoffending man who was his victim would never have been raised to take that life. For such a man as Reynolds. and for many of those who, with faces still more villanous in their expression than was that of the murderer himself, attended his trial, a sentence to prison for life has comparatively no terror. There a possibility of escape always exists. But they do not find it so pleasant to think of themselves swinging from the gallows.

An important element in capital punishment as a preventive of the crime is the swiftness with which it follows upon conviction and sentence. In Massachusetts, until recently, a murderer under sentence of death was required by law to be imprisoned for the space of one year before execution. Last year two young men named James, who were cousins, murdered and robbed a gambler at Worcester, in his rooms near the principal hotel in that city, where the college students throng every summer at the time of the University boat race between Harvard and Yale. They both were convicted; and when sentenced, soon afterward, to be hanged within a short time, they expressed great surprise at learning that the law to which we have referred had lately been repealed. No doubt was entertained that they hoped to break prison and escape during the one year's imprisonment which they thought the law pre-

This murder at Worcester was committed entirely for the sake of the money taken from the murdered man; and it is a remarkable circumstance that these two marderers, while at Providence, R. I., just before going to Worcester, followed home a man whom they knew to have with him a large sum of money, late one evening, with the intention, it is supposed, of killing and robbing him. A tall, burly watchman, armed with pistol and club, who knew them, accosted them, and walked along with them until the man who had the money was safely in his house, And in Rhode Island, where this occurred, and where there is every reason to believe that these fellows intended to commit the murder if they could find an opportunity to kill a man who had a large amount of money upon his person, the death penalty is abo-

At all events, so long as capital punishment is known to the laws of the State of New York, let those who are convicted of murder be executed within a reasonable time after sentence, and not allowed to remain unhung so long that other villains may be induced to take human life, under the impression that "hanging for murder is played out in New York.

THE "HERALD" AND THE SERVANT GIRLS.

From the N. Y. World. The Herald has just been guilty of a piece of base ingratitude. Notoriously that sheet was put upon its legs, and is now, in somewhat rickety manner it is true, kept there, by the advertisements and subscriptions of the class "servant girl." Many of these deluded creatures continue to advertise in the Herald, since their benighted ignorance does not give them to understand that the day of the Herald's destiny is over and the star of its fate hath declined. Its contents are carefully written down to what the authors of them consider the "servant-gal" leeel, on the principle upon which one sometimes hears a stupid person talking broken English to a foreigner, that the worse English their notions are couched in the better people who do not understand good English will understand them. Yet the Herald on Tuesday turned and bit the loving hand that fed it, with the statement that the servant girls who serve by standing and waiting at intelligence offices "are women hardened in crime," "girls lost to shame," and "paramours and assistants of thieves and burglars." "Prostitutes tired of the monotonous work of the street," according to this luminary, resort to service through intelligence offices. Twaddle. The fact is that, as has been amply demonstrated in connection with the subject of official regulation of prostitution, the first need and care of an nveterate prostitute is absence of restraint. And the rigid restraint of domestic service is abhorrent beyond all else to a woman of such character. "The police state" that their 'efforts to ferret out and detect crime are defeated by the paramours and assistants of burglars and thieves who are employed in private houses." The fact is that such 'efforts" are foiled by the incompetency or indolence of the police themselves, and that an astute detective would require no better clue to a crime than the presence in the scene of its commission of an accomplice in it. Of course, there may be isolated instances of this kind. But to say that servant girls in general, or to any considerable extent, are of this character, is to promulgate a self-refuting absurdity, and to perpetrate a shameful slander upon a class whose reputation is their main reliance for support. All this prepos terous proposition the Herald erects upon the credible and not at all wonderful statement that a servant in Brooklyn has stoler 'several hundred dollars' werth of property from her employer, and the further and alto gether incredible "statement by the police hat she has stolen \$10,000 within the past six months.

But, though the statements of the Herald are thus absurd, it is easy to see its motive for making them. "Intelligence offices," we are informed in the chaste English of the Herald, "are 'run' by parties who are 'in' with thieves," and obviously intelligence offices are rivals of the Herald for the patronage of servant girls. Accordingly, it was "through the agency of intelligence offices' that this singular servant girl in Brooklyn "obtained places," and that all vile persons obtain places. On the contrary, the inference is servant girls who are pure and just and lovely and of good report rely upon the Herald. We cannot object to the Herald's making frantic efforts to retain the precarious patronage of the class which keeps it alive But we do object to its carrying those efforts so far as to slander such members of tha class as have enough intelligence to avoid advertising in it.

NEGROES AS LEGISLATORS.

From the N. Y. Tribune. "Our African Senator" is the title of a half column editorial in the St. Louis Republican (Democratic), in which it is asserted that the election of Mr. Revels to the United States Senate "marks an era in the history of the world;" that "is the first authenticated instance of a nation boasting a Caucasian lineage deliberately and freely choosing an African as a law-maker, and clothing him with a rank and dignity among the very highest in its power to bestow."

"That the annals of every age, from the era of the Pyramids to our own, may be searched in vain for even the remotest parallel to this

step which we have just taken in the science of government with the utmost indifference and nonchalance," and much more to the

same effect. We were quite prepared to believe that the prejudices of the late fords of casts would not readily give way to that great advance in Christian civilization which places all men upon an equality before the law, which makes the Declaration of American Independence a living fact; but we can see no sufficient reason why this unworthy prejudice should be yoked with such profound ignorance of well-known facts in history as is displayed in the article from which we quote. The writer ought to know, if he does not, that there were several negro members in the National Assembly of France, no longer ago than the time of the last republic. Does he not know that in Brazil, the great empire of South America, there is no caste based upon color or race—that the jet black Senator sits by the side of the white one on terms of perfect equality in the highest brach of the National Legislature? Is he not aware that in most of the Spanish American republics and West India Islands the negro enjoys citizenship upon the same terms and conditions as the descendant of Spain? Is he ignorant of the fact that negroes held seats in the Massa-chusetts Legislature before the St. Louis Republican had an existence? Has he never heard that in all the States of Europe the standing or position of a man is in no wise affected by the color of his skin?

The writer seems surprised that a duly elected Senator should take his seat, and that the people should look on with indifference and nonchalance. Perhaps he may yet dis cover that the people are not all purblind politicians; that they see and accept accomplished facts, and have no positive fear that one mulatto or quadroon will be more than a match for seventy-three Caucasian Senators.

WOMEN JURORS IN WYOMING.

From the N. Y. Herald.

The Legislature of Wyoming Territory lately passed a bill giving to women the right of suffrage. As this concession is held to carry with it the right to hold office, it appears that the Territorial authorities have construed it as embracing the duty of women to serve as jurors, and that accordingly for the March term of the Albany (Wyoming) County Court the names of eleven ladies-some of them the wives of the most prominent citizens-are among those drawn for jury service, and that immense excitement was created thereby. But this is bringing the question of woman's political rights to a practical test, and how she can expect to claim the right to the ballot-box without being ready to submit to the duty of the jury-box, the same as Sambo, we cannot tell. But suppose this question settled, and that women are bound when called upon to take their chances with the men for jury service, will not hanging for murder and the State Prison for some other crimes be indeed "played out?" And what then? The subject is full of serious doubts and difficulties which the gallant men of Wyoming, with all their practical experiments, we fear, will not be able to remove. Still, as those gallant men on behalf of women's rights seem to think they are engaged in a good cause, let them go on, and let the ladies see that if they are frightened off by jury duty their cause is lost

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