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

AN EXPERIENCE THAT MAY BECOME SIGNIFICANT.

From the N. Y. Times. Some years ago, in San Francisco, one James P. Casey in broad day and in a principal thoroughfare walked up to Mr. James King of William and shot him dead with a havy revolver. The provocation to the crime was an article in the Evening Bulletin, of which the murdered man was editor, and which reflected upon a misdeed of which Casey had been guilty. Now, the people of San Francisco knew very well that if brought to trial in the ordinary way the murderer would escape; for he was closely allied with the numerous and influential body of thieves, shoulder-strikers and ballot-box stuffers who at that time reigned supreme in the Golden City, whose representatives sat on its bench, controlled its treasury, held the keys of its jail, and even wielded its constabulary Btaves. Consequently, after briefly reflecting inpon the peculiarities of the situation, and Borely outraged that one of the purest and best of their number should have been slain like a dog for doing what he believed to be his duty, the citizens of San Francisco rose in their might, forced the prison where Casey was confined, and summarily hung him— very much to his own astonishment and that of his friends. The magistrate who officiated on this occasion was, of course, Judge Lynch, and the jurors and executioners were the Famous Vigilance Committee. Now, this was contrary to law, but it was not contrary to prder. It was at a time when no man's life and no man's property were safe in San Francisco from the assassin and the brigand. An organized band of plunderers, not nltogether unlike our own New York "ring," who kept in their pay nearly all the bad characters of the city, rode rough-shod over the whole of the rest of the community. The merchants and other men of business were too much engrossed with their own affairs to pay attention to municipal, or, indeed, to any other duties. Hence things went nnchecked from bad to worse. The dispensers of justice purveyed that commodity from the bench, lawyers used their clients' Becrets to enrich themselves and cheated them right and left without fear of public opinion, gamblers decoyed people into their dens, drugged, robbed and tumbled them into the street, and society was fast sinking into a state of ferocious barbarism. Dead men were found lying in the gray of the dawn in the gutters, or floating about among the wharves. Desperadoes who belonged to the San Francisco ring of the period knocked down and trampled upon unhappy outsiders with whom they disagreed, and laughed at the idea of retribution. The Vigilance Commitkee had risen once before, but its deeds had been forgotten. Impunity seemed to stimulate ruffianism into a sort of craze. The fever of dare-devil rascality rose higher and higher. Peculation developed into unconcealed robbery, and still the patient public endured. But when unpunished assaults on the person developed into open murder, the temper of the community could bear suppression no longer. It broke fiercely forth, and the gallows-tree of Casey was not only the expiator of his own crime, but the token of popular wrath over a long roll of outrages that had gone before.

We submit that it is a fitting occasion for the people of New York to ponder with seriousness upon the significance of the San Francisco Vigilance Committee, not with a view of imitating it, but to take warning by Its example. There is a manifest distinction between seeking to adopt and seeking to avoid the occasion for so terrible a remedy. Our readers do not need to be told in what respects the foregoing narrative finds its analogy in the New York of to-day. Nor would any good end be obtained by the exaggeration that should represent things to be as bad here as they once were in San Francisco. Happily this is not the case; but there are points of similarity, such as justify grave apprehension. The people are used to being robbed by their unfaithful servants, and are perhaps not ready to fly to desperate measures to remedy that. But promis-cuous assassination or the custom of waylaying men in the streets, with intent to mutilate or murder them, is unlikely to be long relished among ourselves to-day, any more than it was on the Pacific twenty years ago. If public property is not to be pro-tected, it may be taken for granted that public safety must be. But what becomes of public safety if the dastardly assaults that have recently so fearfully multiplied are to go on not unpunished alone, but undetected? If bravos like those who attacked Mr. Eaton escape, who among us is safe, and whose life. limb, or reason may be destroyed next? The laws forbid us to carry concealed aveapons, but the laws are made for men and not men for the laws, and we can hardly blame people for relying on self-protection if there is to be no other. We say nothing about the motives, whether obvious or concealed, for the tiger-like attacks which we have again and again recorded—the latest having occurred no further back than Saturday night. Regardless of these motives the perpetrators should be tracked and dragged forth into the light of day, if a free use of money or the utmost stretch of human ingenuity can do it; and when found their pun-ishment should be swift and sure. There is a feeling in the public mind that all is not done that might be done for the detection of the miscreants who commit, or what is worse, who instigate these abominable crimes; and the authorities will be wise if they labor early and late to remove that impression.

We take occasion to say-for the present is an excellent time to say it—that the public mind has not itself been in the best possible state to repress through its own potential influence the abuses that have grown so giantlike; and here the parallel with San Francisco is complete. Our people have been too busy in getting additional property to watch over that which they already have, and this laissez fairs habit has extended to a laxity of protection for person and character as well. The low journalism that belches forth "black acandal and foul-faced reproach" has been winked at if not forgiven, although it differs winked at if not forgiven, although it differs in kind only from the villainy that makes or prompts nocturnal assaults on the body. The police should keep a closer eye on notoriously had characters than it has been used to do; and when dark-lantern affairs occur, like those we have of late so frequently recorded, scrutiny of their immediate past should be of the sharpest character. A vigilance committee for New York is one of the last things that we should choose to advocate; but all good citizens should rejoice to see every wise good citizens should rejoice to see every wise precaution adopted that may forestall its oc-

casion or necessity.

THE PERILS OF THE BISHOPS. From the N. Y. World.

We have an affectionate regard for the

episcopate—a proclivity, as the phrase is, to bishops—joy in their triumphs and deep sympathy in their sorrows. There is something gentlemanly in lawn sleeves, and distinguished in rockets and crosiers. The annulum episcopi is almost the only "ring" we have any respect for. The bishops of the past and of the present, in reality and fiction, from Bishop Hatto of the "rats" down to Bishep Proudie of the "wife," if not always gentle and winning entities, are men of mark. There were Latimer and Ridley, who came to grief at Oxford; and Juxton, who stood by Charles Stuart at Whitehall; and the troublesome seven gentlemen who were tried; and the courtly, silver-tongued Atterbury, who had to run for it; and the imperious Warburton; and Horsely, whom Lord Thurlow swore he would make a bishop and did; and Heber of the hymns; and, in our day, Colenso of the Pentateuch, and Temple of the "Essays," and Samuel, now of Winchester, whose saponaceous nickname is so familiar. Then, too, among cisatlantic prelates of all communions, let us not forget our own Hughes and McIlvaine, whom Mr. Seward sent abroad to arouse the church militant, in charge of the great bishop-tamer, Mr. Thurlow Weed; and Janes, who does the benediction for the Vanderbilt statuary; and him of Philadelphia -Simpson-whose glory it is, if the necessary funds are raised, to be one of the figures on the Lincoln monument, and to stand, in bronze, at the feet of the Good Friday martyr. In short, we like bishops of all sorts, living and dead, black and white—"Elamites and those from Mesopotamia;" and now for the moral or meaning of this fit of episcopal enthusiasm, at which many of our readers may wonder. It is of the doings and sufferings and ultimate triumph of two rather darkish bishops that we have now to write. Cyprian of Carthage, who was of the same complexion, had not a much harder time than these martyrs of to-day, but did not, as they, come out victorious. We get the narrative from a source beyond suspicion.

The Philadelphia Press has a Washington female correspondent who signs herself, characteristically, not "Blanche," but "Olivia." She makes no secret of her tint; and we wish it to be clearly understood that we think none the worse of her on that account. In fact, we very much prefer her to some of the white women who write unblushingly to the radical newspapers, as did one in last week's Independent, who, speaking of the late la-mented Stanton, describes "his sensuous mouth," "his lips indicating the sensuous element positively developed," and "his large neck, wide shoulders, and powerful vital organs," etc. Thus writes Mrs. Ames to Tilton; but not so "Olivia" to Forney. She has her idols, but they are not of the same robust description. She worships at the epicene feet of Sumner, watches Wilson's winning ways, celebrates the curls of Conkling, sees innocent simplicity in Cameron, and detects the latent blush of Revels. To her we owe the thrilling story of the danger, sufferings, and escapes of the bishops.

THE BORDER CLAIMS.

From the Pottsville Miners' Journal. They only ask repayment for their actual losses of property in possession; and whick it was the duty of their fellow-citizens of Pittsburg and Philadelphia, and all the balance of the State, to make safe and secure to them.—Chambersburg Repository.

The above sentence is from an article defending the appropriation asked for to pay the people of the border counties for losses sustained by Rebel raids. We do not lack sympathy for the losses of these people, al-though many of them sympathized with the Rebel cause; but we are opposed to three or four millions of dollars being taken from the treasury of the State. Let them look to the General Government for reimbursement. If they had turned out in 1863 en masse, and resisted the invaders, in place of letting that duty devolve upon a limited number of men from this and other sections of the State their losses would not have been so great We will illustrate the craven or Rebel sympathizing spirit which prevailed in the south ern section of the State at the time that Lee invaded Pennsylvania, in 1863. It was in the latter part of June, three or four days before the battle of Gettysburg. The regiment with which the writer was connected was lying opposite Columbia. The Rebel Early with a brigade was advancing down the valley to the point held by a weak force of men from the northern section of the State. The object unquestionably was to seize the bridge at that point, and control the passage of the Susquehanna. Columbia was vitally interested. The town was in danger. The Colonel of the regiment went to Columbia for assistance to strengthen the point, and not a white man responded to the appeal. A company of colored men came and did their duty well to the moment when, on Sunday evening after a brisk skirmish in front of the left of the little line, and the Colonel found that the Rebel brigade was flanking his command, he ordered it to fall back. Since the time we witnessed this, and saw men flying north with their horses and other stock, leaving their wives and children to the tender mercy of the Rebels, while men from the eastern and northern sections of the State seemed to be the only ones in arms there to defend them, we have felt but little sympathy for these people in their losses. do not believe in paying money out of the State Treasury to either cowards or Rebel sympathizers, which the majority were.

JULIUS CÆSAR AND THE CINCINNATI.

From the N. Y. Tribune. A Cincinnati paper exhibits considerable enterprise in amouncing the assassination of Julius Casar. We heard of this occurrence some time since, and right sorry we were to hear it; but Cincinnati is far inland, and that which is news there is tradition elsewhere. Notwithstanding the importance of the publication it was not issued in an extra, but in the regular edition of the paper. The editor comments upon the occurrence with ability and gloom. He says that Caesar was a man of talent, and ought to have mounted the throne. It was in apprehension of this event that he was himself mounted by Brutus and his backers, with the fatal consequence which the editor so feelingly deplores. He says, likewise, that Cleopatra's genealogical tables are stained with the scarlet of consanguinity. Why does he rake up this old scandal? De mortuis nil nisi bonum. She couldn't help her parentage. She sinned some, repented a good deal, and the asp was punishment enough to make due atonement. We are really shocked at the eager malignity with which our Cincinnati cotemporary circu lates these injurious reports about a lady who can no longer take her own part. If Mark Antony were alive the editor would doubtless receive a call from that robust Roman gentleman, and the fragments of the journalist would be subsequently carried home in a pillow-case. But we believe that Mark is dead The editor says he is. "He clung to life till the last moment, and then committed suicide."

So that no resentment is to be apprehended from that quarter.

The expedients which provincial journalists adopt to fill their editorial columns are sometimes quite entertaining. This record of Julius Cosar and Cleopatra and the battle of Actium, inserted apropos of nothing, and commented upon as if it were a fresh discovery, is perhaps not quite so absurd as the publication of the twelfth chapter of Isaiah, which an editor of similar fertility of resource offered to his readers for three successive issues of his paper. When some of his subscribers complained, he cheerfully and magnanimously substituted the thirteenth. These contributions may have lacked freshness, but their piety was unimpeachable. When our Cincinnati friend gets through with Casar, let him give us his opinion of Job, the probable cause of his boils and the market price of his she asses.

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