#### SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

THE LITERATURE OF THE GALLOWS. From the N. Y. Tribune.

There was a time when the last dying speeches and confessions of homicides and of highwaymen were composed to order by the garreteers of Grab street, and were hawked about the alloys of London for a penny. The gentleman who was awaiting the expiatory hemp had better business on hand than rhetoric and penitence; for, like Mr. Jonathan Wild, he might be drinking punch with the chaplain; and he was not unlikely to advance to his fate with a large nosegay in his buttonhole, and with a free and easy swagger which won the admiration of all beholders. But executions, considered merely as exhibitions, have, in our time, greatly degenerated. Our system affords to the wretches who suffer under it but a limited chance of dramatic display. It's but ill playing game to a sheriff's posse in a jail-yard; it cannot be very exhilarating to hold long palavers with the newspaper reporters; and the "spiritual adviser,

good man, is, no doubt, often considered : portentous bore. But one thing, if supplied with pen and ink and paper, the moribund prisoner can do-he can write letters with a reasonable assurance that they will find their way into the public journals, and achieve for him a surviving notoriety, however short. We have, in our time, read hundreds of

these valedictory epistles; but we admit that we have never read anything more curious than his last letter sent to his father, mother, brothers and sisters, by Nicklas, who was executed at Little Valley, N. Y., on the 18th of March. This production is, indeed, a most singular mixture of pathos and profanity; there is not wanting the usual and conventional expressions of a spiritual comfort and certainty, which good men have wrestled for years to achieve, and wrestled in vain; while every now and then breaks out the savage instinct of a beast howling for a revenge of which he has been thwarted. "Oh, dearest mother," writes Nicklas in one sentence, "my heart is full of pain and sorrow these lonely hours of approaching death.' This is promising; but the promise is broken in the very next lines. "But it is not," the prisoner hurries to add, "it is not Sheriff Cooper that is going to take my life; it is the miserable hound of a murderer, dirty thief, and scandal of humanity, and pretends to be a Christian man. If he don't go to there will not anybody, the murderer and lying dog!" Instantly follows: - "Oh, dear mother, don't ery. Don't put no sorrow in your heart for your poor lost son, for he will soon meet the angels in heaven, and be saved for ever." We pause to ask all theologians, whether they be dogmatic or mystic, and whatever may be the views which they hold of a future state of existence, what they consider to be the precise value of the faith in his own triumphant salvation entertained by this unhappy man? At best, it seems to be only the coarse, material faith of the barbarian who promises himself in the next world a succession of endless and intensified physical enjoyments—a faith quite compatible with every unholy and unclean passion which can defile the human heart—a faith which does not comprehend even the simplest elements of the Christian scheme. Here is a man going out of the world, denouncing a fellow creature as "a miserable hound" and "a dirty dog," and in the same breath de-claring that "he will soon meet the angels in Heaven, and be saved forever." If it were not so serious, it would be a little humorous; as it is, the comedy is rather grim. We do not say that it brings the most inspiring and the dearest of our convictions into disrepute; but we do say emphatically that it insults them by a low parody of familiar but revered formulas, and by the presumption that such convictions are compatible with the most ig-noble appetites. "I have saved my soul," writes Theodore Nicklas. No doubt, no fear: none of those lingering distrusts which might disturb the ultimate moments of the best. "I go," he continues, "to a world of everlasting happiness. \* \* But I want this put in the papers, that all the people may know that — is a dirty thief. \* \* \* I shall have to leave this world of sorrow and go into everlasting happinass. \* \* \* God will seen take — out of this world, the dirty dog." But we are sick of these citations. If there be blasphemy in them, it is not ours. If there be in them a dreadful debasement of human nature, the fault may be attributed to the society which failed to make this man something better. But if there be in them, instead of well-grounded religious faith and rational religious ideas, instead of the humility which befits a Christian and the forgiveness of injuries, without which a Christian cannot be, instead of all these, only heathenish notions and vague impressions, and a faith lower than the lowest skepticism-whose fault is it? What guides led Nicklas into this miry ditch of moral suffocation?

Whoever they were, we are not writing to censure them, and much less are we inclined to sneer at them. The law having advised a culprit at bar to make his peace with God, the work of the unfortunate clergyman commences. And what a work he is expected in a few short weeks to do! He is to make clean a soul begrimed by the vices of a lifetime, and full of leprosies acquired and congenital. He is to cause this blind man to see, this deaf man to hear, these lips upon which curses are native to utter fervent and humble and effectual prayers. What wonder if, when these miracles are demanded of him, the man of God shrinks appalled from labors which would have appalled the heathen Hercules, if other than physical tasks had been assigned him. What wonder if "the spiritual adviser" resorts to conventionalities; and when there is no other hope trusts to Heaven for mercy, and, so far as this world is concerned, takes refuge in stereotyped forms.

SHIPS IN DISTRESS.

From the N. Y. Times. Some recent incidents which have occurred at sea are far too important to the travelling portion of the public to be passed over without reflection. If captains employed on wellknown lines have lost all sense of humanity, and deliberately made up their minds navar to go an inch out of their way to help a ship in distress, the sooner we know it the better, We shall then be the better able to calculate the risks of going to sea at a time when every consideration is sacrificed for the sake of making a quick passage, or of leaving some rival steamer "in the lurch." The British commercial marine is rapidly gaining a notoriety which true seamen of any country would be the very last to covet, and there are many

han diminish. " It was stated a week or two ago that while the disabled steamship Samaria was endeavoring to make her way back to port she met the Manhattan, belonging to the Williams and

signs that the evil is likely to increase rather

Guien line, now carrying the mails from this country to England. The Samaria noisted ents, overcome by their feelings, falling the usual signals of distress, and did all in her upon the neck of Tweed, surreptitiously inpower to attract the attention of the Manhattan. The latter steamer paid not the least attention to this appeal, but passed on as rapidly as she could-quite indifferent as to the fate of the Samaria.

This statement was at once contradicted by the captain of the Manhattan and by two or three passengers; but it is now fully corroborated by the narrative of the cabin passengers of the Samaria. It seems to us that their evidence is conclusive as against the evidence hitherto brought forward on the other side. They allege distinctly that the Samaria exhibited the regular signals of the commercial code, intimating, "I wish to commercial code, intimating, "I wish to communicate," "engines disabled," and that the maintopgallant sail was lowered-a well-known signal of distress all the world over. The Manhattan answered these signals by setting her ensign, but declined to render any assistance. Guns were fired from the Samaria, and two sailing vessels, at a greater distance from the steamer than the Manhattan, bore down for her-so that it is most improbable that the guns were not heard, or the signals not seen, on board the Manhattan.

It is impossible that a case of this kind can be permitted to rest here. If the captain of the Manhattan cannot clear himself, we do not see how any respectable company can continue to place confidence in him. Conduct of the kind ascribed to him must not be tolerated on the high seas. We are all deploring the disappearance of the City of Boston, and it is quite impossible to avoid the suspicion that she, too, may have been seen in distress, and barbarously left to perish by some captain who cared for nothing but making a quick voyage. It is to reassure the public mind on this point that an inquiry ought to be held into the charges brought by the passengers and crew of the Samaria against the Manhattan. The authorities in England are bound to let us know the whole

truth of the matter, and that without delay. Contrast the behavior of one British captain to another with that of an American captain towards the British mail steamer Venezuela. This vessel met with an accident which makes us marvel that she remained afloat a single hour afterward, but being skilfully and gallantly commanded she was kept above water for some time. In the midst of her distress the American steamship Camilla, from Palermo for New York, came in sight. Her captain did not run away as fast as he could when he was appealed to for assistance. To be sure he was not in command of a rival steamer trying to carry the mails at a decent rate of speed, but still he might have found an excuse for refusing help, for the weather was extremely boisterous. Instead of adopting this inhuman course, he took the passengers of the Venezuela on board, and brought them to New York in safety. The captain and crew of the British steamship declared they would stand by their vessel to the lastand there is too much reason to fear that they have lost their lives by so doing. They were brave and faithful men, and if they have perished their fate will awaken sympathy and regret wherever the story of it is heard. We are approaching the season of the year when many thousands of Americans travel in foreign steamships. It is of great consequence that we should understand whether the policy is henceforth to be adopted of passing unheeded vessels in distress. If so, it will not be of much use for any ship in peril to keep in the beaten track. We prefer to hope that the cases we have recently heard of are only exceptions, and will be regarded rather in the light of a warning than an example by the great body of seafaring men.

ARE WE INGRATES? From the N. Y. World.

General Sherman's letter in regard to Mr. Logan's bill compares the moneys which he received at the time he was commanding Mr. Logan, and a hundred thousand other better and worse men, with the salary of the Duke of Wellington's secretary. Thence General Sherman infers the ingratitude of republics.

The inference is illegitimate. Has Gene ral Sherman forgotten the tokens of the nation's gratitude to Grant? Are houses in all the chief cities of the republic nothing? Are horses without number nothing? Are a wilderness of honorary saddles and an infinitude of gratuitous boots, are free rides and free dinners, are perpetual cigars not to be reckoned, that we should be twitted with neglecting our benefactor and turning our superannuated Belisariuses out to

But perhaps we may find it in our minds to forgive General Sherman, seeing that he lives in Washington and not in New York. Certainly there is no other city in the world where the pecuniary rewards of public service are so numerous and so rich as here under the sway of universal suffrage. Take Tweed. When that great man first offered himself for the suffrages of his fellow-citizens he was deep in debt. Notwithstanding this drawback and the further fact that the direct income of the places which he has filled is barely sufficient for a comfortable maintenance, Mr. Tweed relied upon the generosity and right feeling of his fellow-citizens to make good to him the losses which he sustained by devoting himself to their service instead of his private emolument. He scorned to count the cost when the commonwealth demanded his devotion. The event has proved

that he has not trusted in vain. Mr. Tweed's native modesty shrinks from blazoning abroad the exact extent of his present wealth, or the exact means by which it was acquired. His sensitive soul revolts even at the partial publicity of the income list. We are tossed upon the boundless ocean of conjecture. But we do know from his own reluctant lips that this public servant, who entered the public service a bankrupt, has become, by an entire abandonment of himself to the public good, "one of the largest taxpayers in New York." His influence is coextensive with his cash. The docile Legislature sits at his feet, as Saul at the feet of Gamaliel, and waits, in reverent inactivity, for his signal before proceeding to action.

"Turned by his nod the stream of honor flows; His smile alone security bestows." Are we to ignore so shining an example of the gratitude of republics? Does not Mr. Tweed's palace in town, Mr. Tweed's villa in the country, Mr. Tweed's sumptuous stables. and Mr. Tweed's numerous stud, as plainly show forth the gratitude of New York to its Tweed as does Blenheim the gratitude of England to Marlborough, or Strathfieldsaye

to Wellington? It is true that these substantial tributes to the virtues and genius of Mr. Tweed were not made over to him with the formal pomp with which British honors were paid to British benefactors. But it is incontestable that they were equally derived from his constituency. The exact manner of the operation we cannot in all cases know. We only know that Mr. Tweed's strictly official remuneration is absurdly inadequate for the maintenance of Mr. Tweed's personal glories. I gives the people some assurance that they !

sert checks for vast amounts in his waistcoat pockets. We are driven to hypothecate de putations of the taxpayers of New York waiting upon Mr. Tweed with the title-deeds of mansions and pedigrees of horses, and the shrinking violet Tweed begging them to pardon his rosy blushes, and for his sake to forbear making public mention of their act. Upon no other supposition is it possible to account for the rapid and astonishing growth of

There is another pretended explanation of the phenomenon of Tweed, but we mention it only to spurn it with horror and disgust. It is that Mr. Tweed has prostituted his public employments to his private ends. In fact, some envious persons have gone so far as to say that Mr. Tweed has, by various more or less circuitous processes, swindled the city which his political eminence in it disgraces out of the whole of his fortune. In confutation of such sneers, it is only necessary to point out that Mr. Tweed's course has met the unqualified approval of his constituency, to which alone he is responsible. He has been chosen and chosen again to every one of the comparatively humble public functions to which he has aspired. We are asked to accept the incredible assumption that the voters and tax-payers of the city of New York are so stupidly vicious that they insist upon renewing the reposal of betrayed trusts, and granting office to a man whose whole incumbency of it has been spent in the successful effort of devising new modes for swindling

Mr. Tweed's wealth is honorable wealth, and it proves that republics are not ungrateful- When foreign royalists point us to the Wellingtons and the Marlboroughs on

Lavish honor showered all her stars And affluent fortune emptied all her horn," with the stale old sneer, we can hereafter briefly confute them by proudly pointing to our Tweed.

THE REPUBLICANS OF DELAWARE JUSTIFIED.

From the Wilmington (Del.) Commercial. The Republicans of Delaware have in the present situation of affairs a new proof of that which none of them should ever dare to doubt -namely, that a just principle, earnestly

advocated, is sure to triumph. When the Republican Convention of this State, at Dover, in April, 1868, adopted a resolution calling for the amendment of the National Constitution, by such measure as would "secure impartial suffrage throughout the republic," it was a step boldly and resolutely taken, in advance of the general progress not only of the people at large but even of the Republican party. It was a step of no ordinary character for a "border State" to take. In so radical a proposition we were almost alone, with Maryland. Even Massachusetts, at her convention of that year, sat under the conservative influence of men like Richard Henry Dana, Jr., and gave no word of endorsement to the demand which had been made for a constitutional amendment. Worse still, at the National Convention at Chicago the platform framed placed its heel, as if purposely, upon all such propositions, and declared, with an inconsistent absurdity that stamped the name of political unfaithfulness on its face, that while the guarantee of suffrage must be maintained in the lately rebellious States, in those that were loyal, the question "belonged" to the people of each, separately. The representa-tive of Delaware on the committee that framed this resolution (Hon. N. B. Smithers) raised no voice against this most scandalous departure from the broad ground of principle, and the action of our State stood, in the presence of the National Convention, as though rebuked and silenced.

But, as we have already said, there can be no permanent repression to the cause of justice. The work commenced in Delaware scarcely paused by this untimely interruption. When Congress met, its first care was to frame and propose just such an amendment as the "Third Dover Resolution" had plead for, securing impartial suffrage everywhere in the nation. Late in the session it was passed by both houses, with the requisite two-thirds majority, and when the President came to deliver his brief but most comprehensive inaugural address, he entertained the hope and expressed the desire that the suffrage question might now be settled, forever, on the basis of justice, by the ratification of the

proposed amendment. Thus was the movement made national, and placed first by Congress, and then by the Executive Department of the Government, within the scope of the declared purposes of the Republican party. The radical action of Delaware was not only sanctioned but adopted, and written on the banners under which three millions of American voters marched. The seed sown by our Delaware Convention had sprung so soon, in spite of the unfriendly storms of Chicago, into so great a tree that the whole party were willing to come beneath its branches. This, we say again, not because of Delaware's influence as a State, but because the position we took was the true one. We had stripped the political situation of that time, and dared to speak of it as it really was. Our "Third Resolution" was the truth boldly spoken, and

hence it kas triumphed. In the light of to-day, with this great measure of enfranchisement approved by thirty States of the Union, we have taken the eccasion to thus rejoice. Not only Congress and the President, but every Republican Commonwealth, has joined in approval of the amendment. Never were any set of men more fully justified by time and the progress of great events than the Republicans of Delaware. They took the field first; they never left it; they find now their early plan of action, then denounced as rash and premature, not only adopted by their party, and not only accomplished as a fact, but written forever on the broad page of the republic's Constitution, and regarded by a great nation with pride and joyful approval. Thus does the goodness of God sanction and crown with success the effort in behalf of Justice and Truth, no matter from what source it comes.

THE REBEL RAID BILL.

From the Harrisburg Topic. The bill commonly known throughout the State as the "Rebel Raid"-an appropriate name-was killed in the House. sixteen men could be induced to cast their votes for the measure, and the seventythree who voted against it did so because they believed the almost universal feeling of the people was decidedly against it. The bill is dead, we hope, beyond resurrection, and it is well. If it had passed the House it ought to have been defeated in the Senate. And if it had passed both houses it would have put the Executive to the painful necessity of vetoing it. There is nothing like putting down a Rebel raid on its first appear-It discourages further efforts, and snce.

will not again be placed on the auxious stool nervously waiting to see themselves robbed. The bill was radically wrong. It paid certain individuals for personal losses at the hands of a public enemy, while millions who lost more than these people on the border were to be left in the cold, with scarcely a word of sympathy. We say there were millions of good and loyal men and women in this nation-and thousands in Penasylvaniawho suffered far more than our fellow-citizens along the southern borders. They were fathers and mothers, and sisters and brothers. and sons and daughters, whose tears of grief for the losses of those near and dear to them on the sunny but bloody battle-fields of the South and in the filthy prison pens of a barbarous and inhuman enemy, been allowed quietly to trickle down the cheeks of living, agonizing lovers of their country, whose only consolation is that all they had, all they loved most dearly, all that was given them by a good God for companionship, support and sympathy, they sacrificed for their own great nation. The losses on the border are paltry, mean and ridiculously insignificant compared to these heart-losses which can never, never, never be repaired. What is the loss of a horse to the loss of a human life? What is the loss of a hen-coop to the loss of a brother? What is the burning of a house to the killing of a father? How ridiculous these border claims appear when you com-pare them to the souls of gallant men gone to eternity in protecting and defending these people's habitations and per-sonal property! When we review the ques-tion in the true aspect in which it should present itself, we feel certain that the sensible people on our Sonthern borders will themselves indignantly repudiate the idea of claiming indemnity from the people of Pennsylvania for losses and mishaps which they know to be the common losses and mishaps of the whole nation from the lakes to the

gulf. The bill is dead and God be praised. Requiescat in pace!

THE CONNECTICUT ELECTION AND THE FIFTEENTH AMENDMENT.

From the N. Y. Sun. The Secretary of State has issued his proclamation, and the fifteenth amendment is a part of the Constitution. Negroes can now vote everywhere on the same terms as whites. The first State in which the amendment will be put into practical operation is Connecticut. This opens a glorious field for the display of strategy on the part of the Democracy. The contest in that State is sharp, and probably a thousand votes will turn the scale. There are about fifteen hundred colored electors in the land of steady habits. The Democracy are hard pressed from Rye Neck to Stonington Point. Let them make a bold stroke for the negro vote, and carry it, or even half of it, and their victory is sure.

President Grant, contrary to all precedent, and without the slightest authority from the Constitution, has issued a congratulatory proclamation over the event of the ratification. This is intended to help Governor Jewell, Now, let Governor English, in his own behalf, countercheck this movement of the Republicans by issuing a proclamation congratulating the negroes of Connecticut upon their admission to the ballot-box. It will secure his election, and make him a prominent candidate for the Presidency. He may thus take the wind out of Senator Hendricks' sails, who, in his New Orleans speech, showed that he is trimming his canvas to catch 900,000 nigger

There is no time for delay. If Governor English hesitates, let Messrs. Eaton and Burr of Hartford, Mr. Walker of New London, the eloquent Democratic candidate for Secretary of State, and Mr. T. L. Parmeles of New Haven, a man of first-rate common sense, bring him to the scratch at once. If Governor English will do this, his congratulations of the great Tweed, at Albany, on Monday, will be returned by Big Six in person on Tuesday next.

WE GIVE IT UP.

From the Cleveland Leader.
For the past month we have studied the daily Associated Press reports, we have pored over the World, the Citizen, the Tribune, the Brooklyn Eagle, and the Albany Journal to keep pace with the political situation of New York. We have heard of rings being smashed, of Tweed being sent to his country seat to rusticate, we have seen the World and the Citizen strike hands, and declare that all rings must, should be, and in fact had been eternally crushed. Dictionaries had been searched and letters of inquiry written to find out precisely what was implied by "silkstocking Democracy," "cheese-press and hay-loft Democracy," "rough-and-ready Demoloft Democracy," "rough-and-ready Demo-cracy," and all the other varieties. Just as it appeared that the rings were valiantly smashed, and everything was lovely, there comes the news that the hay loft and cheese press faction uniting with the dastardly Republicans have given the rest of them a Waterloo defeat, but upon what question, or with what result, we doubt if any sane man west of Albany can explain. To add to the confusion, New York is now

running on her seventh charter within three weeks. Every man in the Albany Assembly seems frantic to immortalize himself by giving the great metropolis a charter from his own pen. Three new charters in one day is a light yield, and the crop often reaches a dozen. The only parallel to this legislative Kilkenny fight is to be at present found in Cincinnati, where five newspapers are struggling through daily columns of brevier to demonstrate which has the largest circulation, who gets the sheriff's printing, who wrote the "Red Haired Maidea of the Big Miami," and whether the Republicans, the Democrats, the Independents, the Reformers, the Independent Reformers, or the "ring" should be allowed to elect members of the Board of Education and control the city printing and paving contracts. All this may be very fine for Cincinnati and New York, but for the outside barbarians who read newspapers from those cities it is too much-much too much.

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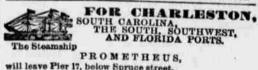
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The Steam Propellers of the Line will commence loading on the Sth inst., leaving Daily as usual.

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