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

"THE DAUN OF LIBERTY."

From the N. Y. Tribune. We have been for a long time expecting a distinctly American play—a new one, we mean—for such used to be written in those early days of our drama, which are popularly known as "palmy," being most of them bat-tle-pieces, both terrene and nautical, and terminating in a blaze of fireworks and a bad smell which floated into the pit or even set the gallery gods to coughing. There was The "Battle of Bunker Hill," and "The Battle of Yorktown," and "The American Tar." Then there came the Stage Yankee, like no Yankee ever seen on this continent or any other; and, upon the whole, it is quite refreshing to find how bad our dramatic literature has generally been-partly upon the principle that when things are at the worst they are soonest mended; and this appears to be the self-sacrificing opinion of the author of "The Daun of Liberty; an original drama in three acts," for he has written a play after no rules that we are acquainted with, and so inexpressibly absurd that we thank him for the most genuine enjoyment. This little performance, printed in Chicago, the author has sent to us, inclosing a letter which, in its turn, contained a small sum of money, which we have judiciously expended in advertising his production for him. Now let us do him a further kindness by pointing out some of the beauties of "The

Dann of Liberty.' And first, we may observe this gentleman's sublime disregard of the unities! The first scene of the first act is a flat view of a royal residence, with a mill "in the second groove, In what country this king and the miller lived and reigned and ground, we have been unable to discover; but we find the highly intelligent miller stating that he has "had a dread epistle from the king" com-plaining that "the rattling of the wheels are 'unpleasant to the subtle, anointed auricles' of the monarch, who is observed to be approaching in the distance with "scorn flashing from the pupils of his eyes." "You are the miller," says the king. "I am, my lord," says the miller—for it would have been of no use to deny it, with the flour upon his dusty garments. Then the king opens upon him in the following fine style:-

"Serf! how dares thou annoy and disturb Each morn my dreams and gentle sleep With the clatter of this griuding wheel?"

-But the serf is not in the least frightened He observes to the King that he has to pay his debts, and support his wife and children; but the wicked potentate responds:-

"No further parley-'tis our sovereign will; Tear thou down thy tottering mill, Or else my soldiers will." (Exit.)

But the miller does not mean to submit to the demolition until he hears that liberty is progressing, and he resolves "to emigrate to America." All of a sudden the scene changes to the "chemical labatorium of Dr. Faustus," who is called upon by the Emperor of France. His Majesty says, "What seest thou, master of the magic art?" The doctor kindly answers that he sees the overthrow of all sovereigns, upon which Louis Napoleon says that he must go home and see about that. (Monarch exits.)

Act II opens in New York harbor. A steamboat is about to start, with an army of fili-busters, for Europe. The captain makes a speech from the quarter-deck, and concludes with "Now, boys, let's have a song!" and the chorus replies with: -

"Then let's away, away, hurrah! We'll make them a free and happy nation, And put the ballot-box in motion."

Scene II is rather indefinitely described as "Forest," but there is our old friend, the Miller, on guard, for he has not emigrated after all, having been pressed into the King's service; yet within he is still a "votarist at the shrine of liberty." He deserts, and then comes a tremendous revolution, the Miller going over to the insurgents, to whom Bellona in person makes the following speech:-

"Comrades! I see freedom's day is dawning; Fortune's womb is ripe to give bith

To liberty's 'cherubin. Then all the soldiers desert, to the intense disgust of the Emperor of France, who says: "Diable! hell! and fury, ye slaves!" But they don't mind him at all, and are soon seen "dimly fighting" with somebody "in the dis-Louis Napoleon calls loudly for "A horse! my kingdom for a horse!" Then all the kings and emperors condole with each other. They are overheard by an omnipresent "Yankee,' who promises them an asylum if they will come to America and 'behave themselves." In Act III it is announced that "our royal masters all, without exception," have been "defeated in the battle-field"-and then the monarchs all "enter in traveling dress" and go off somewhere "on a steamboat. "A general" announces that he will "see the prize money paid;" more steamers go off with the American flag unfurled and waving in the breeze," and everybody sings "The

Star Spangled Banner." Then "a queen"

says:- 'Let those in bonds be free. Hence

nothing mar your liberty!" She is "a Queen

of Faries" and ought to know.

We cannot hope that we have given the reader any clear idea of this wonderful play; for the truth is that, although we have read it through, we have but an indistinct conception of it ourselves. We have no objection to The Dann of Liberty, but we wish that she could have dawned in a manner somewhat mere luminous. We trust, however, that many copies of this production may reach Europe to make monarchs tremble; we have already mailed our own to the address of the Emperor of France: and very much we should like to see him when he reads it. That he will become pale and apprehensive upon the perusal, we cannot doubt; but we fear that he will hardly at once abdicate. That makes no difference. This play is prophecy; let Sacred Majesty believe and tremble.

PROTECTION OF THE MINORITY IN NEW YORK.

From the N. Y. Times.

One of the most important political topics to which the best minds in America should give their attention is the protection of minorities. In this city there is now an absolute and almost uncontrollable despotism by the great ignorant majority-the most of whom have no property-over a minority who possess most of the real estate, and carry on the principal part of the business of this metropolis. This minority seem now almost helpless. Avenues are paved and repaved at an expense that would make a covering of velvet seem cheap in comparison; new experiments and jobs of every kind are tried in our wealthiest streets; every conceivable pattern of pavement is tested; great thoroughfares are opened right through crowded districts; hideous telegraph poles are erected near handsome buildings; new horse railroads are laid in quiet streets; continual and

while we venture to say not one in a thousand of them ever has a voice in the matter, or can in any way control or prevent the exaction. Here, for instance, a half-dozen pothouse keepers in the poorest wards, who have been put in the Common Council by the roughs and wire-pullers of those districts, decide that one of their most vigorous supporters shall have "a big job" provided he divide the profits. They accordingly de-termine that the finest avenue in the city, whose inhabitants represent millions of property, shall be paved with a problematical pavement at an exorbitant rate, with the understanding that, if it be taken up, their creatures shall also have the profits of the removal. The Stewarts, Astors, Lorillards, Grinnells, and other wealthy citizens are only as clay in the hands of these potters, or rather as convenient animals who are to be milked for the sustenance of the needy multitude. They easily put the measure through that virtuous body-the Common Council—and pass it over a Mayor's veto. The tax for the job then comes from the pockets of all who own real estate, and finally is paid in rents by the poor and middle

This is only one measure out of thousands that are continually pressed through our city government, in which the cunning leaders of an ignorant majority plunder the minority. It is no worse than many other jobs, nor more expensive and tyrannical. It is notorious now that the chiefs of the Democracy of New York have made vast fortunes for themselves. It is a most alluring and profitable profession now, to win control of the liquor-sellers, repeaters, and roughs of a poor ward, and thus become the absolute disposer of the wealth of the richest city on the continent. No other business pays half so well. The only obstacle is the number of competitors, and the danger that too many will share in the plunder.

And what is to check the continuance of this reign of plunder? Not the vigor of the Republicans in this city. They have not numerical power or unity of action sufficient. The managing of ward politics has become a science. No neophyte, like one of our Democratic wealthy citizens, can learn it in a year or two. It demands a thick skin, strong nerves and pliant principles. We might as well expect any body of respectable men to go into one of our courts, and manage a complicated law case, as to call for our wealthy and professional men to attempt to manage the ward politics. They would come to grief in a week. It is useless to expect it or to call for it.

The only remedy that we can see for the increasing tyranny of the ignorant and poor majority in this city over the wealthy or comfortable minority, is to strengthen by some legislative reform the power of minorities in this State. It is to this we desire to call the thoughtful attention of reformers and all citizens who hope at some distant day to pal infallibility, and other doctrines of the secure good government in New York. A reform so radical as the one we are proposing needs a long preparation; but with a community as intelligent as the great body of our voters, discussion will eventually bring out the best and wisest plan, and cause it to be adopted. Such an idea only demands constant consideration and argument in the press and on the platform to at length convince the most indifferent. The principle of protecting minorities has already become recog-nized in English municipal and national law, and is destined to hold a secure place in British legislation. And yet the English a few years ago seemed much further from carrying it into practice than we do. Ideas work faster here than they do in Great Britain. When the anti-slavery discussion began, how far distant appeared the victory! Five years ago it seemed almost incredible that the West would ever regard it as obligatory to pay our bonds in hard money, and a great political party staked its success on the expectation of repudiation. Now no one of either party is found so poor as to do reverence to even the shadow of national dishonesty.

The protection of minorities, if it be only discussed, will eventually embody itself in legislation, and be our great safeguard in New York.

IS IT PEACE ?

From the Petersburg (Va,) Courier, Five years have passed since the fall Petersburg and the evacuation of Richmond. Soon after these events occurred-a very few days-and the organized forces of the Confederacy surrendered, and the armed foe became a submissive citizen. Shouts of joy succeeded groans, and far and wide rang the pmans of peace. We were to have peace, a restored Union, and universal good feeling. No thought of oppression was entertained, no punishment for the past proposed, and no continuance of military supremacy expected. But peace, whose ears had been wooed by

the voice of a people weary of war, whose presence has been so fondly invoked, and whose coming so confidently proclaimed, has stood aloof, Tantalus-like, displaying the blessings which she so obstinately withholds from us. Five years have fled, and in our State instead of that reign of tranquillity which was predicted we are still surrounded by the bated bayonet and the odious uniform. The military is in reality the supreme power. Civil government is a mere tool to be used when convenient, to be discarded when conflicting with "orders from headquarters." The citizen, who once walked the land, the peer of any, however high in position, and "none daring to molest," is now made to bend the neck to the sword of the tyrrnt-to give up rights with which law has invested him. If this be peace, she has changed her character.

As well call darkness light. More than a year ago the present Chief Magistrate of the nation, when chosen as the standard-bearer of a political party, uttered a sentiment that thrilled the popular heart:-"Let us have peace." Amid the shouts which were produced by the response that everywhere seconded the wish, he rode into power. One-fourth of his term of office has expired, and we are practically as far from the attainment of our desire, the great want of the nation, as when the popular sentiment was spoken. We have been inveigled into the notion that peace would soon be here, and its achievements would soon be developed. We have waited, and yearned, and hoped, and watched, but "Let us have Peace" is an empty

phrase—a delusive mockery and a cruel cheat. To-day the capital of Virginia is racked by the throes of a disorder that owes its existence to the direct action of a United States military officer. But for his unauthorized interference it would long since have died the infamous death that it deserved. He supplied it with that vital aid that gave it breath, and a United States civil officer with no jurisdiction in the matter throws around it the fostering case of the Government, and threatens to uphold at with the bayonet. Owing to the encouragement thus given, it threatens to extend to all parts of the State, resist-

heavy assessments are placed on real estate; | ing law, disturbing government, depressing and all this enormous expense is paid by business, and promoting discord. Is this the minority in taxes on their property; peace? Verily, they cry peace, peace, when there is no peace.

THE POPULARITY OF NASTINESS.

From the Harrisburg Topic. The world is full of nastiness. We hear and see it everywhere. Our newspapers are full of it. Our families read it with avidity. Our children soon learn to repeat it. And all because we have got ahead of ourselves, of nature, and of moral law in our enjoyments. The public taste has become vitiated and depraved. Nothing is attractive now-adays unless it has a taint of nastiness or indecency about it. Our theatrical managers only pander to the wishes of their patrons when they degrade the drama with the bare legs and nude forms of immodest women. Nearly all of our old standard playhouses are now thus dishonored, and will continue to be until a purer sentiment prevails. We know it requires rare courage to meet this question as it ought be met. In doing so you run counter to the feeling of levity and coarseness which is the characteristic of the age. You are called severe or prudish. Yet there must be an end to this vitiation of the public morals, and somebody must take the lead in opposition, and brave the storm of epithets that will be used as weapons on the other side. We would not attack the theatre, but we would reform it. We would have every woman on the stage properly and decently dressed, so that she might depend mainly upon her merits as a histrionic artist, and not almost entirely, as she now does, upon personal charms with which the public has nothing to do. would suppress by enactment the Police Gazettes and other vile publications whose illustrations disgrace the nation and demoralize the young mind. We would keep our daughters from public and promiseuous balls, where they meet blackguards and dance "round dances" with them by gaslight till dawn of morning. We would discourage extravagance of dress in females, and their trolloping the streets to the delight and prurient satisfaction of corner loafers. Often our mothers and sisters are to blame for much of the nastiness that prevails, because they will not set a firm face against the manifest improprieties we have cited. We need better training in our home circles, a higher morality in the public press, and an effort on the part of the clergy and the religious community to make the stage a means of attractive instruction and historic illustration. When we have all this, and we despair of ever having it, our men and women will be purer and the nation better.

ARE AMERICANS OUT OF THE PALE? From the St. Louis Democrat.

The despatch from Rome, received recently if sustained by later advices, will mark a new period in the history of Catholicism in this country. All readers have observed that the American members of the Œcumenical Council protested against the doctrine of Pasyllabus. Apart from the fact that such opposition was to have been expected from men of enlarged minds and liberal views, it is little less than a necessity of their position to those who represent the Catholic faith in this country. Every institution and idea of this republic is at war with certain teachings of the Papal syllabus, and any attempt to square the faith of members of that Church in America to these teachings would only result in disadvantage to the Church. Yet this, it now appears, has been demanded by the Papal authority. The Schema de Fide has been promulgated; the Holy See granted three days for the dissident Americans to submit to its authority; and the despatch says, "that time has now expired, and as the Americans show no signs of yielding, a major excommunication will be pronounced against them."

If this statement is correct, and if the threatened excommunication actually occurs, results are likely to follow far beyond the range of human foresight. In any open revolt against the authority of the Holy See, prelates from this country would probably be sustained by all American adherents of the Catholic faith, so that there would result a complete separation of Catholicism in this country from the Church in Europe. Nor would such a schism be long in making its appearance on the other side of the ocean. But it is not worth while to speculate upon the consequences of an event which mey not occur, and which, indeed, seems quite improbable. European despatches are only a little less reliable than advices from Cuba, and the despatch of Friday morning may be contradicted already. It is hard to believe that the Pope and the men who are his advisers-men to whom great credit has hitherto been given for shrewdness-have decided upon a measure which will force a separation of the Church in this country, where, judging from the zealous efforts recently made, the Holy See has anticipated a great increase in power and in the number of adherents But the Œcumenical Council itself has seemed to observers a device so ill-timed, so foreign to the habitual policy of the Church, that it is the less unreasonable to consider the statements of the despatch not wholly impossible.

THE RIFLE AGAINST THE BALLOT.

From the Charleston (S. C.) Times, The radical party are playing the same game in all the Southern States. They are appealing to the military to aid and secure their succession to power at the fall elections. The last thing that they desire is a fair and full vote of the people. It is as against the people that they call for arms. Thus Governor Scott goes on a mission to Washington and demands the "Winchester rifle" as neces sary for his re-election. He appeals to this as sgainst the ballot. This is the weapon to be flourished at, and by which the polls are to be controlled. And this is not done under cover of night, but in open day. In the very presence of the American people the radical party openly avow arms as necessary for their supremacy over justice, right, and

popular will, Governor Holden, of North Carolina, follows in the party wake. He has declared Alamance county in a state of insurrection, and asked for a suspension of the habeas corpus, The secret of the movement is to be found in the fact that the people of Alamance county are opposed to radicalism, and at the last election gave a majority against Governor Holden. The habeas corpus is, therefore, to be suspended, and its people and their free elections are to be placed under the dominion

of arms. There never was a bolder, and, at the same time, a balder attempt to suppress and destroy the freedom and existence of the elective franchise. Where arms are present, laws must necessarily be silent. The radical party are for the rifle, the bullet, and the bayonet. The people advocate the ballot. The conservative members of the Legislature of North Carolina have spread the real facts before the

country. In their address they say:-"The Chief Magistrate of this State, the head and front of radicalism, has seen fit to declare one of our

counties in a state of insurrection, and to call upon Congress to suspend the writ of habeas corpus throughout the State. declare there is no sufficient cause for this extraordinary action of Governor Holden. There is and has been no armed resistance. no uprising of the people, no outbreaks to disturb or hinder the full administration of civil law. We assert that there is not a county in the State in which any sheriff or other peace officer may not go unattended, and with perfect safety, and execute any process upon any citizen of the State. It is true that murders and other outrages have been committed; but they have not been confined to any particular locality or any particular party; and when Governor Holden represents to the President and to Congress that these acts are evidences of disloyalty, he is guilty of a wilful libel upon a people whose

rights he has sworn to protect.' It is well that the extremists have thus early in the canvass avowed their purpose of carrying the next elections by force of arms and power. Forewarned is forearmed In this they confess their weakness. It is an acknowledgment that they are afraid to trust the unbiased will and wishes of the people. Hence they invoke the sword in a time of profound peace. And herein is the vital issue. Their whole record is one of extravagance, corruption, and misrule. This is to be perpetuated by the "Winchester Rifle." Those whose who are opposed to them are for economy, purity in office, and good and decent government. But this is the last thing the radical party desire. Such an administration, and their occupation would be gone. Hence the frantic and despairing appeal for arms.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF FAIRMOUNT PARK, No. 234 South FIFTH

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PHILADELPHIA, March 30, 1870.

Applications in writing from parties desirous of recting Belmont (Judge Peters') Mansion (as seen as the same is put in repair), for a Restaurant will be received for one week at this office daily, between the hours of 9 A. M. and 3 P. M. The applications must state the name, residence, and ecoupation of the applicant, and the price or rent offered for the remainder of the present year. Particulars can be learned at this office. Each application must be addressed to the Commissioners of Fairmeunt Park, and marked on the outside "Application for Restaurant."

DAVID FOLEY,

3315t

Secretary of Park Commission.

A MEETING OF THE STOCK-holders of the NATIONAL RAILWAY COMPANY will be held at the Office of the Company in the city of Philadelphia on SATURDAY, April 9, 1879, at 12 o'clock M., for the purpose of electing a President and Board of Directors.

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LEGAL NOTICES.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA.—THOMAS W. SWEENEY, of Reading, in the County of Berks, and State of Pennsylvania, in the said District, a Barkrupt, who formerly carried on business in Philadelphia, Pa., under the firm name of T. W. Sweeney, Jr., said firm being composed of himself and R. Hollman and Isaac Wells, both of Minersville, Pa., having petitioned for his discharge, a meeting of creditors will be held on the 12th day of April, a. D. 1870, at 12 o'clock P. M., before Register H. MALTZBERGER, at his office, No. 46 N. SIXTH Street, Reading, Pa., that the examination of the said bankrupt may be finished, and any business of meetings required by sections 27 or 28 of the act of Congress transacted. The Register will certify whether the Bankrupt has conformed to his duly. A nearing will also be had on WEDNENDAY, the 27th day of April, A. D. 1870, before the Court at Philadelphia, at 10 o'clock A. M., when and where parties in interest may show cause against the discharge.

Witness the Hon. JOHN CADWALADER, Judge of the said District Court, and the seal thereof, at Philadelphia, the 19th day of March, A. D. 1870.

G. R. FOX, Clerk.

Attest—H. Maltzeberger, Register. IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED

Attest-H. MALTZBERGER, Register. 41 t27 IN THE ORPHANS' COURT FOR THE CITY

IN THE ORPHANS' COURT FOR THE CITY AND COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA.

Estate of ROBERT C. MCLKOD, deceased.

The Auditor appointed by the Court to audit, settle, and adjust the account of THOMAS C. McLEOD and JOHN J. BARTHOLOMEW, Executors of the estate of ROBERT MCLEOD, deceased, and to report distribution of the balance in the hands of the accountant, will meet the parties interested, for the purposes of his appaintment, on THURSDAY, April 7, 1870, at 4 o'clock F. M., at his office, No. 118 South SIXTH Street (second story), in the city of Philadelphia.

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