#### SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

SOME CONSIDERATIONS FOR PROTES-TANT CONTROVERSIALISTS.

From the N. Y. Nation. The controversy about the Bible in the schools is rapidly spreading. In this State it promises to furnish, before very long, one of the most exciting political issues we have ever had, owing to the unscrupulousness displayed by the Catholies in obtaining from the Albany Legislature large votes of money— amounting in the present year to half a million of dollars for the support of their schools. Their success in this sort of operation, too, not unnaturally renders them less disposed than ever to aid their Protestant neighbors in the discovery of a modus vivendi on the school question. They do not care whether Bible-reading in the public schools is abandoned, and, indeed, show some signs of being as much opposed to it as the High Protestant party, who consider the Bible-reading one of the most important parts of the school curriculum. As long as the Bible is read at the opening of the school exercises, and is read for the reasons assigned by Judge Storer in the recent decision of the Superior Court in Cincinnati, and by some Protestant clergy, the priests have an argument in favor of separate Catholic schools such as nothing else could furnish them. All the good which, according to the Protestant view, a Catholic child gets by listening to the Scriptures is, according to the Catholic view, so much poison; and, the more eager Protestants show themselves for its administration, the more frantic are Catholics bound to become in escaping from it. The reason, too, is obvious —it is drawn from the very constitution of the Catholic Church. She is, on the Catholic theory, the sole teacher of truth. Nothing which reaches the soul through any other channel, however respectable, is instruction in righteousness. She knows nothing of morals apart from dogma. She recognizes no man as good who is not a good Catholic. The Bible is a good book in the hands of a priest. expounding it in the manner directed by the Church; in the hands of a layman, and, above all, of a heretic layman, it is nothing but a snare and stumbling-block.

There are some Protestants, we are sorry to say, into whose heads it seems impossible to hammer a proper comprehension of the Catholie position on this subject, and who, nevertheless, as might be expected, insist on taking a heated and active part in the pending controversy, and never open their lips without making a settlement of it more difficult and more remote. They talk of the Bible as if it occupied the same position in Catholic that it occupies in Protestant theology, and as if the differences between the two churches were simply differences of interpetration—the fact being that the Catholies do not and never have acknowledged it as a final authority, or as the sole basis of the claims of their Church to the respect and obedience of Christendom. All they draw from it is corroborative evidence as to the correctness of the Church's own account of its origin and history. For instance, Christ's well-known declaration to Peter, so often cited in support of the supremacy of the Roman See, they treat simply as a corroboration of what has "always, everywhere, and by all" been received and acknowledged as Catholic truth, or, in other words, of ecclesiastical tradition. It is this distinction which gives an air of positive self-stultification to a large number of the arguments in favor of compulsory Bible-reading in the schools, which one hears both from the platform and the bench and the press. Nobody has a right to attack a position, or, at all events, nobody can attack it with success, without understanding it. It is melancholy to listen, as one has nowadays sometimes, to a long string of reasons for not yielding to the Catholic view, every one of which helps to confirm the Catholic in his view—the Catholic being the only person who needs to be convinced, or who is giving any trouble.

The very first thing to be done by Protestants before engaging in the warfare which is now apparently before them, is to strengthen the one weak point in their own case, a that is the removal from the State education of the one feature which prevents it being really and truly secular education simply. It must be remembered that it is not enough that Protestants should acknowledge that the common-school education is simply secular; Catholics must acknowledge it; and Catholics cannot be expected to acknowledge it, on the Protestants' own showing, as long as Bible-reading forms part of it. The very tenacity with which Protestants cling to it they justify on the ground that it is religious instruction, and, of course, religious instruction of a Protestant complexion; without it, Judge Storer says the children would be 'left without a God in the world;" or, in other words, without a religious creed. The whole system of school instruction should be such that no sect can say that it contains anything likely to help to spread the tenets of any other sect. It will, doubtless, still be said that schools in which no religion is taught are "godless schools," but this we cannot help: for the "godlessness" of schools all sects have a ready remedy by teaching religion at home, or by clerical instrumentality out of school hours. If a system of this kind does not satisfy all, nothing will. No nearer approach to a satisfactory system of state education can ever, in the existing condition of the human mind, be made; and when we have got it into working order, we have the consolation of knowing that it cannot be assailed by any argument which does not touch its very existence: that, in short, there is no pretence or deception about it. The second thing Protestants have to do, if

they mean to bring this controversy to a reasonable and satisfactory settlement within the lifetime of the present generation, is to avoid talking of and treating Catholics as necessarily enemies of free government, and their religion as incompatible with true allegiance to the State in which they live. One hears a good deal of this just now from the pulpit as well as from the platform, and it is both misleading and inexpedient. Nothing can be more absurd, for instance, as well as unfair, than Mr. Hepworth's performance in citing the Pope's cal and the appended Encycli-Syllabus by way of proving that Catholics are not likely to be good citizens, or are likely to bear divided allegiance, or, in case of a confliet of authority, to side with the Pope rather than with the American Government. All that the Encyclical proves, in the eyes of the best observers, is what the proceedings at the Œcumenical Council are proving every day, that the Pope is a very simple-minded and somewhat fanatical old monk, in the hands of very bad advisors, composed, in the main, of Roman Jesuits. The anxiety the most enlightened Catholics feel about his

world from religion itself. Nothing can be more preposterons than the assumption that any government is afraid that the Syllabus will weaken its authority, though many Catholic governments do fear that it may complicate their relations with the Catholic clergy, already made very troublesome by the process of secularization through which even the most bigoted Catholic States are passing before our eyes. In no countries is the Papal authority so weak at this moment as in Cathelic countries-countries which the Pophas had for ages at his feet. If the Syllabus be a laughing-stock in France and Austria and Bavaria, and even in Spain, and the greatest Catholic theologians of the European continent make light of Papal pretensions, it is a little too bad to have it used as a red rag in American pulpits to rouse the Protestant bull into fury. The Catholic laity have never in any country, or in any age, accepted the ecclesiastical measure either of the province of the church or of the dues of the state, and they are not likely to make a beginning in the United States But there is one striking example in historyperhaps the most awful of all the lessons his tory has to offer-of the folly of treating Catholics as if they did believe all the worst and wildest doctrines that could be dug out by controversialists from the ponderous tomes of Catholic theologians and canonists, and that is Ireland. Ireland is what she is to-day because Protestant England has persisted for two centuries in legislating for her on the hypothesis that everything the Pope Irish Catholics believed, and that any order he chose to issue they would surely execute. We all see the result pleasant and successful, is it not? We do not believe that a true and satisfac-

tory reconciliation of the Catholic Church. as its doctors define it, with modern society will ever be effected. This reconciliation is a dream in which many great Catholics of recent times, from Lammenais to Montalembert and Father Hyacinthe, have sought refuge from distressing internal doubts and conflicts; but one has only to read even a moderate statement of the church's claims, and take even an imperfect view of the condition of modern States, to feel that a dream it must forever remain. The relations of the Catholic clergy to the state must always be, as they are now, marked by hostility and aggressiveness on the one side and suspicion on the other; but this furnishes no excusa for attempts to drive the Catholic laity into their arms, by pretending to regard them as being in all things the humble and submissive sheep the priests would like to have them. The way the Catholic Church gets along in modern society is by letting the laymen manage politics pretty much as they please; and the only true and statesmanlike course for American Protestants to adopt in dealing with the Catholic laymen is to treat them as men like ourselves, permeated like us by the modern spirit, treading the solid ground of utility in dealing with secular affairs, ready to argue and open to conviction, and not as a parcel of devotees, led by the hand by the monks, fed on legends, and requiring to be followed

to the polls by a spiritual director. We say this on the supposition that no Protestant gentleman has as vet discovered any short and speedy method of getting rid of the Catholics, and that we have to live with and make the best of about 8,000,000 of them, who, if not educated or attached to the Government somehow, are pretty certain to furnish a considerable supply of robbers and murderers, and a disturbing element in our politics of no mean power. But, if anybody has bit on any plan of rooting them out before the next Presidential election, of course we are willing to see it tried, provided it be not too inhuman or treacherous, or does not involve the slaughter of young children. These can, of course, be saved and brought up in the common schools as indomitable Protestants.

# LIBERTY OF THE PRESS.

From the Pall Mall Gazette The only part of the Irish Peace Preservation bill which has met with general disfavor, even from Irish members, is the part which gives the Government summary powers to suppress seditious newspapers; and the strictures on this provision are the only hostile criticisms which are at all likely to command assent even from the most advanced section of English Liberals. They are so far from commanding any such assent from us that we believe that without this power the Irish executive would be totally unable to cope with so enormous an evil as the seditious journalism of Ireland; but there is an air of plausibility about the considerations opposed to restraining the Irish press which make it worth while to state with some detail why we attach no weight to them.

Mr. Maguire laid some stress on the argument supposed to be derivable from the analogy of France. It is true that the French Government, even before the late changes, deliberately divested themselves of a power similar to that with which the Irish Government now ask Parliament to invest them. But Mr. Maguire left out the important fact that the now discarded system was by no means a temporary one. The French Government did not suppress papers as an avowed act of self-preservation. Had they done nothing more than this, and had they been able to prove that no measure short of this would answer the end, the course they took would so far have been justified. But there must be something radically wrong in a constitution which can only be kept alive by the habitual use of such extremely strong medicines, and the great vice of the French press law was that it had nothing to mark that it was not designed to be permanent. A second difference between the powers entrusted to the Executive in the two cases consists in the absence from the French system of any proper definition of the offenses against which it was directed. No doubt it is not easy, even in England, to give an off-hand description of the crime of treason. But in practice the line between political criticism and sedition is drawn with sufficient distinctness, whereas in France, until lately, it was not drawn at all. Articles which in England would be classed among attacks more or less pungent upon the members of the Cabinet. counted in France as attempts to bring the Government into hatred and contempt. The law of which the Courrier du Dimanche, for example, was the victim, was as different from that now proposed for Ireland as the articles in the Irishman are from the writings of M Prevost-Paradol. And even if the French law had been exclusively applicable to cases of treason or sedition the limitation would have been worthless, for the simple reason that there would have been no means of vindicating it when it was transgressed. There is nothing in France answering to the right of action for damages which is given by the Peace bill to every aggrieved newspaper pro-

prietor. There is no ground for doubting that

this provision will constitute a perfectly

course is due not to their fear that he will adequate protection for all such journalists reduce the Catholic world to slavery, but to as deserve to be protected. Treasonable their fear that he will alienate the Catholic writing is in practice very easily separable from the strongest writing that is not treasonable. It may not be so in countries which are not under constitutional government, because in these to attack the system of rale is to attack the person of the ruler. But among ourselves there is a perfectly appreciable difference between attacking this or that law, or agitating for this or that change, and advocating treason. The seditious press of Ireland has never attempted to keep within any well-drawn line. It has scorned the idea of caution and accustomed its readers from the beginning to the very strongest possible meats. Exhortations to throw off the English yoke and easy lessons in insurrectionary warfare have been its staple teaching all along. That the clause which gives its proprietary a right of action by way of redress for annihilation will remain a dead letter is likely enough; but it will remain so, not because there is any difficulty in getting damages when the Government

has made a mistake, but because the charac-

ter of the condemned journals will be so un-

mistakable that no effrontery will be equal to

the task of establishing their loyalty. Another objection alleged against this part of the bill is that it ruins the innocent printers and lets the guilty writers escape. But in political offenses, even more than in any others, the primary end of punishment is the safety of the community. We have never very much respect for the thin-end-of-the-wedge style of argument, and in this case it seems to be more than ordinarily destitute of force. If the press were a declining power in this country, with enemies and rivals rising up around it and threatening to supersede its influence, there might be some excuse for such fears. But, instead of this, the press is daily arrogating to itself more and more the functions which were formerly discharged by Parliament, by the Church, and by the law courts. Newspapers have become a necessary of modern life, and those who provide them have all the strength which belongs to the exclusive possessors of a commodity in universal demand. But if there are any timid souls who still look on a free press as a precarious blessing that may be snatched from them at any moment, we commend two considerations to their notice. The worst enemy of journalism is the man who would substitute insurrection for discussion. Amid the din of civil strife newspapers as well as laws are necessarily silent. If the Govern-

bout the end for which it labors. Further, it must be remembered that the editions press of Ireland differs from most of its predecessors in that or any other country, in being a preacher of murder, not of rebellion of murder which cannot even be dignified with the name of political assassination. By common consent a newspaper which attacks private characloses the immunities with which it is invested so long as it restricts itself to the region of public affairs. The lives of individuals are, to say the least, not less sacred than their characters; and even the fanatics who maintain that the tyrannicide should go unpunished will hardly assert the same liberty for the preachers of agrarian massacre. Perhaps the best argument for the press clauses of the Peace Preservation bill is that the journalists who will suffer under them have already forsaken their calling to become the panders of private revenge.

ment cherished a secret desire to put a bridle

upon English journalism, their true policy

would be to let a certain section of Irish

journalism have its own way, and bring

#### A WAIL OF GENUINE AGONY. From the Lexington (Mo.) Caucasian.

Down! Down!!! During the whole nine years of radical rule! The proudest freest, most enlightened, prosperous, and happy nation on the globe in 1860. The lowest, basest, poorest, most utterly brutalized and enslayed in 1870! Cotton-field niggers legislating for the descendants of the Washington, Randolphs, Hamptons, and Lees! A Pennsylvania nigger befouling the seat of Piokens and Pinckney, on the Supreme Bench of South Carolina! A nigger barber scrawling his boorish X mark to the legislative enactments of Louisiana, as Lieutenant Governor, and President of the State Senate! A nigger cabin boy signing the commissions of Congressmen, Sheriffs, and Circuit Judges, as Secretary of State of Mississippi! And a thievish nigger preacher grinning and combing his lousy wool in the place once filled by the hero, statesman, and patriot, Jefferson Davis, in the United States Senate, so called, whilst a leprous, ulcer-eaten Senator and ex-Governor congratulates his associate blackguards and the country on the change!

God of the ruined and the desolate! Was ever a people so fallen before? Men of the North! Men of the South! Americans Countrymen! Fellow slaves! Awake! Arise! Shake off your lethargy, and face the Truth! Give the hellions who've wrought the horrid change a little longer lease of power, and no Gabriel in all the wide universe, though he should split his mighty tooter, can ever sound a blast powerful enough to rescue us from the tenfold political death and damnation to which we're doomed! Cease your dastardly truckling and yielding to the death-deserving conspirators who have usurped the Government! Cease your infamous temporizing, your cring-ing and your fawning! Set your face, like stubborn steel, against them and all their accursed schemes!

Remember that they are your enemiesthe enemies of the republic-enemies of the Constitution-sworn foes of liberty-foes of God, and of common humanity! Encouraging them, "conciliating" them, is tampering with your own destruction! They must be overthrown, annihilated, or you, we, and our country are eternally undone!

# CLOSE THE BOOKS!

From the N. Y. Tribune. Yesterday, the colored men of our city cele brate, by a procession, followed by a public meeting, the completion of the good work of their emancipation by the ratification of the fifteenth amendment to the Federal Constitution. We ardently trust that all may unite in the fervent hope that the rights won for the black race may be so exercised as to benefit

not themselves only, but our whole people. To-day, the American Anti-Slavery Society-which has fought the battle of universal freedom bravely, if not always wisely for the last forty years-meets to disband its organization, in testimony that its warfare is accomplished. Seldom has so small a body contended so persistently, unflinchingly, for so great a truth: seldom has a cause which, at the outset, seemed to ordinary vision so hopeless, achieved such unqualified triumph

in the lifetime of its first apostles. That triumph is of moment not alone in our country. It tolls the knell of human bondage throughout the civilized world. For the second time the truth is to be established and enforced that a Christian can neither originate nor prolong the hereditary enslavement of any race of men. It may take a few

more years to banish the last vestiges of human chattelhood from tropical America; but the end is no longer doubtful nor remote. The dawn of the next century will irradiate no

slave-kut in Christendom. For what has been achieved, as also for its fruits not yet realized, let universal thanksgivings ascend to God. The Millennium is not here, and not likely soon to be. Injustice, oppression, and tyranny-fraud, profligacy, and misery-still darken the earth. Sensuality and iniquity abound. Corruption and prodigality profane the high places of the land. Abject poverty and brutal ignorance are still the lot of millions, even in this boasted land of freedom and opportunity. Yet it is very much to have established firmly the principle that the law is no good man's enemy, but the friend of every virtuous effort. If the State is yet unable to lift all men up, it no longer holds any down. The child born to-morrow in the most squalid hovel may yet become President of the United

And now is the time to seal our great triumph by enacting and proclaiming universal amnesty. Our civil war virtually closed with Lee's surrender five years ago. No armed force has marched or fired a shot under the flag of the Southern Confederacy since May, 1865. There are bad men who still commit outrages; there is not, and for years has not been, any open, embodied resistance to the Federal authority and laws. It is high time that every one were officially assured that no penalty still impends over him for anything done or threatened in the interest and under the flag of the Rebellion.

We ought for our own sakes to identify universal amnesty with impartial suffrage. We ought to make one the complement of the other, so that they should henceforth have a common vitality, a common longevity. We ought to be able to say, "The edifice is crowned; the work is complete; henceforth, woe to him who recklessly disturbs and im-

There are still heart-burnings at the South There are men who lament the fall of the Confederacy, and do not love the flag of the Union. Proscription and disfranchisement are the aliment whereon their morbid feelings subsist. They are (in effect) patents of nobility in the eyes of a class respectable in numbers and strong in social position. To say of a Southron, "He cannot vote: he is forbidden to hold office," is to invest him with a peculiar and often envied distinction. His children take up the quarrel which a mistaken policy fastens upon him; they are trained to hate the Government which brands him as unworthy the rights of a citizen, and to detest the race with whose enfranchisement his proscription is in their minds identified. We can never have genuine peace while we still hold many thousands as virtual prisoners of war.

Let us close the contest! Let those who are grandly triumphant be wisely magnanimous. Let us shut the temple of Janus, and proclaim to all mankind that we have forgotten that we were lately enemies and remember only that we were formerly brethren. Let us till the ranks of loyalty by effacing all pretext for further disloyalty. Let the world rejoicingly note that, as the blood of no prostrate foe stains our triumph, no vindictive feeling lingers in our heartsthat we conquered, not for a party, a caste, a section, but for all humanity. Let us have Peace!

#### A TILT AT TILTON. From the N. Y. World.

The cause of woman suffrage is not likely to suffer for want of champions. First there was the original "Equal Rights Association," sanctified by the membership of Miss Anthony and Mrs. Stanton. Then some bilious and blighted women of Boston and New Jersey, being envious, it would appe just pre-eminence of these two champions, held a convention to make a new association at Cleveland-far, as they fondly dreamed, from the malign influence of Miss Anthony and the too-persuasive lips of Mrs. Stanton. But, alas, at a critical conjuncture entered to them, thus tranquilly laying snares for her authority, Susan, proclaimed her love for them and her irrepressible intention of adhering to them for better, for worse. She would never, never desert Mr. Micawber. But the convention passed her by and elected Mr. Beecher to preside over their separate councils. This aroused the anger, it would appear, of Mr. Theodore Tilton, whose paper, the Independent, used formerly to be floated by its reports of the sermons of Mr. Beecher, which were all at once withdrawn from it and it has since picked up a precarious exist-ence by "illustrations" awful to regard, which have converted it into a sort of religious flash paper, having all the pi-quancy without the impiety of the secular article. But Mr. Beecher has never been beloved by the Independent since he withdrew his eloquence from it, and it was naturally objectionable to its editor that Mr. Beecher should come in at the eleventh hour and overshadow him, who had borne the burden and heat of the day in the female suffrage field. The smouldering discontent of Mr. Tilton has broken out into, first a call, next a convention, and now, finally, an association of which the excellent prejector is at last the President, having subordinate offices without number. The laborers, truly, are plen-teens, but the harvest is "few."

#### SPECIAL NOTICES. MR. WANAMAKER

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SPECIAL NOTICES. AMERICAN ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

THE STAR COURSE OF LECTURES. SUPPLEMENTARY LECTURE. BY MISS OLIVE LOGAN, On SATURDAY AFTERNOON, April 16.

Subject (by request)-"GIRLS." Admission, 50 cents. Reserved Seats, 25 cents extra. Tickets for sale at Gould's Piano Rooms, No. 923 OHES-NUT Street. Doors open at 2 o'clock P. M.; Lecture at 3 P. M. CARL SENTZ'S PARLOR ORCHESTRA ill perform choice musical selections previous to the

DES" SENATOR REVEL AT HORTICULTURAL HALL, On THURSDAY EVENING, April 14.

The sale of Secured Seats will sommence on MONDAY MORNING, THE 11TH INST.,

Subject-"THE PRESS."

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OFFICE OF THE FRANKLIN FIRE INSURANCE OO.,

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of this Company, held this day, a semi-annual dividend of SIX PER CENT, were declared on the capital stock, payable to the stockholders or their legal representatives on and after the 14th inst., dear of all taxes.

J. W. MCALLISTER, Secretary.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO THE subscribers to the Capital Stock of "THE PEO-PLE'S BANK" that a meeting will be held at No. 144 S. SIXTH Street, on THURSDAY, the 5th day of May next, at 10 o'clock A. M., for the purpose of organizing said Bank and electing officers and directors.

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Dear Sire:—It gives us pleasure to and our testimonial as
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Which you have already.

OUR PATENT CHAMPION SAFE, which we purchased from you thirteen years ago, was opened on the morning after the fire (which occurred on the night of February 23, destroying some of our finest brick buildings), to OUR ENTIRE SATISFACTION, our books and papers oring in almost as good condition as when they were placed therein, notwithstanding the intense heat to which the Safe had been subjected.

The locks answered readily to the keys. Respectfully, etc., SHACKELFORD, BROWN & CO.

GALVESTON, Texas. March 1, 1870.

Messrs. Henning, Farnel. & Shenman, New York. Dear Sirs: The fire which occurred during the night of the 23d ultimo destroyed the brick building in which we

NUMBER TWO.

had our office. The Safe in our use was one of your PATENT CHAM. PIONS, so justly celebrated; it fell from the second story on its face, among Coal Oil and Turpentine, which was still burning when we undertook to open it THIRTY SIX HOURS after the fire; it had, therefore, during that time been subjected to a most INTENSE HEAT; much to our surprise, we opened it with the key and found our books, papers, etc., in REMARKABLY GOOD ORDER.

We are satisfied from the test to which our Safe was put that YOUR PATENT SAFES ARE PREFERABLE TO ALL OTHERS for resisting the action of Fire.
Respectfully yours. BURNETT & WALL.

#### NUMBER THREE. GALVESTON, Texas, March 1, 1870.

Messys. Henning, Farrel & Sherman, New York: Gentlamen — Another very large and destructive fire risited our Island City on Wednesday night, February 23, reducing to ashes several of our largest business houses. One of your PATENT CHAMPION SAFES, containing our books, papers, and other valuables, including a Gold Warch, remained in the ruins until yesterday afternoon, FIVE DAYS AFIER THE FIRE, before we had it opened. We found the contents in EXCELLENT CON-DITION. The great heat to which your Safes have been subjected, and their wonderful victories over the flery fiend in both of these late very large fires, fully entitle them to the confidence of the business public as SURE AND PERFECT PROTECTION for the preservation of books and valuables in any fire, Truly yours,
COOK & WOODVILLE,

Also, within the past thirty days, at the GREAT FIRES IN NEWARK, N. J., GALESBURG, ILL., TOWANDA, PA., AND RACINE, WIS, HERRING'S SAFES HAVE TRIUMPHED Where others have failed.

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