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

THE PHILADELPHIA FESTIVAL. From the N. Y. World.

Some eighty odd years ago, when a few hundred officers of the Continental army of the Revolution, at the close of the war, ganized a social reunion, with a mild distinctive badge and the slightest possible sus-picion of "inheritance," the sensibilities of party, if not of the people, were aroused, and the thing was regarded as dangerous. "I look upon it," wrote Mr. Jefferson, gravely, to General Washington in 1786, as the germ whose development is one day to destroy the fabric we have reared." One smiles in reading this who nowadays sees on the Fourth of July the feeble remnants and inheriters of this association with a bit of blue ribbon in their button-Still, whether it was an honest, creditable distrust, or an idle, causeless suspicion, we have gotten bravely over it; and now we have around us military associa-tions of all kinds and description—"Grand Armies" and "Great Reunions," "Armies of the Cumberland" and "Armies of the Potomac"-designed avowedly to embalm the memories, not as with our ancesstors, of a war against oppression, real or imaginary, but of "that worst of wars, a war of brethren;" and not merely that, but if such orators as Martindale are to have their say, of the sectional and doctrinal antipathies in which the war originated. A social reunion-nay, even an eleemosynary one—of the survivors of days of peril and hardship no one can object to; but when the development of per-sonal sympathy ripens into a huge parade, on which are engrafted political ha-rangues and acrid, though monstously stupid, poetry and the expression of professional animosities, the thing is very different. Such we find, from the reported proceedings and the concurrent testimony of gallant men who come discontented from the scene, was the recent Potomac pageant in Philadelphia, at which Sheridan, as if in mockery of all Quaker tradition, with the fresh blood of the Piegan pappooses on his hands, presided, and Grant assisted, and Sherman, who had as little to do with the Army of the Potomac as he has with the noble army of the liturgy, took part, and Meade, sarrounded by his enemies, played second fiddle, and Franklin sate unnoticed, and McClellan was barely mentioned—though when he was there was an outburst from the

It must have been a curious sight, this gathering in the Philadelphia Academy of Music; that accursed building whence, but a week before, Revels had been excluded, and across whose pelluted threshold-so says a radical newspaper now before us-"no decent man ought ever again to put his foot.' It is not easy, looking at what was said and done, to say why it was held in Philadelphia at all, or even in Pennsylvania, when we note that the Governor of the Commonwealth (of whom we are no partisans), though himself a soldier of the Army of the Potomac, and wounded on the field of Gettysburg on Pennsylvania soil, was not invited to be present, and the native-born soldiers of the State and city were not noticed, or, worse, sneered at. General Meade, albeit not native-born, but native-bred, was there, and is spoken of by our neighbor of the Tribune, who had an ecstatic reporter on hand, "as having the face of an aristocratic Philadelphian, graduated out of one of the medical schools, with a touch of Dundreary in his stoop and dim eyes;" while Sheridan's "cheery countenance and bright face gathering rather too much blood"—that is, apoplectically inclined—is commemorated. Meade, we repeat, was there, with his modest right-hand man, Andrew Humphreys; and as he looked round he saw, besides Sheridan, by whom he was overslaughed, not Sickles, transtated to a higher sphere, nor Butterfield, absent for a different reason, but Pleasonton, the most active of the conspirators against him, and a crowd of others who had tried to blast the laurels when they were fresh upon his brow. So much for Gettysburg, which saved Philadelphia; but what of Antietam; what of him-native of Philadelphia, whom his venerable mother and all his near kindred love-who saved the Army of the Potomac, for which Lincoln, not much addicted to reverential supplication, begged that "God would bless him?" If invited to join them, a majority of the rivals around rejoiced in his absence, and his name was grudgingly mentioned.

masses which the party managers, civil and

military, could not control.

But then, besides a speech, of which we have once spoken, there was a poem and a poet. The latter is thus described by the Tribune:-"Boker, the war poet-the hand-some Boker, as they call him in Philadelphia, and picture to themselves a kind of Dutch Byron, too drowsy to be gra d and too well-behaved to be wicked-a lyric poet, whose noblest and boldest fire only smoulders amid such an oratorical verseessay as he read." Now, from this high praise, though perhaps a little unintelligible. we do not wish to detract a tittle; but duty to truth compels us to say that on this occasion the "war poet" played the Army of the Potomac what, in no personal disparagement, we must describe as a scurvy trick. Like "Mrs. Cole," in Foote's farce, "he tipped them an old trader," and actually read to them as fresh a poem which was in print certainly six months ago, and is contained in Mr. Boker's last volume. Now, while it may be admitted that Homer and Horace, and Virgil and Milton, and the more direct prototype of all, Pindar; are always fresh, the antiseptic process has not yet touched Boker. Nearly a year ago we read, on very nice letter-press of Mr. Lippincott, such lines as these, which last week were recited as new in the Academy of Music: -

"With growing courage, day by day, I hung Above the soldier of the quiet tongue; Sneers hissed about him, penmen fought his war; Here he was lacking, there he went too far; Alas, how bloody! But, alack, how tame! O for Lee's talent!—O ye, fools for shame! From the first move his foe defensive stood And'was that nothing? It was worth the bi And was that nothing? It was worth the blood.
O Chief Supreme, the head of glory's roll!
O will of steel; O lofty, generous soul,
Sharing thy laurels, lest a comrade want;
Why should I name thee? Every mouth cries,

This, according to the canon of the Tribune, may be very fine, but it won't bear iteration. When Major Pendennis, an old soldier, was invited to Lady Clavering's second day's dinner he was very wroth, though he went. So the soldiers of the Potomac had to swallow Mr. Boker's cold meat, or hash, and be content. Such verses as we have quoted are not very palatable when hot; but when stale, not to speak irreverently of a Boston staple, they are as insipid as cold

That after such suffering-after Martindale's speech and Boker's poem-there should be some compensation in the form of

a banquet was but fair, and a banquet there

was. At which we read: was. At which we read:—
"What else shall be said of the feast? Meade presided; Sherman made a speech, and chatted with Burnside or Schofield or Belknap; Grant betimes blew smoke through his nose and looked imperturbable. Belknap was asked to speak for him, but misunderstood, and spoke at him. After all, if Grant can eat and smoke, why should he not speak? The example of smoking is, perhaps, no better than that of speaking, and of speakers the evening was roll."

And then we are told that "no one talked with better brevity than ex-Secretary Borie in his tribute to Captain Williams of the Oneida"—explaining, we trust, why the de-partment had not given him boats enough to save his drowning crew; and, finally, it concludes with a description of post-prandial agony which only a Philadelphia orator is capable of inflicting. "The feast of reason was also inspired by Secretaries Cox and Belknap, and the excruciating but irresistible eloquence of that highly popular orator,

Daniel Dougherty."

And the curtain fell on what might, under proper direction, have been a scene of kind and genial fellowship, but which, prostituted by politics, was a hollow and a dismal pageant. The camp-fires on the Rappahannock or in the Wilderness created a purer glow in the hearts of those who clustered round them in the moment of danger than did the garish footlights of the Academy or the empty champagne bottles of the Conti-nental in the hour of triumph.

HOW MONEY IS RAISED IN ENGLAND.

From the N. Y. Times.

The account of Mr. Lowe's budget which has been transmitted to us by telegraph contains too many obvious mistakes to allow of our placing much dependence upon it. For instance, we are told that the "budget was passed" on the day it was introduced—a feat in legislation which seems to have astounded a Newark contemporary, as well it might, The "budget" cannot have been passed, be cause it is never submitted to a vote of the House en bloc. Resolutions for separate taxes are taken up separately, and on Monday a motion for reducing the sugar duty was em-bodied in a resolution, and that was passed. But the measure as a whole has yet to be thoroughly discussed in Committee of Ways and Means, and this work will probably not be even begun until after Easter. Again, the figures given by the telegraph

as the estimates made in 1869 for the year 1869-70 do not correspond with the official figures now before us. But when all necessary allowances have been made for maccuracies, the broad fact remains that the financial condition of Great Britain is prosperous now, and promises well for the future. There is a surplus of receipts over expenditure of £8,000,000 in round numbers, and nearly every department of the revenue has been more productive than was anticipated. This is a state of affairs that may well delight the heart of any finance minister. That it is greatly owing to the scientific method of levying taxes and duties now adopted in England, cannot be doubted. Long practice, many costly failures, and the devotion of the ablest men in the nation to the task of managing the exchequer, have enabled the Government to raise a very large amount of money with the least possible inconve-nience to the people. Thus the customs duties are confined to a handful of articles, and yet they produced over twenty-one millions. So the income tax produced upwards of ten millions-fifty millions of dollarsalthough the rate was no more than five pence in the pound-or a little over two per cent. An income tax here of five per cent. produces considerably less than this, while the persons liable to the tax are probably more numerous here than in England. This might well lead our financiers to consider whether they have yet hit upon the best method of assessment and collection. The income tax is now to be reduced in England to four pence in the pound, or about one and two-thirds per cent. We propose to raise a much smaller amount with a tax of three per

Our customs duties embrace a very large number of articles, while, as we have said, in England very few are touched. In gross expenditure, England is not so favorably situated as we are. The interest on her national debt amounts to three and a third per cent. on her gross income; the maintenance of her army and navy entails a charge of another three and a third per cent.; the internal administration costs two per cent.; the local taxation amounts to nearly three per cent.-altogether, about eleven and a half per cent. of the gross income of the nation. But let this fact be borne in mind:—In England there is no tax left in the statute book on actual necessaries of life. The last duty on corn, of a shilling per quarter, was abolished by Mr. Lowe in 1869. It was little more than a nominal duty, for it only realized £870,000. The duties on tea (sixpence in the pound), coffee, and sugar (one penny in the pound), still exist, and Mr. Lowe seems to have told the House of Commons on Monday that at present he could not do entirely without them. He has made no great remission of taxation this year, except the penny in the pound sterling on the income tax, and a halfpenny in the pound weight on sugar. Some trade exemptions are all that he allows in addition.

With regard to the income tax, the exemptions here are much greater than they are in England, but still it cannot be doubted that at the rate of five per cent. the tax ought to bring more into the Treasury than it does. The amount realized in the last fiscal year was only \$34,791,856, while the Secretary to the Treasury thought he had a right to calculate on at least forty million dollars. There can be no question that the tax is evaded to a very large extent, but the chief cause of its comparative failure is the rash way in which exemptions have been allowed, especially in the case of the agricultural class.

Another point worth noticing is that the taxes in England are so levied as to draw considerably more money from the rich than the poor. It has been calculated by Mr. R. Dudley Baxter, an excellent statistician, that what are called the "upper and middle classes" in England contribute £54,000,000 to the national income, and the "manual labor class" £29,112,000. Professor Levi, another recognized authority, estimates that the per-centage of taxes to income in the case of the working classes is five and a half per cent., while the upper and middle classes pay twelve and a half. The aim of English finan-ciers is undoubtedly that which has been well defined by Mr. Bright-"The taxes which now exist ought to be put on a satisfactory and honest footing, so that every man, and every description of property, may be called upon in its just proportion to support the burdens and necessities of the State." This ought to be the chief end and object of financiers everywhere, until the happy time ar-rives when we can do without the taxes alto-

-General Rosecrans wants a treaty made with Mexico enabling American citizens to build railroads in that country,

AT LAST.

Senator Revels Delivers His Lecture-Horti-cultural Hall Crowded to Excess An Able

Despite the opposition of the Board of Directors of the Academy of Music, Senator Revels, of Mississippi, has been allowed to deliver a lecture in our city. Horticultural Hall last night presented an audience and a scene that would have gladdened the heart of the most eloquent Caucasian. As early as 7 o'clock crowds commenced pouring into the handsome edifice, and long before the eloquent son of the once despised race appeared it was filled to excess. At precisely a quarter before 8 o'clock Senator Revels was introduced by Robert Purvis, Esq., in a few eulogistic remarks.

After the applause had somewhat subsided the lecturer started at once on his theme,

"The Press." I have always borne to the land of Penn a peculiar affection. The good old Quaker stock of its citizens always excited my admiration. They have always been the champions of equal rights. In the days gone by the black men always knew who their friends were. The descendants of Penn were always ready to aid them when it cost something to extend such aid. A quarter of a century has hardly passed since Dr. McClintock was arraigned at the bar of justice for defending their rights. I have always had a high respect for him; and when the news of his death reached me in Washing-ton I felt that abolitionism had lost one of its ablest defenders. Every Quakeress is a and when they come up to their yearly con-ferences they show like troops of the shining ones. It requires nothing to convince us of the purity of William Penn's character. History speaks for him. He treated with the Indians as they have never been treated with since the foundation of our Government.

When requested to address the citizens of Philadelphia, in casting about me for a theme on which to say a few words to-night, I was be wildered by the multiplicity of subjects presented to my notice. My own people were pressing their claims upon me, and not only them, but the cause of freedom throughout the world. The solution of the great problems of this land are of the greatest importance. I forget for the nonce the realms of thought that would lead me into the land of poetry. The questions agitating the country called for my attention. Just coming into the public notice Attention. Just coming into the public notice I, of course, did not entirely appreciate all that might be required of me as the representative of my race. But I did fully realize that the action of the Senate would be of immeasurable importance to the colored people, and their future place in American legislation. To gain the recreation which I needed, and give play to a high-strung mental tension, I employed the hours of the early stage of my residence in the capital in surveying the objects of curiosity capital in surveying the objects of curiosity

which attract the stranger. Here the speaker gave at some length a description of what he saw in the various departments at Washington, and continued:—I reserved as the most interesting point to me, the visit to the Patent Office. Amid a multiplicity of other matters I noticed the old printing press of Benjamin Franklin, the "Boston Printer and the Philadelphia Philosopher." The words of Elliott came into my mind, and here I received the suggestions that eventually settled upon the

"Press" as the subject of my remarks.

I propose, therefore, my friends, to follow here to-night a train of thought which the old printing press of Franklin and the words of Elliott suggested to my mind. It seems almost Elliott suggested to my mind. It seems almost miraculous that the three greatest inventions should have been made during the same epoch, and that that epoch immediately preceded the discovery of the New World—the application of gunpowder and the magnetic needle to practical use, and the invention of movable types, for the purposes of printing, by Faust, and Schaeffer, and Guttenberg. It is of the last that I have chiefly to do. I don't intend to attempt to prove that the principles of printing were known to every nation of antiquity by whom coins and every nation of antiquity by whom coins and medals were made. The fact itself carries with it its own argument. Nor do I design to present in any detail the history of the art; but I shall merely dwell upon printing as an element of modern progress, and the uses and abuses accompanying it in our times. Therefore, in the words "The Press"-or, if you please, the newspaper-is found the theme on which I propose to speak to-night.

In our generation and land it is impossible to form any conception of the slowness of gathering news in former times. The use of steam and electricity has revolutioned the entire busi-ness of the age. The slow-moving stage coach is superseded by the railway car. The mounted carrier who travelled from point to point is sup-planted by the telegram, and to-night the tired settler of the Western country reads not only the news of his own country, but that of London and Pekin. Compare the advantages for the conveyance of news with those of mediæval times. A synod meets in Rome. In former times no member of that indefatigable and worthy body known as the reportorial corps would, in the guise of a priest, steal their secrets; but now the business of to-day is published in the papers of the following morning all over the world. When we ponder over the beauties of Homer and Livy we forget that it is only four hundred years since those works were only in

manuscript.
The unlettered freedman in the savannas of the South has more educational advantages now than the king upon his throne in the time of the Middle Ages. Fulton proved to the croakers of his age the practicability of steam. Morse has improved largely on Franklin's idea in regard to the management and use of electricity. Daguerre has snatched from the face of the sun the art of transferring the lineaments of the human face divine to paper, thus transmitting them from father to son, and the candid mind must acknow ledge that much that has been accomplished in the past has been due to the influence of the The progress of this country in intellec tual and material things is largely due to the newspapers. The time is not long gone by present unlicensed freedom of the press would not be tolerated, and yet in this country it is part and parcel of the organic statute that Congress shall not pass a law abridg ing the "liberty of speech nor the freedom of

The speaker quoted from Hume's "History of England" to show the laws that had been passed in former times abridging this freedom of the press, and referred to statutes thus in-terfering, that had been ordained by Queen Elizabeth and King James.

He also quoted from "Blackstone's Commen-taries," giving the law of Great Britain, subject to the amendments of Parliament, and resumed: The abuse of free will—of the liberty of the press—is the proper subject of legal punishment. The first colonial settlement of this country was the first to make enactments in regard to the freedom of the press, licensing only those whom the Legislature appointed. The language of Blackstone was transferred into the Constitu-tion of Massachusetts, and the definition there given may be regarded as the opinion of the

fathers of our Republic. In our age it is the fashion to speak of preceding centuries with disparagement. My opi-nion is we do not justly consider the doings of the eighteenth century. It had just emerged from one that was the cause of all the tyranny

that blot its pages. The first newspaper published in the United States was the Boston News Letter of 1704. What a difference now! Take up some of our leading newspapers now—say the Press, of your own city, or the Tribune, of New York—and what a world of information is opened up to you without moving out of the precincts of your own parlor! The newspaper makes us cos-mopolitan. From the rural rustic of a hamlet you become a denizen of teeming cities. At one moment you see the fields covered with glowing verdure—anon you are in the midst of Paris attending the trial of Pierre Bonaparte, or you are treading the streets of Yokohama, on the coast of Japan. The newspaper reader is as well acquainted with the language of foreign countries as he is with his own. He becomes familiar with the doings of kings; he is equally

at home with the ballet girls or strong-minded

There is no newspaper of either continent that is equal in circulation to the London Times. It circulates in all countries and is under the eyes of all people, and yet I doubt very much if there is a paper on the face of the earth that is a more abject slave, in all its positions before the people, as this one is in relation to that common master called Public Opinion. The loyal people of this country smarted under the keen, hard thrusts which our nation was the recipient of at the hands of Dr. Russell, the recipient of at the hands of Dr. Russell, the Times correspondent in America during a part of the late war. Dr. Russell simply obeyed instructions emanating from the London office of the Times. He took his cue and dared not depart from it. If he did he knew what it would cost—the next steamer would have carried a new set of instructions to the London letterwriter on our shores, and they would have been:—"Pack up your traps and report by the next steamer to our English headquarters."

(Applause.)
This slavery to public opinion, be that opinion right or wrong, is, to my mind, the most pernicious abuse of the freedom of the press. I am far from disparaging public thought. I believe in the rule of the majority; but don't believe that because a question is popular, that because the public is on its side, that therefore the ques-tion is right. The world as well as individuals must be educated beyond the dead line of mere party bickerings and strife. (Applause.) On questions of abstract right and wrong the educaquestions of abstract right and wrong the educa-tion of our nationality demands our most pains-taking care and faithful devotion; but then again, there is something reaching above and beyond nationality. To work for national good and advancement is indeed glorious; but far more glorious is it to work for universal good. Nationality is only one step below universality in the moral and mental progress of the world. I say then that public opinion may be a tyrant, and to educate it out of its tyranny is the highest moral duty of the newspaper as an element of universal progress. (Applause.) Classical history tells many an interesting

story. The old story of the ostracism of Aris-tides gives a good illustration of the tyranny of this public opinion. It mocked at Cranmer; it laughed at Harvey, for the discovery of the cir-culation of the blood.

Those who mocked were convinced the print ing press would either crush them or be crushed The most humble of village papers has not only its "poet's corner," but also a department of book criticism. I could name a paper in your own city that has no peer in this line of literaown city that has no peer in this line of intera-ture. Whatever we may say as to the course of the London Times, one thing must be admitted —they always pay an amount for their literary department that calls to their aid first-class

I do not wish to draw any invidious distinctions. I would not have the Press muzzled. God forbid! I believe were it not for the press I should not stand here to-night, and my race would still be in the gall and bitterness of bondage; but for the press, that grand part of the organic law which protects us all would never have been engrafted on the Constitution, and liberty and equality would not as now be the rule of the land. In the cloister of Abrogasta dwelt John Guttenburg, one of the inventors of printing. His spirit was stirred within him, and a spirit passed before him and tempted him in the guise of an angel of light. It said:—
"John Guttenburg, thou hast made thy name immortal; but oh! at what price! Bethink thee what thou art doing!

"The ungodly are many more than the good! Thy work will but multiply blasphemies and lies. Thou hast uncovered the bottomless pit. lies. Thou hast uncovered the bottomless pit. Henceforth a swarm of seducing spirits shall come forth like the brood of Abaddon, and make the earth a hell. Oh! think of millions of souls corrupted by thine exploit, the venom of fiends distilled into the souls of tender maidens, and boys made old by it in the experience of sin. See mothers weeping over their demoniac sons, and grey-haired fathers hiding their faces from the shame of daughters. Yes, even the young virgin will be seduced to read what she should never have listened to, and thy press shall be the panderer of lust. Destroy it, John. Forget thy monstrous conception; forbear by multiplying the resources of the wicked to make thyself throughout all ages the partner of their crimes." of their crimes.

From such a dream John Guttenberg awoke, and no marvel that he trembled. He was on the point of burying his secret in oblivion, as the genius in the Arabian tale shrank back into its casket and was engulfed by the hand that had enlarged it. "But I reflected," says the sublime discoverer, "that the gifts of God, though often perilous, are never bad. I saw that to endow intelligence with such a faculty was to open fresh fields to wisdom and to goodness both alike divine. I proceeded with my discovery."

During the lecture the Senator was frequently interrupted by the plaudits of his auditors, and at the close he was greeted with a prolonged round of cheers, the audience thus marking their approval of the "man." A number of those present ascended the stage in order to have a hand-shake, and some even pressed upon the Senator for his autograph. He received all politely, and after the lapse of a few minutes quietly retired.

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