THE DAILY EVENING TELEGRAPH-PHILADELPHIA, MONDAY, MAY 16, 1870.

SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

PERILS AT THE CUSTOM HOUSE AND THE RELIEF.

From the N. Y. World.

2

The tariff laws of this country, the circular of the Treasury Department recently issued and which we published entire last Monday, and the practical administration of all combined, make the perils of a traveller arriving in the United States something fearful to encounter.

The provision of the law of 1866 which authorizes the appointment of female inspectors to rummage the dresses and examine Indies arriving in the great republic will be especially attractive to delicate natures.

We explained in a recent article how the Constitutional Congress of 1799 enacted that "the wearing apparel and other personal baggage of persons who arrive in the United States shall be free and exempted from duty," and how it remained for a succeeding generation to restrict the free list of travellers by an amendment which limited the wearing spparel exempted from duty to that "in actual use." It was sufficient seventy years ago for a traveller to declare that his packages contained "no goods, wares, or merchandise whatever, other than the wearing apparel and other personal baggage, all of which are the property" of the persons ar-riving at our shores, and not directly or indirectly imported for any other person or persons, or intended for sale." The test then was: Does the baggage contain merchandise in-tended for sale? and does it belong to some one other than the person arriving? If both questions were answered and found in the negative, the baggage was passed at once exempt from duty. But now, under modern rale, not all clothing belonging to the passenger is free, but only that actually in use as such. Presents are liable to duty, and all such gifts of affection and mementoes of foreign travel. Articles of "vertu" are in terms dutiable by Secretary Boutwell's circular, as well as little articles bought for and on request of friends.

Every one understands that an article of merchandise brought in for sale should, under a tariff system, pay duty, but not small articles, expensive or inexpensive, purchased as gifts or procured at the request of friends. There is something harsh to the sensibilities in being compelled to produce on the wharf such token of friendship and affection for vulgar gaze and valuation for the assessment of duty. But the protective monopolists demand it and it is law.

Let us emphasize the things which the recent circular declares are, in the luggage of passengers, liable to duty, and failure to place which under the head of "dutiable merchandise" will "render the baggage liable to detention and confiscation, and subject the owner to other legal penalties:"-

1. New wearing apparel in excess of that in general use.

- 2. Excessive amounts of jewelry.
- 3. Extra watches.
- 4. Articles of vertu.
- 5. All presents.
- 6. Piece goods.
 7. All articles purchased for other persons.

8. All articles not essential to the personal comfort and convenience of the traveller.

should take possession of the island it would be at the expense of engaging in a difficult, costly, and uncertain civil war. Both General Banks and Mr. Fitch, who were the prin-cipal speakers of the occasion, carafully avoided all these points, confining them-selves to interesting phrases respecting the progress of humanity, the American eagle, and the manifest destiny of the United States. As for doing anything to bring the public mind to the support of the Dominican treaty, this meeting was a total failure. In the year 1861 Spain undertook the ex-

periment to which we are now invited. She annexed St. Domingo. The people of the country gave their consent with greater apparent unanimity than they have now given it to annexation to the United States. There was then no civil war in the republic, all apparently acquiescing in the Government of President Santana. The annexation being completed, an army of twenty thousand Spanish soldiers was sent to maintain order in the new possession. This army was reinforced from time to time. It contended with obstinacy against the civil war which soon broke out, and which it was found impossible to put down. Finally, in 1865, the Spanish forces were withdrawn, leaving twenty-five thousand soldiers buried in Dominican soil. The whole operation entailed upon the Spanish Government an addition to their public debt of more than twenty-live millions of dollars.

Is there any reason to suppose that the United States will be more fortunate in St. Domingo than Spain was? Spain took there laws essentially the same as those of the republic; the language of her soldiers and civilians was that of the country; her social habits and usages were the same; her religion was the same. We differ from the Dominicans in all these respects. We shall carry to the island forms and modes of law to which the people are entirely strange. Our language is alien to their ears; our manners and customs are unlike any to which they have been habituated. In religion we tolerate everything except that enforced uniformity to which they have been wonted. In addition to this, we find there a long established civil war, already on the point of overthrowing and expelling from the country the Government with which they have undertaken to treat. Is it probable that under such circumstances we shall be able to hold the istand after we have annexed it?

With thirty thousand soldiers in St. Domingo, Spain had to suffer the humiliation of abandoning it. How large an army will it require to protect us against such a disgrace ? Certainly not less than fifty thousand men. Nor can fifty men-of-war avail to blockade the coast, and keep out those who would attempt to furnish arms and materials of war to our enemies in the interior. The expense of annexing St. Domingo, and of holding it for a single year by means of such a military and naval force, cannot be less than \$200,000,000. Nor at the end of the year, or of any period that can be estimated beforehand, shall we be relieved from the necessity of maintaining our hold upon the island by aa army and a fleet.

These are points upon which it would have been agreeable to receive some positive information from so acute and clear-headed a statesman as General Banks, or from so eloquent an advocate of progress as Mr. Fitch. It would even have been better than nothing to have had an attempt made to cast light on them by Mr. Grinnell, Mr. Russell, General Cochrane, Judge Fithian, or any of the lesser lights of the meeting. They might, perhaps, have made clear to the public the advantages of annexing a civil war in St. Domingo, with the certainty of being called upon to spend several hundreds of millions in putting it down. But as no one has made any attempt to elucidate these questions it must be as-sumed that all are unable to deal with them, and that the annexation scheme is nothing but an immense swindle which no practica man can attempt to justify in a practical manner, som press of the sub-station

befrilled gowns; we eat creams at the straw-berry festivals, or raffle the prizes at the fancy bazaar, and thereafter glow with righteous virtue. We have stood on the same plane with poverty for one day in the year, have helped wipe its soiled feet with our laced napkin. We are worthy to be His children who said, "Inasmuch as ye did it to the least of these, ye did it unto me." If Heaven has given us children for whose well-being of body and soul we shall be held accountable some day, we are apt, if we make a pursuit of business or fashion, to deal with the little burdens after the Imperial fashion of Vienna. We are careful that their costume shall be picturesque, medieval or otherwise; we pay for having them taught to dance, fence, use the dumb:bells, speak French, and chatter of a dozen half-understood sciences; if we are very conscientious, we send them to a Sunday-school or church to be taught religion, and then we tie thirty pieces of silver about their necks and send them out into the world, washing our hands and saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this man.

Religion has long been fashionable, and penitence classically severe may be said to have become the ruling style in vogue of late. Eugenie ordered Passion Week to be observed in the chapel of the Tuileries, "without bosnets, the heavy Spanish man-tilla expressing humiliation better," to which some of the more devout court ladies, we are told, added bouffante trains of black tulle. Pearls and diamonds were worn, but no colored jewelry." We also, in our humbler fashion, keep the fasts. No balls or weddings are admissible during Lent in circles which desire to be correct in the mode. We have all of us, too, our favorite preacher of charity, whose cause we defend a l'outrance against all assailants. We bewail ourselves of our sins in concert on Sunday, and during the week feel free to devote ourselves to the details of the last murder trial and decide upon the sins of our neighbors. There is an old story of a woman who was a sinner, but who out of her great love washed the Saviour's feet with her tears and did wipe them with the hair of her head. But other times, other manners. That was not the same foot-wash-Dg as ours.

IMPERILLING THE PUBLIC CREDIT. From the N. Y. Times.

The unexpected strength of the opposition to land grants, as an adjunct in the construction of Western railroads; is leading to a modification of tactics on the part of other applicants for Congressional assistance. Proectors of steamship lines, who went to Washington as petitioners for large donations of public land, now modestly ask for money subsidies; while others, more diffident than their fellows, suggest that a Governmental indorsement of their bonds will be accepted in lieu of all gifts. There are telegraph enterprises, too, whose promoters, foiled in an attempt to obtain a large slice of the national domain, are encouraged by committee-men to hope for an issue of Government bonds in their behalf.

We cannot believe that any of these varied forms of the subsidy question can command the requisite support in the House of Representatives. The Senate, judged by its readi-ness to afford extravagant help to railway and other enterprises, may be induced to go still further. But events have shown that oloments are at work in the House which the cunning of lobbyists may be unable to control. Representatives realize more accurately than Senators the feeling prevalent among the people, and are more intent upon holding in check schemes which have no just title to the bounty that is contemplated in their behalf. It is not easy, however, to measure the precise force of coalesced interests, united only in their designs upon the Government; and hence the necessity for closely watching the changing aspects which the great subsidy question from time to time assumes. If aid were to be rendered at all, it is probable that land grants are the form which national generosity might most safely take. The public lands are, indeed, rapidly dimin-ishing under a policy which has assigned ter-ritories large enough for kingdoms to a few favored corporations. A continuance of the policy, on the scale sought by some of the schemes now before Congress, would speedily place the vast migratory population which drifts everlastingly westward at the mercy of organizations devoid of sympathy, and utterly indifferent to ordinary public criti-cism. But under the land-grant system, the country suffers the worst. It has alienated a vast source of wealth, and has laid the foundation of an influence which will, in due time, make itself felt in our polities. But the business and credit of the country re-main untouched. Not so when subsidies take the shape of gifts or loans, whether of money direct, or under the guise of bond indorsements. These affect every tax-payer, and give rise to contingencies and complications from which business and the Treasury may both suffer. The public credit is, in fact, imperilled by the policy which Congress, disgusted with the land-grabbers, is now asked to adopt. Let us hope that there are members enough in the House to expose and defeat the devices of the army of subsidizers by whom they are beset.

ing for work, or a Piegan woman with the soldier at her throat—with uncompromising pre-Baphaelitism of detail. Whereupon we dance at our calico ball, and hand over the have commenced a systematic attack upon Francis Joseph and his empire in all respects like the general onslaught made just before the quarrel that led to the Sadowa campaign The Federal Parliament and the Zoll Parlia-ment, devised by the oraft of Bismarck, were but features of a temporary arrangement. At the last session of the former as many as two hundred and eight members were missing, and the prospect for another sitting is dim. At the recent Zoll Parliament, although matters went off, as we have intimated, smoothly enough, there was a notable absence of representatives from the South. In fine, it is felt that Prussia, in order to accomplish the majestic programme which her master mind had sketched out for her, must act with decision and act soon. Thus we see her at work on all her coasts and on all her arsenals. Fortifications are pushed forward with haste; iron-clad fleets are equipped and sent forth to cruise in the German Ocean; officers are recalled from leave of absence, and special drill reviews are constantly held. This peculiar activity has riveted the atten-

tion of France, but the latter is still enveloped in the dust and smoke of the plebiscitum, and before she can get time to interfere the Prussians may have made such a move southward as to place the lower States of Germany at her mercy. Then both her great neighbors would be reduced to the necessity of acquiescence or forced to make war-a contingency of extreme risk to either of them at this moment. At all events we again behold the astute-

ness of Count Bismarck, whose recent illness, it will be seen, was no idle symptom, availing itself of the perplexities of his rivals. France with the settlement of her new system to complete, and Austria, harassed by the discontent of her Cisleithan provinces, will hardly dare to check the great southward move which the Prussian chess-king is evi dently meditating. They are watchful and uneasy, but he advances with caution as well as with steady intent, and leaves no step un-covered. The game as it stands is one of profound interest to the eye of the statesman; for it, in a high degree, affects the future of all Europe.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

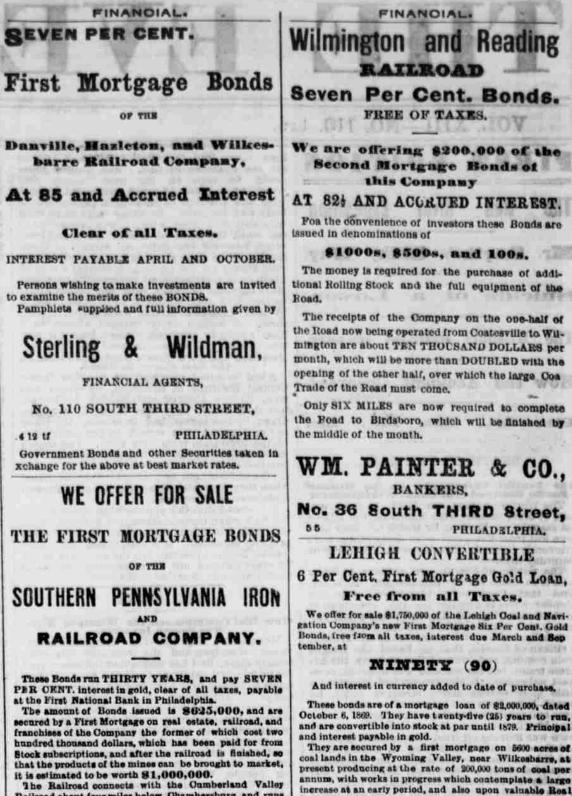
PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD COM-PANY, TREASURER'S DEPARTMENT.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., May 3, 1870. NOTICE TO STOCKHOLDERS.

The Board of Directors have this day declared a semi-annual Dividend of FIVE PER CENT. on the Capital Steck of the Company, clear of National and State Taxes, payable in cash on and after May 30, 1870. Blank Powers of Attorney for collecting Dividends can be had at the Office of the Company, No. 238 South Third The Office will be opened at 8 A. M. and closed at 3 P. M. from May 30 to June 3, for the payment of Dividends,

and aft	er that date fr	om 9 A. M. to THO	3 P. M. OMAS T. FIRTH,
54 60	e - Laglar		Treasurer.
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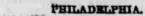
PITTSBURG, April 30, 1870. A meeting of the Stockholders of the Continental Im-provement Company will be held in the Branch Office of the Company, in the city of Pittsburg (corner of PENN and TENTH Streets), on TUESDAY, May 17, at 12 o'clock, noon, for the purpose of electing a Board of Directors to serve for the current year, and until their JAY COOKE &: CO. successors are duly elected and qualified. And also for the purpose of considering and acting upon the provisions of the Supplement to the Charter of said Company, approved Twenty-fourth day of March, 1870. W. R. BHELBY, PHILADELPHIA, NEW YORK, AND 5214t NOTICE .- A SPECIAL MRETING OF the Stockholders of the PHILADELPHIA, GER-MANTOWN, AND NORRISTOWN RAILROAD COM-PANY will be hold in Boom No 34, PHILADELPHIA EXOHANGE, on THURSDAY, the 9th day of June next, A LORANGE, on THORSDAY, the 9th day of June next, at 12 o'clock M., for the consideration of an act of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, entitled "An act to authorize the Philadelphia, German-town, and Norristown Railroad Company to increase its Capital Stock," approved the 29t 1 day of March, 1870. By order of the Board of Managers. Brokers in this and other cities. A. E. DOUGHERTY, Secretary. 52t69 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN. IN ACCITCLE IS HEREBI GIVEN, IN accordance with the provisions of the existing acts of Assembly, that a meeting of the commissioners mand in an act entitled "An Act to Incorporate the PROTEC. TION FIRE INSURANCE (OMPANY, to be located in the city of Philadelphia," approved the läth day of April, A. D. 1859, and the supplement thereto, approved the 25th day of April, A. D. 1870, will be held at 1 o'clock P. M. on the 15th cay of June, A. D. 1870, at No. 132 S. SEVENTH Street, Philadelphia, when the books for subscription to the capital stock will be opened and the other action taken requisite to complete the organization. 5 13 1m NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, IN NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, IN secondance with the provisions of the existing acts of Assembly, that a meeting of the commissioners named in an act entitled!"An Act to Incorporate the MOYA-MENSING FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, to be located in the city of Philadelphis," approved the 13th day of April, A. D 1858, and the supplement thereto, ap-proved the 28th day of April, A. D 1870, will be held at 12 o'clock M. on the 15th day of June, 1878, stNo. 132 S. SEVENTH Street, Philadelphis, when the books for anh-scription to the capital stock will be opened and the other action taken requisite to complete the organization. 5 iBlm The apnual meeting of the Stockholders of this Com-pany will be held in ANNAPOLIS, on MONDAY, June 6, 1870, at 2 o'clock P. M. BENJAMIN FAWOR PT. BENJAMIN FAWOR T. 55t66 Secretary to Stock TREGO'S TEABERRY TOOTHWASH. It is the most pleasant, cheapest and best dentifrice extant. Warranted free from injurious ingredients. It Preserves and Whitens the Teeth! Invigorates and Soothes the Grans! Purifies and Perfumes the Breath! Provents Accumulations of Tertar! Cleaness and Purifies Artificial Teeth! Is a Superior Article for Ohldren! Bold by all druggists and dentists. 3 210m Cor. NINTH AND FILBERT Sta., Philadelphia. TIES, GOLD BILLS, ETC. UNION BANK OF LONDON. BATCHELOR'S HAIR DYE .- THIS BATCHELOK'S HAIK DIE.-THIS splendid Hair Dyeis the best in the world. Harm-less, reliable, instantaneous, does not centain lead, nor any vitalle poison to produce paralysis or death. Avoid the vaunted and delusive preparations boasting virtues they do not possess. The genuine W. A. Batchelor's Hair Dye has had thirty years untarnished reputation to up-hold its integrity as the only Perfect Hair Dye-Black or Brown. Sold by all Draggists. Applied at No. 16 BOND Street, New York 427mwff Europe. with us. HEADQUARTERS FOR EXTRACTING Teeth with fresh Nitrous-Oride Gas. Absolutely no pain. Dr. F. R. THOMAS, formerly operator at the Colton Dental Rooms, devotes his entire practice to the painless extraction of teeth. Office, No. 911 WALNUT Street. 1950 QUEEN FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LONDON AND LIVERPOOL OAPITAL, 51,000,000, BABINE, ALLEN & DULLES, Agents, FIFTH and WALNUT Streets. WARDALE G. MCALLISTER, 100-Attorney and Counseller at Law, No. 381 BROADWAY, Rew York. WHISKY, WINE, ETO. CARSTAIRS & McCALL, No. 126 Walnut and 21 Granite Sts., IMPORTERS OF house to New York. Brandies, Wines, Gin, Olive Oil, Etc., F WHOLESALE DEALEBS IN PURE RYE WHISKIES. IN BOND AND TAX PAID. 5282pt WILLIAM ANDERSON & CO., DEALERS in Fine Whiskies, No. 146 North SECOND Street, Philadelphi EDUDATIONAL. EDGEHILL SCHOOL MEBOHANTVILLE, N. J. FOUR MILES FROM PHILADELPHIA. NEXT SESSION BEGINS APRIL 4



Estate in this city. A sinking fund of ten cents per ton upon all coal taken from the mines for five years, and of fifteen cents per ton thereafter, is established, and The Fidelity Insurance,

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Trust and Safe Deposit (ompany, the Trustees under the mortgage, collect these sums and invest them in these

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it is estimated to be worth \$1,000,000. The Railroad connects with the Cumberland Valley Railroad about four miles below Chambersburg, and runs

through a section of the most fertile part of the Camber land Valley. We sell them at 92 and accrued interest from March I.

For further particulars apply to

It will not avail for Secretary Boutwell and his partisans to say that his circular in respect to all these things is matter of mere form, for it makes them substance. He compels every person to make a statement in writing what his luggage contains, distinguishing therein between the dutiable and the not dutiable. He authorizes the customs official to require an oath to the statement, and he visits severe penalties on a failure to separate the free list from the dutiable list. To conform to this circular and prevent overhauling of every trunk to the bottom, the traveller must keep "wearing apparel in actual use" to a reasonable amount, and articles essential for the toilet or other necessities of the passenger, in trunks separate and distinct from an "unreasonable" quantity of wearing appa-rel, presents, things purchased for friends, and from objects of "vertu/" Great and generous country! Who shall deliver thee from the body of such meanness, selfishness, and sin?

But, says another, this is only a contri-vance to compel one to "tip" the officials. This is undoubtedly the average tone of Re-publican party ethics; but the difficulty is that the new regulations, by their minuteness in describing what is and what is not dutiable, put at the outset the responsibility of a decla-ration conforming thereto on the passenger. This is quite different from the old system. Read the laws and the recent circular, and then reflect on the consequences of a false declaration, or tipping the inspector with a sovereign or two.

If under oath, and one fails to declare, after reading the circular, a present for a friend elsewhere than under the head of "dutiable articles," perjury stares him in the face. And if not under oath, then loss of self-respect confronts him. Ponder, too, on the punishment of fine or imprisonment which is, by the law of 1863, suspended over the passenger who gives a customs officer so much as a cigar, or the official who takes it.

Relief :- Labor and vote for free trade ! Beat back and down the monopolists of the Tribune school ! Remove the barbarous inspection and espionage of persons and their luggage which now repels from his home every returning American !

THE ST. DOMINGO SWINDLE.

From the N. Y. Sun. The meeting at Cooper Institute on Thursday evening was called for the purpose of promoting the ratification of the "pending promoting the ratification of the "pending treaty for acquiring the right to occupy and hold the Bay of Samana in the island of St. Domingo;" but the resolutions of the meeting and all the speeches that were delivered re-lated, not to the question of Samana, but to the annexation of the entire republic. As Mr. Moses H. Grinnell expressed it, it was "a movement for the acquisition of the noble island of St. Domingo." This being the case, who did not the authors of the demonstration frankly state its real object in their call? Was any false pretense necessary to attract the public to the meeting?

The resolutions set forth various generali-ties respecting the value of the island as a part of the American geographical system, the variety of its products, its magnificent harbors, its capacity for commerce, and so on; but neither in these resolutions nor in the speeches of the orators do we find any explanation of the delicate questions involved in this treaty. No one of them assured the public that the Government with which the treaty was made is likely to be permanent. No one presented any evidence that the people of St. Domingo are really and honestly in faver of annexation. No one FOOT-WASHING.

From the N. Y. Tribune.

The ancient ceremony of foot-washing, the Eastern Budget tells us, was performed at Vienna this Easter. Twelve of the most hopelessly poor old men and women that could be procured were brought out of their rags and dirt, properly bathed and attired in suitably picturesque old German costumes, and then placed in the throne-room in "the presence of the royal family of Hanover and the principal court dignitaries, together with an immense crowd of visitors," invited, let us hope, for the moral effect of the spectacle, rather than from any consideration of rank. The twelve impersonations of poverty were then seated to a cold collation which was placed before them by the Emperor and Empress; they were not, however, allowed to eat anything, the dishes being immediately removed and placed in wooden vessels. The feet of the women were then washed by the Court Chamberlain, the Empress touching them with a laced towel, Prince Hohenlohe and the Emperor performing the same office for the men. The Emperor and Empress (after washing their hands) then hung round the neck of each a bag containing thirty pieces of silver, and the poor old wretches were sent back to the squalor in which they had spent their lives in Court carriages, each with a bottle of wine and his dinner, while the imperial party, let us hope, betook themselves to their accustomed routine, secure of "approving conscience and a smiling heaven," with the sweet consciousness of having discharged their duties to poverty for another year, and vindicated their claim to be faithful disciples of the meek and lowly Saviour.

The ceremony does not seem to us so unique as some would have us believe. There is a great deal of foot-washing going on in the world. Poverty manifests itself to Napo-leon just now in a less ideal form than the "twelve old men in ancient German costume" of his Viennese brother. He offers it, therefore, the bonne bouche of a vote instead of a cold dinner in a wooden pail; but the one gift has about as much meaning and is as lasting and effective as the other. There are certain prelates in Catholic and Protestant churches who live in palaces and draw princely incomes solely on the strength of a triennial sermon, in which they declare themselves the humble followers of Him who had not where to lay His head. This is one of the most profitable and remarkable feats of foot-washing known, and has long been the envy of the unconsecrated world. For the truth is, we are all of us ad-dicted more or less to foot-washing; we have all of us some favorite short and easily scrawled note of hand with which to pay our enormous debt to right or to virtue. And it is curious to observe how very small an amount of cash the world will accept as a payment for that debt, and how long we can eep our credit up with boldly written due

We have, unfortunately, in this country no p'cturesque throne-rooms or medizeval costun es in which to discharge our obligations to our poor brother. He thrusts himself

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THE PROJECTS OF PRUSSIA. From the N. Y. Heraid.

Not long before the great events of 1866 Count Bismarck, who had just returned from a pleasant trip to the south of France, said to one of the leaders of the opposition in the Parliament at Berlin: — "Here is an olive branch which I have brought with me from my journey. I offer it to you in token of friendship and peace. Unite your efforts with mine." The opposition was short-sighted enough to refuse. "Well," said Bismark again, "I had wished to make the country great with you; I will make it great without you. Your friends refuse. So be it." Such was the attitude of the great German

statesman when his own colleagues had not calibre enough to appreciate his exalted views. Such is now the attitude of Prussia as compared with the rest of the Germanic States. Prussia meditates the building up of a grand Teutonic empire to hold the balance of power in Europe between belligerent and restless France on the one hand and overshadowing Russia on the other. But some of the smaller States hold back, considering their diminutive autonomies of more dignity and value than participation in the life of one vast united power that would command the re-spect of the world. Prussia, then, deterspect of the world. Prussia, then, deter-mined to make Germany great, and, eager to have done so by the aid of her Teutonic neighbors, will now do so without them. The Zoll Parliament has transacted its business harmoniously and has adjourned. King William is exchanging courtesies with the King of Bavaria; the Emperor of Russia proattempted to refute the idea that if we before us-a drunken Irishman, a negro ask. while, the most vigorous preparations, naval

the works alaka in this way, and be and to little goady at the time, but subspected | a within prove franking in the michen Pernaferi has wellow.

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T. W. OATTELL.

For Oirculars apply to