

SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

OUR MERCANTILE MARINE—OUR CREANT CONGRESS.

From the N. Y. Herald.

The war in Europe, which finds all our interests—commercial, agricultural, and mechanical—on the verge of a magnificent opportunity for advancement, finds, unfortunately, the greatest interest of all the shipping interest, utterly neglected. How do we stand to-day with regard to the carrying trade? We have not merchant vessels equal to the task of carrying the trade of our own country.

They have also provided several small "monitors" for harbor defense.

France has been equally diligent in her preparations. "The Line" has been increased in number, and, since Sadowa, the great body of the army have been armed with the Chassepot rifle—a weapon pronounced by our officers to be far superior to the clumsy neologism of the Prussians.

All the old German enthusiasms, which has broken the power of France on so many battle-fields, will be kindled again. We shall see some modern fiery Blucher leading the young men once more in vehement assaults on the French invader.

If modern education be of much importance, the great body of the Prussian army ought to be superior to the French. Perhaps with the rank and file this is not of much consequence.

One of our leading magazines for August gives the first place in its pages to a dolorous lamentation from a Southerner over the present state of society in the land of "fair women and brave men."

The cause which induces this modern Terminus, however, to take up his tale of woe is a far different one. Slavery is the Holy of Holies over whose desecration he weeps.

But this is not the only mistake we have made, it seems. Popular opinion held that there were two classes of whites in the slaveholding States before the war, whose dividing lines were tolerably sharply drawn—the wealthy and cultured order, and the clayey, "the poor trash" on whom even the negroes looked down.

It is for fallen slavery, however, that he ends, as he begins, his wail; and really so strongly does he put the case, that we are surprised at the obstinacy of our colored friends in remaining free if they could possibly vote themselves again into the flowery chains of such pleasant bondage.

It is possible that President Grant may really have meant to pay General Sheridan a compliment by removing him from the very serious, immediate, and important duty of pacifying and protecting our Western borders, threatened now by a formidable Indian war, and sending him off to wander over Europe on a tour of inspection through the hostile camps and ways and to be arrayed on the continent.

city we are willing to credit our Southern friends with, and their desire, Red Republicanism, if they will; but this longing for agrarianism of "feature, physique, and qualities" is too deep for us. We cannot understand it. There are points in their history with which it is difficult to reconcile it.

Justing apart, we cannot but deplore the publication of such articles as these. Our publishers, from motives of friendliness and policy, are willing to do much to "conciliate the South," but such puerile whining as this only provokes derision here; does not conciliate the South, and certainly does not represent it any more than the bitter squibs and taunts of certain petty journals represent the present generous, manly temper of the Northern people.

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GRANT AND SHERIDAN. From the N. Y. World. It is possible that President Grant may really have meant to pay General Sheridan a compliment by removing him from the very serious, immediate, and important duty of pacifying and protecting our Western borders, threatened now by a formidable Indian war, and sending him off to wander over Europe on a tour of inspection through the hostile camps and ways and to be arrayed on the continent.

It sends him on an errand most fit to be intrusted to an aspiring young officer of recognized intelligence and ambition, but quite beneath the dignity of the second personage in a great national army. We have already received information that from one at least of the armies about to come into collision in Europe, foreign officers of all ranks will be carefully excluded; and it is extremely probable that the exclusion will be extended to both. Should it not be so, any American officer permitted to visit the Prussian camps and positions will receive that personal notice, not as an officer but as an American, not for military but for political reasons, as a sop to the sentiment of the Germans in the United States and not as a tribute to his zeal and his value as a soldier.

But even if the functions now imposed upon General Sheridan were as becoming as they are unbecoming his hierarchical position in the service, it may well be doubted whether he would be the best man who could be selected to discharge them. General Sheridan is a cavalry officer. He has won his distinction in that arm of the military service in regard to which we have least to learn, for the simple reason that there is less to be learned about it than about any other single branch of the military profession.

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PROPOSALS. PROPOSALS FOR MATERIALS TO BE SUPPLIED TO THE NAVY YARDS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1871. SEALED PROPOSALS to furnish Timber and other materials for the Navy for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1871, will be received at this Bureau until 12 o'clock M. of the 15th of August next, at which time the proposals will be opened in public.

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TO SUMMER TOURISTS. LEHIGH COAL & NAVY CO.'S RAILROADS. PASSENGER TRAVELLERS. For the Valleys of WYOMING and LEHIGH, for the CATAWISSA RAILROAD, and for the SWITCH-BACK RAILROAD, celebrated for its magnificent views, should take the 9:45 A. M. EXPRESS TRAIN from the NORTH PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD DEPOT, Corner of BERRIS and AMERICAN STS., Philadelphia.

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