STIRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

FRAUDS OF CONGRESSMEN ON THE PENSION BURBAU.

From the N. Y. Herald. A very serious allegation against a Tennessee Congressman comes from Washington, It is said that one of the honorable members who were implicated in the charge of selling oadetships is now suspected of the more grave charge of defrauding the Pension Bureau, by means of forged receipts and power of attorney and the illegal use of a county seal. The frauds, it seems, extended also to a poor widow, who was the werst vic-tim, living in a secluded part of Ash county, North Carolina, whose name he forged and whose pension he pocketed. If these facts can be proved it will go hard with the Congressman. So far has the Commissions been convinced of the truth of the charges that he has had an order issued for the arrest of the accused, and he will be brought to Washington immediately. Similar charges are reported to lie against a Georgia member, but they have not been fully developed yet. These, although but single cases of such a crime as forgery, are but feeble evidences of the vast mass of putrid demoralization in which Congress is immerged. The sale of cadetships was shabby, ungentlemanly, unparliamentary, and altogether scandalous. This matter of cheating a poor soldier's widow out of her pension, and committing forgery in order to accomplish the purpose, is, probably, still more in keeping with the general atmosphere of corruption which pervaded the Fortieth

Congress. There was a time when Southern members, whatever may have been their faults, however bombastic, quarrelsome, and sometimes ridiculous they may have been on the floor—would shrink from anything petty or contemptible. They were men of honor at least. But, unhappily, the element which represents that region of the country now is of entirely different character. It would seem as if the small vices imported there from the North of Inte have been exported to Washington in the torm of gigantic crimes. Taking into consideration the entire corrupt course of the last Congress and its utter worthlessness for all purposes of good to the country, we are not much surprised to hear of isolated cases of grave offense like this discovered by the Pension Bureau brought home to members. Indeed, we expect to hear a good deal more of them; but we hope that a few examples will be made and condign punishment will be inflicted upon the guilty, in order to serve as a warning to those who may stand upon the brink of infamy and have not yet fallen into the gulf, if any such Congressmen there be who have this day of grace reserved to them.

THE NATHAN MURDER.

From the N. Y. Tribune. If the police have not succeeded in capturing the Twenty-third street murderer, it is not for lack of volunteered advice. Most of the newspapers have invented theories which if not exactly ingenious are certainly striking. One journal proves to its own satisfaction in one column that there must have been at least two persons implicated in the deed, and in another that there could not possibly have been more than one. A reporter of a physio-logical turn of mind has a theory that the murderer struck his victim twice with his fists, and then made use of at least two instruments to inflict the fatal wounds. Another, after long reflection upon the problem how the assassin could have got into the house, arrives at the sagacious conclusion that he must have climbed up the columns of the street door, and crawled through the second-story window! Another still drops some mysterious utte-rances about a blood-bespattered saw, to which he hopes the police will give a very particular scrutiny. Of those theories which designate any particular person as the pro-bable criminal—and more than one unfortunate man has been publicly pointed at by suspicious reporters-there is, of course, nothing for us to say. Conjectures of this kind are grossly cruel and unjust. They rest

upon no sufficient ground, and they may do irreparable and awful injury to the innocent. The difficulty of the present case is, as we said on Saturday, that the mode in which the murder was committed is so evident, and yet the traces of the culprit are so slight. If there were any obscurity about the motive for the deed, any question about the instrument. any reasonable perplexity in understanding how the assassin entered or left the house, we might hope that in the course of the solution of these problems we should light upon some clue that would lead to the detection of the murderer. But it is easy to see how the deed was done, and why it was done; we can almost trace the guilty man step by step, and yet we find no traces but a few finger marks that cannot be identified, and a shipwright's tool which nobody about the house had ever seen before. There is really no valid objection to the currently accepted theory that the murderer concealed himself in the house during the day, and it is net necessary to suppose that he was very well acquainted with the construction of the house or the habits of the inmates. On the contrary, it is clear that on one important point he was not acquainted with Mr. Nathan's habits, for it was not that gentleman's custom to keep money in the safe which aroused the murderer's cupidity. It is noto-riously a common practice of thieves to sneak into a house by day or in the early evening, and hide themselves until all is quiet; a very large proportion of the burglaries annually reported are committed in this way; and the condition in which Mr. Nathan's house was left last Thursday afforded a thief every opportunity he could desire for an operation of this kind. The ladies of the family were all absent; the gentlemen came in late; the door was left unfastened even by a night-latch; and workmen were continually going in and out. There is some difficulty about the supposition of the murderer's getting out again by the front door; but it is more apparent than real. Mr. Washington Nathan testifies that he came home at 12.30, and locked, bolted, and chained the front door. The murder, according to the medical examination, was probably committed between 1 and 3 o'clock. The officer patrolling Twenty-third street tried the front and basement doors of Mr. Nathan's house several times in the course of the early morning-at 1:30, at 4:30, and again about 6, only a few moments before the murder was discovered, and each time he found the doors fast. Yet when Mr. Wash. ington Nathan ran down to call the police, he

indeed the appearance of the room indicated that he had gone away in baste. The probability is that Mr. Washington Nathan found the door unlocked and unbolted, but not unlatched. In the horror of the moment it is natural that his memory and his perceptions should have been confused. If the door was latched the policeman of course could not tell that it was unlocked: and the criminal, if he retained his selfpossession, would have been careful to latch t, so that the police might not take alarm at its standing open, and discover the crime before he got safely away. This explanation is based upon the supposition that Officer Mangum did try the doors at the hours he says he did; but it is within the bounds of possibility that in his anxiety to relieve himself of a suspicion of negligence he has exaggerated the story of his own vigilance.

Some surprise is expressed that the murderer should have left so few marks of blood in the stairway and in the hall. It is assumed by many people that he must have been actually drenched in gore and dripping from every limb; but this is a great mistake. When a man is struck down as Mr. Nathan was struck, the blood does not gush forth like water from a hydrant, and it is possible that the murderer may have stood in such a position as to receive comparatively little of the crimson stain, and to get none at all on his When the body was found a wide pool of blood was all about the head; but this pool it must be remembered had formed gradually as the veins and arteries drained away. The murderer may have left the room with comparatively few traces of the deed upon his person, except such as might be wiped off with a handkerchief.

It has been proved that the house was so built with "deadened" walls and ceilings that the noise of the struggle could hardly have been heard by the sons or the servants, even bad they all been awake. It has been shown that the mysterious carriage seen waiting opposite Mr. Nathan's stable was there on an errand sufficiently disreputable indeed, but not felonious. So the difficulties and "suspicious circumstances" one by one resolve themselves into thin air; only the one absorbing problem remains—who was the assassin? We have little hope that he will ever be found unless the rewards tempt an accomplice to betray him, and it is very doubtful whether he has any accomplice. If he belonged to a gaug of burglars, his companions would be apt to know that he meant to attempt Mr. Nathan's house that night. But the police are confident that he was not a professional house-breaker, because one of that class would not have used the unnecessary violence employed in this case, and because professional house-breakers generally operate in couples. He was probably a wretched sneak-thief, working alone, and perhaps without a "pal" to whom his movements would have been known. Yet at his home, if he had a home, there may have been some creature who saw him return from his night's work, or saw him put out of the way the evidences of his crime. The main dependence of justice must be on the hope that immense rewards will tempt some such per-

son to reveal the truth.

MR. RUSKIN'S NEW GOSPEL OF ART. From the N. Y. Times. Mr. John Ruskin, as all the world knows, has lately become Slade Professor of Fine Arts at Oxford. Mr. Ruskin has for some time been held to be a better authority upon painting than upon political economy, and contemporary judges have by no means kept this comparative estimate of his powers in reserve. Nothing daunted, however, the author of Modern Painters has taken occasion in his inaugural lectures at Oxford to affirm his peculiar tenets with considerable emphasis, and to repeat at the same time some of those unpleasant statements that the English people so much dislike to hear. He declares, for example, that his countrymen will never excel in decorative design. Such design is usually produced by people of great natural powers of mind, who have no variety of subjects to employ themselves on, and no oppressive anxieties. The English have too much to do and to think of to attain a high degree of excellence. Nor can they be successful in the highest fields of ideal or theological art, for the reason that ever since the Conquest, if not earlier, there has existed in that people a strange delight in the forms of burlesque "which are connected in some degree with the foulness in evil." And yet, bad as such a tendency is, "you will find," Mr. Ruskin tells us, "that whenever Englishmen are wholly without this instinct, their genius is comparatively weak and restricted." Now, the first necessity for executing any great work in ideal art, he goes on to explain, is the looking upon all foulness with horror, as a contemptible, though dreadful, enemy; and he adds that we shall easily understand what he means "by comparing the feelings with which Dante regards any form of obscenity or of base jest. with the temper in which the same things are regarded by Shakespeare." It may be some comfort to the many Anglo-Saxons who will feel outraged by this slur on the immortal bard to learn that Mr. Ruskin acknowledges English superiority in portraiture, as illustrated by Reynolds and Gainsborough, and confesses that they (the English) have a sympathy with the lower animals which is peculiarly their own, but which, although "it has already found some exquisite expression in the works of Bewick and Landseer, is yet

In subsequent lectures Mr. Ruskin proceeds to instruct the ingenious young Britons committed to his charge that there can absolutely be not alone no right art, but no right morality or happiness, in a country the cities of which are built as they are in England. He said as much twenty-two years ago in the "Seven Lamps of Architecture;" he says it again now with increased force and confidence. "You must have," he urges, "lovely cities, crystallized, not coagulated, into form: limited in size and not casting out the seum and sourf of them into an encircling eruption of shame, but girded, each with its sacred pomærium, and with garlands of gardens full of blossoming trees and softly guided streams." Mr. Ruskin anticipates that this will be declared impossible; but, with a fine discrimination, avers that he 'has nothing to do with its possibility, but only with its indispensa-bility." But more than this. There must be no iron roofs, and no steam-power-at least, nowhere in sight. Unholy machines of all sorts must be banished from houses and fields. "Agriculture by the hand, and absolute refusal or banishment of unnecessary igneous force, are the first conditions of a school of art in any country. And until you do this, be it soon or late, things will continue in that triumphant state to which, for want of finer art, your mechanism has brought them—that, though England is deadened with spinning-wheels, her people have not clothes; though she is black with digging of fuel, they die of cold; and, though she has sold her soul for gain,

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tionable in themselves, as to be obvious truisms; but they are rendered ludicrous by the dogmatic assertion of their necessary co-relation to art. Thus, he insists, the people must be made clean, must live in tasteful houses, and eat wholesome food, before there can be any art school or art taste whatever in the country which they inhabit. No doubt there is truth of a broad and general sort in these assumptions; but their trustworthiness, as practical guides, dissipates into thin air in the light of very common experience. Aristotle taught the republic under Alexander; Turner painted the most glorious of English landscapes among a people more wretched than can now be found in London; all manner of lovely works in literature as well as art, ranking among the most perfect in existence, have been produced in evil times and amid the most corrupt society.

The truth is that Mr. Ruskin has mixed up his Political Economy with his Art Criticism, until neither he nor his readers can tell where one leaves off or the other begins. The consequences of over-population, the entail of real property, and other special and local matters, are associated by him with the development of art in a manner that is often plausible and eloquent, but not always either coherent or rational. He is no wiser in this regard than are our own native philosophers who insist upon imputing to democratic institutions all the beneficent results that have sprung from vast area and sparse population. But Mr. Ruskin has told us so much in his former works, and even in his present lectures, that if not invariably new, has been not only true but beautifully expressed, and full of healthful morality; so that adverse criticism in his case must always be overbalanced by gratitude. Sharp judges may say of him that he knows not logic, and that he is even at times absurd; but there are few writers of our generation in whom we can sooner overlook weakness in the application of the laws of reasoning or more easily forgive occasional absurdity.

HANDCUFFS AND HISTORY.

From the N. Y. World. A mild controversy is in progress in a sister city on the interesting subject of manacles. A correspondent of the Philadelphia Age, who is described, no doubt justly, as a respectable person, whose testimony is to be relied on. alleges that when, at the outbreak of the civil war, the Federal army took the field it carried with it a vast quantity-some 30,000 -of handcuffs; and that the manufacture of the article continued to be a very profitable branch of industry among our ironmongering neighbors. To this the Press, always ready in the cause of manacles, replies:—

"A Democratic contemporary asks, with mysterious and hypocritical horror, why it happens that a large contract for handcuffs appears in the Government accounts during the war. We can tell him. They were purchased to use in enforcing the draft, and the expense of buying them and the necessity of using them are like most other war expenses, directly chargeable to the Democratic party."

It is not easy to determine which, if true, is the most discreditable to America-the Democratic allegation or the Republican gloss. We recollect distinctly hearing (but in our simplicity we thought it a vile Rebel slander) that on the battle-field of the first Manassas were found, amidst unopened champagne bottles and untasted sandwiches, a vast number of shackles for hands and feet. It was a new element of war. "I went on the field of battle the next day," wrote an eminent man—a civilian from Warrenton— "with ice and medicine and wine to minister to the Northern wounded, who, I thought, might be neglected, and there I found quannew handcuffs scattered on ground." And so this story, which we once doubted, now turns out to be true. We have heard of an army terrible with banners, but never before of a host horrible with handcuffs. In speaking of Bunker Hill our good friend Bancroft, before he turned Republican, said: "The gloom in the quarters of the British was deepened by the reflection that they had fought, not against an enemy but against their fellow-subjects and kindred; not for the promotion of civil or religious freedom, but for the supremacy of one part of the empire over another!" But he does not record that "loyal" Boston men went out to frolic on the field of blood, or that with the drum-tap of Pigot's advancing British grenadiers was mingled the clink of the manacles forged for the limbs of Prescott, and Putnam. and Warren.

But "No," says he of the Press: "we admit the handcuffs; only they were purchased, not for rebels but for our own conscripts—for recalcitrant Democrats." This makes the matter worse, and explodes instantly the whole theory of Northern popular enthusiasm. Handcuffs by retail—for sporadic mutiny— we can comprehend, for every provost marshal ashore and master-at-arms at sea has a few on hand, but this purchase by wholesale this contract system in Pennsylvania-to be applied, not to captured enemies but to our own reluctant recruits, is something unparalleled out of Mexican history, and we should not credit it but for the high and "loyal" source whence the story comes. This superfluity of gyves was not, however, without its uses. Passing by the horrid possibility that the Pennsylvania iron dealers may actually have furnished the chains that may have been put on our prisoners at Andersonville and the Libby, we are quite aware that a remnant of these "jewels" came later into play, when a helpless, feeble old woman was brought into court at Washington chained by the order of Holt and Hunter, and again when the crowning infamy of the war was perpetrated at Fortress Mon-roe by Halleck and his soulless subordinate. Handcuffs, Halleck, Hunter, and Holt-history will hardly suffer this charming alliteration to pass out of men's minds.

PERILS OF EPISTOLARY LITERATURE.

From the Wheeling Intelligencer, It is recorded among the sayings of some wise man that the pen is mightier than the sword. It is also more dangerous than the sword-not perhaps to him against whom it is wielded, but to him who wields it. It is one of the things not to be rashly touched. Many a poor wight has been self-impaled on it, only to wriggle there in hopeless ridiculosity the balance of his days. More trouble has risen to plague mankind from slinging ink than spilling blood; and, indeed, most of the blood spilt in modern wars has been due to some unlucky blunder on paper. See how all Europe has been agitated for a week by a little memorandum jotted down two years

ago in Berlin by a fellow named Benedetti. Of all the uses made of the pen the epistolary is the most perilous. Who ever wrote a letter that did not some day rise up in judgment against him? How many men have been ruined by a single epistle. If Henry Clay had not written a certain letter about his views on the tariff, he would have been is reported to have declared that he found the front door "partly open." If this was the case, the murderer must have waited in the house at least three hours after committing the crime, and then gone out into the busy street by broad daylight. Of course no murderer would run such a risk, and elected President some twenty-six years ago.

least expects or desires it! It was a maxim with President Van Buren, we believe, that a man in political life had better walk fifty miles any time to talk with a man than to write him a letter. How many politicians can testify to its wisdom!

If penmanship is a dangerous diversion when a man writes over his own name, it is doubly so when he signs the name of somebody else. Many a fellow who deserved to be successful has destroyed himself by writing other people's names. There was young Ketchum, for example, rich and popular, who tried it in a city where justice is notoriously blind; and he had to look through the grated windows at Sing Sing ever so many weary months. It was a fatal skill that Ketchum had with that most treacherous weapon. How many like him have good reasons to wish no such instrument of self-destruction

had ever been invented! But it is a poor sort of talent that contents itself with mere mechanical accomplishments in penmanship-with the mere ability to write another man's name quite as good as he writes it himself. Real genius disports itself in another way. To be able to "put yourself in his place," to know that another man ought to write a letter, to know just when he ought to write it, to know just what he ought to say, and then to write it for him without his knowing it, and bring it forth at the proper time and place so that the letter when written and read shall be a besom of destruction among one's own enemies, to slav them as the jawbone did the Philistines, and clear the path to office and renown-this is the work of genius in its highest flights, and one who can wield the pen with such brilliant effects as these, has only to go forward in the same path conquering and to conquer.

FRANCE AND PRUSSIA.

From the London Saturday Review, It is for the French people to judge whether their Government has played on a real or assumed national weakness by its noisy menaces of a causeless war. It is more than doubtful whether the blustering levity of the more bellicose politicians of Paris is shared either by the intelligent part of the com-munity, or by the mass of the population. The Journal des Debats, the Siecle, and one or two of the Republican papers have been distinguished by a prudent reserve which was unfortunately not displayed by every English journalist. It is difficult to believe that either the rural supporters of the Empire or the trading classes in the towns wish to double the taxes, and to increase fivefold the burden of the conscription, for the frivolous purpose of excluding from the throne of Spain prince who had, seven hundred years

ago, a common ancestor with the King of Prussia, or for the still weaker reason of resenting a project which has been abandoned. If an unpardonable crime and a langerous blunder have indeed been avoided, it may be alleged that a victory has been achieved without shedding a drop of blood; but if there has been a French victory, it is over Spain or Sigmaringen, for Prussia has incurred neither defeat nor humiliation. It was not worth while wantonly to alienate the good will of Spain; and if time is allowed for reflection, French politicians will discover that the policy of the Government has given a fresh impulse to the completion of German unity. The maladroit brawlers of the warlike press have openly declared that the French protests were directed, not against the Hohenzollern candidature, but against the past and prospective aggrandizement of Prussia. The obsolete project of an-nexing the left bank of the Rhine has been ostentatiously revived in all the ancient ignorance of geography, of history, and of practical possibility. The agitators who declaim against the independence of a neighboring rival have yet to learn that Germany is a great and patriotic nation, not inferior to France in the arts either of peace or of war, and superior in numbers. The coveted provinces have never belonged to France, except during the short period of the Republic and the Empire; and they are inhabited by a purely German population. To believe that Germany would, even after suffering military reverses, submit to dismemberment merely because a portion of the national territory is traversed by a great river, is an antiquated delusion. It woult be but prudent to profess that the opposition to a Prussian King of Spain, in the absence of any other justification, was at least serious and sincere. If the menace of war was intended to extort any other concession than the withdrawal of the Hohenzollern candidate, the bloodless victory, if it has been achieved, assumes the character of a defeat. No material impediment will in that case be offered to the more complete union of Germany, and the motives of patriotism and of interest which recommend it have

become more urgent and more operative. If the terms of the Duke of Gramont's cirlar have been correctly reported, the French Government must share the discredit which attaches to the violent section of the press. The Minister of Foreign Affairs is said to have officially declared that the aggressiveness of Prussia causes legitimate apprehension for the maintenance of the political balance of Europe. France has, as he unnecessarily declares, always kept in view the policy of not allowing itself to be swallowed up by the neighboring States. "This has been the policy followed since the times of Francis I by Henry IV, by Richelieu, by Louis XIV, and by Napoleon I." Such a despatch, if it has really been communicated to Lord Granville, must have taxed his patience and his

It is useless to guess at a decision which will in a few hours be known in all parts of Europe. The French Government has by this time ascertained that a wanton disturbance of peace is universally reprobated, for Lord Granville's despatches can scarcely have failed to correct the misapprehension which was caused by the blundering subserviency of one or two newspaper writers. Napoleon I never attacked a neighbor without more plausible pretexts than any which can be alleged by the Duke of Gramont. A war will be an act of deliberate wickedness: and even if the crisis is now finally terminated, the peace of Europe is obviously insecure. The chiefs of the army, and the literary advocates of war, are eager to try the instrument which has been brought to perfection by Marshal Niel and his successor. A great army is raised and equipped because there is a supposed risk of war, and then it is thought that so admirably organized a force ought to be used before it declines in efficiency. The Ministers and the Emperor himself will not be trusted, even if they sincerely adopt a pacific policy. Late experience has shown that an apparently clear sky offers no security against the sudden rise of a thunder-cloud.

M. Ollivier's rashness, and the calculated violence of the Duke of Gramont, may at any moment reappear. On the other side, the Germans will be reasonable jealous, and if any controversy arises, they will be more than ever charv of concessions. Although the Hohenzollern candidature or election was a matter of indif-

ference to Germany, great annoyance will be

felt at the withdrawal, which was an act of deference to French exigency. The fulfil-ment of the terms of the treaty of Prague will probably be still further postponed, and though Baden may not at once be admitted into the Confederation, Prussian policy will be more active among the South German States. The prospect of disarmament is indefinitely delayed, for it is impossible that Germany should incur the risk of a capricious attack without making due preparation for resistance. The personal reasons which induced the Emperor to invent and precipitate a quarrel will remain in force. He may at any moment wish to revive his own popularity, to silence domestic agita-tion, or to exhibit his son on horseback on a field of battle. The far weightier reasons which ought to bind him to a policy of peace have been shown to be insufficient. A graver cause of provocation than the Hohenzollern nomination might always be provided at five minutes notice. It is now certain that the French Ambassador at Madrid and his government had known of the candidature as probable for several months, nor can the definitive adoption of the scheme have caused genuine surprise at Paris. A change of ministry would afford no guarantee for peace, for the Emperor is absolute master of the foreign policy of France, and some sections of the Opposition are professed advocates of war. M. Gambetta supports in the legislative body the demand of the Emperor's confidential agent, M. Clement Duvernois, that the frontier fortresses of Germany should be dismantled. It would be as reasonable to require that William I or the Prince of Prussia should surrender himself as a hostage for the renunciation of the project of German unity.

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The house been greatly enlarged and improved, and
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This well-known House is new open for the reception of guests.

MRS. M. A. LEEDS,
Late of Seaview House.

The bar will be under the superintendence of the late proprietor, and will be open in conjunction with the other part of the house.

7 9 stuthim" HUGH BARR. SURF HOUSE, ATLANTIC CITY, N. J. is now open for the season. Besides the advantage of location this house enjoys, and the fine bathing contiguous to it, a railroad has been constructed since last season to convey guests from the hotel to the beach. The house has been overhauled and refitted throughout, and no pains will be spared to make it, in every particular.

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6 25 6w GEORGE H. MACY, Proprietor. HEWITT HOUSE, ATLANTIC CITY, N. J.

This favorite house has been removed two squares nearer the ocean, and is new on PENNSYLVANIA Avenue, next to the Presbyterian church. It is now open for the season.

6 Il stutham A. T. HUTCHINSON, Proprietress. COTTAGE RETREAT ATLANTIC CITY
N. J., is now open for the reception of guesta.
Terms moderate.
MRS. McCLERS,
6 il stuth 2m
Proprietress.

DEN'N MANSION (FORMERLY ODD FEL-lows' Retreat), ATLANTIC CITY, is now in the bands of its former proprietor, and is open for the season, 6 Il 2meed WM. M. CARTER, Proprietor. TENTRAL HOUSE is NOW OPEN for the reception of guests.
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THE "CHALFONTE," ATLANTIC CITY, N

J., is now open. Railrond from the house to the
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6 li 3m Proprietor. INSTRUCTION.

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The House is new and pleasantly located, with plenty of shade. Rooms large and airy, a number them communicating, and with first-class board.

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A wide-awake, thorough-going School for boys
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L. D'HERVILLY, Principal.

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