## SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

FRANCE AROUSED.

From the N. Y. Tribune. The banks of the Moselle no longer demand our first attention—the interest of Europe centres on the banks of the Seine. All France is in uproar, and Paris revolu-

A French levy en masse is a terrible and a Cangerous thing. Men now from one end of France to the other are rushing together, clamoring for arms and leaders, chanting the Marseillaise, and shouting "A bas to Prusse! A real enthusiasm for war has seized upon the whole nation. There is no doubt that the Government, if it had means of transportation and subsistence, might to-day throw upon the Prussian lines almost every Frenchman capable of bearing arms, and these men would fight to the death to drive back the hated invader. But a populace in arms is not an army. A large proportion of the new levies are doubtless men who have served already in the army or the National Guard, and could soon be made effective soldiers. We are told, also, that the French are a people of military tastes, which is quite true; yet the average French peasant, before he has been made over by drilling and discipline, is one of the most unmartial creatures in the world. A long stay in camp or barracks is necessary to fit him for the field. So if the full strength of the empire is now called forth, only a small part of it will be immediately available at the front.

On the other hand, a levy of this kind, if not immediately formidable to the enemy, is very apt to be formidable to its own commanders. The patriotic enthusiasm kindled by disaster does not readily brook delay, and the French populace, in their present temper, if not led at once against the Prussians, will be apt to turn their arms against the Government that has got them into trouble. They are not satisfied to enlist quietly and go where the generals want to have them. They insist upon taking the reins into their own hands, and declare that in a crisis like this every citizen mast be "armed and ready." It is easy to see what this means. If another victory should be won by the Prussians, those arms would never again be under the command of Napoleon. The soldiers would overturn the throne for the sake of saving the country. The events of last week have shaken the dynasty almost to its fall, and we see little probability that Napoleon will recover the prestige he has lost. His inefficiency as a commander, which military men knew well enough before, has now been manifested to everybody. If his fortunes should be retrieved by a victory at Metz, the credit will not belong to him and will not be given him. Perhaps in the course of the campaign some great military genius may arise among the French host, as a great military genius arose in the last century among the hosts of revolutionary France, and the people, after marching to victory under him, may place him at the head of the nation. But the sick man who lies suffering and beaten at Chalons will never again enkindle their ardor. It is not for him that France has

It may soon prove, indeed, that it is against him France has arisen. The French Chamber votes a want of confidence in his Ministry. The Ministry, in turn, does what it can to allay the rising storm, by ignoring alike Emperor and Regent. Appeals to Paris are officially promulgated, which implore that there be no rising, on the avowed ground that it would place the French army between two fires. And all this we learn over wires guarded with the most jealous surveillance, by what is left of the French Government! When the official censorship permits so much to be known, as the best face it can put on affairs, what must be the worst? That Napoleon is not expected ever to enter Paris again comes to us in a despatch from one of our correspondents there, and the prediction seems an easy one. That the Empress is preparing for flight is a rumor no longer hard to believe. Paris seems trembling on the verge of revolution.

OUR SEA-COAST DEFENSES.

From the N. Y. Times. In a country with such an extent of seacoast as ours, especially one that contains so many important maritime towns, a complete and continuous system of fortification is necessary for protection from naval attacks in case of war. Accordingly we find running all along the coast, from Maine to Florida, and from the lower peninsula of California to Alaska, a system of forts more or less formidable, according to the size and importance of the point to be protected. There are in and about the harbor of New York, the most important point on the line, nine or ten fortifications and detached works, some of them still in the process of construction, which, when all are completed, will make the city as nearly secure from attacks by a hostile fleet as is practicable. These forts, and our sea-coast defenses generally, being intended as permanent works, are built of solid ma-sonry. Many of them, however, are flanked reinforced with detached works and water batteries, where earth is mainly relied upon to stop hostile shot, thus to a great extent combining the advantages of earth and

Before the Rebellion, Floyd, the then Secretary of Wal, sent as many heavy guns as possible to the South, so that at the outbreak of hostilities many of the larger Northern forts were almost entirely without ordnance. Fort Schuyler, near Throgg's Neck, for instance, had then scarcely a dozen in position. The entrance to our harbor in that direction however, is now protected by two extensive works—the second on Willet's Point—and this advance in the work of sea-coast defense may be taken as a sample of what is doing elsewhere. The corps of engineers to whom the charge of all our fortifications is in-trusted is composed of the ablest scientific officers of the army, who are fully equal to

the requirements of their position.

The introduction of heavy ordnance, and the experiences of the Rebellion, have done so much to alter the ideas of military men on the subject of fortification, that it is impossible to see what will be their ultimate result. The experiments which have been made at Fortress Monroe and Fort Delaware here, and at Shoeburyness in England, with ironclad easemates and stout iron shields, tend to show the inadequacy of our present methods of construction, but they do not furnish data enough to indicate the best substitute. Our fortifications have all been built in conformity with what were considered the best military models at the time of their erection, and our engineers are alive to the importance of obtaining all the light which additional experiments may throw on the

the best military works of the Continent, and to obtain from them any valuable hints they may offer. The breaking out of the war between France and Prussia will probably facilitate the work of these officers. Even though engineers express grave doubts as to the power of masonry works to resist the assaults of modern artillery, still, when we remember how long Fort Sumter withstood the attacks of our iron-clads, after all its walls seemed crumbling to ruins, we shall not be inclined to lose all faith in granite walls, even should they be without shelds of iron.

A work which served to keep back such vessels as we had before Charleston would seem to be of decided practical value, although in the eye of military science it may be but a dismantled wreck.

While in the matter of construction there is still some uncertainty, we are on a much better footing as regards heavy artillery for the armament of forts. Our system of heavy ordnance is as perfect as that of any other country, and we lead the world in the construction of pieces of large calibre. At Fort Hamilton there is a battery of fifteen-inch guns, and also one monster twenty-inch, which, we are assured, can throw a heavier weight of metal to a greater distance than any similar number of guns, not of the same make, anywhere else on the face of the globe. A change seems likely to be made in the common system of barbette mountingthat is, firing over an earthen parapet-for heavy guns at least, by the substitution of a carriage which will admit of the depression of the gun for loading. It is a laborious process to load a large gun, and if the cannoneer is exposed to the enemy's fire while so engaged, the result is a damaging loss of gunners. To obviate this difficulty, the English have adopted the Moncrieff carriage, and as this subject is now being studied here, we may hope shortly to be able to have a system of barbette mounting for heavy guns suited to the peculiar needs of our forts and coast. Enough, however, has been said to show that we have a good system of sea-coast defense, and that the officers having this matter in charge are constantly engaged in constructing, improving, and strengthen-ing the works that have already been begun.

NAPOLEON'S UNLUCKY DELAYS.

From the N. Y. Herald. In the beginning of our own civil war we had a great many theories. Generals who knew just how to quell the Rebellion in three weeks or ninety days, and would need only seventy-five thousand men and a few dozen cannon for the purpose, were as pleatiful as blackberries. All these theories were discussed and digested, and consequently caused delay, and in war delay is ruin. We had another class of persons who dreaded that every weak point of our army had was known to the enemy, that our exact force was a matter of certain knowledge in the opposing camp, and that every movement we might contemplate was faithfully noted on the enemy's chart. It was not until General Grant made his first brilliant successes that we comprehended that we might be as strong as the enemy. When he moved immediately on the enemy's works at Fort Donelson and captured an army of prisoners, there was a general feeling that he had made a blindly reckless dash and by the mercy of Providence had succeeded. When he struck into the enemy's country behind Vicksburg many good people thought he was as good as swallowed up by the fierce hordes of Southrons that would fall upon him. But when he took Vicksburg and took another army with it, then people comprehended that General Grant was a general who meant business, that he knew his own strength and found out as nearly as possible his enemy's, and that he did not terrify him-self with the belief that the enemy knew more or was able to do more than he. He was never guilty of vacillation or delay. He struck as soon as he was ready, and he got ready as soon as he could.

Napoleon's great mistake in the present campaign lay in his vacillation and delay. It was his purpose to invade Prussia, and at the first enthusiastic uprising of the French army "On to Berlin" was the demand. There was necessity for delay. The French army was, at least, much readier for the battle than the Prussians; but the demon of vacillation seized Napoleon. It may have been that he feared the war would be over too soon for political effect if he crushed out the Prussians at once, just as some of our ninety day prophets pre-dicted in our civil war. Or it may be that he dreaded his own weak points, and believed, as some of our earlier generals believed, that the enemy knew all about them. So he delayed and waited to strengthen his army when he should have been striking with it across South Germany for Berlin with the speed and energy of the first Napoleon sixty-four years ago. Such a rapid movement might have served to divide to some extent the sentiment of the South Germans, and it would certainly have had the advantage of taking the Prussian army, still unready, on its own soil. But there came vacillation and delay on his part and steady concentration on the part of Prussia. The result is that where Napoleon should have invaded Prussia United Germany invades France; where he should have struck an almost unorganized army of Prussia he falls upon a solid wall of united German bayonets; where he and Louis should have been long ago in Berlin, "our Fritz" and old King Wilhelm and the whole German family seem determined to summer in Paris.

WHY NOT, MR. GREELEY?

From the N. Y. World. The Tribune censures us for permitting our Richmond correspondent to set forth the reasons why the Conservative candidate for Congress from the Eighth Virginia District, just nominated, is popular with his supporters and likely to be elected. The candidate in question, General William Terry, of Abingden, is not very well known to the Northern public, and our correspondent very properly gave a succinct sketch of his history. The part of the recital to which the Tribune takes exception relates to General Terry's career as an officer in the Confederate army. He was such an officer, a trusted and energetic one; and the World sees no good reason why it should have been expected to withhold that fact from its readers. Nay, more; the World sees no reason why that fact should be an impediment to General Terry's election. It does not appear that there is anything in his history in consequence of which he would be excluded from his seat by the proscriptive section of the fourteenth amendment. His constituents may therefore as freely choose him as any other citizen residing in the dis-trict. His efficiency and rapid promotion as a Confederate officer prove him to be a man

of energy and capacity, and may properly enter into the question of his qualifications. By the fourteenth amendment every man in the South who has had any civil experience is excluded from Congress. The South is therefore compelled to select new men for its representatives, and unless it catches up obscure nobodies and takes them on trust, its range of selection is very narrow, being consubject. A board of distinguished fined to persons whose only opportunity to engineer officers is now in Europe to examine acquire distinction and make their abilities

and public spirit known was furnished by the late war. Conspicuous service in the Confederate army supplies the means of judging of a man's honesty, fidelity to associates, zeal in a public cause, talents, and force of character; and surely the Tribune cannot think that these are qualities to be disregarded in the choice of Congressmen. The whole Southern people supported the Rebellion, and soldiers who exposed their lives for it are more respectable than sneaks who stayed at home. If praying Stonewall Jackson were living, he would make a fitter member of Congress than praying Whitte-more and his like, who have been foisted into seats which they have disgraced. If every Southern member were a Confederate ex-general, there is no man of intelligence who would not think it a great improvement on the present Southern delegation in Congress, made up as it is of adventurers without character, antecedents, social connections with the Southern people, or even common honesty or decency. Why not, Mr. Greeley, sweep away all proscriptive barriers and allow the South to be represented by its strongest and most experienced men?

THE POPE AND THE WAR.

From the Providence Journal. The European war has brought unexpected trouble to the Pope at the very moment of his triumph as the Head of the Church. The Emperor of France is withdrawing his troops from Rome for service on the Rhine. They are already beginning to embark at Civita Vecchia, and soon not a soldier of France will be left in the States of the Church. This has been repeatedly threatened before, but the Pope felt confident that nothing but some emergency of the future would lead to the fulfillment of the threat. It is nearly twenty years since Louis Napoleon sent his regiments to Rome to bring back the Pope, who had been driven away by the republicans. It was soon evident, however, that to bring back the Pope would be of little avail unless be could be kept in the seat to which he had been restored-a result which was then deemed in Europe almost essential, not only to the Papal supremacy, but even to the pre-servation of Christendom. For this pious purpose the Emperor of France has continued his soldiers in the Roman territory from that day to the present. To them has his Holiness been indebted not only for the little quiet he has enjoyed, but also for the ability to live in Rome at all and to sit in the ancient seat of St. Peter. Without their bayonets bristling at every stronghold in his territory, his temporal power would long ago have been wrested from him, either by his own subjects or by the King of Italy, whom he excommunicated for his unyielding hos-

tility to the Papal supremacy.
But now the long-dreaded hour has come. The Pope is to be left alone in his dominions, and these dominions have been reduced by the disaffection of their population to dimensions far narrower than they were twenty years ago. His guardian has had a way, in nearly every time of trouble, of submitting to the people of the rebellious districts whether they would continue subjects of the Pope or not. They have, if we recollect aright, in every instance voted in the negative. Thus has be been compelled to surrender all his provinces on the Adriatic, and, indeed, in every part of Italy, except in the city of Rome, and the district between it and the Mediterranean. All this he has been obliged to submit to even while the Emperor of France was protecting his person with the Imperial troops. This protection he is now no longer to have. Even if the Emperor desired it, he could not continue to occupy Rome with his soldiers. But there are many reasons for believing that he no longer cares much for the Pope. He has been offended that the Holy Father has so often refused his advice. and especially that the dogma of infallibility was insisted on after France and Austria had declared against it. He appears to be weary of this endless task of keeping the Head of Christendom from the loss of his temporal power. Indeed, if Louis Napoleon were not a man of such conspicuous and unquestioned piety, it might be suspected that he had ceased to care anything whatever either for the Pope or his Church, now that he can no longer use them in the work of aggrandizing France and strengthening the dynasty of the Bonapartes.

To the Pope, however, the withdrawal of the French regiments is a serious affair. It makes his future dubious and insecure. His position as the infallible head of the Church will doubtless remain unaltered, but the question is, how is he to retain his capital city or to exercise his functions as supreme Pontiff in any place that is not his own? Now that France has withdrawn her protection, he must look to some other Roman Catholic power for assistance. But Spain is unable to belp him, and Austria has declared against him on account of the infallibility dogma. He can look to Italy alone; to that Italy which regards Rome as her true historical capital and means to possess it herself; to that Italy whose king has been excommunicated for despeiling the Papacy of its territories, and whose people, though Roman Catholics, care not how soon the Pope is stripped of his temporal power and compelled to become merely a spiritual potentate.

The Pope evidently comprehends the situation, and however keenly he may feel about it, he is disposed to make the best of it. He it, he is disposed to make the best of it. He has already made overtures for the friendship of the Italian King, who, it is said, is ready to guarantee his personal safety in Rome. It may be doubted whether he can guarantee more than this. It may be that this is all that the present Pope is his extreme old age will care to ask. When he passes away, as he soon must, the future of the Papacy, as a temporal power, must depend on the party temporal power, must depend on the party which may prevail in the election of a successor. Should Louis Napoleon succeed in placing his Cardinal eousin in the Pontifical hair, he will doubtless send back his soldiers to Rome, and again become responsible for the temporal sovereignty of the Pope in the city of the apostles. If, however, some other successor should be chosen, that successor, whoever he may be, must expect troublous times in governing the States of the Church, and he may very likely be obliged to find for himself another house than that which his predecessors have so long had on the banks of the Tiber.

THE NEGRO IN MISSOURI POLITICS. From the St. Louis Republican.

Missonri radicalism is afflicted, not with negro on the brain, but with negro in the belly. Negro suffrage in its bowels is having some effects that were not bargained for. The patient has been attacked with gripings and contortions. It raves like a man in deli-rium, and, in its abdominal agony, fills the air with penitential confessions and self-con-demnations. It admits what it has hereto-fore denied, and denies what it has heretofore asserted. It tears its hair, beats its breast and stabs itself with the weapon it has used to stab its enemies. It makes out a clear case against itself, and leaves on the minds of all who listen to its accusatory ravings the

impression that if ever a political party deserved to be hanged, and if a political party could be hanged, the dominant party in Missouri ought to meet that fate. The recognized organ of that party has the new malady in the most malignant form. "According to Messrs, Hilton, Jewett, and Filley," all members of the Radical State Central Committee, it talks as "121 pageroes in St. Louis are on it tells us "121 negroes in St. Louis are entitled to as much weight in convention as 147 white radicals;" "and in the country 85 negroes get a delegate," while "in the city 147 white radicals get a delegate, and in the country 136 white radicals." But the disease reaches its climax in this exhaustive statement:-"That is the final decision of the majority, that 85 country negroes, 121 city negroes, 138 country radicals, and 147 city radicals are equal, and are each entitled to one delegate.

This is monstrous; the idea of making 85 negroes equal to 147 white radicals is absolutely unendurable. It makes one negro equal to one and three-quarters white radieals, or three-quarters over the recognized radical standard. It gives to "fifty-one thousand radicals and negroes in the populous counties only 368 delegates in conventions, while less than fifty-one thousand radicals and negroes in smaller counties can elect 428 delegates." The Democrat is not disposed to submit to any such Africanization of its party; nay, it is resolved that it will not submit to it. Submission to minority rule is all very well when exacted of "rebels" and Democrats; but it will not do for "white radicals." The Democrat therefore "calls upon the honest radicals in all counties to vote down this influence which seeks to defeat enfranchisement through enabling a minority of the party to force its opinion upon a majority." "It is time to tell those men that jority." "It is time to tell those men that they have gone far enough;" "not content with disfranchising white rebels, these Winchellizers now disfranchise white radicals; white radicals in Missouri still have some rights which disfranchisers are bound to respect;" and "the time has come to put down the element which, confessing itself by this outrage to be a minority, still seeks to force its will upon the majority by such devices as we have exposed."

It is a pathetic story, and we are not surprised that the leading organ loses its ancient affection for the African, under the irritation of the wrong and calls him a "negro" instead of "our colored citizen;" but, after all, it is only a case in which the wicked have fallen into the snare which they set for others. The Radical chickens are coming home to roost. These same "white Radicals," who make an outcry about being subjected to the rule of a minority in a party convention, have for five years subjected an admitted majority of the people of this State "by just such devices" as they now complain of; and they declined to modify their registry law last winter because they had resolved to use it to disfranchise the majority, with it, at one more election. It is pretty hard, we admit, for "147 white Radicals" to accept "85 negroes" as an equal polical power with themselves; but Secretary Rodman and the radical registry superintendents know that there is a way of making white men submit to unpleasant things. It was the Democrat's own partisans who sifted the 3400 population of voting age in Boone county down to less than one-third its number of adult negroes. It was the registry law made by the Democrat's "white radicals" that permitted only 179 white men to vote for ready to cast some 800 negro votes for McClurg. We commend to the outraged organ a diligent cultivation of that virtue which Democrats have been forced to exhibit in the last five years—patience. We used to think that white Democrats in Missouri "had some rights which disfranchisers were bound to respect," but the Missouri Democrat. Governor Fletcher, Monks, and Rodman taught us that we were mistaken; and if Governor McClurg and his negro friends should now teach the "white radicals" the same delightful lesson, the pupils would have no right to complain.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

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