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

ALSACE AND LORRAINE.

From the N. Y. Tribune. The two provinces of Alsace and Lorraine. now French, but formerly German, territory have not only become prominent during the last month as the battle-field of one of the bloodiest wars of modern times, but they derive an additional interest from the widespread expectation that the Germans, if victorious, will demand their cession from France as one of the conditions of peace. Before the war began, it was rare to meet in the German press with any demand of this kind, and it is safe to say that a war for the outspoken purpose of reconquering these two provinces would have met with general opposition. But now, when Napoleon has forced the war upon Germany, and when a large war party, comprising, in fact, a majority of the French people, have made no secret of their desire to extend the French frontier to the Rhine, it cannot be surprising that the Germans have taken up the gauntlet, and that a national cry has arisen for the recovery of Alsace and Lorraine. In a few weeks the question may engage the attention of all the great powers of Europe. The larger portion of the provinces is at present in the hands of the Germans; and as a cable despatch advised us a few days ago, the King of Prussia has appointed General Bonin Governor-General of Lorraine, and Count Bismarck Governor-General of Alsace. French newspapers, moreover, report that the German authorities are appointing in every community within their lines new municipal authorities. All this seems to indicate that in case Germany should dictate the terms of peace, the cession of Alsace and Lorraine will be one of them.

In view of such a contingency, we give on another page a brief geographical, statistical, and historical statement of the relation which these provinces sustain to Germany on the one hand and to France on the other. One of the most interesting points in this statement is the account of the comparative strength of the German and French nationalities. As the nationality question has of late obtained an important prominence in European politics, the national relation of the districts has been investigated with the utmost care, and official accounts of an entirely trustworthy character are within reach of every one who desires to understand the subject. It appears from these figures that in the two departments of Alsace, out of a total population of about 1,093,000 inhabitants, fully 1,007,000 belong, even to this day, to the German nationality, either speaking German exclusively or North German and French. In Lorraine the relation of nationalities is not so favorable to the Germans. This province has four departments-Meuse, Moselle, Meurthe, and Vosges. The first has no German population of any amount; but the last three, with a total population of 1,290,000, have a number of wholly German districts with a population of 352,000. The three departments of Lorraine and the two of Alsace thus have, in a total population of 2,383,000, a German population of 1,359,000, or more than one-half. Germany, on the other hand, has on its western frontier but a few scattered Frenchsteaking communities, with an aggregate population of only 10,000.

If France should prove the victor in this war, the Government, with the applause of the immense majority of the nation, would elemand from Germany the left bank of the Rhine, with several millions of Germans, who never, except for a few years, have belonged to France. What objection, then, can the French make, if defeated, to the reannexation to Germany of districts which originally, and for centuries, belonged to Germany, and which still are inhabited by a German-speaking people? The neutral powers may interpose a veto from reasons based upon the principle of a balance of powers; a portion of the German people may desire that no part of France be annexed to Germany without a previous plebiscitum; but France has certainly forfeited all right of remonstrance if the victorious Germans insist on the cession of these two ancient German provinces.

NAPOLEON'S DIFFICULTIES AND DAN-GERS-ENGLAND OFFERS A CHANCE OF ESCAPE. From the N. Y. Herald.

England has offered to the French Emperor a way of escape from the difficulties and dangers which threaten his overthrow and expulson, and the re-establishment of the republic in the further prosecution of this war. England's proposition is simply a treaty of peace. Napoleon intimates through Lord Lyons that he is ready to bury the hatchet, but King William replies to the special messenger of Queen Victoria that if France wants peace she must ask an armistice in the usual way, or leave the issue to the arbitrament of war. This reduces Napoleon, then, to the war or an armistice, and while by war his empire may be lost, through an armistice the empire and his dynasty may yet be saved. It is probable, too, that with very little urging on the part of her Britanic Majesty the Emperor will be persuaded even to an armistice.

Why not? Excepting a suspension of hostilities with a treaty of peace, what alternative of safety is offered to Napoleon? With the presence of the Prussian invading army in front of Paris "the republic" is threatened. and from present appearances this invading army will not be arrested till in front of the walls of Paris. Stout old King William, over the most formidable obstacles of the most difficult line of approach from her eastern frontier, has passed into the heart of France. Through a network of fortified cities and towns, over mountain ranges and difficult rivers, fighting and routing at every step the flower of the French army, its best generals and its best soldiers, the massive columns of the German Confederation have maintained their resistless advance towards the French capital. Compared with the natural and artificial obstructions they have passed, the obstacles which lie between them and Paris are comparatively insignificant. They have shown that against an invading army, powerful enough to protect itself in the open field, front, flanks, and rear, detached fortified towns and cities, mountain defiles and river crossings, are no impediments: that all such obstructions may be swallowed up in the general advance. It

ollows, then, that, having driven the French army from the strongest defensive lines which lie between the French Rhine border and Paris, there is nothing that can arrest t he advancing German columns except a more stubborn and effective resistance in the open field than any resistance they have so far oncountered.

The invading army of the Germans is re-

ported as exceeding in numbers half a mil- | "complications" and an unaccountable, or lion of men; that each of the powerful and | at least an unaccounted for, "embarrassexpansive wings of the Crown Prince and Prince Frederick Charles numbers two hundred and fifty thousand men, and that the veteran Steinmetz, who appears to be a second edition of Blucher, holds in the centre a chosen body of nearly a hundred thousand men. Nor is this all; for it further appears that a second German army, one hundred and fifty thousand strong, is following King William's to protect his rear and his communications, &c. This German campaign, therefore, in France dwarfs the most imposing campaigns of the First Napoleon; for even the mighty army with which he marched into Russia, French and Germans, hardly numbered, all told, four hundred thousand men. In half a dozen or more of the recent battles, from Woerth to the line of the Moselle, it would appear from the reports received that the Prussian force alone has exceeded in numbers the strength of all the three armies engaged in the battle of Waterloo.

The great mistake of Napoleon, then, it would appear, in entering upon this war was in his calculations concerning the German army he would have to meet in the field. He evidently supposed that a fighting French force of two hundred and fifty thousand men would be sufficient for all the requirements of a short triumphant campaign to Berlin; and under this erroneous calculation he advanced to the Prussian frontier and opened the ball in the little deceptive affair of Saarbruck. We say deceptive, for only a few days after it the rejoicings of Paris were changed into a panic with the news of the defeat of MacMahon by the overwhelming forces of the enemy. By one-half Napo-leon's estimates have fallen short of the actual German army to be overcome. Can he now repair this blunder? Can be even repair his losses with his new levies of raw troops? The odds are heavily against him. He can bardly recover his strength short of a retreat with his disabled army to Paris. In the stubbornness of despair the tide of battle may, perhaps, be turned; but this alternative involves all the hazards of a crushing

The only perfectly safe alternative of Napoleon in the crisis, as it appears to us, is the armistice suggested by King William and a treaty of peace. This will give the Emperor the strong hand over Paris, through his still powerful and loyal army, and then, through a conference of the great powers, which Prussia can hardly deny, looking to the general interests of peace. France, under the empire, may be regularly acknowledged by all the great powers, and still be maintained intact. England, Russia and Austria have only to unite in saying that there must be peace, and there will be peace; for has not Prussia already amply vindicated her rights and the rights of the "German Fatherland," and has not Napoleon had enough of war to satisfy him that "the empire is peace?"

FRELINGHUYSEN, GRANT, AND MOT-LEY.

From the N. Y. World.

It is creditable to Mr. Frelinghuysen's sense of what is due to public opinion that he should have promptly responded to the comments of the World upon the awkward and unpatriotic attitude in which his apparent vacillation over his appointment as Minister to England has placed him, by the publication of a letter intended fully to explain his course in this matter.

This letter appeared recently in the leading journal of the city in which Mr. Frelinghuysen resides; and if we could agree with the Newark Advertiser that "the letter explains itself sufficiently," we should gladly suffer it to relieve us from any further notice of the subject. But this we cannot do. Mr. Frelinghuysen is not the only person con-cerned in this affair. The President also has played in it a part which requires explanation at least as much as the conduct of Mr. Frelinghuysen, and a part which, remaining unexplained, beclouds Mr. Frelinghuysen's own statement of his own course in the matter with suspicions not to be lightly borne, we should say, by so sensitive and so rightminded a person.

Mr. Frelinghuysen's nomination, as we need not remind our readers, was coupled with the removal of Mr. Motley. The removal of Mr. Motley, of course, commanded the approbation of a vast majority of Congress and of the country. The nomination of Mr. Frelinghuysen was received with satisfaction. But this was upon the faith of Mr. Frelinghuysen's intention to accept the office and undertake at once its duties. Nobody expected or approved the nomination merely as a compliment to Mr. Frelinghuysen, of whom it is neither unjust nor uncivil to say that no one would ever have dreamed of his being named to the post had not the nomination been actually made. Now Mr. Frelinghuysen tells us that he had no sooner heard a rumor of his nomination than he at once telegraphed his determination to decline the appointment. This telegram he followed up with another to the same effect upon receiving the news that he had actually been nominated. He does not say to whom he telegraphed, but he does say that neither of his telegrams "reached its destination." Of course, he probably telegraphed to the President; and it is certainly a very curious circumstance that two telegrams upon such a subject, sent to the head of the Government on two successive days, should both have failed to arrive. A curious circumstance, and, so far as Mr. Frelinghuysen is concerned, a most unfortunate circumstance. For by his failure to prevent a month ago the appointment he now vacates, Mr. Frelinghuysen (of course unconsciously) was made in fact to serve the President's purpose by displacing with the least possible difficulty an envoy whom the President longed but feared to remove. In briefer and plainer terms, Mr. Frelinghuysen's obvious and apparent part in this odd diplomatic backstairs comedy was that of a New Jersey peg used to drive out a Massa-chusetts peg withal.

That the very journal which publishes Mr. Frelinghuysen's letter of July 27 to the President perceives this obvious and apparent part to have been played by My. Frelinghuy-sen is clear from the fact that nothing can well be less clear than the allusions which it makes to that gentleman's conduct at the time of his confirmation. It tells us that Mr. Frelinghuysen sought to withdraw his name, not, as he himself now tells us, because his "domestic relations and duties" made it imperative upon him so to do, but because he desired "to relieve the President, the Senate, and himself of all complications. Now, what were these "complications" to avoid which Mr. Frelinghuysen desired to "withdraw his name"? And how is their existence to be reconciled with the farther fact asserted by the same journal, that the 'rapidly approaching close of the session of 'Congress' forbade Mr. Frelinghuysen to 'avoid these complications" except "at the cost of much embarrassment to the Senate"? And, above all, what are we to understand by the extraordinary final statement that Mr.

Frelinghnysen, caught between unexplained

ment," was given to believe that "if he saw proper his declination at a later day would avoid many causes of confusion." If the true diplomatic use of language be to conceal thought, the Newark Advertiser is a master of diplomatic composition. And if it be writing in the interest and for the sake of protecting the reputation of the President, it is possibly taking the shortest, if not the fairest, way to its end. The best security of the petty personal and political intrigues in which the President seems to delight is to be found in their complexity and unintelligibility. But the obscure innuendoes of the Newark paper certainly put Mr. Frelinghuysen in the light of a party to one of these Presidential intrigues: and this is a light, we would say, in which Mr. Frelinghuysen cannot desire or deserve to stand. It certainly is a light in which no public man can safely afford to stand.

ENGLISH NEUTRALITY.

From the N. Y. Times. Naturally enough, both Prussia and France are dissatisfied with the course which is being pursued by British merchants under the Neutrality laws. Each declares that the other is the most favored, and both indulge in open denunciation. Prussia asserts that England practically allows her territory to become the French base of naval operations against the coasts of North Germany, by supplying French ships with coal. She also asserts that England is a magazine from which France can draw any amount of war material. France, on the other hand, complains that English merchants are supplying Prussia freely with everything she needs, and that both the English Government and people sympathize with that country to an extent which impairs their neutrality. Between the two, England is in a fair way to get the illwill of both belligerents, just as she did in the Rebellion in this country, and yet it is said by her government that she is strictly fulfilling the duties of a neutral under the law of nations.

The accepted rule now is that neutral ships may carry what they choose to either belligerent, excepting "contraband of war," and to any port which is not blockaded. All goods are declared to be contraband which are specially required for war purposes, such as arms and ammunition, and even such goods may be supplied without offense, subject only to the risk of capture. Under these rules it will be readily seen that in case one of the belligerent powers has a strong war marine, and the other a weak one, the former possesses a great advantage. This was the case with the North and South during our war, and it is the case now with France as against Prussia. France has a strong navy, and is able to keep a sharp watch, and almost entirely prevent the supply of contraband goods to Prussia, while there is no impediment to trade with France.

mercial people like the English will be pretty sure to take advantage of it, and the result will be that they will have the il -will of the belligerent which suffers most, and very leely of both. Nations, like individuals, are to resent hostile interference when they are engaged in a contest, even though that interference may not be prompted by sympathy. English dealers supply the French fleet with coal, and send large numbers of horses to France, and Prussia very naturally complains, although it is clear the so upon insufficient legal grounds. Still the fact exists that a serious ill-feeling towards England prevails in Prussia, while England is lavishing all its sympathy and "moral sup-

So long as the law remains as it is, a com-

port" upon Prussia. Considerable discussion is taking place in England on the subject, and much regret is expressed that the cordial feeling between Prussia and Great Britain has been disturbed. The remedy which is proposed—and it seems to be the only one that can be applied-is to amend the existing neutrality laws so as to prohibit the sale of contraband goods to belligerent powers, and to define more fully what are contraband. It has also been suggested that the Queen be empowered, by order in Council, to prohibit, temporarily, the supply of such as are not strictly contraband, but which may become essential to a belligerent, as is the case with coal just at present.

It is argued that perfect neutrality is in the interests of humanity, inasmuch as it would tend to shorten wars, and that this consideration ought to be sufficient to overrule the objection that it would cripple commerce. Most wars would doubtless be brought to a speedier determination if the belligerents were confined strictly to their own resources. and in many instances we do not doubt that hostilities would be prevented by the general adoption of a policy of perfect neutrality. But aside from that consideration, we believe that, in the long run, even so commercial a country as England would not lose by resolutely repressing trade with belligerents, and especially in contraband goods. The good will of other nations is of greater importance to that country than to almost any other, simply because it is so extensively engaged in commerce and manufacturing, and it can far better afford to forego temporary gains than to hazard the permanent loss of future

But Great Britain ought to be controlled by a higher consideration than that of mere pecuniary interest. It should be impartial and fair, and so define the laws as that both belligerents may know what to rely upon. There should be no technical evasion, no quibbling, but an honest, straightforward neutrality, which would win the respect and preserve the good will of all nations which may be so unfortunate as to be involved in war. From the tone of the English press upon this subject, we judge that the general feeling is in favor of such a policy, and the indications are that it will be adopted—perhaps not soon enough to prevent a misunderstanding with Prussia, but in time for any fresh hostilities which may occur.

CONCERNING SCHOOL TEACHERS. From the Chicago Post,

St. Louis, in one thing, is taking the lead of Chicago; but then, as she is behind in everything else, we do not hesitate to con-cede it. The concession will delight that village; and it may stimulate this city to look to its laurels in a direction where sluggish-

ness is barbarism. The St. Louis School Board has been for some months discussing the propriety of making the salaries of the principals of first-class schools uniform—that is, of paying the women principals as much as the men. The proposition has met with vigorous resistance, but it was so plainly just that it prevailed, and last week the vote was passed commanding uniformity according to the new policy adopted. The member of the board who was the mouth-piece of the "noes" -se to speakrejoices in the gaudy patronymic of Peacock. His arguments were earnest, but not convincing—at least, not convincing on his side:— "He contended that if the salaries were made uniform, it would disturb the equilirbinm of the High

School. Teachers of the lower grades, and lady principals of the second class, would want high salaries. It would be a perfect shame to disturb the present equilibrium."

But they resolved to disturb the equili risk of being by and by compelled to pay fair wages to the "lady principals of the second class." brium-eleven to eight-even at the fearful

At no point in the contact between the sexes does the conduct of man appear so dishonorable as at that which involves the question of women's wages. All over this land-it is a shameful record to makewomen teachers are paid about one-half as much as men teachers for doing the same work and doing it just as well.

A single instance that comes within our personal knowledge: - A year ago a man resigned his situation as a professor in one of the Chicago schools. His salary was \$2200. Five young men and one young woman applied for the vacancy. After a severe examinution in all the branches involved, the woman was found to be the most completely qualified, and won the place over all her competitors. She stands in her predecessor's place to day, doing his work as acceptably as he did; and she receives a salary of \$1000— \$1200 less than he! Either of the men whom she distanced in the examination would have received \$2200 salary, and one of them would have gained the place if she had not been a candidate. And the Board deliberately says to her, "Here! You are better qualified than either of these young men; but we will pay you \$1200 less." She is a lady of culture, taste, and ability; of manifold and unusual acquirements; and she knows how to command order, and how to convey instruction.

This is only one of scores of cases in the city and tens of thousands in the country. The revelation of such injustice is enough to make every white man blush. What reason is there, nay, what excuse is there, for the unmanly discrimination? How can a member of a School Board hold up his head in the community while robbing a woman of a thousand dollars because she is weak, and giving it to a man because he is strong?

It is argued by some that women teachers do not do as much as men. This is a paltry evasion. In many cases they do quite as much, and do it as well; nay, in some cases, they do more, and do it better-and they always receive less pay for doing it. Every member of the Chicago School Board knows this perfectly well. It will not be denied by anybody familiar with the facts.

"Well, but," says a conservative, "a man ought to have more than a woman for doing the same work, because he is compelled to support a family, and she is unmarried. The reply is, first, how does anybody know this which is so oracularly stated? The fact is that some of the women teachers are mothers, while many of the men are bachelors. But, secondly, the pretence is a subterfuge. Nowhere in the world of work are men paid according to the families they have to support. Does any carpenter, tailor, banker, ask his journeyman or clerk how many children he has, as a basis for wages to be paid? Is it a fact that a tax is deliberately laid on celibacy and a large premium offered per capita for children?

Excuses for such an abomination are hollow. Defense is impossible. Justification is roguery. It is about the meanest form of the oppression of the one sex by the other that has appeared since our cowardly progenitor tried to make his wife responsible for his own transgressions. It is undisguised, unblushg, unpardonable piracy, and there ought to be manliness enough left in Chicago to abolish it.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT AN APplication will be made at the next meeting of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the incorporation, in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth, of the SAVINGS AND DEPOSIT BANK OF MANA-YUNK, to be located in the Twenty-third ward o Philadelphia, with a capital of fifty thousand dollars, with the right to increase the same to one hundred thousand dollars.

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