SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

THE FARRAGUT FUNERAL From the N. Y. World.

The obsequies of this gallant sailor-a modest and really heroic man-have, in one respect, been all that could be wished. The neighborhood where he accidentally died. without reserve or distinction of social or political position, followed him as mourners to the grave; his own pastor took the trouble to hasten from a distance to the scene, and utter the grand words of the Liturgy over the coffin as it sank from view; the gallant soldier who fought bravely though disastrously the initial battle of the war was there; and within sound of the ocean which he loved so well our greatest sailor sank to rest. But let us, in no unkindness, ask, was there not something wanting? It seems to us there was a

great deal. It has always been a matter of wonder why, in this ocean-bounded land of ours, there is such disparity in the honors paid to our sailors and our soldiers, either living or dead. If a blustering brigadier dies of apoplexy or some less reputable ailment in our midst, regiments and draped flags and muffled drums ostentationsly follow him on his last march; and if he happen to be a Cabinet minister, and the friend, though a forgotten one, of an actual President, old cannon are melted up and a commission goes to Rome or Munich for a statue. The poor sailor's death is announced by scattering minute gunsnot, as formerly, all over the world, but in decrepit navy yards-by cheap bunting at balf-mast, and an instant quarrel for promotion. This is not so in the land of our ancestors. It did not use to be here. The ceremonial of 1805 over England's sailor was relatively as grand as that of 1852 over her soldier. Trafalgar and Waterloo knew no difference; and Nelson, between his two lientenants, Northesk and Collingwood, lies in the crypt of St. Paul's, and in a tomb meant for Woolsey, not far from Wellington. With us it was once the same. Hull and Decatur and Bainbridge were drawn in triumph through the streets of Philadelphia, and in her graveyards, with Biddle and Stewart, are appropriately entombed. At the gateway of Trinity lie the remains of Lawrence and Ludlow, and "Don't give up the ship!" was once a classic phrase. But by some inscrutable process it is all fading away, and Farragut-who, as we have said, took New Orleans, without which Grant's slow victories would have been fruitless, and, lashed in the rigging at Mobile, ran greater personal risk than our President ever didis buried with no recognition but such as the newspapers gave him, and without a single member of the executive branch of the Government pausing a moment in his career of summer recreation to honor him. Ex-Secretary Welles was there-and it was a graceful act on the part of a grateful friend; and Mr. G. V. Fox, he who tinkered Fort Sumter and perpetuated the Potomae blockade, but still a naval man true to his instincts; and Senator Wilson, ready generally to do an amiable act; and General Banks. But where was Butler (Lowell is not far from Portsmouth), who did not take New Orleans? Where who did not take New Orleans? Where "with which they are perfectly familiar." was Boutwell, the New England mem- And, finally, in order that no single feature ber of the Cabinet, close at hand? Where was the Republican Governor of New Hampshire? Where was Secretary Robeson, with railroads and gunboats ad libitum; where was the antecedent Borie; where was Vice-Admiral Porter, who once was Farragut's pet, and under whose father's flag, in distant seas, our dead hero gained his first laurels; and, above all, where was President Grant? The circle around which he was swinging, from East to West and back again, was nearly complete. The soldier of Vicksburg at the grave of the sailor of New Orleans and Mobile would have been, in its way, as picturesque as Charles Napier looking into the vault of Wellington. It is idle to say that difficulties of transit prevented it. Whatever railway and steamboat difficulties may have sprung up since the summer of 1869, there would have been many a one too happy to speed the President on this pious errand, had he been inclined to go. hardly think, though the suspicion has more than once darkened our mind, that we have so far sunk into ceremonialism that a question of official etiquette prevented this graceful and decorous act. All we know is that neither he nor any of his Cabinet were there. When in a radical corner of Connecticut there

the grave of Farragut! The absence of naval men of high rank on this occasion, there being but one rear-admiral, and the rest of the pall-bearers being surgeons and paymasters and marine officers, is accounted for, not satisfactorily we must say, by a difficulty created by a recent act of Congress (a spiggot-saving piece of economy) curtailing expenses on such occasions. Are there no admirals or commodores or postcaptains willing, for the honor of their profession, to make this journey of respect even at their own expense; and is there no contingent fund of the Navy Department to defray this puny charge? Of this we are very sure: that when the question of promotion in Admiral Farragut's place comes to be considered, if the personal attendance of aspirants is deemed important, considerations of expense will not be thought of. There will, however, we imagine, be no room for competition. The principle which led Grant to overslaugh Meade and Thomas on shore will promote his personal friend Porter at sea, and he will not be thwarted, even though in doing such an honor he actually insults the memory of the dead by appointing an enemy to suc-

is to be a frolic, and Beecher is to blow his

blast, and Hawley and Butler are to brawl.

and Woodford is to make a fulsome speech,

our President finds time to go. But not to

WANTED, PROTECTION AGAINST IN-DUSTRIAL QUACKERY.

From the N. Y. Times. The abundant and economical production of good iron and steel, perhaps the most important industrial problem of the age, is embarrassed by manifold and stubborn difficulties. Many of the best deposits of ore and coal are remote from commercial and manufacturing centres. Ores differ vastly in composition, and the same mine may be free from harmful ingredients in one part and fatally full of them in another. Thus vast and costly scientific and experimental researches into the nature and capacities of each mineral deposit become necessary. Iron and steel-working machinery is peculistly expensive, and the constant improvement of tools and processes involves as constant reconstruction. Then the question of lobor in this manufacture is peculiarly involved and unsettled. All these things and many mere, both scientific and commercial impede the progress of new inventions, but

the most stubborn and annoying embarrassment that improvements have to encounter is editorial advertising in the New York

Some months ago this great authority on metallurgy egregiously puffed, in a leading column, the wonderful invention of a Dr. Field, by which all other iron and steel processes were to be superseded, by which the furnaces of Great Britain were to be shut up, and by which some of the most miraculous things unknown to science were to be performed. Among others, "iron castings" wero to be made "five times as strong as those produced by the old processes"—a simple physical impossibility, which the inventor even did not attempt. The utter absurdity of the Tribune's representations, and the indecency of its grasp after favor and capital, simply disgusted iron masters, and thus embarrassed the development of Dr. Field's process. It was, however, thoroughly and faithfully tried at last by the inventor himself, aided by all the skill and facilities of two of our largest iron works, and although it had some little merit, it was of insufficient value to warrant its adoption at either of these works. In common with numerous kindred inventions -a mere flux to remove some of the impurities from iron-it has already sunk out of sight as an invention of limited utility and importance.

The Tribune has now fastened itself around the neck of another discovery of some promise—the use of the Codorus ore, found in Pennsylvania, in purifying iron. In its own convincing manner, it bids for the favorable consideration of the iron trade, by asserting that the standard processes are now to be "superseded." No modern iron or steel process has been superseded, heretofore, by a new discovery; they have modified and improved each other. Blooming, puddling, cementation, crucible-melting, Bessemerizing, and the Siemens-Martin and all other established processes, instead of displacing each other, are all increasing and growing up togetker. In many cases the new processes enlarge the field of the older ones, and in no case has any process reached perfection; but all of them are the constant subjects of experimental improvement. This being the general law of the development of iron metallurgy, the authority quoted attempts to establish its latest speculation by promising that the general law-shall now be reversed. The standard process, yet in its youth, is to be entirely wiped out by one in its infancy-by a process which, although barely developed in one town, is subject to no difficulties of varying materials and skill, but produces "a perfect steel with no risk of failure.

The good-will and confidence of manufacturers thus being secured, our contemporary proceeds to give metallurgists some information, of which one sample, we think, will answer every purpose. A perfect steel, it says, is "produced by the ordinary puddling process-- which is simply a physical impossibility. The puddling process decarburizes melted pig-iron and reduces it to a pasty ball of malleable iron. Certain grades of puddling iron are sometimes called "puddled steel" or "semi steel," but the term "steel" is universally held to apply only to a malleable product that has been cast from a liquid state, and is hence, in character and structure, essentially different from any possible product of the puddling process. Such being the actual state of the art, the Tribune assures railroad men and metallurgists that it is a simple process, of the discovery may escape its handling, the Tribune recommends the new steel for rails, on the ground that "Colonel Boyer, of Pottsville, who has no interest in this discovery, and never visited the mines till Monday," finds it to be an excellent "tool" steel. In every other rail process, the chief effort is to make the metal as unlike tool steel as possible, but then the idea of tool-steel rails is not very startling when once we have familiarized ourselves with puddling cast-steel, increasing the strength of cast-iron five fold by a flux, and the general upsetting of our previously acquired knowledge and devices. Seriously, American industry should be protected against the clumsy caresses of its

A WEEK OF BATTLES. From the N. Y. Sun.

The battles a round Metz were continued on Saturday, with a desperate effort by Marshal Bazaine to cut his way through the Prussian lines, and reopen his communication with Paris. After three hours' fighting he was forced back within the fortifications; and he will hardly renew an attempt in which he has so many times been foiled, and with such enormous bloodshed.

How great are the losses of the two parties we have no precise information; for both the French and the Prussian authorities prevent the transmission of any detailed reports upon this subject. But the French constantly represent the Prussians as suffering dreadfully, and the King of Prussia says that the killed and wounded of Thursday's encounter were forty thousand. In this number he evidently includes the French as well as his own. On Friday both armies appear to have rested after their herculean struggles of Thursday, so that in the week there were six days of combat. Of these, Thursday must have been much the bloodiest; but it is a moderate estimate that the killed and wounded in this unprecedented succession of battles must have amounted altogether to the sickening aggregate of at least one hundred and fifty thousand men. This is three times as large as the losses of both sides in the two days' battle at Gettysburg, and more than twice as large Grant's in his movement from the Wilderness to Petersburg. On which side has the loss been greatest in the present instance? On Sunday, the 14th, both armies fought without cover, the Prussians surprising the French and cutting their column in two. Since then the attack has been made alternately by one and the other party, the French endeavoring to effect their retreat to Chalons, and the Prussians endeavoring to shut them up in Metz; and each army has alternately had the benefit of fighting under cover of field intrenchments. For this reason we conclude that in number of killed and wounded one must have suffered about as severely as the other.

Bazaine is now penned up in Metz, and we ought at once to hear of the Prussian Crown Prince passing Chalons on his way towards Paris. The order issued on Saturday to the farmers about Chalons to bring in all their grain within twenty-four hours shows that MacMahon and Frossard, who command the French forces there, are anticipating a movement, and mean to leave no supplies for the enemy. It is said that, with the heterogeneous forces at their disposal, they have taken the desperate hazard of fighting the Crown Prince.

Little weight can be allowed to the assertion which Count Palikao, the French Minister of War, so pertinaciously renews, that it is Bazaine who has gained the victory at Matz, and not the Prussians. If Bazaine is vic-

torious, why is he still at Metz? And why was he fighting there six days of last week? He started before daylight on Sunday to march to Chalons, where a general concentration of the French forces had been ordered. He had hardly got outside of Metz before he was attacked; and though Napoleon himself has told the world with what success the attack was repulsed, the march has never been continued; and though the battle of every day has, according to Count Palikao, resulted in French victory, there Bazaine still remains, less able than ever to march upon Chalons. Even Palikao does not pretend that he has received a telegram from Bazaine since Wednesday night, the 17th instant, and then it was sent by a messenger from Bazaine's camp to Verdun, because that was the nearest place still in telegraphic communication with Paris. The truth that the Second Empire has been crushed at Metz cannot be denied or disguised.

While all the world unites in ridiculing the ability of Napoleon III as a military commander, it should not escape notice that Marshal Bazaine has been outgeneralled, surprised, and beaten by the Prassians quite as signally as the Emperor himself, and has shown an equal readiness to commit the most inexcusable military blunders. Deluded by the strength of Metz as a fortress, he concentrated his army there and intended to fight, but allowed the Prussians to get possession of the only railroad connecting Metz and Chalons. When the Crown Prince broke this road by blowing up the viaduct across the Moselle at Pont-a-Mousson on the 13th, Bazaine perceived his blunder, and ordered an immediate retreat, but without the aid of a railroad he had to move with all his trains by ordinary country highways. Next, no sooner had he set out than he was surprised by Von Steinmetz and Prince Frederick Charles.

His army was separated in two, and he himself, with the greater part of it, was forced back under the fortifications of Metz. There he has remained ever since; and whenever he has succeeded in getting out six or a dozen miles in any direction, he has found every controlling position occupied by the Prussians; and after fighting the bloody battles of this memorable week, he will doubtless soon have to choose between starvation and the surrender of the French grand army. He has shown professional incapacity as great as that of his master; and he may look with envy even upon the luckless MacMahon, for though the latter has likewise been outgeneralled. surprised, and crushed, the chief responsibility has not been his, but belongs to Napoleon III.

Thus perishes the mighty sham of the Second Empire, born in perjury and treachery, and built up in fraud and corruption. The cost to humanity of clearing it away isawful to think of; but the air of the world will be purer when it is utterly removed.

REPEATED CHANGING OF GOVERN-MENT CLERKS AND ITS BAD EFFECT. From the N. Y. Herald.

It is intimated that the pernicious custom, which has grown up since Lincoln's time, of changing clerks at the dictation of every Congressman or politician of influence in the Republican party, costs the General Government millions a year, besides imposing an unfair amount of labor upon the experienced officials, who find themselves compelled by the exi-gencies of the service to do the work of the green hands who are constantly coming and going and confusing the public business. Before the time of Lincoln the lines of demarcation separating the three branches of the government, to wit, the legislative, executive, and judicial, were clearly drawn and fully understood. The legislative was left in undisputed possession of its branch, and the Executive was undisturbed in the control and distribution of the public patronage. The President was conceded the right to appoint whom he pleased without consultation with Senator Tom, Congressman Dick, or Governor Harry. But now every Senator, Congressman, Governor, and big State politician claims a certain proportionate share of the spoils, so that if one State gets a feather's weight more than its quota there is danger of an internecine party war. Senators, Congressmen, Governors, and big politicians claim this distribution, not as a matter of courtesy, but as an incontestable right, and they exact the last pound of flesh with true Shylock greed and with more than Shylock success. They get their share, and the consequence is that the public service has come to be at the mercy of an unascertained number of politicians. If yesterday's pet does not suit all the whims of Mr. Politician to-day, he is summarily discharged from whatever position he may fill and a new and greener appointee succeeds.

Under such a civil service system how can the public interests be properly cared for? No sooner are men made acquainted with the duties of their offices than they are dismissed the service. As a matter of course the public service is entrusted mainly to an army of greenhorns. Only a few of the chief clerks, who are indispensable for the purpose of keeping the machinery properly oiled and working, are constantly kept in office, and frequently clerks of this class are rooted out to make room for some political fugleman or nincompoop, who, through ignorance of the duties devolving upon the place he is sent to fill, becomes a dead weight and a detriment

to the public business. To illustrate the effect of this system on some branches of the service, we will take for example the customs service, under which there exist many offices requiring the most intricate knowledge of old laws, customs and forms of procedure, calling for the greatest experience and the most constant and unremitting study and attention. Four or five months ago the head of the Customs Bureau, finding a confused state of things prevailing in the warehouse department, sent an elaborately prepared series of instructions and regulations to the Custom Houses of the country, for the guidance of both Collectors and their subordinates. The instructions and regulations proved too much for the greenhorns in office, and a Washington official. thoroughly versed, had to be despatched New York, Boston, and Philadelphia to enlighten the thick-headed subordinates. This preceptor remained several days posting all the clerks, leaving behind him, moreover, written instructions for their guidance. He returned to Washington, but soon after irregularities were noticed again, and repeated warnings and expostulations by mail failed to effect any improvement. The official was obliged to visit New York, Boston, and Philadelphia again, and at each of the Custom Houses in those cities he was surprised to find all the clerks in the warehouse department changed. Not a single one to whom he had imparted information with so much trouble and care remained in

gressmen and big politicians. Any reflecting person our see how a loose

office. All were new clerks, who had no

more knowledge of the duties required of

them than a greenhorn has of the Greek

grammar. They had been installed in place

of the men of experience by Senators, Con-

public system like this offers a premium for fraud and plunder. There is no incentive for working presented. The clerks are taught by the fate of their predecessors that knowledge and experience are of no account, and that all they have to consider is how long they may preserve the good will of their patrons by political usefulness and how much they can steal in the short time they are likely to remain in office.

BEARDING THE LION. From the N. Y. Tribune.

Since the days of chivalry we do not know that anything pluckier has been recorded than the visit of the Rev. J. P. Newman to Salt Lake City to do battle, logical and exegetical. with the wicked and obscene Dragon of Polygamy. It must have required a good deal of enthusiasm to go all that distance to refute what all virtuous persons consider to be an immorafity and all sensible persons an absurdity. But Mr. Newman was in a manuer constrained to go. He had preached a ser-mon on the subject, which was heard of in Utah; whereupon the Utah Telegraph asked why he did not come to that Territory to preach it "in the new Tabernacle before 10,000 Mormons, with Orson Hyde or some other prominent Mormon to answer." Mr. Newman immediately packed his trunk bought his railway ticket, started very much as Don Quixote would have done under like circumstances. But it was one thing to go to Utah, and quite another thing to get either Brig-bam or his man Orson to meet him in debate. Young, coolly, for August, replied that he had given no challenge; nor did the great Orson show any desire to enter the lists. Apparently, Mr. Newman had his long journey for his pains. But Young was too shrewd a man not to see that he had lost ground by declining the contest; and he therefore sent Mr. Newman an invitation to come and preach in the Tabernacle. Mr. Newman replied that he had already made arrangements to preach in the M. E. meeting-house. And he did preach there "for three mortal hours," in a "sweltering August afternoon," a sermon brimful of texts, to prove that there might be concubinage among the Jews, but that, in our sense of the word, they had no polygamy. Since then the battle royal itself has finally been arranged and fought.

We do not here attempt any abstract of the arguments. Much as we respect Mr. Newman, we do not consider that such of them as were drawn from the manners and customs of the Jews had any pertinence or consequence. We believe that with Christianity came a better and a nobler and a purer dispensation. The polygamy of the lews, or the concubinage, was temporary and local, and not of Divine ordination. If otherwise, why do not the Jews, as a body, now practise it? They virtually acknowledge that there was no command of perpetual validity to maintain polygamy; for while in matters of their law they are mearly as strict as ever, they cheerfully obey our laws of marriage. To be sure, they could not do otherwise without being sent to the penitentiary: but we have no reason to believe that they wish to do otherwise.

We prefer to base our hostility to polygamy upon the fact that all modern civilized nations are monogamous, so far as that word implies having one wife at a time. Mr. Newman shows that such is the doctrine of Christianity. and such being its doctrine, there is no room left for an argument. The example of Utah alone shows how inconsistent is polygamy with refinement, with intellectual culture, with the happiness of woman. The preaching in the Tabernacle is coarse and rude, and often blasphemous; the feminine instincts perpetually revolt against this desecration of the institution of marriage; and there is no man who looks at the matter rationally who does not see that there can be nothing permanent in the custom. It may not be easy to put it down, but so long as it lasts it is a national shame and reproach. Nothing but the great distance of Utah from the seat of government has saved it; but now that a considerable party in Utah itself has been organized against it, we may consider it as doomed. It must pass away at least with the present generation.

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