THE DAILY EVENING TELEGRAPH-PHILADELPHIA, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24, 1870.

SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

THE VICTORY OF PRUSSIAN ADMINIS-TRATION.

From the N. Y. Times.

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If the Germans conduct their campaign to the end as vigorously and successfully as they have commenced it, even though meeting with occasional checks, the attention of the world will be closely called to the system and organization which could produce such remarkable results. The Prussian Commonwealth-which now leads and represents the various German States-stands forth to all Europe as the one community which has been able to make the most tremendous and well-directed military efforts beheld by the world since the days of Napoleon. In fifteen days from a sudden declaration of war, a community of scholars, merchants, and farmers are seen to quietly and carefully assemble nearly a million of mon in arms, transport them, as methodically as though they were sent by express, to their appointed stations, and suddenly hurl half of them, with the precision of a campaign arranged on a map, upon the first military empire of modern times, and shake it to its base. The business-like quiet of these vast operations, the modest tone of the leaders, and then the tremendous and combined energy of the strokes dealt upon the enemy, are calculated to impress the minds of the most thoughtless observers, as showing a great fund of power and thorough discipline and training behind all these outward efforts. Men will recall that four years since, by similar audacity and similar organization, the proudest empire of Eastern Europe was struck to the ground in a six weeks' campaign. Napoleon was accustomed to say that but one or two of his Marshals could handle in the field over a hundred thousand men. Thus far under the present Emperor, and in this campaign, there is no evidence that a single French General has known how to handle even fifty thousand, so that heavy bodies of troops could support one another.

The French are, by their own statements. always outnumbered at any given point on their lines of attack or defense. And yet it cannot be mere accident that on the Prussian side at least three men are found who can handle armies, and mass them with perfect order, and hurl them with tremendous force on points selected beforehand, each of which armies numbers over one hundred thousand men. Our people, who had four terrible years' experience in military science, know that it is not accident which enables Prussia to transport, feed, supply, and arm suitably such vast bodies of soldiers. While complaints come by every mail from Paris of the want of organization and the defects in commissariat and transportation in the French armies, the Germans seem well fed and provided for, and all supplies are rapidly transported. War in modern times is not entirely an affair of chancework. Success means discipline, organization, power of command and financial and administrative skill. The Prussian victories over the Austrians were victories of intelligence over stupidity. The German victories over the French are conquests of education over drill and mechanism. If the German armies invest Paris during 1870, it will be because the whole Prussian system is superior | Broad streets for 101 to 11, in view of the to the French, because an educated nation in arms is strönger than a standing army, and common schools are better even for war than Imperial Guards. Ever since Prussia broke down under the assault of the first Napoleon, and Von Stein began his great internal reforms, she has been steadily and quietly pursuing her course of improvement and education. Enforced education for all, strict discipline, a limited military service for every able-bodied man, municipal administration, free trade, and an economical government, have been the salient features of this Prussian development and progress during the last fifty years. Under it she has silently created a nation of scholars and soldiers, a civil service of exactness and faithfulness, a well-ordered government of municipalities, not too centralized, and a most healthy condition of industrial and financial prosperity. She stands forth now the best educated nation in Europeperhaps the thoroughness of her commonschool education surpassing even our own country. There is no vast ignorant proletariat at the base of her society, such as threatens the prosperity of England or the good order of New York. Almost every man can read, and every man has been, for at least three years of his life, a soldier. But to be a soldier in Prussia does not make him, as in France, a mere Prætorian. or tool of the Emperor. The Prussian serves his three or five years, he learns order and subordination thoroughly, he is trained in all physical exercises, and is educated in many mental branches at public expense, shortening his term of service by intellectual proficiency, and after his assigned years are finished, he returns to the people a citizen again as well as a soldier. His sympathies are not permanently withdrawn from the classes in which he was born. He is a better soldier from being a citizen and intelligently trained, and a better citizen from his habits of order and subordination. Though so large a class of able young men are thus withdrawn every year from produc-tive labor, so economically is this military administration of the German Kingdom carried on, and so carefully are the economical maxims of the great Fritz still observed, that the taxes of Prussia are not nearly so burdensome as those of New York, while her civil administration is a hundred-fold better. No nation in Europe was so well prepared, financially, for war as she was this year; and even this enormous struggle will be borne by her more easily than by France. The administration of Prussia has fitted her equally for war and for peace. It only needs what it was gradually receiving-an infusion of parliamentary life and a gradual limitation of the royal power-to make it the model Government of Europe. It stands now pre-eminent before the world as the representative of intelligent and united administration, as opposed to Cresarism raling by ignorant suffrage. Once already it had broken down, with the vigor of its assault, a fendal empire. It now hurls itself against Casarism, with what final result we shall scon know.

Indeed, one despatch briefly announces a battle in the immediate vicinity of Chalons and another great victory by the Prussian Crown Prince. Of this, however, we have no distinct confirmation. Meanwhile there can be no doubt that the Prince has communicated with the German armies of the north and centre, now jointly under the command of King William, and that he feels strong enough to continue his advance on Paris. His vanguard already hovers in sight of Sezanne, indicating a march direct upon the French capital by the line of Li Ferte Gaucher, Coulommiers, and Couilly, since the route by the valley of the Aubs would be further to the south, and on the arc instead of the line of the semi-circle, and consequently longer, more tedious, and far more perilous than the other. We are inclined to think that if any of his troops have been seen in that direction they are mere scouting parties.

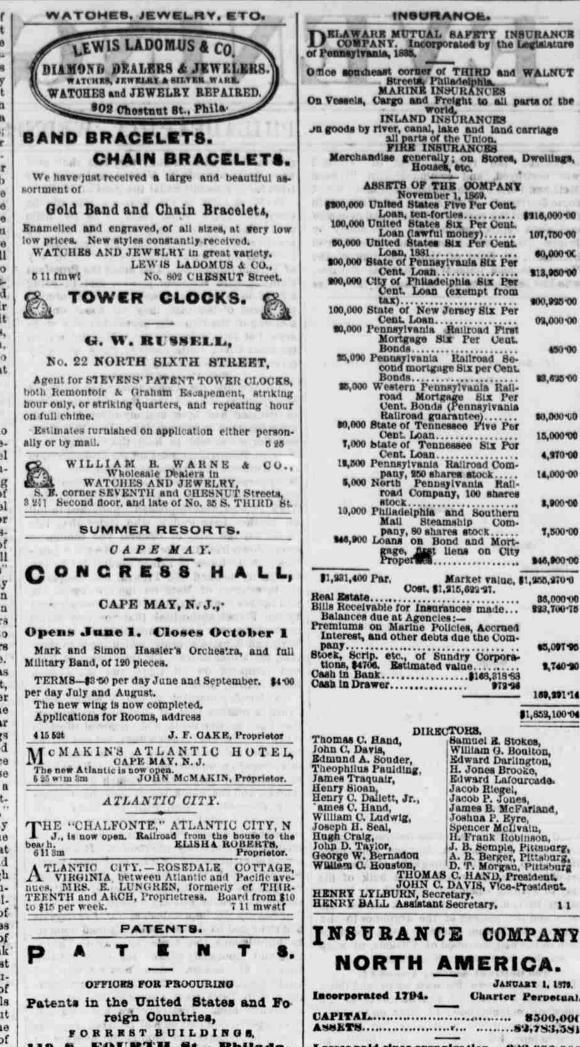
It is impossible to reconcile with this movement the declaration that MacMahon's headquarters are at St. Dizier, which is much to the eastward of Vitry-le-Francois, where the Germans under the Crown Prince were seen on Saturday, unless the French Marshal has also been surrounded and cut off. In fine, this statement looks like an error. Paris is making strenuous exertions to complete her preparations for defense. Major-General Trochn is acting with equal firmness and liberality. All classes and parties are appealed to for the common defense of the country; the radical journals lately suspended are allowed to reappear, and the Orleans princes, in spite of the Emperor's recent refusal, are permitted to come back to France. Napoleon seems to be utterly ignored and is even stated to be in flight from France, after having been treated with indignity by the troops at Chalons. The Empress Eugenie has appealed to the mediation of Queen Victoria of England, who is said to have written to King William. Meanwhile, French iron-clads have appeared off Dantzig, occasioning much alarm. On the southeast, the city of Strasbourg is reported in flames and on the eve of capitulation.

Like a bright band of light in a midnight sky the assured certainty of a speedy armis-tice and peace is at this juncture seen across the darkened horizon of France. The Supreme Pontiff has uttered his appeal, and King William has magnanimously spoken. Russia, Austria, Italy (where the Prince Napoleon is diligently at work), and England are quietly but strenuously striving for this great purpose. We feel certain that the result will be heard within two or three days. Christendom is shocked and horrified at the slaughter. Prussia herself appeals to the great powers "to save France from anarchy," and all good influences aid the petition. At the same time a very striking symptom is revealed in our markets here. Gold struggles and declines because our bonds go up abroad as the cause of peace ad-vances; and already men ask them-selves is there any good reason why gold should sell in Broad street at a premium higher than what should barely pay the difference of exchange between Europe and this country? Exchange on the Old World is now at about 101 per cent. Our five-twenty bonds are selling at a premium of from 10 to 14 per cent. here, and the discount for the same in London is from 10 to 121 per cent. and at Frankfort 71 to 10. The premium here being from two to four per cent. higher than the discount on the same bonds in Europe, why should not gold sell to-day in Wall and early end of the war? We see it taking that direction, and hence infer that the acute business mind of New York sees that the inevitable collapse of the empire has come, that peace is imminent, and that the best interests of both Europe and America are about to emerge from tremendous perils. THE MARTYRED MEMBER. From the N. F. Tribune. Mr. B. F. Whittemore, member of the late House of Representatives from the First Congressional District of South Carolina, was found guilty upon irrefragable evidence of official corruption, i. e., of selling a cadetship at West Point. He said that he sold his appointing power and his official authority that he might give the money to his needy constituents. A more extraordinary plea never came from a representative-it was, in fact, the confession of a new crime. Finding himself in a tight place, Whittemore saved him-self from expulsion by resigning; he went back to his constituents, and they, grateful, doubtless, for his pecuniary consolation, sent him back to the same Congress; the House, not caring to stultify itself, and being, by the provisions of the Constitution, sole judge of the qualifications of its own members, returned him his credentials. His grateful constituents showed signs of sending him still to the next Congress; but Mr. B. F. Whit-temore, in a letter exhibiting the virtuous exaltation of Mr. Pecksniff, and thinking it doubtful whether the next House would prove more placable than the last, has declined in a letter of mingled dignity, wrath, and sorrow. He recites his many services to the body politic; he declares modestly that for "five years and more he has been identified with South Carolina's destiny;" "I have tried," he says," "to do my duty wherever duty called;" "I have received," he declares, "generous majorities;" "my acts," he urges, "have been unselfish; my motives for the the general weal;" and here I am, he might have said, as good as twice kicked out of Congress, and with every prospect, should I be re-elected, of being kicked out a third time! And all through the action of "Logan, the wilful deceiver!" I am the victim of an "unprecedented and unconstitutional act." "The sacred rights of electors have been subverted! Magna Charta has been despised!! Law, reason, justice, precedents, have been disregarded!!! We, the governed, have no longer the prerogative to say who shall gov-ern us!!!!" And all this through the assump-And all this through the assumptions of "Logan, the wilful deceiver!" Verily, Mr. Logan has a great deal to answer for. And so on, through quantities of what we must be excused for calling the very purest flandoodle! Hold hard, Mr. B. F. Whittemore! Stop moaning and groaning and sighing and turning up the whites of your eyes for a moment! Don't you see that the main question is whether or not you took the money? You were either knavish or foolish, and, in either case, you have proved yourself to be unfit for a seat in the House of Representatives! Whether you be an ass or something morally worse, does not make the least difference. except to your own conscience. A man who, in perfect innocence, commits a penitentiary offense isn't the person to assist in making the laws of the Republic. He may be a model of mature piety, the most patriotic creature breathing, a very incarnation of benevolence, but the place of honor and

course, he tells us, lest by permitting himself to be re-elected he might "confuse his best and truest friends." His "friends" will be grateful, or at least they should be. We as-sure him that there are very few Republicans in the country who will not be profoundly thankful to him for the self-sacrificing spirit which he has exhibited. He reminds us, in some sort, of those gentlemen who, after a compulsory emigration to a penal settlement; declared that they "left their country for their country's good." Go, Mr. Whitte-more, if such are your feelings-go, wherever you please (provided the officers don't nab you for the peniten iary), and may you be happy! As the prelate said to Gil Blas, "We wish you all manner of prosperity and a little more sense!" Your misfortune is that you have been found out. Undoubtedly there were many members of the last, as there will be many members of the next Congress, who are not a whit better than the unhappy Whittemore; but they were or will be shrewd and sharp fellows, knowing how to cover their tracks. The fact is, Mr. W. (if we may credit his letter) is altogether too good for Congress, and if he should be sent back to Washington, he might be like the simple-minded girl who used to inform the Justice of the Peace that she "was ruined again."

THE ATROCITY OF THE WAR. From the N. Y. World.

It is hard to understand how any man who appreciates the value of human life and respects the laws of human happiness can feel any kindling "sympathies" with either com-batant in the dreadful war now desolating France and jeopardizing the progress of Europe. It is the merest sanguinary drivel to talk about the wickedness of the Emperor Napoleon, or the ambition of Count Bismarck, or the fanatical crown-worship of King William as the criminal cause of all these horrors. What are called the "ideas" underlying it are equally criminal, equally odious. Neither the "unity of the German race," nor the "sanctity of the German Rhine," nor "the restification of the frontiers of France" are objects so high and vital as to justify the seeking them through the rivers of blood now shedding on the soil of Europe. The German race may be "united," as many another race has been before it, without being thereby made either freer or happier or more enlightened. The Rhine will be German in vain if it is to bear on its broad bosom the armaments of kings maintained by the oppressed and swindled labor of millions. The frontiers of France will not be worth rectification if they inclose only a Prætorean camp administered by a corrupt bureaucracy. The Germans of Switzerland care nothing for "German unity." because they have found something infinitely better and nobler in Swiss freedom. The Rhine is more glorious where it sparkles at its source among the inviolate Alps, and where it broadens sluggish to the sea through the prosparous levels of heroic and independent Holland, than where it mirrors the helmets of royal garrisons on the battlements of Ehrenbreitstein, or the liveries of princes "by the will of God" on the terraces of Stoizenfels. It is simply horrible to think of the one atrocious fact that during the past six weeks at least a hundred and fifty tho: sand men, in the very flower and prime o manhood, have been stricken from the roll of civilization in a war which nothing bu popular ignorance, popular passions, and the helplessness of labor under the heel o power made possible, and which, in its turn must deepen that popular ignorance, inten sify those popular passions, and crease that helplessness. If the origin Hohenzollern had been hanged, as his dutifu descendant Frederic thought he deserved t be, before he was married from a crane his own Nuremburg warehouse, and if th original Bonaparte had died a childless monl in Italy, this war might still have been waged That it can be waged at all is the sin an shame of the people who wage it; and th honest horror of the whole business expresse by the unions of the workingmen of Europ is better and wiser than all the "patriotic balderdash and diplomatic thimble-riggin which have been wasted by educated an celebrated persons in trying to make a mor strous crime respectable and a monstrou blunder imposing.



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PEACE CLOSE AT HAND. From the N. Y. Herald.

Our view of the scene and the condition of the war, as expressed on Monday morning, is fully sustained. The main body of the French Army of the Moselle under General Bazaine is thrown back upon Metz, and its communi-cations with both Verdun and Paris are cut off. The camp at Chalons is reported to be broken up and the Gardes Mobiles recently assembled there are said to be in full retreat on Paris willout sufficient arms or provisions. I consider humarily, receive. He koops of the i arms to five hundred of theusant donate.

safety for him is the private station. Yet we should not fail to express our admiration of Mr. Whittemore's course in refusing to be again a candidate. Whatever credit he is entitled to let him, in the name of SPECIAL NOTICES.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A application will be made at the next meeting the General Assembly of the Commonwealth Pennsylvania for the incorporation of a Bank, in a cordance with the laws of the Commonwealth, to be entitled THE BRIDESBUR # BANK, to be located at Philadelphia, with a capital of one hundred tho sand dollars, with the right to increase the same five hundred thousand dollars.

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D. T. GAGE

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of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth Pennsylvania for the incorporation of a Bank, in i cordance with the laws of the Commonwealth, be entitled THE AMERICAN EXCHANGE BAN to be located at Philadelphia, with a capital of t hundred and fifty thousand dollars, with the rig to increase the same to one million dollars.

HEADQUARTERS FOR EXTRACTIN Testh with fresh Nitrons-Oride Gas Abealan no pain. Dr. F. R. THOMAS, formarly operator at Ooiton Deptal Rooms, devotes his eatire practice to painless extraction of testh. Office, No. 911 WALN Street.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT application will be made at the next meet of the General Assembly of the Commonwealt Penasylvania for the incorporation of a Basy scoordance with the laws of the Commonwealth be entitled THE SOHUYLKILL, RIVER BANK be located at Philadelphia, with a capital of one hun-dred thousand doltars, with the right to increase

SI S. EIOMTI Street. 10 10 4 ALTER DES C. CATTORI. ELMAN CATTELLA