THE DAILY EVENING TELEGRAPH-PHILADELPHIA, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1870

SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND THE WAR.

From the N. Y. World.

Drowning men catch at straws. The radicals of the United States, conscious that upon every vital question concerning the interests. the hopes, or the honor of the American people they have lost all title to the confidence of the nation, made haste, upon the outbreak of the dreadful war which now desolates Europe, to clutch at the chance of buoying themselves up yet a little longer above the waves of the deluge by proclaiming a sudden and passionate sympathy with one of the two great nationalities involved in that war. It was a monstrous proclamation from lips yet warm with denouncing all that the Germans of the United States held dearest or most sacred. The liberal Germans of America have been denied by these radicals all the social rights which they so highly, yet not too highly, prize. They have been subjected by a fauatical majority to the most tyrannical restrictions upon their personal habits. Their asthetic tastes have been denounced by the Puritans as an abomination, and their love of harmless recreation upon the only day left at their disposal by that industry and devotion to duty which are such honorable characteristics of their race, has been anathematized as both licentious and impious. The Catholic Germans of America, on the other hand, have fared no better at the hands of these radical makers of mischief. In common with their fellow-believers of all other nations, this great section of our German fellow-citizens has been openly and persistently insulted by radical attempts to infuse the spirit of Protestant sectarianism into our laws. When, therefore, these same radicals suddenly announced themselves to be more Teutonic than the Teutons, and began in their journals and their party caucuses to halloo the armies of King Wil-liam upon their formidable way, it must have been tolerably plain to the most simple-minded Swabian or the most newly landed Pomeranian in the land that his personal services at the polls were more clearly in the vision of these extemporized lovers of his land than either the honor of the Teutonic arms or the hopes of German nationality. What the folly of the radicals has thus revealed of the true nature and meaning of their German sympathies, the good sense and the reticence of the Democratic party have by mere force of contrast made tenfold plainer. The Democratic party has taken no sides in

this European war; nor will it take any sides in this European war until, high above the tumult of battle and the roar of cannon, and the lamentable outcry of strong men stricken to death and the wail of the countless poor in desolated homes, there shall arise that one only clarion note which rouses the Democratic heart-the note of freedom summoning the people to possess their own. The radicals of America are today the party of place, of expediency, and of corruption. The Democrats of America are to-day the party of principle, of convic-tion, and of reform. What the Democrats of America seek for their own country, that also, and that alone, can they seek for all other countries. In the existing European war, and in all other wars, the Democrats of America can never sympathize with war simply as war; for war simply as war they hold everywhere and always to be a deplorable and criminal thing. They hate it as a condemnation of the millions to misery and death for the aggrandizement of the few, when it is not the terrible necessity of the millions emancipating themselves from the despotism of the few. "When the news came to Berlin, wrote Humboldt to his noble friend Varnhagen, "of the Parisian coup d'etat, the King and the Court were at first full of rejoicing. These persons saw nothing offensive in the crime perpetrated against the people, the Legislature, the law, and the sanctity of oaths. But when the machinery came to be known, that the adventurer should preserve universal suffrage, rest upon the people, and practise socialism, that quickly made them detest him." Humboldt sleeps beneath the simple monument at Tegel, where but the other day the King who now leads German armies in the field refused to unite with the Germans of America and of Europe in honoring his immortal meserved in our armies. mory. But his words live, and those words made men ask themselves whether the King of Prussia, using the national indignation of Germany to strike down the Emperor of the French, was really bent on humbling the adversary of the Germans or on punishing the elect of the French. So far as the French Emperor was concerned, the first events of the war made an answer to this grave question unnecessary. The unexpected and terrible defeats of the French army delivered France, as it were, in a day from the spell of Casarism. The German victories which demonstrated the impotence of an imperial system for the defense of a great country, were victories in which Democrats of all countries might rejoice with that tempered joy which alone freemen can ever feel in the winning even of the greatest boons by the slaughter of brave men and the destruction of the works of human intelligence and human labor. But the imperial system once shattered in France, it becomes not less important to assure ourselves what are to be the results upon Germany and upon Europe of the victories by which it has been destroyed. Upon this point all true Democrats in America. of whatever race, must necessarily insist upon satisfying themselves before they can throw themselves blindly, with shouts of triumph, into the wake of the Prussian advance. The deep sympathy which even true German Democrats must feel with the heroic history of liberty in France, not less than their profound conviction of the absolute necessity of justice and generosity in the international relations of the European peoples to the esta-blishment of freedom in Europe, must make all such Democrats cautious and wary in their observation of the policy of the Governments, rather than gushing and enthusiastic in their exultation over the gallantry of the armies of Germany at this great crisis in the fate of the continent. German radicais, like American radicals, abandoned to the worship of power, may believe centralization and military force in the Old World, as they do in the New, to be the one sufficient means of national greatness and glory. But German Democrats, like American Democrats, will hold that there is a nobler and a better way both to national greatness and to national glory. And German Democrats, therefore, like American Democrats, while they recognize a great and a real progress as achieved in the abnegation

course of the United States of Germany, will esteem that progress neither complete nor secure if it is to be bought by the setting up of other barriers to the harmonious intercourse of the United States of Europe. The "sympathy" which the radicals of Amorica offer in pawn for their votes to our German fellow-citizens, is a sympathy in the passions and the hates which make a people tyrants abroad by making them slaves at home. The sympathy which the Democrats of America give not to Germany alone but to France, is a sympathy in that love of liberty and of justice which makes a people honored abroad by making them free at home.

BALLOONS IN WARFARE. From the N. Y. Times.

The Prussian Government, it seems, has engaged the services of Wells, the Scotch aeronaut, to conduct aerial observations of the French naval movements upon the Prussian coast. This is not the first time balloons have been used for military purposes, but it will be surprising if they are the means of giving information of any contemplated movements of the French fleet. In watching an enemy, a moderately elevated observing station is highly desirable, but the only sure way of regulating the altitude of a balloon, so far discovered, seems to be by means of a rope anchored to the earth. Aeronauts of course claim that they "can ascend a certain distance, and then sail in any direction they please, arising and descending at will; but they seldom attain such facility in managing their air vessels when their ability to do so is put to a practical test. There seems to be little doubt that the atmosphere is divided into several zones, in which the prevailing currents have for the most part a constant direction, so that by rising to one or other of these strata, the navigator of the air can be almost as certain of the point of the com-pass toward which he will be blown as the navigator of the sea who encounters the trade winds.

But while it is quite possible that a balloon may be made to pass over an enemy's fleet or encampment, it is by no means certain that the observer, thus elevated, will not be so far above what he wishes to observe as to be able to gain little accurate infor-mation. A large balloon looks quite small when seen at any considerable height, and objects on the earth must seem correspondingly reduced to the vision of a man who sees them from the basket of such a balloon. If, on the other hand, the balloon can be made to float so low that men and animals are clearly discernible, it at once becomes a target for the hostile rockets, and the position of the daring balloonist is precarious in the extreme. When General McClellan com-menced his celebrated Peninsular campaign, Professor Lowe accompanied the army with a train and several balloons. Many ascensions were made, but the commanding officer did not ascertain anything very valuable by their means. General Fitz John Porter made an ascension on one occasion, when, the balloon being loose, it floated over Yorktown, to the great consternation of the General's command. He fortunately succeeded in making his descent within our own lines.

While, however, balloons were of very little practical value to our armies during the Rebellion, the officers and men of the Signal Corps rendered most valuable service, and were often the means of discovering the contemplated movements of the enemy. The Signal Corps were fully supplied with fieldglasses and telescopes of considerable power, and as their stations were always located in some lofty tree, or upon some elevated rock or mountain top, they were able to scan the country for miles around. They were in constant communication, either by flag or messengers, with army headquarters, so that what they saw was at once transmitted to the commanding officer. This would have been difficult if a balloon had been the observing station. Our signal officers were constantly available in directing the movements of troops: and on several occasions, when the gun-boats were co-operating with our !and forces the fire of the former was regulated in accordance with messages transmitted by flags from signal stations on land. The Prussians may find balloon ascensions more valuable than we did, but for war purposes we esteem one good signal officer worth a dozen aeronauts. King William might gain some valuable hints on this subject from Lieuten-ant-General Sheridan. Many of our volunteers who were in the Signal Corps were Germans, and would doubtless be glad to serve their Fatherland in a similar capacity. If the Prussians want trustworthy information, they are not likely to find better men for obtaining it than some of their own nationality who

proclamation. MacMahon evidently did not think it decisive-not even a signal advantage. for while the Crown Prince was restoring his broken and bruised lines, he hastily moved his army to the north side of the Meuse and is army to the north side of the Meuse and once more united it, not at Montmedy for offense against Prince Carl, but at Sedan for defense against his old opponent Prince Fritz. What part the Crown Prince of Saxony on the east bank of the Meuse took in this engagement is not definitely stated in the despatches

Reorganized during the afternoon of the Sist ult., the Germans advanced again to the attack on September 1. The reports of the battle on this day are conflicting, but all ac-counts unite in saying it was disastrous to the French. The accounts from Belgium which report MacMahon retreating on September 1 to Mezieres, and that 10,000 French have surrendered to the Belgians, are not to be fully credited. The official report of King William claims nothing of the kind, but he says the French were drivea into Sedan. That they did not retreat on the 1st is evident, from the fact that they fought a desperate fight on Friday. The Prussian right wing advanced on the 1st to Givonne, a suburban village of Sedan, only a mile or two northeast of it. Whether this advantage was maintained on Friday is not now known. All that is known positively of the fight of Friday is that it began at daybreak, and that Bazaille, Villers, Renuly, Sernay, and Baller -all suburban towns of Sedan-were already in flames, having been fired by the artillery engaged in the conflict.

THE RECONSTRUCTION OF EUROPE-THE KINGS OR THE PEOPLES.

From the N. Y. Herald.

The republican journals of Spain, reflecting the universal sentiment of the republican party of the Peninsula, are rejoicing over the news of the German victories in France as foreshadowing the certain downfall of Napoleon and his empire, and the revival of the French republic. So much for the interfer-ence of Napoleon with General Prim's nomination of a German prince for the throne of Spain. The Spaniards have seen from the course of Napoleon upon this question that he assumed the *role* of his uncle not only in regard to the Rhine, Italy, and the Pope, but in that other Napoleonic idea, the reduction of Spain to a mere dependency of France. It is probable that General Prim was inspired by Count Bismarck in nominating a Hohen-zollern for the Spanish throne in view of this very war which has followed between Napoleon and Prussia; but it is probable also that Prim anticipated through this movement a release from France and full liberty to Spain not only to name the chief but the form of her Government as an independent State.

We presume that all parties in Spain, of the Bourbons and the anti-Bourbon monarchists, as well as the republicans, will rejoice at the downfall of the Bonapartes. The Bourbons in Spain have little to hope for with the maintenance of the French empire. They may be reinstated, in the event of peace between France and Prussia. The Spanish republicans, however, in looking for a French republic with the displacement of the empire, have good reason to hope that the next result from Napoleon's overthrow will be a republic in Spain. Hence the popular excitement all over that country that become so demonstra-tive that the republican directory had deemed it expedient to issue a manifesto counselling it expedient to assue a manifesto counselling patience and moderation; and warning the party that one false step may com them and endanger the country. This means that if the Spanish republicans are too precipitate they may alarm the European dynasties and bring them together in the work of restoring peace upon the basis of their common protection against the republican elements, even in Spain. The scheme of peace which is now supposed to be under consideration by the governments of England, Prussia, Russia, Austria and Italy embraces the restoration of the Orleanists to the throne of France, the establishment of a German empire under the King of Prussia, and the abolition of all engagements entered into between the Emperor Napoleon and King Victor Emanuel involving any further cessions of Italian territory to France in exchange for the States of the Church. In the Church organ at Rome the following has been recently published as an understanding arranged between Napoleon and his protege, Victor Emanuel:-The appropriation and occupation of the Papal States and the city of Rome as her capital by Italy; the cession by Italy, as an equivalent to France, of the island of Sardinia, and the removal of the Pope and his headquarters to the occupation and possession of that island, under the protection of France. This scheme of satisfying Italy, and compensating France, while providing for the Holy Father of Rome, looks so plausible and so Napoleonic that we are inclined to think there may be something in it. It is certain, at all events, that, with the removal of Napoleon, Italy, except as a republic, with France as a republic, will be made independent of any further nursing or instructions from France, whatever may be the disposition made of the Pope. In the general reconstruction of European affairs which is sure to follow this momentous war, whether this work of reconstruction is to be under the direction of the dynasties or the peoples of Europe, will depend very much upon the reconstruction of France. Then may follow a general republican rising over the Continent, which will displace the schemes of the dynasties. In short, a speedy settlement of this war in a crowning success to the Prussian arms is the only hope for a quiet reconstruction of Europe by the Kings.

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THE TERRIBLE CONFLICT AT SEDAN. From the N. Y. Tribune.

What MacMahon might have accomplished in aid of Bazaine if he had reached the vicinity of Metz, will always remain a matter of speculation. His enterprise in that direction has been completely frustrated. Bazaine's demonstration in support of it by a sortie at Metz has signally failed, and efter suffering defeat in a series of bloody engagements he is shut closer than ever in the fortress, without the slightest hope of relief. MacMahon was detected by his vigilant enemy in his movement from Rethel to Montmedy. Struck in flank while upon the march and astride a wide and navigable river, he has been forced to surrender. Fortunately for the French Marshal, his various lines of retreat naturally converged at Sedan; else, with his army separated by the Meuse, he must inevitably have been destroyed. But his several columns. retreating on no fixed or deliberate plan, were concentrated at Sedan, and were thus enabled to resume the battle. No less than eight different engagements have been fought since the morning of Aug. 30, when the opposing armies first encountered each other. The French were moving from Rethel to Montmedy, by two parallel roads, apparently unsuspicious of the approach of the Prussians. While MacMahon moved from west to east, the Prussians advanced from south to north, and thus caught him at a disadvantage. The first combats-minor affairs at Attigny, Vrezy, and Nouart on August 30 -forced the rear half of MacMahon's army from one of its lines of march back upon the other at Stoune and Beaumont, where, later in the day, the French were again attacked and beaten. At the same time the front half or advance of MacMahon east of the Meuse was struck in flank between Stenay and Montmedy and driven back to Carignan. Here, later in the day, the French were again beaten. During the night of August 30 both wings of the French retreated upon Sedan. On August 31 the Prussians advauced towards Sedan, and soon attacked the French. not yet across the Mense, and still separated by it. The Crown Prince of Prussia, attacking the half west of the Meuse, was evidently severely beaten in a combat which lasted during the forencon. His losses were so severe that he was compelled to retire towards Mouzon; but it was only to reform and prepare for another attack. This is the of local barriers to the harmonious inter- victory of which the French have made great

SPECIAL NOTICES.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT AP. plication will be made to the Treasurer of the

City of Philadelphia for the issue of a new certificate of City Loan in the place of one which has been lost or mislaid, viz., No. 15,169 (Bounty Loan, No. 3) for Five Hundred Dollars, in the name of Susanna Orr, Executrix. JAMES W. PAUL, 8 24 6w* Attorney of Susanna Orr.

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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 of a Bank, in ac-cordance with the laws of the Commonwealth, to be entitled THE JEFFERSON BANK, to be located at Philadelphia, with a capital of one hundred thousand dollars, with the right to increase the same to five hundred thousand dollars.

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