## THE DAILY EVENING TELEGRAPH-PHILADELPHIA, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1870.

## THE ROMAN COUNCIL. the Pall Mall Gazette.

It is curious to compare the very general and deep interest taken by all observers in the early deliberations of the Council with the equally marked indifference to the culmination of its labors. Every rumor that came from Rome six or seven months ago was canvassed with great eagerness even by men who cared little for ordinary theological disputations; while the proclamation of the astonishing dogma of Papal infallibility has produced in any but eclesiastical circles little beyond a certain amount of perfunctory criticism. The main cause of this contrast is, of course, not far to seek. A man, according to Sir W. Hamilton, is only capable of noticing 4 objects at once by an instantaneous action of the perceptive faculties. Whether that be true or not, it is at least certain that public attention cannot be occupied by more than a very limited number of interests. The gigantic gooseberry only comes out when every other topic has for a time retired into the background; and matters of considerably greater importance than gigantic gooseber-rics are cast into the shade by the portentous convulsion through which Europe is passing. While we are waiting with breathless attention for the first crash of contending armies on the Rhine, we can only spare such interest for less exciting topics as might be given by philosopher undergoing a critical surgical operation to a discussion on first principles of theology or metaphysics. He might admit in theory even at such a moment that the question of his own pain or death was of altogether secondary importance as compared with the decision of some fundamental speculative dogma; but, for all that, he would think a good deal less about logic than about the surgeon's knife. The roar of the cannon and the mitrailleur effectually silences for the present the theological atterances of the learned Fathers at Rome: the material thunder is for the moment a good deal louder than the spiri-

tual, whatever may be the ultimate conse-

quences involved. Yet it is also probable that even if the war had not broken out, the decline of interest would have been strongly marked. The outside world was beginning to be keenly sensible to the ludicrous side of the long debates at Rome. That a set of illeducated priests should be gravely discussing on what terms a supernatural degree of wisdom had been conferred upon one or more of themselves, when nothing can be plainer than that they are on the whole rather more ignorant and a great deal more prejudiced than their neighbors, seems to independent people as absurd as that the decision of such a question should be brought about by the same kinds of acts which determine the votes of an American caucus. The imagination, to say nothing of the reason, altogether refuses to accept such a process as the means by which the Creator of the universe reveals His pleasure to mankind. The notion that the discussions carried on at the Vatican could have any possible significance for modern reasoners, or that intelligent people should change their minds because a disciplined crowd of Italian bishops could clamor down a minority of candid and able men, seemed so preposterous that we were gradually ceasing to have any teeling beyond a certain sympathy for liberal Catholics. Their position is undoubtedly a sad one, and they have too many claims upon our respect not to excite sincere commiseration. Perhaps we might ask, What better could they expect, and how could able and liberal men hope to mix themselves up with everything that is bigoted and narrow-minded without suffering bitter humiliation ? Yet in any case their ambition was a generous one, and the dream of reconciling the Roman Catholic Church with modern thought, if only a dream, was worthy of noble minds. We must feel some regret, though very little surprise, that it has received so rude a shock, and that the chasm between old and new modes of thought is thus made wider and deeper than ever. This feeling, however, can only concern a very small though a very respectable class. To the great mass of believers, as to the unbelieving world outside, the new dogma will not at first make any appreciable difference. To the man who is incapable of reasoning, or who has voluntarily abnegated his reasoning powers, the precise form of the doctrine in which the infallibility of the Church is preached will have small significance. By far the greatest part of mankind must be reckoned among these classes; and to them the only difference will be that they will have a rather more definite and tangible authority than formerly. Nor, indeed, is the logical difference very material to persons with more use of their understandings. The real difficulty is not in attributing supernatural authority to the Pope rather than to the Church or to Councils, but in attributing it to any body of human beings whatever. The Ultramontane theory may bring out the assumption in a more grotesque form; but it is equally present, how-ever carefully it may be concealed or diluted, even in the most liberal forms of Catholicism. For these reasons, as well as from the absorbing interest of other matters, we may be inclined to look with comparative indifference upon the vote of the council. And yet we might perhaps ask whether after all an observer, who could elevate himself to a thoroughly philosophical point of view, would not regard the decision as scarcely yielding in real importance to that which depends upon the arms of France and Prussia. Philosophical historians are fond of reminding us how much sometimes depends upon causes which attract little or no attention from contemporary observers. An insignificant student may be working out theories which are destined to revolutionize the whole social order of mankind, or a single mechanical invention may, in the accepted phrase, be changing the whole course of history. Perhaps if we were capable of seeing things in their true proportions, Watt's labors upon the steam engine or Whitney's invention of the cotton-gin might, as economists sometimes tell us, have more influence upon the future of mankind than all the labors of the skilful diplomatists who fancied that they were shaping the destinies of nations. And if a purely mechanical invention may produce incalculable effects, it is certain that the spiritual crises, which often excite as little contemporary notice, may be of primary importance. The vote of the council is a symptom, and may be a cause, of a revolution of sentiment, which must in future be reckoned among the most critical movements of the present day. We have certainly no disposition to deny the vast importance of disposition to deny the vast importance of the issues which are now in the course of decision by the physical force of the two most powerful races of Europe. Whatever be the end of the war, it can scarcely fail to affect the destiny of the civilized world for many generations to come. The unification of Germany, or the extension of the French frontier to the Rhine, are not matters of which anybody can think with indifference. If the war is only a brutal way of deciding

who is in the future to be cock of the school, the future cock will have enormous power over the development of the European races. It is, indeed, already evident that besides the immediate cause of quarrel there are questions at stake which we could wish to have been decided by different means, but which are great enough to be proportionate to the magnitude of the machinery brought into play by the comba-tants. And yet, great as are these issues, it may be disputed whether they are really of much more importance than those which are effected by the Œcumenical Council. The Church of Rome undoubtedly exercises, and will for an indefinite period continue to exercise, an enormous influence throughout the world. Both in Europe and America it is difficult to say how much may depend upon the spirit by which it is animated. It has been said by intelligent observers, though we do not profess to give an opinion upon a remote future, that the next great struggle in America will turn upon religion; and that the Roman Catholic power, growing by emigration and by the amazing powers of multiplication of its Irish subjects, will some day come into violent conflict with the tendencies of the Democratic republic. Already there are symptoms of such a danger in the battle against the common school system which has begun in some of the States. Obviously, it cannot be without significance in regard to such disputes that the Church should openly and avowedly declare war upon all modern intelligence; that it should say in substance to its adherents, You must believe on the authority of the Pope doctrines which are demonstrably false, and within a certain sphere abandon all the principles which you specially boast of maintaining in politics and science. So, again, it is not a trifle that in a country like Germany, which, as we have been recently assured, is already inclined to consider the Christian theology generally as a collec-tion of old fables, the ablest and most learned believers should be informed that in future all compromise is impossible, and that science and Roman Catholicism are to be at deadly and open war. It is needless to go into detail, or to speculate how far liberal Catholics will manage by skillful modes of interpretation to reconcile them-selves to the dogma, or how far they may be driven into open schism. The meaning of the new dogma is that the purely reactionary party has gained a new weapon of great power, and will have a more exclusive command of the Roman Catholic Church than ever. The greatest religious force in the world is to be given over more completely than ever to the hands of its most superstitious section, and the results of modern thought to be more emphatically denounced. The present day seems to be one both of religious and political centralization. The political tendency is to gather all nations more decidedly than ever under two or three great powers, and to diminish the safety of the smaller neutral bodies; and it seems that the same process is taking place in a theological sense, and that as every nation over a vast area IR must be either French or Prussian, so every believer must be either an infallibilist or an infidel. That, at least, is the natural ten-dence of the warfare which is going on in the two spheres, and which would tend, in defiance of all moderate counsels, to collect all mankind into one of two camps. It might be difficult to say which tendency will have the greatest results in the long run, though

FINANCIAL,	FINANOIAL.	FINANOIAL	AUD FION SALES
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Beven Per Gent. Bonds,	THE	\$2,000,000	street, below Pine, by catalogue, the entire for ture, comprising superior wainut parlor furnil covered with marcon terry; fine-toned 7.00 rosewood plano-forte, made by E. M. Sherr; Fr plate oval pier mirror; superior walnut dining-t
FREE OF TAXES.	Sunbury and Lewistown	Pennsylvania Railroad Co.'s	furniture; extension dining table; dining- chairs, covered with terry; French china and g ware; 2 suits handsome olled walnut chamber niture; fine feather boisters and pillows; co
We are offering \$200,000 of the	Railroad Company	GENERAL MORTGAGE	chamber furniture; wainut hat and umbreila st fine English Brussels and other carpets; check matting; refrigerator; cooking utensils, etc.
Second Mortgage Bonds of this Company	Offer \$1,200,000 Bonds, bearing 7 Per Cent. Interest in Gold,	Six Per Cent. Bonds at 95	Also, the chandellers and gas fixtures. May be examined on the morning of sale o'clock. 95 Sale at the Auction Rooms.
AT 82 AND ACCRUED INTEREST.	First and Only Mortgage.	And Interest Added to the Date of Purchase.	SUPERIOR HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, RO WOOD FIANO, Mirrors, Walant Office Furni Fire-proof Safes, fine Bedding, China, Giasay Sowing Mashines, Stoves, fine Velvet, Brus and other Carpets, etc., etc.
For the convenience of investors these Bonds are ssued in denominations of	The Bonds are issued in	All Free from State Tax, and Issued in Sums of \$1000.	On Thursony Moraing, September S, at 9 o'clock, about 600 lots sup Household Furniture, comprising a general as ment.
\$1000s, \$500s, and 100s.	\$1000s, \$500s and \$200s. The Coupons are payable in the city of	These bonds are coupon and registered, interest on the former payable January and July 1; on the latter April and October 1, and by an act of the	Also, elegant Walnut Bookcase, made by Mod Campion, cost \$275. [9] STOCKS.
The money is required for the purchase of addi- donal Rolling Stock and the full equipment of the Road.	Philadelphia on the first days of April and October. Free of State and United States	Legislature, approved April 1, 1870, are made a LEGAL INVESTMENT for Administrators, Execu- tors, Trustaes, etc. For further particulars apply to	On Tuesday, September 15, at 12 o'clock noon, at the Excm will be sold, by order of Assignce, 100 shares Mo tockville Petroleum company, and \$50 Delaware
The road is now finished, and doing a business argely in excess of the anticipations of its officers.	Taxes. The price at present is	Jay Cooke & Co., E. W. Clark & Co., W. H. Newbold, Son & Aertsen,	THOMAS BIRCH & SON, AUCTIONEERS COMMISSION MERCHANTS, No. 1110 C NUT Street; rear entrance No. 1107 Sansom stre
The trade offering necessitates a large additional outlay for rolling stock, to afford full facilities for its prompt transaction, the present rolling stock not being sufficient to accommodate the trade.	90 and Accrued Interest in Currency.	C. & H. Borie. 91 im <sup>4</sup> B. K. JAMISON & CO.,	Sale S. E. Corner Broad and Spruce streets WALNUT PARLOR, CHAMBER, AND DIN ROOM FURNITURE; Cottage Suits, Ma Tops; Hair and Husk Mattresses, Brussels grain, and Venetian Carpets, etc. On Thursday Morning,
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No. 36 South THIRD Street,	deposit of ores in this section, together with the thickly peopled district through which it runs, will secure it a very large and profitable	At Closest Market Rates, N. W. Cor. THIRD and CHESNUT Sts.	BUNTING, DURBOROW & CO., AUCTIONE Bank street. Successors to John E. Myers & C LARGE SALE OF BRITISH, FRENCH, GER
AN EXCELLENT INVESTMENT!	WM. PAINTER & CO.,	Special attention given to COMMISSION ORDERS in New York and Philadelphia Stock Boards, etc. etc.	AND DOMESTIC DRY GOODS, On Thursday Morning, September 8, at 10 o'clock, oa 4 months' cred
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of very valuable and carefully selected IRON, COPPER, PINE, AND OTHER TIMBER LANDS,	BANKERS	No. 50 South THIRD Street, <sup>5 263</sup> PHILADELPHIA.	West Philadelphia. SUPERIOR HOUSSHOLD FURNITURE, I Carpets, China and Glassware, Hair Mattr
Worth at the lowest estimate five to eight times the amount of the mortgage. Whole Issue \$500,000,	* 4370	ELLIOTT & DUNN BANKERS	Etc. On Thursday Morniag, September 8, at 10 O'clock, at No. 46 North T eighth street, above Market street, West Ph phia.
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