SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

THE GERMAN ARMY BEFORE PARIS.

From the N. Y. Heraid.

The siege of Paris may be regarded as having practically commenced, though no hostile gun has been fired upon or from her fortifications. The besieging army is calculated at four hundred thousand men. The defensive force is variously stated at from three hundred thousand to five hundred thousand men of all arms. Whatever be its strength an address of General Trochu's would indicate that he regards it as sufficient. He feels assured, he says, that the defense will be admirably sustained. The bridges over the Seine, above and below the city, have been destroyed by the French, so as to keep the besieging army on the eastern side of the city. The railroads on that side have been also destroyed; but those leading westward from Paris are still in operation. They may, however, be broken up at any time by raids of the German cavalry. The city is said to be well provided for a siege, and the population is represented as resolute and determined to defend it to the last.

A despatch from Bouillon, in Belgium, dated on the 14th inst., announces that a porion of Bazaine's army, commanded by Marhal Canrobert, has cut its way out of Metz and is on the march towards Paris, and an apparently later despatch from the same place makes a like statement in regard to the whole of Bazaine's army, which is said to have reached Carignan, in the neighborhood of Sedan. We regard the statement, however, as rather apocryphal. From Strasburg and the other besieged fortresses there is no late information except the general assertion that not a French fortress has been yet captured. The fortifications of Lyons are reported as completed, and large levies of men are being raised, organized, and armed in all the departments not invaded by the Germans. It is expected that about a million of Frenchmen will soon be in arms for the defense of the country. The abortive blockade of the Elbe and Weser by the French fleet has been abandoned. It was of no real advantage to France, and the men and material engaged in it can be of more service at home.

It seems that we have not yet heard the last of M. Theirs' mission to London. Yesterday he was represented as asserting that he did not know the republican Government of France. To-day we are assured on equally reliable authority that he had received further instructions from the republican Government, and had not quite abandoned his efforts at peace negotiations or given up all hopes of success. But the most significant intimations in regard to his mission are the connecting of it with some scheme for the restoration of royalty in the person of one of the Orleans princes. Of course such a scheme has evidently been one of the possibilities of the situation, but we had not regarded it as among the probabilities. M. Thiers, however, is represented as having been the bearer of an important communication from General Trochu to the Duc d'Aumale, and as having had long interviews with members of the Orleans family, recently strengthened by the arrival from Brazil of the Count d'Eu, son-inlaw of the Brazilian Emperor, and one of the princes of the House of Orleans. The meaning of all this is that General Trochu may act the part of General Lafayette when he placed Louis Philippe on the throne of France, and of General Monk, when he restored the English monarchy in the person of Charles the Second. This is one of the directions in which French affairs may turn.

But evidently the King of Prussia does not vet contemplate that contingency, or at least does not throw out any hints of that kind. The programme which is laid out for and attributed to him, and which has the air of probability to support it, is that as soon as Paris is in his hands he will summon back the Regency, the Senate, and the Corps Legislatif, which he regards as the de jure government of France, and arrange a treaty of peace with commissioners to be appointed by those bodies, and will, after the ratification of such treaty, restore Napoleon to lib-erty and to France, and let France then choose her own government. But one of the conditions of peace is to be the cession to Germany of the provinces of Alsace and Lo-raine. Even if the King were inclined to forego that condition, public opinion in Germany would enforce it upon him.

The one great obstacle, however, to the carrying out of this programme is the resistance which Paris will make to the besiegers. If defended with the bravery, skill and determination which we hope to see displayed in its defense, and if its supplies of food, water and munitions do not fail, the German armies may see themselves compelled to raise the siege and to retreat back across the Rhine, fortunate if they are able to get back. The events of the next few days will probably furnish indications by which to judge of the result of the siege. May it be auspicious to the republic and to the principles of popular government.

WASHBURNE.

From the Louisville Courier-Journal. Mr. Washburne, the American Minister to France, it will be recollected, was too sickly to discharge the duties of the Secretaryship of State to which the President was foolish enough to appoint him, and so he was, sent to Paris for his health, all at the expense of Uncle Samuel. The experiment may be fatal to Mr. Washburne, who promises to be brought home in his political coffin, which now is apparently suspended, like that of the lamented Mahomet, between heaven and

The reader is familiar with the fact, because it has burdened the Atlantic cable for these many days, that the United States Government, through its representative at Paris, was the first to "recognize" the republic of France. We have no means of determining how much Mr. Washburne may have himself contributed to the composition of these despatches; but certainly our sensibilities were decidedly touched as we could almost see him, so graphic was the description, melting into tears at the upheaving applause of the French populace in its recognition of his person as he passed unpretentiously along the street. Shout after shout rent the air, and "Vive l'Amerique!" so affected the republican soul of Mr. Washburne that he gushed over in a speech which would almost have done credit to Schuyler Colfax. Sympathetic hearts felt safe in the confidence that the new republic was all right because recognized by so true a knight of so glorious a cause. It was given out that Mr. Washburne had taken the important step only after consulting with the authorities at home, and so, of course, his action was construed abroad as that of the Government at Long Branch. Indeed, Forney's paper, the Press, at Philadelphia,

rapped him over the knuckles for not having | acted more expeditiously than even the electric telegraph gave him time for, and for not having shot down the empire on the spot without waiting to hear from Washington. He was pointed to a similitude of such action in the case of the American Minister to France in 1848, who, not having the advantage of electricity, acknowledged the republic of Lamartine & Co. without waiting to hear

from Washington. And so Mr. Washburne was floating on a sea of glory. Without any previous oppor-tunity of distinguishing himself, he surged wildly into the prominence of being the first to recognize the republic, and he quaffed down his swelling bosom the praises of re-publicans all over Europe and America. Not a shadow spread itself over his sublime selfsatisfaction, save that passing shot from the press, that he had done right but not soon enough, until a day or two ago, when the Government at Long Branch took the ague by but a single day's visit to the marshes of the Potomac. The reader of our special from Washington on Thursday morning must have felt sorry for Mr. Washburne as well as inquisitive as to what special light Mr. Fish had received from Europe. We were told in this despatch that Mr. Washburne was below par in governmental consideration: that he had been too hasty, too wild, too undiplomatic in his recognition of the new order of things in Paris. This, we are told, was 'distasteful to Mr. Fish, and also to the President, neither of whom had any desire to be swift in the recognition of the French Republic." They didn't feel sure but that King William would restore the empire; and hence that a hasty recognition would embarrass the Washington Government. Besides, we are told that "it has transpired" that Fish and Grant have taken no decided stand upon the matter, and that their despatches have been decidedly "equivocal." Now all this is very sad for Mr. Washburne. But he must console himself. He may come out all right if the republic lasts six weeks. He must interpret the reprimand as the expression of the "heads I win, tails you lose" genius of the Government which hovers between Long Branch and Washington. Let us contemplate his following the example of Napoleon III, and prepare to exclaim, If I cannot shine in the republicanism of Europe, I lay my commission at the feet of your Majesty of Long Branch!

PROHIBITION AND POLITICS.

From the N. Y. Times. The regulation of the liquor traffic in Massachusetts has, after iwo years' trial of the prohibitory law, been handed over to the individual towns, who are to deal with it as they see fit. The result will probably be that in the small country towns, where hardly anybody drinks or wants to drink, all drinking will be prohibited; while in the large cities, where there is a great deal of drinking, and where some restraint is really needed, no restraint at all will be attempted. It cannot be said that this is a very satisfactory result of an experiment which has now lasted for several years, and has caused more uproar and drawn forth more bad language than any effort after social reform within our recollection. The prohibitionists, however, far from being discouraged, think that by trying to get the State Executive into their own hands, they may mend matters, and have accordingly formed a party of their own, nominated Wendell Phillips for the Governorship, and are, it is said, not without hopes that, with the aid of the "Labor Reformers," they may elect him. Mr. Phillips has said to the latter, that it is a disgrace to Christianity that some men should have large fortunes and others next to nothing, so that if he gets into office on his two platforms, we may look for a speedy attempt in Massachusetts to solve finally the problem by which so many ages and nations have been vexed—namely, that of making everybody behave with perfect propriety, and share his earnings with his less fortunate neighbors. This solved, we are glad to say the necessity for political parties will be past, and, indeed, it is doubtful whether we shall need any formal government. At all events, we shall not need the final and restrictive part of government, and when one thinks how large a part of govern-ment this is, and how much of our time and attention it absorbs, we can hardly be too thankful to the grave men of Massachusetts who are going to show us how to get rid of it.

Temperance is, however, occupying a great deal of public attention all over the country. Even where it does not make its way into party politics, many people are seriously considering whether there is not some mode of getting rid of what all acknowledge to be the greatest source of crime and of domestic unhappiness also. Temperance has been and is greatly preached in pulpits and on platforms; hundreds of lecturers thunder in its behalf; the reformed drunkard continues to travel and exhibit himself for it, with as much assiduity as ever. It has an extensive literature of its own, devoted to exposures of the horrors of indulgence; nay, it has its own chemists and medical men, who exhaust the nomenclature of science in depicting the effect of alcohol on the brain, the muscular tissue, and the viscera. It has all the aid that music, banners, and badges can give to a cause, and it receives from the churches a fair amount of support-and yet its friends are not satisfied with its progress. The ravages of liquor, they say, are nearly as great as of war, and at the bottom of it all are the "moderate drinkers," a hardened and apparently numerous body, whose cunning abstinence from open excess, and confinement of their potations to their own houses, render it impossible for public opinion or even for the arm of the law to reach them, without something like total prohibition of the whole

liquor traffic. Now, would it not be worth while, at this stage of the proceedings, and before any more labor is wasted, either in useless declamation or in inoperative legislation, for temperance men of all shades to consider a little more seriously than they have yet done what is possible in this matter. Their attention has hitherto been devoted almost altogether to what is desirable, and they acknowledge themselves that they have not made much progress. Nevertheless, nothing is more cer-tain than that there is far less drinking now than there used to be, certainly among the intelligent and well-to-do classes of society. The rum and brandy decanters are no longer seen on American sideboards, or wine on American dinner-tables, as they used to be. Indeed, nothing in our manners strikes foreigners so much as our abstinence. Look at a steamboat or hotel dinner-table anywhere along our Northern frontier, and you will not see a trace of liquor; cross over into Canada and you will find a bottle beside every plate. There is the same difference in private houses. A Canadian, an Englishman, a Frenchman, or a German, will hardly think of asking a friend to dinner, without offering him wine or beer, any more than he would think of not offering him bread. It is only among the wealthy classes in the large cities

that any such usage prevails in the United States. Now, what has wrought this change? Is it legislation, or is it moral sussion, or is it the general progress of society in customs and refinement? Would it not be well to find out what it is, and, having found it out, to stick to it, and rely on it, and abandon all

other instrumentalities? Besides this, it seems to be generally acknowledged that, although drunkenness prevails to a greater or less extent in all countries, the countries of Continental Europe have somehow managed to unite moderate drinking with the absence of excess. Alcohol does not play the part, or anything like the part, in the criminal statistics of France, or Germany, or Italy, that it plays in ours. In fact, the social reformer in these countries finds some difficulty in understanding the fearful excitement of our temperance men about alcohol, and yet Prussia, at least, has as well educated a population as ours, and takes far more pains than we do to secure order and comfort within her borders. Now what is the reason of this difference? What does she do that we leave undone? What difficulties have we to contend with that she has not? Why do we regard beer as so dreadful, and she consider it so innocent and delightful? Would not an answer to these questions shed new and much-needed light on the whole subject? Thus far the temperance men have done nothing to supply it, except send an occasional half-educated and often fanatical teetotal traveller to Europe, with his imagination diseased about drunkenness, and allowed him when he came back to print and preach every foolish fancy, and silly generalization, and distorted fact that a total incapacity either to collect facts, or reason on them, combined with ignorance of the foreign languages, could cram into his brain. We ought to have something better.

CESARISM AND CARLYLEISM. From the N. Y. Tribune.

There is a disease which often attacks highly-educated Americans at about the age of thirty, and which sometimes clings to them for the rest of their lives. They wake up some morning with the conviction that universal suffrage is a failure, and that only themselves and two or three of their intimate friends are fit to govern the world. They announce with dismay that America is vulgarizing not only itself, but probably the whole solar system. In some cases, where the habits and traditions of the patients are English, the disease finds vent in growling, and may be called Carlyleism. Other victims belong to the class of good Americans who have seen Paris before they died, and have ceased to be good Americans thenceforward. Their type of the disease is more malignant,

and may be called Casarism. And this disease of reaction is not confined to stock-brokers and statesmen out of office; it is just as virulent among the more recluse orders, as college professors, poets, and women. Professor Lowell, who twenty years ago wrote such fine sentiments about poor men's sons and rich men's sons, now grows as indignant as Blackwood's Magazine against "a system which gives Teague, because he can dig, as much influence as Ralph, because he can think." The Woman's Suffrage movement is perplexed with allies like Mrs. Ingersoll, of Washington, who is opposed to allowing any woman to vote who is not, like herself, taxed upon a small property, and is not qualified, like herself, to fill a Government clerkship. There is seldom a woman's convention where somebody does not feel impelled to remark that there are too many voters already, and that some of them should be put out of the way to make room for their

And when men or women once get this solicitude into their heads, it is seldom got out again. Men have seen how England has gradually outgrown the control of the throne; then of the House of Lords; then of "the great governing families;" and has come to Gladstone and Disraeli at last. They have seen French Imperialism disappear in the crater of a volcano, and the Prussian monarchy already beginning to climb the sides of one. No matter. You can convert a European conservative, but an American reactionary dies hard; the despotisms of the Old World may crumble before his eyes, while he still clings to the belief that the nation can only be saved by limiting political power to himself and his cousins.

Fortunately the American community, as a whole, remains unconvinced. Where, it persistently asks, are you to draw the line? The barber in Nicholas Nickleby refuses to shave a coal heaver, on the ground that you must draw a line somewhere, and he draws it at bakers. The coal heaver himself, if he had drawn it, would certainly have drawn it so as to include himself, and among all those who would restrict the suffrage there is not one who would consent to leave himself outside. Each restriction proposed, while it vitiates the principle, still fails to satisfy. Talleyrand said to the Emperor Alexander, in 1814, that Bonaparte represented a principle and Louis XVIII represented a principle, while anything else was but an intrigue. So among ourselves, Casarism might represent a principle, only that there is no Casar. Universal suffrage represents a principle. Between these there is nothing which has even the dignity of an intrigue.

If we grant that there are in any confingnity one, two, or a dozen persons who could govern it better than it governs itself now, the question still remains, How are those gifted few to be got at? If they are to select themselves and each is to recruit an army to fight it out, we have a South American Government. If they are to be selected by merely literary examination, then we have Chinese type of rulers. But if they are to be chosen by the popular voice, then we have a republic after all. This at least aims to com-bine personal ability with popular government. There are always a few persons remarkably fitted for executive duties-one to command an army, one to organize schools, one to "swing a rail-Every caucus, every convention, road. every election, is an effort to discover those men, and to put them where they will be useful. Americans take as readily to the appointment of committees as to the decision by majorities, because they are trained to understand that the many must settle what is to be done, and the few have charge of the doing. "Teague, who can dig," merely claims the right to decide at proper intervals which among the thinking Ralphs shall be put at the helm. We can spare neither. What would have become of this nation had the adjustment of the slavery question been left to the professors in our colleges? Each voter stands for his own rights and for those of his class, if for nothing else, and the larger the body of voters the less easy to cajole or bribe them. Because demagogues flatter the vox populi it does not become wise men to ignore its value. It was not an American republican, but the shrewdest of French thinkers, who said, "There is one who knows more than anybody, and that is Every-

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on full chime. Estimates furnished on application either personally or by mail.

JACOB HARLEY. Watches, Jewelry, Silver and Plated-ware, a good assortment at

MODERATE PRICES. Watches and Jewelry carefully repaired. WILLIAM B. WARNE & CO.,

Wholesale Dealers in
WATCHES AND JEWELRY,
S. B. corner SEVENTH and CHESNUT Streets,
3 251 Second floor, and late of No. 35 S. THIRD St. PROPOSALS.

PROPOSALS FOR COAL AND KINDLING

DEPOT QUARTERMASTER'S OFFICE,
WASHINGTON, D. C, August 23, 1570.
SEALED PROPOSALS will be received at this
office until 12 M., September 23, 1870, from responsible parties, to keep on hand and deliver as required at the various offices and officers' quarters in
this city and at Fort Whipple, Va., three hundred
and twenty-two (322) cords of Kindling Wood and
nine hundred and ninety-five (995) tons of merchantable White Ash or other anthracite coal of size as
may be called for, free from slate and dust or dirt.

may be called for, free from state and dust or dirt, and to weigh 2240 pounds to the ton, as follows:

At Fort Whippie, Va., about 40,000 pounds.

To be delivered on orders at various points in this city about 2,188,800 pounds.

Separate proposals will also be received for the delivery of the entire amount at the Government Corral, corner of Nineteenth and N streets.

Guarantees signed by two responsible sureties for a sum equal to two-thirds of the amount of each bid will be required of each bidder that he will, if successful, execute a contract in accordance with the requirements herein set forth, within six days after the award is made.

The fuel will be inspected, weighed, and measured by an inspector as provided by recent act of Con-gress, and payment will be made monthly for quantity received, if in funds, or as soon thereafter

as funds are provided for the purpose, on the certifi-cate of the inspector and receipt of parties to whom delivery has been ordered.
Should the contractor fall to furnish the kind and quantity of wood contracted for, it will be pur-chased in open market and difference in cost charged

The right is reserved to reject any or all-bids not deemed advantageous to the Government. Proposals will be addressed to the undersigned, plainly marked "Proposals for Fuel." Bidders are invited to be present at the opening.

WILLIAM MYERS,

Byt. Brig.-General U. S. A.,

Depot Quartermaster.

Proposals For Fresh Beef.

Proposals For Fresh Beef.

September 15th, 1870.

September 15th ketable quality, in equal proportions of fore and hind quarters, excluding necks, shanks, and kidney tallow; the beef to be delivered free of cost to the troops, in such quantities and on such days as may be from time to time required by the proper authority, and the contract to continue in force six months, or such less time as the Commission. months, or such less time as the Commissary General shall direct, and subject to his approval, commencing on the 1st of November, 1s76.

Upon the acceptance of the offer, security and bend in the sum of six hundred dollars will be re-

quired for the faithful performance of the contract.
The right to reject any or all bids which may not be deemed to the interest of the Government to accept is reserved.

Bids to be endorsed on the envelope "Proposals

WILLIAM PRINCE, 9 15 6t . 1st Lt. Ord., A. C. S.

OUTLERY, ETC. RODGERS & WOSTENHOLM'S POCKET KNIVES, Pearl and Stag handles, and beautiful finish; Rodgers', and Wade & Butcher's Razors, and the celebrated Lecoultre Razor; Ladies' Scissors, in cases, of the finest quality; Rodgers' Table Cutlery, Carvers and Forks, Razor Strops, Cork Screws, etc. Ear instruments, to assist the hearing, of the most ap-

No. 115 TENTH Street, below Chesnut. A LEXANDER G. CATTELL & CO., PRODUCE COMMISSION MERCHANTS, No. 26 NORTH WHARVES

proved construction, at P. MADEIRA'S,

No. 27 NORTH WATER STREET, PHILADELPHIA. BLUAH CATTELL ALEXANDER G. CATTREL