## SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

THE MOURNING IN GERMANY.

From the N. Y. Herald. The great victories won by German arms. and the almost missculous prostration of Germany's most powerful and most daagerous foe, have sent a thrill of national exultation through the pulses of Fatherland. Bonfires, illuminations, triumphal processions, public meetings, and congratulatory addresses have not been wanting in any of the large cities that dot the broad region extending from the Rhine to the borders of Russia. The echo of these jubilations comes to us across the Atlantic, and it is so loud and hearty as to drown the cries of grief and anguish which ascend along with it from thousands and thousands of homes made desolate by the curse of this dreadful war. In fact, there is a determined effort, and, under the circumstances, not an unwise one, on the part of the German authorities to suppress the true details of the carnage inflicted on their troops. The story would be so appalling were it all frankly told at this juncture, as to awaken all over Germany a voice for instant peace that could not be resisted. Hence, the most is made of the successes gained, and as little as possible is said of their frightful cost. However, King William himself has, once or twice, involuntarily given a glimpse behind the bloody scenes. In his famous despatch to Queen Augusta from the battle fields in the neighborhood of Metz. he admitted that it sickened him to think of his losses, and all correspondents agree in representing the slaughter of the Germans in nearly every engagement fought since the beginning of the war as two-fold that of their antagonists. At the battle of Gravelotte the German dead lay heaped upon the heights whence the French had been dislodged towards the close of the action "in swathes and winrows, like grain in a densely planted and well-mown field," and the distress of the royal commander-in-chief at the almost utter

Again, the peculiar system of recruiting and organization pursued for the German service is such that in many cases a large proportion of the able-bodied men of whole villages and small towns are enrolled together in the same companies and regiments, with the idea that their conduct will be beneficially influenced by the additional esprit de corps thus preserved, and by the fact that every man will be nighting under the eyes of his own neighbors and early companions. Consequently, the slaughter of these recent battles has thrown whole communities into mourning, and, as the South Germans have really done some of the severest work, there are districts in Baden and Bavaria where almost every family has lost a father, brother, or son. Eaxony, too, has been literally decimated by the wholesale destruction of her best troops. It is one peculiarity of the German soldier that he is more likely to have a wife and family at home than is the more volatile and fickle Frenchman; and, hence, his death is not simply the passing away of a unit from among the multitude, but involves the immediate suffering of several persons. This fact has been very touchingly illustrated upon many occasions during the struggle. The fierce Uhlans scouting in the neighborhood of the Alsatian towns repeatedly exhibited great emotion when caressing the children of the villagers upon whom they made their requisitions, and, when questioned as to the cause of their agitation, replied that they, too, had wives and families at home.

annihilation of his splendid Guards-the

pride of the Prussian army-is described as

having been extreme.

But so general has been the carnage that no class in the German armies has been spared. At Sedan there was an absolute battue of titled officers; and long lists of counts, barons and gentry of distinguished name and social position figure among the slain in the statements of the press in Austria, where the careful restrictions imposed upon the North German editors are not enforced. In one word, the domestic heart of Fatherland is lacerated as it has never been before. Her homes-grand and humble alike-are wrapped in gloom. Men whose own hearths are in safety, on this side of the Atlantic and elsewhere, at wide distances from the actual scene of sorrow, may hold war meetings and pass ferocious resolutions; but the afflicted people of Germany, in all her cities and in all her fields of rustic poverty and labor, pray that this riot of blood may be stayed and that their stricken hearts may be no longer torn by the fangs of military ambition.

THE GERMANS IN OUR POLITICAL CAMPAIGN.

From the N. Y. Times.

There can be no question that the Republican party are to gain, in the approaching political campaign, an important German vote. We hear on every side that the German-Americans who have hitherto been members of the Democratic party have become dis-gusted with the course of the Democratic leaders and journals on the Franco-German question, and are coming over in large num-bers to the Republican side. It is well understood by them that the leading organs of the Democratic party have assailed the cause of the "Fatherland" with every weapon of sarcasm and abuse. The World has never ceased vilifying the motives of the Germans, and using every possible argument to draw American sympathy from the Prussians. The Republican journals, on the other hand, have almost unanimously sympathized with the struggle for German unity. From the begin-ning they have condemned the means which Louis Napoleon used to acquire power, and the oppression he has exercised over free thought and personal liberty. They opposed him when seeking to acquire a foothold for Imperialist ideas in Mexico, and would undoubtedly have urged the nation to war rather than submit to a permanent French occupation of that unfortunate

country. When Napoleon, on the 15th of July last, began his sudden and uncalled-for war against North Germany, the Republican public men and newspapers felt and denounced, it as an unprovoked attack on a peaceful neighbor; they regarded the struggle as in fact one between Cassarism on one side, and a people just beginning a course of constitutional liberty on the other. Between Napoleon and King William, personally, they had not much to choose; but one represented despotic ideas, and the other, for the moment, the mighty efforts of a free community towards unity, which we know from experience to be the path of liberty. Moreover, Germany embodied, to our minds, the freer ideas of the age; freedom of thought and constitutional progress; its army was a citi-zon army, and its strength, like our own, is to run again for Congress as a stump can- Government. Nothing less, probably, than

lay in popular education. Its Teutonic vir- | tues were our own pains-taking industry, a pure family life, and the courage which, though not often brilliant, grows firmer from disaster. These were some of the reasons which brought the Republican party into sympathy with Germany in this great strug-gle. The sympathy would have been equally deep and honest had no German-Americans existed.

But we rejoice at the coincidence, because it shows, what all reflecting persons have long felt, that for a German-American to be a "Democrat" is an inconsistency, both logical and unnatural. The two really have nothing to do with one another. The American Democrat has always sympathized with arbitrary power. He ought to be called the American Tory, or Junker. He has a secret love for Disraeli, and a fellow feeling for Louis Napoleon. He adored the slaveholder. The German-American is of necessity a hater of tyrants and an enemy of oppression. The Democrat flatters the priesthood and believes in the temporal power of the Pope. The German (even if a Roman Catholic) would overthrow both. The American Democrat hates news ideas and "reforms," and always opposes any great popular measure, whether sanitary or moral, which will make the masses more intelligent or comfortable. The German believes in progress and popular improvement, and the elevation of the masses. The Democrat dislikes free schools, and would make them ecclesiastical. The German admires them, and would secularize the church schools. The Democrat has no ideas or a single principle in his party, and merely clings to a great name. The German is in sympathy with all the fermenting ideas of the time, and does not at once recognize that the sacred name of "Demokrat" in America is but a lion's skin.

This war has revealed these incongruities in the position of German-Americans within the Democratic party. They see they are strangers there. They are in the wrong What can a German "Demokrat, who has fed, as upon mother's milk, on ideas of liberty for all men, and of the progress of humanity, have to do with men whose idol was the slaveholder, who admire Louis Napoleon, and whose only aim is so to beguile an ignorant populace as to enjoy fat

The true democrats of the United States are the Republicans. Their career has been a glorious series of struggles and victories for the rights of man. They have always upheld the people against oppressors in any form. Their animating enthusiasm has been their love of freedom, and sympathy everywhere with true liberty. To them, the German-Americans rightly belong: in their ranks they will find a true harmony, and nowhere will their principles and services be so gratefully and heartily recognized as in the Republican

## THE PROSPECT IN FRANCE. From the N. Y. Sun.

The demands of Prussia, though nowhere formally expressed as yet, are pretty clearly understood. They are the surrender of the provinces of Alsace and Lorraine, so that France shall hereafter not touch the river Rhine, the payment in addition of a liberal money indemnity for the expenses of the war, and the occupation of the fortress of Metz by a Prussian force for some stipulated length of time, even if—a point as yet variously stated—that fortress should not be included in the territory to be handed over to the conquerors.

The nature of these demands excludes all idea of peace at present. No French Government would agree to them-a republican government least of all, much as all the pretenders to the throne would like to see the republicans make an odious peace. The French people appear willing to pay any reasonable sum of money, to stipulate for the reduction of their army and navy to a certain fixed limit, and to surrender their great northern fortresses temporarily as a guarantee for the faithful performance of their agreement. But they are not willing to yield any part of their territory; and it is to bring them to such a state of willingness that the German armies are now gathering around Paris and will soon commence the siege of that great capital.

How long this siege may last it is, of course, impossible to say. As yet the strength of the Parisian fortifications has not been tested. They were built thirty years ago, before the invention of rifled artillery and smooth-bores of fifteen and twenty inches diameter. Unless they have been strengthened by heavy earthworks-of which we have not heard-their walls of masonry cannot for any considerable period be proof against the attacks of these great guns. Besides, it is well known to engineers that these fortifications are not everywhere of equal strength. Their weak point is on the southeast, in the direction of St. Denis, and it is from that direction that the Prussians seem about to make their first onset. Still, it is not probable that the defenses of Paris can be reduced in less than forty or sixty days, and in this time military operations on the Prussian side must be substantially suspended elsewhere. The French, however, will all the while be active in organizing new armies, in threatening the Prussian lines of communication, and in harassing the enemy in every possible manner. In this way the siege of Paris, if it can be sufficiently protracted, will greatly exhaust the Germans, and contribute immensely to prepare the French for undertaking offensive operations afterwards against them.

The whole campaign henceforth must depend partly upon the length of time which Paris can hold out, but still more upon the real spirit of the French people. If they sternly determine upon fighting to the bitter end for their national integrity, no matter what the sacrifices or how great the cost, they can win. It all lies in their own spirit and resolution. If they are heroes ready to cover France with ruin rather than diminish her boundaries, and sacrifice the last relic of her prestige, the contest will be terrible, but the victory will be theirs at last. Seventyfive years ago they were capable of such a struggle; but are they capable of it now?

HOME AT LAST! From the N. Y. Tribune.

Mr. Ignatius Donnelly, having been thrice chosen to Congress from the northern district of Minnesota, wanted to go again; but the Republican Convention saw fit to nominate another: so he ran stump and threw away the district. Hereupon, Mr. Donnelly, who was a Pennsylvanian born, and had hitherto been a zealous protectionist, came out a "revenue reformer," and commenced assailing the party which had hitherto en-dured and subsisted him as the enemy of the West, because it had elected such men as himself to Congress, and thereby upheld the policy of protection.

After doing what little mischief he could in the way of spouting wherever he could corner an audience, Mr. D. has at length got himself into line with the sham Democracy. He

with those he can pick up by his anti-tariff dodge, will not pull him through.

The worst sold party to this arrangement is not the handful of Republicans who may be duped by it, but the sham Democracy. They in 68 elected Eugene M. Wilson to the seat, he winding their comp. business and letting by minding their own business and letting others do the same. He has a fair claim to their support for re-election, and they could vote for him without feeling as if they had been caught at midnight in a neighboring hen-house. But they have caught the Donnelly, and will probably be seven years in getting rid of it. Perhaps they have deserved no better; but our own experience of that complaint impels us to tender them our pro-

found sympathy. This man Donnelly affords a fair illustration of what is meant by "Revenue Reform." Its inspiration is hatred of Republican ascendency and a determination to overthrow it in 1872. So it is understood, and therefore it is favored, by every enemy of General Grant's administration. Thus the Chicago Times applands the Chicago Tribune for commending Democratic (that is, anti-protective) principles in quarters which Democratic journals never reach. Thus the Ohio Statesman commends the State Journal as being soundly Copperhead so far as the tariff is concerned. Everywhere a free-trade speechmaker is justly hailed by the Democrats as luring fish into their net. Happily there are not enough of them to rescue sham Democracy from the famine which, for lack of Federal loaves as well as fishes, it has endured for the last nine years.

RUSSIA AND THE WAR. From the London Saturday Revisio. After the Congress of Paris in 1856 the policy of Russia was authoritatively declared to be one of strict isolation and reserve. England, it was announced, had betrayed the confidence of the Emperor Nicholas, and repelled his offers of a share in the confiscation of the Turkish empire, in order to throw herself headlong into an alliance with the Second Empire, and to secure the friendship of a dangerous conspirator by lending him ber own prestige. Austria had played an obscure and shifty part as a neutral; Prussia had looked more kindly on her old ally, but declined a closer and more active sympathy. Russia had learned a severe and bitter but profitable lesson from her heroic efforts and glorious reverses; to live her own life, to recruit and renovate her unexhausted though shattered energies, to devote herself to the material interests of peace-in a word, to "collect herself" for the sure but not precipitate fulfilment of her destinies. recueillir-that was to be the whole duty of Russian statesmanship for years to come, according to Prince Gortschakoff. That duty has been faithfully observed, and a new Russis, more Muscovite and more discreet, though not less despotic, has been created out of the ruins of the old Russia of serfdom and silence, of intervention and intrigue. In the two great centres of the Empire something like national opinion has sprung up and spread from a few salons to the colleges, and from official circles to public journals. Foreign capital has been attracted by high interest and punctual dividends to investments in railway enterprise. The foundations of a new polity and a new society have been laid, and while all this internal renovation was going on, never was the foreign policy of Russia more decided, more dignified, or more self-possessed. Sebastopol was scarcely taken when the Emperor Napoleon was meditating his own terms of peace with an enemy who, having served his purpose in obtaining one alliance, might be the confidential partner in another. At the opening of the Italian war in 1859 a Franco-Russian alliance was in the air. Louis Napoleon courted it, nor was it from any want of warmth in his courtship that his "intentions" were declined. What he wanted it for, or what was the ulterior object of his intentions, is less clear. Probably his "intentions" were only half-formed conspiracies against some power whose alliance was no longer indispensable to him. Russia knew very well that while he was courting her alliance he was coquetting, like his uncle, with the inexhaustible credulity of Poland, and holding in reserve the dreams and hopes of that everlasting victim of French revolutionary jargon. When, a few years later, the Polish insurrection broke out, and that fantastic and impracticable nationality threw away the last chance of a government and administration of its own, the French Emperor felt himself obliged to make some show of active sympathy. But the moment Prince Gortschokoff replied to covert menaces by a disdainful despatch, the heir and successor of the man for whom thousands of brave Poles had fallen in battle drew back and held his peace: and ever since that signal diplomatic discomfiture he has assiduously cultivated the most friendly relations with the power that slapped his face, and has almost obsequiously studied to please the restorer of order at Warsaw. His ostentatiously affectionate welcome to the Czar in Paris during the International Exhibition-a welcome so inauspiciously interrupted by a Polish pistol—was bitterly remarked by French republicans. During the four years of preparation for the attack upon Prussia, Louis Napoleon has persevered in his assidui-ties at St. Petersburg, through one of the most devoted of his personal agents, whose favored position at the court of Alexander II is a favorite topic in the Official Journal. This laborious affectation of friendship has not, however, estranged him from his other alliances, with England, with Austria, and with Turkey. It has rather assumed the character of a warning to his other allies to beware of the possibility of that Russian alliance which he could never obtain. Alexander II, if less disdainful than his father of these advances, is scarcely more solicitous of their sincerity. While the Journal Official was dwelling with eager satisfaction on General Fleury's successes as a courtier, the Czar was publicly and formally exchanging with King William of Prussia con-gratulatory reminiscences of a memorable defeat of the First Napoleon in Germany. Such were the relations between the Gov-

ernments of France and Russia when the

Duke of Gramont read to the Chamber the

declaration of war, and such to all appear-

ances they are now, when the German armies under the Prussian standards are marching upon the French capital. For the best

of reasons Russia is watching the frontiers of

Posen, and holding Austrian neutrality in check. In the Baltic Russia observes the

movements of the French squadrons with anxious attention. Russia advises and sus-

tains the neutrality of the Scandinavian kingdoms. Russian influence restrains rather

than encourages the rash intrigues of the

King of Italy. Russia recognizes the justice of the retribution which Prussia is inflicting

upon Imperial France. But when we say "Russia," we mean the Russian Court and

didate, inflicting on the Republicans all the appearance of the Sultan in the field as abuse and misrepresentation whereof he is capable; and the Democrats are to print his name on their ballots and see if their votes, tempt the Czar to swerve from his neutrality. or to abandon the common interest of all the neutral States in circumscribing the area of hostilities. For, if Russia, in the sense of the Russian Government, is certainly not unfavorable to the German cause, very different is the public opinion of Russia as far as it finds expression in the journals of that party which is supposed to represent the national sentiment of the Russian people. These journals, and especially the most inde-pendent and influential of them all, are loud and emphatic in their sympathy for France in her present trials and troubles. They complain of the partiality of the official telegrams which exaggerate the successes and disguise the losses of the German armies. They swear as valiantly as the Gaulois or the Soir that the victories of France are yet to come, and rejoice by anticipation in the disastrous retreat of King William and his confederates across the Rhine. To what are we to ascribe these Muscovite sentiments? To chivalrous compassion for the gallant heroes of the Malakoff, the descendants of the heroes of the retreat from Moscow? To a belief in the democratic and socialistic ideas of Louis Napoleon? To the love of the Russian aristocracy for Paris? Or is it to the Muscovite hatred of all that is German-of German statesmen, German generals, German administrators, and German bureaucrats? Or to the natural antipathy of near neighbors? Or to jealousy of the copartitioners of Poland? Or to a dim fear of a future revivilication by united Germany of the Baltic provinces? The last we take to be the best of all the good reasons and bal passions that may be found in the Prusso phobia of the Russian press, especially in the organs of the Old Russia party. If we add the spirit of resistance to whatever may be the course of the Government, this extreme tenderness for the hereditary patrons (and betrayers) of Polish nationality is perhaps sufficiently explained. Without attaching too much importance to

the stories, in which the French official press appears to take comfort, of the extraordinary social successes of General Fleury at the Russian Court, and of the Emperor Alexander leaning on the arm of the Ambassador and putting him on terms of confidential and almost affectionate intimacy, there is reason to believe that these lively demonstrations have more than a personal significance. The Emperor Alexander is a kind-hearted man, and he must feel for the woes of the ruler of France. Common generosity-not to speak of Imperial magnanimity -would, under existing circumstances, re-commend one of Louis Napoleon's nearest and dearest friends to the sympathies of the sovereign to whom he is accredited. Personal courtesy is not necessarily an act of policy, and personal kindness to a reconciled enemy and a hospitable friend who has fallen upon evil days is grateful to one's feelings without compromising one's interests. Alexander II may be glad to break the fall of the French Emperor by lavishing attentions upon his favorite agent. To suppose that all this "enforced ceremony" means a deliberate design on the part of the Czar to relinquish a secure and profitable neutrality in favor of France, to exchange an old and tried alliance for a new and hazardous one. to stand, armed and menacing, between a liberated Germany and a defeated aggressor, as France stood between Austria and Prussia at Nikolsburg, to snatch from King William the results of hard-won victories, and to save the disturber of European peace from merited retributionthis appears to us a very wild hypothesis. The Russian people-or, rather, the knot of eccentric politicians who impersonate a people—may be jealous of the triumphs of German arms and of her vast defensive military organization, which is henceforth to be supreme in Central Europe. Looking to the present, and not into some far and shadowy future, the military supremacy of Germany, united under Prussian leadership, in Central Europe should be a guarantee, rather than a danger or an obstacle, to the peaceful growth and prosperity of Russia, so long as Russia remains a defensive power. An alliance with France is an alliance with the revolution. This might please the communists, but what have the old Russian party, the exterminators of the Polish nationality, what have the new Russian party, the Panslavic agitators in Bohemia, to hope from it? If by an alliance with France the old Russian party means a division of the empire of the East, it can hardly be the common interest of the present neutral powers to prevent Prussia from exacting full securities against such experiments. Russia may regard with evil eyes the development of German naval power, but this development is only the natural and inevita-ble consequence of the territorial extension and unity of a nation whose mercantile marine is already the second in the world. If Russia dislikes the unity of Germany, she must learn to accept one more accomplished fact. The Russian Government is in no condition to go to war to prevent it; and if it tried to do so, it would seek in vain for allies, and would provoke disasters compared with which the retribution that is falling upon the inordinate ambition and the fl.ebrand policy of Napoleonic France would be but a passing

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