SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

LOSS OF LIFE IN WAR. From the N. Y. Times.

The shocking slaughter which has characterized recent European battles has naturally directed attention to the comparative bloodshed of these and former struggles, and suggested estimates of the practical bearing on the question of the new weapons of warfare. Whether rifled cannon, the zundnadelgewehr and mitrailicuse are or are not, as the guillotine was alleged to be, beneficent inventions, appears to depend on these calculations. For if it should appear that, while war costs no more men than formerly, it is much sooner over, and that this is in an appreciable measure consequent on the use of better or more effective weapons, the affirmative of this proposition must be accepted. War cancerns non-combatants as well as others, and the shorter it is the better, of course, for all industrial interests. If 100,000 men must be killed it is better for their country that they should be killed in a month than in a year. A recognition of this principle would seem in part to have inspired the existing Prussian military system. The accounts that reach us of the current strife are certainly terrible and distressing. The details of mangled bodies of "colored rags, glued together with blood and brains, and pinned in fantastic shapes with bits of bone," are sickening beyond measure. It is, however, a debatable question, granting that war must still be, whether the soldier is worse off for going through a great danger for a short time rather than a considerable danger for a long time. An examination of some details of the loss of life in past and recent battles will assist the formation of intelligent opinion.

For the losses as well as the numbers engaged in the battles of antiquity, we have but uncertain data. Such history as we possess asserts-that at Marathon 10,000 Greeks overthrew 500,000 Persians, and that 200,000 of the latter were slain. This, of course, is the Greek history, and not the Persian. At the taking of Jerusalem by Titus more than 1,000,000 Jews are believed to have perished. At Naissus, when Claudius defeated the Goths, it in said 300,000 of the latter were killed. The siege of Acre cost an equal number of Christian soldiers. At the battle of Hastings 30,000 were killed-a vast proportion of the numbers engaged. The famous struggle at Bannockburn was one of the most disastrous for England that ever occurred before its date or since, the total loss being 50,000, or one-half of King Edward's whole army. At Cressy the English under the Black Prince killed nearly as many as their own number of the French, i. e., somewhat over 30,000; and at Agincourt Henry V did even better, for, with only 9,000 men, he is declared to have beaten 60 000, of whom 10,000 were killed and 14,000 taken prisoners. The records state that at Blenheim the English, under Marlborough, slew 27,000 of their adversaries and took 13,000 prisoners. At Fontenoy, where Marshal Saxe, at the head of the French, defeated the English under the Duke of Cumberland, both sides confessed to a loss of about 12,000. At Malplaquet the allies lost one-sixth of their wh and the French one fifth of theirs, or 90,000. The loss of the Allies at Austerlitz was 30,000-one-third of their whole array: while that of the French was 10,000 -one-seventh of theirs. Of the 140,000 Austrians at the battle of Wagram, 22,000 were wounded or slain, and of the 180,000 French, 20,000 At Borodino, the awful number of 44,000 Russians were put hors de combat, being onethird of their whole army, and 30,000 French, or one-fourth of theirs. The allied loss at Leipsic was 48,000-one-sixth of their army, and that of the French, 45,000 -one-quarter, At Waterloo, of the 110,000 allies, the loss was 26,000, and of the 72,000 French, 35,000, or more than one-half.

In the present generation the great European battles may be considered to have been Solferino, Koniggratz or Sadowa, Metz, and Sedan. At Solferino the French and Italians had 152,000, and lost 17,000 men, or oneninth, and the Austrians had 160,000, and lost 20,000, or one-eighth of their total force. Of 220,000 Prussians at Sadowa, but 9000, or one-twenty-third, and of the 310,000 Austrians, 31,000, or one-seventh, were lost. The present estimate is that there were 200,000 French in the three days' battles before Metz, and that 50,000 of them were destroyed, and that of the 250,000 Germans, 40,000, or one-sixth, represent the losses. It is difficult as yet to pronounce upon the number of killed and wounded at Sedan. It is variously reckoned at from 20,000 to 40,000 men. The French who were made prisoners numbered some 85,000—the first instance of the surrender of so large a body of troops since the Romans capitulated to the Samnites at the Caudine Forks. In our American civil war the most sanguinary battles exhibit mortality of nearly the same relative proportions as the most bloody of the European struggles. About 100,000 men-58,000 Federals and 40,000 Confederates-are recorded to have been engaged at Antietam; the national loss is set down at 11,426, the Confederates at about 10,000; the aggregate loss thus being more than a quarter of the whole number of both combatants. Nearly the same numbers with the same relative casualties were seen at the second Bull Run. At Gettysburg the national loss is recorded at 23,190, and that of the Confederates at about 36,000. The numbers on each side having been about equal. or, say 75,000 each, more than one-third of the whole were missing or destroyed at the end of the battle. It is commonly reckoned that the American civil war cost by death in action, wounds, and disease, about 1,000,000 able-bodied men, which is also the number said to have been expended in the wars of Napoleon I.

It seems probable, on the whole, that former battles have often been as destructive as the worst of our own day, but that the work of death is usually done in a shorter time than it once was. Indeed, there is no other way than this of explaining how it was that in such frightful battles as Borodino, Eglau, and Bautzen, with the old musket and artillery, the ratio of killed and wounded was as great as in the Franco-Prussian war to-day, with all the improved appliances of Chassepots and rifled guns. Our own war, extending over a wast area and in a new country, was highly exceptional, as was also that of the Crimes. for obvious reasons. But where the combatants are able quickly to concentrate their strength and get at each other, issues are much more speedily decided. All the later European contests exemplify this, and seem to show that the protracted encounters of past history are unlikely to be repeated. Indeed, whatever the will or the obstinacy of the combatants it it

plain that no such fighting as we have lately | seen could be long maintained. Exhaustion must soon come for both combatants. The inherent property of such gigantic conflicts is, that they must be short ones. Destruction is swifter and more fearful, but that it is sooner over is, at least, some consolation for those who witness without being able to prevent the devastation and suffering wrought by the combats of modern nations.

THE ARMISTICE QUESTION-A FRESH OPPORTUNITY FOR INTERVENTION.

From the N. Y. Herald. The situation as between Prussia and France it does appear is misunderstood not only in this country, not only all over Europe, but by the combatants themselves, and even by the representatives of the two rival nationalities. The difference of a peace and an armistice we made plain to our readers some days ago. Because Prussia made certain conditions for an armiscice-conditions which, though just enough for an armistice, might not unjustly have been deemed hard for a peace settlement-most of the newspapers, not perceiving the difference, burst into towering passion and denounced the tyranny and injustice of Prussia. France was unfortunate and downtrodden. Prussia, or rather Germany, was barbarian and brutal. Bismarck was a fiend from the lower regions. Jules Favre was an angel of light. France was all right. Prussia was all wrong. Now, however, that we are in possession of

Bismarck's version of what actually did take place at his interview with Jules Favre, the difference between a peace settlement and an armistice is no longer misunderstood. Nor is it any longer possible to doubt that if Jules Favre had been able to find reason in his unreasonable colleagues this most unnecessary and destructive war would have been ended at least two weeks ago. Bismarck tells us, and tells us plainly, that "the statement that he refused an armistice is false." When he met Jules Favre at Ferrieres "it was agreed that an armistice would be possible if France gave Prussia guarantees against delayagainst destroying the advantages of the po-sition she had won in the war." These guarantees included the retention of the fortresses on the lines of communication between Germay and the advance posts of the German armies. They included also the surrender of certain fortifications in the neighborhood of Paris, so as to prevent the besieged from taking undue advantage of the armistice to gather in supplies and so strengthen their position. On these terms Bismarck was willing to grant an armistice of fifteen or twenty days, thus permitting France to make her elections and convene her Constituent Assembly and form a responsible government which could say "Yea" or "Nay." According to Bismarck M. Jules Favre could not bind France to any such arrangement; but he promised to consult his colleagues. Not finding his colleagues in a mood to comply with such terms, Jules Favre wrote a letter to King William, as all our readers know, full of patriotism, but full also of bun-combe. With Bismarck's statement of

the case before us, we must repeat that, by the newspaper world generally, the conditions of a peace settlement and of an armistice have been absurdly confounded; that Prussia had a perfect right in view of an armistice to make such conditions, and that the Provisional Government was greatly to blame for not accepting the conditions and agreeing to a temporary suspension of hostilities. It is natural for the Provisional Government and for France generally to regard these conditions as hard: but it must also be admitted that the Prussian authorities would have revealed a miserably plentiful lack of that wisdom which has won them so great success if they had agreed to grant an armistice on terms more easy. Count Bismarck was not the man in any circumstances, least of all when his triumphant legions were knocking loudly at the gates of Paris, to fling away a victory which his people had won at a cost of so much blood and so much treasure, and which he himself had made it his life labor to accomplish. For poor France we all feel; but sentiment is not always just, and no man who loves France and loves justice, too, can have any difficulty in endorsing the sentiment, "Pity that two weeks ago an armistice was not agreed to." The fault clearly was not Bismarck's. It was not Jules Favre's. The blame rests with France, and with France because she has no responsible gov-

An armistice to-day is more possible and more desirable than ever. The terrific artillery of Prussia is pointed and ready to burst upon the doomed city of Paris-a city in the preservation of which, somehow, all the world feels interested. If the Prussian guns do open their mouths and belch forth destruction on the monuments and art treasures of the fairest city of which modern civilization can boast no one can blame Prussia. It will not be the fault of Count Bismarck, or General Moltke, or of King William, or of the Crown Prince. It will only be their painful dutytheir necessity. They have no choice; they cannot help it. It will not, we think, be the fault of Jules Favre or of General Trochu. With unreasoning colleagues they have no choice; they cannot help it. But still we must regret the necessity of the destruction of Paris. If Prussia has no choice but to pour upon it destruction and death; if the Provisional Government is so feeble that it can neither repel the invader nor become responsible for an armistice, there is a loud and imperative call addressed to the neutral powers once more to kindly interfere-to persuade if they cannot compel. It is now manifest to all the world that the door for intervention is open; that both Prussia and France are willing to listen to reason, if only they are properly approached. Let the great powers, one and all, state to France that to save Paris, to prevent the unnecessary humiliation of the French people, and possibly to prevent a dismemberment of the kingdom, more serious than has yet been contemplated, an armistice on Prussian conditions must be accepted. Vigorous, forceful, decided action on the part of the great powers is all that is necessary to bring France to reason and to give the provisional government the unity and strength which they need. If Paris is bombarded in the circumstances the great neutral powers must, to a large extent, be held responsible. If they try and succeed, the glory will be theirs. If they try and fail, France, so far as we can now see, must bear the punishment, not altogether righteously, but necessarily inflicted. We are willing to hope that intervention will, within a few days, bring about an armistive, and thus end a war which was never necessary, never justifiable, but which is now offensive to the common

THE "BABY-FARMING" CASE. From the N. Y. World.

sense of mankind.

The recent trial and conviction of Margaret Waters in London for the crime of child-murder has shown that in the field of

have been fairly eclipsed by Waters and her forty murdered infants. The Frenchman slaughtered a whole family to obtain a few francs; but the Englishwoman for a period of four years carried on a system of child-murder for the paltry sum of two shillings and der for the paltry sum of two shillings and sixpence per child. It was her practice to adopt the undesirable children of repentant pa-rents, and to furnish them "with all the comforts of a bome at the rate of eighteen-pence per week. To the mind of Mrs. Waters, the only comforts which a reasonable infant could require appear to have been perfect quiet and unlimited supplies of laudanum. It was her custom to give her young charges a substantial breakfast of elixir of opium, and then to secure to them the opportunity for undisturbed repose by locking them up in her bedroom and leaving them unmolested for the remainder of the day. The infants, however, refused to thrive under this motherly treatment; and as they successively died of what the physician examined upon the trial called "starvation and narcotism," Mrs. Waters was accustomed to wrap them in paper and drop them in unfrequented localities whene'er she took her walks abroad. The vacancies thus caused in her youthful family by the obstinate refusal of the infants to take kindly to the regimen of repose and laudanum were promptly filled by the adop-tion of fresh children. By this ingenious method the thrifty Mrs. Waters was gradually accumulating a competence for the support of her declining years, when her occupation was rudely disturbed by the police, at the instigation of a certain Mr. Cowen. whose unmarried daughter had inadvertently given birth to an unexpected child, which Mrs. Waters had undertaken to bring up in the midst of her peculiar infantile comforts. Being placed on trial for the murder of this infant, her long career of successful suppression of unwelcome children was brought to light, and she was not only found guilty of having murdered the Cowen infant, but in the course of the trial the incidental murder of at least thirty-nine other infants was shown to have resulted from her successful practice of baby-farming—as the English press has called her peculiar profession.

The woman herself seems to have been utterly without feeling. When asked if she had anything to say in her defense before sentence was passed upon her, she made a rambling speech, setting forth what she know about farming asapplied to infants, and claiming that her management of them had resulted disastrously only in consequence of the ill-advised interference of the police, who had persisted in disturbing her in her wise and motherly course of treatment. In reply to the evidence which proved that the police had found five infants lying at the point of death on a sofa in her room, she urged that only three instead of five were thus found, and evidently regarded so small a trifle as the starvation of three children as wholly un worthy of notice. The court, however, declined to be influenced by her statements, and sentenced her to death, to the great satisfaction of every humane person in the United King-

Horrible as this case is, it will doubtless have a beneficial effect upon the conservative British public, which has heretofore regarded a foundling hospital as a demoralizing institution, fit only for benighted "Popish communities. Already the London press is discussing the proposal to establish such a hospital as the only safeguard against infanticide and baby-farming. If the English people can be brought to look upon the foundling hospital as a necessary preventive of crime, the forty children who, by Mrs. Waters' aid "slept ever into long, long sleep have not suffered and died in vain. Her case also emphasizes once more the unpleasant truth that the cruelty of a thoroughly bad woman possesses a fiendishness which is seldom found in the worst of male criminals. Traupmann was at worst a feeble, half-witted fellow, who probably had no real sense of the nature of his enormous crime; but the woman Waters, whe for five years deliberately starved and drugged two score of hapless and helpless infants till they sank into forgotten graves, was, to all appearances, an intelligent, strong-willed person. The annals of crime may be safely challenged to produce a criminal who in relentless, calculating, and longcontinued cruelty can equal this baby-farming fiend in woman's shape.

THE RENOMINATION OF GRANT WOULD DISSOLVE THE REPUBLICAN PARTY. From the N. Y. Sun

If the Republicans elect a majority of the House of Representatives this fall, they will at the close of the next Congress have controlled the House fourteen years. This is a longer period than any party has had a majority in that branch of the Federal Legislature without interruption since the reorganization of parties during the administration of John Quincy Adams; and the event would presage the obliteration of old party lines in the Presidential contest of 1872. This will undoubtedly be the case if unwise Republicans, taking courage by their success this autumn, should attempt to force upon the country the renomination of Gen. Grant. Should his supporters, with the aid of the office-holders, be able to control a majority of the National Convention of 1872, and be so unmindful of public sentiment and the warnings of history as to place his name once more before the people, he would share the fate of John Quincy Adams in 1828, and Martin Van Buren in 1840, either by means of a disastrous bolt among the rank and file of the Republican party, or the nomination of an independent Republican candidate.

In 1872 the Republican party will have governed the country twelve years. This is a long period for one party to bear sway in an era so prone to political revolutions as the present. The American people desire progress, love novelty, and covet a frequent change of rulers. No man in high office can hope to receive their homage for a great length of time unless he displays pre-eminent talents, extraordinary administrative capacity, and rare personal magnetism. Has General Grant exhibited any of these qualities since he entered the White House? Does anybody presume to assign him a place above mediocrity as a citizen? And does not every candid Republican feel that it would be extremely hazardous to the party to put him again in nomination?

If, then, the Republicans do not wish to involve their organization in ruin, they should give it to be distinctly understood that they will not tolerate the renomination of Grant. and they should vote against every candidate for Congress who ostentatiously proclaims hin self in favor of so suicidal a measure.

COAL TRADE STATISTICS. From the Minera' Journal.

The Philadelphia Ledger published the following in reply to an article of last week, which is decidedly cool:—

"Our weekly report of the Anthracite coal trade is made up from official statements furnished to this office directly from all the larger coal carrying companies, and, to a limited extent, from statements of cold-blooded cruelty and mercenary murder women can attain quite as much distinction as men. Transparent and mercenary murder to the newspapers in the mining regions. This accounts for the fact that our figures of the trade do jurious

They acknowledge that they steal a portion of our statements, and think it a matter of trifling import. They also state that their comments weekly given of the coal trade are generally esteemed more satisfactory than those elsewhere published. The thief who stole goods and sold them afterwards to others at a cheap rate might consider it a satisfactory business, because they were trading on other people's property, and they realized the benefit of this stolen property of which the owner has been robbed. There is not a per-son engaged in the coal trade in Philadelphia, who reads the Journal and the Ledger, that does not know that our strictures on the conduct of the Ledger last week were just; and some of the Philadelphia dealers stated to us that we served them right, because the thefts were so glaring.

They also state that their columns are so crowded every Saturday that they have not room to publish the reports. This may be true to a certain extent -but that is not the reason why they are postponed. Their object is to obtain the information from the fournal, in which they can have the comments, which they pilfer from us, and then palm them off on the public in a little different shape as their own. Why not publish the reports they receive on Saturday? They will take up but little room, and their comments, based on their knowledge of the trade, would be extremely short, or supremely ridiculous, if extended. This is the reason why they are held over until Monday.

To test the matter whether they took a portion of our statements, we altered some figures which would not be noticed for two weeks, and these altered figures were each time copied by the Ledger in their weekly statements. We are aware that they receive some of the returns, but not all, and the greater portion that they receive and publish are not correct, because the tonnage in some of these reports are doubled up, and they publish this doubled up tonnage.

The only correct and reliable statements of

the coal trade, compared with last year, are published in the Miners' Journal. We have gone to great expense and given a great deal of time and labor to collect and tabulate these statistics to preserve them in an official form, and they are more correct than all such statistics that are collected by the Government. The papers that profess to give correct statements have solicited the use of the machinery we put in motion to obtain them. as far as they could, and they generally steal the balance and palm them off upon the public as their own. In such conduct honest? Is it not most disreputable? If they paid even a portion of the expense in obtaining this information, they might then have some justification in stealing some; but the Ledger does not pay one cent for these statistics, and nearly all the ideas they put forth they filch from others without one particle of credit. If they persist in this disreputable course, we will show the "makeup" of the Public Ledger and, point out how some people can make a good deal of money in publishing papers in our cities with the expenditure of a small amount of brains.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

NOTICE IS HERSBY GIVEN THAT AN he Geveral 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 BRIDESBUR + BANK, to be located at Philadelphia, with a capital of one he udred thou-sand dollars, with the right to increase the same to five hundred thousand dollars.

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application will be made at the next meeting application will be made at the next meeting of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the incorporation of a Bank, in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth, to be entitled THE AMERICAN EXCHANGE BANK, to be located at Philadelphia, with a capital of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, with the right to increase the same to one million dollars.

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10 4 11t J. W. McALLISTER, Secretary.

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ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT: JAMES LYND.

COUNTY.

WILLIAM R. LEEDS.

REGISTER OF WILLS: WILLIAM M. BUNN. Late private 72d Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers CLERK OF THE ORPHANS' COURT:

SERGEANT JOSEPH C. TITTERMARY,

CITY.

RECEIVER OF TAXES: ROBERT - H. BEATTY. CITY COMMISSIONER: CAPTAIN JAMES BAIN

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> SENATOR THIRD DISTRICT: BENJAMIN W. THOMAS.

ASSEMBLY.

1st District-SAMUEL P. THOMSON WILLIAM H. STEVENSON. WILLIAM KELLEY. 4th WILLIAM ELLIOTT WILLIAM DUFFY. COL. CHARLES KLECKNER. 7th ROLERT JOHNSON. WILLIAM I. MARSHALL. Sth WILLIAM H. PORTER.

JOHN E. REYBURN. SAMUEL M. HAGER 11th JOHN LAMON. JOHN DUMBELL. JOHN CLOUD.

14th ADAM ALBRIGHT. 16th WILLIAM F. SMITH. WATSON COMLY. JAMES MILLER.

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TENTH WARD. FOR REGISTER OF WILLS.

WILLIAM M. BUNN,

SIXTEENTH WARD.

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