

SPiRiT OF THE PRESS.

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

THE SIEGE OF PARIS.

From the N. Y. Herald. The siege of Paris, which began to loom upon the Parisians with the disastrous rout of the splendid army of MacMahon on the Rhine frontier, became a certainty (unless avoided by a treaty of peace) after the astounding capitulation of Sedan. After Sedan there was a treaty of peace which saved the capital of Austria; but after Sedan, which involved the overthrow of the responsible government of France and the substitution of a provisional republic resolved upon the expulsion of the enemy, there was no alternative to King William but the siege of Paris. Accordingly his restless columns from Sedan were moved down upon the city. They have encircled it, and by an impassable wall of steel they have isolated it from the outside world. They have so far completed the prodigious work of investment in a circuit of thirty miles that they are reported as ready to commence operations not only upon some of the exterior defensive forts, but in the bombardment of the city itself.

We have meantime, through the limited serial mail facilities of balloons and carrier pigeons, information from within the walls, that though the city has two millions of consumers of provisions, and is totally cut off from all outside sources of supply, it is still provided with day by day a more weighty quantity of subsistence which may be made to hold out for three or four months; that the Seine, flowing through the city, furnishes an abundant supply of water, which cannot be cut off; that the armed defenders within the city's walls and exterior fortifications far exceed in number three hundred thousand men; that they have abundance of ammunition for small arms and artillery; that they are preparing for offensive operations; and from Tours we learn that on the Rhone and the Loire other armies are rapidly forming to come to the rescue. These reports of the state of things in Paris are from the city's defenders, who, of course, represent their situation in the most favorable light. We really, however, know no more of what is going on from day to day in Paris than of the events transpiring in the inner city of Pekin or in the streets of Timbuctoo—a fact which, in this boasted epoch of advanced civilization, is the most astounding of all the astounding facts of the wonderful nineteenth century.

Assuming, however, that the internal condition of Paris, as represented at Tours through those balloon and pigeon expresses, is substantially true, may not General Trochu be preparing for a sortie upon which he calculates to change the fortunes of the war? With an army of three hundred thousand men at his command, is it not within his power to rally out en masse upon some weak point of the enemy's encircling line and double it up by mere weight of numbers, as Stonewall Jackson, in an overwhelming flank attack, doubled up and pushed away from Richmond the army of McClellan? Some such brilliant coup as this may be contemplated by Trochu, and in the little outside skirmishes with the Germans, now occurring almost every day, the military circumstances are so favorable for a grand attack, but the repeated failures of Bazaine with his veteran soldiers in his sorties from Metz are rather calculated to discourage than to invite any such experiments with the raw troops of Paris.

General Grant, we are informed from a reliable source at Washington, "so far from uttering a doubt, as alleged, with reference to the Prussians being able to capture Paris, today (October 5) expressed the opinion that they would be successful, judging by all the military circumstances." General Grant thinks that from "all the military circumstances" Paris will have to capitulate, or that it will be taken by the investing German army; and this opinion, from the hero of the sieges of Vicksburg and of Petersburg and Richmond, will command universal attention and respect. Assuming that the issue of the siege will establish the soundness of this opinion, and that Paris, a month or two or three months hence, from the combined pressure of isolation, bombardment, hunger, and internal disorders, will be reduced to a surrender, what then? Will the government at Tours succumb and ask for peace, or an armistice, or will it be still controlled by the implacable and impracticable "reds" in favor of war to "the last ditch"?

We think it altogether probable that the fall of Paris will bring even the most violent of the members of the existing French government to terms of peace, with the conviction that further resistance will only entail upon France further losses, sufferings, and humiliations. Count Bismarck has emphatically declared that Prussia has nothing to do with the business of establishing the local government of France, but that should a responsible or regular government Prussia must hold some material guarantees in entering into a treaty of peace. That the present provisional establishment of France, with or before the capture of Paris, will be brought into such stipulations for peace as will save France from further misfortunes, and secure to her the republic, we can hardly doubt. Meanwhile we cannot dismiss the conviction that England, Russia, and Austria, acting conjointly at this crisis with France in behalf of peace, would speedily put an end to this disastrous and deplorable war.

WILL RUSSIA INTERFERE?

From the N. Y. Times. The doubts which we recently expressed as to the rumored intervention of Russia in the Franco-German war are confirmed by the progress of events. It is true that the Czar is apparently reinforcing his garrisons in Poland and Volhynia, but this might well be with a Republic declared in France, and one threatened in Italy and Spain. The weak side of Russia is still the Polish frontier, and a democratic uprising in Europe might easily kindle some of the inflammable material in her western provinces. It is reported, too, in our European files, that a military commission has been appointed in St. Petersburg to create a medical reserve force of 1000 surgeons; but this may be but a portion of the necessary military reorganization, which the Russian Government is aware is now imperatively demanded, if the empire would keep pace with the progress of other European nations. It is rumored also that several divisions of infantry have been sent to Kiev to watch the Galician frontier, and that every factory and gunshop is crowded with work in preparing arms and munitions of war. The massing of troops on the Galician frontier certainly looks more like a threat to Austria than Prussia; and the activity in the gun factories is only a portion of the needed reorganization which we have alluded to above.

Von Bismarck and Moltke would never have withdrawn the Posen-Prussian Corps from the Russian frontier to the heart of

France, without satisfactory assurances that Russia would take no part in the struggle impending. There can be no doubt that on this point Bismarck and the Czar have a perfect understanding. And it is not an improbable supposition that the Prussian diplomat has indicated to the Russian government that, in return, no opposition will be offered to any plans which Russia may have of aggrandizement in the direction of Turkey. Russia has no sort of interest in throwing down the gauntlet before Germany because she is about to acquire some French provinces beyond the Rhine. The unity or power of Germany is no obstacle to the Russian ambition, as that has ceased to look toward Europe, but is fixed on Asia. It is true that Russia possesses certain provinces with inhabitants of German blood, but they are not a population which the German Union have ever coveted or are likely to covet. It is true also that the control of the Baltic by the Prussians would be objectionable to the Government of the Czar. But as long as Denmark in its independence—and England, France, and Russia are likely to be united in defending it—there can be no great hindrance to Russian growth in the Baltic in Prussian prosperity. Moreover, the true and natural outlet for the Slavonic Empire is by the Black Sea and the Dardanelles. When she possesses these she can give up the North Sea and the Baltic. We see, then, no reasonable probability of Russia's taking part in this great struggle.

Moreover, there are two still more weighty reasons which will keep Russia out of any great war. One is her want of breech-loading guns, and the other, the condition of her internal politics. The empire is to-day utterly unprepared for a war with a first-class European power. There are said to be only breech-loading guns for half the army, and none in reserve. The authorities at St. Petersburg are unquestionably straining every nerve to reorganize the empire in a military respect. They see the advance of other countries in the implements and aids of war, and they are doing their utmost to get on a par with Prussia and France. But they are perfectly aware that at present she is not so. The Russian armies would enter into a European contest singularly inferior in equipment to those of other powers.

Besides this obstacle, Russia is still feeling the strain of the vast social revolution which has just taken place. Millions of serfs have been freed and placed in a new relation to the employing class and the State without a profound convulsion of society. She is no more ready for a foreign war than is the United States to-day. Questions of tremendous magnitude are not yet settled—the relations of labor to land, of classes to one another, and of the emancipated to the Government. The mind of the people is occupied, as it is here, with the new position and rights of the emancipated laborers, and with questions of popular education and political institutions. Everything is yet seething and ferment. The Czar himself, no doubt, at times feels the ground trembling under him; and the nobility are struggling to hold their ancient privileges. A nation in such a condition has no heart for a foreign war. We doubt if the mass of the people care anything about either Turkey or Constantinople. Let our own people, they are not so ambitious as they have the reputation of being, and are occupied with their own affairs. It is, however, possible that the Government may have more ambitious plans, and may be preparing for an attack on Turkey; and knowing that the great opponent to such projects would be found in Austria, may be massing troops on the Galician frontier for this purpose.

WAR AND CHRISTIANITY.

From the N. Y. Tribune. "Is Christianity a bloody religion?" This is a question which was recently propounded by one of our correspondents, who, to his grief and apparent astonishment, had found doctors of divinity defending war. Our friend is not the first man who has been confused by the inevitable paradox, for a paradox we admit it to be. It is impossible to deny that in the largest sense war is incompatible with the Christian scheme. And yet how does it happen that only a single sect of any importance has considered the bearing of arms under any circumstances to be sinful? How has it happened that, ever since the first preaching of Christianity, great wars have been waged in behalf of it—not merely proselyting wars, but contests absolutely conscientious, like that which resulted in the Commonwealth of England? That is to say, how has it happened that thousands of Christians, professed and constantly professing, have thought it not merely no sin to fight, but an absolute Christian duty to draw the sword? From one point of view, this is not an easy question to answer. If the teachings of the gospel are to be literally interpreted, and not according to their obvious spirit, the things which we may do or must leave undone would be numerous enough and various enough to change the whole civil constitution of society. Take the matter of the corporal oath, and observe that if the injunction to swear not at all were to be obeyed to the letter, there would be an end of courts of justice. We say this because affirmation really amounts to about the same thing as swearing. Again, who sells that he has, and gives the purchase-money to the poor? What Christian doing this would not have a commission of larceny issued against him? We must, in fact, be contented with the general tendency of any doctrine, political, philosophical, or religious, although this requires patience, and patience, we know, is not precisely the virtue of the present age. Yet the abolition of slavery has given us a precious illustration of the force which is inherent in any great moral scheme. We find, indeed, in the whole political status of this republic, plenary evidence of the vitalizing power of Christianity, and of the completeness with which it finally extirpates certain abuses. So in respect to war. We believe that it has tended, upon the whole, to the diminution of strife and slaughter. A religious war, for instance, like those waged by Philip of Spain, with their frightful butcheries, would now be simply impossible. The politics of the world are becoming slowly but surely Christianized, and when this process has reached a maximum, wars of a particular class, and perhaps all wars, will cease.

Christianity has been received and professed as a scheme of moral truth for eighteen centuries. It seems to us, if we are to ask any such narrow question as that of our correspondent, "Is Christianity a bloody religion?" that the past is sufficiently discouraging; because nominal "Christianity" thus far has been, while in its theory pacific, at the same time in its practice fearfully sanguinary. If we take Europe (to go no further back) from A. D. 1200 to A. D. 1600, we shall find that probably a moiety or more of the violent deaths to which men were subjected resulted either from ecclesiastical institutions or from religious wars. Taken by themselves, these annals of the Church are discouraging—these wholesale massacres of the field, these horrible sacks of captured

cities, these burnings, these burials alive—while down through the murky centuries which these blood-stained annals chronicle comes the dull drone of the priests, patting prayers and exhorting to orthodoxy. This is the dark side—too dark to be dwelt upon; and if it were all, we might sit down and fold our hands in dull despair. Yet all this time genuine Christianity has been moulding the hearts of men, and gradually persuading the world to peace, until now a distinctly religious war, waged avowedly for the propagation of any particular form of belief, would be impossible. We have at least outlived the crusading spirit. There is no longer a pretense that infidels are beasts to be slaughtered by the dripping swords of the faithful; and here we have practical proof of the power of genuine Christianity to promote a peace which shall be nearly universal. Moreover, it is to be remembered that wars, from being constant and the main business of mankind, have become exceptional. The progress of the world's pacification may be slow, but we believe it to be sure, although the clangor of contending hosts almost reaches our ears as we are writing.

But with all our desire for the world's tranquility, we are yet slow to believe that war has no moral uses; and we cannot subscribe to any doctrine which declares physical resistance to wrong to be irreligious. We must accept the infirmities of our mortal state. For instance, we cannot comprehend, in the case of our own nation, how it was wrong for the Government forcibly to prevent a few States from rushing upon their own ruin and dragging the others after them into a similar abyss. That is to say, we think that in such an emergency the nation was as much in duty bound to fight as a father is bound, by the use of fire-arms, if need be, to protect his children from an assassin. This being settled, the right or wrong of war becomes a comparative question. In a righteous cause it is only personal self-defense upon a great co-operative scale. The advantages of a war like that which is now raging in Europe are ulterior; and we can hardly admit that they will be needed as compensation for the political crimes which provoked hostilities.

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PROPOSALS.

PROPOSALS FOR ARMY TRANSPORTATION IN TEXAS. HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS, CHIEF QUARTERMASTER'S OFFICE, No. 1000 MOUNT VERNON STREET, PREPARATION FOR BUSINESS OF COLLEGE, HASA PREPARATORY DEPARTMENT for small boys, ages 6 to 15. A. M. Principal. 19 15am2m

JANE M. HARPER WILL REOPEN HER School for Boys and Girls, N. W. corner of EIGHTH and CHESTNUT Streets, on the 14th of September (September), 1870. Ages 6 to 15. 9 15 1m

MISS JENNIE T. BECK, TEACHER OF THE PIANO-FORTE, No. 146 FLORIDA STREET, will resume her duties September 1. 9 15 1m

THE CLASSICAL INSTITUTE, DRAN STREET, above Spruce, will be re-opened September 5th. 5 22 2m J. W. FAIRBANKS, D. D., Principal.

COURTLAND SAUNDERS COLLEGE, FOR Young Men, Youth, and Small Boys, Phila. 6 25

GROCERIES, ETC. URBANA WINE COMPANY, Hammondsport, New York.

Imperial Champagne, A pure and fruity WINE, made after the French method. Superior to any other American and to many brands of imported Champagne. For sale by the Agent,

JAMES R. WEBB, 8 E. Corner WALNUT and EIGHTH, 8 21 3m Phila.

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EXTRA LARGE MESS MACKEREL, ALBERT C. ROBERTS, Dealer in Fine Groceries, 11 71 Corner ELEVENTH and VINE Streets.

STEAMED OYSTERS! HALF PECK FOR 25 CENTS. Large Stews and Panned... 25 cents Saddle Rock Roast... 50 " The Finest Quality of Salt and Fresh Oysters in the City.

TRUPE AND OYSTERS, BROILED OYSTERS, Special attention given to STEAMED OYSTERS! J. L. LEACH, OYSTER PLANTER AND DEALER, N. E. Corner NINTH and CHESTNUT Streets. Eating bar supplied with all the delicacies of the season. 9 25 1m

RODGERS & WOSTENHOLM'S POCKET KNIVES, Pearl and Stag handles, and beautiful "Buck" Knives, and "Wedge" Butcher's Razors, and the celebrated Le-coutre Razor; Ladies' Scissors, in cases, of the finest quality; Rodgers' Table Cutlery, Carvers and Forks, Razor Strops, Cork Screws, etc. Bar instruments, to assist the hearing, of the most approved construction, at F. MADEIRA'S, No. 118 TENTH Street, below Chestnut.

EDUCATIONAL. CARL GAERTNER'S NATIONAL CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC, S. E. corner TENTH and WALNUT Streets, is now open for the Fourth Season for the reception of pupils. Instruction is given by a staff of the best Professors in the city in the following branches:— Vocal Music, Piano, Organ, Viola, Violoncello, Contrabass, Theory of Harmony, Grand Organ of Church Organ, Cabinet Organ, Meisodon, Flute, Clarinet, Oboe, Bassoon, Horn, Cornet, Trombone, Harp, Guitar, etc., also in the Italian, German, French, and Spanish Languages. For particulars see circulars to be had at the Office of the Conservatory and in the Music Stores. The Director of the Conservatory takes this opportunity to express his sincere gratification at the success which has attended his efforts to establish this institution in Philadelphia on a permanent basis and with the prospect of continued prosperity. He would likewise declare his gratitude to the many kind friends among the students and elsewhere, whose interest in the cause of thorough instruction in the art and science of music has assisted so materially in bringing the Conservatory to its present state of usefulness. He can only promise in return that his devotion to the object of raising the institution under his care to a high place among the great Music Schools of the world shall be—as it has been—the controlling influence at the Conservatory.

9 12 1m Director and Proprietor. HALLOWELL SELECT HIGH SCHOOL FOR Young Men and Boys, which has been removed from No. 110 N. Tenth street, will be opened on September 13th in the new and more commodious buildings Nos. 112 and 114 N. NINTH Street. Neither effort nor expense has been spared in fitting up the rooms, to make this a first-class school of the highest grade.

A Preparatory Department is connected with the school. Parents and students are invited to call on September 13th in the new and more commodious buildings from 9 A. M. to 2 P. M. after August 31st. GEORGE EASTBURN, A. B., JOHN G. MOORE, Principals.

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REFERENCES: Jay Cooke, Esq., B. R. Conners, H. C. Lea, Dr. William Hunt, Dr. E. Wilson, John Wanamaker, and others. 10 4 1m

HAMILTON INSTITUTE FOR YOUNG LADIES, No. 810 CHESTNUT Street, West Philadelphia. Day and Boarding School. This institution, having recently completed its fourth year, has become one of the established schools of our city. Its course of study includes a thorough English and Classical Education, embracing Mental, Moral, and Physical culture. Its ninth session will open on MONDAY, September 12. For Terms, etc., apply at the school, 8 24 1m PHILIP A. BRIGGALL, Principal.

WILSON SEMINARY—MISS CARR'S SELECT Boarding School for Young Ladies will RE-OPEN SEPTEMBER 14, 1870. It is situated at the York Road Station of the North Pennsylvania Railroad, seven miles from Philadelphia. The Principal may be consulted personally at her residence during the summer, or by letter addressed to Shoenmakers Post Office, Montgomery county, Pa. Circulars can be obtained also at the office of JAY COOKE & CO., Bankers, Philadelphia. 10 4 1m

H. V. LAUDERBACH'S ACADEMY, ASSEMBLY BUILDINGS, No. 108 South TENTH Street. A Primary, Elementary and Evening School for boys and young men. Persons interested in education are invited to call and witness the method of teaching and discipline practiced. Church St. Warburton's, No. 430 Chestnut street, or at the Academy. Open for visitors from 9 A. M. to 4 P. M. 8 20

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Sale at No. 1314 Wallace street. HANDSOME FRENCH FINE FRENCH Plate Mantel Mirror, Rich English Brussels and Other Carpets, etc. On Monday Morning, October 10, at 10 o'clock, the entire handsome furniture, made to order by Henkel, Allen, and Deghtner.

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Sale at No. 1269 Girard avenue. HANDSOME WALNUT HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, Elegant Mantel Mirror, Splendid Wardrobe, Fine Brussels, Velvet and other Carpets, etc. On Thursday Morning, October 13, at 10 o'clock, at No. 1269 Girard avenue, the entire handsome household furniture, etc. 10 6 1m

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SALE OF FINE OIL PAINTINGS, In handsome Frames—From Private Collections. On Wednesday Morning, October 12, at 11 o'clock. 10 7 1m

BY BARRITT & CO., AUCTIONEERS CASH AUCTION HOUSE, No. 230 MARKET Street, corner of Bank street. Cash advanced on consignments without extra charge. 11 24 1m

CONCERT HALL AUCTION ROOMS, No. 1318 CHESTNUT Street. T. A. NICOLELLAND, AUCTIONEER. Personal attention given to sales of household furniture at dwellings. Public sales of furniture at the Auction Rooms, No. 1318 Chestnut street, every Monday and Thursday. For particulars see "Public Ledger." N. B.—A superior class of furniture at private sale.

JOSEPH H. PENEY, AUCTIONEER, No. 1207 CHESTNUT STREET. 10 28 1m

CLOTHS, CASSIMERES, ETC. KEIM & BIDDLE, CLOTH HOUSE, N. W. Corner SECOND and MARKET Streets. CLOTHS, CASSIMERES, VESTINGS, AND ALL GOODS FOR Men's and Boys' Wear AT LOWEST PRICES.

N. W. Corner SECOND and MARKET, PHILADELPHIA. CLOTH HOUSE. JAMES & HUBER, No. 11 North SECOND Street, Sign of the Golden Lamb, Are receiving a large and splendid assortment of new styles of FANCY CASSIMERES And standard makes of DOESKINS, CLOTHS and COATINGS. 13 23 1m AT WHOLESALE AND RETAIL.

SAXON GREEN NEVER FADES. 8 16m

FIRE AND BURGLAR PROOF SAFE J. WATSON & SON, Of the late firm of EVANS & WATSON, FIRE AND BURGLAR-PROOF SAFE STORE, No. 53 SOUTH FOURTH STREET, A few doors above Chestnut st., Phila. GENT'S FURNISHING GOODS. PATENT SHOULDER-BEAM SHIRT MANUFACTORY, AND GENTLEMEN'S FURNISHING STORE. PERFECTLY FITTING SHIRTS AND DRAWERS made from measurement at very short notice. All other articles of GENTLEMEN'S DRESS GOODS in full variety. WINCHESTER & CO., No. 106 CHESTNUT Street.

COTTON SAIL DUCK AND CANVAS, OF ALL numbers and widths, Tack, Awning, Tarp, and Wagon-cover Duck. Also, Paper Manufacturers' Drier Felt, from thirty to seventy-four inches, with Paulina, Belching, Sall Turpe, etc. JOHN W. EVERMAN, No. 19 CHURCH Street (City Square).

BUSINESS MEN, BANKERS AND BROKERS, AND all others desirous of getting a first-class MEAL, at a reasonable price, call at the extensive HERRK Dining-rooms, No. 43 South SECOND St., Philadelphia. 9 24 1m