SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

THE VANDALISM OF THE WAR-WHERE LIES THE RESPONSIBILITY? From the N. Y. Herald.

The beautiful capital of the civilized world is about to be ruined, and the selfish and unpitying governments of Europe will not raise a finger to prevent this vandalism. Paris and its innumerable art treasures are to be subjected to a terrible storm of destructive missiles and fire, and no potent voice, no hand, is raised to avert the catastrophe. What a blot this will be upon the boasted civiliza-tion of Europe! What a stain upon the history of the great nations of Europe! The monarchs and princes who have been the honored guests of glorious Paris and of the French Government and people stand with folded arms coolly looking on this disgraceful spectacle. The hundreds of thousands of ruling leading, and fashionable classes of European nations who revelled in the refinement and luxury of the great city are silent while destruction haugs over it. The world seems to forget what it owes to Paris for science, art, literature, and progress in civilization. As little regard is paid to the doom of this proud capital of the world and its splend'd monuments of art and science as the savage tribes of America have for the burning of a remote village in the far off prairies of this country.

The war, on the part of Prussia, has become a war against civilization as well as against republicanism. Well may Bismarck and the liberal-minded Crown Prince of Prussia hesitate about bombarding Paris, if the report that they do so be true. General Von Moltke, who looks at everything in a strictly military point of view, and the stubborn old King William, may be in favor of bombarding the city, as is reported but it is reasonable to believe a man of Bismarck's far-seeing mind must fear the verdict of history and the enlightened opinion of the world. It is natural, too, that a generousminded man like the Crown Prince should shudder when he contemplates the destruction of the heart and centre of the civilized world. If such an act of vandalism would close the war, or were necessary to that end, there might be some excuse for it, though hardly justifiable even then; but the destruction or taking of Paris is no more likely to lead to that result than the taking of Sedan or any other place. The Government is not there, and if it were, the capture of one government does not prevent the formation of another, in the transition condition France is in now. The capture of the Emperor and flight of the Imperial regency did not end the war. A provisional government of defense, like the present one, could be formed anywhere, and the French nation would rally to it to the last. Although the object of the Prussians may be to drive the French to accept the humiliating terms of peace they propose by relentless devastation, the destruction of Paris would arouse, probably, the whole nation to more determined resistance. We cannot see what the Prussians would gain by bombarding Paris, while we do think they would lose much by prolonging and intensifying the war and by the revulsion of public sentiment throughout the world at such an act.

Then look at the fearful destruction of property and lives in every direction: at the hundreds of thousands of men slain or mutilated-the flower of both France and Germany; at the numberless houseless and homeless innocent people who know not where to lay their heads or find a living; at the vineyards and cultivation destroyed over a large area of the most productive region, and at all the other heartrending horrors of this terrible war. And for what? For monarchical ambition. The war was commenced for that by Napoleon and urged on by his creatures and flatterers. Now that he is out of the way and the object attained which Prussia took up arms for, as avowed by the Prussians themselves, King William still continues the war. It is no longer to defend Germany, but is aggressive and ambitious. The pretense that Germany, is fighting for guarantees of future peace can deceive no sensible men. Germany has ample guarantees in the success of her arms and the wonderful power she has developed. Besides, there has appeared no reason to doubt that the French Government would accept terms, short of a sweeping dismemberment of the nation, for a treaty of permanent peace. It is prepared to accept sacrifices if the Prussians be not

too exacting. But while the belligerents appear unable to solve the difficulty themselves there is a way to do this through the interposition or mediation of the rest of Europe. The great powers-England, Russia, Austria, and Italy -now could stop the war. And were France not a republic they would probably have taken energetic measures to that end before this. Still we might suppose that the statesmen of these nations would see the futility of resisting the progressive ideas and intelligence of the age-would see the folly of fighting the republican sentiment which is growing and spreading over the continent. At least we might expect they would, in the interests of civilization and for the sake of humanity, make an effort to stop this dreadful effusion of blood. Of all the great powers England is most to blame for not acting. She is more advanced in political liberty and approaches nearer a free government. The masses of the English people favor the French republic, and wish their Government to interpose to stop the war. Had England recognized the French republic Prussia would probably have been arrested in her devastating career. Had she called upon the other powers and protested energetically against a continuance of this war for the sake of conquest it would have been closed. But, alas! the evil genius of the British monarchy and aristocracy has influenced Mr. Gladstone and his colleagues. They have forgotten that friendship and entente cordiale which, happily for both countries and Europe, had existed for nearly twenty years. France, the warm and generous ally of Great Britain, is abandoned in the day of her distress. The Emperor Napoleon, the man whom the British lauded to the skies, and almost fawned upon as their great ally, is now assailed by their press in a scavenger-like style. They bark at him like curs, now he is fallen. The great and friendly French nation is now misrepresented and vilified. But has not England made a mistake? Has she not made a similar mistake to that of insidiously stabbing the American republic in the time of its distress and struggle for national life? We never expect much from the magnanimity of England, but her own interests ought to have prompted more generous conduct towards rance in this crisis. The disturbance of the

balauce of power in Europe and the undue

humiliation of France cannot end well for | scene of violence; fists are violently shaken England. Nor will the persistent hostility of the monarchy and aristocracy to the French republic fail to make the people of England more dissatisfied with their government and more democratic in their aspirations. France may suffer more fearfully still through the selfish sostention of her former friends, and especially through that of England, but the nation cannot be destroyed. It will yet revive, and the day of retribution will come to those who have abandoned her and who ought to have mediated in her behalf.

GORGING SAM AND GUZZLING BILLY. From the N. Y. Sun.

In the pantomime there is one timehonored trick that has held its own for more than a hundred years. Our great-grandfathers laughed at it before us, and our greatgrandchildren will laugh at it after we are

Poor chalky-faced Clown is guzzling away at a bottle of wine, his vermilion mouth stretched from ear to ear with a grin of satisfaction, when out jumps Harlequin—always, of course, supposed to be invisible—deals Clown a mighty whack with his sword of lath, and disappears. The vermilion mouth suddenly contracts, and Clown looks cautiously about. He sees nobody but feeble old Pantaloon, to whom he attributes the mischief. Thereupon he falls upon the old fellow, and gives him a terrible drubbing, while all the audience laugh at the joke.

The Rev. Theodore Tilton and the Rev. Justin D. Fulton have been having some little private theatricals of their own, in which they have appeared in the pantomine in the respective characters of Clown and Pantaloon; also, in the afterpiece in those of Gorging Sam and Guzzling Billy. The Harlequin in the case is, as usual, invisible. He managed to get the following paragraph published in the Religious Telescope of Dayton,

BOSTON, Massachusetts. - Theodore Tilton, Esq. Dear Sir :- I have been informed that you were seen at a restaurant on Broadway a day or two since with a bottle of wine before you, and of which you several times partook.

As you are the chief editor of a religious and temperance paper, I assume the right to ask you waether this report is true? If true, I shall take such means as I may think expedient to put the truth before the public through the newspapers. J. D. FULTON.

Pantaloon Fulton had nothing to do with this blow at the Clown. It was a skilful forgery of cunning Harlequin, who stood aside to see the sport. This was not long in coming, for the foolish Clown flew at once into a passion, and fell headlong upon poor unsuspecting Pantaloon, whom he belabored in the following expressive language: -

"Mr. Tilton has the honor to say, in reply, that so far as regards himself, he drinks wine on communion and other proper occasions; and that so far as regards the mountebank who is reported to have addressed him the above letter, this hot Gospeller, after preaching a Sunday night sermon in Dr. Armirage's church in New York, sauntered down the Bowery, in company with a friend, entered a lager beer saloon, and, during an hour's stay, drank (the two together) nine or ten glasses of lager beer, of which the Rev. Mr. Fulton guzzled the larger part."

This might seem a little more tart than the occasion called for. The fact was that it was only the renewal of an old hostility. The Reverend Pantaloon Fulton some three years ago was horror-struck one day on going into Delmonico's at seeing Tilton not only gorging himself with a sumptuous dinner, but actually washing it down with good red wine. If the chalky apparition whom he there beheld had been a veritable ghost, he could not have been more excited about it. He was full of the subject. He cried out about it at the very corners of the streets. He told every one he met of the dreadful sight. It got into the papers, and was a very bad meal indeed for our white-faced friend. However, he bided his time, and when the paragraph that we have quoted came out in the Religious Telescope, he probably concluded that his time had come, for he gave it back to poor Pantaloon with compound interest, as we have seen. He charged the Rev. Fulton with guzzling the larger part of ten glasses of lager beer.

Now the Rev. Fulton preaches at Tremont Temple in Boston, and total abstinence is his favorite text. His sheep of course were thrown into the greatest commotion at this attack upon their shepherd. They met together in solemn council and resolved to prosecute Tilton for libel. Fulton himself took the first train to New York to confront Tilton and his informant, who was said to be a "wealthy and well-known merchant." He got very little satisfaction out of either, however, and on Saturday he returned to Boston, carrying with him a great number of vials of These he uncorked on Sunday at the Temple. It is stated that he prayed for Tilton. This must have been a stunning blow for that unhappy man. It is one that he can-not very well reply to. No weapons ought to be used by one party in a duel to which the other is unaccustomed. If Tilton could only borrow some friend's pulpit for a few Sundays and pray back, there might be some show of fairness in it, and the world be improved. The prayers would be telegraphed to all the New York and Boston papers, and much good would be done.

Having prayed for Tilton, Fulton proceeded to discourse upon him. He toll about his journey to New York, related the circumstances of his interview, and said that the "wealthy and well-known merchant" was only a showman after all. He had been an exhibitor of sections of one of the great California trees. Fulton's suggestion seems to be that showmen are persons of doubtful credibility, and that a man who exhibited big trees would naturally fall into habits of exaggeration. This opens up an interesting topic, but we have not space to follow it now. The reverend gentleman concluded his narration of the interview as follows:-

"Then turning to Mr. Tilton I said, There will be no libel suit. I will not advise my church and soclety to turn from their great work one moment to prove you a scoundrel, or pay fifty cents to have you bulletined as a liar from New York to San Fran-

This left-hander was immediately followed by prayer, which closed the services. And now comes Tilton for his inning, which he takes in the form of a card published Mon. day evening, as follows:-

Rev. Justin D. Fulton:—
Sir:—I have just read with wonder the reports in Sir:—I have just read with wonder the reports in the New York papers of your remarks to your Boston congregation yesterday, on the issue pending between you and me. These reports, assuming them to be correct, compel me to say, in point-blank Eugliah, that I stand ready to prove—

First. That you did go into a lager beer saloon and drink lager beer after preaching; and

Second, That your narrative of your interview on Saturday last with my informant and myself is as false as your denial of the original charge.

Saturday last with my informant and myself is as false as your denial of the original charge.

Having threatened me with libel, you now announce the withdrawal of the suit. This is because you dare not go forward with it. I challenge you to meet me in a court of justice.

Theodore Tilton.

And there we have the 'play of "Gorging Sam and Guzzling Billy" as far as it has gone. It opened with a peaceful wine dinner at Delmonico's, followed by a quiet scene at a beer garden, the Reverend Fulton being discovered as the curtain rose, sitting at a table, right of centre, with a "well-known and wealthy merchant." Before them, upon the table, are seen ten foaming glasses of

lager beer. The curtain falls at the third act upon a

in reverend faces, and the verb to lie is being rapidly conjugated in all its moods and

We wait with impatience for the prompter to ring up the next act. As fat as it has gone it is a capital play, well acted, replete with interesting and effective situations, and admirably put upon the stage. The church scene is perhaps the most striking so far, though possibly the court scene may yet surpass it in dramatic power. It would be premature to express an opinion on the relative merit of the actors at present. The next act will more fully test their capacities, and will undoubtedly be a very exciting one. The audience need be in no slarm, however; it is understood that gunpowder is not allowed.

APOLOGIZING FOR DEFEAT.

From the N. Y. Times. Premature jubilation is followed by lame apology. For a day or two the Democratic journals exulted over the results of the late elections. They were represented as the beginning of a great reaction, and one that made possible a Democratic majority in the next House of Representatives. Later information has played havoc with these inventions, and now we have, instead of rejoicing and hopeful prophecies, lugutrious attempts to explain away the Republican victories. Democratic defeat is quietly confessed, the only consolation our opponents are able to discover being that, "bad as things are, they might have been worse.

"There is no such substantial Democratic victory as was expected,"-is the remark of the St. Louis Republican, one of the most influential Democratic dailies in the West, But why defeat where victory was anticipated? The colored vote is the assigned cause. That went with the Republicans, and baffled calculations on the other side. The calculators ought to have known better, for the Democratic policy has everywhere made a political enemy of the colored man. The St. Louis journal, however, associates enfranchisement with disfranchisement as twin ideas in the Republican mind, and as twin sources of hope for future Republican successes. As a matter of fact, the s'atement is inadmissible. Enfranchisenent is universal, and will ate alike in North and South. disfranchisement which exists is exceptional, is comparatively infinitesimal in extent, and is transient in its nature. The predominating sentiment in the party is favorable to the earliest possible removal of the few disabilities that remain. Whether this be effected next session or by the Forty-second Congress is, however, a question of no moment in connection with the elections of last week. Ohio and Pennsylvania may have felt the effect of colored enfranchisement, but most assuredly the Democracy of those States cannot adduce disfranchisement as a pretext for the disasters that have overtaken them.

The Louisville Courier-Journal assigns other reasons for defeat. The "true solution," it tells us, is to be found "partly in the momentum of the radical organization, partly in the negro vote, which was cast against the Democracy, and partly in the absence of issues on which the people care to split their old partisan affinities and relationships." There is a show of philosophy here, if not a precise exposition of fact. The vital, moving force of the Republican party has undoubtedly much to do with its continued triumphs: to say this is simply to confess that the party retains the vigor of health, the unity that springs from principle, and the popular power which is derived from an adaptation of policy to the needs of the country. These are the secrets of the 'momentum' referred to by the Couricr-Journal, and they sufficiently explain the continuance of Republican strength. The mistake our contemporary makes is in supposing that the "momentum" proceeds from an impelling power which is on the eve of exhaustion. The influences that contribute to Republican victory are not exactly the same in character with those which sustained it during the war, but in their essence they are identical. Now, as during the war, the country recognizes the Republican organization as patriotic in its nature and righteous in its aims. Its record is its justification as against Democratic assaults: but this alone would not be sufficient to account for general victory in spite of local blunders in respect of nominations. For an explanation of present favor we must seek quite as diligently in the work of the party since the restoration of peace, and in the programme laid down for its guidance in the future.

That is a sound rule in logic which forbids a search for remote and speculative solutions of a problem when a conclusive solution is found close at hand. There is no necessity for inventing excuses for Democratic defeat. One obvious fact makes plain the whole. The Democratic party, weighed and found wanting while the struggle for national existence was going on, has neither done nor proposed anything to redeem its character. It shows itself unchanged in every essential particular-in its hostility to the work of the war and the conditions of peace, to the guarantees exacted by the loyal feeling of the nation, to the public credit, which is inseparable from the public prosperity, and to re-forms required to make the suffrage in large communities more than a myth. In a word, the Democratic party, true to its traditions, is an obstructive and disorganizing agency without a single claim to the respect of loyal citizens, or a single recommendation derived from its present policy. These characteristics constitute an issue which the people under-stand, and which is being decided in the campaign now in progress.

SPECIAL NOTICES. ACADEMY OF MUSIC. THE STAR COURSE OF LECTURES.

FIRST SERIES.
SECOND LECTURE,
ON WEDNESDAY EVENING, October 19,
BY GEORGE VANDENHOFF (Humorous). subject-"HENRY IV," PARTS I AND II.

> THIRD LECTURE, ON FRIDAY EVENING, October 21, BY WENDELL PHILLIPS, Subject—"THE LOST ARTS."

Miss Olive Logan, Oct. 24; Mrs. F. W. Lander, Oct. 26; Josh Billings, Oct. 28; Hon. Charles Sumner, Oct. 31; Petroleum V. Nasby, Nov. 2; Miss Isabella Glyn, Nov. 3; George William Curtis, Nov. 4.
Admission to each Lecture. 50 cents, Reserved seats 25 cents extra. Tickets to ANY of the first ten Lectures for sale at Gould & Pischer's Plano Rooms, No. 923 CHESNUT Street, from 9 A. M. to 6 P. M. daily, and at the Academy on the evenings of the lectures.
Doors open at Tk; lecture at S. 10 8 2t -10 18 2t Doors open at Tk : lecture at 8.

A CHEERPUL PIRESIDE THE GENIAL ha evolved from good anthracite is an essential auxiliary to the enjoyment of the long winder evenings. It is, however, of vast importance to obtain a good erticle, that will burn bright and clear, and leave no residuum but ashes. The spot to procure just such coal is at J. C. HANCOCK'S Great Northern Coal Depot, northwest corner of Nioth and Master streets. His facilities for procuring the choiceat products of the Lehigh and Schuyikill region are unsurpassed, and his five energy and the rule of the coal is to the domain things which his rivals in the trade can only imitate.

293m SPECIAL NOTICES.

THE METHODIST STATE CONVENTION for Pennsylvania will be held at HORTICULTURAL HALL on TUESDAY, WE ONESDAY, and THURS-DAY of this week. Rev. BISHOP SIMPSON will preside. The following order of exercises will be observed :-

1. Tuesday Afternoon, at 3 o'clock. The organi zation.

2. Tuesday Evening, 7% o'clock, Topic-"Methodism, its Growth and Present Position in the State." Committee. -Rev. I. H. Torrence, Rev. W. H. Kincald, and J. M. Maris.

3. Wednesday Morning, 9 o'clock. Topic-"The Type of Plety Necessary to the Highest Prosperity of the Church." Committee .- Rev. George Peck, D. D., Rev. G. G. Carrow, D. D., and Rev. F. Hodgson, D. D.

4. Wednesday Afternoon, 2% o'clock. Topic-"The Charitable Institutions of the Church." Committee.-Colonel John A. Wright, E. H. Worne, and Rev. H Miller, D. D.

5. Wednesday Evening, 7% o'clock. Topic-"The Duty of the Church in Relation to the Christian Sabbath and the Cause of Temperance." Committee.-The Sabbath-Rev. W. W. Wythes, Hon. Joseph McEnally, and William Sampson. Temperance .- Hon. John McCalmont, James Black, Esq., and Rev. P. Coombe.

6. Thursday Morning, 9 o'clock, Topic-"The Educational Interests of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Pennsylvania." Committee,-Rev. George Leomis, D. D., Rev. B. L. Dashiel, D. D., and Professor Bennett.

7. Thursday Afternoon, 21/6 o'clock. Topic-"The Public School Question." Committee-Rev. A. Wheeler, D. D., Rev. J. W. Jackson, and P. W.

8. Thursday Evening, 7% o'clock. Topic-"The Duty of the Christian Citizen to the State." Committee .- William H. Allen, LL. D., Eon. H. L. Richmond, and Rev. H. S. Nesbit, D. D. THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE STOCK.

holders of the PHILAUSLPHIA, GREMAN-TOWN, AND NORRISTOWN RAILROAD COM-PANY will be held at the Office of the Company northeast corner of NINTH and GREEN Streets on MONDAY, the 7th day of November next, at 10 o'clock A. M., and immediately after the adjournment of that meeting; an election will be held, at same place, for four Managers to serve th years A. E. DOUGHERTY, 10 12 W4t

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OFFICE OF THE PHILADELPHIA AND TRENTON BAILROAD COMPANY, No. 924 S. DELAWARE Avenue.

PHILADELPHIA, October 8, 1870. A special meeting of the Stockholders of the Philadelphia and Trenton Railroad Company will be held at the office of the said Company, in the city of Philadelphia, at 12 o'clock noon of TURSDAY, October 25, 1870, to take into consideration an acceptance of an act of Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania entitled "An Act to Entitle the Stockholders of any Railroad Company incorporated by this Commonwealth, accepting this act, to one vote for each share of stock," approved May 20, 1865; and also to take into consideration an acceptance of an act of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, entitled "An Act authorizing corporations to increase their bonded obligations and capital stock," approved December 29, 1869.

By order of the Board of Directors of the Philadelphia and Trenton Railroad Company.

F. H. WHITE. Assistant Secretary.

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MAIL STRAMSHIP OMPANYS REG
LAR SEMI-MONTHLY LINE TO NEW O
LEANS, La.
The VAZOO will sail for New Orleans direct, of
Tuesday, November 1, at 8 A. M.
The JUNIATA will sail from New Orleans, via H
vana, on —, October,
THROUGH SILLS OF LADING at as low rates as
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Mississippi river between New Orleans and St. Loui
Red River freights readipped at New Orleans withoutherse of commissions.

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The TONAWANDA will sail for Savannah on Satu
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The ROUGH BILLS OF LADING given to all the pricipal towns in Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Mississipp Louisians, Arkansas, and Tennessee in connection withe Central Railroad of Georgia, Atlantic and Guif Raroad, and Florida steamers, at as low rates saby competitines.

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Freights for Columbia, S. C., and Augusta, Ga., take via Wilmington, at allow rates as by any other route.

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