

SPRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

HENRY WARD BEECHER ON HEAVEN AND HELL.

From the N. Y. Sun.

It is lucky for Mr. Beecher that he is not responsible for his behavior... his audacious assaults on time-honored dogmas would have again and again brought him to ecclesiastical trial, and doubtless to condemnation.

It is quite evident that if the teachers of religion would preserve a general belief in heaven and hell, they must cease to represent them as having a local existence in the material universe.

On the other hand, there is a growing conviction, on which no doubt Mr. Beecher counts for support, that both heaven and hell are within and above this material universe, and though invisible to the eyesight, which takes cognizance of material objects, are appreciable by the senses, so to speak, of the soul.

Mr. Beecher's idea that there is variety and uniformity in the joys of Heaven, and also commands itself to intelligent minds. It is readily seen that human beings do not cease to be human by the death of the body.

Mr. Beecher, therefore, in striking out on this apparently bold and hazardous line of thought, is running much less risk than might be supposed. He is not so much leading public opinion as indicating the current in which he has had the sagacity to perceive it is already running.

SENATOR MORTON IN ENGLAND.

From the N. Y. World.

The cable favors us with the following piece of impertinence, put forth by a London newspaper (the Pall Mall Gazette), on the rumor of the appointment of Senator Morton, of Indiana, as Minister of the United States in England.

"A thoroughly incompetent person has been selected to represent our country in England, and is instructed first to bully and next to threaten war. This incompetent person hesitates, probably preferring a domestic skirmish with the Democrats to a war with England."

The Pall Mall Gazette has been associated with the Daily News of London and the New York Tribune in maintaining near the seat of war a sort of triple English correspondent, whose extraordinary interviews with Count von Bismarck constituted for some time the chief staple of the Tribune's news from Europe, and were claimed by that journal as the outpourings of the Prussian Premier's confidence in its own "special" representative.

the highest standing in America, and it is not paying him a very high compliment to say that, had he gone to the Court of St. James, he would have found few men in the public service of England who could pretend to hold a higher position in that country than he holds among his fellows in this country.

THE NEUTRALITY QUESTION BETWEEN PRUSSIA AND THE UNITED STATES.

From the Pall Mall Gazette.

We may anticipate that the correspondence between Count Bernstorff and Lord Granville will be paralleled by a correspondence between Baron Gerolt and Mr. Fish. It is said that from the United States, as well as from the United Kingdom, large supplies of contraband of war have been and are still being imported into France.

The proclamation in which President Grant announced the neutrality of the United States at the commencement of the present war has answered in advance any remonstrance Baron Gerolt is likely to make to the effect that he is inclined to follow in the steps of Count Bernstorff.

"In case of one of the contracting parties being engaged in war with any other power, to prevent all difficulties and misunderstandings that usually arise respecting merchandise of contraband, such as arms, ammunition, and military stores of every kind, no such articles carried in the vessels, or by the subjects or citizens of either party, to the armies of the other shall be deemed contraband, and so to induce confiscation or condemnation, and a loss of property to individuals. Nevertheless, it shall be the duty of the captors to stop such vessels and to detain them for such length of time as the captors may think necessary to prevent the inconvenience or damage that might result from their proceeding, paying, however, a reasonable compensation for the loss such vessels shall occasion to the proprietors; and it shall further be allowed to use in the service of the captors the whole or any part of the military stores so detained, paying the owners the full value of the same, to be ascertained by the current price at the place of destination."

This stipulation is designated by Sir Travers Twiss "a somewhat singular innovation upon the practice which has prevailed among the nations of Europe in regard to contraband of war," and he adds that it constitutes "the Twelfth Article of the Treaty of Commerce concluded between Prussia and the United States of America on May 1, 1828, which is now in force."

Count Bernstorff's essay on neutrality is a strange commentary on the treaty engagements of his country. We presume he does not pretend that Prussia has relieved itself from the obligation by the absorption of the minor German States. If Baron Gerolt does not proceed upon this assumption either, it is evident that he can have nothing to say against the export of cannon, rifles, and cartridges which are reported to be on their way from New York to Brest and Havre.

THE EARTHQUAKE.

From the N. Y. Times.

On the afternoon of Saturday, June 25, a slight tremor was felt in New York and its vicinity, which was popularly held to have been

an earthquake. The evidence, however, appears to have been insufficient to justify the issue of a New York earthquake at that time as an historical fact, although many persons insisted that the motion they had felt could be attributed to nothing else. Last Thursday morning, at a time variously estimated from 11 1/2 to 11, a similar phenomenon was experienced. Persons in different parts of the city, and more particularly in the neighborhood of Centre street, felt shocks described as lasting from three to fifteen seconds. Chandeliers were violently shaken; chairs and desks were thrown down. People in many places rushed terror-stricken into the street. There were a few broken down from some school-houses, the children running forth in fright, and some of their number being thrown down and trampled under foot. In some instances articles as heavy as sewing-machines were upset, and in one the leg of a piano is said to have been fractured. Many clocks stopped. Rooking chairs flew swiftly back and forth, and ornaments fell from tables and mantels. The large bell of the post office oscillated, and finally the clapper struck the rim of the bell for the first time without human agency.

During the afternoon and evening telegraphic despatches were received from many quarters, which would have set the matter at rest had there existed any question regarding it. From Quebec, Montreal, and St. Catharines, in Canada, to Philadelphia, Scranton, and Titusville, in Pennsylvania; from Portland and Bangor, on the east, to Cleveland and Cincinnati, on the west, corroborative testimony poured in, showing, that the convulsion, if not very terrible in effect, had been very wide in range, and certainly quite unprecedented in the annals of the regions it visited. The accounts from all these places, as well as from Boston, Albany, Providence, and other towns throughout New York and New England, correspond with what was observed in the metropolis. No lives were lost, and little serious damage was done, but the inhabitants were much alarmed, and concurred in the opinion that no such visitation had before been observed in their section.

There seems to be some difference of opinion respecting former earthquakes in the regions now so visited. It is said that slight shocks have been felt in New York before, on Sept. 3, 1848, and March 18, 1853; at Buffalo, Oct. 23, 1857, and throughout New England, Oct. 23, 1857. Besides these, there is the doubtful earthquake of the 25th of June, 1870, already mentioned. It is also affirmed that records exist of two earthquakes in Boston, and presumably in its vicinity, which occurred Nov. 18, 1755, and March 12, 1761.

That much greater disturbances of this nature have been felt in remoter times in this region is certain. There are in various parts of the country geological evidences of the fact. The great chasm that runs from the western base of the Shawangunk Mountain, at Ellenville, in Ulster county, New York, for nearly 2000 yards, to the top, is a remarkable illustration. It is not difficult to find, in truth, abundant evidence that the popular theory which confines the earthquake to southern and tropical regions is a mistaken one. Instances cited in these columns on the 3d of July last are sufficiently conclusive on this point. Both England (the last time in 1860) and Ireland have been repeatedly so visited. In 1580 part of St. Paul's and the Temple churches were levelled by an earthquake in London. The devastation in the Japanese Islands in 1854-5, and in Chili in 1868, is remembered by all. These casualties, well out of the tropics, and, in the first instance, at places much further toward the pole than ourselves, clearly show that there is only comparative immunity from earthquakes in the temperate zones. It is true that in our northern homes we have no chronicles of awful catastrophes, like those of Lisbon, in 1755, or Pekin, in 1680 and 1731, but if no such thing had heretofore befallen in the historic period, there is no certainty that it will not happen at all. On the contrary, the doctrine of chances might teach that so long an exemption argued the probability of an impending change. In California, as we all know, earthquakes have, of late, been many and severe. And as the general direction of these perturbations on the American Continent appears to be from west to east, and as we know from the Lisbon example that their disastrous effects will sometimes range through a space of thousands of miles, it is quite possible that a great earthquake may one day extend from the Pacific to the Atlantic, and make the existing fact of the authority is that of the well-known Mr. Mallet—that the catalogue of earthquakes recorded equals in number the years of the Mosaic record. That one of these six thousand convulsions has ever done us any harm furnishes no assurance of permanent security.

Two or three physical incidents of note preceded at short intervals the earthquake of Thursday, and their possible connection with it warrants consideration. There were in the first place, within a few days, unusually brilliant displays of the aurora borealis. Just prior to this, extraordinary freshets inundated the middle-west of States. The great Cuban hurricane came before the earthquake by not many hours, and, finally, a great gale raged on the Atlantic coast on the night immediately preceding. It may be that these incidents were totally unconnected, so far as their causes are concerned, with the main events of which we write. But the discoveries of modern science are so constantly establishing the co-ordination and mutual interdependence of the powers of nature, that a connection between these phenomena looks plausible and may hereafter be demonstrated.

THOMAS HUGHES.

From the N. Y. Tribune.

Mr. Thomas Hughes, who spoke his first and farewell word to a New York public Friday night, and who left us in Saturday's steamer, has been more cordially welcomed in this country than any other Englishman could be with the single exception of John Bright. We had learned to regard him as a close friend years ago. The book which first brought him into notice touched a chord in all manly hearts, and awakened a sentiment of personal regard of the readers for the writer which is one of the rarest and most precious of all the rewards of literary success.

Mr. Hughes, therefore, is a man to whom America might have tendered the vulgar honors of that tumultuous sort of welcome which is commonly called "an ovation." We are glad that he has been spared that offensive exhibition of hospitality. He has made a quiet visit, as an unassuming private gentleman, he has not been tortured with official dinners and receptions; he has been suffered to go his way in peace, getting a heartfelt welcome and a warm grip of the hand wherever he has seen it to stop, and making new friends wherever he has allowed himself to speak. We have nothing to regret, now that he is going away, except that he goes so soon, and that it has not been possible for us to show him more attention without infringing upon that privacy which even a politician must be allowed to prize.

Scarcely less marked is the service he rendered in the closing words he addressed Friday night to the most crowded and enthusiastic audience gathered for many a month in a New York lecture-room. Our laboring classes, blindly adopting the abandoned weapons of their English brethren, may well be admonished by this trusted English friend that a more excellent way has been found that strikes a relic of barbarism, which ought to be outgrown; that labor and capital are allies by ties of consanguinity as well as interest; that there is no excuse for the tyranny of labor unions over their own members in a country where the demand for labor is far in advance of the supply; and that here, as well as in England, co-operation furnishes the true solution for labor difficulties.

THE MILITARY SITUATION IN FRANCE.

From the N. Y. Herald.

With the exception of a few unimportant movements in the provinces the situation in France remains unchanged. Bazaine's shrewd proposition to surrender a portion of his garrison at Metz with the idea of subsisting the rest so much longer has been rejected by General von Moltke, who looks to a full and unconditional surrender before long. Mont Dider on the north and Magny on the west have been occupied, and the rear lines at Orleans have been strengthened by the withdrawal of the Prussian troops from Beaugency and Meunay.

General Houliaki is on his way to take command of the Army of the North at Lille, and Rouen and Amiens are preparing for defense with that inactive enthusiasm that alone seems to have saved France from utter paralysis. About Paris a steady fire from the fortifications is continually kept up, though it is now stated that the Prussians, resting safely behind their works, are not disturbed by it. Such an incessant fire must have the effect ere long to empty the French arsenals of their bombs and missiles. The Napoleonic legacy of irresolution and incoherence clings like a shirt of Nessus to the authorities of the republic. Napoleon himself was more of a general than the world gives him credit for since Sedan. His Italian campaign displayed qualities that his uncle might have admired, especially in those matters wherein he was so lamentably lacking in his latest war. The admirable disposition and rapid transportation of his troops were of immense avail at the turning point of the battle of Magenta, when his heavy reinforcements came on the ground in a train of cars, and were advanced in a line of battle directly from the railroad. Of late years, however, he became careless, and left the important items of commissariat and mobilization to his subordinates, and the result was climaxed at Sedan. The legacy of a worthless commissariat and lack of concentration has fallen with heavy hands on the young republic. The National Guard in the interior is disorderly, the organization of Gardes Mobiles progressing with fatal tardiness, the general staff of the republic act mostly on their own "hook," and a sad lack of system prevails throughout. Time, however, will remedy all this, if France or Prussia, either, for that matter, can only afford time. The presence of Prussians in their country and encircling in hostile lines their own favor, and capital will serve finally to weld Frenchmen into one idea and one sentiment. It will make France all French; Alsace, Lorraine, Nice,

Savoie, will all feel the more tender love for their common country while the contending overn by German hordes. It will cement the people together and thus make them strong, as the Southern Rebellion in our own land, in bringing about the upheaval of old party differences, showed us also our strength and welded us the more firmly together. With the Germans away from home it is another matter. These troops are not the hardened soldiery that the fact of their being drilled almost from infancy up might possibly lead us to infer. They are mainly the landwehr—the home guards. The greater part of them, although trained as soldiers, have never seen actual service until the present war; have never endured the hardships of sieges and marches and battles and camp fever, and the peculiarly German malady, home sickness. They have not learned to endure the deprivations of war in their little provincial encampments any more than Fick's 9th Regiment has become equal to a Virginia campaign by their camp instruction at Long Branch. These men, therefore, during the dreary, rainy winter that is about to set in, will be troubled, like our recruits, with camp fever and colds, and that dismal home sickness with which many stout men, not near so domestic in their temperaments as the Germans, died in the far-away camps down South.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT AN 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 PETROLEUM BANK, to be located at Philadelphia, with a capital of one hundred thousand dollars, with the right to increase the same to five (5) hundred thousand dollars.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT AN 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 WEST END BANK, to be located at Philadelphia, with a capital of one hundred thousand dollars, with the right to increase the same to one million dollars.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT AN 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 QUAKER CITY BANK, to be located at Philadelphia, with a capital of one hundred thousand dollars, with the right to increase the same to five hundred thousand dollars.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT AN 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 IRON BANK, to be located at Philadelphia, with a capital of one hundred thousand dollars, with the right to increase the same to five hundred thousand dollars.

OFFICE OF THE PHILADELPHIA AND TRENTON RAILROAD COMPANY, No. 224 S. DELAWARE

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 TUESDAY, October 25, 1870, to take into consideration an acceptance of an act of Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania entitled "An Act to Authorize the Philadelphia and Trenton Railroad Company to increase its capital stock, and 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."

F. H. WHITE, Assistant Secretary.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT AN 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 ANTHRACITE BANK, to be located at Philadelphia, with a capital of five hundred thousand dollars, with the right to increase the same to two million dollars.

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT AN 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 KEYSTONE STATE BANK, to be located at Philadelphia, with a capital of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, with the right to increase the same to five hundred thousand dollars.

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT AN 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 SOUTHWARK BANKING COMPANY, to be located at Philadelphia, with a capital of one hundred thousand dollars, with the right to increase the same to one million dollars.

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT AN 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 STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA BANK, to be located at Philadelphia, with a capital of five hundred thousand dollars, with the right to increase the same to ten million dollars.

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LEGAL NOTICES. IN THE ORPHANS' COURT FOR THE CITY AND COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA. Estate of MARCUS CAUFFMAN, deceased. The Auditor appointed by the Court to audit, settle, and adjust the first account of ISABELLA CAUFFMAN, MARY MEYER GANS, and WOLF STEPHEN CAUFFMAN of the last will and testament of MARCUS CAUFFMAN, deceased, and to report distribution of the balance in the hands of the accountants, will meet the parties interested for the purpose of his appointment on THURSDAY, November 3, A. D. 1870, at 4 o'clock P. M., at his office, No. 33 South THIRD Street, in the city of Philadelphia. SAMUEL WAGNER, Jr., Auditor.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, JUNE TERM, 1870, No. 32. THOMAS M. RICHARDS vs. AUGUSTA ANN RICHARDS.

TO AUGUSTA ANN RICHARDS, RESPONDENT:—Take notice that a rule upon you to show cause why a divorce a mensa et thoro should not be decreed has been granted by the Court, returnable (SATURDAY), November 5, 1870. ISAAC GERHART, No. 126 SOUTH SIXTH Street, Solicitor for Libellant.

SAXON GREEN NEVER FADES. 8 1 cm

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