SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

WAR BALLOONS.

From the N. Y. Times.

The battle in the air, which was reported the other day by both English and Belgian newspapers, seemed almost too incredible for belief, yet, as it has not been contradicted, there is probably truth in it. Oar readers may remember that this is one of the incidents referred to a short time previously, in these columns, as having been prefigured in romance, but at that time not yet realized. From present appearances, however, it seems likely that such conflicts may become common affairs. The numerous aerial attempts and adventures of both French and Prussians in the existing war bid fair to add materially to the stock of nseful knowledge on such subjects, and to lead to a more general use of balloons for military purposes hereafter; and the greater the number of belligerent balloons the greater the probability of their collision. A vastly increased use of balloons during future wars appears, in fact, to be seriously contemplated by the English Government, which has recently been carrying on quite an extensive series of aeronautic experiments at Woolwich.

The results of some of these essays have proved, according to the London press, very interesting. It is said as regards captive balloons-which are the most practically useful for purposes of reconnoissance—that a height of six hundred feet at a horizontal distance of 3600 feet is best to enable the observers to secure the widest expanse of view. To be lower gives insufficient range; to be higher entails atmospheric obscurities; and to be nearer is too hazardous. Again, it is said that a captive balloon attains stability, and remains, like a kite, at rest, "when the horizontal resultant of the ascensional force and the tension of the cord are equal to the force of the wind." The machine being steady, a fresh device is brought into playthis has been actually done, we understand, at Woolwich-to utilize science for the prosecution of war. Eight cameras and lenses have been arranged about the car at equal distances, and a complete view of the surrounding country has thus been photographed for transmission to the authorities below. Photographers will understand how this may be done under such circumstances to advantage, by a consideration of the fact that the refraction of the visual rays is the same for all objects coming under the same angle, while in a horizontal ground-view it is very irregular. The balloon view affords, then, a uniform refraction of circle, and a more certain relative position of the object.

But, although to get accurate pictures of

the surrounding country is important, to convey instant intelligence to friends below may be more so. The old plan of doing this was as follows:-A message was written on a tube of white pasteboard shaped like a cartridge and open at both ends. To this a bullet was attached, and the apparatus, being slipped over a line, ran easily to its attached end at the earth. The new method is much more elegant and scientific. It consists in the system for the field adopted by the British War Office, it is claimed that lines of telegraph can be carried through the air from the earth to a balloon several miles distant. The wire can be paid out, it is said, as fast as the balloon travels, so that, even if a captive balloon breaks or soars away, communication can be kept up with it for at least six miles. Or, again, two or more balloons can be sent up and kept in telegraphic communication with each other by means of aerial and land lines, so that telegraphic operations can be effected from the balloon to headquarters, and thence to the base of operations. These experiments, it will be remembered, were in some degree made on the Potomac, but with only partial and unsatisfactory results. The reports from Woolwich tell a far more hopeful story. They declare that the trials made there have unmistakably shown that the advantages, in reconnois-sance, of this application of balloons are incalculable. "It enabled the observing officers to survey an area of thirty square miles, not vaguely, but sharply pictured before them." And "it was found by practice that great skill can be attained in judging of the relative position of masses of troops, while minuter details can be subsequently obtained at leisure by field-glasses, as to the position of mountain gorges, passes, limits of woods, course of streams," etc. If the accounts before us are not too warmly drawn, the problem of effectually employing balloons for military purposes will be solved by this happy combination of photography and the telegraph.

There is no doubt, at all events, that the English authorities are earnestly engaged in this investigation, and the English journals express sanguine hopes of the trials in progress at Woolwich. Two officers, Captains Brackenbury and Noble, have been despatched thence to the respective seats of war, to pick up and compare information, and it is whispered that war balloons are already being manufactured in the Royal Arsenal, and that officers of the Royal Engineers, from generals downward, are to be trained in their use. The difficulties experienced by French and Prussians in the use of military balloons are attributed to the fact that they have few or no officers of their own accustomed to their use, a disadvantage which none of the great powers are likely in future to overlook, or fail to provide for.

A CORRUPT BENCH AND DEMORALIZED BAR.

From the N. Y. Tribune. Something more than a year ago a large number of members of the New York bar sought to protect themselves from the political influences which are rapidly corrupting what little of honesty is left on the New York bench and demoralizing the New York bar, by forming a sort of protective association. Some of the most prominent and respected lawyers of the cityattached themselves to it. We do not know how far the association has succeeded as such, but it is very clear, no matter what its exertions, that it has done little to counteract the increasing demoralization. That the necessity for activity on its part, and that of reputable members of the bar generally, is as great as ever, is freshly proved by the disgraceful scene on Monday in Recorder Hackett's Court. It is unnecessary to recount the facts in this place. No thinking reader can rise from their perusal without convictions of the corruption and demoralization of bench and bar, and the consequent danger to public peace and per-

lieves him to be influenced by party leaders whom the prisoner has offended. Judges Hackett and Bedford ridiculed the affidavit which the prisoner's counsel presented, but they cannot afford to content themselves with a general denial of its allegations. In spite of the disgustingly offensive manuer and tone of the counsel who presented it, which serve in some degree to distract attention from the serious charges against the Recorder, the affidavit leaves on the reader's mind the impression that it is probably true. The corruption of the men and party with whom Recorder Hackett is associated is so notorious that their odium extends to all about them, and it is not difficult to convince men that the Recorder is a most improper person to sit in judgment on this prisoner. It is usual and very natural, we suppose, for prisoners to think they "stand in danger of their lives from the judge on the bench," but in this instance there is reason to think that the stale old legal joke thus framed into an affidavit is no joke at all. Aside from these disgusting personal revelations, the trial on Monday revealed the bitterness of the war between the rival Demogratic factions; and the majority of those who study the reports will have less hesitation than heretofore in crediting the eld assertion that Tammany kills as well as buys its enemies.

But this is not the only incident revealing the rapid demoralization of the legal profession in this misgoverned city. There are frequent instances in which judges have intimidated lawyers and threatened them with personal enmity in the event of their offending. It is only a few months since that a prominent if not reputable lawyer proclaimed in a New York court the infamous doctrine that counsel in defense of a criminal's life are justified in any effort to destroy the character of an innocent witness-a doctrine from which every honest lawyer, as every honest man, will indignantly dissent. It is still later that a most unjustifiable "salvage suit"belonging to proceedings which ought to be wholly inadmissible in any court, since they begin and develop in conspiracy—has long occupied the attention of a court, forced defendants to heavy costs, and resulted in a judgment which cannot be enforced because of the irresponsibility of the lawyer who instituted the proceedings. On Monday another court was employed for some hours in hear-ing the applications of a lady who was forced to bring suit to get her papers out of the hands of a lawyer whom she had dismissed.

These are but a few of many glaring instances which we might quote as revealing the disgraceful condition of legal practice here. The corruption of the courts is, of course, the natural consequence of the corruption of our local politics, and there can be no thorough reformation of the bar until the bench has been purified by the deposition of these mere tools of Tammany. We do not despair of the final reformation even of the New York judiciary; but in the meantime the legal fraternity owes it to itself and the public to combine to maintain its own independence and purity. When the bar has sunk so low as to seek the favor of the bench and fear its enmity, there is no security for honest clients and lawyers in any of our courts.

THE ENGLISH INTERVENTION IN FRANCE.

From the N. Y. World. The best commentary that can be made upon the rumored intervention of England | ters, there are great and overwhelming obuse of telegraphy and was to some extent to secure peace in France-in the present practised in our own war. By the new state of our information as to that intervention-comes to us in the statement that a new French loan of fifty millions of dollars has been put upon the London market by one of the most respectable bankinghouses of the British capital. The Government of the French republic is not very likely to sign itself out of existence at the moment when it is borrowing money to carry on the great national conflict by virtue of which it exists. The reported terms of settlement said to be proposed by England are of such a naturethat if they were to be accepted by the belligerents they could secure an immediate termination of the international war between France and Germany only at the expense of an ultimate civil war in the former country, if not of an ultimate revolution in the latter country also. The chief interest of these rumors to the world at large-supposing them not to prefigure, as it is more than doubtful whether they do prefigure, any serious diplomatic action-consists in the evidence which they afford of increasing difficulties in the way of Prussian occupation of France. Had the bombardment of Paris been presently practicable, or had the republic organized for France no better means of self-defense than the empire bequeathed to her, we should have heard nothing of English intervention at Versailles and Berlin. All that these reports now set forth as a proper basis for peace could have been attained by Prussia without much practical trouble, immediately upon the fall of Sedan, had Prussia then been willing, as she now seems to be, to listen to the voice either of moderation in her own counsels or of foreign powers counselling forbearance. The Regency of the Empress, which it is now averred that Prussia is anxious to restore, was then an existing fact. The city of Paris, now found to be so formidable a fortress, was then supposed to be at the mercy of the invaders. Whatever may be the upshot of the pending negotia-tions, it will hardly be thought, we suspect, by the great body of intelligent observers throughout Christendom, that it was worth the while of Bismarck and King William to inflict two months of horrible devastation and destruction upon the two foremost nations of Europe for the purpose of restoring an empire, overthrown by German valor, against the will of a great capital made impregnable and a great people called under arms by the downfall of that empire.

HOW TO BE POLITICIANS.

From the New Orleans Republican. Labor societies are good enough in their place. Two men never met and compared their thoughts on a good subject without benefit to both; and in the societies where laborers assemble to discuss the interests of their profession, there is a constant incentive to thought and mental progress. All such societies meet with our cheerful support. We should be pleased to know that each and every class of laboring men in New Orleans had its regular organization, and that the members were sufficiently numerous and independent to support a quiet and comfortable hall with a good library in it. Suppose the carpenters and builders, who are very numerous and thrifty in New Orleans, had a meeting-room where they could assemble in the evening to discuss the interests of the business, and where, when a question of measurement, of supports, of braces, of beams, or other matter, came up, the difficulty could be settled by turning to the latest authority on the subject, either among the older heads of the profession or in the newest book on the subject. Hundreds of young sonal security. A murderer brought up for mechanics would have a place to spend their trial for his life declares himself in fear of evenings at with profit to themselves. Mar-

the judge who is to try him, because he be- | ried men, too, who now go to the corner grocery and pass the time by taking a socia-ble drink, would save their money and improve their leisure hours in the company of intelligent craftsmen or of readable books and papers. There are five or ten thousand carpenters in this city, and they no doubt have some kind of an association, but we have never heard that they had a library, or even a meeting room. Suppose, too, that the shoemakers had a such a place, where they could meet and discuss the wants and interests of their profession, instead of being called together, as they were on Thursday night, to be lectured by Smallwood and Johnson into a kind of fever about matters which they cannot rectify except in a given

Every mechanical profession that has a responsible standing in New Orleans ought to have a reading-room and lyceum. The members who are too domestic to spend their evenings at such places could nevertheless make use of the Lyceum as a resort to meet their friends on occasion, and there also they could rely upon finding such books and such information as every man sometimes wants in the course of his week's work. Besides, it would afford a place for the interchange of thought and suggestion, which never comes amiss in this world of activity and intelligence. Fathers who are raising sons to be mechanics, and employers who are instructing apprentices, would have a place at which they could trust their charges, satisfied that nothing immoral would be seen, and nothing intoxicating would be sold. How many inventors might New Orleans turn out, and how many fortunes might her children amass, if they only had the appliances to study scientific mechanics as it is printed and illustrated in the organs of the trade! It is now almost impossible to find in the city a reliable or recent book on any of the subjects that engage the attention of our artisans.

When mechanics of any class assemble to

discuss politics as a branch of their profession, they make a mistake. And a sad one, at that, for themselves, for they are only playing a game which some shrewd old officehunter is watching to take advantage of. Politics is greatly misunderstood by the great mass of people. Almost every man believes he is fit to be a politician, and he not only votes himself to be entirely competent to run the State, but he is willing to trust any of his neighbors to do the same thing. This is a great mistake. It is the most serious error into which the otherwise clear-headed people of this country ever fell. Politics is a profession, and in providing for its conduct society should be more careful than, it is in selecting a lawyer, a doctor or a watchmaker, because the politician has to make laws to protect mankind against the unfaithful lawyer, doctor or watchmaker. If all the trades had reading-rooms at which the members attended for their mental improvement, the craftsmen would soon learn that the evils in legislation about which they complain so much do not spring from politics, but from the want of it. A badly mended watch is never reported as the work of a watchmaker, but of a botch; and so it is with good and bad government. Character is the main thing in politics, as it is in every other trade. If a politician is reliable and trustworthy in private life, there is no great danger of his doing much evil in office; but if he is unsafe in his personal relations, and if he is not a reliable adviser in general matjections to his being fastened on the public as a politician. Mechanics ought to do one thing, and that is to forget that they are a class. Politics is designed for the benefit of all; and the laborer or the professional man who sets himself up as entitled to enjoy its benefits is just the man to be avoided. He develops selfishness in his egotistic claim, and whether he is a shoemaker, like Mr. Mueller, or whether he is a Democratic mouthpiece, like Mr. Smallwood, he ought to be discountenanced and discouraged. The true science of our popular system is for every man who can not trust one or the other of the great political parties, to make himself conversant with political principles and with the public men on both sides, and when the day of election arrives to vote for the best men, satisfied that the interests of society will never be betrayed by good officers. And this is what we recommend to the shoemakers who had their ears tickled by Messrs. Smallwood and Johnson. These two men have an axe to grind, and if they can get the shoemakers to turn the grindstone, it will be so much clear gain. We do not ask their support as a class. We only know them as individual citizens. If our platform suits them, let them support that. It was made in the interest of all, and not for any set of men. It offers protection and support to the high and the low, the rich and the poor, the black and the white. If the shoemakers want more than this, or something special for themselves, they can not get it from us.

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SHIPPING. SPECIAL NOTICE TO SHIPPERS

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FREIGHT WILL BE FORWARDED with our usual despatch to all points on the WESTERN AND ATLANTA, MEMPHIS AND CHARLESTON, ALABAMA AND CHAT-TANOOGA, ROME, SELMA, ROME AND DAL-

ERN RAILROADS, all Landings on the COOSA Through Bills of Lading given, and rates guarantied to all points in the South and Southwest. WILLIAM L. JAMES,

TON, SELMA AND MERIDIAN, VICKSBURG

AND MERIDIAN, MOBILE AND OHIO, NEW

ORLEANS, JACKSON AND GREAT NORTH-

No. 130 South THIRD Street. NOTICE - QUARANTINE RESTRICTIONS having been removed, freight will be received for Galveston, as heretofore, by the PHILADEL-PHIA AND SOUTHERN MAIL STEAMSHIP COMPANY. Shippers will please notice that all boxed goods for Mobile, Galveston, and points on the Mississippi river must be well strapped. The steamship YAZOO will sail for New Orleans,

THE REGULAR STEAMSHIPS ON THE PHILADELPHIA AND CHARLESTON STEAMSHIP LINE are ALONE authorized to issue through
bills of lading to interior points South and West in
connection with South Carolina Railroad Company,
ALFRED L. TYLER,
Vice-President So. C. RR. Co.

via Havana, on TUESDAY next.

PHILADELPHIA AND SOUTHERN
MAIL STEAMSHIP COMPANY'S REGULAR SEMI-MONTHLY LINE TO NEW OR.
The YAZOO will sail for New Orleans, via Havana, on
The JUNIATA will sail from New Orleans, via Havana, on The JUNIATA will sail from New Orleans, via Havana, on Friday, October 28. vans, on Friday, October 28.

THROUGH BILLS OF LADING at as low rates as by any other route given to Mobile, Galveston, and to all points on the Mississippi rives between New Octoans and St. Lovis. Red River freights reshipped at New Orloans without charge of commissions.

WEEKLY LINE TO SAVANNAH, GA.
The WYOMING will sail for Savannah on Saturday, October 29, at 8 A. M.
The TONAWANDASwill sail from Savannah on Saturday, October 29. The TONA WANDASWIII sail from Savannan on Saturday, October 29.

THROUGH BILLS OF LADING given to all the principal towns in Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Tennessee in connection with the Central Railroad of Georgia, Atlantic and Gulf Railroad; and Florida steamers, at as low rates as by competing lines.

SEMI-MONTHLY LINE TO WILMINGTON, N. C.
The PIONEER will sail for Wilmington on Saturday,
October 29, at 8 A. M. Returning, will leave Wilmington Saturday, November 5.
Connects with the Cape Fear River Steamboat Company, the Wilmington and Weldon and North Carolina Railroads, and the Wilmington and Manchester Railroad to all interior points.

Freights for Columbia, S. C., and Angusta, Ga., taken via Wilmington, at a slow rates as by any other route.
Insurance effected when requested by shippers. Bills of lading signed at Queen street wharf on or before day of sailing.

WILLIAM L. JAMES, General Agent.

WILLIAM L. JAMES, General Agent. No. 130 South THIRD Street. LORILLARD STEAMSHIP COMPANY

FOR NEW YORK, SAILING EVERY TUESDAY, THURSDAY, AND
SATURDAY.

RATES TEN CENTS PER 100 POUNDS, FOUR
CENTE PER CUBIC FOOT, ONE CENT PER
GALLON, SHIP'S OPTION.

INSURANCE BY THIS LINE ONE-EIGHTH OF
ONE PER CENT.

Extra rates on small packages fron, metals, etc.
No receipt or bill of lading signed for less than
fifty cents.

fifty cents.

Goods forwarded to all points free of commissions.
Through bills of lading given to Wilmington, N. C.,
by the steamers of this line leaving New York triweekly. For further particulars apply to
JOHN F. OHL,
PIER 19 NORTH WHARVES.
N. B.—The regular shippers by this line will be
charged the above rates all winter.
Winter rates commence December 15. 28 \$

NEW EXPRESS LINE TO ALEXAN dria, Georgetown, and Washington, D. C., via Chesapeake and Delaware most direct route for Lynchburg, Bristol, Knoxville, Nashville, Dalton, and the Southwest. Steamers leave regularly every Saturday at noon rom the first wharf above Market street.

Freight received daily.

WILLIAM P. CLYDE & CO.,

No. 14 North and South WHARVES.

HYDE & TYLER, Agents at Georgetown; M
ELDRIDGE & CO., Agents at Alexandria.

CORDAGE, ETC. WEAVER & CO., ROPE MANUFACTURERS

SHIP CHANDLERS,

No. 29 North WATER Street and

No. 28 North WHARVES, Philadelphia. ROPE AT LOWEST BOSTON AND NEW YORK

CORDACE.

Manilla, Sisal and Tarred Cordage At Lowest New York Prices and Freights.

EDWIN H. FITLER & CO. Factory, TENTH St. and GERMANTOWN Avenue. Store, No. 23 E. WATER St. and 23 N DELAWARE PHILADELPHIA

LEGAL NOTICES.

IN THE ORPHANS' COURT FOR THE CITY AND COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA. Estate of MARCUS CAUFFMAN, deceased. The Audit or appointed by the Court to audit, settle, and adjust the first account of ISABELLA CAUFF. MAN, MEYER GANS, and WOLF STEPPACHER, Executors 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 ap-pointment on TilURSDAY, 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.,

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS FOR THE CITY AND COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA.
Assigned estate of JAMES ECCLES. No. 59 of 1869. Assigned estate of JAMES ECCLES. No. 59 of 1869. The Auditor appointed by the Court to audit, settle, and adjust the account of THOMAS J. MARTIN, Assignee, and to report distribution of the balance in the hands of the Accountant, will meet the parties interested for the purpose of his appointment on TUESDAY, November 1, 1570, at 355 o'clock P. M., at his office, No. 125 S. SEVENTH Street, in the city of Philadelphia.

J. COOKE LONGSTRETH,

10 21fmw5t Auditor.

10 21fmw5t COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, JUNE TERM,

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 vinculo mat-imonii should not be decreed has been granted by the Court, returnable SATURDAY November 5, 1870. DAY, November 5, 1870.

ISAAC GERGART. No. 126 South SIXT t Street, Solicitor for Libeliant, 10 24 26nol 3 4t"

ROOFING. E A D Y R O O F I N G.— This Roofing is adapted to all buildings. It can be applied to STEEP OR FLAT ROOFS

STEEP OR FLAT ROOFS
at one-half the expense of tin. It is readily put on
old Shingle Roofs without removing the shingles,
thus avoiding the damaging of ceilings and furniture
while undergoing repairs. (No gravel used.)
PRESERVE Y. UR TIN ROOFS WITH WELTON'S ELASTIC PAINT.

I am always prepared to Repair and Paint Roofs
at short notice. Also, PAINT FOR SALE by the
barrel or gallon; the best and cheapest in the
market.

No. 711 N. NINTH St., above Coates

COTTON SAIL DUCK AND CANVAS, OF ALE pumbers and brands. Tent, Awning, Trunk, and Wagon-cover Duck. Also, Paper Manufacturers' Drier Feits, from thirty to seventy-siz inches, with Paulins, Belting, Sail Twine, etc.

JOHN W. EVERMAN, No. 10 CHURCH Street (City Stores).