

SPRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

THE MCGARRAHAN CLAIM.

From the N. Y. Sun. The withdrawal of General Jacob D. Cox from the Department of the Interior at Washington has been alleged to be owing to a disagreement between him and President Grant on the subject of what is called the McGarrahan claim. The nature of that claim, its history, and the present condition of the controversy about it, have accordingly come to be matters of unusual public interest.

The land involved in the Panoche Grande ranch, a tract of four Spanish leagues in area, situated in Monterey and Fresno counties, California, about one hundred and twenty-five miles southeast of San Francisco, and now occupied by the New Idria Mining Company. All that gives value to it is its quicksilver mines, it being almost useless for agricultural purposes. With its improvements it is worth perhaps \$1,000,000.

The two parties contending for the ownership of the land are William McGarrahan, of California, and the New Idria Mining Company of the same State. This company is mainly composed of Barron & Co., the great quicksilver merchants, who, with some other foreigners, own one-half the stock; W. C. Ralston, cashier of the Bank of California, who owns one-eighth; and D. O. Mills, President of the same bank, who also owns one-eighth.

By the treaty between Mexico and the United States made at Guadalupe Hidalgo, February 20, 1848, it was agreed that existing rights to land and other property should be respected, provided they should be duly established before commissioners to be appointed to examine them and determine their validity.

From these hopes and dreams of speedy wealth in discoveries of treasures of gold and silver, which contributed so much to the early settlements of America, North and South, by Europeans, we are brought down in this channel of history to California and Australia, and thence to the later discoveries of gold and silver in our new Western States and Territories of Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, Idaho, Oregon, Wyoming, and Montana, and to the amazing results of the development of their mines in the expansion of the conquest of modern civilization.

THE DIAMOND FIELDS OF SOUTH AFRICA—ANOTHER GREAT IMPULSE TO CIVILIZATION. From the N. Y. Herald. From the horrors of the war in France, from the crisis to the beleaguered city of Paris and the French republic, from the European perplexities of the peace question, and from the senseless clamors of New York politics, we invite the attention of our readers in this article to the more pleasing subject of the new discovery of the diamond fields of South Africa.

northeastwardly to the north end of the Trans-Vaal republic; and the attractions of these diamond mines will soon develop and enlarge these settlements into a prosperous union, "with all the modern improvements."

These diamond fields are on the Vaal river, the head stream of the great Orange river, which forms the chain of dividing mountains flanking the Indian Ocean, flow eastwardly for more than a thousand miles into the Atlantic, in south latitude twenty-nine. The products of this vast region between the Orange region and the southern sea coast include cotton, sugar, coffee, indigo, wheat, Indian corn, sweet potatoes, grapes, oranges and pineapples. But cattle and sheep furnish the chief articles of export.

What, then, to the adventurous spirits of the Anglo-Saxon race will be the limit to the rush to South Africa, when, in addition to all the other attractions indicated, we have this irresistible magnet of the Vaal diamond fields, where the precious stones, along the river hills and water courses for five hundred miles, are picked up, varying from five hundred to five hundred thousand dollars in value—where thousands of diamond hunters are moving about like ants over an ant hill, and where, from the lucky findings, the host of fortune seekers increases every day?

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The great continent of Africa, which boasts the oldest and grandest monuments of ancient civilization, has been through all time and remains to this day, excepting a small section here and there, in a state of barbarism. Its capabilities, however, for human subsistence and luxuries are illimitable. On her northern coast, embracing Algeria and all those States, Africa has still the resources for the creation of a greater commercial empire than was Carthage; her western equatorial coast regions of boundless fertility need only the stimulus and discipline of civilization to her native blacks to develop in time a trade greater than that of India; her great equatorial basin and upper valley of the Nile may be made to yield hundreds of thousands of cattle and millions of bales of cotton, and the broad, fertile basin of the Zambesi, on the Indian Ocean side, may be made to rival its tropical products the valley of the Amazon.

England, as a naval outpost and commercial depot, may still hold fast the Cape of Good Hope; but as she has gained the ample profits in trade from the United States as an independent nation, so she will in good time find it her true policy rather to encourage than resist the will of the people in the New Dominion, in Australia, and in South Africa. Indeed, the basis of a republican confederation already exists in those free South African States. England, meantime, can do nothing better than to encourage in every way the settlement of the New Dominion and of South Africa from her redundant population at home. But, whatever she may do or may fail to do, we expect these diamond fields of South Africa to play the same role in the enlargement of civilization as that of the gold fields of California and Australia and the silver mountains of Nevada.

AMERICAN ECOLOGICAL. From the N. Y. Tribune. The Social Science Association has lately closed its ninth general meeting in Philadelphia. The very existence of such an Association is a healthy symptom of progress. Judge Strong, in his admirable opening address, said with truth:— "The intelligent mind of the country has hardly awakened yet to a full apprehension of what is meant by social science. It is a science which we speak of the science of mathematics, of astronomy, or physics generally, or when we speak of the science of law or theology, or medicine; but when we talk of a science that selects human society as its subject, and includes in its departments all that affects society for good or ill, we seem to many like those in a dream. It is remarkable that in the classification which the celebrated French philosopher, Auguste Comte, made, only a few years since, of the sciences, he included what he denominated 'sociology,' not as an existing science, but as something which, in his opinion, he thought should be developed into a department of knowledge."

Society the Judge described aptly as an organism "which might be said to have life. Now, it is with this living organism, with these habits, diseases, opinions, capabilities, and everything that acts upon social happiness and development; with all that has been discovered, or that yet may be known, which tends to elevate and advance human society, that social science has to do."

THE REPUBLICAN AND BAZAINE. From the N. Y. World. Whatever may be thought by the rest of the world of the surrender of Marshal Bazaine at Metz, the French Government at Tours at least have made up their minds on the subject. In a stirring proclamation to the French people they denounce the act as an act of treason to the State, and Marshal Bazaine himself as an accomplice of the "Man of Sedan."

Without entering fully to-day into the question of Marshal Bazaine's guilt or innocence, we may unreservedly commend to the admiration of our readers the fearless, resolute, and masculine tone of the proclamation in which the Government of Tours announce this great catastrophe to the people of the republic. It extenuates nothing of the extent of the disaster, and concedes nothing. How far the high and unconquered tone of the Government is justified by the state of the military organization with which republican France is preparing to meet her victorious foes, we shall know in a few weeks at farthest. Meanwhile no freeman in any country can refuse his most cordial sympathies to the spirit with which these leaders of a people striving to be free, and to establish freedom, use to the shock of calamities really almost unparalleled in the history of mankind.

THE METHODIST BOOK CONCERN. From the N. Y. World. Without wishing to appear as partisans in an ecclesiastical dispute—which is of the nature of a domestic dispute in this, that secular journals have nothing to do with it until it comes before a public tribunal—we are quite sure that we express the general feeling in owning surprise at the disposition which has been made of the case of Dr. Lanahan. The only offense of that gentleman seems, to secular apprehension, to have been his honesty and his courage in exposing what he believed to be serious and systematic injuries done to the Methodist Church by its agents in the Methodist Book Concern.

PRIVATE MASKED BATTERIES. From the N. Y. Times. The curious homicide in Twenty-third street, a few nights ago, whereby a supposed burglar was killed in attempting to break into the shop of a gunsmith, opens up an interesting question of legal and moral right. The circumstances of the case are still fresh in the minds of our readers. The worthy gunsmith had been put to much pecuniary loss and vexation of spirit by repeated nocturnal visits to his shop, and finding what he feared to be a persistent thief, he determined to protect himself. Being an Italian, his hot Southern blood, perhaps, needed little prompting to take vigorous and effective measures against these destroyers of his peace and pursurers of his property. He forthwith arranged to insure for his next trespasser a brief but vivid renewal of the Sicilian Vespers. A masked battery, consisting of a Springfield musket, loaded to the muzzle with slugs, was so planted as to command the approaches to the gunsmith's citadel, and by an ingenious contrivance, fixed to be discharged on any attempt to open his shutters from outside. The other morning the triumph of these warlike combinations was found in the person of a young man, with half a head, lying beneath the gunsmith's window. Near by the body were certain implements apparently pertaining to the housebreaker's craft. There, therefore, little if any doubt of his purpose.

Now at first blush this will appear to most people a case of entirely justifiable homicide. Every man has a right to protect his person and property against the thief who comes in the night, even to the taking of life. But there is a difference between killing an actual burglar, and confronting the triumph of his felony, and setting a trap to kill a possible burglar, with a rather startling range of other possible and utterly uncontrollable consequences. If any contingency had arisen, such as fire, which made it lawfully necessary to effect an entrance into our gunsmith's shop through his window, the results would have been appalling, and would in that case have borne an ugly resemblance, if not to murder, at least to an aggravated degree of manslaughter. And because the event appears to justify the act in this case, it is none the less homicide. Only through lack of the necessary indication of depravity does it misbecoming obvious to that provision of the revised statutes which declares killing to be murder, when perpetrated by any act imminently dangerous to others, though without premeditated design to effect the death of any particular individual.

SPECIAL NOTICES. TAKE NO MORE UNPLEASANT AND DANGEROUS TOOTHACHE. Use HELMOLD'S EXTRACT BLOOD AND IMPROVED ROSE WASH.

and of justice as ours, it may seem harsh to blame a man for taking effectual means to give himself that security which corrupt and imbecile authority denies. But two wrongs do not make a right, and it is, in the long run, better for the interests of public safety and public morality that our shops should be robbed with impunity than that our lives should be endangered by a general establishment of private automatic masked batteries, which are not likely to discriminate between the innocent and the guilty. The end in this case plainly does not justify the means. And if our people wish to secure their lives and property against the audacious villainy of the men who virtually rule and ruin our city, they will do more to achieve that end by voting against the ring than by fencing their houses with mitrailleurs.

THE UNION FIRE EXTINGUISHER COMPANY OF PHILADELPHIA. Manufacture and sell the Improved, Portable Fire Extinguisher. Always Reliable.

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 two hundred and fifty 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 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.

INSURANCE. INSURANCE COMPANY OF NORTH AMERICA. Incorporated 1794. Charter Perpetual. CAPITAL \$500,000 ASSETS \$2,758,551 Losses paid since organization \$28,000,000 Receipts of Premiums, 1869 \$1,991,837.45 Interest from Investments, 1869 \$114,960.74

STATEMENT OF THE ASSETS. First Mortgages on City Property \$766,500 United States Government and other Loan Bonds 1,128,946 Railroad, Bank and Canal Stocks 65,708 Cash in Bank and Office 247,620 Loans on Collateral Security 82,555 Notes Received on Intercity Deposits 321.94 Accrued Interest 20,327 Premiums in course of transmission 105,198 Unsettled Marine Premiums 18,900 Real Estate, Office of Company, Philadelphia 80,000

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FIRE ASSOCIATION. INCORPORATED MARCH 17, 1850. OFFICE, No. 84 NORTH FIFTH STREET, INSURE BUILDINGS, HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, AND MERCHANDISE GENERALLY. From Loss by fire (in the City of Philadelphia only) ASSETS, JANUARY 1, 1870, \$1,574,734.25

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