

SPRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

THE GERMAN EMPIRE—GERMAN UNITY AND AUSTRIA'S EFFORTS FOR PEACE.

Special despatches from Berlin assert that on Tuesday last (the 13th inst.) the Parliamentary deputation of the North German Confederation was to set out from the Prussian capital to convey to King William, at his military headquarters in Versailles, the offer of the imperial crown that will, upon his brow, symbolize the accession to a dominion rivalling in extent and far exceeding in real population, wealth, and social importance the realm of Otto and Charlemagne.

This, should the sturdy old Hohenzollern accept the proffered dignity—and what reason is there to doubt that he will?—is an event of the most imposing moment, marking the realm of Otto and Charlemagne. At the same moment we hear that the fate of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, and prepares the way for the absorption, gradual or sudden, as occasion may decide, of both Holland and Belgium into the vast military empire which already overshadows the centre and the west of Europe.

Well may the other powers hastily endeavor to set their houses in order, and meanwhile struggle to avert any extension of the war. Thus it is that Austria still persistently endeavors to bring about negotiations for peace between the German alliance and France; and in the light of the past and of the present, too, we say that Austria is wise.

And now we see the same spirit prevailing. Outside of the immediate theater of the Franco-Prussian war, yet near enough to feel the heat of its configurations and to hear the thunders of its artillery, Austrian intellect detects dangers growing more and more gigantic every hour while the struggle continues to push on towards that bitter extremity which bequeaths to an entire race and lineage legacies of undying hate and eternal thirst for vengeance.

And, even were she entombed, the stone may yet be rolled away from the mouth of her sepulchre and she may rise again. The ashes of Charles Martel, of Philip Augustus, of Bayard, of Henry of Navarre, of the Grand Conde, of the First Napoleon, and of Lafayette repose in the soil of France, and their spirit is still alive in her people.

Those who think otherwise are making but hasty judgment of events not six months old. Quiet thinkers who, only that long ago, held their peace when jubilate was sounded over the plebiscite and the "crowning of the edifice" in France, were noticed only with the smile of self-satisfied disdain; yet, lo! what a change is there to-day—how are the mighty fallen! Providence will teach us, in spite of all human conceits, that things shall be as He wills, and His reversals of judgment continually laugh at our calculations and humble our pride.

In this world the man or the nation who builds safety upon the ruins of another is not noble, and never can be truly great. If German unity is to be set upon the shifting sands of conquest, imposed upon a people foreign in language, faith, and culture, we have every warrant in the lessons of history to believe that it will vanish, in the first great upheaval, as suddenly as it came.

Austria, too, remembers Mexico crouching for a day under the scepter of one of her imperial dukes. Monarchical Europe remembers the crisis when, with coalesced fleets and armies invading our sister republic at Vera Cruz, she thought she saw the disruption and end of the United States. Austria, therefore, at this moment,

and other European powers which will presently appear in the foreground, still advise King William, even at the eleventh hour, to conquer France after the only method in which she ever will be conquered, viz., by rising to the height of magnanimity that will offer her true friendship and a lasting peace. United Germany, including the Austro-Germanic provinces, will not then have a new Poland of forty millions on the west to reach unseparated hands across the old, disrupted, and partitioned Poland of the east.

In this safer attitude the German empire will represent progress rather than reaction, and peace rather than war. France, cared for her follies and of her restless ambition, will be a sincere ally, and not an implacable foe. Her great reverse will be the germ of her still greater future glory, and, receiving and imparting strength by their more intimate conjunction, two peoples already kindred in blood and tradition since the days when the fleur de lis was made the device of the princes who came up from the marshes of the Rhine and afterwards established the Frankish dominion, may have reason to bless the hour when, unjustly repelled and usurpation overthrown, their mutual welfare became the charge of the Emperor William.

DELUSIVE PROSPERITY.

San Francisco journals bewail the lack of enterprise in their city and the lack of prosperity in their State. The city has ample banking capital as compared with Chicago and other cities east of the Mississippi, but transacts, relatively, much less business. The State, with almost boundless resources, suffers in every direction from the absence of development. Vast areas of desirable land are unoccupied and untiled. Mining enterprises have not, as a rule, fulfilled expectations—there have been more blanks than prizes—more losses than profits.

For this condition of things the people of California may thank only themselves. They have driven off the capital and enterprise of which they now confess their need. Their refusal to avail themselves of the legal-tender currency was a blunder whose ill effects have long been apparent. Their own moneyed men came East to take advantage of the premium on gold accumulations; and Eastern capitalists refused to employ their means in a State which did its utmost to exclude greenbacks from circulation.

Land monopolies have had something to do with the tardy progress of settlement and agriculture. The best lands are in the hands of companies and speculators, who hold them at prices above their value, and retard the improvements which are essential to the contentment of any population worth having. The State does not grow, simply because it has been rendered unattractive. Minnesota, with not a tittle of the natural advantages possessed by California, has prospered infinitely more, for reasons that are apparent.

In the next place, California illustrates anew the general unprofitableness of mining enterprises, where the precious metals are concerned. Mining was well enough when gold was to be had by digging and panning, though even then the lucky ones were only a small percentage of the crowds engaged in the work. But mining in organized forms, with costly machinery and under skilled and scientific direction, is quite a different affair. Only careful management and great good fortune can render it profitable.

The prevailing distrust is, however, justified by unpleasant experiences of another sort. Gold and silver mines are doubtful investments under the most favorable auspices. What shall be said of them when considered in connection with the barefaced frauds of which they have often been the pretext? California, Colorado, Nevada, Montana, Idaho—all suffer from the rashness that has been perpetrated under the pretense of selling valuable mining claims. The Eastern speculators and English have been victims abstracted from this city alone by scoundrels who succeeded in persuading capitalists, large and small, that fortunes were hidden in gold and silver mines.

ABOUT AMNESTY. We have never attempted to hurry Congress in the matter of amnesty. Through our own convictions that universal amnesty is alike magnanimous and politic have never been magnanimous, we comprehend the considerations adverse to it, and freely admit their force. We know that the spirit which drove the South into a foolish, wanton rebellion is still wide-spread and rampant; we know that there are thousands of ex-Rebels so embittered by their unexpected and utter discouragement that they cannot appreciate generosity, and would confound kindness with weakness.

We know that that most unwise, malignant organization popularly known as Ku-Klux at its infatuated and diabolical portions of the South, inflicting injuries and outrages on scattered blacks and other defenseless Unionists, and that, in spite of the best efforts of Congress

and the Executive, thousands of negroes coerced into voting the ticket of their persecutors or overawed into not voting at all. In short, we feel and admit that a good case can be made for postponing universal amnesty, which, without at all shaking our conviction of its justice and wisdom, would impel millions to demand and vote for a postponement of this measure of pacification. If, therefore, Congress shall vote down such amnesty, we shall regret rather than condemn the decision.

But, whenever amnesty shall be deemed timely, we entreat that it be made thorough. A dozen piecemeal amnesty bills will do much to inflame and diffuse Southern discontent, nothing to allay it. An act of amnesty with large exceptions will offend two classes—1. Those whom it relieves of disabilities; 2. Those whom it leaves under the ban. The former will feel insulted as by an intimation that they are of no account; the latter will complain that they are still proscribed when thousands less deserving of clemency have been forgiven. And, from their point of view, each class will be clearly right.

It does seem to us that the case of Jefferson Davis ought ere this to have commanded its moral even to the most ordinary comprehension. Had he been shot, as, upon the verdict of a court-martial, he lawfully might have been, within three days of his capture, he would have been enshrined in a million hearts forever, and his name and deeds would have been a potent spell for generations. So long as he was kept in prison he was the crowned king of millions, to whom his lightest wish was law, his word the end of controversy. A sentiment of honor held every Confederate loyal to him so long as he remained in durance for an offense common to him and to them. Had he been kept for ten years a prisoner of state, he would have been to the last the chief of a crushed but indomitable party whose fidelity to their suffering head was the point of honor.

Shall wisdom still cry and no man regard its motions? Do let us comprehend that the real question is not whether certain prominent Rebels shall or shall not be further punished for their causeless war upon the Union, but whether we shall or shall not enable them to strut their little hour as demigods, exalted in the views of their public by the short-sighted though natural resentment of Republicans, whose vengeful wrath will not let them see that, if the object were to divest these men of capacity to do mischief, it would be secured by amnesty, not proscription, and that, if the end sought be vengeance and not retribution, it is clearly defeated by a policy which exalts its objects not only in their own estimation, but also in that of their neighbors and cherished friends.

RECKLESS BUILDING.

The sudden and disastrous fall of a factory in Thirty-fifth street suggests reflections. The wind was blowing at the time, to be sure, but it did not amount to a gale, much less to such an exceptional convulsion as is required to acquit the constructors of a building of gross negligence in its destruction by stress of weather. The point which will be chiefly relied upon to shield the builders from the blame of the disaster whereby at least four persons have lost their lives is probably that the building was unfinished. A wall without the support which roof and joists give it, is of course in a much more precarious condition than after those securities have been added. But that was not the state of this building. The covering had been finally effected the day before the fall. So far as security goes, the building was in very nearly if not quite as good condition as it ever would have been. The conclusion is inevitable that the construction of it had been grossly reckless. Nothing is plainer than that every additional foot of height in a building demands additional strength in its walls. Yet nothing is commoner than to see buildings which assume the proportion almost of obelisks run up to the height, as in this building, of eight stories, or even higher, not only without any precautions in the way of buttresses but with walls which would be flimsy and inadequate to support the weight of a dwelling. Money-saving is one motive for this reckless sort of construction. Time-saving is another. The factory which fell on Thursday, the day after its completion, was begun upon the 14th of November. It is perfectly clear that a building of eight stories cannot be properly built in such a time. If the tragical event of Thursday morning does not admonish architects and capitalists of the breakneck pace at which they are going, there are enough sterner admonitions in store for them. Let us hope that this single lesson will suffice to give them pause, and that the blood of the four victims of some builder's reckless haste and greed will not be shed in vain. This lesson ought at all events to serve to quicken official vigilance. While this rickety warehouse was falling to pieces yesterday morning by the North river, the Superintendent of Buildings was testifying that a building upon the East river—by the fall of which a calamity in some respects similar, though not so widely fatal, had ensued—was properly constructed. It behooves that functionary to see that in future his sanction is not too lightly given, lest his constituents should be impelled by self-preservation to usurp his functions. A building blown down by a breeze is not a safe building, whatever official assurances may be given to the contrary. And it is to be hoped that the friends of the victims of the disaster in Thirty-fifth street will take legal measures to remind reckless builders that reckless building is a crime for the consequences of which they are answerable.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

UNION REPUBLICAN MASS MEETING. AT THE LIBERTY HALL. SATURDAY EVENING, December 17, 1870.

Addresses by the following distinguished speakers:— HON. A. WILSON HENSHY, ISAIAH WEARS, COL. WILLIAM B. MANN, GEN. JAMES GIVEN, WILLIAM MORAN, Esq., WILLIAM D. FORTIN, Esq., and others. 12 16

PHILADELPHIA AND READING RAILROAD COMPANY, Office No. 27 S. FOURTH Street. PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 30, 1870. DIVIDEND NOTICE. The Transfer Books of this Company will be closed on Wednesday, the 14th of December next, and reopened on Tuesday, the 10th of January, 1871.

OFFICE OF THE PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD COMPANY. PHILADELPHIA, November 1, 1870. NOTICE TO STOCKHOLDERS. The Board of Directors has this day declared a dividend of FIVE PER CENT. on the Capital Stock of the Company, clear of State tax, payable in cash on the 27th of December next to the holders thereof, as they shall stand registered on the books of the Company at the close of business on the 14th of December. All payable at this office. S. BRADFOUR, 1916 W. Treasurer.

THE LOIRAINNE VEGETABLE CATHARTIC PILL is far the best Cathartic remedy yet discovered. The most complete success has long attended its use. It never fails to accomplish all that is claimed for it. It produces little or no pain; leaves the organs free from irritation, and never overtaxes or excites the nervous system. In all diseases of the skin, blood, stomach, bowels, liver, kidneys of children, and in many difficulties peculiar to women, it brings prompt relief and certain cure. The best physicians recommend and prescribe it, and no one who once uses it will voluntarily return to any other cathartic. It is sold by all dealers in drugs and medicines. T. W. LEE & CO., Proprietors, 104 State St. No. 120 Tremont street, Boston, Mass.

FRENCH BAZAAR FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE VICTIMS OF THE WAR IN FRANCE. TO BE HELD AT CONCERT HALL, from December 14th to December 24th, CHRISTMAS EVE. An appeal is respectfully made to Philadelphia, the State of Pennsylvania, and all other States, to contribute in gifts or money towards our Bazaar in behalf of the Sufferers in France. The ladies in Philadelphia will be particularly invited to contribute in favor of the country of Lafayette and Rochambeau. ADELE PIGOT, President. 12 17

ALDELAIDE MURDOCH'S LECTURE, ACADEMY OF MUSIC, ON MONDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 13, 1870. Subject—WOMAN'S DUTIES INCOMPATIBLE WITH FEMALE SUFFRAGE. Admission, 50 cents. Reserved seats, 75 cts. and \$1. Private Boxes, \$5. Box Street now open and tickets to be obtained at Abel's Dramatic Repository, No. 1911 CHESTNUT Street, and at the Academy of Music. 12 13

GIRARD NATIONAL BANK. PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 10, 1870. The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders for the Election of Directors and for other purposes, will be held at the Banking House, on WEDNESDAY, 11th of January, 1871, at 12 o'clock P. M. The election will be held between the hours of 10 A. M. and 2 P. M. W. L. SCHAEFER, 12 10 Cashier.

CITY NATIONAL BANK. PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 9, 1870. The Annual Election for DIRECTORS will be held at the Banking House, on WEDNESDAY, the 11th of January next, between the hours of 10 o'clock A. M. and 2 o'clock P. M. G. ALBERT LEWIS, Cashier. 12 10

PHILADELPHIA AND READING RAILROAD COMPANY, Office, No. 27 S. FOURTH Street. PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 15, 1870. Notice is hereby given to the Stockholders of this Company that the annual meeting and election for President, six Managers, Treasurer, and Secretary will take place on the second MONDAY (9th) of January next, at 12 M. WM. H. WELLS, Secretary. 12 15

SPECIAL NOTICES.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PHILADELPHIA NATIONAL BANK, in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth, have declared a dividend of TWO AND A HALF PER CENT., payable at their office, No. 222 WALNUT Street, upstairs, on and after TUESDAY, December 20, 1870. L. CHAMBERGAIN, Treasurer. 12 16

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 five hundred thousand dollars. P. JAMES, Cashier. 12 16

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 hundred thousand dollars. P. JAMES, Cashier. 12 16

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 GERMAN TOWN BANKING COMPANY, 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. P. JAMES, Cashier. 12 16

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 SAVINGS AND DEPOSIT BANK OF MANAYUNK, to be located in the Twenty-third ward of Philadelphia, with a capital of fifty thousand dollars, with the right to increase the same to one hundred thousand dollars. T. J. SMITH, 7 16

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 CHESTNUT HILL SAVINGS AND LOAN BANKING COMPANY, to be located at Philadelphia, with a capital of one hundred thousand dollars, with the right to increase the same to two hundred and fifty thousand dollars. T. J. SMITH, 7 16

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 CHESTNUT STREET BANK, to be located at Philadelphia, with a capital of one hundred thousand dollars, with the right to increase the same to two hundred and fifty thousand dollars. T. J. SMITH, 7 16

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 NATIONAL 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. T. J. SMITH, 7 16

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 HON 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. T. J. SMITH, 7 16

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 BRISTOL 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. T. J. SMITH, 7 16

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 GERMANIA 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. T. J. SMITH, 7 16

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 BULL'S HEAD 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. T. J. SMITH, 7 16

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. T. J. SMITH, 7 16

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 JEFFERSON 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. T. J. SMITH, 7 16

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 UNION FIRE EXTINGUISHER COMPANY OF PHILADELPHIA. D. T. GAGE, 5 30 W. General Agent.

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 CHESTNUT HILL SAVINGS AND LOAN BANKING COMPANY, to be located at Philadelphia, with a capital of one hundred thousand dollars, with the right to increase the same to two hundred and fifty thousand dollars. T. J. SMITH, 7 16

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 CHESTNUT STREET BANK, to be located at Philadelphia, with a capital of one hundred thousand dollars, with the right to increase the same to two hundred and fifty thousand dollars. T. J. SMITH, 7 16

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 NATIONAL 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. T. J. SMITH, 7 16

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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 BRISTOL 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. T. J. SMITH, 7 16

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