From the N. Y. Sun.

SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

Editorial Opinions of the Leading Journa's upon Current Topics-Compiled Every Day for the Evening Telegraph

THE NATHAN MURDER.

We have for some time been aware that the well-known lawyer Count Joannes was engaged in minute and patient investigation

of the evidence respecting the murder of Mr. Nathan, for the purpose of detecting the murderers and bringing them to justice. His investigations are not yet complete, and the whole of the proofs be deems necessary to prepare the case for trial are not yet collected. But he has gone far enough to make it, in his judgment, advisable to publish the main pertion of his discoveries; and this he has done in the very interesting letter which appeared in our columns on Saturday.

The main facts stated in that letter are, that in the course of his investigations he became convinced that a certain person, now in the custody of the Commissioners of Charities and Correction, knew who committed the murder; that he approached him upon the subject; and that he finally drew from him an avowal that such was the fact. This man not only knew the murderer, but had actually been concerned with him several months before the murder in obtaining information and preparing plans of the interior of Mr. Nathan's house, in order that they might enter and rob it.

The burglary was not attempted at that time, and the witness was arrested and imprisoned for some other offense. While he was in prison his old associate got access to him, and borrowed from him the suit of the instrument of death.

One fact respecting this iron tool was first revealed by this witness, namely, that it had niently carried. On examination this proves to be so.

After the murder the witness was again visited by the assassin, who admitted to him that he had killed Mr. Nathan, and told him that the last words of the murdered gentleman were, "Harmon, is that you?" supposing it to be one of his sons who had come into his bedroom and wakened him from the slumber into which he had fallen.

Armed with this evidence, and with the various aliases of the assassin, the investigator next seeks to find him. He discovers him by learning of the arrest for larceny of a man bearing one of these aliases. He visits him, and finds that his appearance corresponds to the description that had been given.

The arrested thief is left-handed, like the murderer. Like the murderer, he has had his right hand mutilated, so that it shows but four fingers, the number marked in blood upon the wall of Mr. Nathan's bed-room. Like the murderer, he is cross-eyed. He gives habit of using. His features, carefully sketched, are identified by the witness as those of the murderer. His history, carefully investigated, shows that he is a man to commit such a crime, and corresponds perfeetly with the account given of him by the

No steps have yet been taken to confront the alleged murderer with the witness who disclosed to Count Joannes the fact of his guilt. But that will soon come. A few collateral circumstances are now being explored in order that the chain of evidence may be complete and incontrovertible. Then the accused-now in prison for grand larcenywill be indicted, arraigned, tried, and, if the facts are clear, as they now seem, convicted.

The case, of which we have here given the main features only, seems to us to be a very strong one. In this opinion we may prove to be mistaken: but it certainly is one of the most remarkable and interesting concatenations of circumstances and suggestions that we have ever examined. At any rate the conclusion of the affair, and let us hope the decision of justice, cannot now be much longer delayed.

KILLING KINDNESS.

From the N. Y. Tribune. In at least half the houses that were yesterday thrown open to visitors, every guest was asked and hospitably urged to drink wine. Unless he possessed sufficient strength of character to refuse with an almost churlish rigidity, he was taken home at night with his mind in an eclipse that will leave him for the time nothing but the brute's instincts and powers os suffering. A is a simple sum in addition. If a young man with ordinary masculine strength and consequent weakness is confronted by fifty merry challenges from fifty smiling mouths, and defied to be wise by a half-hundred glances from the brightest of eyes, he will be wofully apt to abdicate his reason for the day. The first half-dozen invitations are accepted with the intention of stopping there, and the power of resistance is weakened with every concession. If the day could be reversed, and the callers of the evening be exhibited in the morning, every

door would be closed at noon, and the cus-

tom be at once abolished.

All women are instinctively opposed to intemperance, for it is upon them that the curse falls heaviest. It is not the drunkard, steeped in the stupefying fumes of his poison, but his wife and children, that suffer mostthe innocent for the guilty. And let not our fair readers shrug their white shoulders at this suggestion, as if they were above the contingency of such wretchedness. There is no station in life free from the misery and the madness that begin with reasonable drinking. Among the 7000 patients that have carried their disease and their despair of their own efforts to Binghamton, there were 30 clergymen, 8 judges, 197 lawyers, 226 physicians, 340 merchants, and 240 gentlemen-a word of derision and warning. There are sleeping in the constitutions of many young men of correct lives the hereditary germs of this destroying passion, which, with proper associations and firm principles, would lie dormant forever. But who can tell in how manys cases these germs have been waked into fierce and imperious activity by a day's indulgence induced by the voice and the eyes of a kindly and fascinating woman, who never dreamed what serpents from the nethermost pit she

was warming into life? If the honest and heedless women who received company yesterday could look below the surface of things one instant, and see what social drinking leads to every hour, the young gallants whom thirst forments in their promenade would certainly have to carry their whisky in their carriages. To many women the word drunkenness conveys nothing but the idea of young men a little confused in metaphor, a little uncertain as to the position of the door, a little vague as to smite, a little uncertain as to the axis of vision-something to laugh at and pardon-something that gives

to masculine folly. But if they could see that | it meant yesterday, in every county in all this land, the hunger and nakedness of children, the shrick of the trampled wife, the red knife of murder, the infamy of nameless crimes, and once every week or so the ghastly horrors of parricide and child-slaying, that curdle the blood of the decent world, they would surely shrink from the awful responsibility of offering their friends what is at best useless and burdensome, and at worst per-

The so-called hospitality of New Year's Day is becoming an evident abuse. The casto n has passed in Europe into a formal interchange of cards. There is much that is pleasant and cordial in the American habit, but if its abuses cannot be reformed the alternative will be taken to "reform it altogether."

THE PACIFIC RAHLROADS AND THE GOVERNMENT.

From the N. Y. Times. Mr. Boutwell's vigilant guardianship of the Treasury has brought to light one purpose of the Pacific Railroad Companies, which, though often suspected, has not been till now avowed. The conduct of the Government towards these companies has been marked by profuse liberality. It aided them with land grants in extent exceeding minor principalities of Europe, and with bonds amounting in the aggregate to more than sixty-four millions of dollars. The lands given, properly managed, should realize more than the cost of the roads. The bonds are an advance, repayable by the companies at the end of thirty years from their date—the Government being responsible to the holders for the principal when due, and for the interest as it accrues. The liberality of the Government did not end here. Originally, its bonds constituted a first mortgage upon the roads, their equipment and lands, but subsequently the companies were allowed clothes in which the crime was committed to issue other bonds, constituting a first lien, and the iron dog or "rung" which served as and reducing the claim of the Government to the grade of a second mortgage. More munfficent assistance was never rendered to any enterprise; and the least the companies been cut off so that it could be more conve- can do in return is to promptly repay the interest paid by the Government in their behalf.

Instead of fulfilling obligations thus incurred, the companies are devising methods of evading them. The interest paid on the bonds has to this time amounted to \$8,815,-345-49. The sum repaid in the transportation of troops, Government freight, and mails, is \$2,417,493-95. The amount due the Government on the interest account is, therefore, not less than \$6,397,851.54, and every halfyear increases the figures. Are we to infer, then, that the Pacific Railroad Companies are not able to meet their obligations? Are their roads so unproductive that the tax-payers must semi-annually contribute the interest on sixty-four millions to avert from the companies financial discredit? Nothing of the kind. The companies themselves do not plead poverty—they publicly advertise their abundant prosperity. They have simply chosen not to pay the Treasury what they owe it. For a time they took no notice of several aliases which the murderer was in the applications for payment—they even claimed an amount as due for services rendered to the Government. Mr. Boutwell, however, has not only firmly refused to allow the Treasury to be further victimized, but has insisted upon bringing the matter to an issue by referring to the Attorney-General the question of liability. Compelled to define their position, the companies have thrown off disguise and set up a plea of non-liability for interest except to the extent of one-half the sums earned by transporting troops or mails in the service of the Government. And lawyers of repute furnish an ingenious but a far-fetched and, in the main, technical argument in support of the plea. It is a case of hair-splitting to enable the companies to throw on the tax-payers a burden which, in the judgment of the public, belongs to the roads. The opinion of the Attorney-General sustains Mr. Boutwell, declares the companies liable for the interest as it becomes due, and suggests means for protecting the Government from the flagrant wrong contemplated by the companies.

There is no disposition, we believe, to look grudgingly upon the munificence with which the Government hastened the construction of the Pacific road and its branches. The work required encouragement, and the country rendered it without stint. The liberality which gave success and prosperity to the companies interested should have called forth some better return than an attempt to evade an obligation concerning which no doubt has heretofore existed in the public mind. What holes a lawyer's eye may detect in the legislation upon the subject is a matter of small moment. The equity is clear, and according to the Attorney-General so is the law, The understanding has always been that an advance of upward of sixty-four millions in money, in addition to a vast territory and most valuable privileges, formed the measure of the succor afforded by the Government. It was enough that the Government loaned its credit for the principal, and made itself responsible for the interest so long as the companies were unable to meet it. That stage is passed. The companies boast of large earnings in excess of current expenses. They are, on their own showing, able to repay the interest that has been paid on the bonds issued by the Govern-

ment for their benefit. Unless the Government can enforce its claim for repayment, the effect will be to swell the Treasury advances, in thirty years, to an amount far exceeding the value of the roads. Assume that the Government must go on paying the interest for that period: the amount which the companies will at its expiration owe will be, as Mr. Akerman says, "rearly treble the principal of the bonds."
While the indebtedness of the companies continues thus to increase, their assets become less. Every acre of land they sell lessens the security of the Government for the eventual payment of its debt. This consideration alone would seem to be conclusive. There has been gross recklessness in the railroad legislation of Congress, but we are not prepared to believe that those who furnished princely aid to the Pacific companies ever contemplated a contingency like this.

With the Attorney-General and the equities of the case on his side, we trust that Mr. Boutwell, or a committee of Congress, will institute an investigation which shall reveal the actual cost of the roads, and the financial transactions connected with their construction and management. The law, as it stands, is declared sufficient for the protection of the Government interests-which, in this matter. are the interests of the tax payers. But the controversy having been opened, the country is entitled to know the extent and value of the security which it holds for the repayment of a debt incurred for the benefit of the Pacifis

companies. GRANT'S CONCEIT.

From the N. Y. World. As we write there lies before us the Evening Post, which accounts for the San Domingo them a sort of pleasant feeling of superiority folly upon the bypothesis that Grant "is a

simple-minded soldier, somewhat too easily influenced by the astute politicians who have undertaken to manage him."

Nothing is further from the truth than this theory of his character, and nothing is more offensive to him than such publications respecting it. That he is largely influenced by unsound and utterly untrustworthy persons we do not doubt. But he is very far, in his own estimation, from being the simpleminded, unreflecting, slow-witted victim he is represented to be. On the contrary, he fancies he is the controlling spirit which fabricates great measures of public policy out of the crude suggestions of others. The incense offered to him on the surrender of the armies of the Rebellion, and the adulation thereupon of politicians seeking only their own selfish interests, were too much for the uneducated but quite practical sense which, up to that time, had in army matters been his

The effect of these two influences, acting with terrible intensity, would have been less anywhere outside of Washington, which was his headquarters when the war was over. The atmosphere of our Federal Capitol contributed greatly to hasten the culmination and crisis of the distemper which threw his mind out of bias. It is to something akin to this that the extraordinary spectacle of welcoming every possible form of gift which could be made to him is referable. Coming for the first time into a cendition of social life in the great cities quite new to him, he betook himself to the idea that with fine horses, furniture, a library, and objects of art he could become in all respects like those born or bred to such things. So it was when President-elect. He neither sought nor heeded the advice of those who had, in this country, traversed the ways of public life. He cared for none of them. He spurned the ordinary means of acquiring administrative knowledge. Thinking he knew all, be was in fact a conceited pretender in

public business. Hence his first Cabinet. Hence his selection of Mr., Stewart, whom the law excluded. Hence the announcement in his inaugural address of what he thought great primal truths of administration, but which he now practically spits upon every day. Of this character was what he said about rigid execution of bad laws, and having no policy against a real or constitutional majority of either branch of Congress. As without any requisite study or learning he got along in command of the army without being found out, so he thinks he can with like success discharge any civil function whatever. And, by the way, it is a new and interesting field of inquiry what class of qualities, mental and physical, made suc-cessful generals in our civil war, and why men conspicuous in civil affairs, like Butler, Banks, Schenck, Schurz, and a hundred others, [failed therein. Grant would, without a moment's hesitation, undertake to-morrow, if necessary, to discharge the duties of Attorney-General or Secretary of State. He knows by intuition what another learns only by experience and observation. His talent supplies the lack of labor, reading, study, and all else. The office of Lord Chancellor of Great Britain, or even Pope of Rome, would not embarrass him. Doubtless he would undertake to give six lessons on a trombone before breakfast rather than admit his inability to extract music from that melodious instrument. His apparent indifference as to what persons are members of his Cabinet, or how long they remain therein, is referable to the same cause. In the matter of San Domingo, Canada, and all foreign questions, his action illustrates what we are saying. He prides himself, for example, on having once been a Democrat. do a great many of the dominant party in Washington. That is their chief claim to glory; and they think a great thing is done when they select a man for office who once voted for Democratic candidates. Grant has most of the vices and none of the virtues of the Democracy. As years ago there was a "Young America" faction in that organization, of the George Saunders type, who would delude the people by cries for indiscriminate annexation of every outlying place, so now Grant really thinks that cry constituted the basis of the success of Jefferson, Jackson, and all the Democratic administrations, and will uphold his. He vainly fancies that he can win to his support Americans of Irish birth by high bullying talk against England. And the joke is that he thinks his foreign policy is a master stroke of political fore-

LOOKING GLASSES, ETO.

FOR

thought. Instead of being a puppet of

Butler, his uonceit never permits him to

doubt that the Massachusetts "irrepressible"

is in his hands as clay in the fiagers of the

potter!

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No bids will be considered unless accompanied by a certificate from the City Solicitor that the provisions of an ordinance, approved May 25. 1860, have been complied with. The contract will be awarded only to known

master builders. By order of the Committee on Property.

H. W. HALLIWELL, Secretary.

PROPOSALS FOR PUBLIC PRINTING AND BINDING.

Notice is hereby given that Sealed Proposals for the Public Printing and Binding for the State of Pennsylvania, for the term of three years from the first day of July, 1871, will be received by the Speakers of the Senate and House of Hepresentatives from this date to the fourth Tuesday of January, 1871, in compliance with the act of Assembly entitled "An act in relation to Public Printing," approved 9th of April, 1856; said proposals to be accompanied bonds, with approved securities, for the faithful performance of the work, as required by the net of 25th February, 1862, entitled "A further Supplement to an Ac. in relation to Public Printing," approved the 9th day of April, 1856.

Secretary of the Commonwealth HARRISBURO, Jan. 2, 1871.

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Losses Paid since organization \$23,000,000

Receipts of Premiums, 69, \$1,991,837'45 Interest from Invest-

ments, 1869...... 114,696'74 \$2,106,534'19

Losses paid, 1869............\$1,035,386'84 OWATTH OF THE AGGREG

STATEMENT OF THE ASS	ETS.
First Mortgages on City Property United States Government and other	\$766,450
Loan Bonds,	1,122,846
Railroad, Bank, and Canal Stocks	55,708
Cash in Bank and Office	247,620
Loans on Collateral Security	32,558
Notes Receivable, mostly Marine Premiums. Accrued Interest.	821,944 20,857
Premiums in course of transmission	85,128
Unsettled Marine Premiums	100,900
delphia	30,000
Total Assets Jan. 1, 1870 82	.783,581

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United States Government and other Loan
Bonds.
Railroad, Bank and Canal Stocks.
247 690 Cash in Bank and Office
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Notes Receivable, mostly Marine Premiums 247,620 Accrued Interest.
Premiums in course of transmission..... 20,357 85,198 Unsettled Marine Premiums.
Real Estate, Office of Company, Philadel-

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City of Limerick, via Halifax, Tuesday, Jan. 10, at

1 P. M.
City of Washington, Saturday, Jan. 14, at 12 noon.
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