THE DAILY EVENING TELEGRAPH—PHILADELPHIA, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 1871.

SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

CONFIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE RE-SPECTING SAN DOMINGO.

From the N. Y. World, The story of the career of Spain in San De-

mingo is quickly told. On the 19th of May, 1861, some months before the signing of the tripartite convention relative to Mexico, a royal decree appeared in Madrid, dated from Aranjuez, in the following terms .- "The territory which constituted the Dominican republic is and remains reincorporated with the kingdom.

Columbus, at the period of the first discovery of the New World, gave to Spain the island which he called Hispaniola. The treaty of Ryswick, in 1697, allotted to France that part of the island called San Domingo, while the other part remained Spanish. The treaty of Basle, in 1795, ceded to the French republic the entire island. The treaties of 1814 and 1815 returned to Spain that portion she had lost, and the ancient French portion became independent under the name of the republic of Hayti. In 1822 the Spanish colony of San Domingo, following the emancipation movement of South America and the example of the neighboring continent, proclaimed its independence.

After having been annexed for twenty-two years to the other portion of the island, the Spanish portion declared its independence in 1844, which it maintained until the day General Santana, in 1861, restored it to the authority of Spain, which power was not destined to enjoy the acquisition for a long time, for Spain, by decree of May 5, 1865, renounced its claim to the possession of the reincorporated territory.

The confidential correspondence-confidential in the sense that Mr. Seward informed our Minister in Madrid that the views of this Government were communicated to the latter "confidentially"-which we gave yesterday from the archives of the Department of State throws valuable light on the circumstances under which Spain retired from her possession and armed occupancy of San Domingo. Impartial persons can judge for themselves whether her retirement was aided or brought about by what she could well enough have deemed the pledges of the United States conveyed by Mr. Seward to Madrid in respect to the future course of this country towards those whom the Nation newspaper so persistently styles "Spanish Catholic negroes.

It is very edifying for us Democrats to read, as the secrets of Republican diplomacy are uncovered from time to time, how previous Democratic administrations were denounced to foreign nations from the Department of State, or under its inspiration, as the impersonation of political baldness. Such was the cue taken by Mr. Seward with Great Britain when, in what he thought a temporary exigency, he endeavored to persuade Earl Russell to accept the United States as a codeclarant to the abolishment of privateering, nuno pro tune, under the Paris arrangement of 1856; and even Mr. Adams so far lent himself to the hypocritical cant as to call the Seward regime a "reformed government" in comparison, of course, with that of Cass, Marcy, and Everett, his predecessors in office. Oddly enough, in the correspondence now before us Republican diplomatic agents denounce Democratic efforts to make an honorable and useful acquisition of certain West India islands as the vile work of persons like Jefferson Davis and Pierre Soule. Use is made of the names of these two gentlemen by way of conveying the opinion entertained then of upright schemes of foreign acquisition property in the neighborhood of the Caribbean Sea. Then it was a vile Ostend policy in which such as Pierce, Marcy, Buchanan, John Y. Mason, and Soule, representing the Democratic party, were occupied. No one ever ventured the suggestion that there was any touch or taint of pecuniary gain or that there were greedy camp-followers in these efforts. Mr. Everett's admirable reply of December 1, 1852, immediately after the election of President Pierce, in answer to the British and French propositions that this Government join in tripartite convention to guarantee abstinence from efforts to obtain possession of Cuba, was made after its distinguished author had ascertained the views of the incoming President in the matter, and was intended to express Democratic opinion as well as the convictions of President Fillmore. But it is a long step from that note to Count Sartiges to a state-ment that its anthor would, if now on earth, sanction the pending scheme of Baez-Grant If the authors of the plan now before Congress were really endeavoring to throw light on the probable^s future of San Domingo under our rule, they would obtain and publish anthentic accounts of Spanish experience there from 1861 to 1865. Spain is not a nation given to easy surrender. She holds on as long as hope can exist, and sometimes even beyond hope. A true Castilian rarely abandons his ground in the face of undue menace. Spain was, in effect, invited to San Domingo and spent there large amounts of money in the improvement of the country by building roads and public buildings such as Spain constructs wherever she is in possession. But despite all this, Spanish officers and troops were actually poisoned and assassinated till the troops were withdrawn. Dominicans may prefer the rule of another foreigner-to wit, ourselves-but this country wishes proof on the point.

question at issue. It has declared the alleged frauds in the Methodist overv that Book Concern "have not only not been proved, but they have not been made de-cently probable." Yet in the first report of the committee which inquired into the alleged frauds (November, 1869), the third resolution ran as follows:-"That the investigation of the bindery has satisfied the Committee that there had been a great mismanagement in this department, and that serious losses have occurred therein." Dr.

Curry now denies all this-for reasons which may, perhaps, appear if the approaching investigation is full and thorough, and not a "hole-and-corner" affair, designed to conceal the "mismanagement" referred to in the above resolution of the committee. The Christian Advocate itself, which now unblushingly denies the existence of any wrongdoing, said last November:-"The whole Church owes a large debt of gratitude to the members of the Book Committee for their laborious, diligent, and patient investigations of the whole affair."

We need not expect to get at the truth on this subject from the Christian Advocatewhich, by the by, very naturally came the other day to the defense of Messrs. Astor, Taylor, Roberts & Co., whitewashers by wholesale and retail. So many jobs in that line have had to be done of late to the Methodist Book Concern, that the Christian Advocate has that "fellow feeling" which "makes us wondrous kind" towards the great professors of the art. What we demand now, in behalf of thousands of Methodists, is a fair and impartial investigation. The attempt is to be made to burke Dr. Lanahan, and if it succeeds, it will be one of the greatest scan-dals ever brought upon the Methodist Church. The swagger of the Christian Advocate cannot be allowed to blind the public to the true facts of the case. The editor of that journal would probably like to have the whole question settled in Room No. 13, under the direction of Judge Cardozo. But that style of "hushing up" unpleasant business is not yet universal, and if Dr. Lanahan is to be hounded down for doing his duty as an honest man and a Christian gentleman, it will have to be done in the face of day, and with the full light of public opinion turned upon the transaction

A DANIEL COME TO JUDGMENT. From the N. Y. Sun.

King William's recent address to the German armies indicates that he has no hope of a speedy termination of the war. In admitting that his object is still unattained, he indirectly pays a compliment to the French, whose prowess prevents him from attaining it. He says explicitly that "Important task remain to be performed before we shall achieve a lasting peace, and it would be cen-

surable to make any peace which involves the continuation of the duties which brought you here." This is the most ominous declaration he has made since the outbreak of the war. It obviously refers to the well-known determination of France never to submit to the encroachments of the invader, and to the settled purpose of Germany to weaken France to such an extent as to render her harmless to her neighbors for generations to come.

It will be perceived that the pretensions of the Prussian monarch increase in proportion to the duration of the conflict. In the beginning he declared that he was making war not upon France but upon Napoleon; but after the fall of the empire he declined to make peace, upon the ground that the republic did not represent the lawful Government of France. Now that the republic represents France, he cannot any longer draw an invidious distinction between the Government and the nation, and ought therefore to throw off the mask, and proclaim to the world that he will not make peace until the atter annihilation of France shall offer a guarantee to Germany against her future resentments and renewal of the strife. The practical drift of this policy means the conquest of all France; for the heroic resistance of the French shows that neither the fall of Paris nor any other reverse will dispose them more favorably to the encroachments of Germany. The language of the King intimates that, as the French may be expected to renew the war at the first opportunity, Germany will consent to no uncertain peace, but will secure it only by destroying France as a military and political power so completely and irretrievably as to make it physically impossible for her ever to threaten again the integrity of German soil, or to lift a finger against German aggression. King William's New Year's address declares not only war, but death against a whole nation, and a nation endeared to humanity by its glorious history and its generous enthusiasm for liberty and civilization. The grim Ger-man potentate actually puts on the black cap of the criminal judge, and admonishes France that as she has sinned against Germany she is to be strangled until she is dead. Not even in the darkest ages of history has there been an instance of such remorseless yengeance. We are glad to believe that the menace will prove utterly vain.

national establishment where the soldiers of the future are supposed to learn the soldierly virtues of strict obedience, subordination, respect for authority, we are apprehensive that there must be some lack of discipline in the administration of the pest, and a danger-ous spirit among the pupils. A formal court of inquiry is not likely to reach the root of this evil.

DOWNFALL OF RADICALISM. From the Harrisburg Patriot.

It has been said that the destruction of every political party begins by the more violent driving the more moderate into union with their opponents. The history of the Republican party is affording yet another illustration of the truth of this remark. While the Jacobins in France threw the moderate Republicans into the party of reaction, the happy effect of the overthrow of radicalism in this country will be the bringing into power of the party of the Constitution. The very measures which the violent radicals in Congress and the Cabinet have taken to perpetuate their power are those which are now hastening their downfall.

One year after the close of the war the Republican party could boast of a considerable and influential following in the Southern States. The people, sickened with carnage, were anxious to return to peaceful relations with their Northern neighbors. In that Southern Republican Convention which met in Philadelphia in 1866 were many prominent citizens of the South. They had heartily attached themselves to the Republican party in the sineere belief that to that organization alone must they look for the restoration of their political rights in the Union. But where now are these Southern Republicans? They have been driven into the Democratic party by violence. So great has been the revulsion that the radical leaders cannot now without difficulty count on their fingers ten prominent Southern men, natives and to the manor born, who are in affiliation with them to-day.

Not all the allurements of place and power could tempt them to desert the cause of their oppressed neighbors. Of all that host who were the guests of the Broad Street League in 1866, scarcely any are now found in the Republican party. Georgia has been recon-structed, and reconstructed yet again and again, and each time returns with a heavier Democratic majority, each time reinforced by acquisitions from the Republicans who have been driven away by violence. Mode-rate, conservative Georgia furnishes a proof of the folly of attempting topin a Republican State to the earth with bayonets.

When the intention was declared of testing me of the despotic reconstruction acts in

Supreme Court, the radicals, in fear of that tribunal, composed of a majority of moderate Republicans, at once menaced its authority and its very existence. This assault on a co-ordinate branch of the Government only alarmed the more moderate Republicans, and threw them into opposition. At the head of this new revolt stands the venerable Chief Justice Chase, one of the founders of the party, and one who contributed as much to its prestige and success as any man in the country. He and thousands of his more moderate friends were forced by the violent radicals into union with their opponents, and since they have got in, they seem to have taken a great liking to their

company. What but the greed and selfishness of the monopolists of the East has driven tens of

gel, Carlyle, Macaulay, Sainte-Beuve, and Matthew Arnold, who are "nothing if not critical," but who at the same time have shown that critical sagacity may rank among the finest expressions of original genius. It would be ridicalous to suppose that either of the men we have named is not a greater literary power than Mr. Disraeli.

But, admitting the fact of "failure," we do not see the force of Mr. Disraeli's sarcasm. The objection to most critics is that they have not practically handled the matters they judge. They know nothing of the technical difficulties which the artist has to overcome. Thackersy failed as a painter; but as a critic of pictures he was, within the scope of his sympathies, an admirable judge. Sainte-Beuve may be said to have failed as a poet and a novelist; but as the most delicate, genial, tolerant, and appreciative critic of poems and novels, nobody now questions his alility or integrity. The objection to unsuccessful romancers, poets, painters, scalptors, and musical composers, considered as critics, cannot be that they are not intellectually prepared for their business; but that failure has so embittered their minds that their judgments will necessarily be the judgments of envy and mallce.

As far as ill success in any special pursuit utterly corrupts the moral nature of a man, and turns him into a moral assassin, this objection is valid; but it is notorious that the highest reverence for genius and the subtlest perception of its felicities of execution are often seen in persons who, originally mistaking aspiration for inspiration, have at last subsided into intelligent and genial interpreters of works they could not hope te rival as creators. In Germany and France such persons are more common than in England and the United States; but both in England and the United States they are more common than is supposed. They are often overlooked, misunderstood, or decried, simply because they have an artistic horror of the perversion of artistic genius to the production of mere sensational effects. Knowing, as they do, how cheap and vulgar are the contrivances by which great artists can astonish the crowd into unintelligent admiration of mere tours de force, they have no hesitation in assailing eminent singers and composers when they cheapen and vulgarize art in order to make money. They are denounced as being jealous of superior reputations, when they are really jealous only of the cause of art itself, compromised by the greed of its most prominent exponents. They are sufficiently acquainted with the technicalities of the special art in which they have "failed" to know that the persons who have succeeded frequently condescend to tricks which they as critics both understand and despise. They do not deny the genius of the artist: they simply stigmatize that perversion of his gifts by which he consents to sacrifice art in order to get more notoriety and

money for himself. What specially enrages this class of cri-tics is that England and the United States are relatively deficient in artistic perception, and are, at the same time, the two countries in which artists, descending to the level of Californian gold-seekers, hope "to make their pile." Art is therefore apt to be vulgarized in the two nations where art can, as far as money is concerned, be best remunerated. Jenny Lind was undoubtedly a great singer; but when she inconsiderately sold herself to Barnum she vulgarized musical genius. No man or woman who had "failed" in getting prominence as a singer was guilty of the charge of being envious, jealous, and malignant in denouncing her triumphal progress through the United States, as a triumph of humbug, pure and undefiled. Barnum gloried in making merchandise out of her very virtues. In every ten-dollar ticket he sold, he made the purchaser understand that only four dollars were charged for the wonderful voice; the remaining six dollars were cynically exacted for her sweetness and goodness of character. As long as any art, whether it be the art by which Mr. Disraeli constructed "Lothair." or the art by which speculators in musical reputations puff the celebrities they have in charge, we trust the "failures" in literature and music will prosecute their useful business of criticism. A few of them may be prompted by malignant feelings; but it is easy to cast them scornfully aside as not be-longing to the critical but the criminal classes. The remainder, whom we fully believe to constitute nine-tenths of the general body, will, we hope, uphold the grand leading principles of art against charlatanism in every form, especially in that form in which it is most pernicious; the form, namely, it assumes when genius lends itself to "the ways that are dark, and the tricks that are vain" of business speculation.

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PROPOSALS.

DROPOSALS 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 by bonds, with approved securities, for the faith-ful performance of the wonk, as required by the act of 25th February, 1862, entitled "A further Supplement to an Act in relation to Public

Printing," approved the 9th day of April, 1856. Secretary of the Commonwealth HARRISBURG, Jan. 2, 1871. 1218 1 2 18t NAVY PAYMASTER'S OFFICE, No. 427 CHESNUT Street. PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 6, 1871. Scaled Proposals, endorsed "Proposals, Construction and Repairs," will be received at this office until 1 P. M. MONDAY, the sixteenth day of January, 1871, for the following supplies, which must be of the very best quality, to be delivered at the Philadelphia Navy Yard, free of charge, subject to the usual conditions of inspection, approval, etc., viz.:-One (1) Planer, to plane 30 inches wide by 30 inches high and eight feet long, to be put up in complete running order, with shafting, belting, pulleys, etc. One (1) twelve (12) inch Shaping Maching, to be put up, etc., as above. One (1) Lathe, to swing 22 inches over V

THE MUZZLE FOR A PLAIN SPEAKER. From the N. Y. Times.

Certain gentlemen have preferred charges against Rev. Dr. Lanahan, assistant agent of the Methodist Book Concern, alleging that he has made false statements in regard to losses and frauds in that establishment (thereby causing great damage to the Con-cern and scandal to the Church), and praying that he may be suspended, tried, and, if found guilty, deposed from office. Dr. Lanahan maintains on his part that his statements as above are true, and that he is prepared to prove them. The trial is to take place on the 12th of January, at No. 805 Broadway. The Book Committee, and also the Bishops who are to be convened to try the case, owe it to themselves and to the Church that the investigation shall be thorough, complete, and open to the public, and no opportunity should be given to the Book Committee to cover up or to exclude any testimony that would show fraud or mismanagement. The property of the Concern belongs to the travelling preachers of the Northern States, and they have a right to know if it has been tampered with, and, if so, to what extent. What the Church requires is light, not darkness and whitewash. The Christian Advocate, of this city, has an ordinary school, we should think them reali announces can be easily overturned by done its best to misrepresent and confuse bad enough; but when they occur at the citing such familiar names as Lessing, Schle-Line com

KU-KLUX AT WEST POINT. From the N. Y. Pribune.

When the court at the United States Military Academy has discovered whether Cadet Anderson trod on Cadet Smith's toes, we beg that an inquiry may be made into the extraordinary story of the banishment of three young men by their comrades for an offense of which the authorities of the post had already taken notice. The quarrels between the colored lad Smith and the mettlesome young warriors who are leading the "d-d nigger" such a pleasant life are doubtless important in their bearing upon the condition of the Academy, though not of momentous consequence to the world at large; but the outrage charged upon the members of the first-class deserves more particular attention, and calls for a rigid investigation. Three members of the fourth class, it seems, had committed the offense of drinking whisky, and to save them from expulsion their classmates volunteered to take a pledge of abstinence during their whole course at the Academy. This was a common practice at West Point-and a very good one too-but it did not please the young gentlemen of the gradu-ating class that it should be applied to the present case, and they accordingly took the law into their own hands. In the dead of night they dragged the offenders from their quarters, made them dress in their suits of citizens' clothes, and marched them to old Fort Putnam, where the three lads were left, and warned never to return to West Point,

under penalty of a coat of tar and feathers. The class consists of forty-three members, and all but ten took part in the outrage. Thus there appears to be at West Point a sort of Vehnic court, which assumes the privilege of overruling the appointed autho-rities, and executing its decrees by midnight terrorism and violence, as the free judges of Westphalia punished the visitims of their secret tribunals by the knife and cord of the sworn assassin. If such things happened at

thousands of Western Republicans into opposition? Not content with what they had already acquired from a partial national legislature, they rushed on rapaciously, session after session, increasing the taxes on the necessaries of life, under the shabby pretext of protecting American industry, until they provoked a hostility which threatens them with the loss of as many States in the West as their despotic reconstruction acts have cost them in the South. Moderate political associates who lazily voted for protective tariff acts, without being convinced, have been compelled to examine the question, and in doing so have been converted into advocates of free trade.

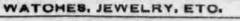
The insolent majority which for years could pass almost any tariff act under a suspension of the rules without permitting discussion, will find themselves turned into a minority in the Forty-second Congress. So much for radical violence in another direction.

The fraudful processes by which the ultra radicals secured the adoption of the15th amendment has caused another revolt of the mode-rate Republicans. Although they acquired the votes of many thousands of negroes, the desperate means to which they resorted in forcing through their measure lost them far more than they gained. The violence done to the Constitution of Indiana is revenged by the people of that State in the election of a Democratic Legislature. In Pennsylvania there is a Democratic Senate in defiance of gerrymander.

Congress in passing the laws authorizing the interference of the military in elections is producing yet another schism which threatens more disaster to radicalism than any other cause. Grant's obstinate resolve to consummate the corrupt bargain for San Domingo, and the support which he receives from Butler, Morton, and other dangerous men of the party, have produced a violent rupture, and the bitter quarrel with Sumner and his friends is but a symptom of the fatal disease which has seized hold of radicalism. What Butler's malignant amnesty, with which is worse than no amnesty at all, and the threat of more reconstruction, accompanied by another military invasion of the South, the great Republican party is fast sinking into a violent and vindictive faction in Congress, with a stubborn military chieftain, possessing no political experience, at the head of the Government. In pushing on from one excess to another in the hope of recovering lost ground, the radical leaders but illustrate the history of other violent parties that have preceded them. They are but pursuing their destiny. These modern Jacobins will rush on until they, too, find their Ninth Thermidor.

FAILURES IN ART CONSIDERED AS AUTHORITIES IN CRITICISM. From Every Saturday.

Mr. Disraeli, in his novel of "Lothair," started anew an old discussion, by his supercilious fleer at critics as a set of fellows who had failed, as producers, in the departments of literary and artistic effort they wished to dominate as judges. The exasperation caused by this insolent fling was intensified by the fact that even the poorest critic feels that Mr. Disraeli, in literature as in politics, is simply the eleverest of charlatans; that, with all his talent, he is profoundly insincere; that his object in life has been not to obtain fame, or even reputation, but notoriety; and that he thinks notoriety can be more surely obtained by being denounced as a corcomb in letters and a trickster in pelitics than by being puffed as a careful artist and honest statesman. The general principle that Mr. Dis-racli announces can be easily overturned by





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