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SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

HOW LONG WILL PROTESTANTS ENDURE?

From the N. Y. Times.

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There is a steady and insensible change going on in this State in the seat of political power, which involves most important consequences and which our readers ought to carefully weigh. The population of this city and the surrounding counties, owing to immigration and the prolific power of a laboring class, is increasing at an enormous rate. The interior and agricultural counties are growing in a much less rapid degree. It is true that in the last decade our metropolis has greatly fallen off in growth, compared to the previous; but this has arisen mainly from the fact that the middle classes are transferring themselves to the adjacent counties. The increase of Westchester and Kincs is still immense, as compared with that of St. Lawrence and Oneida. It is also the lowest laboring classes which increase the most rapidly, as is the experience everywhere in the civilized world. Our political power follows population, and the result is that the governing power of this portion of the State, and in consequence the whole State, is fast centring itself in the ranks of the lowest and most ignorant class of the whole community-the Irish Catholic laborers and tenement-house population of New York and its vicinity, led by shrewd na-tive demagogues. Each year gives this class a greater numerical value. They work together as a compact battalion under able and audacious leaders. They control in the city administration enormous sums of money. Where they are deficient in votes, they can create them. The timid or the ambitious Americans who have, belonged to the same party organization, have not nerve or principle enough to separate themselves from these useful associates, whom socially they despise.

Thus it happens that this accumulation of ignorant voters in one corner of the State controls more and more every year the interior counties. Were it left to itself it could de little, as even the plundering of the city treasury would soon be checked by the honest yeomanry of the rural districts. But this mass of voters here is in affiliation with a large party in the country, the majority of whom are directly opposed to them in all their ideas and habits. Party links, and the hopes of emolument and office, bind the two opposing wings together, and the Democratic party of New York State is simply the tool of the Irish Catholic laborers and their demagogues in this city.

The course the latter have marked out for themselves is simple and clear. They had first to get absolute possession of the Government and income of this wealthy capital. This they have done. Next, they aimed at founding the Roman Catholic Church, so that it could not be easily shaken. This they have nearly accomplished by State and city grants of land and moneys. The amounts which the various Romanist churches have received, either from the Common Council or the Legislature, during the past few years, would be incredible, were we not so hardened to such appropriations.

Their next blow was aimed at the free schools, in carrying through the appropria-tion for "sectarian schools." Though but partially effective, this blow will be repeated there was scarcely anything left in this par- [ticular case but the abuses. We tried the system of subsidios in the

famous Collins line of transatlantic steamers, and what came of it? We took millions from the Treasury and threw them into the sea. and the steamship line followed the millions. Everything went to the bottom together. Nobody was benefited a dollar from the beginning to the end of the wasteful, prodigal scheme. The reason exists in the inherent vice of the system. Men are encouraged to embark in an enterprise under the pleasing illusion that its profits shall go into their own pockets, and its losses shall be paid from the freasury. This expectation naturally entails waste, extravagance, peculation, and prodigality. It is an artificial and corrupt system, and we want none of it. It is corrupting to the public morals, and it answers no good purpose either in its public or private aspects. The true friends of the maritime interests of the country repudiate the policy. It is not what is wanted to revive our great navigation industry. On the con-trary, it tends to depress it still further by creating a fostered and privileged class. There can be no fair competition against a subsidized line of ships. The men who have no bounties can be no match for those who have them. When the subsidized lines end, there will end the development of the business pursued. Is this the way to encourage an industry that to be anything must be national?

What the country wants is to be allowed to build ships free from the oppression of an outrageous taxation. To resume our former prominence as a maritime power, we need nothing but to have our ship-building industry put upon the same footing with that of the same industry in Great Britain. Is this an extravagant demand? On the centrary, is it not a request most natural and most reasonable? And is not a refusal by Congress to grant it one of the most absurd and short-sighted acts of a Government pretending to wisdom and statesmanship that can be conceived of ?

We cannot be a naval power unless we develop our mercantile marine. We must create the classes on which all real naval power rests, namely, mariners and shipbuilders. These classes we have, but they are kept down and are daily growing weaker, not because they have not Government aid, but because Government unnaturally oppresses them and prevents their growth and expansion. They only ask to be let alone. They do not demand to be placed among the favored classes. They ask only to be put on the same footing with the same classes in Britain, four great and now overshadowing rival on the ocean. Congress seems unwilling to yield even this much of simple justice; but, instead, it wastes its time and attention over absurd projects of endowing monopolies of steamship lines, which, if once well under way, will strip the Treasury annually of untold millions, only to end in a grand flasco at last. Meantime, the real maritime interests of the nation will go on in an accelerated decline.

Gentlemen of Congress! abandon your preposterous schemes for depleting the Trea-sury, and give to the navigation interests of the country a fair field and free play for their energy and resources. They want none of your money and none of your patronage. The American mariner and ship-builder only ask to have their raw materials free of duty. and they will soon find a way to restore our lost maritime ascendancy. Can there be a more reasonable request than that?

which furnishes a parallel to, or which sug- | gests any intelligent explanation of, his con-

SKULLS AND SCIENCE. From the N. Y. Tribune.

Chicago has done it at last! The last reproach upon our flag is wiped off, and the city of divorce and ditches is our redeemer. As a nation our youth has always been the one damned spot that would not out. The taint of vulgar newness has rested on our rivers and our mountains, as well as our ideas and our manners; and Chicago has no doubt felt the burden with peculiar bitterness. We may have jibed her with her late birth ourselves. Any feather-headed foreigner had the prerogative of age to jeer at us. Whether we choked a Rebellien or sounded our r's through our nose, we were liable to be patted on the back and suavely reminded that we were young, and that things were not so done in the older countries over the sea. Could we deny it? Jonathan could stretch his mighty limbs as he pleased, brag of his giant's strength, his shrewd brain, his yearly conquests; yet he was painfully conscious all the time that he was the hobble-de-hoy among nations - the unlicked school-boy with whom nobody dared to try a wrestle, but who could be stung into fury by a sneer. Consequently he has kootooed and salaamed before every travelling scribbler or story-monger, fearful that he would be dismissed by them to the dunce's stool for some solecism in manners or pronunciation. To be sure, we did what we could to make ourselves a descent and an antiquity. The New Englanders kept the dead bones of the Pilgrim Fathers stalking abroad in the sight of all men. Philadelphia has never buried William Penn; in New York we made what capital we could out of Hendrik Hudson; and Virginia families, headed by the Lees, console themselves to-day for their empty pockets and missing slaves by squabbling about whether their visionary coats-of-arms should be moons with unfilled horns or rampant squirrels.

But Chicago has come to the rescue. She has discovered a skull in Calaveras county, California, and named it in her Academy of Sciences, which proves the American to be not the youngest son of Time, but the unnamed ancestor of Time itself. The European scientific journals receive the report of the discovery with breathless awe. "The spot from which the skull was taken," they say, "the lowest of four deposits of auriferous gravel, over which were five successive beds of lava and volcanic tufa, refers it to the Pliocene, or the age before the volcanic eruptions which cover a great part of the State, preceding that of the mastodon, elephant, and other great pachyderms. This remarkable discovery, then, if placed beyond doubt, carries back the presence of man in America to a period even more remote than that inferred from the stone implements in the drift of Abbeville and Amiens in the valley of the Somme, or the human skeleton in the loess of the Rhine." Various conjectures follow as to the effect of this discovery upon future science. But what do we care for future science? We are no longer like Melchisedec, without father, mother, or descent. The past is ours. The first dead Yankee has gone down to be crowned king in Hades. "Hell from beneath is moved to meet him at his coming: it stirreth up the dead for him, even the chief ones of the earth." Talk of your Norman blood, of old Castilian, or the ancient Latin races! When grey-haired Saturn was a babe in swaddling clothes, this great pro-genitor of ours had left life, old as Age itself, to see what profit could be made in the realm of ghost. When the modern Adam first looked about the newly-fashioned world, this ancient Jonathan nodded good luck to him out of the land of shadows. Ages before he had discovered, invented, tested the world, and all that was in it, and found it to be but vanity and vexation of spirit. The ages since have heaped dead races over his resting-place, who, being dead, rest in quiet and make no sign. But, true to his nature, he comes nosing his way back, and thrusts his fleshless jaws among his descendants, to see what new thing they have found out at this late hour of the day. He has brought us dignity among the nations. Henceforth the Goddess of Liberty shall keep him in sight of them cheek by jowl with herself. "Here she and Time shall sit. Here is her throne: let kings come bow to it.' OUR WESTERN PRESIDENT. From the Washington Patriot. In the early flush of personal popularity, General, and even President, Grant was the pet of the West. He was born there. He was, in a certain sense, bred there: and if in his mature manhood there was little to win or command sympathy, the good-natured forbearance of a young and frontier community looked kindly and generously on him. When the crisis of war occurred he was especially the Western soldier, and in his successes and accumulating honors the West had a natural and noble pride-not the less so for being sectional. When the war was over, and the drift of public opinion showed that the Chief Magistracy was to be his, and that, in virtual succession to Mr. Lincoln, he was to continue the line of Western statesmen, the pride of his region knew no abatement. There was an inner sentiment, too, at work. The great West had no fanatical antipathy to the South, either in the moment of conflict or of victory; and when, at the end of the war, General Grant proclaimed, in written and measured words, that the South was sincere and honest in its submission, and that the policy of the North should be thoroughly conciliatory and generous, and when Eastern ultraists sneered at what he said as "whitewashing," the West felt that it was their brave soldier's, their future President's, honest atterance, and that their confidence was, and to the end would be. justified. Cruel indeed has been the awakening, sharp the disappointment, and in nothing more so than in the development in the recent past of the manifest sucrifice of the generous and heroic sentiment of amnesty and toleration on the poorest, lowest altar that was ever built out of the fagots of fanaticism and party expediency. Hence it is that the most decisive revolt, or, to speak more correctly, the most intrepid and manly reassertion of the policy to which it was supposed the Western soldier was pledged, has occurred in the West itself. and in the communities which were supposed to have the closest association with him-California and Oregon first, then Indiana, Nevada, and emphatically Missouri, while Illinois, Nebraska, and Ohio are quite ready to follow suit. For these defections there were other and minor reasons equally operative. The Western President became a willing victim to the blandishments of the luxurious East. The first song of the sirens seduced him. The city Circes had no difficulty. He turned his back on the region which first honored him, and called around him as his confidential advisers, and despatched abroad as his confidential agents. men of whom the Atlantic seaboard furnished

Of the original Cabinet, not counting Mr. Washburne's fortnight's incumbency, four out of the six were from this side of the Allegheny Mountains, and the others not further west than the Miami. The citizens of Boston. New York, and Philadelphia were preferred to the untutored denizens of the prairies. The foreign embassies showed the same result. The six great courts of London, Berlin, St. Petersburg, Madrid, Vienna, and Con-stantinople, like the Cabinet, belonged wholly to Massachusetts, New York, and Pennsylvania. Illinois got France, and a Northwestern brother-in-law secured Denmark. And when accident, or imbecility, or ill-temper forced a change, Camden succeeded Philadelphia, Ohio Ohio, and Georgia part of Massachusetts in the Cabinet, and in foreign patronage the dispenser did not seem able to get further West than Indiana. The only two States now represented in the Cabinet that pretend to call themselves faithful in their allegiance are New Jersey and Massachusetts. How long they will remain so, even radical Massachusetts, is beyond our ken. Pennsylvania, after waiting in vain for something better than she has got, is, through her Executive, in open mutiny, and, so far as we can trace popular action, is drifting slowly but surely back to the moorings of her ancient faith. For these new and doubtful and selfish friends has he, without a scruple, sacrificed all those representative men who, as neighbors and early friends when he needed them sorely, petted and sustained and promoted him. Operative as these elements of disappoint-

ment may be, they are, we repeat, of minor moment in comparison with the great inner revulsion which we have alluded to, for, after all, masses are not affected by the frustrated hopes and aspirations of leaders. To take the most notable instance of disaffection-Missouri. The people of that great Statewe mean those Independent Republicans who once were a majority-do not care a farthing whether it is represented in the cotorie called a Cabinet or not, or in the wider and more ornamental circles of diplomacy. This is not what alienates them. Missouri, if we may give a new application to a well-worn figure. s the keystone of a great arch resting on the North and the South. Had Missouri become part, permanently or for any long term, of the Southern Confederacy, it would have been fatal to the ancient Union. The population, while the heat of war was active, was fiercely divided. Hence is it, perhaps, from mutual respect, from the necessity of making allowance, that the process of reconciliation has been so rapid and so sure. Nor is it in the least surprising that, when this generous and rational impulse found itself unexpectedly in conflict with the Executive, the struggle was sharp and the result decisive. So will it be everywhere throughout the West, and this, one would think, should be apparent to every one. This is altogether independent of the material considerations we have elsewhere suggested. Yet, in the face of these unerring, unmistakable signs and portents, we find the new crusade devised and perpetrated ! Surely madness can no further go. WATCHES, JEWELRY, ETO. LEWIS LADOMUS & CO DIAMOND DEALERS & JEWELERS.

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either this or some succeeding year, with more complete success. Already some of our ward schools are supplied entirely with Catholic teachers, and everything is "expurgated" from the books taught which might seem to smack too much of liberty of conscience and of thought. Many of our citizens will undoubtedly see the day--unless some great revolution breaks forth-when the Board of Education of this city will be as thoroughly Roman Catholic as Tammany is now.

The next blow-perhaps the most insulting of all-has been aimed, during this session, in the bill for "hereditary religion." By this it is assumed that every Protestant charity dealing with the enfants perdus of our streets is engaged in spreading a false religion, and therefore must annually expurgate (or crimi-nate) itself before the Legislature, under a penalty of one hundred dollars for each offense! As a correspondent suggests, the natural amendment to this act would be a provision requiring every Protestant householder to make an annual statement, under oath, that he had never invited his Roman Gatholic servants to family devotions, or "otherwise interfered with their religious belief."

These incredible insults to the courage of our Protestant bodies would never be given by these demagogues if our own leaders had not shown themselves in the whole question such atter cowards. When the most eminent public men of the country are afraid to speak a word for one of the grandest events in the history of liberty, because the priests will denounce them before the ignorant Roman rabble, what can be expected but that such tools of the priests as Senator Norton and his associates will propose such insulting acts as this in the Senate of the New York Legislature? If our Protestant bodies do not arise and show some manhood, they will deserve to be thus strampled on and insulted by the delegates of the Catholic masses in these counties. And they may be certain that the treatment they have thus far received from the Tammany ring is mild and considerate to what is in store for them.

AGAINST SUBSIDIES. From the N. Y. Sun.

The subsidizing of foreign steam lines is again up in Congress. How this measure expects to get through, except by the mere force of log-rolling, we cannot see. We regard it as no better than a scheme of waste and corruption from beginning to end. The sole object of it is to put money into the hands of the steamship companies by the million, under the pretext of in some way advancing our maritime or commercial interests, or adding to our naval power. But Congress has decided that it will not keep up an expensive navy in time of peace. All the nation needs is to create the couditions which will enable it to call a navy into existence when one is wanted. To do this we require a maritime population and the requisite means and appliances for shipbuilding. We can only have these by making our carrying trade profitable, and by being able to build ships as cheap as other people. When this is done we shall have both sailors and ship-builders in abundance. But neither of these results can be obtained by any hotbed processes. These interests must grow from the soil and be self-sustaining. The nation reached this conclusion when it abandoned the system of bounties for fishermen. which existed from our earliest history until within a very few years. All systems of bounties are liable to great abuses, and the fishermen's bounties were no exception. At the last

THE BROOKLYN STABBER. From the N. Y. Times. When De Quincey wrote his "Marder

Considered as a Fine Art," the essay was commonly deemed an amusing but rather fantastic freak of imagination. This is funny, thought many readers, but totally incredible. It is magnificent, but it is not human nature. Yet precisely such things The inexplicable is by no means occur. lacking in the complex elements that inspire men's actions. An example is just now conspicuous which, if put in a novel, would have been ridiculed as absurd. In our neighbor city of Brooklyn, an unknown miscreant has for some time been distinguishing himself by indulging in a passion as terrible as it is grotesque. Armed with a knife, he prowls about at night in search of young girls, selecting comely ones for choice, and, watching his opportunity, he cuts savagely at their faces. Some-times the blow falls elsewhere, but the ruffian obviously aims at the head. His object appears to be simply to mutilate, since he never attempts to rob his victims. There have been five authenticated cases of these assaults, the first having occurred in the latter part of November, and the fifth last Saturday night. They have generally occurred in or near Grand and Remsen streets, and the perpetrator, after his attack, always makes off with great swiftness. Quite a panic has been created, especially among working girls whose business keeps them out after dark; and the Common Council of Brooklyn has offered a reward of \$250 for the apprehension of the offender.

The peculiarity about this strange affair is not only that it is unaccompanied by any effort to steal, but that it is so deliberately disposed over considerable intervals of time. It would seem that the guilty person, wishing to enjoy his frightful pastime to the utmost, limits himself with cautious reserve in its indulgence. He apparently lays down for himself a regular plan of operations. Thus, on one night, we may suppose him to reflect, he will slash off some young woman's ear. This being successfully accomplished, he may retire and gloat for a week or two over the exploit. Emerging with fresh gusto, he may determine to have the pleasure of slitting some other poor girl's cheek, and again retreat to chuckle in his mysterious lair at compassing so exquisite a gratification. To slice off some other victim's lips may furnish, after due repose, the third dish of this extraordinary banquet-and so on. That these things, or things very like them, have been done we know; the motive so far is unfathomable. The theory of insanity is suggested, and no doubt is plausible. The old story says that Malays sometimes "run a muck," as it is called, hacking and maiming every one they meet; but in such cases they are, we believe, assumed to be not only irresponsible morally, but the subjects of sudden frenzy. While in the paroxysm they are totally bereft of reason. The Brooklyn assassin, on the other hand, if really a monomaniac, has a distinct method in his madness. He invariably addresses the women he approaches as a civil stranger, as if to allay any possible fears, and so get the best chance to do his work in an artistic way. Again, his regard for his personal safety and the artful celerity with which he provides for it, is a decided point of difference. The muck-ranning Malay takes blows as well as gives them. and seems as regardless of pain as most East Indian devotees. If this Brooklyn stabber is indeed a maniac, his is certainly a very curious kind of lunacy. If he be sane, we men of whom the Atlantic seaboar remember no case in the records of erime an almost grotesque contingent.

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