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

BOILER EXPLOSIONS.

From the N. Y. Times. The explosion of a steam-boiler is prima facie evidence of carelessness in its construction, or in its maintenance, or in its use. It is so regarded by the engineers, and ought so to be regarded by the law. It will be easy to convince any one who will examine the records of boiler explosious and inquire into the means of preventing them, that no injustice would be done to the owners of boilers by

indicting them for criminal carelessness in all cases of explosion. The history of boiler explosions is authentic and definite. The boiler has usually been erected under the full light of modern science. All the attending circumstances of

the explosion have been immediately communicated to the public; curiosity has aided science in making every man an investigator of these circumstances and a searcher after causes; public and private commissions have been appointed to examine the subject generally; numerous legal tribunals have gone to the bottom of special cases, and innumerable private professional observers have witnessed results, searched records, weighed evidence, and arrived at general conclusions. All the plausible theories of explosions have been not only looked into, but worked out, in many cases experimentally or theoretically, to

their ultimate limits.

Now the remarkable and unprecedented result of all this investigation is not the division of any large body of experts into schools-not the building up of rival theories-but the universal conviction of all concerned that boiler explosions are certainly in most, and probably in all, cases the results of malconstruction or maltreatment, and of nothing else, and that the usual immediate cause is the unchecked deterioration of the boiler in service. In the great majority of cases the evidences of carelessness are as plain as the time of day on the of a clock-a sheet furrowed nearly through; a stay-bolt rusted off; a crown-sheet insufficiently supported; expansion and contraction unprovided for; water connections stopped up: bad material -some one of the many obvious and certain conditions of rupture. In a few cases the immediate causes are not apparent, and then the electricity theorists and the gas people and the mystery men fight over the remains in the newspapers; and the only reason why simple neglect is not discovered to be the cause, is that the parts of the boiler which would otherwise reveal it are blown away, or are too much mutilated or obstructed to be legible. Simple bad treatment the maker or user will account for the original rupture which ends in any explosion, however terrific may be its effects. There is force enough restrained within every steam-boiler running to-day to perform the most terrible work of ruin that any similar boiler ever performed in exploding. When this force is once released, the amount of destruction depends on the point of rupture, the resistance, the surroundings, and on an infinite number of circumstances mostly outside of our control. The only thing we can do, and it is enough, is to keep the resistance superior to the normal pres-

Now that the causes of boiler explosions are so well understood as to be a matter of commercial calculation-where companies make money by insuring such boilers as are constructed and maintained according to established professional rules-it is to be regretted that the Government should stand helplessly by, and see scores of people scalded to death every few weeks, for the want of an adequate law and a system of inspection. Boiler insurance and inspection companies-and they are no new or experimental thing-simply prove that boilers constructed and maintained according to certain well-known rules are practically safe-that the chances of explosion, even with ordinary water-tending, are very remote, and they stake their money on this knowledge; and yet the United States Government has been unable to even check the increase of these disasters. If Congress cannot at once provide for the security of the public against boiler explosions, it had better let out the job of protecting its citizens to some insurance company, and then it will be done on scientific principles, and by competent men.

GAMBETTA'S FOLLY.

From the R. Y. Tribune. It seems that Mr. Gambetta is to be added to the long list of those statesmen who are admirable in speech and worse than useless in action. The members of the Provisional Government who remained in Paris have made the best attainable arrangements with the victorious enemy. A truce is provided for which with common prudence and discretion might result in peace and the final establishment of a settled Government in France. Less than three weeks are allowed for the momentous business of electing an Assembly, calling the members together, and deciding upon the terms of peace discussed between Mr. Favre and Bismarck at Versailles. It would appear impossible that any one of ordinary capacity should fail to see the absolute necessity of perfect unity and harmony in the Republican ranks. But this is precisely the instant Mr. Gambetta chooses to denounce his associates and impair their authority, and to call upon the country to take measures to Legin the war anew immediately upon the expiration of the armistice. His passionate appeals and misrepresentations will have the effect, if they have any, of rendering the task of the Constituent Assembly well nigh impossible. For if an excited public feeling be roused to the extent of rejecting reasonable terms of peace, the labor of the Assembly would be in vain, and the establishment of a Government which would survive the retirement of the Prussians would be out of the question.

It remains to be seen what action the Cabinet of the Emperor of Germany will take in regard to this unheard-of repudiation by onehalf of the Government of the spirit and intention of a solemn compact entered into by the other half. If the Government of Bordeanx insists upon carrying on offensive pre-parations during the whole duration of the truce, it may be that Prussian headquarters will refuse to be bound by an agreement which is openly scorned by their adversary. We say nothing of the question of international ethics involved, as the Gaseon wing of a state of mind to consider calmly the relation of its acts to the principles of absolute right and the law of nations,

The effect of this senseless quarrel upon the elections cannot be other than disastrous. The Republicans, as it is, have no votes to spare. The Government is placed in a position of vast responsibility and little power. It is held answerable for all the miseries of | World), in terms which, if not justified by

rural districts that powerful moral influence which in France exercises such unquestioned control over elections. Its only hope was in firm and resolute unity, and in a determination to cast aside all personal considerations and postpone all fends until after the war. But since, at this most critical period, the hysterical circular of Mr. Gambetta has shown to the world how little of harmony or of discipline exists in the innermost circles of the dministration, it would now be marvellous if the candidates of this distracted party should be elected to a majority of seats in the

Constituent Assembly.
The decree of the Bordeaux Government excluding from the deputation all members of hitherto reigning families, and all those who have held office under the late Imperial Government, is a violent and wholly unjustifiable attempt to obviate the natural effect of Republican dissensions by prescribing to the people of France what votes they shall cast. Mr. Gambetta assumes that France is now a republic; that the question of her future destiny is already decided; that an Assembly is to be called together to approve what has been done by the actual Government, and perform various acts of special legislation under the supervision of that Government. He therefore regards any candidacy in opposition to this view as absolute treason against the established Constitution of the country, and adopts in the cause of liberty the repressive system of the worst days of the Empire. It is easy to see what a powerful and vindictive spirit of hostility this will at once awaken among the adherents of all the old political parties. The Prefects of the Empire were among the most wealthy and prominent citizens of their departments, generally men of no strong political convictions, but naturally inclined by temperament and habit to accept existing facts and work in harmony with de facto governments. The Government of National Defense has thus far had no obstacles thrown in its way by this class of persons. On the contrary, they have almost universally seconded the efforts of the Ministry to maintain the military force and the civil administration at the highest point of efficiency since the war began. The manifestation of Bonapartist sympathies in the forthcoming elections, so far from being prevented by this shallow device, will be inevitably greatly increased by the natural resentment of the persons so gratuitously insulted. The affront to the Orleanists is equally uncalled for and futile. The course of the Bordeaux faction in this matter is one they have no right to pursue, and if they had the right it would be most undignified and impolitic.

If it be true, as stated in our despatches, that Mr. Simon has assured the journalists of Bordeaux, who with more discretion than their rulers have protested against this tyrannical decree, that the Government of Paris does not approve it, and will not recognize it, this incident only more clearly shows how desperate and dangerous is the andacity of the Gascon fraction of the administration. Unfortunately, this exhibition of Mr. Gambetta's incapacity, while it may vindicate the action of the Paris Government, cannot prevent the Republican cause from suffering severely in the important contest of this week. A house half-built, and divided against itself, has little prospect of completion.

A SUGGESTION FOR THE NAVAL STAFF.

From the N. Y. Herald. It has been proposed, and very properly, that to transport the provisions intended for suffering France one or more vessels of the navy should be placed by the Government at the service of the committee having the charity in charge. So far so good; and now we have another suggestion to make in connection therewith, which is as follows:-There are a vast number of sick and wounded among the French, and while we propose to do something for the hungry, let us remember the others also, and send a few additional surgeons and physicians to minister to their wants. It can best be done in this manner:-Let every ship detailed for the duty of carrying supplies be officered entirely by surgeons, a surgeon ranking with a captain to be placed in command; passed assistant and assistant surgeons to act as watch officers, and the surgeons' stewards and apothecaries will answer for the forward and petty officers. Here is a firstrate chance for these gentlemen. If they claim the right to command let us give them the opportunity to prove their ability. They must not be interfered with; everything must be given up to them for the cruise. The ship must be truly in the doctors' hands this time, leaving the paymasters and engineers to have their chance hereafter. It will be a happy family; there will be no trouble about rank, no row as to who shall go over the gangway first, no little unpleasantness about the number of side boys, no ill-feeling about asking permission to go on shore. No; everything will move smoothly, excepting, probably, the ship itself. This may give some trouble, but nothing worth speaking of. Now is the right time and here is the opportunity to settle this question of rank and command without the aid of Congress. Give them, Mr. Secretary of the Navy, the chance to show what they can do, and then let the country see-if the provisions don't spoil before they reach the haven-where they would be.

THE IMPERIAL RING.

From Harner's Weekly. During the long Republican ascendency in this State, the Democratic party constantly alleged that the city of New York had been virtually deprived of self-government by the system of commissions appointed by the Governor and Legislature. The people were implored to save the very principle of free popular institutions by overthrowing the Republicans and bringing the Democracy into power. At length the Republicans were defeated. We are now entering upon the second year of Democratic supremacy in the State, and popular government in the city of New York is already practically subverted. An imperialism has been established here as absolute as that of Louis Napoleon, and it is formally sustained, as his was, by an occasional plebiscite called an election. De Tocqueville, that scute political thinker, contemplated with the utmost apprehension a democratic state of society without honest democratic institutions. He thought it the worst form of tyranny. This is the spectacle which the city of New York now presents, and it challenges the thoughtful attention of every political student, as of every American citizen who is looking candidly to see with which party in this country the just developthe Committee of National Defense is not in | ment of the American constitutional and po-

pular principle is most assured. There are in the city of New York four well-known persons-Mr. Tweed, Mr. Sweeny, Mr. Connolly, and Mr. Hall. They are the managers of Tammany Hall; and the most conspicuous of them, Mr. Tweed, has been described often and at length in one of the organs of his party in the city (the New York

the war, and it has not shown enough of the knowledge, were the most wantonly injurious elements of permanence to exert upon the that could be applied to any man. And it is one of the signs of the power of which we speak that the World is now as niterly the spaniel of the imperial ring as Paul de Cassagnac's paper was of Louis Napoleon. The four persons whom we have mentioned are th eauthors of the present city charter, which was passed last spring by the Democratic Legislature-many Republicans voting for it because of a registry law which Mr. Tweed permitted to pass for the purpose of pro-curing an appearance of unanimous support for his charter, and which he now intends to

The charter vests the executive power in the Mayor and the heads of departments. The Mayor is elected for two years; and the system by which Tammany controls what are called elections is notorious. The Controller is elected every four years. The heads and commissioners of departments are appointed by the Mayor to serve from four to eight years. The charter was passed, and took effect immediately. The Mayor was Mr. Hall, and he instantly appointed Mr. Tweed Commissioner of Public Works, and Mr. Sweeny the head of the Department of Parks. In November Mr. Councily was elected Controller under the auspices of Tammany Hall. Thus these four persons, known as the Ring, and who by familiar means nominate and elect their agents to the Legislature, and fill all minor offices with their adherents, were placed by the charter which they had prepared, and which the party under their control had passed, in the chief executive positions in the city. Their official terms are four years, except that of Mr. Sweeny, which is five years, and that of Mr. Hall, which is two. They will continue to hold the offices at their pleasure. So efficient is the political machinery of Tammany Hall, and so well adjusted is it to Democratic voters, that no man whom the imperial ring does not nominate will be elected Mayor, and it will nominate no one of whose obedience it is not sure. The next step is now to be taken in the

formal subversion of the popular system. The imperial ring has introduced a bill in the Legislature which constitutes the Mayor (Mr. Hall), the Controller (Mr. Connotly the Commissioner of Public Works (Mr. Tweed), and the President of the Department of Parks (Mr. Sweeny) a Board of Apportionment, which, after providing for the interest of the city debt, and for the city's proportion of the State tax, shall appropriate at its pleasure all the money that is raised by taxation in the city. To make this extraordinary grant of power more acceptable, it is decreed that the amount raised in 1871 and 1872 shall not exceed a sum equal to two per cent. of the valuation already fixed for this year by the Commissioners of Taxes and Assessments. And it is further provided that no bonds and stocks of the city or county, except those already authorized, shall be issued hereafter except by this board. But it is by their will alone that the rate of taxation is limited for two years to two per cent. of the present valuation. It will rest with them alone to determine what the rate shall be after the two years are ended, or to amend their law next year by striking out the limitation for 1872, and leaving the valuation wholly at their pleasure.

Meanwhile, to divert public attention from this practical Imperialism which the Democratic party has thus established, it imitates the policy of Louis Napoleon, who imitated the Roman despots, in assusing the people with games and public displays while they destroyed liberty. Thus there is a show of care about the public grounds, and of anxiety to complete the system of water supplies. There is an ostentation of charity to the poor. But while every man is glad that suffering is relieved, he shrugs his shoulders when he is asked if the money that relieved it was honestly gotten. While this is the outer show, the secret aim of the imperial ring is to dishearten opposition by showing its hopelessness, and to terrify capital by a relentless exercise of the mastery of property which the law bestows. It bribes to silence where it can, but it spares no blow, open or secret, to cripple those whom it fears, and the terrorism is deepened by the public knowledge that certain judges upon the bench are the supple tools of this enormous and arbitrary power, so that the citizen is conscious that he is deprived of the last remedy of injustice.

Thus the result of the ascendency of the Democratic party in New York is the destruction of popular government in the city, as it would have been in the country at large if the people of the United States had not chosen war as the least fearful alternative. Nor is this surprising. The Democratic party in its long national ascendency was steadily hostile to the fundamental principles of a free goverdment. It was a vast conspiracy to make slavery the fundamental law of the republic. That purpose required absolute national demoralization, and the great effort of the party was to produce it. clear perception of the true spirit and principle of free popular government was fatal to Democratic dominance, and therefore the party ruthlessly sought to obscure it. In the city of New York the party has never lost its supremacy. The men who guide it to-day are politicians bred either in total ignorance or in utter contempt of American principles. They are brought in constant contact with the most ignorant and venal men; and without faith in individual honor, with the sincerest persuasion that money and fear are the master-keys of politics, they distrust mere honesty as hypocrisy, and undoubtedly despise "the people" and their representatives as heartily as Robert Walpole.

Any Democratic protest against this imperial power, whether from the mere adventurers of the party, like the World, or from honest men who cherish the vain illusion that they can control it, is swept away like a leaf upon Niagara. To-day the protestants of last spring are, either like the World, kissing the imperial feet, or, like those honest men, lending the prestige of their names and the weight of their votes to schemers whom they utterly distrust, and to practices which they abhor. The imperialism of the ring is the rule of corruption by money and by fear. It a plague-spot in the centre of the American system. It is the fresh attack upon American institutions under the name of Democracy. Let the people of this country consider it well, and decide whether it is to restore the control of the National Government to such men and to such influences that our brothers died in the field, and that we are taxed to-day.

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neces wide siley. Subject to ground rent of \$12, 80ver money.

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Broad street, thence extending southward along
the sand Broad street nineteen feet seven inches and
five-eighths of an inch: thence eastward eighty feet
one inch and one-baif of an inch; thence northward, at right angles with said Coates street, nine
feet to the south side of Coates street, and thence
westward along the south side of said Coates street
inheity feet to the place of beginning.

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PHILIP SPAEDER VS. GEORGE HAMBRECHT, fl. fa.: VIETUE C. SWEATMAN VS. GEORGE HAMBRECHT, fl. fa. September Term, 1870, Nos 97 and 98 Nos. 97 and 98.

Nos. 57 and 98.

The Auditor appointed by the Court to report distribution of the fund in court, arising from the Sheriff's sale under the above writs of her facias of the personal estate of the said GEORGE HAMBRECHT, will meet the parties interested for the purposes of his appointment at his Office, No. 518 WALNUT Street, Koom No. 10, in the city of Philadelphia, on WEDNESDAY, Pebruary 18, 1871, at 3 o'clock P. M., when and where all persons are required to make their claims before such Auditor or be debarred from coming in upon said fund.

2 2 10t Auditor.

IN THE ORPHANS COURT FOR THE CITY AND COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA. Estate of CHARLES HENRY FUSHER, Esq.,

deceased,
The Audit r appointed by the Court to audit, settle, The Audit rappointed by the Court to audit, settle, and adjust the several accounts of PETER C. HOLLIS and HENRY P. MUIRHEAD, trustees under the will of CHARLES HENRY FISHER, deceased, for ELIZA G., ELLEN, JAMES LOGAN, and MAUD FISHER (as stated by P. C. Hollis, acting accountant), and to report distribution of the balances in the hands of the accountants, will meet the parties interested for the purpose of his appointment on THUISDAY, February 16, 1871, at 12 oclock M., at his office, No. 131 South FIFTH. Street, in the city of Philadalphia.

GEORGE M. CONARROE,

2 3 fmw 5t

Auditor.

2.3fmw 5t ENGINES, MACHINERY, ETO.

PENN STEAM ENGINE AND BOILER WORKS.—NEAFIE & LEVY, PRACTI-CAL AND THEORETICAL ENGINEERS, MA-CHINISTS, BOILER-MAKERS, BLACKSMITHS, WORES.—NEAFIE & LEVY, PRACTICAL AND THEORETICAL ENGINEERS, MACHINISTS, BOILER-MAKERS, BLACKSMITHS,
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high and low pressure, from Boilers, Water Tanks,
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to the public as being fully prepared to contract for
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having sets of patterns of different sizes, are pre-pared to execute orders with quick despatch. Every description of pattern-making made at the shortest notice. High and Low Pressure Fine Tubular and Cyinder Boilers of the best Pennsylvania Charcoai tron. Forgings of all size and kinds. Iron and Brass Castings of all descriptions, Roll Turning, screw Cutting, and all other work connected with the above business.

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Or at the Cemetery, where all information needed will be cheerfully given. By giving notice at the office, carriages will meet persons desirous of purchasing lots at Tioga Station? on the Germantown Ranroad, and convey them to

the Cemetery and return, free of charge. ALPRED C. HARMER, President, MARTIN LANDENBERGER, Treas. MICHAEL NISBET, Sec'y. 10.5 wfm 6m

A LEXANDER G. CATTELL & CO. PRODUCE COMMISSION MENCHANTS, NO. 26 NORTH WEARVES

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