©iveniug שelegraph PUBLISHED EVERY AFTE
(gundars axomprid), St the gyening telegraph buti O. 108 8. THILADELPHIA. The Price ts firee oents per copy (double shee),
or eighteen cents per week, payable to the carrier by whom served. The subsoription price by mall Fifty Cents for thoo monthe, invariably in
advance for the time ordered.

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1871.

 TAE COMMISSOON SCREWRE TrR convention called to rovise the rules of theRepublican party of Philadelphia has followed
the example of the State Central Comittee in denouncing the scheme to hand over several important departments of the oity govern-
ment to new oommissions, composed partly of Demoorats and partly of Bopubilicans, and any
Philadelphia Repubthan member of the Philadelphia Repubtican member of the
Honse or Senate who favors this monstrous proposition will evidently provoke the intense
indignation of a betrayed constituency. It ia indignation of a betrayed oonstituency. Thas thongh sootohed, is not yet killed. A
prominent Democratio member of the
then Legisinture has boasted that ir the bill passes
it will be immediately signed by the Gover-
nor; and as the Demoorats are ready to supnor; and as the Democrats are ready an supwill secure its passage. To blind the eyes of
the publio it has boen proposed to insert in the early stages of the Commission bill or or
bills the names of well-known and respect-
 vioe, to sabstittote for such citizens haokneye
and serviceable partisans. This trich and serviceable partisans. $\begin{gathered}\text { This trick, and } \\ \text { others equally deceptive, may be resorted } \\ \text { to and the only safe fground to }\end{gathered}$ and to; and the only safe figround
take is to insist that the Legisiature shall undertake to create any more commissions,
any oharacter, for the government of Phila-
delphin. Those now in existence are posed chiefly of estimable citizens who enjoy
the public confidence, but their sucoess from commissioners made up of poorer mate-
rial. It is especially dangerous to oreate commissions endowed with a large amount of
patronage, as a highway or water commission necessarily would be; and the existing system
of levying taxes in New York shows what is mission. II we are to have municipal elece-
tions at all, there shoold beat least something left for the paople to govern, and the mag-
nates at Harrisburg should not steal from them the power of determining by their votes A Now of the questions in which they are
doepiy interestod. One of the most serious
perils of the hour is the danger that all the rights and privileges of the people will in time be handed over to irresponsible and nn-
sorupulous commissions, and that our citizens they have been tied hand and foot by a
few knots of politioians who will thencof manage all munieipal affairs on a close con-
poration system. At all events, it is clear that the prosent Legisiature is not disposed that, if the baokbone of its Republican mem-
bers is not stiffened, some very bad and dangerous commissions will be spawned at the

## THE SUFFERING FRENOH.

 THz greatest evil of war is not perhaps inthe loss of life and the suffering from dreadfal wounds that ocour among the aotual oo n.
batants, but it is rather in the fearful distress
that inevitatly follows in the wate of that inevitaily rolows in the people of the
tening armies among
country which is the scene of confliot. Daring the present war in Earope France has
been the chiof sufferer apart from any consideration of national numitiation involved in defeat. An immense portion of her territory
has been overrun by armies engaged in has been overrun by armies engaged in
deady strife, and as an inevitable oonse-
guenoe of such a war her towns and villages quenoe of suoh a war her towns and villages
have been destroyed, her people driven from
their homes, her harvests trampled under their homes, her harvests trampled under
foot, and thousands of poor poople who
found it hard to the best circumstanees are now in
the bitter winter weather howselen bomeless, and nttorly without food or the people of Franoe present under their present
ciroumstances to the sympathies of the world are entirely apart from any political conside-
rations, and it is the duty of people everywhenef no matter what their opinions may be
in regard to the merits of oithor side of the quarrel between France and Germany, to
take prompt action for the reliof of the take prompt attion for the relief of those
whount heo fortunes of war have reduoed to a most pitiable condition.
The United States
vided a yessel to transport to Franco sroch may contribute, and action has been taken in a number of our princtpal cities to supply hor with a oargo. It is to be hoped that in this
matter Philadelphia will suatain her aneient reputation for philanthropy. A meeting was
held at the Mayor's office yesterday to take the subjoot into consideration, and his Honor will today appoint a sommittee to reeeive
contribations and to superintend the trans. portation of them to their proper destination.
The oall which this committee will make upon the eitizens of Phildedelphis shoold recoive, as reaponse.
The French Rellief Committee of the New York Oh mber of Oommeroe has issued an
appeal to the clergy of the country, regneat appean to the colergy of the country, request
ing that B oolloetion shall hie wiken ap in all
ithe ing
the oharohes from one ond of the land to the
other, on the seocond Sunday in March for the other, on the seoond Sunday in March, for the
benefit of the Frenoh sufferers. We bopo
$\left\lvert\, \begin{aligned} & \text { that this anggestion will be adopted, as a } \\ & \text { large amount osi bo raised in this wny, and } \\ & \text { it will nfford an opportonity for those who }\end{aligned}\right.$ are unable to give munheh to coatribute theo
mites. Many thousand dollara oan be real-
ined if


CON BUMPTION. This committoe also mates the prastioal
suggestion that as one-third of France has
been devastated, and not only i's harvest but its seed-whent consamed, the farmerrs of the
United States shall endeavor to send ont she United States sball endeavor to sond out seve-
ral cargoes of seed-wheat to Franoe, to be
distributed among the small farmers, distributed among the small farmors. A fow
bushels of wheat, which any farmer in this
land can easily apare, will do land can easily appare, will do a a vast amount
of good, and if all combine in the good worlk of good, and if all combine in the good work
a great and permanent beneft will be con-
ferred a great and permanent riilond companies have
ferred. Many of the resed
offered free transportation for this whent and arrangements have been made for its storage and transportation. England, Belginm, Ho
land, and Switzerland are all making great
efforts to efforts to afford immediate reliiof to the not be behind hand in suoh a noble wor Ir ${ }^{\text {Is }}$ sURMnszD, in some quarters, that
during the grand powwow whior is about to
take place at Weshington betw take place at wish treaty botwmisanionera, the
rican and British me project of settling up all old acconnts by a
transfer of States will be secretly if not openily discussed. shipper of the manifest-destiny doectrine, and if his projeot for annexing Dominica is defeated he may direct his attention to the
Northern frontier, with a proapeot bling up the Kanucks. As matters stand now
New England is disposed to growl at any new accessions of Southern territory, but if the
balance of power balance of power cound be ohanged by the
aequisition of a huge slice of Northern terri-
tory tory, she mighs ohange
anneacation very quickly.
The Magipyorsoz of the diamond given a:
a Christmas present to william M. Tweed.
the king of the New Yis the king of the Now York ring, was doscribed
in an article recently published in GRAPF. Beantiful and expensive as this rich
gift is, we are surprised that his admirers did not add to it many other gems of even greater
value Since Tweed wields sovereign power, why
should he not wear its appropriate emblem? He has ereeted on the ruins of Remublioan
freedom a kingdom of corrotion freedom a kingdom of corruption and fraud,
and since his courtiers insist on ing him for his audacity, they should not rest ing yim for his audacity, hey should not rest
content with the gif of one paltry diamond,
when whole caskots of gems are bestowed when whole coaskets of gems are
upon other enthroned oppressors.

## IHE STEVESS BATTERY

 The Marine Moneriviter Noenty Ready for soTbe Stevens gunboat, which thas been so



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