SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS-COMPILED EVERY DAY FOR THE EVENING TELEGRAPH.

MONEY REWARDS FOR CATCHING CRIMINALS.

Reference has already been made in these columns to the impolicy of permitting pub-lic officers to participate in the rewards offered for the arrest of criminals. Whether it is conducive to the highest morality that even private citizens should become accustomed to expect pay for doing what is, after all, every citizen's duty, is at least doubtful. But there can be no doubt whatever of the impropriety of the practice in the case of officers of justice. They are employed and paid for the express purpose of appre-hending evil-doers, and to offer them gratuities for doing their paid work is simply to debauch their honesty and ruin their effi-

How utterly demoralizing and destructive of the very end at which it aims is the whole system of rewards, the Nathan case admirably exemplifies. Here the rewards offered for the arrest of the murderer amounted in the aggregate to \$50,000, and, as a consequence. the interests of justice were totally subordinated to the cravings of avarice. More than once, it is said, the suspected assassin was allowed to slip out of the very grasp of the law, because his captors were fearful that their greed would not be satisfied with a fair proportion of the spoils. And even now, when suspicion has almost matured to certainty of the criminal's identity, when his name and description are matter of public notoriety, he is still preserved from arrest by the sordid jealousy of rival detectives. We reprinted the other day, from a Buffalo paper, an article in which plain expression was given to the convic-tion that Superintendent Kelso's offer of \$2500 for the arrest of Forrester was dictated by a desire to monopolize the remainder of the original reward himself. Of course, with this state of feeling among the persons most interested in catching Forrester, there is little likelihood that he will ever be caught at all. And we have thus presented the curious anomaly that the more beinous the crime, and the greater the reward offered for the apprehension of the criminal, the safer he is from detection or punishment. It is, perhaps, not too much to say that if all rewards for the Nathan murderer were withdrawn to-day, there would be a better chance of the arrest of Forrester than at any time since he was first suspected of the murder.

The plan of bribing our police officers to do their duty is radically wrong. It accustoms them to look for a law-breaker, not because he has broken the law which they are sworn and paid to protect, but because his arrest will put so many dollars in their pockets. What is worse, it substitutes for the sense of duty and professional ambition which would furnish the surest guarantee of energy and fidelity in the force, the most paltry and deteriorating of incentives to exertion. What would an army be worth in which honor was fostered by avarice, and valor stimulated by pecuniary rewards? Our policemen are in some sense soldiers, and susceptible to many of the influences that affect a military career. If we educate them to a high standard of duty, if we encourage them to look for the rewards of courage and skill in the public approbation of their superiors and the community, in promotion and in decorations of honor rather than in dollars and cents, we shall do more toward the suppression of crime than by making a rich man of every successful thief-taker.

CHRISTIAN JUSTICE.

From the N. Y. Tribune. Our Saxon progenitors, heathers as they were, had a habit not only of putting their enemies to death, but of amusing themselves by inclosing them in a pit filled with vipers and venomous reptiles. The enemies, being heathens also, very seldom testified that this torturing system conduced to salutary repentance, or caused them to take a loftier or more healthful view of life at their exit through its final gateway. They saw only an unjust, in-exorable fate behind their crimes, their defeats, their jeering enemies, or the very snakes that stung them. Naturally they be-lieved that a better chance waited for them beyond. "I smile with pleasure," oried the pirate Lodbrog, facing the Saxons from his torturing pit, "because I know that a seat is kept for me in the halls of Odin, where at last I shall drink beer from the skulls of my enemies. I have struck with my sword in one-and-fifty combats; there is no king on earth more famous than I. Yet now I am dying; a viper opens my breast and sucks my blood. Man is a slave to destiny; he obeys the decree of the spirifs that rule at his birth." But Lodbrog's famous death-song was sung more than a thousand years ago. Christianity has done its work in all that while upon us—his descendants. There is, it is true, a certain sublimity in the story of mistaken life, and the despair and courage with which he looked back into it and forward into the horrors of death; but the whole tragedy fades like a fable back into the obscurity of past ages. Nowadays, when practical, healthful common sense and Christ's love, through His people, have taken the world in charge, there is no such thing among us as tortured prisoners, or licensed deadly serpents to coil around help-less men and fill their veins with poison while society looks smiling on.

One of our exchanges brought to us a story yesterday so common and hackneyed that we had to push ourselves away from it, as it were, to catch its real meaning. A Washington reporter goes to see Grady, the murderer of Mrs. Faulkner, a day or two before his execution. He finds "a young man, slender in frame; good looking, in fact handsome, with large black eyes, lustrous and searching, piteously appealing, as though every new face were to be searched for some chance of escape. The only aperture to his cell which admits the light of day is faced by the scaffold. For days he has not been able to look out or draw a breath of fresh air without seeing the engine of his destruction. This morning the rope was tested by different his presence and that

the clammy sweat on his brow, his cries for ! mercy. He inquires "if Grady sees that woman yonder? how can he bear to look at a woman? doesn't he know that all women are his enemies? how will he face his victim in the other world?" At this the man turns on him desperately. "Look here," he says, "I want to get out on that scaffold before Friday. I told my father and sister so to-day. Every time I see them I feel that I want to "Nobody to blame but yourself, eh?" sums up the reporter, "Yes, one other," says the man deliberately. "Sometimes it was a friend, and again an enemy. Its name is whisky. I can meet Mrs. Faulkner without compunction. I can't say I did the deed, nor will I deny it. I did not know what I did. I was under the influence of liquor." "So you want to die?" inquires the representative of the Christian press, which has the education of Christian people in charge, conscientiously wishing that they should be fully informed of the temper of their victim. "The sooner the better; I am tired of this," the young man replied.

The reporter left him, staring with his large black eyes at the gallows, thinking perbaps that a little while ago he was a boy, with all his chances before him; looking back into a life defeated by means which Christian people license and forward into the death which Christian people have awarded bim. The heathen Lodbrog trusted in a vengeance bereafter. What wonder that the wretch Grady and his kind, if they have any blurred conception of Christ's infinite love, should hope for justice in some world where that love has other interpreters than here?

CHECK TO MONOPOLY. From the N. Y. World. We have already called attention to the fact that the Governor of Illinois recently refused his assent to a bill subsidizing a corporation whose functions are entirely beyond the limits of the State, and we now record the coincident action of the Legislature of New Jersey in putting au end to all the schemes of surrendering-the word used is "leasing"-her internal improvements to the great Pennsylvania monopoly. We rejoice sincerely at both, or, indeed, at any manifestation of State independence in this direction, just as we did when Governor Geary had the inconceivable audacity, the other day, to ask his Legislature to look to the safety of the sinking fund, and see that it was no further manipulated. It was too late to stay the mischief, but still it was a protest. New Jersey is to be especially congratulated on her escape. Bad as it is, better a thousand fold the Federal Air-Line than chaining a community, now free from debt, and improvements of untainted financial character, to the chariot wheels of an alien corporation, and that too at a time when the tire of its worn-out and attenuated credit is just coming off, and the mass is slowly but surely sinking to the earth. For all that we have had occasion to say on this subject the reward has been, naturally enough, the insane ribaldry of a local press to which we are sublimely indifferent; but at the same time an expression of confidence on the part of considerate and sagacious men in the same region, capitalists too, in the forecast we have ventured on that is very gratifying. When we intimated that the Vice-President of the Pennsylvania Company had quite as much as he could do in managing his three hundred miles of road with its branches, and the express companies and the Legislature municipalities, without winding up the insolvent estate of Mr. Oakes Ames and his associates, great was the wrath of Philadelphia typography. "The doom of New York sealed," says one silly paper. "The World reeks with falsehood, and is redolent with malice," cries another. The imagination of one sees Nineveh typifying New York —the bat building his nest under Washington's dismounted statue in Union Square, and the owl, bird of wisdom, perched on all that is left of Mr. Lincoln; and yet within a hundred miles of this malarious Mosul, on its branch of the Euphrates, Philadelphia, a joyous capital with one line of steamers and scores of canalboats. The other sees in us the base assassin of Philadelphia's prosperity. Now the truth is, as we have all along averred, and as sensible men in that excitable community begin to see, it is in the interest of Philadelphia we write—our New York interests being only in-directly and remotely involved. Had the Pennsylvania company got control of New Jersey, in what way would Philadelphia have been injured or New York hurt? Way station

as by the course of nature the former is now, it would, in slang phrase, literally have been "nowhere" had Jersey City and not West Philadelphia been the terminal point. But in more material relations than such as regulate stations and switches is the question of in-terest material to our Philadelphia neighbors. Where would ruin fall most heavily in case of a collapse-on us or on them? On the relatively few New York capitalists who, on their own account or as agents for foreign constituents, hold a portion of some of the multitudinous strata of bonds on which the great scheme rests, or on the city of Philadelphis, an already debt-burdened municipality, its banks, and savings funds, and insurance companies, and trustees, and widows and orphans? We could manage to survive, much as we might deplore it. Not they whom, angered at what in no unkindness we say, we put on their guard. We are safe, thanks to Governor Hoffman's pressience, who long ago, at some risk to his popularity, saw the danger of the intrusion of this corporation within our limits, and warned it away. We believe, as we have said, that Governor Geary's instincts prompt him to revolt; but what can he, poor man, effect with a Republican Legislature owned by this company and the press throughout the commonwealth subsidized? If our vaticinations are unreasonable and unfounded, they do no barm in this camp. It was only inside of Troy and Jerusalem that Cassandra and Salome had so uncomfortable a time, and we know what happened to those incredulous inland cities. But the forecast of the future rests on axioms of political and economical science that never mislead. No instance can be cited of a corporation being anything but an ultimate failure which acts under different charters and is amenable to different responsibility. Witness that monument of discreditable ruin, the Atlantic and Great Western, with its three charters and its Buffalo extension. The distant purchases and leases (for a 999 years' lease is an unpaid-for purchase) Pennsylvania company put it in the No company ever was sub-

and her railroad men, aside from the quia custodiet scruple, may doubt the legal power to give such guarantees, for surely there is none unless expressly conferred; or they may have taken warning from the fate of all the other leased roads, which, if not actual ruins, as is the western division of the Pennsylvania Canal, wither away in the fell embrace. "Poverty," as says the satirist, "seems as it were disposed, before it takes possession of a man entirely, to attack his extremities first.' Here the rot is showing itself in the branches. Besides, what is a guarantee worth when by a little dexterons stock manipulation (as in the case of the Pennsylvania sinking fund and poor Miss Briggs, who lends all her money to Colonel Crawley and is grateful) it is, after a time, modified or relinquished? Now Jersey is very well out of the scrape.

FORNEY IN THE CUSTOMS.

From the Harrisburg Patriot. To silence the grumblings of the Press about Sumper's removal, San Domingo annexation and other blunders in the administration policy, Grant has nominated John W. Forney for Collector of Customs at Philadelphia, and Forney, as was anticipated, has promptly accepted. He, in fact, lost no time in giving notice of his entire willingness to serve his country, for fear of a change in the Presidential bumor. When so many are clamoring for an office delays are dangerous, and it will not do to be too coy about snatching the prize. Forney is too sturdy a place-hunter to let such a gift as the control of the Philadelphia Customs slip through his fingers. If he has sometimes aspired to higher things, he has often shown his willingness to accept much humbler positions Grant committed a political blunder in in sulting Sumner, but he is doing what he can to retrieve his position by purchasing Sum-ner's toadies. He knew Forney's price, and has paid it without much higgling. But poor a situation as the Philadelphia Custom House is to a man of Forney's ambitton, it is yet more than his political influence is worth, His power as a politician has long since reached zero in Pennsylvania. He is in the confidence of neither the Curtin nor Cameron faction, and has few followers anywhere. For a long time the enemy of Cameron, and the vindictive assailant of his personal character, Forney suddenly became his servile adherent, and now flatters the man whom he was accustomed to revile. The enemies of Cameron in the Curtin faction were indignant at Forney's conduct, and learned to despise him as thoroughly as the Cameron faction distrust him.

Forney's design of playing the Douglas game of 1858 over again with Sumner for a bero was manifest enough. If he deceived himself by an apparent analogy in the two cases, he made a very common mistake of politicians. His growls about Sumper's removal were not so fierce as to cause Grant to close the door of conciliation. He roared at him as gently as Snug, the joiner. Grant took the hint, and graciously came forward, after consulting Drexel and Borie, and clapped Forney in the Custom House to shut his mouth. Grant has enough experience in the world and in human nature to know that the bungry fellow is the true revolutionist. A politician with his belly full of meat seldom s known to strike.

Mr. Buchanan might have appeased Forney in the same way in 1858, but his ambition then caused him to aspire to a first-class mission or a place in the Cubinet. There was a negotiation about a printing job in Washingbut that was permitted to fall through, and Forney revolted. By dexterously making use of the potent name of Douglas, and availing himself of an all-pervading popular sentiment against slavery extension, managed to impress the Republicans with an idea of his importance, and as a reward obtained what they had to bestow-the clerkship of the House of Representatives.

With all his lofty aspirings for political bonors, Forney has shown a commendable readiness to take whatever he can get when the pinch comes. At one time the rival of Cameron for a seat in the Senate of the United States, he subsided to the clerkship of the House. At another time a candidate for the highest positions in the gift of President Lincoln, he contented himself with the office of Secretary of the Senate, which he did not give up until his virulent abuse of distinguished Senators rendered it no longer tenable. But a little while ago a hopeful aspirant for the position of Postmaster-General of the United States, he comes down the collectorship of the customs in Philadelphia, which Grant su-perciliously flings to him. Such an Such an office in New York, or Boston, or New Orleans means something. But he is collector in a large city with no or little commerce. The sails that he may count in the harbor are for the most part coasting vessels which bring no receipts. Philadelphia is a big town, but the collecting of its customs is not a big office. It will do well enough for Forney. But if he and any of the mousing politicians of Phila-delphia imagine that they can exercise any power to control or check the mighty popular revolution that is approaching, the near future will show how ridiculous is their estimate of their own influence. Forney may betray Summer to Grant and Cameron, but the political fates will not be appeased by any offerings which they may bring to the altar. It is all the same whether Forney goes to the custom house or to - San Domingo.

CHICKENS COMING HOME TO ROOST. From the Harrisburg Patriot.

The sins which nations or individuals commit merely because they possess the wanton power are sure, sooner or later, to meet with the stroke of retributive justice. It has been the boast of the Republican party for the past ten years to allow no differences of opinion with the central power of the Government. Freedom of speech was denied. Liberty of the press was sconted. He who attempted the exercise of either of these holy franchises -who dared to speak as he was convinced was right, or print what he believed to be true-was bunted down like a public enemy, pursued by the armed minions of the Government even unto death. When Lincoln told a vulgar joke, the nation was forced to laugh to e-cape a charge of treason. When Stanton perpetrated an atrocity, freemenwere made to bow their heads in sign of acquiescence, or accept incarceration behind the gloomy walls of a military prison. The Republican party expounded and preached this doctrine as the only gauge of loyalty. What has been the result of it? We answer, the building up of as ruthless and intolerant a military despotism as ever outraged the life of a republic. The republics of the past have all been destroyed by just the course of action pursued by the

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No. 204 WALNUT St., just above Second, of the freedom of speech. The Senate of the United States, when it made Ulysses S. Grant General, conferred on him a power transcending that of the President of the United States; and now this same man Grant, arrogantly assuming that he embodies as an individual the genuine authority of the Government, lords it over the Senate and drags that over-dignified body low into the dirt. All this is the result of Republican inculcation, and who now is to counteract its evil? The civil power of the Government no longer means anything. He collects its revenues by the power of the bayonet and enforces its laws by the power of military decrees. Grant relies more on the army and the navy than he does on the judiciary for carrying out the policy of his administration. He is encouraged in this faith by acts of Congress which give him power to hurl armed hosts of ruffians on any section of the country to do whatever he deems proper. The Emperor of Russia has no greater power than this, and the Queen of England not so much. With us it is a logical result of Republican teaching during the late war, and now it is forced us sgain as pure Republican doctrine. There must be no differences with the central power of the Government. The people must have no opinions at variance with the wishes or the speculations of their rulers. Lincoln and Cameron, and Stanton and Butler taught this execrable doctrine during the war. Grant and Cameron and the Dent family, backed by a servile majority of Republican Senators, now carry it into practice. The chickens have come home to roost. The representatives of the people dare not differ with the Executive. The law-making power of the Government must obey the will of the Executive to the disregard of the wishes of the people. Such is the situation. There is no escape from it but in revolution, or in the orderly triumph of the Democratic party at the ballot-box.

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