SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON SUBBENT TOPICS - COMPILED BYERY DAY FOR THE EVENING TELEGRAPH.

THE DECHEANCE OF PARIS. From the N. Y. Tribune.

If there be any flowers to plack from the

nettle of the Communist insurrection, it is

found in the hope that henceforward Paris

ceases to be France, and assumes her proper position subordinate to the nation. For the last eighty years, as a result of the system of centralization which followed the great revolution, the fortunes of parties and of dynasties have been absolutely dependent upon the possession of the capital by a mob. This has been a fatal fault of former revolutionary movements. When everything is left to the unreasen and caprice of the gentlemen of leisure who live in the gutters, it is highly improbable that any practicable or wise direction can be given to a popular demonstration. Any unforeseen street accident may change the face of affairs, and the political complexion of a movement, in a moment, A remarkable exhibition of this kind was seen in 1848, where misunderstanding attacking about a station-house led to a collision which destroyed the throne. The crowd was carried on by the impetus of successful riot until the emeute became a revolution. The men who at sunrise shouted Vive le Roi! from the height of their barricades, and loyally demanded redress of grievances, at noon trampled under foot the abdication of the King, and stumbled into a republic which no one had dreamed of in the morning. Yet so powerful was the moral influence of the capital that the provinces gave in their adhesion premptly and without exception to the new order of things they had done nothing to establish. Later, when the workmen's insurrection in June imperilled the commonwealth, France waited apathetically to see what Paris would do with it; and when Cavaignac had crushed it with the aid of the army the provinces quietly acquiesced. It was the same when Louis Bonaparte seized the

Government and imprisoned the representa-

tives of the nation. He had only to stun and

stupefy Paris by prompt slaughter, and the

country, seeing the city reduced to order,

made no effectual resistance to the usurpa-

tion, and when the plebiscitum came to give

its sham sanction to the theft and perjury,

the peasantry veted as solidly as a hired gang

of our own repeaters. It is an encouraging symptom of the gradual progress of the democratic principle in France under the workings of universal suffrage, that the capital appears to have lost this absolute power over the provinces. It was a rude surprise to those idolators of Paris who regarded her as sacred and unquestionable to find, when the mad empute of Montmartre had deluged the city and drowned out all semblance of government, that the work of revolution was not completed. They evidently thought that with the proclamation of the Commune, that vague and undefined apotheosis of the city, the political problem was solved. They expected that all the secondary towns of the country would follow the example of their imperial sister, and that the rural masses would, as usual, accept the fact accomplished. But the Republican administration, who had learned in the experiences of former revolutions the true significance of political systems formulated by the crack-brained coryphees of the mob, resolved to try conclusions with the spirit of anarchy before tamely surrendering. It is probable that M. Taiers and his associates were not much less surprised at the loyal adhesion of the country at large than were the Montmartrists at the resistance of the Government and the defection of the great cities. After insignificant demonstrations in a few places, the whole of France rallied to the support of the regular authorities, and the unprecedented spectacle was presented of an insurrection triumphant and

isolated in Paris.

As soon as this almost incredible fact was realized in the capital, the tone of defiant exultation and contempt of the Government changed into one of desperation and rage. The statesmen who had been denounced as imbeciles were now execrated as murderers and traitors. The mob had succeeded so easily and so promptly at Montmartre, the National Guards had shown so little regard for their military honor, the municipality had fallen so helplessly into the hands of the rioters, that they imagined there was some magic power about the voice of the gamins of Paris that would surpass the rams horns of Jericho in the work of demolition. It was for this reason that there seemed to them something inexpressibly cruel and monstrous in the action of the Mont Valerien batteries, the day those helpless herds of folly and presumption marched out on the Neuilly road to capture the Government at Versailles. The madness continued in Paris after the forlorn mob had flocked back into the city, but it was no longer the cheery delusion of the day before. It was the sullen and melancholy mania of the patient who knows himself disbelieved and suspects himself insane. They still indulged from time to time in wild and futile expedients. They issued lyric addresses to their unresponsive brethren outside. They attempted even to flater the German pride by decreeing the destruction of the Vendoms column. The Freemasons organized a sentimental pic-nic on the ramparts, with flags and signals of fraternity, which was steruly broken up with shell from the unsympathetic guns of the Government. This isolation must in time have a strong

effect upon the population of Paris. If the administration can resist the disintegrating influences of delay, and if the Prussians can see that their interests do not suffer by the abnormal situation, the fall of Paris and the collapse of the rebellion will point a moral which, if taken to heart, will be worth all the blood and discord it has com. If the conviction can be once firmly impressed on the general mind that Paris means nothing more than two millions, more or less, of French people, each counting one in respect of rights and influence, it will be difficult to exaggerate the importance of the achievement. Of course, it will always be inevitable that so great a city shall exercise a great moral power among the race of which it is the glory and the pride. But if France is to remain one of the modern family of nations, if there are to be any guarantees of peace and order among Continental powers, it must be settled that Paris is not France, and that a must of musicas or a evacpicacy of adventurem may not at their good plantare Draws in passency the secure combinementalisms the grammation of the course of shad against the resonant that the see congnitional science only result in making bold hereafter powerful in France.

HABITS.

From the N. Y. Times.

The comments of the Tribune on our proposition for a compromise between the G man and American Republicans show s much more common sense and wisdom tha have heretofore characterized that journal when treating of such topics, that we begin to hope for good results from the discussion. The present position of the Tribune is at least simple, logical, and consistent. It is that "alcohol is essentially a poison," and, therefore, that its traffic should be placed under the same restraints as that of all other peisons; that, accordingly, the distinction between different kinds of alcoholic drinks is only a distinction between more and less of poison, and of no account to the true reformer; and that all sale or partaking of this poison is a wrong and a sin. Such a position is perfectly comprehensible, and, allowing its premise, capable of defense. But on the question of alcohol being a poison the best physiological authorities are against the Tribune, and the experience of mankind shows that if it is a poison, it is a "very slew one," millions of men having reached the most advanced age, in the highest condition of mind and body, who had habitually par-

taken of it. In fact, the number who never take alcohol into the system is an exceedingly small fraction of mankind, and mainly to be found in New England and the Middle States, and, so far as we have heard, is in no way distinguished from the rest of humanity, either by longer lives or greater physical power or superior intellects. On the contrary, our strong impression is that, as a class, the total abstinence party of this country (for whom morally we have the highest respect) are solely distinguished from the rest of maskind, in a physical view, by a greater proneness to dyspepsia and nervousness.

Even if alochol were proved to be in itself a poison, it might entirely lose this character when combined with the fruity elements of wine, or the large dilution of water in lager beer. A very slight chemical change in sugar makes it a poison. It is certainly possible that a combination of other elements with alcohol may make it not only not injurious but beneficial to the human stomach. Apart, however, from the science of the matter, we rest on the broad experience that to most persons who are overwerked, or unduly strained, or otherwise weakened, the partaking of a light wine or mild fermented drink at their meals is healthful and useful; while to the young and vigorous, though there may be no necessity for such beverages, a moderate use of light wines at a social gathering is promotive of sociality, and is not injurious. In this view (which we cannot hope, of course, that the Tribune will share), we think there is a vast practical difference to the reformer, the legislator and the Christian, between the social and moderate beer and wine drinking habits of the Germans, and the whisky and rum and brandy drinking of some Americans and almost all the Irish. The former has no perceptible bad effect on the general order and morality of the community; on the contrary, it prometes innocent sociality. The latter is the source of nine-tenths of the crime and panperism of the city.

Let any investigator go to the Tombs prison and examine the records for the month of | need of reconstruction acts of Congress or murders, burglaries, abuse, and quarrels, and | coercive Ku-klux legislation. On this plathe will find that ninety-nine out of the hundred are caused by brandy, rum, or whisky, while the offenses under the influences of lager or Rhine wine are trifling and comparatively innocent. Let him visit the wretched drunkards' homes in this city, where everything is sold for liquor, and wife and children are beggared and driven to the street, and in ninety cases out of the hundred they will be among the Irish and American and English drinkers of whisky and strong drinks. No, these are facts which are known to every We assert that they ought to be recognized by legislation. We urged them under our old Liceuse law; and we believe, had not the reformers, like the Tribune, taken their ultra position of "drinking as a sin," and "alcohol as a poison," we

should have effected a compromise which would have put the Germans on the American side in this question, and checked the traffic in strong drinks, and thus immensely diminished intemperance and all its evils. But the reformers would have all or nothing. Alcohol was a poison, and lager and "gaupswder whisky" were alike curses. The results were the Democracy restored to power, an unrestrained revel in liquor on Sundays and week days, and crime and drunkenness are rampaut through the city.

The compromise which the Tribune now suggests-that the traffic in liquor should be regulated by each city and township for itself—is not new. We have always supported it. Every Republican member of the Legislature voted for it in the recent session. Every Democrat voted against it. It is a reasonable measure. But for ence we find the Tribune not sufficiently radical for us. Such a law would immensely benefit the rural districts, but would do nething for this city. We discover that of the 42,000 prisoners in our city prisons last year, 27,000 were habitual drunkards, and of the remainder a large proportion were under the influence of liquor when committing their erimes. We also find that of the 72,000 arrests by the police last year, 32,000 were directly for intoxication, and some 20,000 more for offenses under the influence of We also discover that of all those arrested, 34,000 were Irish-born, and only 7000 were Germans. Now, we desire to control this horrible revel of crime and drunken ness, especially among the Irish drinkers of strong drink. We think that the million of dollars which the traffickers in these drinks used to pay to the Board of Excise ought to go towards the healing of the wounds they have made. With fifty thousand German votes drawn to our ranks, these reforms can be accomplished. And this can only be done by a reasonable compromise on our part. What shall that compromise be?

THE PRESIDENTIAL DIFFICULTY OF THE DEMOCRATS SOLVED-GENERAL SHERMAN THE MAN.

From the N. Y. Herald. "I probably have as good means of information as most persons in regard to what is called the Ku-klux, and am perfectly satisfied that the thing is greatly overestimated; and if the Ku-klux bills were kept out of Congress and the army kept at its legitimate duties, there are enough good and true men in all the Southern States to put down all Ku-klux or other bands of marauders."

The remarks we quote were delivered by General Sherman in a short impromptu address recently at New Orleans. The American Union Club, composed mostly of radical office-Texas fer a reception, and urged him, against age will, to realer a specule. There gootlamen expected, daubtion, to boar something flattexing to them, the radical party and the in the midst of a terrible civil war. Yet complices and beneficiaries of the railroad

GERMAN-AMERICANS AND DRINKING | administration. But General Sherman is a | fearless, honest, and outspoken man. He is se flatterer, time-server, or partisan. Though a brilliant and fluent speaker, this little speach was almost as short as General Grant is in the habit of delivering. But how full of meauing! How significant! What a reproof to the radical party and administration for their pretended Ku-klux legislation and coercive policy! The passage we have placed at the head of this article is only an extract from the remarks General Sherman made, brief as they were. Referring to the growth and destiny of the country, he said: -"But in order to gain this much desired end, and to maintain ourselves as a free and independent republic, we have got to show more charity to each other." He believed, he added, "that if the question, and all matters as to the settlement of the differences between the North and South, were left to the armies it would be settled at once, and everything would become quiet and orderly. I so believed," he went on to say, "and before signng the agreement with General Joe Johnston called together all the other generals under my command, and without a dissenting voice they agreed with me. I believed they (the Confederates) surrendered in good faith and would have lived up to the very letter of the agreement; and, in my opinion, if there had been no reconstruction acts of Congress and the armies been left to settle all questions of difference between the different sections of the country, the people would at once have become quiet and pesceable." Then follows the passage quoted above; and who does not believe that General Sherman has as good means of information as most persons in regard to what is called Ku-klux? What ur prejudiced citizen will not agree with him when he says he is perfectly satisfied this thing is greatly over estimated, and if the Ku-klux bills were kept out of Congress and the army kept at their legitimate duties there are enough good and true men in all the Southern States to put down all the Ku-klux or other bands of marauders?

> On this spontaneous and patriotic speech we nominate General Sherman for next President. It is better than all the platforms of party conventions. It shows a large heart and broad and liberal views. Peace and harmeny are what the country want, and General Skerman's mind is imbued with that fact. Kindness, or charity combined with firmness, on the part of the Government, would heal all our sectional difficulties. General Sherman possesses these qualities in au eminent degree, and if he were President there is no doubt that the troubles perpetuated from the war by radical misrule would soon be ended. No ene need be reminded of the inexorable firmness he exhibited during the struggle to preserve the Union, and, in fact, on all occasions when the rights of the Government and the law were in question. A more conservative and patriotic man could not be found, or one that would more faithfully execute the laws. He would be a terror to evil-doers at all times. Yet he was the first to hold out the clive branch of peace to the erring. He wanted, in the large charity of his nature, to bury the past in oblivion, and he still wasts that. He believes this is not only generous, but the best policy. The American people think so too, when their minds are divested of party politics, influences, and misrepresentations. He says emphatically that in his opinion there was no form the people everywhere should make a spontaneous movement to nominate General Sherman for the Presidency without waiting for the action of any party conven-The people of the Southern States particularly ought to take the initiative; for, terrible as he was in war, they have no better friend in peace. The Democrats, if they be wise, will take him up at once as the strongest and most available man they cen find.

No military chief has such a brilliant war record, except General Grant, if, indeed, it be second to any. On the score of military glory Sherman could make a close race with Grant. Then it is generally conceded that as a cultivated and intellectual man he is superior. to General Grant. Without being a partisan politician, General Sherman has always and consistently favored those broad and liberal views of national policy which the Democrats favor. Not even his friendship for General Grant, or the exalted position he holds in the Government under a radical administration, has changed his political creed or affiliations. He is a man of great mental and personal vigor, is of ripe age and not too old, and would make a most efficient head of Government, Possibly General Sherman might not like to run against General Grant, and he might consider that his high position as General of the Army for life, with a salary almost equal to that of the President, is enough to satisfy the ambition of any one. He may think this preferable to a short term of office in the Presidential chair, with all the trouble, labor, and anxiety attached to it. In truth, the change could add nothing to his means, for he is not a man to accept gifts in such an office, and it would be a loss to him pecuniarily. Nor wenld it exalt him much above his present position. Still, to be President of this mighty republic is a great honor, and to a patriot like General Sherman it is one neither to be sought nor rejected. Let the people, then, move in the matter, and this distinguished man may be the successor of

General Grant in 1873. The history of the country for a long time past shows that a Presidential dynasty-as we may call the perpetuation of power in the bands of one man for two terms of office-is hardly possible, except in such an exceptional case as that of Mr. Lincoln. One term of office has become the rule. The vast and varied interests of the republic, the labor and difficulties of the Presidential office, the rivalry of public prominent men for the position and the difficulty of maintaining party cohesion and discipline—all make it highly improbable that a President can be re-elected in these times. In the early days of the republic, when the country and population were much smaller, parties perpetuated their power longer, and a re-election to the Presidency was common. Washington's rule was a sort of dynasty of the highly conservative and semi-aristocratic British school. After Washington had ruled eight years the same policy was continued under John Adams four years longer. After that a more democratic party -or, as it was called then, the Republican party-took the reins of power. This dynasty—the Virginia dynasty—began with Jefferson, and lasted under him, Madison, and Monroe, all of these Presidents from Virginia serving two terms. The four years' term of John Quincy Adams was the first break upon this kind of dynastic rule. Succeeding that was the Jackson dynasty, the new Democratic power, which ran through eight years of Jackson's office and four of Van Buren's, Here ended the two-term Presidents and the dynastic rule of the outgoing executive appointing its successors. No President after that was re-sleated except Mr. Linealn, and

almost every one has aspired to and worked | ring. The Tribune is not alone among Refor a re-election

General Grant is fellowing the course of his predecessors, but every effort he makes with s view to secure his re-election seems to fail. The St. Domingo annexation scheme, out of which he expected to make popularity, has utterly failed. The Ku-klux coordies policy, which was intended to put the political power in the South under the control of the administration, and to operate upon the prejudices of the North, is likely to prove as disastrous as the San Domingo affair. Even the negotiations under the Joint High Commission to settle our difficulties with England begin to be unpopular and to look like a fiasco. The financial policy of the administration and its party, for which so much is claimed, is repudiated by the mass of the people. In every respect General Grant's administration is de clining in popular esteem, while the opposition is daily gaining strength. We conclude, therefore, that by the time the Presidential election takes place General Grant's chance of re-election will be much diminished, and that the Democrats, with General Sherman for their candidate, will have a good prospect of regaining power. Let the Democrats, then, take the tide at the flood and resolve at once to make General Sherman their candidate.

GENERAL SHERMAN ON THE KU-KLUX BUSINESS.

From the N. Y. World.

There is a manifest advantage, in the heat of political controversies, in expressions of opinion by eminent persons who keep aloof from the party arena, and can be suspected of no other motive than a patriotic interest in the general welfare. The most independen position in the country is that of the General of the army. He has little to hope, and nothing to fear, from the mutations of party politics. He holds a more desirable effice than the Presidency, because he has a life tenure, whereas the President goes out and passes into insignificance at the end of four years. It is a more desirable position for a patriot than the Chief Justiceof the Supreme Court, because the Chief Justice is hampered in expressing opinions on subjects which may come before him in his judicial capacity, and is bound by technical rules of law, while the General of the army is free to follow the dictates of robust common sense. Chief Justice Chase is not at liberty to disclose his opinions on the Ku-klux bill inasmuch as it may come before his court for adjudication. But General Sherman is unrestrained and disembarrassed. Having nothing to hope, or to fear, from the political passions of the hour, he can say his say and deliver his opinion with the utmost freedom, according to his judgment as a man and his sentiments as a patriot. This brilliant and popular soldier recently made a speech in New Orleans, in which he took occasion to express his views of the recent Ku-klux legislation with the independence and directness of his personal character, which so well suits with the soldier-like frankness of his profession. We copy the following authentic synopsis of his speech from a Western

paper:-"I believe this Government will keep on growing until it spreads itself over the entire American con-tinent but in order to gain this much desired end, and to maintain ourselves as a free and independent republic, we have got to show more charity towards each other. It has been remarked by some gentle-man who has preceded me that it was generally conceded by the solciers of both armies at the close of the late civil war, that if the questions and all matters of the settlement of the differences between the North and the South were left to the armies it would be settled at once, and everything would be come quiet and orderly. I so believed, and before signing the agreement with General Joe Johnston I called together all the generals under my command, and without a dissenting voice they agreed with me. I believed they surrendered in good faith. and would have lived up to the very letter of the agreement, and in my opinion, if there had been no reconstruction nets of Congress, and the armies been left at the time to sette all questions of differ-ence between the different sections of the country, the people would have at once become quiet and peace-ble. I probably have as good means of in-formation as most persons in regard to what is called the Ku-kinx, and am perfectly satisfied that the thing is greatly overestimated; and if the Ku-kiux bills were kept out of Congress, and the army kept at its legitimate duties, there are enough good and true men in all Southern States to put down all Ku-klux or other bands of marauders.

Befere General Grant had caught the Presidential itch, and had made himself the football of politicians, his views were similar to those now expressed by General Sherman. The report which he made to President Johnson after a tour in the South in the winter of 1866 (denounced by the radicals in the Senate as a "whitewashing" report), was a soldier's recognition of the mauliness and honor of the Senthern people. General Grant has become debauched by political ambition; but General Sherman, who preserves the honor and truthfulness of the soldierly character, does not conceal his disgust and contempt for the dishonest political persecution of which the South is the victim. His opportunities for understanding the temper of the South are infinitely superior to those of the narrow, bigoted Congressmen who passed the Ku-klux bill: and, unlike them, he has no motive to falsify. They have been bounded into passing the Ku-klux bill by violent journals like the Tribune; but what does the editor of the Tribune know of the South compared with the personal knowledge of General Sherman? The thanks of the whole country are due to the high-minded, illustrious soldier for his sturdy honesty and robust independence in exposing the latest and most egregious political sham.

"LEGAL TENDER" IN A PACKED COURT. From the N. Y. World.

The reversal of the legal-tender decision which was rendered last year provokes the indignant contempt of thinking men. It is generally regarded, not as the selemn adjudication of an upright and impartial tribunal. but as a base compliance with executive wishes by creatures of the President, placed upon the bench to carry out his views. Even the Tribune is scandalized by this outrage upon judicial decorum. It says: -

The Supreme Court yesterday appounced decisions in the Legal-tender act and other cases of less public importance. The formal announcement of the court on the question of the constitutionality of the Legal-tender act, as applied to contracts made before the war, does not differ from that which we have already published. It is a decision in the interests of the great railroad companies, and it has been reached through the instrumentality of their former paid advocates and stockholders now on the bench. The first conclusion of the court has been hastily reversed, but it will not be as easy to restore the public respect and reverence for the tribunal which this decision has sacrificed."

This means that Justices Bradley and Strong, the feed counsel of great railroad corporations, were foisted upon the bench by General Grant to reverse the decision rendered last year, and that they have shown their subservient gratitude by ignoring the merits of the question and deciding it in the interest of their former clients, according to the undarstood wishes of the President who appointed them. In other words, they have not decided as judges, but as naturious ache, probably, only bacause the country was

publican journals in making this damning accusation. The fellowing paragraph is from a long article in the Evening Post;

"After the main question at issue had been decided "After the main question at issue had been decided by the Court, and the decision accepted by the public mind, the Government, itself a party to the Issue, added to the minority of the Court judges aiready known to have expressed opinions adverse to the decision, is number sufficient to reverse it. Under these circumstances the new decision is necessarily regarded as the voice not of the law, but of the advisable to the control of the law, but neser sarily regarded as the voice net of the law, but of the administration. The new point established by it is not that the decision in the case of Hep-arn against Griswold was wrong, but that, when a decision is made by the Court which limits the powers of the General Government, under the Constitution, that Government may reconstitute the Court so as to secure a decision less distasteful to it. If this practice is tolerated the Constitution and its interpretation cease to limit the National Government, and become just what the appointing power chooses and become just what the appointing power chooses to make them,"

What was it that encouraged the knaves, who wished to escape the payment of their just debts, according to the terms of the contract, to bring new suits in the face of a decision of the Supreme Court? Why, the fact that General Grant had appointed the attorneys of railroad corporations to the beach, with the undisguised purpose of overruling that decision. It is not law and justice which speak in the reversal, but the sic volo, sic jubeo, of an ignorant, stolid military commander who appointed judges to execute his orders. Even his own partisans revolt against this shameless prostitution of our highest judicial tribunal.

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