

SPiRiT OF THE PRESS.

EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS—COMPILED BY THE DAY FOR THE EVENING TELEGRAPH.

THE DECEASE OF PARIS.

From the N. Y. Tribune. If there be any flowers to pluck 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.

GERMAN-AMERICANS AND DRINKING HABITS.

From the N. Y. Times.

The comments of the Tribune on our proposition for a compromise between the German and American Republicans show a much more common sense and wisdom than have heretofore characterized that journal in treating of such topics, that we begin to hope for good results from the discussion.

administration. But General Sherman is a fearless, honest, and outspoken man. His eloquence, his nerve, his patriotism. Though a brilliant and fluent speaker, this little speech was almost as short as General Grant is in the habit of delivering.

almost every one has aspired to and worked for re-election. General Grant is following the course of his predecessors, but every effort he makes with a view to secure his re-election seems to fail.

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.

ring. The Tribune is not alone among Republican journals in making this damning accusation. The following paragraph is from a long article in the Evening Post: "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 already known to have expressed opinions adverse to the decision, in number sufficient to reverse it."

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ABOUT 28,000 ACRES OF LAND, TO BE SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION, AT THE WEST JERSEY HOTEL, CAMDEN, N. J., ON MAY 6, 1871, AT 10 O'CLOCK, P. M.

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FOR SALE—LOW, AT CHESTNUT HILL, an unusually attractive and complete country seat, five minutes' walk from Chesnut Hill Depot.

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FOR SALE—NEAT THREE-STORY BRICK DWELLING, with side yard, No. 1413 N. EIGHTEENTH Street, or will be exchanged.

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TO RENT, FURNISHED—DESIRABLE Summer Residence, Township Line, near School Lane, Germantown.

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UMBRELLAS, ETC.

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WARRANTED IMPROVED VENTILATING and easy-folding DRESS HATS (patented), in all the improved fashions of the season.

PRIME REAY SEED OATS.

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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 harmony are what the country want, and General Sherman's mind is imbued with that fact.

Let an investigator go to the Tombs prison and examine the records for the month of murders, burglaries, abuses, and quarrels, and he will find that ninety-nine out of the hundred are caused by brandy, rum, or whisky, while the offenses under the influence of lager or Rhine wine are trifling and comparatively innocent. Let him visit the wretched third-class 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 one. We assert that they ought to be recognized by legislation. We urged them under our old License 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 benefited the American people.

Let us not despair. We are always supported by every Republican member of the Legislature voted for in the recent session. Every Democrat voted against it. It is a reasonable measure. But for once we find the Tribune not sufficiently radical for us. Such a law would immensely benefit the rural districts, but would do nothing 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 crimes. We also find that of the 72,000 arrests by the police last year, 32,000 were directly for intoxication, and some 29,000 for offenses under the influence of liquor.

The history of the country for a long time past shows that a Presidential dynasty—as we may call the continuation of power in the hands 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.

"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 indignation of thinking men. It is generally regarded, not as the solemn 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 announced decisions in the Legal-tender case 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, did 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."

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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 irresistibly 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 ferocious 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 diseased 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 flatter the German pride by decreasing the destruction of the Vendôme column. The Frenchmans' sentimental picnic on the ramparts, with flags and signals of fraternity, which was sternly 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 cost. 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 races 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 seat of monarchs or a sanctuary of adventures may not be their good pleasure for the perpetuation of the great moral power which, if taken to heart, will be worth all the blood and discord it has cost. 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 races 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 seat of monarchs or a sanctuary of adventures may not be their good pleasure for the perpetuation of the great moral power which, if taken to heart, will be worth all the blood and discord it has cost.

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 are always supported by every Republican member of the Legislature voted for in the recent session. Every Democrat voted against it. It is a reasonable measure. But for once we find the Tribune not sufficiently radical for us.

Such a law would immensely benefit the rural districts, but would do nothing 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 crimes. We also find that of the 72,000 arrests by the police last year, 32,000 were directly for intoxication, and some 29,000 for offenses under the influence of liquor.

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