

SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

TITHING AND CHARITY.

We called attention some time ago to the efforts being made in England and this country to form a Believers Alliance of clergy-men and laity in the different churches, the object being to ignore, as far as practicable, all surface differences, and to unite in promulgating the pure, highest spirit of Christianity. The gentlemen from England, distinguished for both their piety and practical ability, who are introducing the scheme in this country, have hit upon a somewhat novel plan of accomplishing their end. On arriving at a city they proceed to invite the leading ministers in it to a breakfast, and after their bodies and hearts are thus generally warmed and fed, then, it appears, in a conciliatory spirit for welcoming innovations. We would suggest, however, that there is one point in their great and altogether nobly-featured plan on which they dwell with what seems to us undue energy—that of the voluntary setting aside by the Association of "a tenth part of his income for the service of the Lord." It is insisted on indeed with so much vehemence that it would be easy to mistake it for the principal motive of the movement. One of the speakers, when urged in Philadelphia, remarked that he had never doubted its propriety but once, and that was when he was pressing it on the people during the time of the famine. "It was difficult," he tells us, "to ask a man to give away 'a tenth of his income to the Lord when his children were starving for bread.' So difficult that it is a pity the reverend gentleman had not found it impossible.

This system of tithing, or "systematic benevolence," as it is called, is rapidly extending into all the sects, and, although commendable in its spirit, it seems to us that, like all other prescribed and arbitrary rules of action, if not under the surveillance of plain common sense, it is apt to become a most oppressive yoke. Who is to determine what is "the service of the Lord" to which we must devote a tenth part of our earnings? We have known sincere men and women, striving honestly to serve God and who have been taught, staid and fierce their workpeople down to the half-starved washer-woman of the last penny in order to give their tithes religiously to furnish some monster church with stained glass or carved wood. A man of practical sense might question, too, whether the money spent in fitting the children God has given him to be strong, helpful men in the world was not offered to the service of the Lord quite as much as that which went to aid in the doubtful education of some hypothetical Monastachian. We are a little surprised that some keen-witted Irishman did not inquire of the reverend tithing whether to furnish bread for his famished children was not as binding a duty on him as to contribute to future breakfasts at the St. Nicholas and Continental, however savored with Attie or pious salt. Not that stained glass, and missionaries, and the breakfasts of our friends of the Association, are not thoroughly good things in their place. But duties are relative, and no man can say of them, "Lo, here is Christ!" or "Lo, there!"

Our much abused French and German cousins have an element in their home education of children which is almost altogether overlooked with us. It is that of the great brotherhood of man. To a French child *le pauvre* is one of his kinsfolk, as much a part of his every-day life as mother or father; enters into his most trivial plans. He is used to see his clothes, his meals, his very toys, preserved carefully and handed over to the pensioners of the family. Charity is not a seldom, gusty, impulsive liberality as with us. It forms part of the economies of the household. The Germans, with less effusion or sentiment in the matter, act with precisely the same spirit. There are no people who, in a plain matter-of-fact way, do as much to help to the needy or suffering of their own nation. Now this is a tithing of another kind, such, it seems to us, as Christ himself would have taught.

Whether a child or a man sets aside precisely five or ten per cent. for religious purposes matters little; nor will it, we fancy, as is shrewdly hinted, at all increase in the long run his bank account. But when the poor are always with us, in truth as in fact, when our brother man, rich and poor, loved and hated, shares not only our money, but our thoughts, our plans, our active help, as an enthusiasm or sentiment, but as an every-day practical matter of course, we shall have touched the root of the true "service of the Lord," and may confidently wait to hear the words, "As ye did it unto Me."

A CRUISE ROUND THE WORLD.

From the N. Y. Times. A history of the cruise round the world lately made by a British flying squadron has just been published, and reveals some odd statistics. Such a trip is commonly supposed to be a very delightful thing, and, to most school-boys in particular, it has a perpetual fascination. The sailors of the flying squadron, however, appear to have taken quite an opposite view of it. In fact, they were continually trying to desert. Either the charms of the port at which they touched or the discomforts of their ships were too great for the resolution of these mariners, who left in such numbers that the *Fall Moll Gazette* says it is impossible not to feel thankful that the ships of the squadron were not left in some remote corner of the world without any crews to navigate them home. The desertions began at Bahia. At Rio de Janeiro eleven men cleared out together. At Montevideo twelve got away, and the same number at the Cape of Good Hope. These losses were nothing, however, to those which awaited the squadron at Melbourne. The ships left that place for Sydney with 153 fewer men than they took there. There they saw the bay or harbor of San Francisco in 1849 may remember a more vivid and wholesome example of the force of this temptation to desert. Whole fleets, almost literally forsaken, lay rotting at anchor there. Probably no such spectacle was ever witnessed since ships were built. It was as if some sudden and awful pestilence had stricken down the entire crews of hundreds of vessels together, and had left them floating there as silently and idly as if they had been so many "painted ships on a painted ocean."

It is certainly not a little strange that, with all the precautions of the captain of the flying squadron should have lost so many men in Australia, and it is equally strange that of all these runaways only eight were recovered. Ships-of-war differ, of course, from merchantmen in their facilities for restraining desertion, and also in their power to recall men who have run away. The

matter is, however, partly explained by the fact that the Australian lawyers discovered that the police had no authority to send deserters in custody from one colony to another. The squadron lost twenty-seven more sailors at Sydney, none of whom were ever got back. There were afterwards desertions in New Zealand, Japan, Vancouver's Island, Honolulu, and Valparaiso, swelling the total loss by desertion during the cruise to over three hundred men. Perhaps their diet had something to do with it; for it will interest disappointed followers of Banting, as well as those who study naval affairs, to know that the average weight of those who completed this trip round the world was seriously diminished. Just after leaving England, twenty-five grown officers, seventy marines and two hundred and sixty-nine seamen were weighed, and found to average 151.79 pounds. The same persons, as nearly as possible, were weighed, when close to England on the return passage, and found to average but 145.94 pounds. This shows a loss of nearly six pounds each, or about four per cent. It is asserted in the published Summary that the effect of the cruise was to stunt the physical development of the boys, and to reduce the stamina of the men, and as this was not attended by ill health, but rather the contrary, it is to be inferred that such a voyage is at least unfavorable to corpulence.

In considering this inference, it should not be forgotten that the ships making the cruise were steamers; and steamers, more especially the vibratory screws, produce certain peculiar effects upon the system that sailing vessels do not. The Medical Committee, which has so long been investigating the effect on the system of daily or continuous railway travelling, have reported very unfavorably upon it. The committee declare, that is to say, that the strain and wear and tear of the nerves involved in continual locomotion of this sort are, in most cases, prejudicial to the general health. Obesity is, of course, likely to be reduced by such a cause, and it is natural to suppose that the effects on the human frame of continued movement by steam on the water may bear some analogy to those on land. The experience of the Flying Squadron, at all events, confirms this view; and consequently stout people who are anxious to reduce their weight, and care not to give time and money for such an object, should by all means try a cruise round the world in a screw steamer.

THE MERCANTILE MANIA.

From the N. Y. World. The historical incident of the Scottish milk-maid throwing her stool at the right reverend head of Land, and the still more impressive scene of the rival prelates contending each other with criers in the choir of St. Andrew's, are both painful to the sensitive and cultivated mind. But it is equally distressing that the dreadful note of preparation should sound for conflict through academic groves, and that the cry of the frantic shopman and the belligerent apothecary should vex the studious stillness of the Mercantile Library. The scene of the orgies is indeed the same quite as much of Mars as of the Muses. It was there that the champion of American art attempted a score of years ago to wreak upon the beer-nourished person of a Mercader the indignities inflicted by British criticism upon the shrinking form of a Forrest. That historical outbreak of patriotism gone aesthetically mad did not indeed effect its immediate and professed object, since in spite of it the British tragedian has since revisited the glimpses of the theatrical moon, and with his wonted persistency bayed that imaginary. But it did succeed in maiming and doing to death many persons who had assembled either with the dark design of striking the Irish act or with the comparatively harmless design of regarding the commotion excited by the persons who violently declined either to see him act or to permit other people to undergo that ordeal, which did not seem to the riotous mind to carry with it the full measure of its punishment. The ebullition of the opposition in the Mercantile Library seems equally to have fallen alike on the just and the unjust. The origin of the conflict is shrouded in the same mystery as always veils the vagaries of youthful spirits or youthful spite. There is no more reason why the studious mercantile person should turn off the gas during the orations of his opponent, or necessitate the intervention of the police, than why the sophomoric should decorate the abode of an obnoxious professor or seal the doors of a hateful tutor. But these latter feats have grown too common to excite remark. It is accepted among the contingencies of academic life in a didactic capacity that one shall be in continual peril of life, liberty, and property whenever an inexplicable earthquake of mischief shall leave the undergraduate breast. The President of Harvard has indeed deviated so far from the traditions of that seat of learning as to undertake the punishment of the undergraduates whose youthful exuberance carries them the length of destroying vast edifices. But he has been so snubbed and sneered at by the press and the adult public, as well as the conscientious feeling of the institution over which he presides, that there is not much danger that his example will be followed, and the right of students to demolish dormitories and to persecute professors will remain, in spite of this transient protest, a matter of august and immemorial prescription.

There is no reason why the urban young man, because he is engaged in more sordid pursuits, should be denied the same privilege as are those accorded to his scholastic cotemporary. The annual election of the Mercantile Library has become an event which evokes factious feeling, and sometimes leads to downright disorder. But as Cicero, and writers since his time, have declared that it was well there should be a class set apart from society for the purpose of protecting the peace of the other classes in society, so we may say that it is proper that a safety-valve should be provided whereby the turbulent tendencies which might otherwise be pent up and produce general convulsions, may harmlessly if somewhat noisily dissipate themselves and pass away. Nobody knows but that some potential Foster may have been working off the steam of his his which might otherwise have led him into murdering his fortuitous fellow-passenger on a street-car, in the playful feat of knocking a rival candidate or a rival orator on the head with a harmless necessary bottle. There are limits, to be sure, to the indulgence of this frisky feeling. President Elliot attempted to draw the line of the demolition of buildings and failed. At what point the young men of the Mercantile Library, if they are not interfered with, will stop, nobody, and least of all themselves, can tell. But their bellicose tendency at least signifies the warmth of their interest in an institution which is a credit, and a safeguard alike to themselves and the city in which it is established; and so long as their enthusiasm confines itself even within the wide limits which it has played between the mere settled and decorous portion of their fellow-citizens can afford to shut both eyes at its manifestations.

M. THIERS' DIFFICULTIES.

From the London Spectator. M. Thiers is certainly not a great man, and probably not a competent one; but the political difficulties in his way are greatly underrated in England. They are such as no statesman in the world, not even Prince Bismarck, would willingly be called upon to face. Deriving his title wholly from a Parliamentary vote, and holding office during the pleasure of the Assembly, he is called upon in a time of civil war to restore order without the cordial support of the very members who elected him. He must either conquer Paris, or conciliate Paris, or compromise with Paris; and to each of these courses there exist almost insuperable obstacles, among which the temper of the Assembly is not the least. In England it is held that the first of these alternatives is the right one, and certainly it is much the simplest; but the conquest of Paris, while its people are in arms, implies the storm of the greatest fortress in Europe—a fortress which the greatest general alive, commanding the most powerful army in the world, preferred to restore by hunger. M. Thiers has to perform the feat which General von Moltke declined, with less than a third of his troops—for he certainly has not 80,000 men—those troops being soldiers not superior man for man to the Parisians, dispirited by defeat, disorganized by want of confidence in their officers, disheartened by the feeling that after flying before the foreigner their first task is to make their countrymen fly before them. We do not believe in the stories of disaffection among the troops before Versailles, but we do believe those troops think the work before them excessively dangerous, not very honorable, and entirely without national profit; that they fight fitfully, more as Sikhs fight than as Frenchmen were supposed to fight, and that they are not carried away by enthusiasm either for their cause, for their generals, or for victory. Their numbers are constantly swelled by prisoners released from Germany, who are as constantly sent to a distance for re-formation; and they are commanded by a general who is certainly able, but who has suffered from a horrible wound, who demands excessive powers, and whose probable use of those powers is suspected by the head of the Executive. It might be possible even with such material to "conquer" Paris, that is, to force an entrance in despite of 100,000 workmen, fairly drilled, well led, and capable in a fitful and desultory way of very desperate fighting, if assistance could be relied on from within the walls, but it cannot. Such assistance might be obtained if the Assembly would proclaim the republic, or grant municipal liberty, or even agree to reside in Paris; but the Assembly will do none of these things—*minus* minus fretfully when any of them are so much as mentioned. M. Thiers is reduced to his troops alone, and his troops either can or will conquer only through a slow, irregular, half-hearted process of campaigning, more resembling the warfare of the last century than any method of action pursued since 1793.

The conciliation of Paris is at least equally difficult, for "Paris" in the instant sense demands impossible concessions. Supposing M. Thiers, in despair, to concede the great demand of the Commune that Paris should be a free city like Hamburg, governed by its own Senate, and liable to the General Government only for its contingent of taxes and men. Paris, in its profound distrust, would still demand that the national army should be excluded from the city, a right not claimed either by Hamburg or New York, and in its historic pride that it should remain the dark design of the Government, and in other words, that it should be independent, yet retain the power of upsetting the authority to which it does not yield. Nothing less than this would thoroughly "conciliate" Red Paris, which indeed goes farther, and in its very latest official proclamation demands permission to federate itself with other great cities, and with them to exercise a predominant voice in the general legislature. M. Thiers, as a statesman, could not grant these terms, which would be fatal to the unity of France; or if he did, the Assembly would reject them, and either proceed on its own violent path, sentencing Paris to destruction, or compel him to strike a *coup d'etat*, for which he has probably not the means, and which could settle nothing beyond the momentary dictatorship of an old civilian who must reign by the bayonet and the favor of the military chiefs. There is, we fear, no possibility of conciliation in any adequate sense.

There remains compromise, and this is evidently M. Thiers' idea. It must not be forgotten that he himself is Parisian, and is heart possibly slightly proud of the fuss his city is making in the world. He probably hopes that the Commune, necessarily defeated in the field, pressed by the suffering of the population of Paris, and aware that victory is hopeless, may in a few weeks listen to some conceivable compromise, such, for example, as the proclamation of the republic by the Assembly, the garrisoning of Paris by national troops, and the concession of full municipal liberty as understood in England and America. That strikes average Englishmen, as represented by the *Times*, as quite a reasonable arrangement, but it is nearly certain that it would be rejected by the Assembly—which can be dissolved only by its own consent or by force—and quite certain that it would be regarded by the Red chiefs as a compromise worse, because more dishonorable, than a silent submission to superior force. The Assembly does not want an orderly republic, or strong municipalities, or a contented Paris; but a powerful monarchy and obedient cities and a humiliated Paris, and the nearer it seems to approach to victory the greater will its dislike to compromise become. The Red chiefs, on the other hand, do not want to place Paris under a Republican Assembly elected by peasants, but under a Council of its workmen, and the nearer they approach to defeat, the more passionately they will become. Compromise is as difficult as either conciliation or conquest, and but for a certain confidence in the unforeseen, which so frequently occurs in France, we should be apt to declare that M. Thiers had entered on a course from which there was no escape. It is one, at all events, which involves days or weeks of slaughter outside Paris, the destruction of her resources, if not of her streets, and a finale which can be little better than a disastrous interregnum.

It adds most heavily to the misfortunes of France that the swiftest, if the wisest, road out of her difficulties, a temporary dictatorship, seems so impossible or so dangerous. The absolute government of a strong man, who would honestly devote himself to revive, and not to repress, her political energies, might for the hour be a blessing to France, but where is such a man to be found who both town and country would accept? The men among whom the Assembly would choose, the descendants of St. Louis, would be mere kings, not rulers of the class who found. Only one of them is so much as

credited with high ability, and France knows nothing of the Duc d'Anjou, except that his character is blameless, and that his pamphlets display some literary force. Why should Paris, which hates princes, or the army, which likes soldiers, yield readily to him? The man among whom the peasantry might be inclined to choose, the Bonapartes, would be repulsive, dynastic, hostile to the freedom indispensable to restore to the nation the political capacity it has lost. The man whom the towns might choose, Leon Gambetta, might succeed without repressing liberty, but why should the peasantry choose him, even if he were not too ill to undertake the task? M. Thiers himself is an old man who has almost failed. No eminent Frenchman known to Frenchmen, but outside the parties, seems to exist in France; and as yet no soldier has appeared who is not in some way or other more or less discredited, either by failure, or by character, or by want of political insight, the latter being the defect attributed to Marshal MacMahon. One French family, that of Bernadotte, is relying successfully outside of France, and other, the royal family of Belgium, thinks in French, but even the monarchists of France will not look for their leader outside one worn-out and most unlucky family. There is, so far as we see, no man whose dictatorship even for a time would inspire confidence in Frenchmen, no one to whom the people would adhere, no one who could even compel them to maintain order without at the same time suppressing liberty till statesmanship became extinct. We see nothing for France except the "policy" of M. Thiers, a policy which has no apparent end, which founds nothing, and which has not even the one poor merit of temporary success.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

OFFICE PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD COMPANY, PHILADELPHIA, May 11, 1871. NOTICE TO STOCKHOLDERS. Notice is hereby given to the Stockholders of this Company that they will have the privilege of subscribing for New Stock at par in the proportion of one share for every six as registered in their name, April 30, 1871.

DELAWARE MUTUAL SAFETY INSURANCE COMPANY, INCORPORATED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF PENNSYLVANIA, 1858. Office S. E. corner of THIRD and WALNUT Streets, Philadelphia, Pa. MARINE INSURANCES On Vessels, Cargo, and Freight to all parts of the world.

INLAND INSURANCES On Goods by river, canal, lake, and land carriage to all parts of the Union. FIRE INSURANCES On Merchandise generally; on Stores, Dwellings, Houses, etc.

ASSETS OF THE COMPANY, November 1, 1870. \$100,000 United States Six Per Cent Loan (lawful money) \$333,370 00 \$100,000 State of Pennsylvania Six Per Cent Loan (lawful money) 214,000 00 \$100,000 City of Philadelphia Six Per Cent Loan (except from Tax) 904,162 00 164,000 State of New Jersey Six Per Cent Loan 163,900 00 20,000 Pennsylvania Railroad First Mortgage Six Per Cent Bonds 30,700 00 25,000 Pennsylvania Railroad Second Mortgage Six Per Cent Bonds 35,200 00 25,000 Western Pennsylvania Railroad Mortgage Six Per Cent Bonds (Pennsylvania Railroad guaranteed) 30,000 00 80,000 State of Tennessee Five Per Cent Loan 18,000 00 7,000 State of Tennessee Six Per Cent Loan 4,300 00 12,500 Pennsylvania Railroad Company (250 Shares Stock) 15,000 00 5,000 North Pennsylvania Railroad Company (100 Shares Stock) 4,300 00 10,000 Philadelphia and Southern Railroad (Shareholders Company 80 Shares Stock) 4,000 00 1,600 Loans on Bond and Mortgage, first liens on City Properties. 261,650 00 \$1,200,120 Par. Cert. \$1,204,447 34 Mkt. Val. \$1,233,957 00

LIABILITIES. \$100,000 00 Surplus and profits, net. \$5,291 48 Deposits, 3,763,593 52 Circulation, 800,000 00 Total, \$5,297,973 00 Attest: J. P. MUMFORD, Cashier.

CONDITION OF THE NATIONAL BANK OF THE REPUBLIC AT THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, APRIL 29, 1871. INVESTMENTS. \$2,443,732 63 Due from banks. 536,450 38 Cash. 656,642 22 Total. \$3,636,825 23 LIABILITIES. \$100,000 00 Capital. 2,591 48 Surplus and profits, net. 3,763,593 52 Circulation. 800,000 00 Total. \$5,297,973 00 Attest: J. P. MUMFORD, Cashier.

THIS IS THE SEASON OF THE YEAR when the system should be thoroughly purged of the humor and toxic matter which is so purgative or cathartic so mild and efficacious as HELMBOLD'S GRAPE PILLS, causing neither nausea or griping pains, and in the case with the ordinary purging system, HELMBOLD'S EXTRACT SARSAPARILLA creates new, fresh, and healthy blood, beautifies the complexion, and imparts a youthful appearance, dispelling Pimples, Blisters, Moth Patches, and all eruptions of the skin. 53wtstsw

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SPECIAL NOTICES.

CAMDEN AND AMBOY RAILROAD AND TRANSPORTATION COMPANY. NOTICE.—The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the CAMDEN AND AMBOY RAILROAD AND TRANSPORTATION COMPANY will be held at TRENTON, May 10, at 10 o'clock, M., at the Company's office, or the election of seven Directors to serve for the ensuing year.

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