

THE EVENING NEWS.

Tuesday, November 8, 1870.

PICTURES OF THE BATTLE FIELD.—Dr. Russell in his letters to the London Times, descriptive of the battle field of Sedan, says: "I have seen the troopers, brilliantly led, went right onwards in a cloud of dust, but when they were within a couple of hundred yards of the Prussians one simultaneous volley burst out of the black front and flank which enveloped all in smoke. They were steady soldiers who pulled trigger there. Down came horse and man; the array was utterly ruined. There was left in front of that deadly infantry but a heap of white and gray horses—a terrible scene of dead and dying dismounted men, and flying troopers who tumbled at every instant. More total dissipation of a bright pageantry could not be. There was another such scene yet to come. I could scarcely keep the field glass to my eyes as the second and last body of cavalry—which was composed of light horses also—came thundering up out of the hollow. They were not so bold as the men on the white horses who fell, many of them at the very line of bayonets. The horses of these swerved as they came upon the ground covered with carcasses, and their line was broken, but the squadron leaders rode straight to death."

I will not dwell on the topic but ask your readers to be content with the assurance that no human eye ever rested on such revolting objects as were presented by the battle field around Sedan. Let them fancy masses of colored rags glued together with blood and brains and pinned into strange shapes by fragments of bones. Let them conceive men's bodies without heads, legs without bodies, shapes of human entrails attached to red and blue cloth, and disembowelled corpses in uniform; bodies lying about in all attitudes, with skulls shattered, faces blown off, hips mashed, bones, flesh and gay clothing all pounded together as if brayed by a mortar, extending for miles, not very thick in any one place, but recurring perpetually for weary hours, and then they cannot with the most vivid imagination, come up to the sickening reality of that butchery. No nightmare could be so frightful. Several times I came on spots where there were two horses lying dead together in harness, killed by the same fragment. Several times I saw four, five, and six men, four five and six horses all killed by the explosion of one projectile, and in one place there lay no less than eight French soldiers, who must have been struck down by the bursting of a shell over a company, for they lay round in a circle, with their feet interlaced, each shattered in the head or chest by a piece of shell, and no other dead being within hundred yards of them.

The deceased Paul de Cassagnac, the fire eater of French journalists, was the son of Granier de Cassagnac, the famous journalist, by a creole lady, and was less than thirty years of age when he died. From his father he inherited the ardent devotion to the Bonaparte dynasty which made his name known throughout Europe. He had no sooner left college, where he had received a brilliant education, than he engaged in journalism. His writings were bitter and audacious, but witty and forcible. To attack those who assailed Napoleon or the dynasty, was his constant duty; he never defended himself, save with the sword, and, consequently, it was not surprising that Paul de Cassagnac had always a duel on hand. His encounters were numerous, and were principally with editors. Among those whom he fought were Gustave Flourens. Altogether his success as a duelist was astonishing. As is well known, Paul de Cassagnac was editor of the Paris *Popo*—the ultra-Imperialist paper. He was a great favorite at the Court of the Tuilleries, but, to do him justice, he was no sycophant. When Prince Pierre shot "Victor Noir," De Cassagnac denounced him with extreme bitterness. "It will not do for Princes to shoot journalists," he said, and, although he probably entertained the bitterest animosity toward Noir, he mercilessly assailed the man who shot him.

The Jersey City Journal, in an article on "Medical Juries" at Juries, makes some comments which jurymen at least will appreciate. It says:

In reading the testimony given by medical men at coroners' inquests, the intelligent reader can scarcely avoid laughing at the absurdity of the proceeding. If the object of the testimony is really to give the jury any information, usually, the doctor who testifies might just as well jabber to the jury in the Choctaw tongue as to say what he does say, so far as his hearers' getting any information is concerned. Instead of speaking in plain, intelligible English, and describing the condition of the body of the subject which the jury "is sitting on" in a way that can be understood, the doctors mix up their story with technical terms and fragmentary Latin in the most non-understandable manner possible. When shall we have the rule of common sense and plain talk in those matters?"

EFFECT OF NOVEL READING.—Girls learn from such books to think coarsely and boldly about lovers and marrying; their early modesty is effaced by craving for admiration; their warm affections are dimmed by the desire for selfish triumph; they lose the fresh and honest feelings of youth while they are yet scarcely developed; they pass with sad rapidity from their early visions of Tancend and Orlando to notions of good connections, great talents, excellent matches, &c., and yet they think, and their parents think, that they are only "growing in 'presence'" and knowledge of the world—that bad, contaminating knowledge of the world, which I sometimes imagine must have been the very apple that was plucked from the forbidden tree. Also, when once tasted, the garden of life is an innocent and happy Paradise no more.

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