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Editorial Opinions of the Leading Journals Upon the West Important Topics of the Hour.

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International Duelling.

From the Tribune. We should like to read an essay upon unneces sary wars. There are good people who will answer that all wars are unnecessary. We use an indefinite phrase, however, to convey a definite meaning. We accept war as necessary where principle is involved-where truth is compelled to crush error by the force of arms where a people find it incumbent to struggle with crime and oppression. By unnecessary wars, we refer to the contests arising out of per wars, we refer to the contests arising out of per sonal vanity—the differences of small military and naval commanders—ambition, cupidity, a yearning for territorial aggrandizement—very much as though two testy gentlemen get angry over a cup of wine, or the necessity of some political action—the minister's last sermon—the editor's last leading article—and from dashing wine across the table-cloth come to swords in the ante-room, or pistols on the dewy grass in the outskirts of the town. No good comes of these quarrels. We occasionally hear of a German student being killed, for duelling is man student being killed, for duelling is said to be as necessary as Euclid to a German education, in the beginning of this century the Irish used to cut and slash each other, merely, it seemed, in the way of physical exhibitantion. If a man was killed, a jolly wake ensued, and the survivors had a good time, whisky punch and a jig around the coffin, and "We won't go home till morning." Modern decency has changed all this, and murder is no longer in the mode, no longer an accomplishment. Merely offering to let a man kill you that you may kill him, does not condone murder and prevent us from being hanged. What society has condemned as wrong among men, public opinion is condemning as wrong among nations. There is, perhaps, no logical objection to a nation fighting another nation—blockading its ports, destroying its commerce, paralyzing its manufactures, and killing its people. This is an independent national right, just as it was an independent personal right for Heenan to thump Sayers, and be thumped in return, but it is not a moral right. In the case of nations, public borality is outraged. Peaceful commerce is in-terrupted and destroyed, and where the industry of one country depends upon another for its sources of supply, distress ensues to thousands of innocent men and women and children.

We can better illustrate our point by referring to the war between Spain and Chili. Whenever the Spanish Government makes a periodical start out of the torpidity of centuries, and an ambitious statesman wishes to show "vigor," he makes a quarrel with a South American republic. There is a popular impression that these quarrels were settled by the successful revolu-tions of the early part of this century—that Mexico and Peru, and the nations around the equator, became republics as absolutely as the United States. This is a mistake. Spain never sincerely admitted the independence of her American colonies. She gave a deed of separation, with the reservation that whenever it suited her convenience or her ambition she would come back and take her own sgain. The dream of becoming once more the mistress of the Antilles, of having an Indies rivalling in wealth and splendor the Indies of England, has long haunted the Spaniards. The policy of Canning, as represented by Palmerston, and the Mouroe doctrine of the United States, prevented any demonstration in favor of this theory. Our war gave the opportunity. America crippled, the banner of Castile might again be advanced to the mountains Balboa climbed, or even daring thought |-- to the land where Ponce de Leon vainly wooed youth and vigor. San Domingo was occupied; an attempt was made upon Mexico, which Napoleon prevented; a war was forced upon Peru; and now another war has been declared against Chill. In none of these cases had Spain any possible pretext. What had Mexico done that Spain should send fleets to murder her people? Where is the crime of Peru that her coast should be blockaded? Above all things, what is the guilt of Chili? That country, it seems, sympathizes with Peru; she refuses to make her territory a base of operations of Spain against a sister republic, and she is at once blockaded! What is the consequence? Chili defies the blockade, closes her copper mines, attacks and captures a Spanish ship, and says if England and France can do without her copper, she can wait. England, fresh from a cotton famme in Lancashire, sees before her a famine among the workers in brass and copper. This Chili sends her 47,000 tons of copper annually. Because Spain is on a roving commission of insult and depredation, must she lose all this wealth? So England becomes angry, and along with France sends word to Spain that while they do not claim a right to interfere with that neighbor's personal matters, they do not want the peace of their people, their comfort and prosperity destroyed, by reason of a Spanish whim of "honor."
So Spain, brought to her senses, has submitted

her cause to England and France. We presume there will be an end of the quarrel. So we trust all such quarrels may end. Let the nations come to a determination to stop this interna-tional duelling. Let them do what they can to lessen the causes of war—or rather, to restrict the international limits of war. Such wars as that in Mexico, the recent strife in Schleswig-Holstein, and the wars in Peru and Chili, should be speedily suppressed by general understand-ing. We can soonest reach the bright consummation of universal peace by preventing inter-national duelling.

Reciprocity-A Question for Consideration. From the Times.

It is not easy to determine whether the Democratic journals which have undertaken to write up reciprocity are more intent upon serving the British Provinces, or feeding an ancient grudge against the great Union party.

Be their purpose what it may, they are taking the surest course to render it ineffective. Insisting up on close commercial intercourse with Canada, they nevertheless confess that the Finance Minister of the Province, Mr. Galt, has systematically violated the spirit of the treaty, and so afforded ample grounds for its abrogation. And while charging upon the Union party the responsibility of terminating the treaty, they are constrained by the pressure of facts to admit that this country has not reaped the full measure of gain to which it has been entitled, and that the continuance of the arrangement in its past shape is therefore not desirable. The very journals, then, which are advocating reciprocity as against the Union party in Congress, themselves furnish a justification of the action taken by that party in dealing with the question. Upon two points suggested by the comments

of our Democratic contemporaries, we feel bound to enter a decided protest. We protest against the attempt to make a plain question of trade a pretext for the advocacy of Canadian interests, regardless of their bearing upon the interests of our own country. We protest against factics that would twist and pervert to party uses considerations which should be divested of everything save that which concerns the industrial and commercial life of the American people. If there is to be a renewal of reciprocal trade on terms essentially akin to those of the treaty which will expire in March next, it must be for other reasons than those now urged in behalf of Canada. Canadian Ministers may oscillate between the North Pole and the lobby of the Federal Capitol; they may pile up statistics that prove anything or nothing, and print pamphlets and statements illustrative of their author's skill in cookery; they may inspire De nocratic editors with reasons, and cram them with so-called facts until each becomes a verita-ble Gradgrind; but American law-givers and

it probable that the Union majority, impressed with the financial necessities of the nation, will be wheedled by the importunities of the Pro-vincial agents into a further sacrifice of revenue, or coerced by the scolding of the World into the abandonment of a purpose formed deliberately and in full view of all the merits of the case.

One thing, at any rate, is satisfactory. Of the journals in this country that have espoused the cause of Canada, none has ventured to excuse the bad failh of that province, or to urge a re-newal of the treaty in its present shape. The acknowledgment is general that Canada has in divers ways violated the spirit of the treaty, and divers ways violated the spirit of the treaty, and further, that the benefits accruing from it have been shared to a very imperfect degree by the United States. Surely, little clae is needed for an answer to much of the rhetoric that has recently appeared in print. The province whose ministers and legislators so far disregarded their quota of obligations as to trample upon the spirit of the whole arrangement, by discriminating in favor of Great Britain and against this country. favor of Great Britain and against this country, have no right to demur because we decline a

continuance of the unequal bargain.

They chose voluntarily, for their own convent-They chose voluntarily, for their own convenience and profit, to disturb relations contemplated by the American promoters of the measure, and to give a preference to British interests avowedly because they were such; and assuredly they cannot complain of ill-usage because we reluse to prolong the arrangement. They violated the essence of the treaty more than once during its existence; certainly we have a right to say that the treaty shall end at the period indicated by itself. On their side is bad faith; on ours, simply a resolve to understand thoroughly the position we are hence-forward to occupy towards neighbors who appear to forget that upon this country they are dependent, and inevitably ever will be de-pendent, for whatever commercial prosperity falls to their lot. They in effect overturned a business compact; we demand a new compact before again sailing in the same ship; and meanwhile they will have an opportunity of realizing

results meet for repentance.

Nobody doubts that genuine reciprocity is a good thing. Our most distinguished statesmen long ago pronounced in its favor. They were advocates of a continental commercial policy before England accepted the gospel according to Cob-den and Bright.

But they uniformly held that reciprocity should be real—that it should be just and mutually beneficial—that it should be accepted in good faith, and carried out in a large and liberal spirit by all contracting parties. Judged by this standard, the treaty with the British Prov-inces must be pronounced a failure. Aside from the faithlessness on the part of Canada to which we have alluded, the operation of the treaty has developed results which Congress could not have passed over without a palpable neglect of duty. Its concessions and advantages have been shown to be unequal. The Provinces surrendered very little and acquired very much; this country con-ceded a great deal and gained comparatively nothing. Their duties bear unduly upon our products, while we made tree the larger proportion of theirs. The treaty imposed upon them only a trifling loss of revenue; upon us it has entailed a sacrifice which could not at any time be overlooked.

Just now, we prefer this general glance to a dry recital of figures, or a discussion of the abstractions on which profound pundits love to dwell. Theories on the balance of trade are cometimes amusing, but rarely conclusive, ex cept when a case is proved without them. This case of reciprocity is manageable by the people, whether the theorists say yea or nay. We have experimented these ten years, and propose now to profit by the lessons learned. Under any circumstances this would be a duty. The fact that reciprocity is vital to Canada should not alone change our course. Priding itself on its colonial relation, although more than sixty per cent, of its exports come into the United States, its claims to commercial favor cannot be exempted from the ordinary test of business interest. Thus tried, the treaty has been condemned.

Manufacturers whose products are admitted into the Canadian market only after payment of heavy suties, complain of the disadvantage im-posed by those who thrive by free access to the American market. Importers, who fancied that they saw in Canada a field for enterprise, dis-cover that the province with which they dealt so liberally has taken special pains to favor the St. Lawrence route at their expense. Producers of various grades are impatient under a compe tition which brings it w countervailing benefits and entails losses not lessened by the pay of gratitude. In this direction the current has been greatly changed. The logic of experience is doing its work. The wool-growers have sent forth their utterances, and other branches of the farming traternity are not disinclined to say

Whole communities avow an acceptance of the moral. Chicago, but lately an unit for recipro-city, is now loud against it; and those bodies which, like the Chamber of Commerce of this city, strenuously favor extended intercourse, and deprecate much of the opposition to the treaty, admit a necessity for its modification. The num ber of those who desire an extension of the treaty as it is, is ludicrously small. The journals which would make of reciprocity a partisan shuttlecock give tribute to the popular will, so ar as the existing system is concerned. Even they couple pleas for reciprocity with assertions touching the propriety of reconsidering, revising, recasting the treaty.

In addition to the manifold reasons growing

out of experience, we have the greater and yet more urgent reason suggested by the altered cir-cumstances of the country. When the treaty was originally entered into we were a lightly taxed people, ready to run a fiscal race with all comers. There was, then, at the outset, no ob-vious hardship or injustice in admitting the population of the provinces to our markets, and peculiar folly in the expectation that we might gain ground in their markets. The legac derived from the gigantic struggle through which we have triumphantly passed has changed our position in this respect. All classes are now required to sustain their share of a load of which we can never lose sight when questions concern-ing revenue challenge attention. The farmer and the forwarder, the mechanic and the manufacturer, the merchant and the laborer-all are interested in the equitable adjustment of our trade relations with other countries. It would be neither politic nor just to expose the American producer to unrestrained competition with provinces which propose to enter freely our markets, and at the same time remain exempt from our burdens.

Spain and Chili-Violation of our Neutrality Laws.

From the World. By a despatch from Washington, from a source which we think entitled to credit, we learn that there has lately been perpetrated an evasion of our neutrality laws, in the interest of Chili. Two vessels have been purchased on Cailian account, loaded with certain munitions of war, and made their escape to sea, with the purpose of proceeding to the Chilian coast, blowing up the Spanish versels-of-war, and thus raising the bleckade of the Chillan coast. One of these vessels was in the United States service in the late war, having been sold by the Navy Department to the party of whom the Chilian agent made the purchase. The officers who went out on board of them have also been in our naval service; the torpodoes were manufactured in New York city; clearances were procured at the New York Custom House as for vessels is owned

Chilian citizens; and they sailed under the The facts here recited may revive, with some change in the disputants, questions which have recently been discussed between our Governnent and that of Great Britain. It will be seen that the present case bears a close resemblance to the escape from the ports of England of the Shenandeah and other Confederate vessels, for whose depredations on our commerce our Government has demanded reparation from the British Government, The Alabama, Shenandoah, and the rest were not, as described by their commissions, privateers, but public vessels of war: their depredations on our commissions. ble Gradgrind; but American law-givers and American secretaries are not likely to succumb to loreign influence, or to accept, as infallible, arguments derived from foreign sources. Nor is

Spain, that power might demand of us redress and compensation, as we have of Great Britain. and companisation, as we have of Great Britain.

If they should capture Spanish vessels, would our Government acknowledge its Itability to Spain in damages? Such captures would bring our Government to this dilemma: we should be obliged either to abandon our claims on Great Britain, or to make satisfaction to Spain for the inluiry done to her commerce. It would be preposterous for us to stand before the world as maintaining one rule of international law to maintaining one rule of international law to apply to cases in which we were sufferers, and an opposite tule to cases in which we are ag-

It may perhaps be said that this dilemma is not likely to be presented in a practical shape, masmuch as the last mail from Europe brings intelligence that Spain has accepted the over-tures of England and France for a reconciliation between her and Chill. But this tender and acceptance of good offices amounts to nothing unless Chili accedes to the terms the mediators may propose. One party may begin a war, but it requires two to end it. The war against Chili was commenced by the proclamation of Admiral Pareja, and the blockade of the principal Chillan ports. It is now for Chill to determine what she deems necessary for the satisfaction of her honor. Until she accepts terms of peace, the state of war continues; and meanwhile, any acts done in her interest and by her authority are covered by all the protection which can be imparted by her belligerent rights. Vessels sailing from this port may desired many millions of Spanish property before Chili shall have accepted the terms which may be proposed to her by England and France. England and France.

The question is then forced upon us, as one of serious practical interest, what are our responsibilities in view of this evasion of our neutrality laws? As regards the particular officers and citizens who have sailed on these vessels, they have acted in plain violation of our laws, and are subject to its penalties if they should ever again come within our jurisdiction. But we have no jurisdiction over them while they are on the h gh seas. The right of Chill to commission vessels-of-war cannot be called in question; a vessel sailing under the protection of her flag cannot be molested on the ground that it has escaped from one of our ports. control over it ceased as soon as it was distant a marine league from our shores. Its officers, it they escape capture by the Spaniards, will pro-bably become citizens of Chili, and very likely be honored with commands in her navy. So

with them we have nothing further to do.

The only question likely to call for governmental action is, whether we are responsible to Spain in damages for the depredations on their commerce these vessels may commit. If John Bull were given to tricks, it would not be diffi-cult to imagine this affair a crafty stratagem, set on loot by British instigation to compel us to decide against our own claims. If the British Government had furnished the money to fit out these vessels, it would be a good investment if it should bar our own claims for indemnity. But she certainly had nothing to do with it.

If the question were a new one, not complicated with our recent demands, there is little room to doubt how our Government would de-cide it. Although our neutrality laws are strict, we have seldem proceeded to extremitles in their enforcement. When Texas waged her war of independence against Mexico, our Southern citizens went, with arms in their hands, to her assistance; in the Canadian patriot war, Northern citizens followed their example; the Lopez expedition against Cuba sailed from New Oreans; Walker had private support in the United States in his expeditions in Nicaragua; but in none of these cases would our Government have acceded to claims for the damages inflicted by those violators of our laws. When they had escaped from our jurisdiction they merely put themselves beyond the pale of our protection (as well as of our punishment), and exposed them-selves to whatever the justice or the vengeance of the aggrieved nations might inflict.

One of the arguments most insisted on by Mr. Adams, in his correspondence with LordiRus-sell, could not be used by Spain if she should demand reparation for the injuries done by these demand reparation for the injuries done by these vessels. Mr. Adams contended that the Confederate States could not be considered as a naval power at all, as they had neither ports nor access to the ocean. Whether this argument be sound or iallactous, it clearly is not pertinent to the case of Chili. Chili has always had a flag upon the seas, and though her six principal ports are blockaded, she has some thirty or forty lesser ones to which the blockade does not apply and to which centures made by her yes. apply, and to which captures made by her ves sels can be taken for condemnation. These vessels will proceed to some Chilian port before receiving commissions, which will shield them from one of the legal objections made against these of the South.

The case on which we have commented, and the possibilities it involves, will be turned to the best use, if they shall contribute to that liberality and moderation of views which ought to be prought to the consideration of the unsettled questions respecting the liabilities of neutral nations. It is important for the peace of the the world that some rule should be esta-blished which nations will be willing to accept as governing their obligations and responsibili ties in respect to acts committed by their citizens without their consent, and which may hereafter prevent such questions as nave arisen between us and Great Britain.

The Reassembling of Congress-The Republican Party and the Administration. From the Herald.

After their holiday recess of a fortnight the two houses of Congress, fresh from the people, have returned to business. From their conferences with their constituents we doubt not that the members of the dominant party are better qualified than at the organization of the House to shape their legislative measures according to the prevailing public sentiment of the country on all great questions of the day. The Southern reconstruction and restoration policy of the President's Message, it must now be apparent even to such visionary radicals as Messrs. Sumner and Stevens, is in great favor among the people, and that the masses of both parties in the North desire the restoration to Congress of the excluded States in a spirit of liberality and confidence, and without unnecessary delay upon

matters of secondary importance.

With the abolition of slavery, however, whereby one million six hundred thousand Southern blacks, heretofore excluded, nowcome within the representative population of the South, some new regulation of this matter seems to be regarded by the Republicans as a question of primary importance. They hold that the four millions of blacks in the South should either have the right of suffrage or should be excluded to the contract of the south as a basis for from an enumeration of the people as a basis for representation in Congress. Under the Consti-tution as it is all the Southern blacks must now be counted; while, on the other hand, the power of regulating the elective franchise belongs not to Congress, but to the several States. Hence questions of negro suffrage and negro represen tation is through an amendment of the Constitu-tion. Such an amendment has been already extensively discussed among the Republican members, and we are promised that it will shortly be brought before the House in the form of a proposition making the number of voters in each State the basis of its representation in the

popular branch of Congress.
Upon this subject, and the general subject of reconstruction, General Schenck, of Ohio, a leading member of the House, in his speech at Columbus, Ohio, made known some very important facts and contemplated proceedings. He said, among other things, that "you will find that Congress will stand by the President, and the President by Congress," and that "all difficulties will be over come;" that "the President and Congress, standing together, are determined that certain terms of reconstruction shall be complied with; that these terms embrace, first, the Constitutional Amendment abolishing slavery, already legally effected; second, provision against the payment of Rebei debts; and third, a Constitutional amendment basing representation in Congress on the voting population. This amendment, he insisted, "should be adopted by three-fourths of the loyal States before admitting the other States, and requiring them to agree to it; otherwise they might defeat it, and ultimately gain of reconstruction shall be complied with; that

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such power as to undo all that has been done to provent a repetition of the late disasters."

But General Schenok, who is more at home in the field of politics than in the field of battle, says he knows that the President is in favor of this amendment, and believes that a majority of Congress is. He says, furthermore, that the committee to whom this subject was referred will soon report; and that, if the measure is adopted, the South, before the end of the year, will be prepared to come into the arrangement. Such prepared to come into the arrangement. Such declarations, from such a source, are entitled to respect, and though we may not share in the ap-prehensions expressed by General Schenck con-cerning the South unless bound to this condition, that condition, and the other, in advance we may safely conclude that the Constitutiona Amendment suggested is to become a leading measure of the present session. To show how far its agitation has already extended in the Republican camp, it is only necessary to refer to the recent message of Governor Cony to the Maine Legislature, in which he says that "as a measure of security to the nation the Constitution of the Union should be so amended as to limit the right of national representation to the legal number

of voters in each State," etc.

This, then, may be considered the leading feature of the Congressional programme of Southern restoration—a constitutional amendment settling the pegro suffrage question by making the basis of Federal representation the legal voters of each State. Under this rule, if the blacks are not allowed to vote they will not be counted, and thus the Southern States will be left to determine on the suffrage question whether by excluding the blacks they will agree to sacrifice twenty or thirty members of Con-grees, or by giving the blacks the right to vote they will accept the gain of twenty or thirty members. We think this alternative would soon settle the question in favor of negro suffrage, for the Southern States have always and very wisely too, put a high valuation upon a member of Congress. Thus by a trained minority they ruled the country for many years against the undisciplined and constantly changing representatives of the North.

Under the proposed amendment the New England States will lese half a dozen members of Congress—unless they give the suffrage to their woman—while the West will gain consid-erably, and the Southern States will lose or gain as they may deny or give the right of vot-ing to the blacks. The proposition seems to be a fair one for the settlement of the suffrage question on a constitutional basis and without ouching the reserved rights of the States on this subject. But if the excluded Southern States are to be still to be excluded from Congress until this amendment shall have been declared ratified, Congress should act at once, while the State Legislatures are generally in session, so that during this winter the question may be settled. We think the excluded States entitled to admission upon the terms laid down by the President; but if he is in favor of this proposed amendment as a compromise with Congress, and as a new condition of restoration, we are sure that he is in favor of immediate action. If the thing is to be tried it ought to be tried without loss of time,

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FREMIUMS 1.103. FREMIUMS. 1.103.422 Unsettled Claims, \$12,745. Income for 1865. \$201,006 LOSSES PAID SINCE 1829, OVER \$5.000.000. PERPETUAL AND TEMPORARY POLICIES ON LIBERAL TERMS.

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The well-known and popular steamship MISSOURL.

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EDIN BURGH, Saturday, January 6.
At noon, from Pier 44 North River.
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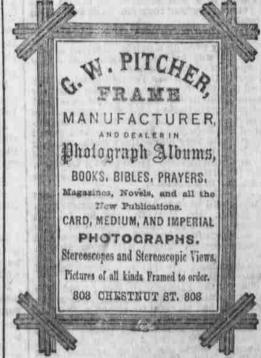
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