

THE NEW YORK PRESS. Editorial Opinions of the Leading Journals Upon the Most Important Topics of the Hour.

COMPILED EVERY DAY FOR EVENING TELEGRAPH.

The War for the Union and the War Against It.

Mr. Thaddeus Stevens and his radical friends are not unlikely to overshoot their mark. Their fiery zeal will in due time defeat itself, and bring upon their own heads the punishment with which they threaten others. For all this agitation in Congress, this piling up of amendments to the Constitution, this denunciation of every man who differs from them, this anxiety to disable and punish our fellow-citizens in the Southern States, is in strange forgetfulness of considerations which the statesman who would live must ever keep in view.

The idea of subjugating the Southern States and reducing them to the condition of conquered provinces obtained no favor during the period most likely to foster it. True, the Wendell Phillipses of the North, and the more radical characters now played by the Stevenses of another place, but the great body of the people repudiated it unqualifiedly and always.

The entire policy of the Government, foreign and domestic, proceeded on this hypothesis. The proclamation of President Lincoln, the correspondence of the State Department, the legislation of Congress, the efforts and aspirations of the Northern people—all were in accordance with this point. It was this and only this which justified the war.

This proper appreciation of the question is of more value, for most practical purposes, than the abstract arguments of publicists on either side. As the subtleties of the secession problem have been blown into nothingness from the cannon's mouth, so the theorizing of Messrs. Stevens and Shellabarger is blotted out as of no account by the deliberate judgment of the people.

We have the testimony of General Grant to the good faith with which the citizens of the South acquiesce in the verdict of the war, and resume their allegiance to the old flag. The terms dictated by General Grant, with the full knowledge of President Lincoln, were calculated to bring about this happy condition of affairs.

The great soldier who, in the struggle to its end dreamed not of arrogating to himself the functions of conqueror, or of imposing upon the fighting fields of vassalage. They who did the right felt always that they were fighting not to extend a conglomeration of territories, but to add provinces to a republic and make its glorious symbol "a flaunting lie," but to put down Rebels and restore the authority of the Union over all its component parts.

The Northern people have gone yet further. From the moment when the Rebellion was known to be hopeless, they have endeavored to heal the wounds occasioned by the war, and to reassure the South in every respect. They have established lines of steam communication almost without number. They have provided the means of reconstructing railroads. They have furnished capital to cultivate plantations and to promote industrial and commercial enterprises in every Southern State.

It remains for men like Mr. Thaddeus Stevens to declare the work of the Grant and Sherman's army unmissable, and to condemn the magnanimous spirit of the American people. To a man who had dared anything or done anything better a hero, we might be disposed to listen with respect. But that man who has shown a meanness, nor exposed their precious persons to danger, should now scold and hector, and talk about terms which a conqueror may dictate, is simply intolerable.

What good can possibly be effected by these repeated displays of the radical temper, and these renewed developments of the radical tactics? Is it imagined that by bullying, and threatening, and insulting, Mr. Stevens can drive President Johnson from his position? Is it thought that a party who are so completely frightened by the crack of an overco's whip, or perpetually misled by cries devoid of reason, and appeals which, though full of sound and fury,

signify nothing? If these be the expectations, we tell those who cherish them that they are doomed to disappointment. Andrew Johnson stood firm in the Senate with traitors around him; firm in Tennessee, when untried for the Union exposed him to trouble and death; and we are confident that he will not shrink now, with the public opinion of the nation overwhelmingly in his favor.

As to the Union party, we are not less sure that its usefulness to the country, and the prolongation of its power as a party, depend upon the restraints which it shall impose upon the schemes of the radical faction. Its worst enemies are of its own household. If these assaults upon the Constitution and the Executive are to be continued, the Union will be in greater danger from the doings of professed friends than from the machinations of its most malignant enemies.

The time calls for forbearance, moderation, magnanimity. The country stands more in need of practical legislation than of "the previous question" and the prescriptions of legislative quacks. Shall it be said that the Union party is unequal to the exigencies of the situation?

There is hardly a tranquil capital in Europe. Madrid, the capital of Spain, is revolutionary, tumultuous, dangerous, and under strict military rule. The people shout cheers for the men who are in open rebellion against the Government, and the Government dares not trust the very soldiers with which it would control the people. The capital of Ireland is under martial law. The capital of England is in an uncomfortable state, and decidedly nervous about certain great fires attributed to the bitterness of a revenge of the Fenians.

Paris is also uneasy. It has a financial danger, it has Mexico, and it has Rome. All these things are political dangers which will not be set at rest by any political party. The danger of the Italian question there directly against all the wishes and prejudices of the Spanish monarchy, connected by the closest ties with the Holy See, will do less in France than France less than Spain, with Spain still more than France. Have the thought and spirit of the French people less influence on the Government than the thought of the Spanish people have upon a Bourbon monarchy? Will not the late Spanish example infect France, and stir thoughts like these to a dangerous extent?

Brussels is torn by a storm of parties, and may upset the new King at any hour, and read the kingdom of Belgium into a French half and a Dutch half; Italy has just had a stormy dissolution of the ministry over the very serious question of taxes; if such has the effect of driving an ambitious minister at war with her people, and her Schleswig-Holstein indignation; Austria, though doing very well in many respects, is far from easy in her Italian possessions. Altogether Europe is in a sufficiently anxious state, and her danger is that if any one of these many difficulties should suddenly become great the storm would spread into every European country, and break up the whole present political system.

The Mexican dilemma in Mexico. The news from Europe by the Africa, arrived at Halifax on Thursday, points, though not very definitely, towards the solution of the Mexican difficulty. Probably the most important indication of the turn which events are about to take is the statement of the Paris Presse that Napoleon has sent a messenger to Mexico to arrange for the speedy withdrawal of the French troops. We are not informed whether there is still involved in such arrangements the apparently existing condition of recognition of the Mexican empire by the United States Government. Positive assurances have been made by Drouin de Lhuys that such are the only terms upon which the French Emperor will consent to recall his troops from Mexico, and Mr. Seward has already announced that those terms seem to be impracticable.

The Mexican dilemma is now forming the subject of serious consideration in the French Corps Legislatif, and our Paris correspondent is of the opinion that the question is divided upon two matters, one branch—the Republican wing—being disposed to throw no obstacle in the way of a withdrawal of the troops from Mexico, and permitting the Emperor to extricate himself dependently from the trouble in which he has involved himself. Perhaps any one of these many difficulties should suddenly become great the storm would spread into every European country, and break up the whole present political system.

Profits of the Coal Dealers. In tracing a long ton of two thousand two hundred and forty pounds of anthracite stove or egg coal from its native hills in Pennsylvania to the dealers' yards in this city, we find that its value increases in its transit somewhat as follows, starting at the low price of twenty-five cents:—

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