THE NEW YORK PRESS.

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

COMPILED EVERY DAY FOR EVENING TELEGRAPIL

Your Bull and My Ox.

From the Tribune. Mr. John O'Mahony, Head Centre of the American branch of the Irish republic (we mean one of the Head Centres, for we shall keep out of the Fenian fight if we can), has issued a manifesto, declaring that British Government spics (detectives) are dogging the footsteps of the Fenians of our city. He says:-

"It is a fact as starting as it is disgraceful, that "It is a fact as starting as it is disgraceful, that spies, acting under the direction of a toreign (forernmen', prowl about our streets, and, even under the statue of Washirston, halch coaspiracy against officens of the republic," etc. etc.

This, of course, is the way the matter looks in the eyes of the Head Centre; but not exactly so in ours. We trust our Government will maintain the strictest neutrality in the war now opening between the Fenians and the British, and that whatever privileges are accorded to one belligerent will be extended also to the other. And as the Head Contre and his brethren are allowed to "hatch consuracy" here, why not their enemies? We cannot imagine. In fact, the Head Centre's indignation reminds us of an anecoote told in Congress by a Western member, of a fellow who was gambling on a Mississippi steamboat, and had slipped three aces into his boot to await the time of need. The time came; when, drawing on his reserve, he found that other and insignificant cards had been roguishly substituted for his winning ones. "I won't play any more," he exclaimed, in fierce indignation, "there's cheating around this board, by George!"

Tax on Government Bonds - Sinking Fund and Inequalities of the Present System. From the Herald.

We have received the report of one of the members of the special Revenue Commission, which has been sent into Congress, recommending the establishment of a sinking fund for the payment of the national debt. It is proposed to ruise a fund for this purpose by levying a tax of one per cent, upon the par value of the United States bonds. In presenting this scheme for the ponsideration of Congress the amount and character of our national debt is reviewed. together with the amount of interest and a comparison of its value in gold and currency. It is also claimed that the laws of Congress exemp ting Government bonds from taxation only apply to State and municipal taxes, and that the provisions of those laws do not in the least pre-clude Congress from providing for a fax on all bonds issued under authority of that body. There is no doubt but that this is the correct interpretation of the law; in fact, Congress has siready established a precedent by requiring the payment of a spec fied amount on the meome received from these bonds.

The Commissioner also reviews the resources of the country, and its capacity to bear the enormous burdens placed upon it by our late struggle for existence. The real and personal property of the country is estimated to be, in-clusive of the national securities, eighteen thousand millions of dollars, or upwards of fifteen thousand milions, exclusive of those bonds, With this amount of wealth as a basis for raising a revenue, the argument is deduced that it is necessary that there should be an equality in levying the tax to meet the obligations of the Government, or a privileged class will spring up which will endanger the very existence of our republican institutions. All classes of property, with the exception of United States bonds, are now called upon to pay their portion or State and local taxes.

This class of taxes has become quite heavy, and increased at an alarming rate during the war. If, then, the United States bonds are exempt from local taxation no just reason why they should not contribute towards the final payment of the debt of which they are a part. The testimony in favor of that policy of a number of capitalists, bondhoiders, and bankers is given in full, which is one of the most interesting portions of the report. The facts thus presented are worthy of the candid consideration of Congress, and the present is the favorable period to take action in the matter. The change which is now going on in the commercial and business interests of the country requires a modification of the Internal Revenue laws in order that they may be adapted to this new order of things. This is necessary to prevent irritation and jealousy of interests all over the land. There is, therefore, no better time to readjust the whole question of taxation, and arrange it so that the burden will fall on all

alike, than the present.

The evils of inequality in the apportionment of taxes, and the danger which threatens us in exempting one class of capital from all taxation, is very clearly depicted in this report. The power which monopolies will obtain in the political affairs of the country, as well as the direct tendency to revolution on the one hand, or the establishment of a privileged class, which will reduce the laboring portion of the commu-nity to mero slaves, is shown to be the logical result of exempting any particular kind of perty from the burden of our debt. There is no telling the evils that may be lorced upon us unless a timely remedy is applied.

Whether the system recommended by Mr. Hayes on behalf of the Revenue Commission, and his bill for its practical application, is the best plan that can be devised to prevent this evil, we leave it for Congress to determine. But it must be apparent to every observing mind that some important change in our re venue system must be made either in the laws or their application, or both. The public will not long submit to a system under which one-third of the tax is never paid, nor will they rest contented when they come to realize that Wall street speculators and other capitalists can go to Washington and get them selves relieved from the payment of their portion of the fax, as is now the case. We have hereto-fore shown how the brokers have managed to secure an order preventing the enforcement of the revenue laws on their business, but that is not the only instance of special intercession and success of moneyed men and corporations. The danger which Mr. Haves sees in the distance in regard to menopolies is already upon us. There is a striking illustration of this fact in

the action of the Umon Ferry Company of Brooklyn. This company has managed to evade the payment of its just tax, and, by sending its counsel to Congress, is now staying off the enforcement of the law, and thus depriving the Government of thirty thousand dollars of revenue now over due. It one company can do this, how long will it be before every organization of the kind in the country will secure the same thing, and thus place the whole burden of our taxes upon the middle classes and the industrial

The revenue law of 1865 requires that any person, firm, company, or corporation owning or possessing, or having the care or management of possessing, or having the care or management of any railroad, ferry, toll-bridge, or road, shall pay a tax of three per cent, on the gross receipts. The Union Ferry Company undertook to evade this tax, and the question was brought to the attention of the Secretary of the Treasury, who at once decided that the aloresald corporation could not escape it, and that the law most be enforced. All of a sudden the managers of that Company resorted to the dodge of the payment of a new dollars as a tonnage tax, which they of a lew dollars as a tonnage tax, which they claimed they could elect to do, under the Revenue law, and thus managed to get rid of the just tax. This in turn was decided against them. but by some hocus pocus arrangement they have managed to obtain an order from some source, countermanding all this, the same as the brokers

The result is that this Company alone has pocketed thirty thousand dollars which belong

to the Government, and which the laborer and artisan will be compelled to pay unless the Gov-ernment officials do their duty. There may be numerous other instances of this same kin I, but these are sufficient to raise the alarm, and show that the dangers that Mr. Hayes depicts in his report are not visionary, but an actual Hving reality at the present time. But, then, what is the use of laws if they are not to be enforced? The best of laws and the most carefully framed provisions will amount to nothing under this

system of application. We can assure both Congress and the Secretary of the Treasury that all their efforts to meet the nation's obligations will be fruitless if this is the system which is to be practised. The danger repudiation party as night follows day, unless this evil is remedied. The great mass of the people, who pay their portion of the tax, and thus deprive themselves of many luxuries, will not long remain silent when they see Wall street speculators and rich corporations. is no trivial one; but it will as surely lead to a speculators and rich corporations evading their portion of the tax through special intervention at Washington. It is an injustice to the honest tax payer greater than human nature will be willing

Andrew Jackson-Andrew Johnson.

From the World. The most interesting letter received by the Tammany Society, on the occasion of its semicentennial celebration of the Battle of New Orleans, was not published with the proceedings of the dinner. We are now permitted to print the letter of President Johnson in response to the invitation sent to him. To render its significance more apparent, we give also the form of invitation to which it was a reply:-

SEMI CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE ANNI-VERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF NEW ORLEANS.— Society of Tammany, or Columbian Order.—'The Union Must and Shall be Preserved "—Tammany HALL, New York, December 18, 1865.—SIF:—The ancient See ety of Tammany, in pursuance of its time-honored customs, will celebrate the anniversary of honored customs, will celebrate the anniversary of the Batte of New Oreans, by a grand dinner at Temmany Hall, on Monday, January 8, 1889, at 6 o'clock P. M. Since the establishment of the society in 1789, it has commemorated those events in the history of our country which animate the patriotism of our people and strengthen their devotion to our gorious Union; and among these none was more conspicuous or important than the great victory which saved our south vestern from us from satchery and plunder, and closed the war of 1812 in patchery and plunder, and closed the war of 1812 in butchery and plunder, and closed the war of 1812 in

binze of grory.
The recent and civil strice has given rise to calebrations in the opposing sections of our Union, which are designed to commemorate the victories of brethren over bretaren. It is with uniquened joy that the fammany Society had the advent of a season when they can recur to an event which no achieve-ments in our subsequent history can ever dim and which reunited brethren, in every portion of our glorious republic, can celebrate with equa pride and gratification. It is in this spirit, and with a promise of a cordial welcome, that the sons of Tammany in-vite you to their semi-centennial celebration of the great victory of a Southern hero, who filled the world with the fame of American valor, and devoted his subsequent tile to the establishment and security of

subsequent life to the establishment and security of constitutional hiberty.

We have the honer to be your obedient servants.
John i, Boffman, Elijah F., Purdy, John Van Bulen, Samuel L. M. Barlow, Ma thew T. Brennan, Anthony L. Robertson, Daniel D.vhn, Edwards Pierrepont, James T. Brady, William M. Iweed, Steinen Cambreling, August Belmont, Samuel J. Iliden Charles v. orne i William deMurray, John Helly, Douglas Taylor, I and Beil, John E. Burrill, John J. Bradley, Richard O'tsorman, Daniel E. Delavan, Charles P. Daly, Oswald Ottendorror, Peter B. Sweedy, Emanuel B. Hart, George W. McLean, James B. N. cholson, John E. Develta, Na hamel Jatvis, Jr., John R. Briges, Committee of Arlangements.
John Van Buren, Chairman, Douglas Taylor, Secretary,
President Johnson's letter declining the invi-

President Johnson's letter declining the invitation will command general attention: -EXECUTIVE MANSION, WASHINGTON, D. C., January 2 1866.—Sir:—; take pleasure in acknowledging the receipt, from the A cent Society of Temmany, of an invitation to attend their semi-contents. tenmal ce ebration of the anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans. It would afford me sincere gratification to join vou in commemorating the eminent services of the hero of that great victory, who, in field and in council ever signalized his devotion to the Union of the States, and won for himself endur-ing national renown. My engagements, however, will not permit me to be present, and I regret this the more as the occasion is in honor of an event to which as you justly remark, remained brethred in

every portion of the republic can recur with equal gratification and pride common triais, common victories, and national traditions, saciedly cherished by every American, cannot fail to exert an important influence in heal-ing the irrifations of sectional wounds, and strength-ening the feeling of devotion to the Federal Union, the maintenance and preservation of which, in all its eighty and purity, was the sole aim of the intreits cignity and punity, was the sole aim of the ir pid and incorruptible patriot. Andrew Jackson.

With great respect, sincerely yours, ANDREW JOHNSON Bon. John Van Buren, Chairman, etc etc., New

York City. We commend this noble effusion of sterling patriotism to the meditation of the political new-lights who have discovered that the true glory of this country dawned during the late war, and that our former boasts and achievements deserve to be treated with contemptuous scorn. According to these illuminated patriots, the greatness of the American Republic dates from the first of January, 1863, when Mr. Lin-coln issued his emancipation proclamation. The restoration of such a state of things as existed under Washington, under Jefferson, under Jackson, would be regarded by them as national degradation, under the insupportable shame of which they would "look about them to find dishonorable graves."

President Johnson does not seem to share the views of these political Don Quixotes. One might suppose from his letter, that he thinks the career of his country for seventy years after the adoption of the Constitution was a career of greatness; that the pride of our statesmen, the exultation of our people, and the admiration of liberal minds in all foreign countries, had some ressonable foundation, which it need not discredit a man's judgment to acknowledge. From the way he writes, we should not be surprised to find that he thinks the inher tance trans mitted to us by our lathers is quite as valuable as any additions we, of this era of light, are likely to make to it; and that if, in imitation of the damsels in the Greek lable, we cut up our country and boil her in a political caldron with herbs and incantations, in the hope of render-ing her more fair, we may be unable, at the conclusion of the experiment, to restore tile to her disjoined members.

To what a wonderful height of moral elevaon must our present statesmen-our Sumners Stevenses, and the rest—have grown, to be able to look down with pitving contempt on what was, for seventy years, the admiration and envy of the world! How unfortunate for the mental growth of Andrew Johnson that he keeps such a stubborn hold of the prejudices he imbibed in that unfortunate era when we were afflicted with the babess corpus but lead activated. the habeas corpus, but had no Freedmen's Bureau! Now that we have grown so virtuous and enlightened as to regard those seventy years as a period of national disgrace, its political saints ought, or course, to step out of the calendar, specially those who, like Jackson, had so little philanthropy as to value the equal association of the North and the South in its public councils. With such names on the Southern side as Washington, cur most illustrious patriot; Jef

rson, the most forecasting of our state-men; Marshall, the greatest of our jurists; Madison, the wise expounder of the Constitution; with Clay, Jackson, and so many more, it is only by detacing and belouting the memory of those seventy years of what was once considered glory, that the claims of the South to better treatment than we are giving her can be so scornfully set at naught. It is perhaps owing to the fact that Andrew Johnson is a benighted Southerner, like the rest of them, that he as so Southerner, like the rest of them, that he is so slow to perceive that true statesmanship did not commence till it was discovered that the Union is not worth restoring, and consists in efforts to keep it dismembered.

—In Milan there lately died Marchese Visconti Almi, formerly director of the Imperial Theatre and privy councillar to the Emperor of Austria. He was the last descendant of the family of Visconti, which once reigned in the duchy of Milan. Among his personal effects were found two

ABOUT BIRDS

Birds Found in Australia and Eng-Innet.

A DODO. It appears from a circumstantial narrative given by a journal published in the Mauritiusthe Mauritius Commercial Gazette—first a pro-perty owner in that island is the nappy pos-sessor of a skeleton of the dodo found upon his

own estate. We copy the story:—
"Mr. Gaston de Bissy recently caused to be dug from a marsh on his property, know as 'La mare aux Songes,' the alluvium contained in it, to use as manure. After diaging two or three feet the men came in contact with bones of tor-tolses and over, the former in vast numbers. As soon as Mr. Clark heard of this, he went to Mr. de Bissy and stated to him what had long been his opinion as to the position in which dodo's bones might be found, requesting him to give orders to the diggers to lay by whatever bones they might turn up. Mr. de Bissy at once ordered that Mr. Clark's request should be fulfilled. Mr. Clark visited the estate many times but without obtaining any self-sectors to times, but without obtaining any satisfactory in telligence. He at length engaged two men to enter the dark-colored water, about three feet deep, and feel in the soft mud at the bottom

"In a short time he had the inexpressible tibia, and part of another. He at once com-menced operations in earnest, and has been fortunate enough to find every important bone of that remarkable pird, so that an experienced person can well build a dodo from these remains, the toes being the only parts wanting. The skull of this bird was of amazing thickness, and the cerebral cavity very small. The beak is of great strength and solidity, as are the condyles of the lower mandible. Some of the cervical vertebræ are more than two inches in dlameter. and of very elaborate structure. The sternum which the form shows a strong resemblance to that of the pigeon tribe—in some specimens is more than five inches wide and seven long. The keel is a quarter of an inch thick, and about an inch deep in the deepest part, which is at the centre; and the sternum is there three quarters of meh in thickness, but it thins off to a sharp edge at the margin. The humerus is less than four inches in length, and the shaft only about three-eighths of an inch in diameter, and the ulns under three inches, and less than a quarter of an inch in thickness Some lemurs are nearly seven inches long and more than an inch in diameter, and tible nine inches long, and the upper condyles two inches in diameter. The tarsometatarsi are or a very solid bone, and have been found in greater num bers than any others. They are about the length of these of a good sized furkey, but more than twice the thickness. The vertebra are very strong, and show that the spinal cord was fully

double the size of that of the turkey. 'Mr. Clark deposited the first specimens of dodo's bones he obtained in the museum at the Royal College, as well as taose of the flamingo, the existence of which in Mauritius was remem bered by the parents of persons now living. He has also sent a complete set of dodo's bones to

Protessor Owen, for the British Museum."

PPOFESSOR OWEN ON THE DODO. At the last meeting of the Zoological Society in London, Professor Owen read a paper on the godo, which, he said, was one of the curiosities of natural history, on account of its entire extinction and the paucity of its remains. Till a very short time ago nothing but a very few frag ments of its bones, and those scattered over sev eral nuseums, were known to exist. In 1863, however, Mr. Owen, having been introduced by Miss Burdett Coutts to the Bishop of Mauritius, endcavored to interest the right reverend prelate in a search for further relies of the dodo in his diocese and in Nomember last he received from his lordship a letter, accompanying a collection which had been discovered by Mr. George Clarke, mas ter of the Government school in the island, and an ardent naturalist. These comprised no fewer than a hundred bones and fragments of bones. which bad apparently belonged to four or five individuals, somewhat differing from each other in size. The dodo was undoubtedly a pigeon, but it was flightless, and its structure was modified in conformity with this circumstance. It was some what larger than a turkey-cock, and Mr. Clarke's d scoveries completely authenticate the well-known portrait of it in the British Museum. It was addicted in some measure to animal food, and it was doubtless this fact that made its flesh less palatable to the Dutch settlers of the teenth and seventeenth centuries than they found that of its voiant congenus. A writer, quoted by Sir Thomas Brown, reports that he saw a specimen exhibited in a raree show, and he adds that its keeper pointed out to him a heap of pebbles, some of which were as large as nutmegs, and which he said the creature ate. It may be surther observed "in this connection' that the extreme smallness of the dodo's brain fully entitled it to its distinguished epithet of "Inept." Mr. Owen also described a bone of a large parrot which had been sent home by Mr. Clarke. The species was probably now extinct, but further remains would no doubt ere long be received, and would determine the bird's sub generic position.

These discoveries and learned disquisitions justity the faith expressed in the old rhymes :-"What ! dishe leve the Dodo! The like was usver heard! Deprive the face of nature
Of such a wondrous bird?
I always loved the Dodo;

When, quite a little boy, I saw it in my 'Goldsmith' My heart beat high with joy!" A NEW BIRD IN AUSTRALIA. A Melbourne paper states that a very remarkable bird was killed a short time ago at Allensford, Australia. It had the neck of a heror short thick legs, was web-tooted like a duck portions of its coat like a seal, and wings like a seaguil, but of great length. It is supposed that the bird is a plotus-a species of darter-but is seldom seen on that coast.

A REALE BIRD IN ENGLAND. An English provincial paper (the West Sussex An English provincial paper (the West Sussex Gazelie) says, that as a young man named Collins was wheeling a barrow in a lane in Rogate, in December last, loaded with flesh for dogs, a large bird alighted on the flesh and began rapidly to make a meal from it. The young man stepped back to the roadside and took a long piece of string from his pocket with which to form a noose. The bird had flown a short distance during this operation. Two sticks were placed on the flesh and the noose laid on them. With the end of the string in in his hand, he stood back three or four yards; the bird soon came back, and stepping yards; the bird soon came back, and stepping mto the noose was easily captured. It was kept several days alive, but from being confined in so small a place its feathers became worn. The bird was presented to Mr. A. E. Knox, the author of "Ornithological Rambles in Sussex," and this gentleman has supplied the following descrip-tion:—"It is the only adult specimen or the Pawarine skus I have ever met with in Sussex, the breast being of a dirty white instead of the usual modiled brown, which is characteristic of the immature bird, and the tail long, until it was injured by confinement. The scientific name of the bird is lestris pomarinus. The first ex-ample ever noticed in England was killed at Brighton, and was mentioned in the catalogue or Mr. Bullock's collection, which was sold in the year 1819.

SMUGGLING ON THE FLORIDA COAST.—The Com-missioner of Customs at Washington on Saturday received intelligence from an agent of the Treasury Department stationed on the coast of Treasury Department stationed on the const of Florida, to the effect that the smugglers are very active in that locality. The agent, during the war, was in the navy, and on blockade duty along that coast, and he states that most of the vessels now engaged in the smuggling business were blockade-runners. Recently a vessel was overbauled at Key West by the collector at that point, which was found to be heavily laden with imported goods, on which the duty had not been paid, and the collector compelled the master to pay duties on the cargo, amounting in the aggregate to \$2300. The Commissioner has sent down another officer, who was on blockade duty on that coast during the war, with a view to on that coast during the war, with a view to assist in bringing some or these offenders to jus-

MEDICAL.

Skeleton of the Dodo Discovered Bare MEDICAL ELECTRICITY



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3. Respiratory Organs.—Catarrii, Cough, Influenza, Asthma (when not caused by organic disease of the hear: , Bronchitts, Pleursy, Pieurodynia or Rheumatism of the Chest, Consumption in the early stages. stages. 4. Fibrous and Muscular System - Rheumatism

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I. N. Sweeney, assessor, Second District of Phila- N. Sweeney, assessor, Second District of Phila-delphia, walnut and Eighth streets; George O. Evans, No 418 Arch street, below Fifth; William Pelouse, type founder, Ihird and Chesnut streets; Ed. McLane, manufacturer of cotton goods, with very many others.

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> Truly yours, WELLS, FARGO & CO., Per J. H. COOK, Agent.

FARREL, HERRING & CO., No. 629 CHESNUT STREET.

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THE FIEBY ORDEAL PASSED TRIUMPHANTLY The Herring Sale used in the office of our warehouses, destroyed by the disastrous fire of the night of the 8th instant, was subjected to as intense heat as probably any sale will ever be subjected in any fire—so intense that the brass knobs and mountings of the exterior of same were melted off, and the whole surface scaled and blistered as if it had been in a furnace, and yet when opened the contents—books and papers—were found to be entire and unnitured.

This sale is now on exhibition in our watchouse on Seventh street, with the books and papers still remaining in it just as it was when taken from the runa. Merchants, fankers, and others interested in the protection of their books and papers are invited to call and a mine it.

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