

LITERATURE.

SKETCHES OF PUBLISHERS.

J. B. LIPPINCOTT & CO., PHILADELPHIA.

The firm of Lippincott, Grambo & Co., formed in 1850, by purchase of the stock and good-will of Grigg, Elliott & Co., consisted of Joshua Balinger Lippincott, Henry Grambo, Edmund Claxton, George Remsen, and Benjamin B. Willis. Of these, Messrs. Grambo, Claxton, and Remsen had been partners with Grigg & Elliot. Mr. Lippincott had carried on the business for several years, and he brought Mr. Willis, who had been associated with him, into the new publishing firm. Mr. Grambo retired from the firm in 1855, and the house then assumed the title of J. B. Lippincott & Co., by which it has since been known. Mr. C. C. Haffelinger and Mr. John A. Remsen, each of whom had had over twenty years' experience in the house, became partners in 1858. At the close of 1860 Mr. Willis retired, the copartnership then having expired by limitation, and Mr. George W. Childs, of the late publishing house of Childs & Peterson, was admitted a member of the firm, but retired in the following summer. Mr. J. B. Mitchell, who had been associated with Mr. Lippincott for many years in the book-binding business, became a partner in 1864, at which time the binding which they merged in the publishing and book-selling establishment. The firm now consists of J. B. Lippincott, Edmund Claxton, George Remsen, J. B. Mitchell, C. C. Haffelinger, and John A. Remsen.

The premises Nos. 22 and 24 N. Fourth street being too limited for the extended and still extending business of J. B. Lippincott & Co., and it being impossible to find adequate accommodation in a business centre, it was resolved to erect a new and splendid building of sufficient extent in a leading thoroughfare. The site selected, forming Nos. 715 and 717 Market street, on the north side, between Seventh and Eighth streets, running clear through to Filbert street, occupies 356 feet on that line, is 41 feet wide on the Market street facade, and over 100 feet wide on the Filbert street end. This building was commenced in February, 1862, and was taken possession of for business occupation and purposes in March, 1863. The design was to have a very extensive store, at once substantial and handsome, with express adaptation to the book-making and book-distributing business. It differs from Messrs. Harpers' great store in Franklin Square, New York, in being wholly occupied by its owners, whereas in the Harper building the stores on the first-floor are rented off.

The building in Market street, which was completed nearly three years ago, consists of five lofty stories over a basement which is at once deep, extensive, well lighted, and thoroughly ventilated. The edifice is in the shape of a reversed L—the broad end being on Filbert street, with a height of six stories over the basement. The facade is fronted throughout with dove-colored marble, and the building, not loaded with excess of ornament, is by far the most handsome private business edifice in Philadelphia. The first floor, entered from Market street, without any ascent, is over sixteen feet high, with complete adaptation of ventilation and light, forming a saloon two hundred and fifteen feet long and forty feet wide. The retail business is conducted at the south or Market street extremity, under the active supervision of Mr. Jesse Perry, formerly of the house of Parry & Macmillan, corner of Fourth and Chestnut streets, successors to Carey & Hart. A vast quantity of books upon every variety of subjects—medical, educational, military, legal, theological, belles-lettres, and miscellaneous, with an extensive stock of photograph albums—mostly in handsome bindings—occupy the shelves down to the various counting-houses and partners' private offices. The second floor is chiefly appropriated to stationery, and the three floors above are filled with surplus stock of all kinds, so systematically arranged that any article can be supplied at a moment's notice. In the basement, which underlies the whole extent of the building, school books and heavy stationery are deposited in large quantities. When the intention of extending this already mammoth fire-proof building is carried out, so as to permit the printing and book-binding (still executed in the large premises corner of N. Fifth and Cresson streets, into which these branches of production overflowed when the publication and book distribution was done in N. Fourth street), this will be a book establishment inferior to none in this country, and larger than any in London. There, indeed, with very few exceptions (chief among which is the new book store of Longman & Co., in Paternoster row), the book stores of even the princes of "the trade" are dingy in appearance, inconvenient, badly constructed, and chiefly to be regarded with interest on account of their antiquity. Even the business of John Murray, the great aristocratic publisher, is transacted in a plain dwelling house on Albemarle street, with parlor windows. Indeed, until recently, when, having been burnt out, Longman & Co. had to rebuild their premises, the only book vendor's and publisher's store of any importance erected for the special purpose, in London, was the immense "Temple of the Muses," in Finsbury Square, put up by James Lackington chiefly for the second-hand book trade—the same who wrote and published a very amusing autobiography, in which he spoke more frankly of himself and his own tastes and mistakes than self-historians usually do. The whole cost of the premises of Messrs. Lippincott & Co., in Market street, including the purchase of the site and the completed construction, as at present, was \$350,000. The business of this house consists of publishing, printing, and binding, foreign importation, and general distribution of books and stationery.

Among the more important publications of J. B. Lippincott & Co. are Bibles and prayer-books in every variety of size, binding, and price; library editions of the novels of Scott, Brockden Brown, J. P. Kennedy, and Sir E. Bulwer Lytton; of Hume, Smollet, Gibbon, and Macaulay; Kirke's "History of Charles the Bold"; the historical works of W. H. Prescott; the standard poets and dramatists; and many other works of pure literature, history, biography, law, medicine, science, art, criticism, and education. "The Prouncing Gazetteer of the World," a large volume royal 8vo, edited by Dr. J. Thomas and T. Baldwin, assisted by other writers, has sup-

plied a desideratum, and the new edition, now near completion, will be all that can be desired. Dr. Thomas is author, also, of "A Comprehensive Pronouncing Medical Dictionary," post 8vo, pp. 704, published last year, containing the pronunciation, etymology, and signification of the terms made use of in medicine and the kindred sciences, with an appendix comprising a complete list of all the more important articles of the materia medica, etc. This is a smaller volume than Dr. Dunglison's, but has been found extremely comprehensive and reliable. Beck's "Elements of Medical Jurisprudence," now in the twelfth edition, is published by this house; Parson's "Treatise on the Law of Promissory Notes and Bills of Exchange," and Scribner's "Law of Deeds." In medicine and surgery the list is very large, including, *inter alia*, Da Costa's "Medical Diagnosis," Surgeon-General Hammond's various works, Smith's "Principles and Practice of Surgery," Sir James Syme's "Practice and Principles of Surgery," and, pre-eminent among this class of works, "The United States Dispensatory," by Drs. Franklin Baehle and George B. Wood, first published over thirty years ago, and now in the twelfth edition. Of this work, which did for medicine in this country what corresponding works by Dr. Duncan and Dr. Thompson had previously done in Scotland and England, over 88,000 copies have already been sold. Dr. Baehle, who died in the spring of 1854, actually received proceeds upon the sale of 79,000 copies. Dr. Wood, his associate in the work, who, indeed, executed much the greater portion of it, is now President of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia.

Of course such extensive publishers were called upon during the war to produce a number of military works. In more peaceful departments of science they also participated, as publishers of more finely illustrated works—Spencer F. Baird's "Mammals and Birds of North America;" Professor Chauvenet's "Manual of Spherical and Practical Astronomy;" John Cassin's "Illustrations of the Birds of California, Texas, Oregon, British and Russian America;" Girard's "Herpetology of the United States Exploring Expedition under Commodore Wilkes;" Humphreys and Abbott's "Mississippi Delta Report;" Nett and Gliddon's "Types of Man, kind and Indigenous Races of the Earth;" Beane's architectural works, and the nautical works of Dr. Dickson and Mr. Ross Snowden, formerly director of the United States Mint at Philadelphia. As for educational works, the list alone would fill several columns. In connection with Messrs. Merriam, of Springfield, Mass., the house of J. B. Lippincott & Co. has long participated in the publication of Dr. Noah Webster's dictionaries. In like manner, too, this house has issued, in this country, in conjunction with Messrs. William & Robert Chambers, of Edinburgh and London, the most important of their numerous publications, such as the "Information for the People," "Cyclopedia of English Literature," "Miscellany and Repository," "The Book of Days," and "Chambers' Encyclopedia," largely illustrated with wood-engravings and original maps, to be completed in nine volumes, of which the eighth is now nearly ready for the binder.

The success of this arrangement with Messrs. Chambers, by which fac-simile editions of valuable works are simultaneously published in Philadelphia and in "the old country," has recently led to a great extension of that description of business by J. B. Lippincott & Co., one of the firm having been in Europe for some months past, where he has concluded negotiations with the leading publishers in Great Britain, France, Belgium, and Germany, which will largely introduce their publications into this country at lower rates than they can be sold for when only small quantities are imported. The principal British publishers with whom J. B. Lippincott & Co. have thus become engaged are Longmans, John Murray, Churchill & Sons, Chapman & Hall, Bell & Daldy, Bagster & Sons, Day & Son, Adam & Charles Black, W. Collins, Smith, Elder & Co., W. & R. Chambers, etc. It is claimed that J. B. Lippincott & Co. were the first manufacturers of photograph albums in this country. We have heard that, in the summer of 1860, soon after *cartes de visite* came into fashion, a photograph album, brought over from Paris, came into Mr. Lippincott's hands. He determined to enter upon the manufacture to supply a want which, it was easy to imagine, must soon be felt and met. The binding in the original specimen appeared very slight, and, indeed, the book exhibited a tendency to fall to pieces on even slight handling. Mr. Lippincott introduced the making of albums upon linen guards, by which strength and flexibility are both secured. The manufacture of these albums has ever since been a large and lucrative part of the business. The prices vary, from the pocket album, bound in cloth, with gilt edge and clasp, to hold twelve views, and sold at 85 cents, to the imperial quarto size, four views on a page, to hold two hundred views, richly bound in Turkey morocco, at \$31. One album made here, for a California customer, was priced at \$500.

The binding executed by Messrs. Lippincott is especially good. Some time ago a *chef d'œuvre* of this art was produced, which excited so small admiration in Europe. Of "Schoolcraft's History of the Indian Tribes," in six large quarto volumes, with illustrations, one copy, beautifully bound, was presented to the United States Government ten years ago. The book had been published by J. B. Lippincott & Co., and its binding was also entrusted to them. The volumes were richly bound in Turkey morocco, and embellished with the respective initials of each royal and imperial recipient, ever which the emblems of the American republic were placed. A similarly bound copy was reserved for Mr. Fillmore, who was President at the time. A large number of volumes bound by Lippincott & Co.—invariably presentation copies—are in Queen Victoria's private library, at Osborne.

Mr. Henry C. Carey, the well-known political economist, himself son of a Philadelphia bookseller, and formerly in "the trade," once described J. B. Lippincott & Co.'s as being "the largest book-distributing house that exists in the world." It supplies books from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from New Orleans to Newfoundland. It has about eight thousand customers, some of whom pay at least \$40,000 a year for publications and stationery. The mere cost of boxes and packages for the conveyance of orders exceeds \$20,000 a year. The sale of school-books extends to millions per annum. The number of persons employed, at various salaries, exceeds five hundred per week. In the binding-room the outlay for gold-leaf is over 20,000 a year.

We have been favored by Mr. William S. Washburne, who holds a confidential position in this house, with a memorandum of the number of boxes of books which have been dispatched to customers by this house and its immediate predecessor. Between 1834 and 1849, both years inclusive, the greater number of boxes thus sent out varied from 1257, in the year 1842, to 3806 in 1847, 4000 in 1848, and 5030 in 1849. This last number was more than doubled in 1850, the first year of Messrs. Lippincott & Co. taking the business, and the figures up to the present time are—

Table with 3 columns: Year, Boxes, Year. Data points for 1850, 1851, 1852, 1853, 1854, 1855, 1856, 1857.

We notice that in the very bad year, 1842, the business sensibly declined. It grew dull towards the close of 1857, which was also a panic year, dropped down from 14,477 boxes in 1860 to 10,554 in 1861, and rallied from that time until the end of the war, the year 1865 being by far the most prosperous yet enjoyed by the house. Hitherto, the opening business of the year 1866 indicates a still further extension. The newly established "relations with foreign powers," which will come into operation in the present year, must lead to a considerable increase in business. Beyond all comparison, it is said, the house of J. B. Lippincott & Co. is unequalled in the extent of its transactions by any firm in the same line in this country or in London.

MEMOIR OF JAMES LOUIS PETTIGRU. By W. J. Grayson. Harper & Brothers, New York. Agents, J. B. Lippincott & Co., Nos. 715 and 717 Market street.

When a moral epidemic, whether religious or political in its nature, seizes upon a community, and hurries it along in the wild rush of mad enthusiasm; when the whole social torrent dashes with seemingly irresistible force in a certain direction, for one man to stem that current, and bravely battle against the stream, is a sign of heroism which the world has never failed to appreciate and applaud. It is out of such that the demi-gods of history have been made. It is out of such clay that the almost deified leaders of the past have been created. Cicero, when he stood alone among the conspirators, and opposed their schemes, was such a man. Luther, when he dared the power of the Church of Rome, unaided and unsupported, was such a man. And in our land and time, the man whose actions approach nearest to this exalted position was James L. Pettigru, of South Carolina. When the mad torrent of secession engulfed the reason of the Southern people beneath the waves of passion, Pettigru breathed those waves, fortified popularity, lost position, risked life and blood, before the tide had turned, in the cause of the Union—in the cause which his conscience told him was the right one.

The life of such a man is of interest to the nation. The people are too apt to forget, in their universal hatred of the Southern leaders, that there was a man who never yielded, never temporized, never wavered in the cause of the national unity. Had the life of Mr. Pettigru been spared until to-day, he would have been the most popular man in the entire country. He would have been beloved by the North because of his unadulterated Unionism, by the South, because even in the midst of the wildest secession excitement he was ever esteemed and honored. But dying before the day dawned, it is necessary that some memoir keep his name before posterity. The needed work has been furnished by his old friend, Mr. W. J. Grayson, who also to-day lies with his schoolfellow beneath the sod. Let us trace the life of the hero of the sketch before us.

James Louis Pettigru was born of an aristocratic though extremely indigent family, on the 10th of May, 1789. His parents were extremely poor, living on a small farm, and without resources or prospects. His father appears to have been an easy-going, unenergetic sort of a man, who lived, and that was all he cared for. His death left his eldest son James with the care of a large family, with little funds, and great promise of ability. He immediately proceeded to work on the farm, and labored with all his strength to support his relatives.

At the age of thirteen, a family council was called, and it was decided that the boy should be sent to school. The matter was a grave one, and to raise the necessary funds a mortgage was resorted to. He accordingly went to the academy of Dr. Waddell, on leaving which he went to Columbia College, supporting himself by teaching school during his course of study. Upon graduating, first of his class, he taught a country school, meanwhile studying law. At the age of twenty-two he was elected a tutor of Beaufort College. On the death of the President he tried to secure that post. By his defeat the cause of education lost an able leader, but the State gained a most faithful public servant. Admitted to the bar, he removed in 1810 to Charleston. In 1822 he was elected Attorney-General of the State. When the nullification schism of 1830 swept over the State, Pettigru came out boldly with Drayton and other Unionists, and fought the Nullifiers on their own ground. His biographer well says of him: "There could be no hesitation on his part. The disruption of the Federal Union was to him an evil without remedy, and without measure." In 1831 he ran for the position of State Senator, in opposition to Colonel Cunningham, the Nullification candidate. By bribery, force, fraud, and every political contagion he was defeated. From that time until the announcement of Secession, he continually held legal positions of honor under the State. In 1837 he lost all of his fortune in a ruinous speculation, besides incurring a debt which it took years to liquidate. But by devotion to the bar he finally came out unharmed, free, and finally an opulent man.

From the first breath of Secession he was open in his bitter denunciation. We find he measured his words in his opposition. It was the bitter and relentless war of the right upon the ever-increasing force of wrong. Yet, strange to say, although he dared the popular fury, stemmed the popular tide, called the people traitors, and never hesitated to avow his contempt and opposition to their conduct, they continued to have faith in him. In 1862, after having for three years abused each member of the Legislature and their views, he was elected by them to codify the laws of the State. It was because of his great legal attainments, and not political favoritism, that he was chosen, from that time until the day of his death, on the 9th of March, 1863, in the seventy-fifth year of his age, having

just completed his work on the State laws. Refusing to leave the State for which he had labored for years, he dared the leaders of Secession to the utmost, yet all through threatened he was never disturbed. His death caused the profoundest sorrow through the State and over the entire North. He was the faithful among the faithful, and he died confident in the success which has since crowned the Union cause.

His character, as depicted by his biographer, can be summed up in a few words—conscientious, fearless, and eloquent, he could never be moved from the course which he esteemed just. A man of mighty powers, a self-made man, and one who, had he turned his attention more to politics, would have ranked among the Websters, Calhouns, and Clays of the Senate. Had ten such men been found in that modern Sodom, she would not have been half a pile of ashes as she is to-day.

Of the work itself we must speak highly. Written in a style of easy fluency, it is pleasant reading from the first page to the last. It possesses interest even if the man of whom it speaks was not so well known and appreciated, and is evidently the effort of a man well versed in letters. It is not sufficiently toned down in its style, but the untimely death of the author may be the reason. It is beautifully got up by Messrs. Harper, and deserves a large sale.

SIMPLICITY AND FASCINATION. By Anne Beale. Loring, Boston. G. W. Pritchard, No. 306 Chestnut street, Agent.

A pleasantly written, though rather too prolix novel. The characters are drawn with a fine, bold hand, which savors more of a man than a lady. The scene is laid in England, and is replete with pleasant interest. Some of the persons are demi-gods, and all of them have a benevolent turn of mind. The villain of the work eventually becomes a saint. It is neatly got up, and will repay perusal. The establishment of Mr. Pritchard is also noticeable for the variety of its albums, a number of new works, and rarest collection of photography. His albums are among the richest and most varied in the city.

FAIRBANKS. T. B. Peterson & Bros., No. 395 Chestnut street.

The work is, we understand, a sensational novel. It is one of the uniform editions of Messrs. Peterson's works. Of its literary merits we can speak favorably, from reputation. It will be read by many of the lovers of the Mrs. Southworth class of fictions.

—We have before us a copy of the "American Exchange and Review" for February. It is an able magazine. The departments devoted to finance, metallurgy, banks, and other specialties are especially well edited, being replete with information and carefully digested statistics.

—The "United States Service Magazine" for March contains a graphic sketch of "The 6th Army Corps," by Major-General McMahon, which is of deep interest not only to every soldier of the corps, but also to the general reader. An article on fortifications deserves special attention from our military men. The present number is all that could be desired.

—The "Philadelphia Photographer" for March contains a beautifully executed photograph of a cascade as a frontispiece. The rest of the work is devoted to professional and scientific subjects connected with the art.

THE NEW YORK PRESS.

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

COMPILED EVERY DAY FOR EVENING TELEGRAPH.

England and the United States.

From the Tribune. The inefficiency of the English Neutrality laws was, on the night of February 23, the subject of an earnest discussion in the English House of Commons. Mr. Labouchere, the new liberal member for Windsor, conclusively showed that the English law had proved utterly inadequate to enable England to fulfill her international obligations towards the United States, and he therefore demanded the revision of such a law in the interest of humanity. As to the main point, the inefficiency of the law, nearly all the speakers, including the Attorney-General, were agreed with Mr. Labouchere; but opinions widely differed as to whether the American law was in point of sufficiency superior to the English. The discussion, especially the speech of the Attorney-General, turned for a great part again upon the *Alabama* case, repeating mostly the argumentation with which both countries have long been familiar. The English Government is anxious to avoid the discussion of these questions by Parliament, and seems to expect to interfere by resolutions. The Attorney-General regretted the discussion of the neutrality laws, because "no public advantage could arise from it." In the same way, Mr. Gladstone expressed regret at the introduction of a discussion concerning the Fenians, which he regarded as "most inopportune." One member (Mr. W. K. W.) wished to know why the American Government had taken no steps to discontinue the Fenian movement; and another (O'Way) thought that representations ought at once to be made at Washington, but Mr. Gladstone very sagaciously defended the course of the American Government, and denied that thus far any public act had been committed calling for the interference of England. The English Cabinet is anxious, above all, to avoid any step which might excite the two countries; and as to the settlement of the old difficulties it is, for the present, patiently waiting for "something to turn up."

Mr. Covode Gets Heard at Last.

From the Tribune. When the President, in response to a resolution, transmitted to the Senate the reports of General Grant and General Schurz, he stated that no report had been received from the Hon. John Covode. In view of the testimony of Mr. Covode, we think that the President's statement will be deemed, to say the least, disingenuous. Mr. Covode testifies that he prepared a written report expressly for the President, entitled "Louisiana Politically Considered," that he took it to the President, together with the documents belonging to it; that he read part of it to the President; and that, at the suggestion of the President, he filed that report with its accompanying documents in the War Office. Reports and papers have since disappeared—nobody knows where or how. But inasmuch as the Senate resolution called by name for Mr. Covode's report, the President would have answered with more precision had he stated the facts as now given by Mr. Covode. To say briefly that "no report had been received," does seem a little inconsistent with the fact.

Judging from the evidence of Mr. Covode before the Reconstruction Committee, we should say that his report had it been duly given to the public when called for, would have materially affected public opinion of the President's restoration policy. Mr. Covode is well known; he went South charged with an official investigation into the state of public feeling; he examined deliberately, and his conclusions are entitled to consideration. They are entirely opposed to immediate readmission of the Rebel States into the Union, and they occur in previous testimony in a quite remarkable manner. It is well known that Mr. Ezer A. Pryor (ex-Rebel General) has said that for some time

after the surrender of Lee the temper of the South was so submissive that they would have accepted, without a murmur, negro suffrage as a condition of readmission. In fact, the Rebels did at that time realize that they had been whipped, and expected to take such terms as their conquerors chose to grant. That is what Pryor says, and he must be deemed a competent and credible witness to the point. Mr. Covode, so late as June and July, was in Louisiana, and saw much of the army which Kirby Smith had surrendered, confiding freely with both officers and men; that he observed the general attitude of Mr. Covode, "to find how docile and submissive they were?"

"In no single instance, either there or on the steambath where I traveled with them did I hear any bitter or unkind feeling expressed towards the Government. The general expression among them was that they were whipped and well whipped, and that they were glad the war was over, and were ready to accept of the conditions which were submitted to them. Many of the more intelligent men of the army said their leaders had made a great mistake in going into the Rebellion against the Government, that they would have remained in the Union and endeavored to accomplish their purposes by political means, in which they said they would have succeeded. Many of the Northern Democrats; that by precipitating the Rebellion they had tied the hands of their Northern friends. To all appearances, the men of the army had no objection to the meeting and address intrusted with political power and privileges, at least for some time."

We believe there is no doubt that such was the general sentiment of the South; they "had no objection to the meeting and address entrusted with political power and privileges, at least for some time." Certainly, they had no "expectation," nor the remotest dream, of dictating terms of readmission. They knew how the war would be treated, and they knew the circumstances; they looked for like treatment from the North. What changed them? We all remember that the temper of the South did undergo about that time a great change. So far as Louisiana is concerned, Mr. Covode's testimony supplies an explanation. He was down to New Orleans, many of Kirby Smith's men going also, Governor Wells, of Louisiana, had just returned from Washington, and a public meeting was called to hear his report. He went to the meeting and made a speech, in which he stated that he had seen the President, who was a Southern man and a Democrat, and that Mr. Johnson would be a link between the South and Northern Abolitionists and fanatics. He made open war against the former administration of Mr. Lincoln, charging it with the contraction of an enormous debt, etc., and claiming that the administration of Mr. Johnson would be of a very different character. Mr. Covode believed then that Governor Wells' misapprehension was the purpose of President Johnson. Governor Wells, however, fresh from his consultations with Mr. Johnson, abandoned the loyal party that elected him, removed from office the loyal appointees of Governor Hahn, filled their places with the worst class of Rebels, and from that day to this has done his utmost to throw the political power of the State again into the hands of the men who in 1860 took it out of the Union, in defiance of the people of the State. Mr. Covode stayed in Louisiana long enough to observe the development of this policy, came back to Washington, and reported that Governor Wells ought to be removed. The result was that the President suppressed the report of Governor Wells from office, and to-day disloyalty rules supreme in Louisiana. If there is any more instructive lesson in reconstruction, we know not where it is to be found.

The Fenian Movement and English Inconsistency. From the Herald. The latest news from England and from Canada shows that a terrible state of alarm exists both in the mother country and her American provinces on the Fenian question. There may be some reason for this alarm in view of the fact that the British Government have been compelled to declare Ireland in a state of revolution, and that the provincial Government in Canada has suddenly ordered out ten thousand militia to protect that colony from an anticipated attack of the Fenians. To whatever danger the British empire at home and abroad may be exposed is a matter which concerns its rulers, and no one else. If they have permitted a condition of affairs in Ireland to reach a point which makes insurrection a fixed fact, that is their own affair. When we were at war with our rebellious States, England was on the side of the Union; but we forgot our own battle successfully, not only against the South—but against its ally—England. It would appear, from certain indications in the British press, that our Government is likely to be asked to interfere on the side of the Fenians in Ireland. We might suppose that a sense of consistency would prevent the Government of England from making any such requisition, and we opine that if any proposition of this kind should be made, it will be regarded, and very justly, as the most absurd and shameless one that ever emanated from any government, considering the position that England assumed towards this country during the Rebellion.

Twelve months have not elapsed since some of the most prominent men of England, members of the Government, were contributors to the Confederate loan, the sinews of war to be employed against our nationality. Mr. Laird, occupying a position in the House of Commons, was then a member of the Government, and the English people and the same time building privateers to prey upon American commerce. Earl Russell grasped at the first opportunity to recognize belligerent rights in a rebellious section of this country, and thus threw Ireland into the arms of the Fenians. We might suppose that a sense of consistency would prevent the Government of England from making any such requisition, and we opine that if any proposition of this kind should be made, it will be regarded, and very justly, as the most absurd and shameless one that ever emanated from any government, considering the position that England assumed towards this country during the Rebellion.

Equally important to the nation, in another direction, is the question of the public finances. They have been marvellously strengthened during the last three months. The enhancement of the public credit, the rise in the price of gold, the rise in our securities in Europe, the enlarged purchasing power of currency, give but imperfect indications of the value of the improvements which have been brought about by the ability of Secretary McCullough. His monthly bulletins have come to us like Grant's bulletins of victory. He has hardly had more than time to draw his lines of circumvallation around our financial Richmond, and already he has placed the nation in a position which it has nothing to fear for the future. His most hopeful exhibits have been since the meeting of Congress, and the most hopeful of them all is the latest. He sent in, in December last, his request for the passage of certain measures, that would still further aid him in his work. But Congress has had all it could attend to in debating the question of the admission of Southern members, and neither action nor discussion has yet taken place upon them. We earnestly desire their prompt passage, but yet we can hardly regret that the financial question was not made the first subject of debate in the session. We have not forgotten some of the bills of that session, and we can never forget some of the speeches which their effects, too, we shall not cease to remember. We fear that if the mad-caps had taken the lead this year—we cannot avoid fearing they would have done so—and had the people been steadily engaged in passing their bills and resolutions, and approving every day for the last three months, not a few of them would have found reason for the thought that we are on the verge of bankruptcy, and that only the passage of a hundred conciliatory measures would save us from immediate ruin. Gold would not have got to the point where it is, nor would bonds have been where they are, nor would it have been possible for the Secretary to prosecute as successfully as he has the measures which are working such beneficent results.

But if, after what we have written, any one fancies we are less anxious to secure the political reconstruction of the Union, or that we would in any way undervalue the grand fanfare of Congress in its governmental economy, he wrongs our argument as well as himself.

SHIRTS, FURNISHING GOODS, & OPENING. J. W. SCOTT & CO., WILL OPEN. THURSDAY, MARCH 1, A NEW LINE OF GENTS' FURNISHING GOODS. No. 814 CHESTNUT STREET. PATENT SHOULDER-SEAM SHIRT MANUFACTORY AND GENTLEMEN'S FURNISHING STORE. PERFECT FITTING SHIRTS AND DRAWERS made from measurements by very short notice. A full variety of GENTLEMEN'S DRESS GOODS in full variety. WINCHESTER & CO., 814 CHESTNUT STREET.

Congress and Its Discussions—A Review.

From the Times.

The fact that Congress has, ever since this session commenced, been almost exclusively occupied in the discussion of the varied phases of the various questions appertaining to political reconstruction, has unquestionably saved us from much other foolish, irritating, and perilous talk upon other subjects that it is very important should not be foolishly selected—especially at the present time. We know quite well from circumstances of the past, and indications of the present, the same had ten per, illiberal spirit, and heated passions which have been brought to the treatment of our Southern relations, would have been displayed by the same parties in dealing with other matters of vital questions of national concern. And we see that more immediate if not greater public calamities might have resulted from the agitation of these questions in this fashion than have as yet arisen from the political turmoil. Furthermore, while Congress has laid aside all other fundamental questions for the discussion of this one, it has given opportunity to more than one of the executive departments of the Government, not only to carry on important labors without damaging embarrassment, but to advance them to stages where they are less liable to suffer from passion and folly.

Looking at affairs in this way, we discern the operation of the great philosophical "law of compensation" which plays so profound a role in the regulation of human history.

Only secondarily to our Southern relations in national importance and public interest is the question of our foreign relations. With France, at all events, they have required skillful and delicate, as well as firm and dignified treatment. The position of the French Emperor in Mexico is an embarrassing one for him. "Just let him get out of it at once!" cries the Post. Not so simple, we reply. You cannot always get out of a position that you have discovered to be a false one in that way. On the other hand, a bog escape is not so easy. He had many considerations to take into account, many points to establish, and many things to put against others, before he could set about a change of policy. The public mind, however, nearly adding his fortunes as this, in the last three months we have had the turning-point of the whole matter. His Majesty has been immensely exercised. The thought of evacuation was an extremely disagreeable one to him, and he could not have been without the idea of remaining was a palpably perilous one. He had perused and reperused the voluminous despatches of the Secretary, had combed their periods, cogitated over their readings, and had given his mind to the matter. The replies he made through Dr. Drouyn de Lays grew weaker and weaker, and finally a few weeks ago he publicly acknowledged his willingness and his purpose to evacuate Mexico. Our Government, and the public mind, were fully effected a great result, or had got it put in the way of being effected; and the two leading powers of the world were saved from the threatened danger of a war, which had it come, would assuredly have been one of the bloodiest that ever incurred the lives of men.

During the few months that all this was in the critical process of consummation, Congress was engaged in hotly debating whether to admit the Southern delegates.

We believe we have been singularly fortunate that it was so. Had the Franco-Mexican question been introduced on the first day of the session in December last, had resolutions been passed demanding the instant evacuation of Mexico, or that a declaration of war against the Emperor had been passed with denunciations of the Emperor and his policy and his army; had the popular feeling been inflamed, and had the filibusters on the Rio Grande (whom some of our journals defended) been permitted to continue their depredations, and had the relations with France would at this day have been as they are, or that Napoleon would have proclaimed his purpose of leaving Mexico in defiance to our wishes? Nay, have we not seen that the Emperor's manifest intention was to force France (not in Government circles or the Corps Legislatif merely, but among the people at large), when, on the publication of the official correspondence with our Government, it was discovered how the Emperor had been thwarted, that the French nation at large would have energetically supported him in a peremptory refusal to evacuate at all under such circumstances? It is not that we have this day been so fortunate as the result of a war with France on any other power combination of powers that we rejoice at what our Government has so quietly effected in this line, but that we are advocates of peace wherever it is practicable, and believe statesmanship to be a nobler policy than force.

Equally important to the nation, in another direction, is the question of the public finances. They have been marvellously strengthened during the last three months. The enhancement of the public credit, the rise in the price of gold, the rise in our securities in Europe, the enlarged purchasing power of currency, give but imperfect indications of the value of the improvements which have been brought about by the ability of Secretary McCullough. His monthly bulletins have come to us like Grant's bulletins of victory. He has hardly had more than time to draw his lines of circumvallation around our financial Richmond, and already he has placed the nation in a position which it has nothing to fear for the future. His most hopeful exhibits have been since the meeting of Congress, and the most hopeful of them all is the latest. He sent in, in December last, his request for the passage of certain measures, that would still further aid him in his work. But Congress has had all it could attend to in debating the question of the admission of Southern members, and neither action nor discussion has yet taken place upon them. We earnestly desire their prompt passage, but yet we can hardly regret that the financial question was not made the first subject of debate in the session. We have not forgotten some of the bills of that session, and we can never forget some of the speeches which their effects, too, we shall not cease to remember. We fear that if the mad-caps had taken the lead this year—we cannot avoid fearing they would have done so—and had the people been steadily engaged in passing their bills and resolutions, and approving every day for the last three months, not a few of them would have found reason for the thought that we are on the verge of bankruptcy, and that only the passage of a hundred conciliatory measures would save us from immediate ruin. Gold would not have got to the point where it is, nor would bonds have been where they are, nor would it have been possible for the Secretary to prosecute as successfully as he has the measures which are working such beneficent results.

But if, after what we have written, any one fancies we are less anxious to secure the political reconstruction of the Union, or that we would in any way undervalue the grand fanfare of Congress in its governmental economy, he wrongs our argument as well as himself.