EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS.

CONFILED EVERY DAY FOR EVENING TELEGRAPH.

## The Neutrality Laws.

From the Times. In its general reasoning, perhaps, the report of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs upon the neutrality laws correctly expresses the prevailing sense of justice. There is a proper aversion to changes of law made at the instance and to serve the convenience of foreign powers; and the fact that certain features of existing legislation originated thus is sufficient to insure their condemnation. The feeling is strengthened when it is remembered that the friendly action of the American Government has not been reciprocated. For surely legislation by the United States by which other countries pro-fited should have induced corresponding legislation on their part, that there might be among nations something like oneness of principle and policy in their respective enactments on the subject of neutrality.

Now the report presented by General Banks establishes the first of these points. It shows that the provisions of the law in respect of neutrality, which were deemed adequate and just in the early days of the republic, were at different times aftered in the direction of greater stringency on the suggestion or solicitation of foreign Governments, that of Great Britain being among them. It shows that the laws now in force in this country exceed in comprehen-siveness and stringency those in operation elsewhere. And the argument is fairly and strongly put, that the comity of nations demands something like mutuality of duty upon a question in which they have a common interest. The obligation to do unto this country as this country has done unto others has, however, been persistently disregarded; and at this moment American citizens are subject to restric-tions and penalties far in excess of those im-posed by the Governments of Europe. To these equalities in laws affecting international interests there is a natural, if not a very intelligent repugnance; and hence the proposition to regulate the restrictions upon American citizens in matters affecting British interests, by the restrictions which Great Britain has placed upon her subjects in matters affecting American interests, may be expected to commend itself to popular favor.

But though the law is unsatisfactory and the amendment of it necessary, the wisdom of pre-cipitancy in regard to it is not very clear. It was wrong in former Congresses to comply with the requests of Great Britain, or Spain, or Por-tugal, seeing that none of them has returned the compliment.

There would be less reason for caution if this effort to mend the neutrality laws were not evidently connected, in a near or remote degree, with movements which the friends of order eannot contemplate with indifference. The prevention of raids upon Canada led to the miroduction of the subject into Congress, and it is well understood that the change proposed is deemed to be favorable to the plans and purposes of the Fenian organization. "The modification," says the World correspondent, "will prove to be largely in the Fenian interest, as was evinced by the presence of President Roberts and other prominent Fenians on the floor during the discussion of the bill."
It is not alleged by the advocates of the measure that the President exceeded his authority in the steps recently taken on the Northern frontier; and the absence of complaint upon this head is equivalent to an acknowledgment of the strict legality of his course. The apparent desire is to prevent further Executive interference, should the occa-sion for it be renewed; for though General Banks' bill comes up to the standard of Washington, and it is in every respect equal to the restrains which Great Britain deems sufficient for her subjects, it effects a marked relaxation in the law now in force here. The inquiry arises, therefore—Is it more dignified, more proper, or more expedient to modify the neutrality laws for the accommodation of the Fenians than for the accommodation of foreign

The present position of the Government in relation to neutrality is confessedly strong. It has extorted grateful testimony from the organs of British opinion, and has commended itself to the moral sense of the American people. occupies a vantage-ground in the great arena of nations, and may with propriety call upon other Governments to revise their legislation, and enter into reciprocal obligations in international concerns. Its promptitude and vigor against Fenian iorays will justify it in presenting to England a pretty little account of her ing to England a pretty little account of her indebtedness on account of failure to preserve an equitable neutrality during the Rebellion. And its own laws will be a standard to which the neutrality laws of other countries may be required to advance.

It, after all, the leading powers of Europe refuse to recognize the obligation of reciprocity—if Britain will neither atone for injuries and lesses produced by her lax ideas of neutrality.

losses produced by her tax ideas of neutrality, nor restrain her people after the fashion set by the United States—the obligation on the side of this country will cease, and Congress may loosen its bonds to the utmost limit. But at least let the change be brought round decorously. Let not the spectacle be presented of legislation in matters of the highest importance pushed to maturity at lightning speedwithout thought, without care, and without regard to the possibilities of the immediate

## Jefferson Davis Again.

From the Tribune. The report which has been given to Congress on the investigation of the charges of assassination against the responsible head of the Rebellion, furnishes good reason for the time which has been employed in its preparation. The Committee charged by Congress with the matter make it plain at the outset that the testimony before them is not sufficient to convict Jefferson Davis in a court of justice. But the whole story has not yet been told, while that which appears is more than enough to confirm the profound suspicion under which Davis was charged by President Johnson, and his case placed in the hands of an investigation committee, witnesses of his complicity in the murder, meanwhile waiting to conduct them to the proof. The champions of the alling prisoner in Fortress Monroe must establish that all the witnesses are scriurers, or fail in their case. If they fail, there can be no doubt, moral or legal, that Davis himself was immediately responsible for the in-human treatment of the Union prisoners of war, and, by inference, was none too religious a character to direct the desperate work which remained. Pending any attempt at the rebuttal of the charges, the testimony, as it appears, both with respect to the usage of the prisoners of war, and the murder of a noble man, is formida-

The Committee's report traces the assassination from its general antecedents, of which the slow murder of the prisoners at Andersonville is the most important. The Committee express no doubt that Davis had full understanding of the acts of his subordinates at Libby, Salisbury, and elsewhere, grounding their faith on the added proof of the Rebel archives to the accumulated testimony already in the Government's hands. The reports of Rebel committees, extracts from the Rebel papers, letters of Rebel officials, and an appealing letter to Davis from a Southern lady are given to show that the treatment of our prisoners was notorious, and that in contempt of their misery each complaint on their behalf was tossed back from the hands of the Rebel President and between his careless and criminal subordinates, till it fell to the ground. The chapter on the events immediately preceding the assassination has testimony that we cannot elightingly pass oves. The witness Bates, who heard the Rebel President at Chariottesville may that the murder if done ought to be well

ble even now. It is stronger, however, as it

affects the tormer.

done; the official authorization to Dr. Black burn to enlist a company of men for special service in burning the St. Louis steamboats; the letters to Dr. J. W. Booth, found on record in the book of the Rebel War Department, in company with other entries to the name of Bennett H. Young, and other secret agents of the Rebellion—are concurring circumstauces tending to a dismal conclusion. The New York News is plausibly supposed to have advertised for the arch-Rebel direction for the payment of \$20,000 secret service money to Jacob Thompson. There is more of this testimony which we cannot now review. The general impression of the report will fortity the opinion which has hardly at any time failed to manifest itself against the author of the Andersonville miseries. The friends of the State prisoner profess to have something to say in his defense. The Committee affirm, on their part, that the work of investigation is not

The Committee have properly rejected the testimony of the witnesses who avowed their own talsehood, with what motive it does not appear. The charge of Davis' complicity still exists, if we have judged aright the tenor of the report. But more important, more welcome than anything else in the result of this investigation, is the promise that Jefferson Davis will be brought to trial, and, if guilty, convicted and ounished. Nothing bars the way.

The Great Convention at Philadelphia-Progress of the Counter Revolution.

From the Herald. In the papers, during the hot days in the city and at all the watering places, the principal topic of discussion is the Philadelphia National Union Convention. Wherever two or three persons are gathered together this subject is sure to be ventilated. As a standard matter of conversation it has quite superseded the weather. Our exchanges are full of it. Calls for State conventions to elect delegates to it are being issue. Everybody is going to attend it. An immense wigwam for it is in course of erection. The railroads will run extra trains to accommodate the crowd. The old proverb teils us that it is better to be out of the world than out of the fashion, and decidedly it will be the lashion to go to the Convention. No politician of any importance can afford to stay away, unless he be a radical doomed to the wrath to come. In that case he may reserve himself for Jack Hamilton's negro-worshipping convention n September.

But white everybody is preparing to go to the National Union gathering, it is singular that each of the cliques and factions wants to keep all the rest out. Weed and Raymond promise to be there; but they turn up their noses at the Wood Brothers, and at Marble and Belmont, the shent per-shent twins, and at Vallandigham and his tail, and insist that all these notorious people must be excluded. We should like to know why. The terms of the call for the Convention do not exclude them, and nothing else can. What is there about the Wood Brothers for instance, that unuts them to six in the big wigwam with Weed and Raymond? We presume that the latter gentlemen will not insist too strongly upon a comparison of personal re-cords or of general jobs. Is it, then, that the Woods, and Vallandigham, and Belmont and Marble sympathized with the Rebels during the war and are a fittle tainted that way still? Mr. Belmont will not admit this soft impeachment, and Mr. Marble indignantly denies it and calls for pistols and coffee, as if he had purchased some of the warlike spirit of the Chevalier Webb when he bought in the old duellist's paper. But even in the notorious cases of the Woods and Vallandigham, how can Weed and Raymond refuse to associate with these worthies, when they are willing to act with the repenant Rebels of the South? A Copperhead may be as bad as, or even worse than, a traitor; that is a mere matter of opinion. But certainly when a Copperhead becomes converted to the Union cause he is just as good as a converted Rebel, and those who are anxious to meet with reformed Rebels, cannot, with any sort of grace or consistency, refuse to admi: reformed Copperheads to the coalition. No political church can undertake to shut out a single class of sinners who really and honestly desire to avail themselves of the benefits of

saving grace. The continual discussion about the Philadelphia Convention has drifted away from first principles. To keep themselves straight, the parties concerned ought to publish the original call every other day. That call recognizes the great issue between the President and Congress, and invites all who support the President and his policy of reunion to take part in the Convention. It says nothing about the Woods, or Vallandigham, or Belmont, or Marble, or any other obnoxious individual. It lays down a broad, solid platform, upon which all may stand without crowding each other off. The war is over now; old things have passed away; everything is to begin de nouveau. It makes no difference what a man's position was as to other issues, now dead and buried; the only vital question is as to his position in regard to this great new issue between the President and Congress. We know the Woods thoroughly; we have no more confidence in them at present than we had while they were selling themselves to both sides during the war; but if they state that they are ready to sustain the President's policy and the Union, they cannot be turned out of the Philadelphia Convention under the terms of

Messrs. Weed and Raymond, who are clearly not without sin, should not throw the first stone in this rude and unjustifiable manner. Somebody may retaliate before long by opposing the admission of lobbyists. It is much better to take the only true ground and advocate the admission of all comers. One clique will then neutralize another, and we shall get a moral force from the combined influence of the Convention that will work most powerfully in the tall elections. These squabbles beforehend over Mr. Ben Wood's dirty linen or Mr. Weed's dirty linen can amount to nothing. All the linen will be made pure and spotless by the Convention. Those whose sins were as scarlet will come torth white as snow. The issues between the President and Congress will absorb all other issues and every politician will be judged, not by what he has done, but by what he is doing. Let us have a general political amnesty, and the people will accomplish all the rest.

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Ist. Simplicity of construction cheapness and case in application, so that a servant or chief may set it.

2d. Freedom from danger to persons or property.

3d. Universality of application to any part of a Door, Window, Grating, Shutter, Gate, Garden, Preserve, Fish Fend etc.

THE UNIVERSAL ALARMIST,

Fish Pend etc.

4th. It gives a check to burglars by alarming the inmates, neighbors and police.

5th 7 be mind is relieved from much painful anxiety, a remale lone lines or old age especially when articles of steat value are kept in the house.

6th. It is a universal protection to travellers to fasten our chanter doors. n chamter doors. 7th Its construction is simple and not liable to get out

of order.
DIRECTIONS FOR USE ACCOMPANY EVERY INSTRUMENT.
We have put our article at the low price of ONE
DOLLAR, inclusive or 25 caps and it cannot be got
the aper either from us or from our agents. For further
particulars inquire of or address.
STEIGLEDER, TROUT, VOIGT & CO.,
Office, No. 524 WALNUT Street.
ROOM No. 18. We will send the ALARMIST to any part of the country on receipt of price, and 25 cents extra for Country Agents wanted,

CIGARS AND TOBACCO. HINT TO TOBACCO CHEWERS

WEDDING-CAKE FINE CUT TOBACCO.

The only FINE CUT TOBACCO ever manufactured The Best in the Market. EVERYBODY USES IT.

Manufactured from the Best Leaf. SOLD EVERYWHERE. Factory, S.E. corner BROAD and WALLACE Streets

GOVERNMENT SALES.

SALE OF QUARTERMASTERS' SIOKES AT
THE CAVALRY DEPOI, GIE BORD, D. C.
QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
FIRST DIVISION,
WASHINGTON, D. C., July 17, 1866

By order of the Quartermaster-General, there will
be sold on the premises,
A: PUBLIC AUCTION,
under the direction of Captain George f. Browning,
A. Q. M.,

A. Q. M., On THURSDAY, August 2, 1866, the following described lot of Quartermasters' stores:-100 cords wood. chairs, benches, matting, ward-robes, cupboards. 2 letter presses. 110 cords wood.

12,000 teet oak and ash
plank (wheelwright's stuff)

9,000 feet matched floor-

2 grindstones, 1 grindstone, large, 4 feet diameter, 8 inch face (new). 1,400 pieces six-light sash 8 by 10, giazed. 20,000 feet assorted lum-50 ladders, 50 fire-hooks ber. 2,000 feet square timber, 10 by 12. 8 platform scales, 4 counter scales. 40 kegs cut nails, 30 army wagons. 4 warehouse trucks, blocks and fails.

15 carts. 1 dead-horse wagon. 69 iron bedsteads, 300 clankets, bout 10,000 pounds grain water wagon, iron. S hose carriages and reels. 12 sets harness (four sacks.

1 scow, 20 by 60 feet,
but bttle used.

1 set mathematical inhorse). 20 sets harness (Ambulance) a ruments. 1 spirit level and tri-

15 sets cart harness. 25 riding saddles, bri-dles, head-halters. pod. 1 surveyor's compass, curry-combs, and horse-brushes. 25 white-wash brush-About 3000 feet gum hose, 2 and 2) incu(new) with couplings and nozzies, complete.

5,000 feet gum hose, 1, 1;, 1;, 2, and 2;, with couplings and nozzies, partly worn. es, water-buckets, shovels, spades, picks and paulins. 15 cooking stoves.

20 heating stoves.

1 lot castings, fire-bricks, etc., for cook stoves (new), office de-ks.tables, 100 brass cocks, angleoffice de-ks.tables, valves, etc. worn.
ALSO, 20 HORSES.
Together with a large quantity of other property, ot above enumerated

Sale to commence at 10 o'clock A. M., and continue from day to day until all is sold.

Purchasers must remove their stores within five (5) days from dete of sale.

Terms—Cash, in Government funds.

A boat for Giesboro will leave Sixth street wharf every hour curing the day of -ale

JAMES A EKIN,

Brevet Brigadier-General U. S. A., in charge 1st

Division, Q. M. G. O. 72011t

MILLWARD & WINEBRENER. WM. MILLWARD, D. S. WINEBRENER.

MACHINERY AND MANUFACTURERS SUPPLIES,

No. 118 MARKET Street, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Cotton and Woollen Machinery. Dealers in Manufacturers' Supplies of every desscription. Oak Tanned Leather Belting.

AGENTS FOR THE SALE OF

AND MACHINE CARD CLOTHING Of best quality and manufacture. 14 25 Smrp