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EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS.

COMPILED EVERY DAY FOR EVENING TELEGRAPH.

The Johnson Soldiers. From the Tribune.

Generals Custer, Dix. etc., urge their fellowsoldiers in the late civil war to unite with them in holding a Convention at Cleveland intended to pave the way for a Rebel-Copperhead triumph in our approaching elections. Contrary to the most notorious facts, they assure those soldiers that the late Rebels have in good faith acknowledged that they were wrong in forcibly resisting and seeking to subvert the authority of the Union in the South, when nearly every prominent journal in the South emphatically denies and scouts that assumption. Assuming, in defiance of facts as notorious as the sun, that the late Rebels are now all loyal, and well disposed towards Unionists, Dix & Co. plead their cause as follows:-

"But, though individuals may be tried, convicted, and punished, communities cannot; nor can the States and their people, without a plain violation of the Constitution, be denied the right of representation, through men personally qualined, in the councils of the nation. The intention of Congress seems to be to deprive them of representation just so long as suits the purposes of the radical party. Many assert that it will concede the right whenever the Constitutional amendment shall have been adopted and each proscribed State shall have ratified it. But is quite certain that the amend ment will not be ratified by three-fourths of the States, and therefore that it will not be adopted. Some, perhaps many, of the Northevn States will reject it; and we cannot expect its legal ratification by any of the lately insurrectionary States. If there were no other reason why the Southern States should reject it, it is enough that it proposes to dis-franchise nearly all the men in the South who have influence over the masses of the people, none were to be distranchised except officers of the Rebel army, we still could not expect the South to adopt it; for a large majority of men in the lately insurrectionary States, through com-pulsion or choice, served in the Rebel army, and their votes alone would overwhelmingly defeat it. Would Union soldiers, to recover political privileges, distranchise their leaders whom they love and revere for their heroic virtues? How, then, can we expect Southern soldiers to disfranchise and degrade their old commanders? As there is no probability that the amendment will be raused by three-fourths of the States, the plan of restoration which Congress appears to have determined on is at best impracticable." —That is to say: The plan of reconstruction prescribed by Congress is impracticable, because

cluded from Federal office until Congress shall see fit to remove the proscription. Is not that quite another thing? But we take Generals Dix, Custer & Co. on their own ground. They ask our soldiers to put themselves in the place of the Rebeis against whom they fought, and say whether they would vote to distranchise their leaders and comrades in arms. Now, it is notorious that some two hundred thousand blacks fought against the Rebellion—lought bravely and well; so that many thousands of them sealed with their liteblood their devotion to the Union. Nearly all the survivors, it is perfectly notorious, are doomed to perpetual distranchisement, and to be left without any political rights whatever, if the Johnson policy of restoration is successful. You say, gentlemen, that the Rebel soldiers cannot be expected to sustain or acquiesce in a policy of reconstruction that divests their comrades of political power. Are you not, then, by your own conjession, base and treacherous hounds, in that you, being trumphaut, are willing to do by your comrades in the late strug-

the Rebels will not a sent to it. And why will

they not? Because "it proposes to distranchise nearly all the men in the South who have in-

fluence over the masses of the people." No, it does not. It proposes that certain of the more

conspicuous and culpable Rebets shall be ex-

Maximilian's Blockade-President Johnson Taking Hold of Our Foreign Affairs.

gle what you insist that the Rebels, though de-

feated, must scorn to do by theirs?

From the Herald. President Johnson quickly followed up his proclamation of the 17th inst., declaring Maximilian's blockade null and void, by decided action. Two war vessels have been ordered to be stationed at the mouth of the Rio Grande, and the commander of the Pacific squadron has received orders to send two men-of-war to Mazatlan and Guaymas, to protect the interests of our citizens and country. We think we see the hand of the President in all this, and that the timid, temporizing policy of Mr. Seward in our foreign affairs is now to give place to a more decisive, vigorous, and elevated policy. The dignity of this great republic, as well as our interests, required such a change. We have lost much by a weak, time-serving course. The national flag has been lowered in complimentary deference to foreign nations, when it ought to have been thrown boldly to the breeze. Had this been done we should have been saved from much trouble, and from those complications with European powers which grew out of the war, and are not yet adjusted. There is no necessity to go to war to maintain the dignity of the republic; there need be no fear of war; our position is too impregnable and we are too powerful for any nation to attempt a war with us except under such extreme provocation as we are not likely to offer. We can afford to be magnanimous, as, indeed, we have been in our relations with other nations, but the surest way to avoid difficulties is to firmly main-tain the dignity and rights of the country before all the world. Taking this view of the matter. we are happy to know that the President has commenced a new and determined course in our toreign policy. He has proved himself to be an able statesman in the management of our domestic affairs, in bringing the country through unparalleled difficulties to the point of restoration, harmony, and good feeling, and now he gives us reason to believe that he will place the republic in that high position among the first powers of the world to which it is en-

The proclamation of the President, asserting that the declaration of blockade made by one of the belligerents in Mexico, "namely, the Prince Maximilian," will be disallowed by the United States, and that it is null and void, will undoubtedly create a sensation both in Mexico and France; but when it becomes known that our war vessels have been ordered both to the mouth of the Rio Grande and the ports on the Pacific, there will be, we imagine, a very lively commotion in both countries. It should be observed that the President's disallowing the blockade is put not only on the ground of there being no competent military or naval force to support the declaration of blockade, but also on account of treaties existing between the United States and Mexico. This we regard as a significant clause, especially when taken in connection with the fact that both this country and Mexico have a common right to the navigation and trade of the Rio Gran le, and that we have never recognized but one legitimate covernmeyer recognized but one legitimate tovern-ment in Mexico—that of the Republic. It seems to us, after carefully examining the tenor of the President's language, that the position of "the Prince Maximilian" in Mexico is regarded by our Government as little else than that of a filibuster, just as Kinney and Walker were re-

garded as filibusters in Nicaragua. The consequence of this action on the part of the President may be very disastrous, and that before long, to "the Prince Maximilian," and very humiliating to the Emperor Napoleon. Beyond all question it is a very ticklish state of

affairs. A triffing accident, like a single spark of fire, may cause a conflagration. Our army and navy, to a man, are bitterly hostile to the French and Maximilian's usurpation in Mexico, General Grant would gladly have taken an army of twenty or thirty thousand men at the close of our war to drive the French out if the President had given him the authority. He was satisfied that that number of men would be sufficient, with the Mexicans themselves, General Sheridan, who is in command now on the border of Mexico, entertains much the same feeling and epinion. It is highly probable these distinguished soldiers have been consulted by the President, and have exercised an influence over his action. We French and Maximilian's usun pation in Mexico. exercised an influence over his action. We have said that a trilling accident on the border may cause serious consequences. The actual state of things justifies this remark, and then we have history to remind us of the danger. between Mexico and this country was cindled into a flame by a collision on that very Rio Giande border between our forces which were sent there to protect Texas and the Mexi-can forces near ours. The first blows between General Zachary Taylor and General Ampudia. if we mistake not, arose in just such an acci-dental collision as may occur on the same

Should such a state of things arise while the French forces are in Mexico the consequences might be serious, not to us so much, but to the Emperor Napoleon. As to Maximilian personally and his so-called Government, they would be a small obstacle in the difficulty. France and French honor might be involved. We do not think Napoleon would so to war with this not think Napoleon would go to war with this country under any but the most aggravating circumstances, because his vast armies would be powerless, and he could not make the least impression upon the United States, even with his navy. The wealth, trade, and forces of France would be swallowed up in a most hope-less war. Such a war would be very unpopular in France, and the Emperor would upon himself and his dynasty. He is probably aware of this. No, we have no fear of war with France about Mexico. Still we want no difficulty. In view, therefore, of the peril arising from the necessary at lude of our Government with regard to Mexico, it is to be hoped that Napoleon will not only take away the that Napoleon will not only take away the called Emperor Maximilian, but will withdraw the French troops also at once and forever, This will secure and perpetuate the friendship of the United States. In any other course there

The Republican Party and the Admission of the South.

Those of our Republican contemporaries who realize the importance of last week's proceedings at Philadelphia, are exercising their ingenuity upon plans for frustrating the movement which was there maugarated. Their devices are many and their candor is excessive. One, with rare simplicity, appeals to the South to identify itself forthwith with the Republican party, submitting graciously to the terms dictated by Congress, and in return receiving the favors which that body may be enabled to dispense. But this suggestion does not meet the peculiarities of the case; for the North happens o be the sphere within which the movement is intended to operate. The South gives its sympathics, but the real work—the decisive battle must be disposed of here in the North, with conservative Republicans and Democrats on the one side, and disunion radical Republicans on

Another journal has invented a much more plausible method of saving the Congressional party from the defeat that awaits them, "How party from the deceat that awars them. Thow to spike the Philadelphia guns" is the problem to which the Springfield Republican applies itself, and the solution it propounds is warranted to be efficacious. We may condense it into a sentence. To "spike the Philadelphia guns" and take the wind out of the sails of the partons Union a comment let the Republican national Union reovement, let the Republican majority in Congress resolve to admit the Southern members next session, subject only to the test required by law. The reasoning of the *kepublican* in support of this prescription for averting disaster in the coming campaign merits notice, because of the admissions on which it is predicated. These are the essential points:- "All that the President's friends propose to

do, at present, is to operate for the election of members of Congress, who will vote for the admission of loyal Southern members, and to do this irrespective of party lines, voting for Re-publicans or Democrats who will do this one thing, whatever may be their views on other questions. It is not, therefore, a party contest, and there is no need to make it so. Nor is there any necessity that the Republicans, or their candidates, should accept the issue made up for them. It has not been made in Congress. a tew of the most staunch Republicans in both Houses have desired the prompt admission of Southern members who could take the test oath, and would have voted for it at any time during the last session if the matter could have been brought forward. But the Joint Committee, cunningly devised for that very purpose, preaction till near the close of the session and then no opportunity was given to act except upon the cases of the Tennessee members. If a vote could have been reached, unembarrassed with other matters, there were several times during the session when both Houses would undoubtedly have received all the loyal Southern members who offered themselves. Skilful tactics on the part of certain leaders prevented a trial of strength on the main question, but th real state of the case is made evident by the sect that they dared not press to a vote the bill fixing conditions of representation for the Southern States. They knew that they could not get a majority of the Republican members to tie then own hands for the future by any such action.

* It must be conceded that the argument made by the Philadelphia Convention for the right of the Southern States to representation is a very strong one. Constitutionally it is impregnable. But, nevertheless, the issue is not in fact as broad and distinct as the President's supporters assume. It is a question of time and circumstance, rather than of constitutional right, as it now stands. If the Southern States had presented themselves before Congress on the day after Lee's sprrender, and demanded the admission of their Senators and Representatives as a constitutional right, it would have been considered indecent basic. It was evidently the right and duty of Congress to wait till the South was in a condition to be represented, and of this it had the right to judge, as well as of the fact of the regular election and the loyalty of the members offering themselves. Congress has taken time for that purpose, whether too much or not is a matter of opinion. But it has not taken any position requiring the indefinite exclusion of the South, or fixing terms of admission, or precluding their admission at the next session, or at any time when circumstances are found to justify it. This view of the case, and it is the true one, shows how easily the Philadelphia runs may be spiked, and how completely the Republicans 'command the situation.' It will be a gratuitous folly if they accept a narrower platform than they have made for themselves."

Now, inasmuch as the Tribune has not yet called the Springfield Republican a "copperhead sheet," we take it that the statements we have quoted carry the stamp of ortho-

the position assumed by the Philadelphia Con-vention in regard to the right of the Southern States to representation is constitutionally impregnable. It is alleged, in the next place, that staunch Republicans were last session prepared fo sanction the practical acknowledgment of the right, but were overcome by the tactics of the Radical leaders. It is contended, in the next place, that neither the Republican party nor the majority in Congress have formally committed themselves to the policy of exclud-ing the South, and that Republican candidates for Congressional honors should therefore abstain from all pledges on the subject.

dox Republicanism. And they will bear recapi-tulation. It is admitted, in the first place, that

The common-sense rendering of the view thus presented would seem to be that, because the Republican party, as a party, have not decided against the demand preferred at Philadelphia, they may spike the guns of the Convention by

accepting the standard there erected for use in the fall campaign. That is to say, let Republican candidates ward off the consequences of the movement by adopting the policy in relation to Southern representation which the authors of the movement have made its foremost feature, Well, we have ro objection to the recommendation. It is eminently sensible. It evinces a just conception of the popular power of the movement, and of the fate that a waitalts an lag volts. Moreover, its adoption by Republican candidates will obviate much trouble. It they will honestly accept the situation, and subscribe to the declaration. ration of the principles of the National Union reovement, they will thenceforward be parts of the movement, and will no longer have reason to fear its guns. But the non-committal trick will not save them. If favorable to the admission of the South, they must say so; their declaration must appear on the record; they must go before their respective constituencies with this purpose inscribed upon their banners. No dodging behind inferentially good intentions will serve them in the canvass. The point is plain, and the avowal in reference to it must be decisive. Otherwise, they will be held to be opponents of the right which the Republican admits to be constitutionally impregnable, and the Phila-delphia guns will be brought into action against

There is-as our contemporary in effect confesses-no valid reason for opposition the Philadelphia declaration of principles on the part of staunch Republicans. The platform of the Na-tional Union movement and the platform adopted by the Republican party at Baltimore in 1864, are substantially identical, as we have atrendy proved; and therefore we do not out-rage probability when we assume that the great body of the honest supporters of the Baltimore nominations will now be found among the ad-herents of the Philadelphia movement. No other course is open to them unless they are prepared to repudiate the principles and piedges on which Mr. Lincoln was re-elected, and to ally themselves with the radicals. How does our Springfield contemporary propose to escape from the defined by from the difficulty?

There might be some hope from the next

session if the members who were most prominent in the effort to force a radical policy upon the Republican party had evinced any change of mind or heart since their return home. We look in vain, however, for tokens of repentance. Senator Trumbull, and Speaker Coltax, and General Schenck, and Mr. Shellabarser, and other notabilities, have been heard from, and all of them oppose the admission of the South until the radical conditions be complied with. The men who managed Congress lest esseion intend of heavening managed Congress last session, instead of becoming more conciliatory, are growing more aggressive. They are every day going further from the moderate standpoint of the Springfield Republican, and nearer the ultrausm of the Forneys, the Hamiltonian the Hamiltons, and other characteristic bangers on of the party. The State Conventions soon to be held will be useful burometers of party opinion. We shall see whether the same tactics that put down conservative Republi-

cans in Congress will avail to revolutionize the principles of the party, and consign it to the tender mercies of the radicals.

We repeat, however, that no evasion of the issue presented by the Philadelphia movement will now satisfy the country. The old plan of teigning moderation during a canvass and scouting moderation after the election, cannot be repeated with success. It is a favorite radical manœuvre, and worked marvellously well in more than one instance last spring. A platform which even opponents describe as constitutionally impregnable is before the peo-ple, and the candidate who does not meet its leading requirement will have no claim upon the support of National Unionists, The guns of the Philadelphia Convention are too well guarded to be spiked by disunionists in disguise.

The President's Power of Removal.

"It is fortunate," writes James Madison, when disputed theories can be decided by un disputed tacts." This sound and sensible maxim was exactly followed and applied by the late Obancellor Kent when Daniel Webster applied to him for an opinion in regard to the President's power of removal from office without the consent of the Senate. "It is too late," wrote the great Chancellor, "to call the Presi dent's power in question after a declaratory act of Congress and the acquiescence of half a century. We should hurt the reputation of our country, and we are accused already of the republican tendency of reducing all executive power into the legislative and making Congress, a national convention." These were the words of wisdom thirty years ago. Are they less wise to-day, and in the face of the open, undisguised efforts of the radical majority at Washington during the last session to ruin the reputation of our country by making Congress an absolute and despotte "national convention?" There is not the slightest reason for regarding the President's control of his executive subordinates as a matter open to question, and the audacious attempt of a petty oficial at Philadelphia to defy the Chief Magistrate should be settled at once by a squad of policemen. Any person pretending to exercise the functions of an executive officer in defigure of the orders of the Executive-in-Chief, is simply an intruder upon the office which he occupies, and to be thrust out of doors as sur marity as he would be from the cashier's desk of a bank which he should usurp, or from the box of a stage-coach which he should undertake to drive after being ordered down by the lawful

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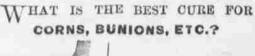
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