THE NEW YORK PRESS.

RUITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS.

COMPILED EVERY DAY FOR EVENING TELEGRAPH

The End of the Slave Trade. I rom the Tribune.

Tuere is one short passage in the report of the Fecretary of the Navy, just presented to Conutes-, which, probably overlooked amid the imposing details given in that document of the strength of our naval arm, and the movements of our squadrons in different parts of the world, merus, we think, particular notice. It is this:-

"But one slaver has been fitted out on the south The cone slaver has been used out on the south-ern c ast of Atrea within the past year, and all has been captured on the coast of Cuba with her cargo. I it was the opinion of prominent officials at Leando, including the French Admiral on that sta-tion, that the slave trade had expired, and that this blot on civilization had become at last a matter of history.

We also find the following in the report:-"The vessels on the West India station were in-structed to exercise vigilance in detecting slavers and preventing the slave trade, provided any linger ing remains of that netarious traffic still existed but no captures have been made, and it is to be hoped this mamous trade is extinguished."

So, it would appear, it is to be the happiness of the present generation to witness the last one of the greatest curses with which humanity has ever been a dicted -the extinction of the "sum of all yillan es." The history of the African of all yillan es." The history of the African slave trade, like the prophet's roll, is "full of lamenvation and mourning and woe." It is a history whose every page has been saturated with tears and blood. One of the most hopeful and cheering signs of the times is the fact that the last page of that dreadful history has been written, and that Christian civilization is to be redeemed from the abomination and disgrace or man-stealing, and of the cruelties and horrors of the "middle-passage." The future the fact that, simultaneously with our struggles to save liberty in the republic, the nation became more earnest than ever in protest against this abonination, and more active in efforts to suppress the wicked trade.

Spain is now the only power from which any attempt to revive the traffic in human flesh and blood may be apprehended. But she, too, will be compelled to yield in this matter to that enlightened public opinion which has forced other nations to abandon the nefarious business. She is under treaty obligations with Great Britain to suppress the traffic, a sum amounting to nearly half a million of pounds sterling having been paid to her or that purpose. The terms of the treaty in question have been shamelessly violated by Spain, who for years past has tacitly given every encouragement to the man-stealers of Cuba in the prosecution of their inhuman enterprise. Previously to our late civil war, the slave trade to Cuba was carried on in great measure under cover of the United States flag; but the treaty made with the British Government by President Lincoln's Administration, for the more effectual suopression of the traffic by means of concerted action between the United States and England, reniers it impossible for the Spaniards any longer to find imposible more the shelter of our flag; and the vigilance of cruisers, as the Secretary's report shows, has done the rest, the trade being already virtually extinct. And Spain, we repeat, cannot revive it; for inde-pendently of that extraneous pressure, which, on the question of negro slavery, must eventually drive her into the right path, a wholesome sentiment is springing up in her own bosom. Madrid has its abolition party, active, earnest, and enthusiastic; Cuba, too, has its s bolitionists; and there are facts showing that the Spanish Government is feeling sensibly the moral pressure arising out of the events of the last five years in the part of the world. The abolition of slavery in Cuba is only a question of time, and we think we see already "the beginning of

Fenian Privateering - The "Alabama"

The sudden anxiety manifested by the English press to effect a settlement of the Alabama claims, after denouncing them so fiercely, gave rise recently to a good deal of speculation. We set the fact down to the account of the general embarrassments of England, without attaching importance to the report in circulation that there was a special cause for alarm which rendered the prompt settlement of these claims a matter of the most urgent necessity. We knew that efforts were being made to fit out privateers on this side, but it was so doubtful that they would succeed in getting away, that we did not care to allude to them as furnishing the grounds for this anxiety. Now that it is stated that a heavily armed privateer has been seized in the Medway, there is no longer any motive for this reserve. Whether it be true or not that a second one has succeeded in effecting its escape from this side, it is not the less certain that this mode of carrying on the war forms one of the main leatures of Mr. Stephens' plan. What was sought to be effected by the seizure

of Canada he has been endeavoring to accom-plish from our own ports. How far he has succeeded in realizing his expectations through the connivance or the indifference of United States officials remains to be seen. That the English detectives on this side are pretty well posted on the subject we may fairly assume, from the nervous anxiety which the English ministerial organs are exhibiting to have all outstanding questions of difficulty settled with us. Nothing short of a very pressing apprehen-sion would have led them to recall the protests they had so energetically made against the satis faction of the Alabama claims. One of the great sources of danger to England in connection with Stephens' movement hies in the latitude of construction which our Government may be disposed to place on the neutrality laws, in accordance with the precedent established by that case. The question is whether her newborn repentance in regard to it does not come too late, and whether Mr. Stephens has not

already profited largely by the opportunities afforded him by her delay.

The confidence which he has manifested in announcing the commencement of the Irish insurrection for the beginning of the new year, could not have been based solely on the for-waroness of his preparations at the other side. Without artillery, without a commissariat, without even officers of known capacity, there would seem to be but little chance of success for the movement, shut off as it would apparently be from all communication from without. The case becomes materially altered, however, when we learn that there is a chance of this cordon being broken through by armed privateers, and of large supplies of war materiel being intro-duced into the country. Indeed, without some such certainty, the outbreak would seem to be prompted by sheer insanity. We never looked upon Mr. Stephens as such a visionary as to be willing to hazard his neck in so reckless a way. If he has really gone to Ireland, he has done so in the conviction that he will obtain all the support that he needs from without; and this being the case, we may look for further important developments in connection with his arrangements at this side, and more particularly in regard to the departure of privateers from our coasts.

The movement as thus conducted will, of course, cause some embarrassment to our Government, but it will make a great mistake it it exhibits too great zeal in the endeavor to fulfil. what it considers its neutrality obligations England has had warning enough of the dungers to which the precedent set up by the Ala-bama case expose her. What the principles established by it call upon us to do, let us fulfil and nothing more. We are not bound to give a and nothing more. We are not bound to give a stricter construction to international law, in this connection, than she gives to it herself. When she comes forward frankly and offers to

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make reparation for the wrongs done to us under the lax interpretation which it suited her to place upon it, we will be prepared to meet her in a proper spirit. Until then, the absence of vigilance on the part of our Custom Hogse officers cannot form a very serious ground of complaint. They are not bound to see things which the model officials at the other side failed to perceive, nor to strain the law beyond failed to perceive, nor to strain the law beyond a point at which English judges did not hesi-

We are content to abide by their maxim-

The North and the South-What Shall Be Their Relations! From the Times.

The Louisville Journal-a vigorous opponent of the Congressional policy-thus refers to the present relations of the two sections:-

"We but utter one of the most obvious of truths when we say that it is impossible for the North and the South to remain permanently or for any considerable time in their present relations to each other. Those relations are anomalous and unnatural. They must inevitably change soon in one way or another. How the change is to be wrought, and what is to be its character, time will reveal—we cannot. Our anticipations are not joyous.

cannot. Our anticipations are not joyous.

"There can be no doubt that the South oppressed, humilated, treacherously wronged, cruelly disappointed in all her rational holes and just expectations, treated contumeliously and in bad faith, and beholding no reliable indication of luture justice on the part of the North, is yielding gradually to the patural influences of strong and outrageous provoca-tion. Her resentment towards the Aorth is commu-ally growing deeper and more intense. Her fee ing in regard to that section is tending towards antipathy and even revenge. Her dislike of those whom she considers her tyrants and despo's is greater than it was a year ago, and far greater than it was two years was a year ago, and far greater than it was two years ago. Her patience has been extraordinary, but it has not proved indomitable. Though she is neither blustering nor noisy, the fire of her nature is not quenched. Every month she cares less and less for restoration; and if it be deferred for any long period, she will, in all probability, be utterly indisposed to accept it at all."

The truth affirmed by the Journal is obvious. The existing relations between the North and the South cannot continue. They are prejudi-cial to the best interests of both. They necessitate the agitation of important and exciting political questions, retard the development of Southern resources, and prevent the growth of the fraternal feelings which should follow peace. To this extent we agree with our contemporary. In one way or another, and that speedily, there must be a change.

But what shall this change be? and how shall

it be effected? The South insists that it shall be delivered from its present position by an unconditional restoration to the Union; and be-cause this demand is denied by the governing States, the Southern people cultivate the re-sentments which the *Journal* attributes to them. Look at them as presented through this friendly medium, and say how far they justify the claims set up in behalf of the South,

It is confessed that the submissive spirit avowed by the South immediately after the close of the war has given place to "resentment towards the North," which is "continually growing deeper and more intense." It is conessed that the feeling which the North has a right to expect from a conquered people whom it treated magnantmously has no existence, and that in its stead is a passion "tending towards antipathy and even revenge." It is confessed that the Southern people are not the loyal, repentant people they were eighteen months ago, and therefore that the plea of fitness for restoration is untenable. It is confessed that this people, whom we had supposed in their senses, as a consequence of the lessons of the war, talk of revenging their exclusion from the Union, and boast that the fire of their nature "is not quenched." It is confessed that the South grows more and more indifferent to the privileges of the Union, and will by and-by refuse, not only to ratify the Constitutional amendment, but to accept any terms that may be offered.

Now, this is not a radical version of Southern entiment. We are not indebted to an enemy of the South for this exposition of its feelings and its probable future. The statement comes from a friendly source, and one that attempts to ustily the temper and the attitude of the South-

The inquiry naturally comes: Are a people who cherish resentment because they were de-feated by the North, and who talk of revenge because their rebellion was not successful, enti-tled to immediate admission to the Union on terms? Can the work of suppressing the any terms? Can the work of suppressing the Rebellion be considered complete when they who were lately in arms against the Government express antipathy towards its lawful authority, and threaten a renewal of strife if they be not allowed to act as becometh "masters of the situation?" Is it safe to intrust power to a section whose people are still Rebels at heart? Is it expedient to debate conditions with a people who lorget that the penalties of rebellion are still suspended over them, and that the authority they foolishly contemn is able to protect all the results of its victory?

The state of things described by the Louisville Journal affords an unanswerable argument against any postponement of action by Congress. There is a danger in the existing relations of the sections which forbids their continuance. The South misunderstands the forbearance with which it has been treated, and presumes upon the concessions that have been extended to it. The besitancy that has characterized the proceedings of Congress is construed to be a sign of weakness, the mere reference of the amendment being held to be proof that the South may come into the Union or stay out of it, as the Southern people may decide. These pretensions will not be tolerated, and the feelings in which they originate are to near akin to the old feelings of the Re-

bellion to be allowed unchecked development. While, then, it must be admitted that the present relations of the sections are too anomalous to be long endured, we submit that the change which is inevitable is in the direction of greater firmness and stringency by Congress. The mild conditions offered to the South are evidently not appreciated. And any future precess of reconstruction should be devised with especial reference to the fact that the Rebel spirit is latent, not extinct. Every month of delay now will entail months of difficulty here-

What is Wanted of John H. Surratt.

From the World. Since the arrest of Surratt, the radicals, beginning with Boutwell, are inventing and disseminating rumors implicating others in his crime. At one time, it is President Johnson; at another, Jefferson Davis; and then again it is a vague somebody in high position, whose name is not stated. To ward off suspicion of their design, the radicals contrive to get their stories started in distant quarters, and we suppose the machinery of calumny will be kept busy till Surratt reaches this country. The aim is, to make I im see that he can save his own neck by accusing as accomplices the men the radicals wish to destroy. This plot must have been some time brewing, for we recollect reading, several weeks ago, in a Republican paper, an article maintaining that the secret history of the assassination is more important than the execution of Surratt, and that, if arrested, he ought to be pardoned for the sake of his disclosures. "All that a man hath will be give for his life."

When Surratt finds that he can save himself by inventing and telling such tales of complicity as the radicals are aching to hear, the temptation will be too strong for a man of his character to resist. Forgeries and perjuries, having a similar object, were procured soon after assassination, and Conover is now on trial for them at Washington, and likely to get clear on the ground that the affidavit was taken before a person baving no authority to administer oaths. The immunity resulting from this circumstance

was probably foreseen and planned, and Conover informed of it to embolden his falsehoods. In Surratt's case the temptation held out to him is infinitely stronger than any pecuniary

former. He has only to invent what a malignent and powerful faction controlling the Government are disposed to believe, and already disseminate, and o offer to turn S ates' evidence on a promise of lenity, to save his life and be free from the torturing apprehensions that have pursued him for the last wenty months. It this idea is not put into his head, it will be owing to no slackness of the radicals.

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TO ARCHITECTS .-PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR NEW BUILD-INGS FOR THE WAR DEPARTMENT AT WASH-INGTON, D.C.

Architects are invited to prepare plans and specifications and estin area of coest ion new mer proof buildings for the War Department and adjacent vacant ground, in Washington, D.

The buildines required should have a superficial area as large as the site selected will admit of. Photographs of site and all other miormation relating to the subject will be furnished to architects desiring to compete for the work, upon application, personally or by letter, to be unnersured.

A premium of \$2000 for the first, of \$2000 for the second and of sites or the third most acceptable plans and specifications received, will be awarded upon the approval or the flow. Secretary of War, by the Board of Office, charged with the duty of selecting a site and preparing plans and specifications for the buildings of the War Department under act of Congress approved July 25 1806

The plans and specifications must be sent to the office of Brevet Lieuten int colone. T. J. Treadwell, Recorder of the Board Ordnance Office, Winder's Building, Washington, D. C., on or beiore the list day of February, 1867.

The Board will reserve the right to reject any or all

1867.
The Board will reserve the right to reject any or all plans submitted, should none be deemed suitable for the purpose, as well as to retain any or all of such

By order of the Board.

11 20 lm T J. TREADWELL,

Brevet Lieutenant-Colone: U. S. A., Recorder

OFFICIAL

PXAMINATIONS FOR THE NAVY.
TO VOLUSTE! R OFFICERS.

NAVY OFFICERS.

WASHINGTON, D. C. NOVEMBER TO 1866. §

All persons who have served as volumeer of fibers in the United States Navy for the term of two years, and who desire to be examined for agmission to the regular Navy as provided in the act of congress approved July 25, 1866 with at once make application addressed to ommodore s. F. Lee, Hartford, connecticut who will be distributed by the model of the service of

CORN EXCHANGE NATIONAL BANK The Vice-President of the Lank As xander Whit den, Fig. having in May last 1, view of a profonsed absence in Europe reasted his position, the Board of Directors to day elected J W Torre, Esq., Vice-President, and H. F.; chetky, Eq., Canlier.

16 17 Al EXANDER G. CATTELL, President,

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PHILADELPHIA December 7, 1896.

The Annual Flection for Directors of this Bank will be held at the Banking House on WEDNE-DAY, the 9th day of January next, between the nours of 10 o'clock A. M. and 3 o'clock F. M.

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Estate of LAWRENCE H RELLY deceased.
The Auditor appointed by the Court to sudit, settle, and adjust the account of EDWARD RELLY and THOMAS H. GREEN, Executors of the last Will and Testament of LAWRENCE H. RELLY, esceased and to report distribution of the balance in the hands of the Accountant, will meet the parties interested or the purpose of his appointment, on MONDAY, December 24, 1866, at 4 o'clock P. M., at his office, No. 1228
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