Evening Telegraph

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1866.

The Question Simplified.

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"But where does Mr. Stevens find the power of Congress to enact such a law as he proposes? North Carolina was a sovereign State in the Union before Mr. Stevens was born. She is one of the par iese to the original compact by which the Union of the States was formed. If her people rebelled, they did not destroy her existence as a State any more than does the child destroy the life or his parent by refining longer to o ey his commands. There can be no such thing as State suicide either can ti cre be State murder by the people who inhabit it.

"It is confidently asserted by Southern menth at the lerritorial bill now before Congress will never be enferced by the President if a should be passed. Not one of them believes in the right of Congress, or any other body or power to destroy a sovereignty. This is the ground assumed by the President. Hence the confidence of the people interested."

-The above paragraphs, which we find in different journals, contain a form of statement quite common in conservative quarters. It is strange that those who urge such argu ments as these do not perceive that they are entirely immaterial to the question at issue. They would have been of some relevancy had they been brought forward to save the State organ'zations overthrown by President Johnson at the close of the war. If they are sound, then the State organization which North Carolina had during the war was a valid and constitutional one, and President Johnson had no right to overthrow it. But that is no longer a practical question. President Johnson assumed the authority and exercised the power of destroying the old State Governments of the Rebel States, so that whether those States committed "suicide" or not, is now a question of no importance. The only question, now that these old S ate Governments have been destroyed, is, Who is authorized to create new ones in their stead?

The President assumes that he has the right to do so, and that the work he has done in organizing new State Governments in the late Rebel States is authoritative and final. It his assumption be correct, then these new Governments may have some ground of validity; if not, then they have none.

These Executive State organizations inherit no validity from the old organizations which they succeeded. They did not grow out of them by legal and constitutional succession. They are the product of revolution, not of legal succession. Their origin was the flat of the Execut've. not the will of the people. Their history goes back to the proclamation of the President asserting that the Rebellion had "deprived their people of all civil government." The chasm which separates them from the old loyal State Governments, under which their States were admitted into the Union, is totally unbridged, and measures the entire duration of the Rebellion. During that period, by the solemn official declaration of the present Executive, as well as by the repeated declarations of his lamented predecessor, there was no lawful civil government within their bounds. Hence the only validity these present organizations have is what they derive from the Executive. If he had a right to make State Governments at all, and if those he has assumed to make are "republican in form," then they may lay some claim to legality. But if the whole work of creating State organizations is in its nature Legislative, and not Executive, then these organizations are invalid, and exist at all only by the toleration, not the sanction, of the law-making power of the United States, and are liable, at any moment, to be superseded by lawful and valid organizations.

It contributes greatly to the simplification of this question to thus reduce it down to its essential elements, and to cast away from its consideration all those metaphysical subtleties of a something called "a State," which is neither land, people, organization, nor any other tangible thing, but which has an imaginary vitality unknown to any other created thing in the universe. President Johnson annihilated the Rebel State Governments. On what theory he did it is of no account; whether or not he had the right to do it is immaterial; what his motives were for doing it are of no consequence. He did it, and and from that fact this whole question takes its departure. He has made new State organizations to supply the places of the old ones that he overthrew. And this gives rise to just two possible questions :- First, Had he the constitutional right to do the work at all? and secondly, If so, has he done the work in a proper manner? Had he the right to make State Governments at all? And if so, has he made such as are "republican in form ?"

These were the real questions submitted to the people in the late election, and their verdict has been in the negative. And it is this verdict of the people which Congress is about to enact it to law.

The Kentucky Democracy Taking a "View."

It is cheering to be informed by telegraph that the Democratic Convention of Kentucky, lately in session at Louisville, "view with horror the revolutionary designs of the minority now in power in Congress at Washington." The Democrats of Kentucky have been "viewing with horror" the action of the nation for the past five years-the war for Union, the overthrow of slavery, and the suppression of the Rebellion. Judging from the past, therefore, we may safely conclude that whatever the Democracy of Kentucky "views with horror" is about right, and will conduce to the national progress and weltare.

The Greeting of the Czar. WE are not surprised that foreign powers view with great distrust the friendly relations existing between Russia and the United States. The old proverb that "Europe would become either republican or Cossack" has an alarming significance; and now, when a union between the Cossacks and the republicans is contemplated, we cannot wonder that the monarchs of Western Europe feel uneasy at the conjunction. To many philosophers there seems an incongruity in this affiliation of the two extremes of government, but a few moments' examination will find the cause. As the Czar remarks in his letter presented yesterday to Congress, "the two people have no injuries to remember, but only good relations." In the absence of all old wounds is found the great cause for the sincere good-will entertained by both. Then, again, the American people feel sympathy with any nation which is well governed. There can be no doubt but that an absolute monarchy-an autocracy, if the autocrat be a really excellent man-is, under most circumstances, the very best government on the face of the earth; the large proportion of chances against getting a good autocrat being the objection to its general adoption. But Alexander and Nicholas were both admirable men, and under their wise rule the people of that great country have gradually improved in condition. The grand strike of statesmanship of this century was the voluntary abolition of serfdom by the present Empe-1or. By that one act he added millions to his large host of faithful subjects, did away with a dangerous class in his midst, and secured the eternal good-will of all the liberals of every land. Russia, as ruled today, is much nearer the American ideal of a government than France, Austria, Prussia, or even Great Britain. A combina-

tion of these causes originated the

riendly relations between the countries, and

the graceful letter of Alexander will go far

to cement that good feeling. The fact that

the reading of the document was received

with applause from all parts of the floor, is

the best evidence that the friendship pro-

fessed is not merely a profession. The exact

part which these two twin nations-twins in

size, power, and official wisdom, but anti-

podes in principles, form of government, and

traditions-will play in the great drama of

the future cannot be surmised. But should

complications arise between ourselves and

any of the Eurpean Powers, the friendship of Russia will greatly aid us in any struggle

and will so moderate the arrogance of our

enemies as to make their ears be open to

reason, and possibly their purses to the justice

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