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EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS.

COMPILED EVERY DAY FOR EVENING TELEGRAPH

General Sheridan's Explanation.

From the Tribune. Among the Mexican documents transmitted by the President to the House, in answer to their request, is the report of General Sheridan to the War Department, giving his reasons for the arrest of Senor Ortegs, was cisims to be the constitutions President of Mexico by virtue of the fundamental law of that country and the tree vote of its people. Senor Ortega's protest against the arrest is based, first, upon the wrong violently done to him personally, in disregard of individual guarantees. Secondly-and this is the point that chiefly conperus the American people, upon grounds of international law-he says:-"I protest, in the name of

national law—he says:—"I protest, in the name of the Mexican republic, whose powers I exercise as President, against this said act, because it imports an indirect interf. rence by the armed forces of the United States in the solution of local Mexican questions. \* \* 1 again protest, as President of Mexican questions. \* \* 1 again protest, as President of Mexican questions. \* \* 1 again protest, as President of Mexican questions. \* \* 1 again protest, as President of Mexican people, in the character of government, the factious represented by Mr. Benito Juarez," ot. etc.

General Sheridan's attempted justification of the arrest rests upon these grounds: 1. That the acknowledged head of the Libral Government during the recent events in Mexica was President Juarez, and that Ortegs had fied the country. 2. That Ortegs, while im a foreign country, did as much as he could to counteract them (the events) by the publication of real or pretended rights as constitutional President of Mexica. 3. That this did not satify Ortegs, but he resolved on an appeal to arms to enforce his

of real or pretended rights as constitutional President of Mexico. 3. That this did not satisfy Octega, but he resolved on as appeal to arms to enforce his claims, and combinations were formed at New York and Brownsville. 4 That General Octega was about to cross the line of our frontier, and was arrested on the same principle that the Fenians were arrested in attempting to violate our laws by the invasion of Canada. 5. That the American people have suffered in trade from the disturbed condition of affairs on the Rio Grande, first by Imperialism and then by foreign merchants in Matamoras, who set up such men as Canales and Octega. The admissions made by General Octega and are evidence enough that his arrest was a violation of international neutrality absolutely indefensible. Senor Octega, elected to a high office by the people of Mexico, claims to have become the President of the Republic by the express terms of the Constitution, upon the expiration of the term for which Benito Jusiez was elected. It is a question not of fact but of construction, one which belongs wholly and exclusively to the Mexican people, who, disturbed by the invasion of the French, have had no time to devote to it, and the authority of Senor Jusiez, who, being to a certain extent in possession. time to devote to it, and the authority of Senor Juarez, who, being to a certain extent in possession, has claimed to hold over until a new election, has has claimed to hold over until a new election, has been more or less acquiesced in. Senor Ortega, although power ess to enterce his claims, has not ceased to ma atam them, and tien. Sheridan makes it a point again to nom that he has counteracted the efforts of Juarez by the publication of real or pretended rights as constitutional President of Mexico, and has looked forward to the enforcement of his alleged rights by an appeal to arms. It is not alleged that any violation of our neutrality laws had been actually done or attempted by Senor Ortega; but General Sheridan, looking at the contest between the two claimants for the Presidency, prefers Juarez, as being, in his view, the acknowledged head of the Liberal Government, and repudiates Ortega as inter ering with Juarez and with the interests of Americans; and so, on the same principle terests of Americans; and so, on the same principle that the Fenians were arrested in attempting to investe Canada, he arrests Orlega as he was quietly entering Maxico with his Presidential suite and

General Sheridan suggests that this was done "to counteract these machinations, and to prevent our neutrality laws from being violated," but no item of proof is given that our neutrality laws were being violated, and the tone and character of Genera Sheridan's report shows that he expects to justify his action on the other grounds which we haves pe-cified. Had senor Ortega been arrested for the crime of violating, or attempting to violate, our neutrality laws, the General would have advised him of the charges, and the Government would have ordered his trial. Assuming that General Sheridan has no better defense than that he has submitted, he should be advised that he, and not Ortega, has violated the laws of international neutrality by intermeddling in the domestic affairs of the people intermeddling in the domestic affairs of the people of Mexico. The American Government is presented to the world in the position of violating at the first opportunity the pledges and principles which Mr. Seward, so long as neutrality was of importance to curselves, unceasingly repeated to the courts of Europe. "Our policy of non-intervention," he declared, "straight, absolute, and peculiar, has become a traditional one." While the echo of our boastful devotion to this policy yet lingers in the diplomatic atmosphere, we cele-brate our restoration to power by an interference with the concerns of our weaker neighbor - an act that is an open violation of international right and international courtesy. Our Government seems emulous of that inso ent disregard for all law, except the law of the stronger, which the great powers Europe too often betray in their intercourse with

The act which we are compelled thus to denounce is indeed the act of General Sheridan, but the re-sponsibility for it rests not upon him, but upon the authority at Washington from which proceeded his instructions. The country we I knows what hand is kept upon the helm of our diplomacy. General Sheridan does not, in any letter which Mr. Seward sheridan does not, in any letter which air. Seward has permitted to see the light, seek to relieve himself of his personal responsibility for the arrest of Ortega. He is a soldier, and obers orders. Chivalrous to a fault, he prefers to bear the odium of a policy of which he is probably not the author, but the instrument. He may well think he can afford to trust his own reputation with the American people, who hence and confide in him. But Mr. Saward's who honor and confide in him. But Mr Seward's popularity will not be much increased by the dis-covery that he is willing to saddle on General Sheridan so much of his diplomacy as he understands to

"Pernicious Dreams"-The Realities of the Situation. From the Times.

Now, as before the war, the South is afflicted with dishonest as well as injudicious advisers. It labors under delusions fatal to its peace, and regulates its policy with a very remote reference to facts which concern it deeply. Its repentance unhappily comes always too late. Not until the other day did a Mobile journal discover that W. L. Yancey was one of the worst enemies the South ever had; and probably some time will clapse before the majority of its people hold the promoters and leaders of the Rebollion accountable for the sacrifices they have been compelled to make and the sufferings they now

More progress has been made towards a correct appreciation of the statements of the Democratic press as to the course which the South may advan-

appreciation of the statements of the Democratic press as to the course which the South may advantageously pursue. It is possible to trace the beginning of an impression that the South has been wantonly, cruelly deceived by its Democratic friends—deceived as to the feeling and purposes of the Northern people, and especially deceived as to the course to be pursued on the subject or Congressional action. There has yet been no formal indictment of the Democracy on the score of faithlessness, but the murmurings which cun through the more moderate of the Southern journals are unmistakable in their significance. Take as a specimen the tollowing paragraph from the Macon (Ga.) Journal and Messenger:—

"Some of the Southern press have, we doubt not very undesignedly, aided in disseminasing false yiews of the feelings and purposes of the Northern people in respect to the South, by republishing articles from the Day Book. Metropolitian, and other Northern journais of the class Copperhead. These articles are very pleasant reading. They respond fully to the honest convictions of our peop's in respect to the cause of the war, and the moral and political attitudes of the parties to it. These papers talk very confidently too, of a reactionary opinion in the Northern States upon these points, and Southern hope warmly seconds all such suggestions. But in truth, these are mere dreams, and in many respects pernictous direams. They inspire us with lalse hopes and laike views of the political situation, when spects pernicious dreams. They inspire us with laise hopes and talse views of the political situation, when it is most of all desirable that we should fix our

minds upon the soper truth, and make the best of our bad and unpromising condition."

The facts thus stated are undentable. The Demo-cratic journals, to which our Southern contempora cratic journals, to which our Scuthern contempora-ries fondly appeal as authorities upon the recon-struction question, do not give, and never have given, an honest version of the public opinion which controls the Government. They are repeating the tricks they practised before and during the war, and with objects identical in their nature with those which then influenced them. They are p aying with the Southern question for party purposes. And the game they are engaged in requires them, on one hand, to cheat the masses of the Northern Demo-

eracy by a faire rendering of the Southern case, and on the other to delude the Southern people by a false exposition of Northern sentiment. The result on the other to delude the southern people by a false exposition of Northern sentiment. The result of the elections has but partially undeceived the South, because the newspapers of that section continue—as the Mason Journal says—to disseminate the "false views" of the Copperhead press. The whole-fauth has not been permitted to reach the Southern mind. It is told "of a reactionary opinion in the Northern States." although every intelligent man resident in this latitude knows not only that no reaction is discernible, but that the tendency of opinion is in the direction of tronger measures than have hitberto been proposed. "Southern none warmly seconds all such suggestions," no doubt; but the occasion calls for the train, not for baseless hopes and that is precisely what cannot be gathered from Democratic co unins.

The Mason edifor has discovered that the calculations on which the South has proceeded in rejecting the Constitutional amendment, and in returning to suggest other terms are "mere droams" When this conviction becomes general, as it will be by and by, curaes will be heaped upon those who have maptired the South "with A as hopes and false views of the political situation." Meanwaile the Journal and Messenger cries for the sober truth that the South, mistend of being victimized by permelous dreams, may learn to make the best of the inevitable.

Other Southern newspapers are in the same strait.

dreams, may learn to make the best of the inevitable.

Other Southern newspapers are in the same strait. The Augusta (Ga.) Constitution alist asks, with evident earnestness. "What does the North really want?" Does she want the South to adopt the Constitutional amendment under a positive guarantee of full restoration? Let Congress make the solemn assertion. No such guarantee has ever been given; but we have been coliberately told, beyond denial from any authoritative source, that even this humilation, were our people disposed to accept it, would not suffice. \* \* Gentlemen of Congress, who are supposed to represent the North, tell us, in plain language, what you really want us to do in order to secure restoration. If your terms are too exacting we will honestly declare them to be so, and submit to the will of Previdence with clein hearts. If possible of acceptance, we will accept them, and accept them in good faith. Could any proposition be more fair to carnost men—the men of 'Gl, who rolled the blue wave of battle over us, because they loved us and the Union too well to part with either? Let us reason together; let us for a season—this Christmas a seon, which rings in the new Christ—curb our stubborn pride and be candid. The North has the pride of success and the South has the pride of success and the South has the pride of an understanding."

or defeat. Let us divest ourselves of this pride and come to an understanding."

The Constitutionalist has caught the right spirit. Its interrogatory may appear superfluous o us at the North, but the intent which prompts it merits

respect.
What, then, is "the sober truth" which the South must learn to contemplate? What real y are the terms with which it must comply to secure restoration?

The first point to be recognized by the South is the necessity of abandoning the policy of passive resistance on which it has proceeded since the adoption by Congress of the amendment. For this policy suicted as it is, we fear that the President is in some degree responsible. His own course since the elections has been guided by an apparent, but unionable, expectation that the reso ve of the North would wear itself out, and that, by waiting patiently for that event, he would achieve a triumpator his years.

for his views.

That this is a mistake—a grievous mis ake—on the part of the Prest ent, we are persuaded. His passiveness is considered obstinacy, and the resolve of the North grows stronger every day. His example, however, has largely affected the Southern people. The feeling which causes them to reject the amentiment because it excludes their readers from office, induces them to ad ere to the policy of the Prestdent, whom they understand to be their iriend. It is said, indeed, that he has exerted nimell to press the do-nothing policy upon the South, and that the decision of the A abama Legislature is in part attributable to his influence. Be this as it may, the immobility which he unfortunately mistake for firmness has been accepted as the fitting property or principle of Southern statesmanship; the prevaiting idea in both cases being that the refusa to comply with the terms proposed by Congress will necessitate with the terms proposed by Congress will necessitate the offer of other and more favorable terms. Of all the 'periocous dreams' from which the South suffers, this is the worst. If the mertia on

South suffers, this is the worst. If the inertia on one side were more than equal to the impeling force on the o her, the policy which meets the plans of Congress with a clunt denial might ultimately prevail. In existing circumstances, however, this is impossible. The passive resistance on which the South relies must yield to the vigorous policy of the governing States, as surely as rebetiton yielded to loy alty on the battle-field. It is simply a question of time; for the will of the North is fixed, and its power is fully equal to any possible emergency.

But the terms? The Constitutionalist has not far to search to find them. Just now, they are comprised in the peeding amendment, which the South, in its "pride of insult or defeat," refuses to accept. The requisit of a guarantee of r storetion as a conse-

In its "price of insult or defeat," refuses to accept. The requist of a guarantee of ristoration as a consequence of ratifying the amountment is, as we have repeatedly contended, essentially reasonable. Mr. Spalding's resolution at present before the Reconstruction Committee, will, we trust, elicit the authoritative assurance for which the Augusta journal pleads. The declarations of Messis Sherman and Wade in the Senate, and the known disposition of a large proportion of the Retublican Representatives, leave no room to doubt that restoration would follow ratification. Still Congress would add greatly low ratification. Still, Congress would add greatly asserting the intent and scope of the amendment, and so removing the uncertainty which appears in

the Augusta inquiry.
What the North really wants the South to do to What the North really wants the South to do to secure restoration, is to afford guaran ees that shall adequately adapt the Constitution to the altered circumstances of the country. The North has framed the Amendment as an embodiment of the guarantees it requires. They form the minimum demand which wil be presented to the South for acceptance. If rejected in their present shape they will be pressed in some other, with this difference, however, that the next time the North will not consult the Southern Legislatures, but will carry out the plan in its own way.

It is for the South to determine whether the brief opportunity that remains to it shall be wasted or turned to good account. Nine weeks more will end the session, and with it the chance of restoration on the basis of the Amendment. After that our the organic montern coarses may rest assured restoration. our Georgia contemporaries may rest assured resto ration will give place to reconstruction. The "sober truth" they crave is in this nutshell.

Schemes of the Radicals at Washington,

From the World. The facts given in our special Washington letter, which we published on Saturday, will furnish our readers something of an idea of the measures which the radicals intend to resort to for the purpose of retaining power. It seems that the impeachment scheme has not been abandoned, but simply postponed until the meeting of the Fortieth Congress, for the reason that the majority of the Sanate refuse to co-operate in a movement of the kind. They thereto e propose now to carry or a system of pre-tended investigation, and spread before the public such garbled statements as will, in their opinion, convince the Senaie of the necessity of getting rid of the President. While these committees are at work, hey propose to have laws that will effectually tie the hands of the President, and divest him of

all the power possible.

The so-called Southern loyalists are in session there, furnishing one-sided statements in regard to the action of the Southern people, for the purpose of encouraging the radicals, and thus keeping them of encouraging the radicals, and thus Keeping them up to a working print. The scheme especially advocated and urred upon Congress by this faction, shows to what extent the extreme men of the country are ready to push their plaus to obtain power. There is in all this, especially on the part of the radical lenders, a boldness, and we might add a rasiness, that is somewhat astonishing. They make no secret of their plans, but proclaim them on all occasions, with that assurance that cavries with it perfect confidence, in their own minds, of success.

It is probable that were it not for the opposition of such men as Sherman, Harris, and Fessenden, in the Senate, who refuse to do the bidding of the exthe Senate, who refuse to do the bidding of the extreme men of the party, the most extraordinary revolutionary measures would be resorted to. The real object of all this is, beyond any could the control of the next Presidential election, and the exclusion of the Southern States from participating in that election. If, with all of these schemes, we excape another conflict, it will be almost a mirable. It will not be for the want of determination on the part of the radical chiefs. The hope of the country at present rests with the good sense of the Senate, which may refuse to lend itself to the revolutionary schemes of the leaders of the House.

-The increasing host of Dickens' admirers are to have yet another edition of his works, which will, in point of illustration, be more complete than any yet published; for Messrs. Hurd & Houghton are soon to publish a new edition in twenty-six volumes crown octavo, which will contain all of the illustrations by Darley and Gilbert now used in the popular household edition of this firm, and in additional contains the contains and tion fine engravings on steel of all that have been published from the designs of Phiz, Cruik-hank, and others in the English edition. The result will leave nothing to be desired in an edition of Dickens. Hurd & Houghton announce for immediate publication, "Poems and Translations," by Emma Lazarus,

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