

THE NEW YORK PRESS.
EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS.

CONFIDENTIAL EVERY DAY FOR EVENING TELEGRAPH.
The Civil Service—A Question of Efficiency and Retrenchment.
From the Times.
The civil service of the country, in its present condition, is notoriously bad. It is costly, inefficient, wasteful, corrupt. Under every administration it is essentially the same. It has degenerated from an honest organization for the performance of the subordinate duties of the Government into a contrivance for sheltering and fostering the camp-followers of the party in power. It has brought to perfection the art 'how not to do it,' and gives to unscrupulous partisanship every possible facility for accomplishing the public ends. It drives the deserving from the public service, and offers unlimited encouragement to the scamps and blockheads whom the professional politician finds it convenient to use.

These things are not the result of exceptional bad administration, but spring from the inherent vices of the system. In other words, the employment of certain qualifications of character, and a certain fitness for the work to be performed, are not required. The merit of the individual is disregarded. It is contingent upon the efficiency and trustworthiness of the individual and the requirements of his own business. Performance and promotion are found essential to the acquisition and retention of good men. In turn, they are administered by opportunities and assurances of advancement to devote themselves assiduously to their employer's interest. In the Government service all these conditions are disregarded. The first qualification is their ability to perform the duty. Their primary qualification is their ability to secure the influence of politicians. Care is seldom taken in their selection in the only sense that renders it meritorious.

They are not required to prove themselves morally responsible or in any respect qualified to discharge the duties of the situation to be filled. It is enough that they are useful adherents or helpless prologues of a member of Congress, or the inferior member of the Executive, or the head of a department, or their friends respectively. Provided the approving smile of the dispenser of patronage be obtained, the ability, the industry, or the integrity of the person to be appointed are matters of indifference. Appointments are held by a tenure as precarious as it is generalizing. They are subject to the vicissitudes and degradation of partisanship. They are exposed to forced leave, to their removal, with or without cause, as the caprice or the convenience of partisan managers may dictate.

A service thus organized and controlled neither commands the respect of the community nor respects its respect among its own members. Degraded by partisanship, it lacks the first elements of efficiency and the first motives to reform. Intelligent, energetic, self-reliant persons seek other means to their advancement, and seek for positions that afford no guarantee of permanence or promotion; and the field is in the main left to the undisturbed possession of the less, the improvident, and the noisy hangers-on of party. Evil influences corrupt and corrupt the good. The number of appointees exceeds the requirements of the service; and an amount of dishonesty obtains which the country has not yet learned to revere.

How dishonest the system is—rather, how much dishonesty the system permits with impunity—the recent investigations of Congressional Committees have attested. Without descending to particulars, it is known that enormous frauds have been perpetrated by or with the connivance of subordinate officers of the Government; and though dismissal has followed detection, the frauds were not checked in accordance with experience, perhaps, by those who came after the original offenders. One set of knaves has been succeeded by another, each apparently acting on the rule that he should take care of himself during the uncertain tenure of a Government office. More effective supervision might, indeed, hold even knaves in check, but the real remedy for civil service dishonesty lies in the reform of the service itself, by the introduction of competent and trustworthy men.

The evils of the system do not end here. The higher officers of the Government suffer, and are not seldom corrupted under its influence. The vast appointing power virtually centres in the President, who is tempted to use it with reference to political exigencies more than to the actual requirements of the service. Public interests are prejudiced by the attention which he is obliged to devote to the political considerations, and in that manner enlarged to a degree not contemplated in the original adjustment of the functions of the Government; and it is a power exercised for purposes which the welfare of the country has no concern with.

The whole system requires reform. It needs reform with a view of restraining the overgrown power of the Executive. It needs reform with a view to the efficiency of a service which has assumed to be that of the Government. It needs reform as a measure of retrenchment, called for by the wants of the Treasury and the crushing taxation borne by the people. For the civil service, reconstructed on the basis of intelligence, economy and retrenchment, would perform its functions with an efficiency now unknown, and would obviate the losses by dishonesty from which the country now suffers.

The subject is before Congress in a shape that admits of early action. The speech which Mr. Jencks on Tuesday addressed to the House, explanatory of the bill to regulate the civil service, covers the ground to be traversed in the discussion of the reform he desires to promote. His exposition of the weakness of the present system, and the mischief of which it is the fruitful source, is calm and conclusive. It is impossible, we think, to follow him in his statement of facts and his explanation of causes without being impressed by the necessities of the situation and the necessity of amendment. But what shall the amendment be? How shall the corruptness incident to a colossal and irresponsible system be removed, and shall the civil service be made available for the advancement of those who are less capable than those who seek employment under the Government. If this theory be acted upon, the departments will no longer be hospitals for the tools and dependents of party. Appointments will be regulated by something more than the caprice and the interest of partisans clothed with a little brief authority. The service will be thrown

open to all comers, with an assurance that the most capable and the most worthy will be selected; the principle of the measure being concentrated in the maxim laid down by Mr. Jencks—'Let the best attainable talent, the greatest attainable fitness, in every case be placed in office.' The machinery to be employed is simple and unobjectionable. It will consist of a central Board of Examiners, empowered to determine the minimum standard of qualification for every subordinate grade of the civil service, and with authority to conduct examinations in various parts of the country, as may from time to time be found necessary. The Board will consist of three Commissioners, to be appointed by the President with the consent of the Senate; they are to settle the questions to be asked of applicants and the scrutiny to be instituted touching the characters of the candidates; they will select eminent civilians and officers in all branches of the service of the Government. They will have no political power or authority. They will be chosen from among the heads of Departments shall derive their salaries from securing competency and character as the qualifications for employment under the Government.

The bill further promotes efficiency and stimulates ambition by securing advancement to those who shall have proved themselves meritorious. The cost of the Board and its operations, it is calculated, will be met by the fees to be paid by applicants for examination. It is either the principle nor the machinery of the measure is open to the objection that it is experimental. Prussia and France bear testimony to its efficacy; and the partial adoption therewith in England has been attended with success. The Board will make no compromise with evil here. The system now in operation is wholly and flagrantly wrong, and it urges the application of the most thorough remedy.

Though bearing directly upon partisanship, and aiming at the curtailment of its power for mischief, the measure is in no degree partisan in its origin or in the rendering which it renders from Mr. Jencks. It is a general measure, back to the administration of Mr. Lincoln, and the fact that it has passed the scrutiny of two select Committees, would seem to be proof of the wisdom and sufficiency of its details. The measure is entitled to the support of the interest which is felt in the exercise of patronage by the Executive, should secure for the bill a degree of attention befitting its importance.

The Mysteries of Murder.
From the Tribune.
There is an old proverb that 'murder will out,' and so doubt it will if the requisite skill and diligence be used in tracing it. But certain late occurrences have reminded us that either our detective system is a very loose one, or criminals in the United States have a wonderful knack of baffling discovery, and avoiding the fate which in other lands is pretty sure to follow the evil doer. It would be a strangely suggestive work if one were to search through the police returns of the last ten years, and make a catalogue of the murders whose perpetrators have never been discovered. How many assassins, we wonder, are now walking about, unsuspected, in this city alone? How many persons have been quietly put out of the world by the thrust of a knife, or a stealthy blow, and have never been averaged, and left no record at their trial except the brief chronicle of a 'mysterious disappearance'? How many of the daily cases of 'found drowned' have a dark deed of violence behind them, which the law never sees, and never avenges? Look at the celebrated Bardell murder in this city. It seems almost incredible that the circumstances of that crime should never be discovered; but to this day we know not whose blood was spilled, and why. How many more such cases, we think, are daily occurring in the little village of Litchfield county, Connecticut, a gambler named Fox was found dead, with his skull crushed, in the horse-shed attached to a certain house; the details of the case were such that a detective of moderate acuteness could hardly have failed to get at the bottom of it; yet it still remains a mystery, though one man was tried three times for the murder, and was acquitted on each trial. In a more recent case, a human body was washed ashore at various points on the Brooklyn side of the East River. The remains were never identified, and it never was known where they came from, or how they got there. The body was thrown out from some discharging-room; but when the head was washed ashore, a bullet-hole was found in the skull. In June, 1865, two little children, brother and sister, were seen in the woods at Roxbury, Massachusetts. The perpetrator of the childish outrage never has been discovered; but a few weeks ago the skeleton of a man was found in the woods at Newbury, and it is generally supposed—we know not on what grounds—to be that of the criminal. A year and a half ago an Italian named Didot was shot near the outskirts of Brooklyn. It is supposed that he was assassinated by the order of the Mayor, because he knew too many of his secrets, but no proof was ever obtained, and the murderers still go unwhipped of justice. Many of our readers, no doubt, remember the painful sensation which was created in this city by the murder of Mr. Embury, of New York, who was murdered at Fishkill. His body was found by the wayside, with a bayonet-wound in the back. He had no enemies, so far as known; he was a gentleman of singular frank and upright character, and he was not killed for purposes of robbery, since his watch and money were found upon his person. To this day his fate remains a mystery. A very remarkable murder was committed at a house in the city of New Orleans, on the night of December 14-15, 1866, and, except on the principle that public excitement are governed a good deal by the public caprice, it is not easy to understand why it has not created a much greater stir in our organs. The occupants of the house in question were a Mr. and Mrs. McClain, and a girl of sixteen named Dora Henrichs, who lived with them as a friend and companion. She was a young woman of excellent character, plain in habits, and a great favorite with the McClains, who purposed adopting her. She had, as far as any one knew, no enemies; and what is perhaps not less important, she was in no way connected with the case. The body of the murdered man was found in the room with blood on the pillow, as if the girl had been struck while in bed, and strange to say, a feather bed had been removed from the room, and a new one brought in, and a new mattress. It was found with blood on the pillow, as if the girl had been struck while in bed, and strange to say, a feather bed had been removed from the room, and a new one brought in, and a new mattress. It was found with blood on the pillow, as if the girl had been struck while in bed, and strange to say, a feather bed had been removed from the room, and a new one brought in, and a new mattress.

The Pious Infanteide.
From the World.
We recommend to the benevolent attention of the philanthropists of New England the case of the 'Reverend' Joel Lindsey, of this State, who has just been tried and convicted of manslaughter for having whipped to death with a single his own tender child, an infant of four years of age, who failed to pray to his Heavenly Father as fast and as fervently as his earthly father desired he should do. This is the Archbishop Whately used to maintain that the duty of spiritual persecution was instituted into the British mind in its earliest years by the old nursery song—
'There is found an old man
Who wouldn't say his prayers,
Take him by the great toe,
And fling him down stairs.'

The New England theory of righteousness is founded on the principle of duty, as seen in the venerable deity; and the 'reverend' parent who beat his child to death for the same offense for which the 'old man' in the song suffered, was only carrying out to its logical consequences the principle of duty. It is not until we reach the communities not organized 'upon Massachusetts principles,' Joel Lindsey is just as much entitled to the honors of martyrdom in New England as the late John Brown, and a great deal more. It is not until we reach the communities not organized 'upon Massachusetts principles,' Joel Lindsey is just as much entitled to the honors of martyrdom in New England as the late John Brown, and a great deal more. It is not until we reach the communities not organized 'upon Massachusetts principles,' Joel Lindsey is just as much entitled to the honors of martyrdom in New England as the late John Brown, and a great deal more.

Worldly-minded persons, and 'Copperheads'—persons, that we do not wish to name, who do their highest duty to trash their neighbors into thinking and acting precisely as they choose to have their neighbors think and act—must look upon this heinous deed of which Lindsey was guilty, and then think of the utter and unfeigned abhorrence, but Lindsey's name, repulsive as it is, is only the image of New England Puritanism, as it were, in the bowl of a spoon; and the great original is the spirit of the law, which is the same, and consistency, either to hate and abuse itself, or to yearn with bowels of sympathetic tenderness over this genuine though distorted reflection of its own features.

President Johnson's Removal Essential to Complete the Work of the War.
From the Herald.
Whitney's cotton gin was the Trojan horse to Southern slavery. It made the cotton region, from the Yadkin to the Red river, a vast-gold mine, negro slave labor therein an immensely profitable cash article, and thus, under this labor system started upon Virginia tobacco, cotton became king, and the cotton planters the ruling aristocracy of the United States. This, adopting Jefferson's radical French theories of government, including State rights, the ruling slavery and cotton politicians of the South applied those theories to our party politics, brought them into the Government, including the Supreme Court, and administered them as such. The Constitution was to be the starting-point, when their power culminated. Then came the Northern reaction, pushing the cotton lords of South Carolina and their followers to the bold experiment of secession and Southern independence; then the war for the Union, resulting in the crushing of secession and the dethronement of King Cotton, and the extinction of slavery and all its political appendages. Thus the destructive heresies of secession, Southern independence, and the war, washed out in the blood of millions, the great sin perpetrated by Washington, Hamilton, and Jay, and thus the grand idea of Henry Clay is established—under the States never to be again separated from the paramount national sovereignty of the United States.

From this bold headland of observation, what is the spectacle which now meets the eye? It is the spectacle of the battle-field brought back into the forum. It is an appeal from Orleans, Vicksburg, Gettysburg, Petersburg, and Appomattox Court House to the votes and policy of President Johnson. It involves an appeal from the war to the future, and to re-establish King Cotton and the Southern States to slavery. Mr. Johnson has gone back to 1860 and to Breckinridge. He is fighting again on that line. He is like the man who attempted a revolution in France by leaving out the revolution in the last article of the constitution renewed again according to Buchanan.

This is the issue with the Republican party in Congress. From the incendiary torch applied to the Republic by the Legislature, a flagrant flagrantator has been raised, and it is not impossible that we may have another 'I' attempt to rebuild on the still smoldering embers of King Cotton and slavery. The impeachment and the surrender of Andrew Johnson, or a surrender of the legislative power, would be a great favor to his continuance in office, and the alternative presented to Congress. According to the recent vote on Ashley's initiative on the 15th of March, and eight to thirty-eight, the majority of the House stands against such an impeachment. The House stands for a unit for this impeachment. The resolution in 1843 from Botta against President Tyler failed because the Whigs of that day had not the strength in either House for an impeachment, nor a case upon which to secure even their own vote.

high, and offered no rest for the foot within five feet of the ground. A robbery of a few small articles had been committed in Mr. Well's house about a week before the previous evening; but that, if well remembered, was three hours before the robbery of the house, and in any case, there are serious difficulties in the way of connecting the two crimes. There seems to be no reason for suspecting any of the inmates of either house, Dora being on excellent terms with them all. The police, to all appearances, are utterly at fault; and the Coroner's inquest—as it aptly to be the way with inquests—has left the case as mysterious as ever.

The excitement over the New Orleans murder has not yet subsided when the telegraph brings us intelligence of another case very similar to that of Dora Henrichs. On the 11th instant a girl of eight years of age, Christina, living in broad day, in her own house, at Dayton, Ohio, and no clue has yet been found to the assassin.

In the city of New York alone there were, during the year 1866, no fewer than 100 homicides and murders, without including numerous cases of death by drowning or other means, which we know not whether to classify as murders, suicides, or accidents. Only 33 persons were indicted for these crimes, and the records of the courts show only 15 convictions (several of which were for offenses committed in a previous year), with 19 prisoners still to be tried. This is to say of the two most notorious and unmistakable homicides more than 60 per cent. are not arrested, and nearly 80 per cent. are not punished.

Now, the suggestive thought about this matter is, how can it be that in a city so large, and by other way than on the supposition of a very imperfect system for the detection of crime. Our police are sharp enough in tracing out great robbers. A bank is rarely broken open or a safe rifled, but the comparative immunity of later, provided they have secured a heavy booty. Human patience, persistence, and ingenuity are seldom better illustrated than when one of our best policemen, with a full purse in his pocket, and—upon the supposition of an enormous amount of money, for you are only mortal men after all—a good bounding reward in prospect, gets on the trail of a heavy burglar, or a great embezzler, or any such crime of which the object is the securing of money, and the chances of detection are multiplied, of course, in exact proportion to the number of the conspirators. There is something in this; but it will not account entirely for the comparative immunity of murderers as contrasted with other classes of criminals. We are not finding fault with our detectives individually; we only say that there is something wrong in the system under which they work. We believe that the majority of cases they are unable to follow up to a murder is not because they are not furnished with the necessary money, and certainly in some cases they fail because they have not the proper facilities for investigation. The matter deserves careful consideration. Individuals may be left to take care of their own money; the Government is bound to take care of its life, and the incentives to the detection and punishment of crime should be so certain that there be no less strong than those to the pursuit of less dangerous criminals.

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but the only salvation to the party in power. King James the Second, with more advantages and with greater strength behind him than Mr. Johnson, was expelled from throne and country in attempting to make his will the law of the land against the predominant public opinion. And this was nearly two hundred years ago. How, then, at this day and in this country, is Congress to avoid the duty, or the Executive to escape the penalty of his folly, when the question involved is the restoration of the Union as settled by a stupendous war, or State rights, as construed by Buchanan and Greeley, with the secession of South Carolina?

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OFFICE, No. 921 CHESSNUT STREET.
Published in Conformity to the Charter.
Receipts for the year ending December 31, 1866.
Lie Premiums for term of life, \$969 37 94
Interest on Investments, 131,746 99
\$453,024 93

LOSSES AND EXPENSES DURING THE SAME PERIOD.
Losses on 44 lives amounting to, 135,550 00
Expenses, Salaries, Advertising, Stamp, Medical, Examination, etc., 38,981 47
Rent and Taxes—City, State and National, 3,858 02
Printing, Stationery, and Advertising, 40,071 90
Commissions, 1,400 18
Fines, 1,400 18
Interest on Stocks and Loans, 2,396 93
Total, 192,748 70
Surplus, \$260,276 23
Accumulated Capital, December 31, 1866, 1,849,516 21
Debet Serp received in reduction of Premiums, 88,300 00
Accumulated Capital, December 31, 1866, 1,937,736 96
ASSETS OF THE COMPANY LIABLE FOR LOSSES.

100,000 U. S. 5 per cent Registered Bonds, \$100,000 00
100,000 U. S. 6 per cent Registered Bonds, 70,000 00
100,000 U. S. 7 per cent Registered Bonds, 150,000 00
100,000 U. S. 8 per cent Registered Bonds, 121,811 13
6,000 U. S. 5 per cent U. S. Bonds, 6,000 00
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NEAFLE & LEVY, ENGINEERS, MACHINISTS, BOILER MAKERS, BLACKSMITHS, AND FOUNDRIES, having for many years been in successful operation, and have engaged in building and repairing Marine and River Engines, high and low pressure, and all kinds of Steam Boilers, and all kinds of agricultural and factory machinery. We are prepared to execute orders with quick despatch. Every description of patterns made at the shortest notice. High and low pressure iron, tubular, and cylinder boilers, of the best quality, made of iron, steel, or copper. We also make and repair all kinds of steam engines, and all kinds of machinery. We are also engaged in the manufacture of all kinds of iron and brass castings, and all other work connected with the establishment of iron and steel foundry. We have ample wharf-dock room for repairs of boats, and they can be in perfect safety, and are provided with shears, blocks, falls, etc., etc., for raising heavy or light weights.
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This Company is now fully prepared to furnish
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Equal in Quality to the Best Brands.
The Company has taken great pains and invested its capital in fitting up their factory, and now ask the American public to give their pencil a fair trial.
All Styles and Grades are Manufactured.
A great care has been bestowed in the manufacturing of our pencils. THE 'GIGUOS DRAWING PENCILS,' especially prepared for the use of Engineers, Architects, Artists, and Draftsmen, are made of the best materials, and are a complete assortment, constantly on hand, in offered for sale to the trade at their Wholesale Salesrooms at all terms.
No. 34 JOHN STREET, New York.
The Pencil is to be had of all principal Stationers and Notion Dealers. Ask for American Lead Pencil. (101 fountain)
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Principal Depot, No. 304 CHESSNUT STREET, Central Depot, No. 1028, FIFTH STREET, one door below Chestnut Street, Established 1862.
Revenue Stamps of every description constantly on hand in any amount of Express promptly attended to.

INSURANCE COMPANIES.
NINETEENTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
PENN MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
OF PHILADELPHIA.
OFFICE, No. 921 CHESSNUT STREET.
Published in Conformity to the Charter.
Receipts for the year ending December 31, 1866.
Lie Premiums for term of life, \$969 37 94
Interest on Investments, 131,746 99
\$453,024 93

LOSSES AND EXPENSES DURING THE SAME PERIOD.
Losses on 44 lives amounting to, 135,550 00
Expenses, Salaries, Advertising, Stamp, Medical, Examination, etc., 38,981 47
Rent and Taxes—City, State and National, 3,858 02
Printing, Stationery, and Advertising, 40,071 90
Commissions, 1,400 18
Fines, 1,400 18
Interest on Stocks and Loans, 2,396 93
Total, 192,748 70
Surplus, \$260,276 23
Accumulated Capital, December 31, 1866, 1,849,516 21
Debet Serp received in reduction of Premiums, 88,300 00
Accumulated Capital, December 31, 1866, 1,937,736 96
ASSETS OF THE COMPANY LIABLE FOR LOSSES.

100,000 U. S. 5 per cent Registered Bonds, \$100,000 00
100,000 U. S. 6 per cent Registered Bonds, 70,000 00
100,000 U. S. 7 per cent Registered Bonds, 150,000 00
100,000 U. S. 8 per cent Registered Bonds, 121,811 13
6,000 U. S. 5 per cent U. S. Bonds, 6,000 00
7,000 U. S. 5 per cent U. S. Bonds, 7,000 00
10,000 U. S. 5 per cent U. S. Bonds, 10,000 00
36,000 U. S. 5 per cent U. S. Bonds, 36,000 00
12,000 U. S. 5 per cent U. S. Bonds, 12,000 00
10,000 U. S. 5 per cent U. S. Bonds, 10,000 00
21,000 U. S. 5 per cent U. S. Bonds, 21,000 00
17,000 U. S. 5 per cent U. S. Bonds, 17,000 00
12,000 U. S. 5 per cent U. S. Bonds, 12,000 00
10,000 U. S. 5 per cent U. S. Bonds, 10,000 00
10,000 U. S. 5 per cent U. S. Bonds, 10,000 00

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