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EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS.

COMPLEXD RYERY DAY FOR EVENING TELEGRAPH.

Lord Derby's Government. From the Tribune.

The British Parliament meets this year under peculiar and exceptional circumstances. Kor many years past the sovereign, in opening the annual sessions of the Legislature, has had little to do in reference to purely domestic matters beyond offering congratulations on the expanding prosperity of the nation. But this time the case is materially different. Popular excitement in respect to an extension of the franchise to the laboring classes is at fever height. On this subject the people manifest an earnestness and a determination which cannot possibly be mistaken by their rulers. They will have the political rights so long and so unjustly withheld from them by a proud and selfish oligarchy, and the resoluter tones in which they now demand these rights show that they are in no mood to be trilled with. Never since the period immediately antecedent to memorable period immediately antecedent to the passing of the Reform bill of 1832, when revoltion was imminent, has the popular mind in England been so profoundly moved as at present. But purely political troubles are not the only threatening clouds on the horizon.

There is the serious conflict which has arisen

between he employers of labor and the workingmen, and which has led on the part of the latter to an organization for self-defense and self-protection, having its ramifications in every part of the kingdom, and which, silently spreading and working for some time past, already makes itself felt as the embodiment of a mighty power. There is also the sad condition of the poor in London and the other large cities and towns, the miseries of whose pitiable indigence have been wotully aggravated by the unusual severity of the present winter, and the want of employment for large numbers of operatives now on the verge of starvation. And last, there are the troubles in Ireland, where a cruelly unjust system of land tenure, and an ecclesiastical establishment obnoxious to the great bulk of the population by producing in the minds of the people a rankling sense of injustice, and breeding a wide-spread disaffec-tion, have made rebellion an ever-present

dauger. These are some of the subjects demanding the attention of the British Parliament, and with which the classes now in power will be com-pelled to deal—and that not as the subject of Parliamentary Reform was dealt with in the last session. We altogether mistake the present temper of the masses in England, if they this time allow the Lowes and the Elchos of the Commons, and the fossil reactionists who abound in the House of Lords, to dispose of their claims by sneers at their ignorance and venality, and to meet their just demands by unjust reproaches and cruel taunts. The question arises-and it is one of the

highest interest, not only to the people of England themselves, but to the triends of popular freedom and constitutional government in other countries—how will the Derby Ministry and the Tory party act under the circumstances? Will they gracefully yield to the popular pressure in the matter of reform? And will they honestly grapple with the social questions demanding adjustment in the interests of the masses of the operatives of England, of the tenant far-mers and Roman Catholics of Ireland, of the pauperized and famishing multitudes with which the great centres or population in Eng-land are overcrowdeded? So far as the Ministry itself is concerned, the programme for the session, outlined in the Queen's speech, may be accepted as furnishing a pretty hopeful answer. Not to speak of the very natural desire on the part of Lord Derby to retain power, there is a liberal element in the present Government; of which previous Tory administrations have been devoid; besides which, we may fairly assume that Lord Derby is uninly embodying the views and policy of the Administration, there is no room to cavil. But what of Lord Derby's followers in the two Houses of Parliament? What of the "country gentlemen"—the fox-nunting squires— the county magnates—the heads and eldest sons and younger sons of the great territorial families-the haughty nobles, in whose eyes prescriptive privilege is about as sacred as Holy Writ? Will these support the Derby Govern We believe they will ment in a liberal policy? not. It is almost certain that the great bulk of them will continue to resist reform as the threatened destruction of their dearly power and privileges, and that Lord Derby will find himself compelled either to abandon the main points set forth in the Queen's speech. or to introduce measures altogether inadequate to the exigencies of the times. In either case his Ministry must fall, and with that fall will commence a desperate struggle between the aristocracy and the democracy; for the party to succeed him in office must be prepared to satisfy the demands of the people, or to be themselves in turn hurled from power, to be replaced by the well-tried champions of popular

The Halt on the Impeachment-General Banks and His Flag of Truce.

From the Herald.

praised

Five hundred thousand Union soldiers of the war, we are informed by the "Peeping Tom" of a Copperhead journal, have been organized as a benevolent society to back up Congress, if necessary, in the impeachment and removal of President Johnson. This half a million of "boys in blue" is doubtless designed as an offset to the round million in grey promised by Captain General James Brooks in support of the Executive. From present appearances, however, there will be no occasion for the services of these warlike legions on either side. While the House Chairman on the Judiciary is at work upon his impeachment investigation, the Chairman on Foreign Affairs, General Banks-who ought to know-is satisfied that Mr. Johnson begins to see the error of his ways; that his backbone, like that of the Rebellion, is broken, or is beginning to break; that he is ready to meet Congress more than half-way; that a satisfactory capitulation can be secured before the 4th of March, and that, accordingly, that last cruel resort of impeachment may be indefi-nitely postponed. Allah mashallah! God be

In this view the compromise proposed by General Banks is offered, and it really involves conditions of a complete surrender. bill, avoiding the technical difficulty that the Rebel States, beaten in the battle-field, are in the condition of Territories wrested from a foreign power, and starting with the State of Louisiana, simply assumes that its present local government, not having been reco nized by Congress, is illegal and calls for reconstruction. He next proposes a special commission of three members, one to be appointed by the Senate, one by the House, and one by the Secretary of War; that this commission shall proceed to Louisians and get up a registry of voters, including whites and blacks heretofore admitted as voters, or who have served in the Union army or navy, and all other loyal men, of all colors, who can read and write, or who own property to the amount of one hundred dollars; but excluding from the suffrage all those classes of Rebels excluded by the productions. of Rebels excluded by the pending Constitu-tional amendment. Next upon this registry of voters and the iron-clad oath of loyalty a con-vention is to be elected, which is to reorganize the State, and then, with the election of a Legislature and with the ratification by it of the great

amendment, the State, with the approval of

Congress, shall be fully restored to her consti-tutional relations and rights in the general

Government.

Such is the plan of General Banka, and, if proposed by authority from the White House, it does involve the surrender at last of the President to Congress. The plan which he lately submitted, with the advice and consent of his Southern Governors, proposed that act of impartial suffrage, on a reading and writing and property qualification, which would exclude nearly all the blacks and most of the 'poor whites," and further proposed to remove all restrictions against Rebels, great and small, so that they would reign again more powerful than ever, from Virginia to Texas, yea, from Bull Run to Brownsville. Now, it would appear that Mr. Johnson falls in with the restrictions of the amendment against leading Rebels; that he gives up his Southern Govrestrictions of the amendment against leading Rebels; that he gives up his Southern Governors and sends them adrift, hangs out the white flag of submission, and is ready to turn over this whole business into the hands of Congress. We read all this in a free translation of the speech and plan of General Banks in behalf of a treaty of peace. Rarey, the tamer of fractions horses and mules, has evidently revived, and, disguised as General Banks, has been with "the man at the other end of the avenue," Asblev meantime holding the sword of impeach-Ashley meantime holding the sword of impeach ment over his head as by a single hair.

"Well, well," as the old farmer said to the boy in the apple tree, if "Andy Johnson" has at last agreed to come down we can obserfully forgive him. He might have done better by coming down earlier; but the good book tells us that even the eleventh-hour man got his penny. Moreover, after playing the role of an Emperor in pulling down and seiting up States and Gov-ernors, and in punishing his enemies, and in receiving and rewarding his worshippers, Mr. Johnson shrinks from the idea of exchanging the White House and its glorious excitements for the solitary confinement of his cottage among the mountains of East Tennessee. "Old DickJohnson," who badseen the troubles of Jackson, said that the Presidency was not a thing to be sought, but it was not to be declined. John Tyler in the White House was "the happy man," and he had reason to be; poor Pierce in "the old barn" was troubled with the summer drawback of fever and ague; but still he wanted another term. "Old Buck" set down the estab-lishment as an almshouse where broken down politicians swarmed for the spoils, and as a public hotel where the traveller had nothing to pay; but still "old Buck" left it with many sighs, groans, and lamentations. Even "Honest Old Abe," who cared nothing for its silks and satin, belies and butterflies, "fuss and feathers," finery and flummery, cheerfully accepted his election for another term. And now, since it has been turnished and frescoed more splendidly even than under Van Baren, more splendidly even than under van Baren, how can Mr. Johnson be expected to give up the White House for his policy, when his policy, like one of the Hon, Ben Wood's lotteries, is played out! The first lesson of a Tennessee politician, since the time of old Felix Grundy, has been—remember the dog who lost his beef by grasping at the shadow. "Andy Johnson" learned it at the foot of old

We are promised by General Banks the surrender of Sebastopol, Seward and all, within the next two or three days. Considering the fears of the Chase men, Butler men, Stevens men, Summer and Wade men, that with the removal of Johnson it will be impossible to keep out General Grant, the chances are in favor of the flag of truce of General Banks. It Johnson is as wise as Napoleon he will promise the most liberal concessions in order to work out his main designs and to recover his ground as master of the situation. But if his ideas are not Napoleonic, he may still escape by adhering to the solid instructions of stout old Felix Grundy, "never give up something for nothing, but remember the dog and the shadow."

Present Aspect of the Reconstruction Question

Whatever be the fate of Mr. Stevens' bill in. stituting military government for the South, the debate to which it has given rise promises valuable results.

There appears to be an approach to unanimity among the Union members touching the necessity for more effective protection of the lives and property of Union men at the South than at willing to incur the tremendous respon-sibility of risking a revolution which a present exists. None—not the most moderate stubborn resistance to reform is almost certain to precipitate. With the speech from the throne, they are. Not one has denied the need for some they are. Not one has denied the need for some further interference to prevent the outrages that are now perpetrated with impunity, and to afford more effective guarantees to the loyal portion of the community. So iar, the Repubican party appears to be a unit.

But there is evidently a strong feeling against the extreme character of the measure introby Mr. Stevens. The territorial theory on which it rests has found few advocates, and the impolicy of embodying it in a measure which should look simply to the defects and abuses of existing civil authority, impresses members who recognize no inherent validity in the present State organization. The prevailing opposition, however, is to the sweeping provisions of the bill in respect of the military authority which it is intended to What is wanted is, military power sufficient to provide for emergencies arising out of the disloyalty and injustice of the civil officers of the Southern States. The bill, literally in-terpreted, makes the general who may be in command superior to all forms of civil authority; invests him with power akin to that of a minis ture dictatorship; and undermines the safe-guards of personal liberty provided by the com-mon law. Mr. Bingham'r rendering is much less objectionable. He assumes that military jurisdiction will make itself telt only when the local powers that be fall to offord adequate protection to the lives and property of loyal citizens. He considers that the local Courts will be allowed the undisturbed exercise of their functions, except when these are perverted to gratify Rebel malice or to shield from punishment Rebel offenders. Doubtless the bill might be so altered as to secure these objects; and it is probable that this will be done, if indeed the bill passes in any shape.

The task of defining and restraining the military authority, that it shall not render itself obnexious to republican ideas of government, is not an easy one, we must contess. For, while it is undesirable that, under any other contingencies than those of war or overt rebellion, the soldier shall have power to control the citizen, it is not less certain that the presence of the military at the South will be of little avail if it remain subject to the existing disloyal organizations. The need of legislation grows out of the criminal laxity or negligence of the Governors and other administrators of the law. If these men did their duty, the call for help would not have been heard. To leave the Generals commanding Southern districts subordinate to the Southern Executives, would be to tolerate the lawlessness that now prevails, Assuming, therefore, that the bill comprises all that Mr. Stevens and his territorializing friends propose to accomplish, it forces upon Congress a very ugly alternative. Either the Rebel ad-ministrators of law at the South will virtually remain masters of the situation—as under Mr. Bingham's rendering of the bill—or the military power designed to enforce order and justic according to the ideas of Mr. Stevens, will be the nucleus of an authority utterly at variance with the theory and practice of our republican

This difficulty results from the fact that Mr. Stevens contemplates the employment of the military as a judicial and police agency, and nothing more. His measure takes not a single step towards the reconstruction of the Union. His preamble denies the existence of the States as such, and recites out of being "the pretended State Governments' which now administer the law. Yet he proposes no remedy. His Generals in command might set aside the jurisdiction of Governors and Judges when loyalists were concerned, but otherwise he would leave these "pretended Governments" in tull blast, And hough he declares that what were once States are now territories, he makes no provision for the reorganization, or even for their territorial government. In this respect the title of the bill is a misnomer. Instead of "a bill to provide

for the more efficient government of the insur-rectionary States," it should be styled "a bill to provide military authority for the Southern States." More than this it does not attempt. States," More than this it does not attempt.
It neither removes the existing Governments,
nor points to the organization of other Governments to succeed them. At the end of a year's
operation the result—governmentally considered
—would be unchanged. The lives of Union
men might indeed be more succee; but personal
liberty would be imperfiled, the Rebel organirations would remain nominally in force, and the settlement of the reconstruction question would be more remote and more hazardous than ever.

The proper plan would seem to be to determine finally the policy of Congress in regard to reconstruction—to mature a scheme practicable and comprehensive—and to provide by early legislation whatever machinery may be requisite for its application. The presence of a large military force will be a necessary concomitant of any plan that may be adopted. The fair presumption is that any process of reconstruction involving the exercise of Federal authority as against the present State Governments will entail the employment of the army. The dictation of terms to the South implies provision for their enforcement; and it may be that quite as many soldiers may be wanted for the purpose many soldiers may be wanted for the purpose as for the administration of Mr. Stevens' bill. Between the two cases, however, there would be a vital difference. For while on Mr. Stevens' plan we should see unlimited military power accomplishing nothing in the way of reconstruction, under the other plan the military would be auxiliary and subordinate to civil rule helping, in fact, so far as force may be wanted to uphold the National Government and to enforce its measures, but in no respect exercising

an independent or superior suthority.

That this course commends itself to the calm, intelligent judgment of the Republican party, is evident from the tone of the Republi-can press in criticizing the provisions of Mr. Stevens' bill. Differing widely upon many points, they are singularly unanimous in their opposition to the military scheme, and in their demand for practical measures. The same view has been presented by the Republican members who have spoken against the bill during Friday's and Saturday's debate. From General Banks, who proposes to set aside the present Southern Governments, and to re-organize others by commission, to Mr. Raymond, who believes in the feasibility of an arrangement based upon the Constitutional amendment, all insist that something definite and decisive shall be done before the close of the session. General Banks has already submitted his scheme, and Mr. Raymond promises a resolution looking to the reference of the whole subject to a special committee, with instructions to report at once. Other efforts, pointing to the same end, may be expected. They may eventuate in squabbling and smoke; but the confessions that have been made, and the propositions that have been foreshadowed, indicate the prevalence of the desire for some substantial measure without further loss of It will be a scandal to the statesmanship of the party which has strength enough to carry its every measure, if the Thirty-ninth Congress pass into history leaving unadjusted the momentous question of reconstruction.

Martial Law for the South. From the World.

Saturday's debate in the House on the bill for putting the South under martial law foretokens that it will receive a majority sufficient to carry it over the veto. The day it was introduced Mr. Stevens, who had charge of it, exhibited much of the dictatorial arrogance with which he bore sway at the last session. It looked as if the bill was to be driven through without debate by the sheer force of overbearing party discipline. On Thursday Stevens wavered doubting it he had backing enough to strangle debate. On Friday his power was tested. The previous question was voted down by a large majority. The radical ranks being thus broken, and the widest scope opened for debate, the general cast of the discussion on Saturday gave glimpses of such a demoralization of Stevens' phalanx, as indicates that the martial law bill will fail, and that an attempt will soon be

made towards genuine reconstruction. The decline and tall of Thad. Stevens' ascendancy can be as easily explained as its sudden rise. The sharp crack of his whip, which extorted ready submission before the Congressional elections, has lost its terror since. At the last session, all the members of the House and one-third of the members of the Senate were anxious about the expiration of their terms. The Republican part of them knew that it they were re-elected, it could only be in pursuance of a regular nomination, and that the aggressive intolerance of the radicals, who were majority of the party in almost every district would defeat every candidate whose course during the last session they disapproved. If Stevens' cry of mad-dog were raised against them, they were doomed, and they had no liberty of action. Now that the elections are past, many moderate Republicans are disposed to exercise more independence. They will prefer to see the reconstruction question settled at an early day, in order that the public mind may be engrossed with other questions before their claims are again submitted to the people. The passions excited by the war will gradually abute under the soothing influence of time.

Many forecasting politicians who floated into power on the floodtide of those passions, will take care not to be left high and dry by the ebb.

Another cause, which is just coming into activity, will have a constantly growing in-fluence. We refer to the Presidential availabitity of General Grant. It was inevitable that he should be thought of in that connection after his great military successes, and the rare pru dence and reticence with which he has borne himself since the war favor his chances. has been especially chary of making party committals, or of binding himself by antecedents which would interfere with the most perfect freedom of action in any future exigencies of the country. It is easy to see that he is too valuable a trump to be played out at random in an early stage of the game. Now it is evi-dent to all his friends, whether Republicans of Democrats, that the great strength of his posi-tion as a Presidential candidate would be fatally hazarded by the use proposed to be made of him in the martial law bill pending before the House.

The independence and moderation of his character would prevent his administering it with such unscrappilous vigor as to please the extremists, and no man having anything to do with it would be likely to please the other party. The whole drift and spirit of the measure is political, not military; it demands no soldier ship but only tolery. ship, but only talents for political and civil administration. The duties will be so vague and discretionary, being guided by no law or settled principles of jurisprudence, and moreover so delicate, so fitted to kindle complaints, so limble to criticism, and so little capable of detense against criticism, since they could rest on no fixed law for their justification, that the ad-ministration of the system, and responsibility for its success, would inevitably rain Genera for its success, would inevitably rain General Grant's political chances. In the speech made in the House by General Banks on Saturday, he seemed to have a clear enough perception of this consequence of the bill; but the restraints imposed by his position caused him to express himself with some reserve. He said:—"He had no fear of General Grant; on the contrary, he was sorry to say that he believed General Grants." say that he believed General Grant was the only say that he believed General Grant was the only man to whom the country could turn in its present disturbed condition. It was not impossible that the friends of General Grant might, through this bill, place him in a position which would lead either to his sacrifice, or to a course of conduct which no friend of his would like to suggest for his adoption. If General Grant acted with the President in the execution of the law, Congress would not have much to hope for unless the President changed his course; and if he acted against the President, he would have against him the higher officers of the Government and the lower officers of his command, and between them he would be

command, and between them he would be sacrificed."

The cord touched in this passage of General Banks' speech gives a key-note with which

many hundreds of thousands of voices will be in unison. The martial law bill, besides its other bad features, is a scheme to sacrifice General Grant. It selzes hold of him without his consent, and drags him out of his politic reticence in which he has kept himself so strongly intrenched. It compels him to be the leading actor in the most odious, the most obnoxious, and the most desperate political project ever undertaken in this country. It is a field in which there is no opportunity to win laurels, but which abounds in aloughs and pit-falls from which nothing short of a miracle could save him. If the friends of Chief Justice Chase had contrived a scheme for the express purpose of retieving him of his most formidable rival, they could have hit upon nothing better adapted to their design than this bill. Now that General Grant's friends have decupered and exposed it, its defeat may be regarded as and exposed it, its defeat may be regarded as certain.

The great strength of General Grant's position as a candidate for the Presidency lies in the fact that he can be supported without inconsistency by either of the great political parties. He has kept so aloof from politics, and borne himself with such distinguished discretion, that he seems to be the one man capable of uniting and barmonizing the country. If the Republi-cans should have the good sense and modera-tion to run him for the Presidency, the Demo-cratic party would make no opposition. If the Democrats should run him, no candidate brought against him by the other side would have any chance of success. Hence the willing-ness of the extreme Radicals to put General Grant in a position where he would bear the brunt of the odium caused by a desperate mea-sure, and become a mark for poisoned shafts from partisans of all shades. Too many men are looking to him with hope, to allow this game to succeed. His contingent candidacy for President will, from this time forward, loom up more and more as the controlling fact of the

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GOVERNMENT SALES.

GOVERNMENT SALE AT CHARLESTON,

The following ORDNANCE PROPERTY will be sold at Public Auction, at the United States Arsenal, Charleston, S. C., on MONDAY, March 4, 1867, commencing at 10 A. M.:—
About 200 net tons (cannon) Cast Iron.
About 750 net tons Shot, Shell, etc. (about one-

About 750 net tons Shot, Shell, etc. (about one-half have valuable soft metal attached). About 100 tons Loaded Shell. About 15 tons Scrap Wrought Iron. About 4½ tons Scrap Brass, Copper, etc. 537 wooden Artillery Carriages, ironed. 150 wooden Chassis, ironed. About 750 Cavairy Saddies, 750 Bridles, 8500 Cartridge Boxes, and a quantity of other leather work. I large Hand Fire Engine, built by Agnew,

Philadelphia.

About 1300 barrels Unserviceable Powder.

Also, a large quantity of other property, consisting principally of Musket Appendages, Rags,

Rope, Implements, Miscellaneous Tools, etc. Terms-Cash on the day of the sale, in United States Currency.

Ample time allowed for the removal of the

property, at the expiration of which that not removed will revert to the Government. By authority of Chief of Ordnance. F. H. PARKER,

Captain Ord., and Brevet Major U. S. A., 279 13 16 20 Comm'g Charleston Arsenal. TARGE SALE OF ARMY CLOTHING.

DEPOT QUARTERMASTER'S OFFICE, BALTIMORE Md., February 6, 1867. Will be sold at Public Auction, in the city of Baltimore (at Government Storehouse, No. 120 S. EUTAW Street), on WEDNESDAY, 12 M., February 27, 1867, a lot of ARMY CLOTHING, 3478 NEW YORK JACKETS.

of irregular pattern, and otherwise unsuited for issue to troops.

By reason of its long retention in store, the material is in some instances more or less damaged. Sale will take place in lots to suit purchasers. Terms-Cash in Government funds, on day of

Three days allowed to remove purchases. Three days allowed to remove purchases.
By order of the Quartermaster-General,
A. S. KIMBALL,
Captain and Assistant Quartermaster, U. S. A.,
Depot Quartermaster,
ADREON, THOMAS & CO.,
No. 18 S. CHARLES Street,

SALE OF DAMAGED CLOTHING AND

OFFICE ARMY CLOTHING AND EQUIPAGE, NEW YORK, February 8, 1897.

Will be sold at Public Auction, on account of the United States, at the Depot of Army Clothing and Equipage, corner of Laight and Washington streets, in New York city, on WEDNESDAY, the 20th of February, 1807, at 11 o'clock A. M., and will be continued from day to day until all are sold, the following named articles of damaged clothing and equipage:

Woollen blankets, greatcoats, blonses, uniform coats, bedsacks, shirts, drawers, greatcoat straps, knapsacks, stockings, stocks, trouses, knives, forks, spoons, plates, tin cups, hats, caps, lace, brown Hollands, 60 yards; alpaca, 124 yards; boots, shoes, brass articles, musical instruments, cap covers, etc. etc. OFFICE ARMY CLOTHING AND EQUIPAGE, cap covers, etc. etc.
Catalogues may be had at the Depot; also samples of the articles may be seen.
Terms—Cash, in Government funds; ten per cent. down, and the balance before the goods are taken from the Depot, which must be within three days from day of sale, under forfeiture of the purchase and the ten per cent.

Brevet Brigadier-General D. H. VINTON,
299t
Assistant Q. M.-General, U. S. A. cap covers, etc. etc.

MPORTANT SALE OF GOVERNMENT

DEPOT QUARTERMANTER'S OFFICE, BALTIMORE, Md. January 30, 1867. Will be sold at Public Auction, at the port of Baltimore (Henderson's Wharl, East Balti-more), on THURSDAY, 12 M., February 28,

1867, the SUPERB SIDE-WIFEL STEAMER
COSMOPOLITAN,
of 779 tons; length, 225 feet; breadth of beam, 31
feet; depth of hold, 18 feet; cylinder, 50 inches
and 11 feet stroke. and II feet stroke.

A rare opportunity is afforded, in the sale of this steamer, to persons desiring to purchase a really first-class vessel.

She is of light draught, the engine and boiler are in most excellent condition, and the hull perfectly sound and strong.

It is believed that, for size and build, the COSMOPOLITAN surpasses any vessel hitherto offered by Government for sale at this port.

Terms—Cash, in Government funds, on day of sale.

sale.

Further particulars may be learned on application to the undersigned, or to the Auctioneers, Messrs, ADREON, THOMAS & CO., No. 18 South CHARLES Street.

By order of the Quartermaster-General A. S. KIMBALL. Captain and A. Q. M., U. S. A., Depot Quartermastes