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EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS—COMPILED EVERY DAY FOR THE EVENING TELEGRAPH.

The Reconstruction Bill—"Chaos Come Again."

The hopes excited by the action of the Senate on the Reconstruction bill were on Tuesday humbly destroyed. The House has refused to concur in the Sherman amendments, and since the Senate will not recede from its position in regard to them, the probabilities point to their failure and abandonment.

For this result the country is indebted to an alliance between the Democrats and the extreme radicals. A large majority of the Republican members voted for the acceptance of the Senate amendments, while of the majority who rejected them, forty-two are Democrats.

The speeches of Messrs. Boutwell and Stevens prove incontrovertibly that they are averse to any measure for the early reorganization of the Southern States. They adhere to the Military bill as it passed the House, which makes no provision for reconstruction, and establishes martial law for an indefinite period.

It is as Mr. Stevens describes it—a police bill; but a police bill that overthrows civil authority, and places the liberty, property, and even the lives of the Southern people at the mercy of soldiers.

It destroys existing State organizations, without attempting to build others in their place. It makes a Brigadier-General the sole and virtually irresponsible judge of right and law. And all this without limitation as to time.

Beyond reestablishing a military despotism, it does nothing, proposes nothing. And by refusing to concur in its amendment, Messrs. Stevens & Co. confess their aversion to immediate reconstruction in any form.

Mr. Boutwell is not quite so outspoken. He disguises his aversion to Senator Sherman's amendments under the plea that they would restore the Rebels to power.

It provides, if not in terms, by the measures it proposes, for the restoration of those (the Southern) Governments at once, through the agency of disloyal men.

The current arguments against a tariff prove it a monstrous wrong that New York should have constructed the Erie Canal, and thus made this city the emporium of the New World, ultimately of the whole world.

For that canal was dug by taxing men who did not want any canal—who protested against being saddled with the cost of one. In their view "Clinton's ditch" was contrived to enrich other men at their expense; and they plausibly insisted that ditching—unless for sanitary purposes—was not a function of government.

Had they been heeded, New York would have been a second Boston, while Baltimore or Norfolk would have been the metropolis of the Western hemisphere.

They retort that a high tariff will not absorb the canal—which is exactly like saying that a mill-dam will not obstruct the flow of water. But we had not asked them to criticize our specific, but to set forth their own; so their retort is no answer, but a virtual confession.

We have deeply regretted the wranglings touching details among the friends of the tariff. We entertain the friends of protection in Congress to disregard these and pass the bill in some shape before the close of the week.

Mr. F. W. Seward's West India Mission—Another Diplomatic Fizzle. The present Administration is, it must be admitted, rather unfortunate in its foreign missions.

will terminate without the adoption of any general measure of reconstruction. The Congress whose duty it was to dispose of the question by the enactment of some comprehensive scheme, will expire, leaving the question not only unsettled, but more complicated and dangerous than ever.

The Tariff in Congress.

We do not know that the Tariff bill now pending in Congress will be signed if passed; and we are well aware that the President has power to defeat it by simply holding it to the close of the session.

Our adversaries point to certain opponents of this measure who used to rally under the banner of Henry Clay, and claim that protection is a failing cause.

The line of argument on either side has scarcely varied since 1828 and 1842. The tariffs of those years were denounced as destructive to commerce and revenue, and instigated by manufacturing monopoly and greed.

Experience proved our foreign commerce quite as prosperous under those as under non-protective tariffs, while our revenue from imports was largely, undeniably increased by them.

Repeatedly, in our country's history, has Congress been entreated to adopt or legalize a protective policy because labor stood unwillingly idle, enterprise was paralyzed, and trade bankrupt.

We have twice been cheated out of protection—never once fairly voted down. General Jackson, whose chosen President, was plausibly claimed as a protectionist.

Some Republican journals are blaming the Democrats in the House for the course which they have wisely adopted and manfully adhered to, of voting to every parliamentary expedient that can possibly defeat the passage of this bill.

In the first place, it is a sufficient reply, in a partisan sense, to all these imputations to say that the Republicans in Congress have an overwhelming majority—a majority sufficient to override the President's veto.

In the next place, in a patriotic sense, it is not possible for any Democrat who loves his country, who desires the present disunion to be ended, or who regards his oath of fidelity to the Constitution, to vote for the tariff bill.

It establishes martial law over the whole South, in the absence of invasion or rebellion to justify the same, and on the assumption and pretense of a rebellion still existing when none exists, and when the Rebellion which did exist has been declared ended by Executive proclamation, in accordance with the act of Congress authorizing such declarations to be made.

It involves the adoption of the radical Constitutional amendment by Southern States which have already refused to adopt it, and therefore, before those States can be restored to their former status, they shall faithfully surrender their superior Constitution-amending function, and accept, as the supreme law for a majority of thirty millions of people, the will and passions of a minority of them.

It is a bill of abominations, and any Democrat who should vote for it, or who should fail to expel all his strength in the effort to defeat it, would be faithless alike to his principles and his oath.

The Post is one journal which has undertaken to lecture Democrats for not assisting the radicals to prolong the present disunion till after the next Presidential election, and the mend the truths uttered by the Times itself last fall, concerning the constitutional amendment, which neither Mr. Raymond nor any other Republican member has, in the present debate, proposed to strike out of the sixth section of the Sherman bill.

Congress, we take it, must be held responsible for the consequences of its own action. And we trust also assuming that the radical majority resolved upon their action with a full knowledge of its effect.

or three steamers were disabled in the effort. Every one wondered at this unusual amount of bad luck, and in the absence of any explanation set it down to that favorite source of disaster, the unpropitiousness of the weather.

But the misfortunes arising from it were not destined to end there. When the Gettysburg got to Port Royal, Jamaica, the sailors, who are superstitious jacks, discovered the source of their evil fortune, and, in order to dispel it, broke open the specie chest and got rid of as much of the contents as they could handle.

There our two diplomats, Mr. Seward and Admiral Porter, were received in great state by the President, General José María Cabral. On opening the negotiations it turned out that instead of their being instructed to purchase a coaling station at the island, as Cabral expected, they came to buy the republic itself.

At this information the St. Domingo President put on a long face, and asked them if they really intended to sell his country. "Certainly," replied Porter, who is a bit of a wag, "and you ought to be devilish glad to have a country to sell."

The Sherman Bill in Congress on Tuesday. The proceedings in Congress on Tuesday are engrossing the attention of the country. The House, by a vote of 73 to 97, rejected the Sherman bill for prolonging disunion till after the next Presidential election.

The majority which defeated the bill was composed of all the opposition members save one, and fifty-seven radicals who joined them because the bill, bad as it was, was not bad enough to suit their torch-and-turpentine purposes.

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The wrong is more flagrant because gratuitous. If the exclusion of Southern Representatives proceeded from a rigid interpretation of constitutional provisions, no objection could be fairly raised against it. Not only however, is it not warranted by the Constitution, but it is directly at variance with the requirements of the Constitution upon the subject. To keep out Southern members, the radicals exclude

Constitution, evade the duty it imposes on them, and insist upon stipulations for which that instrument gives no authority. How absurd, then, is the plea that the failure to restore the Union is attributable to the South, not to the radicals!

The South has for months stood at the door of Congress asking for admission, subject to the requirements of the existing law and the test of individual fitness. Had Congress opened its door, subject to these conditions, and three only, its position would have been vindicated.

And what shall be done when it becomes formally known that the ten excluded States decline to accept the extra constitutional conditions dictated by Congress, in their adherence to its conditions, and so do what it can to render the exclusion permanent?

These are inquiries which merit the attention of the friends of peace and Union. The past is on record; but what of the future? For that the South will not ratify the amendment is certain.

President Johnson, by simply withholding his signature from the Sherman bill, can no longer strangle this last radical abortion. His honor, his character, his principles, his pride, and his oath, are the pledges that he will faithfully perform that duty to his fellow-countrymen, North and South.

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