EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CULBERT TOPICS-COMPILED EVERY DAY FOR THE EVENING TELEGRAPH.

President Johnson's Administration-Mis Mistakes and Present Opportuni-From the Herald.

Under the lights of history the administration of Mr. Johnson has so far been a budget of blunders. His first mistake was one of smission, and we locate it on the 15th day of April, 1865, the day ou which he was sworn into office. Abraham Lincoln had lived to see the subjugation of the armies of the Rebellion, and had been received in triumph among the smoking ruins of Richmond. The work of destruction had substantially ended, and the task of reconstruction confronted Mr. Johnson from the moment after he had taken the Presidential oath. As this business exclusively belonged to the sovereign legislative branch of the Government, the first duty and the first stroke of sound policy which ought to have occurred to the mind of Mr. Johnson was a proclamation calling an extra session of Congress. As the law then stood, without such a call the recess (short session), which had commenced on the 4th of March, would last till the first Monday in December. Seven months and a half were still before Mr. Johnson to act, with or without Congress, as he might determine; and in determining to appropriate this long interval to the development of his own policy, in forestalling and superseding the rightful authority of Con-

gress, he committed his first and greatest

Through all the summer and autumn of 1865, however, while assuming and exercising the exclusive powers of Congress in the work-ing up of his provisional Southern State establishments, he still pleaded the constitutional plea of the supervising and sovereign jurisdiction of Congress. In his first message (December, 1865) to the two Houses, this sovereign authority was conceded in the attempt that was made to evade it. It was not till the 22d of February, 1866, however, in that famous stump speech from the White House, that the first tilt against Congress was made by Mr. Johnson, and in this his hostility was limited to such violent radicals as Stevens and Sumner and "the dead duck" Forney. In fact, running through the last April Conmeeticut election, and down to the adoption of the pending Constitutional amendment by Congress, the position of Mr. Johnson was that of a Republican President who intended to fight out his fight against the extreme radicals within the lines of the party. Had he adhered to this resolution, in falling in with that amendment, he might still have become master of the situation; but just here he committed another disastrons mistake to himself in appealing from Congress to the people, disastrous especially from the way in which he

pushed this appeal. His Philadelphia August National Convention was an offensive mockery, an incongruous jumble of dead heads, adventurers, crudities, and curiosities. Instead of serving him any good purpose it broke up his independent national party programme, and left him at the mercy of the helpless remnant of the Chicago Democracy. Then followed that melancholy pilgrimage to the grave of Douglass, of itself a great budget of blunders, a stumping tour which, in connection with the Memphis and New Orleans massacres, brought down upon Mr. Johnson and his policy that tremendous avalanche of Congressional Republican majorities which last fall swept the country from aine to California, Here, however, was other chance of salvation to the Executive in the acceptance of the verdict of the people, and in falling in with the policy of Congress which they had so emphatically approved. But this verdict, which he had sought, he utterly ignored in his annual message of last December, and still discussed the saving virtues of his own condemned and exploded heresies of restoration.

The repudiation, then, of all his two years' labors, and their results in the work of Southern reconstruction, with a new beginning from Appomattox Court House, was the only alternative left to Congress, involving, if necessary, the impeachment and removal of the President himself. Over half-a-dozen vetoes, more or less, this sweeping work of reconstruction has been consummated. Mr. Johnson, completely defeated at every point, and with the sword of impeachment still hanging over his head, is now left to the test of the execution of these laws. What, then, are his opportunities for the redemption of his administration?

His first opportunity is that which is offered him to save himself in seeing these reconstruction laws of Congress "faithfully executed." We are gratified with the evidences before us of his good intentions in that direction. But, bound fast the new tenure of office in the matter of his patronage, and placed in the grip of the Secretary of War, is not the Executive reduced to a mere automaton? In this business of Southern reconstruction he may be, but there are other questions open to Mr. Johnson, such as our future financial policy, including taxes, tariffs, bonds, banks, currency, retrenchment, and reform; and our foreign policy, embracing a settlement with England and a new and definite understanding with all foreign powers upon commercial rights, belligerent rights, and neutral rights. these great questions Mr. Johnson, if he will, may take the lead in shaping the programme of the future dominant party of the nation, and in this way he may still leave for his administration a good report in history. The ground which he has lost, if we consider him as playing the Presidential game of an aspirant for another term, may not, perhaps, be recovered; but he has still a splendid margin not only for totally eclipsing the administrations of Tyler and Fillmore, but for reviving on a grander scale the old financial antimonopoly party of General Jackson.

## The Public Distrust of the Democratic

From the Times. The National Intelligencer remarked a few days since that "had there been a mass nominating convention of all men in New Hampshire, irrespective of old party names and State issues, who are opposed to the destructive and revolutionary disunionists in Congress, doubtless the latter would have met with disastrous defeat at the late election." This is not at all unlikely, and the scope of the remark might sately be enlarged. The Republicans have been far more indebted to the stupid selfishness and greed of their opponents, than to their own good sense and wisdom, not only for their victory in New Hampshire, but for their

retention of power everywhere else. At the close of the war all parties, as such, the great American upon one side and the were substantially broken up. The principles great Frenchman upon the other, would upon which they were based had in the main sold an enormous edition of the magazine.

disappeared. Some of them had vanished in | the presence of war, and others had been definitely settled by the result of the war. New issues, new problems, new national wants and necessities had arisen and demanded popular action. The lines of existing party organiza-tions by no means defined with accuracy the actual divisions of sentiment on these new problems. The Republican party was far from being unanimous in support of the Sumner and Sievens theory of reconstruction, nor was the Democratic party any more unanimous in denouncing the war which had crushed rebellion, or in protesting against the "unconstituional" process by which slavery had been abelished. There was a general ferment in the public mind, a disposition to let the past bury its dead, and to meet, as the emergency required, the new issues and the new policy hich the occasion demanded.

But neither party was inclined thus to let political power slip from its grasp. The Union party naturally felt that it had carried the country through the war, and that it was, therefore, entitled to take the lead in measures by which the Union should be restored. The Democratic party felt that, the war being over, they might avail themselves of the reaction which they predicted against debt, taxation, and arbitrary rule, and regain the power from which they had been so long excluded. They accordingly adhered to their old organization, followed their old leaders, put in motion their old machinery, and under their old party name renewed the old struggle.

The Philadelphia National Convention offered a good occasion for acting upon the policy which the National Intelligencer now reommends. That Convention, in some of its leading features, responded to what was unquestionably a national sentiment. The fact that leading men from both sections had again met in friendly council, was of good omen. The proceedings of the Convention were characterized by dignity, good-feeling, nd a patriotic desire for the public good. The declaration of principles which the Convention adopted was acceptable to the great mass of the people, and proved that both sections were ready to accept the results of the war, and to take, as fixed and irreversible, the great principles and measures which the overthrow of the Rebellion had established. The Convention had laid down a platform upon which the great mass of the people were perfectly willing and ready to stand; and if proper action had been taken, a national movement would have grown out of it by which the Union would have been restored, and the policy of the nation marked out for

many years to come. But the Democratic party would not consent to this. It saw in the Convention only a Indder for its own return to power. It resolved to use it for its own advantage. It went into the contest under its old name and its old organization; put forward its old leaders; appropriated the Philadelphia Convention as its own, and coolly invited those of the Union party who accepted its principles and shared its spirit, to help them prostitute both to the restoration of the Democratic party to power. In Pennsylvania they had nominated, in the narrowest and most selfish party spirit, Heister Clymer, one of the most obnoxious anti-war Democrats of the State, for Governor; and far from seeing the wisdom of changing this action to meet the new state of things which the Convention had created, found in that Convention fresh hope of success and a fresh motive for adherence to their party purpose. In this State they rejected, with ostentatious contempt, General Dix, because of his support of the war; nominated for Governor a Democrat of the straitest sect; adopted a platform which no Republican could possibly support without stultifying himself, and in this spirit entered upon the canvass. In Ohio, Indiana, and the West in general, the party acted in the same temper. Instead of discarding "old party names and stale issues," they blazoned both upon their banner, and marched to inevitable defeat.

For the people had neither forgotten nor forgiven the part played by the Democratic party during the war. As an organizationin all its corporate action-it had been the virtual ally of the Rebellion. It had denounced the war for its suppression, and to the extent of its ability, and within the limits where such action was safe, it had done everything it could to render it abortive. The people would not, under any pretext, return such a party to power. Whatever distrust they might have of men and measures in the Union ranks, they preferred the chances of both to the certain results of confiding the Government to Democratic hands. The President, by taking the stump for the Democratic ticket, greatly strengthened this sentiment. His speeches—not so much the opinions and principles they embodied as the temper and spirit which they evinced-alarmed and revolted the public sense, and contributed powerfully to the defeat of the Democratic

If the Democrats cling to this narrow and selfish policy, they may reasonably count on the same result. Prominent and influential men in the Union ranks are doing much to disgust and alienate public confidence in the Union party-but they will never quite succeed so long as the only alternative presented is the return of the old Democratic Bourbons

It isn't every Yankee who can storm the

#### Mr. Abbott's Coup d'Etat. From the Tribune.

doors of the Imperial palace, and intrench himself in the Imperial closet; and it is a little queer that while the royal residence has been broken into oftener than any other human habitation in Paris, the person to break into it the most successfully should be an American elergyman. Other visitors in other times the august occupant of the hour would have kicked out, if he could; but our conquering compatriot was received, as he takes pains to inform us, "with the most gratifying cordiality." Chronology is not without its coincidences. It was in February that Napoleon I, having smashed the Council of Five Hundred, went to housekeeping in the Tuileries; it was also in February that the Rev. John S. C. Abbott, called upon Napoleon III. Upon leaving the presence, our historian wrote a long private letter to a friend in New Haven, portraying his emotions and detailing the speech which he made upon this thrilling occasion. This letter, as a matter of course, the friend has sent to the newspapers—a perfectly proper proceeding. Why should the social circles of New Haven have a monopoly of this interesting produc-tion? Why should such a contribution to history be hidden in anybody's breeches pocket? Why should the public be cheated out of the delights of this charming epistle We have only one fault to find. The letter should have been published in Harper's Maga-

zine, with pictorial illustrations. "He received me by the fireaide," says Mr. Abbott,

touchingly. A picture of the fireplace, with

great Frenchman upon the other, would have

Considering all that they have done for Mr. Abbott, the Franklin-square people have a reasonable right to complain that the Livy of their pages did not send the narrative directly to them; and there is a pleasure in thinking that he has a more elaborate effort (with cuts)

The first thing which his Imperial Majesty did after receiving Mr. Abbott "in one of the interior parlors of the palace," was to thank him for writing the Life of Napoleon I, and "for the justice done by my pen to the Emperor." That so great a man should be obliged to wait for historical justice until the advent of so small a one, will remind the reader of the lion who was caught in a net, and of the mouse who liberated the mighty prisoner. A large number of Frenchmen have expatiated upon the glory of the Emperor, but Mr. Abbott has been the first to raise him to the rank of a moral and religious character; and it is this which makes the perusal of the "Life" a perpetual and amusing surprise. The apologies of Mr. Abbott have the relish of comedy. We are always looking forward to the mollification of murder, and are constantly curious to know by what fine name the next villany will be dignified.

We revel in the metamorphosis of falsehood, and, after the execution of the Duc d'Enghein has received Mr. Abbott's extenuations, we have perfect confidence in his Old Bailey capacity. We do not remember that Mr. Abbott has occasion to mention the fondness of his here for cheating at cards; but if it had been necessary, he is just the writer to prove conclusively that his Majesty revoked to the glory of God, and made misdeals for the honor of France, Mr. Abbott is not one of the greatest, but he is one of the most unscrupuous of the new school of historical white washers, who start with the presumption that the world has been all wrong, and who show their skill and ingenuity by setting it right. It is to be regretted that professional delicacy has prevented him from trying his hand upon the devil. There are yet neat things to be said in behalf of that sable personage, whose deeds, it is true, were evil, but whose talents were of the highest order. He met one dark day with his Waterloo-pray how long must he wait for a sympathetic historian?

Mr. Abbott, being face to face with the Emperor, made a long speech, of which he inserts a report in his letter. The subject of this speech was the life and adventures of Louis Napoleon. "When I reflect," said Mr. Abbott, Supon the birth of your Majesty in Paris, " etc. etc. The historian must have gone on reflecting for about half an hour. He effected upon Strasbourg and Boulogne, upon the Castle of Ham, upon the Mexican question, and upon a number of other disagreeable subjects; but the imperial host stood it all, apparently without irritation, and submitted o be soaped with the best possible grace; nor does he appear to have winced even when Mr. Abbott most unnecessarily lugged in the coup Petat by the head and shoulders, and pro tested that it was beautiful. But this was not all. Being in for it, this Christian minister determined to go the entire animal. As he had swallowed so much, he made no bones of Mexico, vowed that it was a shame that the Mexicans would not submit to Maximilian, declared that his own Government "had made a great mistake" in not lending moral support to the Empire, and then, being seized by a spirit of prophecy, he predicted "a state of chronic anarchy" into which these most unreasonable Mexicans must be plunged. Imperial Majesty listened and "expressed his assent," which was a very handsome thing to do. We wonder what he was thinking of

when he expressed it. For sixty minutes, as he informs us, did Mr. Abbott remain closted with the monarch, and during that time he made the following sagacious discovery:-"The Emperor looked decidedly older than when I saw him fourteen years ago." This is very singular. Pray, did Mr. Abbott expect to find him looking counger? However, it is a comfort to know that his Majesty does not grow stingy as he grows old, for he presented to Mr. Abbott "a copy of all his published works," which we trust Congress will allow the donee to bring home without paying any duty. "The Emperor," says Mr. Abbott, "is, intellectually, one of the most highly cultivated men in Europe." It takes one man of genius to find out

But we must bring our sketch of this pleasing event, so flattering to our national pride, to a conclusion. Mr. Abbott has since been to a public reception, and the Emperor shook hands with him in the presence of four thousand spectators. Every one of them, no doubt half-mad with envy, "for," says Mr. Abbott, "this was an honor which was not conferred upon any one else.11 Three thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine courtiers, brave or beautiful, went to bed disgusted with life and the coldness of their sovereign, while Mr. Abbott (with the much-favored right hand, which we suppose he will never wash again), sat down to write the record of his lofty luck for the delectation of New Haven. It must have been a severe trial of the humility which we naturally look for in a Congregational clergyman. Mr. Abbott must remember that he is but a man!

#### Depreciating the Dead. From the World.

The recent death of Jesse Hoyt, on whom public attention was strongly fixed some twenty years ago by the surreptitious publieation of his correspondence in the notorious William L. Mackenzie's pamphlets, incites a writer in the Times to string together two columns of gossip relating to the New York Custom House. It is written in such a shambling, penny-a-line way, that ftwould deserve no notice if it did not, in one passage, convey a totally false impression of the character of an eminent citizen of this State, who filled the highest offices both in the State and Federal Governments. The passage to which we refer is the following :-

"Martin Van Buren was a man of few friends parasites and clients were abundant, but real friends were scarce. His greatest and best friend was Martin Van Buren; next came Benfriends were scarce. His greatest and best friend was Martin Van Buren; next came Benjamin F. Butler; and after, or rather with him, Jesse Hoyt. It is not necessary to rehearse the career of Mr. Van Buren, nor the means and fortunes by which he achieved the Presidential chair. The people never liked him and never trusted him; he was tricky, lacked franknever trusted him; he was tricky, lacked frankness, was cautions, seidom betrayed strong interest in any cause or person; he was in no day that he could command, on the simple ground of friendship, the services of a hundred men. His election in 1836 was not upon his own General Jackson, to whose power and policy he tithe of Van Buren's Uriah-Heppism, the sage of Lindenwald (alias the Kinderhook fox) heaten by Tippecanoe and Tyler too."

We are confident that this slanderous passage escaped the notice of the editor of the Times, whose habitual courtesy to the living may be taken as a guarantee that he would not wantonly violate the decorum due to the dead. Even if what is here said of Mr. Van Buren were true, it would be questionable taste to "draw his frailties from their dread abode;" but being the reverse of truth, it tends to mis-

lead the younger class of readers, who are not well acquainted with the politics and public men of the last generation. So far from Mr. Van Buren being "a man of few friends," scarcely any of our statesmen has had more and none that we can call to mind was so much indebted to personal friendship for his political promotion.

In his own State, Mr. Van Buren was the soul and centre of the famous "Albany Regency," whose members were never suspected by friend or foe of any want of devoted attachment to each other. In describing Mr. Van Buren's earlier political career, Judge Ham-mond, in his "Political History of New York," almost habitually speaks of "Mr. Van Buren and his friends" (see Hammond passim), a form of expression which conveys to the reader the correct idea that he was a power in politics by means of an able and attached following. Never was a man so little isolated in politics as the leading spirit of that powerful To pass from this cluster to indi vidual instances, there is perhaps no friendship in the political history of the country so noted or so disinterested as that of General Jackson for Mr. Van Buren. Another memorable instance is that of Silas Wright, who refused the Vice-Presidency solely on the ground that his friend Van Buren had been unjustly treated in regard to the nomination for the higher office. We mention these instances because they are conspicuous; we know not where in our history to look for their parallel.

Mr. Benton's immediate resolution to bring forward Mr. Van Buren as a candidate for Vice-President when he was rejected as Minister to England, is another well-known though less remarkable proof of the zeal of Mr. Van Buren's friends. The fact that in 1844, notwithstanding his unsuccessful run in 1840, he was defeated in the National Convention only by the trick of forging a date to a letter, and adopting the two-thirds rule by the Convention, demonstrates the warmth of personal regard felt towards him by the great body of the party. Nor did he experience kindness only from political associates. A pleasant personal intercourse always subsisted between him and the great Whig leaders, particularly with Mr. Clay, with whom he was on jocular terms, offering to bet suits of clothes on the result of elections, begging frequent pinches of his fine maccaboy snull, and warmly invited by him to visit him and Mrs. Clay at Ashland after retiring from the Presidency. At another time we get a glimpse of Mr. Van Buren and Washington Irving making a summer jaunt together through the rural districts in a private carriage, and entertaining each other with pleasant anecdotes and reminiscences. We could fortify our contradiction with multitudes of minor instances, but the noted ones we have given render others superfluous.

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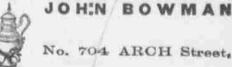
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Will color more water than four times the same amount of ordinary lnuigo. IT IS WARRANTED TO GIVE SATISFACTION.

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