#### THE NEW YORK PRESS.

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

#### Work and Wages. From the Tribune

The journeymen composing the regularly organized associations or guilds of several trades in this city have resolved to strike for higher wages on Monday next. This fact evokes the following suggestions:-

I. Every man has a right to hold his labor or its product at such price as he shall see fit, subject only to the laws of the land. He has a right to agree or combine with other laborers or producers not to sell below a given rate, whether that rate be reasonable or not. If he asks, or they combine to exact, too much, the general public will thereby be annoyed and embarrassed; but the chief loss will fall on the extortioners, as it should.

II. The workman or guild abandons the ground of legality and right the moment he or they attempt to force, coerce, or intimidate others into uniting in or deferring to their demand. If, for example, any coal dealer in our city should see fit this day to advance the price of his coal to \$10 per ton, and refuse to sell for less, he would be justified in so doing. If he could induce every coal dealer in or near New York to agree with him not to sell below that rate, they would violate no law by such agreement. But let them go a step further, and conspire to repel or obstruct the receipt of coal by others, and its sale below their arbitrary price, they would become law-breakers and public enemies, and must be dealt with

accordingly. III. It is commonly asserted that labor is less amply rewarded here than it formerly was. This is not according to facts as we have observed them. We came to this city in the autumn of 1831, when our country was generally prosperous, taxes light, and public debts merely nominal, and when no considerable war had for over sixteen years wasted the substance of our people. The average rate of mechanics' wages in our city was then less than \$9 per week-in our trade (printing) decidedly less. Now, the average wages of mechanics in our city are not below \$18 per week. True, the cost of living has considerably increased meantime; but not nearly so much as 100 per cent. Coal rose to \$16 per ton in the winter of 1831-32, and was higher, on an average, thirty to thirty-five years ago than it now is. Pork cannot be 50 per cent. higher now than it was then. We doubt that the woollen fabrics which constitute the staple of our mechanics' wear are at all dearer to-day than they were in 1851-2; they surely are not 25 per cent, dearer. Rents are considerably higher; but a man may live four to six miles from his work, yet reach it as cheaply and almost as quickly as he then could from a distance of two miles. Many articles have been cheapened by the progress of invention and improvement. For instance:-The newspapers sold in 1831 for the present price of the Tribune did not contain half so much non-advertising matter as, and were got up at a tithe of the cost of, this journal. Yet we pay for labor hereon 50 to 100 per cent, more than was then paid for similar labor.

current of labor setting towards the cities. Wisely or unwisely, almost every young man in the country would like to spend a year or so in a city, whose theatres, concerts, processions, celebrations, splendid edifices, etc. etc., excite his curiosity and attract his regard. A capable, efficient, diligent mechanic, being single, can earn more, and obtain more enjoyment in a year in a city than in the countryat all events, he thinks he can. And, so long as human nature shall remain what it is, every year will bring thousands of young mechanics to the cities.

IV. There is, and ever must be, a strong

V. With marriage and children there comes a decided change. The wages whereon a single man can live sumptuously will barely and frugally support an average family. When his children, who can earn nothing, number half a dozen or more, the mechanic, unless he has saved something in former years, can barely exist when in full work, and is a pauper when out of work. Such, briefly stated, are the conditions under which mechanical labor is performed in our city.

VI. It seems, therefore, to us that if the journeymen in any trade are about to strikea measure which we by no means advisetheir only rational hope of success in that movement rests on their ability to induce a very large migration of their members. If, for example, ten thousand of our older journeymen, who find their expenses fully up to their incomes when they do their very best, could be induced and enabled to migrate to the new States, where their labor is in quick demand, and where-though wages are lower than here-food, fuel, timber, and houseroom are very muck cheaper, the projected strikes might have a chance of success. any other case, they seem to us doomed to inevitable failure, and to prove injurious to the public, but especially calamitous to those who embark in them.

#### Judge the Tree by its Fruits. From the Tribune.

General Wade Hampton, in the course of his recent able and clever address to the blacks assembled at Columbia, South Caro-Ina. says:-

"I do not tell you to trust to professions of friendship alone, whether they come from the Southern man or the Northern. But what I ask you to do is that, as we profess to be your friends, you will give us the opportunity of showing, by our actions, whether we are sincere or not. If we deceive you, then turn to the North, and see if you can find better friends there. I have no lears of the result; for with us not only does humanity distate kind treatment, honest dealing, just laws for the colored population, but self-interest demands from us the same course. A stronger prejudice has always existed at the North against your people than here, and it exists still. A curlous instance of this prejudice came under my own observation some years ago in Philadelphia. Passing through that city, I had with me two servants, for whom full fare was charged on the railroad; but the ticket agent told me that they would not be allowed to ride in the same car with myself, as the people there did not like to ride with negroes.' 'But,' said I, 'you make me pay full price for them, and one of them is the purse of my children.' 'That "I do not tell you to trust to professions of like to ride with negroes.' 'But,' said I, 'you make me pay full price for them, and one of them is the nurse of my children.' 'That makes no difference,' he replied; 'you can't take them into the car.' I told him that I had paid their fare; that I thought them good enough to ride with me, and therefore quite good enough to ride with his fellow-citizens, and that they should get into my car. So I brought them in, and kept them there."

This is excellent and just. We thank General Hampton for his manly, pungent rebuke of Northern infidelity to Northern principles. It was richly deserved, and will

And now we ask him to state explicitly to the next meeting of negroes he addresses that, since he visited Philadelphia, an act has been passed by the Legislature of Pennsylvania

sober, decent person who may seek a passage, irrespective of his color, "without partiality and without hypocrisy," and that this act passed by a strict party vote-every Democrat doing his utmost to defeat it. Will General Hampton be thus candid? Let us

The Future of the United States-A Hint to the Republican Party. From the Herald.

When, in the yet distant future, time having rolled away the mists of prejudice through which we are too apt to contemplate the things of the present, the history of these United States comes to be wisely and impartially written, the crisis through which the nation has passed, and the crisis on which she has entered, will form two of its most interesting and most instructive sections. treating of the first of these crises, it will devolve upon the historian to trace to their roots the various causes which at last exploded in a gigantic civil war; to relate how, for a time, that war threatened to rend the great republic in twain, and how, contrary to almost universal expectation, and after almost unexampled sacrifice and suffering the Rebellion was finally and effectually suppressed. Nor will it be possible for him, in summing up the results of that fearful struggle, not to speak in terms of lofty eulogy of that political party to whose wisdom and energy and self-sacrifice and indomitable perseverance we mainly owe it that the republic has been preserved entire, and that never at any former period was its flag more respected, or its destiny more pro-The character of the other crisis lies, hidden in the womb of the future; but it will be well for the lasting reputation of the Republican party if, at the close of this second period, their record shall prove to be as illustrious as it was at the close of the first.

It cannot be said that the course which events have taken since the suppression of the Rebellion has exclusively encouraged such a hope. The history of the dominant Republican party since the close of the war has unfortunately, in too many particulars, resembled the history of dominant and successful parties in all ages and in all nations. United, vigorous, patriotic so long as they are beset by a common enemy, they have too often become a prey to division, to weakness, to selfishness, the moment the enemy has ceased to resist. It was when the energies of the nation combined and successfully repelled a powerful foreign invasion, that the French republic revealed its greatest vitality. It was lirectly when that enemy was gone that the republic revealed its greatest weakness. The passions and prejudices and petty rivalries of ections and individuals, which were stifled and restrained so long as France was threatened by a fee from without, burst forth with destructive violence as soon as the foc disappeared; and the French republic was ruined by enemies from within.

If the republic of the United States is free from such danger, and can look forward with hope and confidence to a prosperous and glorious future, it cannot be said that we are indebted for our security and hopefulness to the lofty wisdom, the unfailing good sense, the noble and undivided aims of those in whose hands the government of the nation has been vested since the close of the war. The debt under which we are laid to the Republican party should not blind us to their faults. The general course of American politics, the sayings and doings of American statesmen, the unseemly exhibitions which are daily made within the halls of Congress, and the demoralization which has set in with a powerful current, and which is characteristic in a greater or lesser degree of both of our great political parties, are in the eyes of the world in the last degree dishonoring to the American Union, and to those noble institutions of which we have so much cause to be proud. It is im possible, indeed, for any one interested in the honor and welfare of his country to contemplate the present aspect of things but with

eelings of pain. There is one section of politicians to whom the nation is beginning to turn its eyes with a hopeful confidence. The more conservative of the Republican party, who have long been in the minority, are already making their in-fluence felt. Now is their opportunity. If they would give a new tone to and take the lead of the party with whom they have been acting, or if they would organize a new party on a broader and nobler basis, they never can have a more fitting opportunity. The nation is sick of strife and division. Wiser and more temperate counsels are needed. The change of feeling which has taken place in the South seems to have begotten a corresponding change in the North. Restoration cannot be more anxiously longed for in the one case than it will be heartily welcomed in the other. By dint of skilful management North and South may soon be knit together in the bonds of a

happy Union. But the crisis is delicate. Extreme measures may mar and ruin the whole. Wisdom and caution are in the highest degree necessary. There is no party whose counsels are more suited to the occasion than those of the conservative Republicans. Theirs is the opportunity if they will only embrace it. If they fail to take advantage of it, it is impossible to predict into what disorganization the Republican party may be thrown, or what may be the parties and measures of the future. If they seize and prove themselves worthy of the occasion, they shall have the honor, not only of restoring the Union, and thus of wiping out the last trace of our unhappy domestic divisions, but of building up a great and powerful party which shall control the destinies of this nation, and guide her in her onward and upward pathway of prosperity and glory for at least the next half century.

# Reconstruction in the South.

From the Times. The appeals of Brown, Longstreet, Lee, Patton, Hampton, and other prominent Southerners are producing a marked impression upon the press and people of the South. The change which has come over the popular heart within the last six months is marvellous. When, last autumn, the Savannah Republican and a few other journals—less than half-adozen all told-ventured to recommend the ratification of the Constitutional amendment, they spoke apologetically, with "bated breath and whispering humbleness." The public temper would not tolerate the idea of submission. It was proud, demonstrative, defiant. See now the difference! A writer in the Mobile Advertiser asserts with ill-disguised disgust that more than one-half of the South ern papers are counselling compliance with the requirements of the Congressional plan, and that a still larger proportion of the people lend willing ears to the advice.

The fact is not surprising, considering the political and military standing in the Rebelion of the men who are most active in urging acceptance of the proferred terms. The Raleigh (N. C.) Progress declares that "the most zealpassed by the Legislature of Pennsylvania ous advocates of action under the Sherman which compels every railroad to carry every bill are officers and privates of the late Con-

federate army." It adds, what we are quite prepared to believe, that the greater part of those who are known as "Rebel leaders." privately, advocates of action, but abstain from public demonstrations lest their motives and the movement itself be exposed to misapprehension. Confirmatory evidence upon this head is furnished by the altered tone of the writers and politicians who persist in opposition. Their former insolence has been dropped. They no longer dictate the course to be pursued, as with authority. They are now the suppliant parties, and the character of their entreaties indicates the consciousness that the people will yield in spite of all appeals to sectional hate and pride.

From talk the moderate men are proceed ing to effort. Movements for a convention are aloot in Alabama; North Carolina is not many steps behind; and in the Louisiana Senate, where recently the mere mention of concession was scouted, a proposition for an address to the people of the State, urging them to register themselves as voters under the Military bill, has been introduced by Mr. Kenner. Who Mr. Kenner is, the New Orleans Times tells. He is "one of the largest slaveholders" in Louisiana. His bill, the Picayane states, sets forth the result "at which the great majority of the intelligent minds in the State have arrived." What is this result? It is, in brief, that the notion of passive resistance to the military scheme should be abandoned; that the agitation for carrying the contest to the Supreme Court should be discountenanced as practically worthless, and as tending to keep alive ill-feeling; and that the people should forthwith accept the law as it stands, as an authority not to be appealed from, and as the only available means of perfeeting the restoration of the Union.

These circumstances are entitled to attention at the hands of the Senators and members who are about to enter upon a crusade at the South in the interest of the Republican party. They will commit a serious mistake f they adapt the tone of John Knox to American politics, and scold the Southern people as deserving the fire and brimstone of the radical party. The Southern people are enemies no more, and the apostleship that will be of real service among them is that which shall convince them of the good faith of Congress in propounding the military scheme as a finality. Senator Wilson, who, we observe, has commenced his labors in Virginia, is a suitable avant-courser. Pronounced, carnest, consistent, he is withal tolerant and practical; and if those who follow him share ais discretion, the effect of their expositions of Republican policy and opinion cannot be otherwise than beneficial. One of our correspondents the other day likened the zealots f the extremest faction to the pious Lindsley, who flogged his child to death because it would not, or could not, mumble out its prayers. Mr. Sumner would flog the South to death if it could not take the oath of his concocting, But this is not the temper in which they who sincerely desire the reconstruction of the South should attempt to approach its people.

#### Wilkes Booth's Diary.

From the World. If the whirl of strange events through which the country has been passing for so many years had not fatigued our faculties and blunted our capacity for astonishment, the facts divulged on the floor of the House by General Butler would startle and astound the public mind. General Butler is the enfant terrible of the Republican party. His prying curiosity, prompted by his restless malice, has penetrated the closest secrets of the party, and he blabs them with as little caution or tenderness as if he were not a member of the family. Having made himself odious, he give them. seems willing that others of his party who ought to share his bad notoriety should get their deserts. We wish that General Butler had never been worse employed than he is of late in bringing to light "the hidden things of darkness.

The fact is now at length dragged forth into publicity, that the Government, in the infamous conspiracy trial, deliberately withheld and suppressed, and either then or since have deliberately mntilated and mangled,"a most important piece of evidence, which, had it been brought forward at the time, would have excited a keener interest than anything produced at the trial. It comes to light, at this late day, that there was found on the body of Booth a diary, in which he had set down from day to day all the particulars of his mad enterprise, giving a complete history of it from its inception to its catastrophe. And this was deliberately withheld from the Military Commission sitting for the trial of his associates! Nay, a studied and discreditable attempt was made to hoodwink the Commission and deceive them into the belief that the Government were practising the most unreserved frankness in relation to the things found on the body of Booth. Even an article so insignificant and irrelevant as a tobacco-pipe found in his pocket was gravely presented for the inspection of the Commission, the Government thereby conveying the false implication that everything which they knew, even to the minutest circumstances, had been faithfully brought forward. And now it turns out that, behind all this estentation of frankness, they were concealing a complete history of the whole transaction, recorded by its chief actor This deliberate dishonesty, this artful and studied deception both of the Commission and the country, this concealment and burial of evidence, is the most damning circumstance of that disgraceful trial.

Mr. Bingham's defense will not stand a moment's scrutiny; but we infer from his remarks that, although he knew of the existence of the diary, he was not allowed to inspect it. As nearly as we can gather by inference from his statement-which, by the points selected for denial, betrays the points where denial was impossible—Mr. Bingham was furnished with only a transcript of such parts of the diary as the War Department chose to trust him with. Stanton, having determined to mutilate it, had an obvious motive in having as few witnesses as possible to its original condi-The mistake made by Bingham in relation to Butler's possession of the diary, furnishes an unintended link in the chain of circumstantial evidence. Butler, for the sake of illustration, took from his pocket and held up to the view of the House a diary like that found on the body of Booth. Bingham, by a momentary lapse of attention, misunderstood Butler to say that what he exhibited was the diary of Booth, and with eager, impatient curiosity he again and again asked for an opportunity to look at it. His refusal to allow Butler to make an explanation maintained the illusion. His error on this point made him cautious in his denials, lest he should be confronted and confounded by ocular demonstration. If he had ever seen and handled the diary he would have known what he could safely affirm and what safely deny. He probably got his first knowledge of its mutilation from Butler's own statement; and dealing, on the sudden, with so awkward a state of facts, he made an unwitting revelation of things he would have fain concealed.

The mutilation of the diary had been made before it came into the hands of the Government, or it had not. If the eighteen missing pages were gone when the Secretary of War first saw it, and Mr. Bingham was cognizant of that fact, he would have exculpated himself, and exculpated everybody, from Butler's damaging imputations, by stating that fact, in clear and explicit terms. He durst not make such a statement, for he did not know, from his own inspection, whether it was true or not, and the probabilities were all against it. But Mr. Bingham saw, as everybody must see, that nothing else could clear the Government; and so he insinuated as a hypothesis what truth did not warrant him in stating as a fact. In reply to Butler's accusation of liating" the diary, he said:-"Who knows" (he evidently knew nothing on the point himself, one way or the other) "that it was spoliated ! If John Wilkes Booth tore pages out of it, was that spoliation?" This is the language of a speaker feeling his way in the dark; of a man who sees what the defense ought to be, but knows not what it is. If the diary came mutilated into the hands of the Government instead of putting it as a hypothesis, why not state it as a fact? Only one reason is con ceivable-he did not know it to be a fact. And yet, if it was a fact, his connection with the trial as chief manager entitled him to know it; and had it been true, it is against all probability that it would have been withheld from him. If the diary came into Stanton's hands whole, and was afterwards mutilated, it is easy to see why Bingham was not permitted to inspect it. He might make troublesome inquiries, which Stanton did not wish to answer. Considering Mr. Bingham's relations with the parties, the fact that he suggested an exculpatory hypothesis when, had it been in his power, he would have made a plump denial, fastens the mutilation on the

War Department. Although Bingham does not know the facts about the diary, he evidently suspects them. and cautiously confines all the positive part of the exculpation to his own individual agency. Observe how cautiously his statements are worded:-- "I defy him to show that any communication ever came into my hands purporting to be," etc. "I never saw any memoranda by which John Wilkes Booth. etc. "I shallenge him to assert that I spoliated any book." "The gentleman knows that I was not the official organ of the Court." Bingham prudently limits his strong denials to his own participation and knowledge. He dares not assert either that the diary was not mutilated by the Government, nor that its missing pages did not contain important and pertinent evidence.

He certainly knew at the time that there was such a diary; he certainly lent himself to the dishonorable, nay, the foully disgraceful, trick of blindfolding the Court into the belief that everything found on the person of Booth having the slightest pertinence to the case, had been faithfully submitted to their inspection. Mr. Bingham's defense on this point i appitiful legal quibble. He says that the evilence which he withheld was a statement made by the criminal after the fact, and was therefore not admissible. This may be true of the transcript furnished him from the diary, but his argument cannot apply to the fact that such a diary existed. Had its existence been known to the Court, they ought to have called for it, and doubtless would have called for it. It was for the Court, not the accusers, to judge of its value as evidence. Had it come into Court as a fragment, its mutilation would have been inquired into and traced to its source. If there were things in it which were not pertinent as evidence, there must, from the nature of such a record, have been other things which were pertinent; and it was the business of the Court, not the accusers, to determine which they were and what weight to

six years, we can recall nothing so thoroughly and atrociously disgraceful as this trickish attempt to deceive a Court sitting to try people for their lives (one of them a woman) and to deceive the country and the world, who were watching the proceedings with the thrilling interest excited by the assassination, whose exact history they were anxious to learn.

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Manufactured to their order in Paris. Also, a few INFERNAL ORCHESTRA CLOCKS. with side pieces; which they offer lower than the same goods can be purchased in the city.

# HENRY HARPER, 520 ARCH Street,

Manufacturer and Dealer in WATCHES. FINE JEWELRY. SILVER-PLATED WARE, AND

SOLID SILVER-WARE, SHIRTS, FURNISHING GOODS, &C.

JOHN C. ARRISON

AT THE OLD STAND,

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Would invite the attention of his friends and customers to his

LARGE AND SUPERIOR ASSORTMENT

HOSIERY GLOVES.

AND THE LATEST NOVELTIES FOR GEN TLEMEN'S WEAR.

TO HIS IMPROVED PATTERN SHIRT, Made of the best materials by hand, and warranted to fit and give satisfaction, or money PRICES MODERATE. [1 222

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(Late G. A. Hoffman, formerly W. W. Knight,) FINE SHIRTS AND WRAPPERS. HOSIERY AND GLOVES MILK, LAMBS' WOOL AND MERINO 8 8 Cma w 6ma UNDERCLOTHING.

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

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