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TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 1867.

New Aspect of the Suffrage Question. EVERYTHING points to the issue of impartial suffrage as the great event in the political contests of the present year. In several of the Northern States amendments have been proposed to their constitutions, striking out the word "white," and these amendments will be submitted to the people for ratification or rejection at the elections next fall. This is the case in Kansas, Missouri, Obio, and several other States, we believe, and will be the case in New York, as her Constitutional Convention, soon to be elected, will doubtless strike the word "white" from her constitution. There will then be a pretty general canvass in the North, this coming summer and fall, over the question of allowing colored citizens to

At the same time with this canvass of the suffrage question in the North, there will be in progress, all over the South, the great work of reconstruction under the law of Congress. The distinguishing feature of this great Southern campaign will be the effort to control the negro vote. The Democrats are already in the field and bidding high for it. The old Democratic leaders are hob-nobbing with the negro masses in the most familiar style. They are making professions of the most disinterested friendship for the black race, and pledging themselves to the most thorough measures of political equality. More than all this, they are pointing to the exclusion of negroes from the ballot-box in some of the Northern States as an argument against the "radicals." Says Governor Orr to his black hearers in Charleston (and he asks that it may go on the record):-

"When the emissary comes here from the State of New York, Massachusetts, or Onlo, and says to the black man, 'We are your friends; we are going to take care of you; vote with us; these white people cannot be tru-ted;' I want our colored men to say to these emissaries, to the Massachusetts men, that in South Carolina, under this law, it matters not by whom it was passed, every colored man, twenty-one years of passed, every colored man, twenty-one years of age, is entitled to his ballot, and that he would not be allowed to vote in Massachusetts, unless he could read and write. Say to the emissary of Ohio who comes here for the purpose of giving advice as to how you shall vote. Go back to Ohio, and enlighten the heathen there, before you come here, because no black man there is entitled to vote."

Here we see the shape the contest is taking at the South. Now, the question arises, What position are the Democrats of the North going to take on this suffrage question? They cannot expect their party to control the votes of the negroes at the South, and yet at the same ime oppose negro suffrage at the North. Such a course would point the arguments and give power to the appeals of every radical orator in the South. Southern Democrats have themselves set the example of appealing to these discriminations in the North against the negro for political effect at home, and Southern radicals will not be slow to follow their example. If Northern Democrats go against negro suffrage at the North, the Democratic party will lose the negro vote all over the South, and ten more States will be added to the Republican column.

The Republican party, North and South, is pledged to impartial suffrage. It cannot go back on that issue if it would. Hence, the Southern radical can point to the position of his party on this question with perfect confidence. He will not fail to remind the colored voter that he owes the exercise of the · lective franchise to a radical Congress, and hat all over the North the Republican party s a unit in favor of removing every restricion from the political rights of the colored itizen. If in addition to this he shall be able o show the colored voters of the South that the Democratic party of the North is arrayed against the enfranchisement of the negro, his victory will be complete. Hence we see that the only possible chance for the Democrats to carry the Southern States is by falling in with this suffrage movement all over the country, and preventing it from becoming distinctively a Republican movement. Unless they do this, their chances as a party in 1868 are not worth "a row of pins."

There are indications that the shrewdest of the Democratic leaders see the drift of events, and are changing their course accordingly. We find no articles against negro suffrage in the New York World. We do find in that paper very powerful articles intended to impress the Southern Democrats with the necessity of controlling the colored vote. There are other straws which indicate the course of the current. For instance, our Democratic contemporary has had nothing to say against the recent law allowing colored people to ride in the cars in this city. Would it have been equally reticent two years ago?

The fact is, the Democrats have not the remotest chance of success in 1868 unless they can carry nearly the entire South. This is a vital necessity for the party. Fortunately, this necessity is involved with the enfranchisement of the blacks. We must not be astonished, therefore, if we find Northern Democrats making as astounding summersaults on this question as the Southern leaders are just now doing. It is not at all impossible, nay, hardly improbable, that in less than six months we shall find all parties by common consent going in for impartial suffrage.

A Caucus of the Liberals in the British Parliament has decided to oppose the Reform bill as presented by Disraeli, and bring it to a test vote. We are told that they feel confident of | of plenty." Saints are getting plenty.

success. At a previous caucus last week two hundred and seventy-four members were present. The House of Commons consists of six hundred and lifty-eight, so that we may suppose that the strength of the Liberals at its minimum is two hundred and seventy-four, and that they count on sufficient of the Adullamites to secure the necessary majority. If they succeed, Lord John Russell will come once more into power.

The Coming Continental War. Since the days of Louis XIV, when France first had an established policy, it has been the diplomatic rule of the Ministers of the Crown to keep the country in the first rank of nations, by "holding the balance of power." M Thiers defines the "balance of power" as "a divided Germany, a divided Italy, and a united France," and bitterly assails the present Napoleon' because of his having allowed the supremacy of France to pass away by allowing Germany to become Prussia, and Italy to become a unit. It would seem, however, from the advices which come to us to-day, that the Emperor has determined to show that the charge of M. Thiers is illfounded, and has already taken steps which will either lead to the annexation of Holland, Belgium, and Switzerland, or else to an open war with Prussia. The indications which we have received are of the most ominous character. At the time of the Fenian outbreak, a few weeks since, we called attention to the hopelessness of the enterprise by the total absence of all effect on the stock market. The Consols are the best barometer that can be laid before the public. Any real danger of national power at once influences them, and when we received the cable despatch of the fall of all Government stocks, we had much more sure intelligence of danger than if the minutize of the Emperor's intentions were laid before us.

We cannot, therefore, but take it for granted that if a war does not convulse Europe, there is at least strong reason for fearing one. Not only does the condition of the Empire lead us to believe that Napoleon must see that a foreign and popular war is necessary for the retention of his hold on the affections of the French people, but also we can now see the preparation on the part of Prussia which clearly foreshadowed anticipated war. Not long since the financial Solons were astonished at the proposals of that Government for a loan of \$30,000,000. No one could see what that sum was needed for. All the expenses of the late war had been paid by the defeated Government, and why then should Prussia seek to negotiate another loan? The reason is now developed. Bismark saw the approach of the conflict with France which is now so evident, and, by a timely loan, sought to prepare the Treasury for the new demand to be made

In regard to the probable issue of the conflict, we cannot, of course, foretell what accident may, turn the fate of battle, but judging from the physical strength of the two powers, we think the prospect of success rests with France. It may be true, as Bismark says, that "if we place Germany in the saddle" we shall find her quite able to ride;" but it seems to us that a longer time than eight months is required to confederate into one so many fragments of powers. A confederacy such as that of North Germany is always unwieldy, especially before the various States have grown accustomed to a common government, so that while Prussia has increased her subjects from eighteen to forty millions, yet there has been really very little increase of military strength. The needle gun has not yet been supplied to her new auxiliaries, and really the contest must rest between France proper and Prussia proper. Both nations just now have great prestige attached to their names, is led by a chief who Each stands in the foremost rank of diplomats. But France has a thoroughly disciplined army of 600,000 men, and, in a foreign war, its population is a unit. The Liberals who have been reproaching the Emperor for inaction must now stand by him, so that a united France, with a friendly Austria and semi-friendly Holland and Belgium, and neutral Italy, will be well able to cope for mastery with even that Government which stretches from the Alps to the Baltic, and rules all citizens between the Vistula and the Rhine. The struggle will be between giants, and the decision will remap Europe, How soon it will begin no one can tell. Before the month is out all the Continent may be in arms.

LUXEMBOURG.- "The Emperor hesitates to release Holland from her engagement," says the Associated Press despatch by the cable, and we are supposed to be at once familiar with the state of affairs in the French Cabinet. As we do not yet know what the "engagement" was, and the "hesitation" of the Emperor is entirely natural, although decidedly undiplomatic, we do not see that we know much more than we stated a few days since. It seems probable, however, that if the "hesitation" ends in his insisting on the cession of Luxembourg, that war with Prussia will interrupt the Exposition. It is evidently the policy of France to keep things in abeyance until the Exposition is concluded, so that we will not be surprised to see the Emperor "hesitate" until October.

ANOTHER REBEL SAINT,-We have to record the canonization of another Rebel saint-none other than the notorious Wirz, hung for the starvation and murder of our prisoners at Andersonville. His late counsel, one Schade, being about to leave the country, writes a long, rambling, disjointed letter to the "American people," to convince them not only that Wirz was an innocent and persecuted man, but that 26,000 Rebel prisoners died (by implication starved) in the North "in the midst

The Responsibility of Northern Democrats for the Rebetti on.

The New York World is combating the assertion of the New York Times, that the Democrats of the North gave great encouragement to the South to Rebel in 1860-61. Here is what a distinguished Democratic leader of the South, Governor Orr, of South Carolina, says upon that point:-

"Many of you well remember that when the war first commenced great hopes and expectations were held out by our friends in the North and West that there would be no war; and that if it commenced it would be north of Mason and Dixon's line, and not in the South. You know, sir (turning to General Sickles), that faith was pledged; and I will now state that if that faith had been properly carried out, there is no probability that any State but South Carolina would have secoled from the Federal Union." "Many of you well remember that when the

Governor Orr is correct. Such were the hopes and expectations held out by the great majority of the present Northern leaders of the Democratic party; and had it not been for this position of the Northern Democracy, we should probably have had no general Rebellion at the South. It was the encouragement of Northern Democrats that led the South to take that fatal step.

RESTIVE REBELS IN VIRGINIA .- A Union meeting held in Smythe county, Va., on the 19th ult., for the purpose of organizing for action under the Reconstruction law, was broken up by an armed body of Rebels, who drove the Union men out of the Court House and organized a meeting of their own, at which they passed resolutions "denouncing Congress as an unconstitutional body, usurping its functions in depriving the people of the South of their liberties and forcing upon them negro suffrage; and that it is the sense of this meeting that President Johnson should use the whole military power of the Government to prevent the usurpation, and protect the people of the South in their rights and liberties as citizens of the United States."

General Schofield, upon being informed of the affair, promptly sent an officer to inquire into all the circumstances attending it, and a small body of troops will probably be stationed in that county.

Such instances as this show the necessity for the military features of the Reconstruction law. Without it, free speech would be impos-

THE CHILDREN OF PHILADELPHIA. -On our eighth page to-day will be found a valuable series of tables, embracing the statistics of the children of this city between the ages of six and eighteen years, which have recently been prepared under the supervision of Edward Shippen, Esq., President of the Board of School Controllers. They will well repay examination.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

[For additional Special Notices see the Second Page.]

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