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EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS PPON CUBRERT TOPICS -- COMPILED EVERY DAY FOR THE EVENING TELEGRAPH.

The Eight-Hour Law in the West. From the Times.

It has from the first been apparent to people who take the trouble to think, that the enactment of an eight-hours' labor law would not prove to be the ultimatum of the class of workmen that form the leaders in all such movements.

Those who ask for legal protection against same classes as those that usually prefer striking for higher wages, to winning advancement and commanding respect by thorough application and prudent habits. Illinois, the first State, we believe, to give the law a trial, is mow enjoying the cheerful experience of testing its workings. On Thursday last, some thousands of workmen and boys undertook to enforce the eight-hour law in Chicago, by taking possession of the machine-shops, planing mills, lumber-yards, car-shops, railroad depots, and other points where honest, steady workmen were to be found at their daily tasks. The authorities of the city appear to have done their best to check the progress of the disturbance; but a spirit of lawlessness, unknown in previous strikes, has clearly been fostered by the worse than needless interference of the Legislature between the employed and their employers.

The same condition of affairs, but accompanied with less of a physical force demonstration, prevails in other parts of Illinois. At Springfield the eight-hour strikers already imber nearly a thousand. The Wabash and Western and the Chicago and Alton Railroad Companies refuse to recognize the eight-hour system, and at several points on both roads the employés have struck.

In St. Louis, where there is a State law similar to that of Illinois, mechanics of various crafts have agreed to strike not alone upon the eight-hour question, but on a demand for more wages as well! Labor in St. Louis commands a higher price than in almost any other city of the United States, in spite of the comparative dullness and the embarrassments from which business of almost all kinds has suffered. But what is that to those who stand appon the high ground that the Legislature is bound to secure to them short hours of toil, abundant employment, liberal wages, and a generally improved state of existence? To attempt to show such men that ten hours'

Kaithful daily service will produce twenty per cent, worth more of manufactured stuffs than eight hours' service, would be words thrown away. It would be vain even to try a common illustration on them. In a factory where, under the old system, ten thousand dollars' worth is sent out every week, the year's loss udder the new system of reduced hours would simply amount to \$100,000. That sum, at a reduced rate of wages, corresponding to the shortening of the working day, would not involve, perhaps, a great loss to the proprietor. But it would represent, first, a special loss to each individual workman, and would be so much deducted from the industrial wealth of the country. Are these points ever canvassed at all at the meetings of Workingmen's Unions ?

The short-hour strike has extended even as far to the northwest as the thriving commercial capital of Wisconsin. And there is every reason to expect that the stimulus given to strikers of every degree by the interference of that Congress will abide by its terms of Southluded workmen to their senses, and to some proper understanding of economic laws.

Prussia and France Preparing for War. From the Tribune.

The Peace Conference of the representatives of Prussia, France, England, Austria, Russia, Italy, Holland, and Belgium, which Will attempt to disperse the war cloud impending over Europe by a pacific solution of the Luxembourg question, assembled in London on Tuesday. Very little is known about the real dispositions of France and Prussia. Count Bismark a few days ago officially de-

clared that Prussia would accept the neutralization of Luxembourg, and Count Moustier on the same day assured the foreign diplomatists in Paris that a basis had been agreed upon which would secure the peace of Europe. Other reports are less assuring. Thus, Earl Derby stated in the British Parliament that he hoped that peace would be restored, but that to his knowledge no basis had yet been delinitely adopted. Whether the report that France had consented to the abandonment of her claims to Luxembourg, and that the Conference may oppose any enlargement of the French frontier, has any official foundation is

doubtful.

Bohemian campaign.

be found.

In the meanwhile, both countries are reported to continue their armaments. A few days ago, the French Moniteur officially announced that France had put a stop to all military preparations; but the reports that both powers are arming is repeated. The charge is likely enough to be true. The recent war between Prussia, Italy, and Austria is a warning as to the indispensable necessity of not being too tardy in completing all the necessary preparations, which neither France nor Prussia can afford to overlook. Then both parties were secretly arming several armies before the outbreak of hostilities; both denied the charge; but when the opening of the war occurred, Prussia alone was fully prepared, and Austria had to pay dearly for her usual tardiness! Instead of assuming the offensive, and carrying the war from the start into Saxony and Silesia, and thus closing the important mountain passes south of Saxony and Silesia, she had to await and meet the hostile forces after they invaded Bohemia. A similar mistake on the part of Prussia or France might cost the negligent power another

The necessity of speedy and thorough preparations for war is all the greater, as, sooner or later, a great, decisive war between the two countries is inevitable. The consolidation of all the German States would build up a nation much superior to France in population and power. This the French Government and a large portion of the French people consider selves bound to prevent. The demand made last year by France for some German towns was the first step towards bringing on this issue; the attempt to purchase Luxem-bourg is the second. The first was a failure, and the second seems to have failed equally But the object of this policy has not yet been sbandoned, and new attempts to carry it through must follow. There can be no true peace between the two Governments, but at most an armistice, an armed peace; and if. at a particular point of time, one people should deem itself more prepared for war than Its neighbor, a new pretext for war can easily

France has special reasons for hastening and perfecting her armaments, for thus far, accordng to all reports, Prussia can bring into the field a much larger force than France. Nominally, the French army on the war footing amounts to about 757,000, while that of Prussia and her German vassals and allies numbers upward of 1,200,000. If instead of the whole army on the war footing we compare the forces which both countries can actually bring into the field, the superiority of Prussia is no less apparent. According to trustworthy calculations, France altogether has 400,000 men (200,000 of whom are reserves) ready to march into Germany. Germany, on the other hand, has 550,000 men ready to march withont"delay into France, and in addition to these she would have at least 200,000 men in garrisons and 200,000 in depot, on whom she could the hard necessities of a toiling life, are of the | draw at any time for reinforcements. Both armies are believed to have excellent arms; but, while only one-third of the French army is at present armed with the new Chassepot rifles, the whole Prussian army is armed with the needle-gun.

We still adhere to the opinion that an immediate war between France and Prussia is not probable. But, on the other hand, it is even more probable that the London Conference will be entirely unable to dispose of the Luxembourg question in a manner satisfactory to both Prussia and France, and to remove the cause of conflict between these two powers.

The Reconstruction of Parties-How is the South Going ! From the Herald.

As Wendell Phillips has it, our politica parties are in a transition state. Upon the issues drawn from the slavery question, which have divided the Republicans and the Democracy since 1854, the former have been completely triumphant, and the latter, step by step, into the war, through the war, and since the war, have been utterly vanquished. Upon its prestige as the Union war party and its great achievements-the suppression of the Rebellion, the abolition of slavery, and the establishment of civil and political equality in Southern reconstruction—the Republican party still holds together; and upon their unpopular record as the pro-slavery, anti-war faction, the Northern remnant of the old broken-up national Democratic party remains a powerless minority. But something more than they have done will be required to keep the Republicans together. Having fulfilled its appointed work, party must set up a new platform of new ideas and new measures, or it will go to pieces. The Republican leaders are aware of this, and aware, too, that with the restoration of the outside Rebel States the future possession of the Government may be determined by a Southern balance of power.

How, then, is the South going in this approaching reconstruction of parties? What are the signs of the times? The Southern emancipated blacks seem to be gravitating to the party to which they owe their emancipation. Such are the developments of Senator Wilson's Southern missionary tour from Richmond down to Georgia. The great body of the Southern whites, on the other hand, while coming up, as Speaker Colfax expresses it, "with an alacrity unexpected by many, and an acquiescence expected by but few," are, nevertheless, holding aloof from both the Northern Republican and Democratic parties, and are casting about for a new and independent Southern party, on Southern ground, and as a Southern balance of power. What, then, is the prospect? Upon what new issues are we to look for this independent Southern party?

State Legislatures, will cause the movement to spread, until hard experience brings the deto stand by them, faithfully and literally, if their terms are complied with by the Rebel States in good faith and without evasion." Believing this, we may assume, from the work going on, that all the ten excluded States will be readmitted into Congress in season to give them a deliberative voice and choice in the next Presidential election. With their admission, as the civil and political rights of the blacks, and the safety of the national debt will be established in the Constitution beyond the reach of any political party hereafter, the present dividing lines of parties at the North and of races in the South will be superseded by new divisions. And in the favor which the name of General Grant seems now to command among Southern politicians we have a sign of what is coming. It is the reconstruction of parties on the money question, in all its branches of internal taxes, tariffs, national banks, and Treasury management.

Upon all these questions General Grant understood to be a Western man, decidedly in opposition to the Eastern politicians of the high taxes, high tariff protectionist school of Thaddeus Stevens. We presume that a new party platform, embracing the doctrines of the west practicable revenue tariff, the lowest schedule of internal taxes, a general cutting down of expenses, the reorganization, if not the abolition of the national banks, whereby the Treasury may be saved the millions which these banks now absorb as their perquisites of the public money; and a funding system to enable the Government with light taxation to make all needful provisions in regard to the national debt, would be a national policy that would commend itself to General Grant. Here, then, we may look for the dividing lines of our national parties in 1868, and for a party commanding the great Northwest and the South, and dividing the Central States and even the Northeast against the party of high taxes, high tariffs, protection, bank

monopolies, and heavy expenditures. With free labor, Northern emigration and enterprise, and with ample water power in the midst of their cotton fields and iron mines the Southern States will need no high tariffs to develope a great manufacturing system. In view of their prostrate condition, however, they will need light taxes and a gradual liquidation of the national debt in order to get firmly upon their feet again in the production of full crops of their great staples. Let the Southern States, therefore, hurry up the work of reconstruction, and they may, even in 1868. wield the balance of power in the Presidential

American Liberty in Tennessec.

In all the anomalous land of Mexico, there is no one thing more anomalous than is the condition of the State of Guerrero. Within the borders of that wealthy mountain region, a single citizen, distinguished from his fellows neither by birth nor by fortune, long years ago succeeded in establishing a kind of autocracy little less absolute than that of Francia or of Lopez in Paraguay. Presidents rose and fell, shot their predecessors, and were shot in their turn; constitutions and plans of constitutions were made and unmade; anarchy ran riot from San Blas to Vera Cruz; but Alvarez continued to be lord of Guerrero. The flight f Juarez from the capital never made Guerrero

a province of the empire; the downfall of Maximilian will not make Guerrero a State of the Republic. The house of Alvarez, built upon bayonets, rests upon bayonets; and if Guerrero knows nothing of liberty, at least it may boast of a sort of order and quiet such as has not elsewhere been established upon the ruins of the vicerovalty of New Spain. Strange and striking as this anomalous commonwealth must be admitted to be, it is less strange and less striking than the despotism which during the last few years has been permitted to fasten itself upon a State, not of Mexico, but of the American Union, and under the administration, not of a soldier bent on keeping the peace within his dominions, but of a fanatic resolved on disintegrating the fundamental elements of the society which he curses by his control. The State of Tennessee, which, seventy years ago, a treasonable Senator vainly endeavored to transfer to the possession of the crown of Spain, has been virtually given over to the tender mercies of a monarch who rules by methods and in a temper not unworthy of a Philip the Second or a Ferdinandthe Seventh. The truth as to the present political condition of the State of Tennessee is of so astounding a character, it is so ominous of evil to all free institutions in America, and so shocking to every instinct of justice and humanity, that no extravagance of partisan zeal can excuse the crime of those who, calling themselves the friends of freedom and of progress in the North, contribute in any way to hide this truth from the public mind. The question now at issue in Tennessee

between the actual master of that State, Governor Brownlow, and the opposition which has been organized to his rule, has nothing to do with the claims of Congress to determine the methods and the conditions under which the Union shall be restored. More than a year ago Tennessee passed out of the control of Congress. Parson Brownlow, who had been elevated to the supreme authority in that State by the Federal power, secured his election as Governor under an organization of the State manipulated exclusively by his own adherents, and now proposes to retain his place by a direct and open suppression of the popular will. While Congress has proceeded to enfranchise the vast majority of the lately rebellious populations of the South, no less than five-sixths of the white population of Tennessee are disfranchised by the will of the small minority represented by Governor Brownlow, who wields, for the enforcement of this disfranchisement, a regular military force nearly as large as was the army of the United States before the outbreak of the civil war, and who now seeks to coerce into his support the negro populations of the State upon whom he and his adherents have conferred the right to vote, while refusing to them the right to hold any office whatever, no matter how humble or unimportant. It would be difficult, indeed, to imagine a more complete and ingenious scheme for defeating all the guarantees of republican liberty, than this which the despot of Tennessee has been silently suffered to mature under cover of a noisy and senseless clamor about "Rebels" and "Loyalty," "Copperheads" and "the flag." Its result, so far, has been to enable a man of the worst possible personal character-a brutal bigot, as destitute of political intelligence as of Christian humanity-tomake his profound contempt of the negro race subserve at once his lust of power and his thirst revenge upon his political opponents. While the State of South Carolina was drafting her ordinance of secession and the heavens were growing black with the gather ing thunderstorm of war, this man Brownlow openly advocated an "alliance of the South with Louis Napoleon to whip the Northwestern States into the Southern Confederacy, and then to turn upon New England and extinguish the last foothold of abolition upon the Continent of America." He raved then for the blood of Northern men, and imprecated upon them "the bitter agonies of death till they should regret that they ever felt any concern for the African race." In the course of events it became more profitable for him to be victorious with the "Northwestern States" than to be "whipped" with the "Southern Confederacy;" but his rooted conviction remaining unchanged, that "God intended the Africans to serve their superiors as bondmen and bondwomen," he now proposes to use the negroes of Tennessee, whose emancipation he is powerless to abrogate, as the tools by which he may maintain his own new poli tical position of "superiority." Happily, both for Tennessee and for the country, there are not wanting signs to make us hope that the whites of that State have too much spirit and the negroes too much intelligence to permit the success of this nefarious scheme without a combined and gallant struggle. In the month of August next an election for Governor will be held in that State, since we take it that the Federal Government will scarcely suffer Gov. Brownlow to close the polls by sheer military force. By a constitutional and conservative convention of the people of Tennessee without distinction of color, which assembled at Nashville on the 17th of April last, Emerson Etheridge was nominated for the office of Governor. Colored men of good repute came forward at that Convention side by side with disfranchised white citizens of character and influence, and united with them in demanding oblivion of the past, peace in the present, and justice for the future. One clored man in especial, Joseph Williams, who had served as a soldier in the Union army made a speech full of good sense and good feeling, in which he declared that he had never received from the slaveholders before the war such treatment as he had met with from Brownlow and his radicals, because he refused to accept their programme of persecu-tion for the defeated Rebel whites, combined with degradation of the blacks,

The words which the Tribune has played with as counters, the conservative Union men of Tennessee have taken for coin. They boldly raise the standard of "universal amnesty and impartial suffrage." Nothing can be clearer or less ambiguous than their attitude. They go forward to the contest for the redemption of their State, proclaiming the following platform of principles:-

1. We are in favor of the Union of the States, under the Constitution of the United States. 2. We are the friends of peace and civil law, and that these great objects can be best pro-moted by legislation recognizing equal and exact justice to all—exclusive privileges to

none. (Cheera.)

3. We are in favor of immediate restoration S. We are in favor of immediate restoration of our distranchised fellow-citizens to all rights, privileges, and immunities of full and complete citizenship. (Cheers.)

4. That our colored fellow-citizens, being now citizens of the United States, and citizens of the State of Tennessee, and voters of the State, are entitled to all the rights and privileges of citizens under the laws and Constitution of the United States and of the State of Tennessee. (Cheers.)

(Cheers.)

5. We are opposed to the repudiation of the national debt, and are in favor of equal taxation as the proper method of paying the same.

6. That the establishment of a standing army 6. That the establishment of a standing army in our State, in time of peace, is a flagrant and cangerous eneroachment upon the rights and liberties of the citizen, heavily oppressive to the tax-payer, and evidently designed to overawe voters at the ballot-box. (Cheers.)

7. We cordinily approve the patrionic efforts of Andrew Johnson, President of the United.

States, in defending the Constitution, preserving the Union of the States, and maintaining the supremacy of the laws. (Cheers.)

Against these declarations what have the radicals of the North to oppose? By what conceivable political jugglery can they hope to escape the frightful responsibility of lending the weight of their influence and their wealth to beat down in Tennessee "peace and civil law," "equal and exact justice to all," in order that a single man, and that man one of the vilest and coarsest of the race, may continue to enjoy an unrestrained license for the gratification of the worst and lowest passions of a vulgar and tyrannical nature !

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