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

England—Her Position and Her Statesmen.

The work accomplished by the Conference of the great powers in preserving the peace of Europe for the present has placed England again in a prominent position. To her, undoubtedly, the credit of having settled the Luxembourg difficulty is chiefly due. Averse to war, and badly prepared for it, particularly in view of her financial condition, and the political agitation for reform, she saw the danger of a terrible and general war in Europe if France and Prussia had drawn the sword. Although she assumed a negative position at first, she was forced to abandon that, in fear of the consequences of such a war to herself. Her wisdom in proposing a conference and mediation of the great powers redounds to her honor. Having been successful in preventing war, she takes the position she formerly occupied as a foremost power in the family of European nations—a position which she was fast losing; and which she would have lost forever, probably, had she continued a policy of exclusion and abstention.

Great credit is given to Queen Victoria for the happy and successful stroke of policy that has calmed the fears of Europe. But we know that the British, by a sort of ingenious complimentary fiction, attribute such things to the sovereign, when in reality they are the work of the ministry. Lord Stanley represented Great Britain in the Conference, and was the President. As the member of the British Cabinet taking the most active part in the body, he is supposed, therefore, to have been the leading spirit in the movement from the first. Without having the least disposition to detract from the fine talents or merits of this nobleman, we believe another and an able member of the Cabinet is the controlling statesman in the Government, and was the prime mover, doubtless, in the policy which led to the Conference and to peace, though the functions of plenipotentiary naturally devolved more on Lord Stanley.

A Jew controls the destiny of England! A Jew has restored to that proud nation the prestige and position she was fast losing through the imbecility of her aristocracy and the timidity of her capitalists! What a revolution in the sentiments of the aristocracy and people of Great Britain to admit this! A short time ago a Jew was not permitted to sit in Parliament, and it is not a long time since the despised Jew was proscribed, robbed, and trodden upon by that haughty nobility which now takes one of them for its leader. How proud this Israelite must be! How delighted the Jews everywhere must be! This fact is one of the marvels of this wonderful age. Disraeli has realized in himself the Jewish hero of his novel ("Coningsby"), who pulled the wires that controlled the destiny of nations. This work of fiction—this dream of romance—has become fact in the actual position of the author. Here it may be said, indeed, that "truth is more strange than fiction." Did Disraeli foresee the important role he was going to play when he wrote Coningsby? Or was it the earnest desire to bring honor to his despised race, or the force of his own ambition, that carried him up to his present eminence? The Jewish hero of this romance had no nationality, in the true patriotic sense of that word. He was a citizen of the world, full of ambition, exercising vast powers in a secret manner, much as the Grand Master of the Jesuits used to do, and moved monarchs, ministers of state, and the affairs of the nation like puppets. Was this hero of Benjamin Disraeli's brain the model of her Majesty's present Cabinet Minister? Is Disraeli acting out the character his imagination created?

Up to this time Disraeli has done well for England, as we have seen in the matter of the Peace Conference, and is doing well for the party of which he is the leader, simply in a strict party sense; but it has to be seen whether he has more ambition than patriotism, and whether he will be a safe leader and minister in the future. In this country the native born citizens of the Jewish race become identified with the interests of the republic, though they maintain a sort of nationality among themselves. They have all the privileges of other citizens, and they have every incentive to patriotism. They have no remembrances here of past disabilities or persecution to separate them from the great body of their fellow-citizens, or to weaken their love of the country. In Europe, although their disabilities have generally been removed, they are separated, in a measure, and in feeling a good deal, from the people among whom they live. They have there a more distinct nationality among themselves. This is the case in England, as well as in other countries, and perhaps more so there than in France. Mr. Disraeli undoubtedly represents the feelings and characteristics of his race, though he might be unwilling to admit it. This, we think, is clearly shown in his work to which we have referred. The question arises here, then, does he possess the conservative patriotism of the Anglo-Saxon people in all that relates to England? However petted and used by the aristocracy, and however much trusted by the sovereign, it is natural to suppose he would be biased by his peculiar feelings and sentiments, and that his ambition would be greater than his love of his race. In speaking of race, we do not necessarily mean the religion a man may profess, and Mr. Disraeli may be a good High Church Protestant, for all we know; we refer only to the characteristics of the nature and affiliations of people of different races, and of the Jews in particular. Is Disraeli, then, a safe guide, whatever may be his notions or however great his talents, for England?

Should the revolution which underlies society in Europe, and which begins to rock old England to the center by the upheaval of the lower strata, break out, would this man be a safe man at the helm of state? Poor Louis XVI called Necker, a sort of Swiss Jew, to be the Finance Minister of France at a critical period; and it is a matter of history that Necker's administration of affairs did much to precipitate and aggravate the terrible revolution a few years afterwards. Disraeli, or any public man with his mental and moral peculiarities, would most likely act as Mirabeau acted, and become a revolutionist if a great revolution should occur. He has no connection or affiliation with the old Norman and Saxon aristocracy of England, beyond that which his political ambition creates for the time.

The Stanleys, the Russells, and the other representatives of the old aristocracy, might defend their order and privileges, or the honor of England, to the last extremity, at the cost of their lives even, but we should not expect that in this speculative, romancing statesman, of a race that claims to have a sort of nation-

ality of its own, separate and distinct from the rest of the world. We regard the elevation of Disraeli to the high and controlling position he occupies as one of the remarkable signs of this revolutionary age. His future career will be an interesting study for the philosopher or historian. We shall watch events in England with the deepest interest, now that she has laid aside her old aristocratic leaders, and placed her destiny in the hands of a Jew.

The Indian Troubles—General Hancock and the Chief of the Kiowas.

A letter which we published yesterday gave a full account of the second council held by General Hancock with the representatives of one of the disaffected tribes. On this occasion the chief of the Kiowas, Satanta, was the spokesman; and judging from the vigor and pointedness of his address, it is clear he is a man of sufficient force of character to become a dangerous enemy, unless the wrongs of which he complains, especially at the hands of the United States Agent, are heeded by the military authorities acting for the Government.

There is also, moreover, much matter for reflection in the Kiowa chief's appeal against the summary and fearful penalties meted out, under the Commanding General's orders, to the neighboring tribe of Cheyennes. The only excuse given for the destruction of the Indian village belonging to that tribe, is that they had refused permission to the troops to visit them in their camp. Before such a mode of retribution (had the excuse for punishing the tribe been valid) was resorted to, some credit should surely have been given to the assurances offered on behalf of the Cheyennes on the previous day, that they were desirous to live in peace, and would give guarantees to do so, provided the agents of the Government honestly fulfilled the treaties which had been made. Their first act, however, after their village was burned, was to destroy one of the overland stations, kill the stock-keepers, and run off the stock. How soon do our Generals expect to win Indians to peaceful pursuits by pursuing this line of conduct?

Satanta, at this last "Council," charged distinctly that the agent of the Government had appropriated to his own use a portion of the Indian annuities. This was undoubtedly the reason for the depredations committed by the Kiowas. They had been driven from their lands by the whites, had finally yielded their claims thereto in consideration of certain sums to be paid them in cash, and the rest in ammunition, clothing, food, etc., to be delivered to them. When the time for payment came, the agent, as the Indians charged, failed to make good the promises made, and the goods on which they had depended were not forthcoming.

It is surprising that these unlettered savages, failing to discriminate between the innocent and guilty, should hold the whole white race responsible for the delinquency of an official; and that they should seize upon the property of the white man which was nearest to their hand? This is the manner in which one Indian tribe deals with another—if an individual commits an offense, the tribe is held responsible. Why should not the rule apply to the white race?

It has been and still is the practice of our Government to withhold from the annuities of an entire tribe a sufficient sum to pay for any depredations committed by individual members of such tribe. And it is wonderful, at times of payment, to see the bills which settlers trump up against the Indians. Is an ox or a horse killed by the wolves, is a barn struck by lightning, or does the wild prairie fire consume a rail fence, forthwith the damage is charged against the Indians who roam in the vicinity of such disasters. So common is this practice that the expression, "Charge it to the Indians," is a byword among frontiersmen. Were such trickery practised upon us, would we not be apt to retaliate?

The Winnebagoes were, a few years since, settled on a beautiful tract of land in Minnesota, known as Long Prairie. Here the Government inclosed and cultivated for them several hundred acres of land, erected neat and comfortable log dwellings for them to live in, built grist and saw mills, stores, blacksmith-shop, wagon-shop, and, in fact, everything that was required to give comfort to the colony. Under the direction of Government employes, the Indians assisted in raising crops, and as fine wheat, oats, corn, potatoes, and other crops, horses, cattle, etc., were raised on this reservation as were ever produced in the United States. For a few years the tribe prospered, was contented, and bade fair to be permanently established and civilized. But the Indian trader appeared on the scene. Dishonest dealings and bad whiskey followed. After these came discontent, and the Winnebagoes asked to be allowed to resume their roaming life. The case illustrates a large portion of our Indian history for three-quarters of a century.

General Sikes's Sequestration Order.

It is impossible to regard the super-servicable order of General Sikes in relation to the Confederate sequestrations in any other light than as intended to suggest to the radicals a new argument for confiscation, by adding white men's claims to those of the negroes. He requires reports to be made to him, by the persons concerned, of all cases of sequestration of lands or other property by the Confederacy, with the names of former owners and present occupants. There can be no reason for such investigation, unless it be ordered with a view to redress. The purpose evidently is to give a color of justice to the confiscation schemes of the radicals, by putting forward the rights of loyal citizens who were deprived of their property by the Rebel Government, and thus strengthening the negro claim to a division of the Southern lands, by joining to it the claims of white residents to compensation for sequestered property. The argument for the blacks, we understand it, is that inasmuch as the property of the South has been created by uncompensated negro labor rendered in a state of slavery, it is fair that a portion of this property should be made over to its equitable owners. This is the argumentative basis of the latest Rebel programme of universal education, and a freehold for every negro, of forty acres of cultivated land. General Sikes tries to commend himself to radical favor by a codicil which will strengthen the general argument for confiscation.

His sequestration order is entirely outside the duties imposed upon him by the reconstruction law. The purpose of that law is simply to provide for the reorganization of the State Governments on a negro-suffrage basis, and to preserve order during the period of transition. General Sikes is even more impudently officious in this sequestration order, than he is in ordering the hats of the Charleston fire companies to be lifted three paces in advance of the national flag, and kept raised until they were three paces past it.

When before did American citizens lift their hats by military compulsion? Where, else, from the day we first had a flag until now, was any such ceremony practised in its salutation? The people of Charleston owe the flag just the same respect as the citizens of New York or Boston; neither more nor less. What should we think here if an insolent military satrap should order us to lift our hats in token of awful reverence, and keep them lifted while we counted six paces in passing the flag. There is not a man among us who would not consider it as a degradation—as a degradation of the proud emblem of freedom into a token of servile subjugation. All that freemen can justifiably be compelled to do is to obey the laws; they are no longer freemen when forced to comply with the stultic whims of official insolence. An officer capable of so absurdly overstepping his functions in the mere matter of a festive parade, is of course capable of any impudence for which he thinks his superiors will not call him to account. And in these instances he would probably rather be called to account than not, since the hullabaloo raised by the radicals would (as he thinks) help his political prospects.

This sequestration order is not made in the interest of white loyalists who have lost their property, but as a means of commending General Sikes to the radicals by furthering their confiscation policy. Those who have lost property by Rebel sequestration are the only persons interested in redress, and they need no aid from General Sikes. If the sequestered property consisted in real estate, their title-deeds held good, and they can eject adverse possessors by a simple action at law. Any court will enforce their claims, all decrees of the Rebel Government being utterly void. In cases where consumable property was taken, the losers, we suppose, are without remedy except by the radical method of confiscation. There can be no restitution of the actual property taken which has become nonexistent; the Rebel Government lost all assets out of which compensation could be made; and the United States are of course not liable in damages. Such losers stand on the same footing as farmers whose crops or cattle were taken to supply the Rebel armies. They suffer the irreparable losses incident to war. General Sikes can render them no aid, for he has no funds out of which he can make compensation, nor any authority to apply money to this use if he had it. It may be said that all his order calls for is information. But the law under which he acts does not make him a collector of such information. If Congress wants it as the basis of a confiscation act, Congress can next winter appoint a committee to procure it; or it can, if it chooses, lay this duty on its five military satraps. But by no existing law has Congress made any such requirement; and General Sikes is running before he is sent.

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