

THE NEW YORK PRESS.

EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS—CONTINUED FROM SATURDAY MORNING.

Our System of Taxation—Necessity of Reform.

Mr. Secretary McCulloch, in his report of last December, submitted an inquiry which will by-and-by acquire paramount importance. How shall the necessary revenue be raised under a system of internal and external taxes, without sustaining monopolies, without repressing industry, without discouraging enterprise, without oppressing labor?

Mr. McCulloch made no attempt to discuss the question he had raised, or to suggest the answer of which it is susceptible. That task he resigned to Mr. Wells, whose report as Special Commissioner of the Revenue forms the only official notice of the subject which has yet appeared.

Its author seems to have labored under a sense of the necessity of adapting his proposed changes to the predetermined will of Congress, and hence, while its exposure of the disease is conclusive, its prescription of remedies is weak and unsatisfactory.

The burden of national taxation is bad enough when stated in its simplest form, free from the local loads, which vary according to circumstances, but in the aggregate render it intolerable.

A sound fiscal system confines itself within the narrowest limits, and works through agencies which neither oppress the laborer nor lessen production.

Thus, while England raises her enormous revenue, amounting to \$10-92, gold, per head of its population, from about three-score articles, all told, this country, to raise \$11-46, gold, per head, extends its taxation over sixteen thousand articles!

For this system our law-makers have no excuse. It is the worst possible system, viewed exclusively in relation to the net revenue of the Government.

It is understood that Mr. Wells' visit to Europe is mainly for the purpose of studying the revenue systems in operation there, preliminary to answering the question propounded by his official chief.

Revenue, consisting of at least five competent men, secure in their tenure of office, well paid, and selected because of their fitness and ability.

One of the principal difficulties with which the friends of fiscal reform have to contend, is the general want of information on the subject.

Mr. Atkinson maintains that reforms are feasible by which the national taxation may be reduced from \$11-46, gold, per head, to \$8-00 per head, without diminishing the ability of the Government to provide for the discharge of the debt.

We mention Mr. Atkinson's suggestions incidentally as apropos of our general argument, without supposing that they will suffice to accomplish the reform they are intended to promote.

The interest in the Ritualistic developments in the Church of England continues unabated. Letters from abroad inform us that it constitutes the topic of conversation and discussion upon the highways of travel, in drawing-rooms, literary circles, and that it is absorbing the minds of leading men in Parliament and Convocation.

It does not excite our surprise. To a superficial observer this new movement may appear as did the charge against Paul to Gallo (when he was accused of "preaching men to worship God contrary to the law"), to be a question of words and names.

Let these apostles of Papal mummeries cast off their disguises, and go out from us to their own places, into the Church which countenances these practices—but let them not suppose that English Churchmen and Protestant Christians will suffer their temples to be turned into mass-houses; their sacraments into sacrifices and charms; their worship into dumb shows; their ministers into drawing ceremonies; and the standards of Scriptural faith and Apostolic practice abandoned to Anti-Christ, without a struggle worthy the memory of those brave and good and true men who counted not their lives dear unto them, so that they might keep the faith and testify of the gospel of the grace of God.

The remedy plainly is, to keep the whole subject before the people; to weigh the arguments and sift the evidence upon which such numerous perversions of the Church's teaching are set up. The pulpit, the press, and the agencies of an enlightened Protestant zeal must be employed, that these dreadful errors in doctrine and practice may be exposed and abandoned.

Reconstruction Out of Court. The Supreme Court has dismissed the bill of complaint brought in the name of the State of Georgia to prevent the Reconstruction act from being carried out.

VI, until other order shall be taken by the authority of the Queen's Majesty." The "other order" took place in 1564, which was in these words:—"In the ministrations of the Holy Communion in cathedral and collegiate churches, the principal minister shall use a cope, with Gos-peller and Epistoler agreeably; and with all other prayers to be said at that communion table, to use no copes but surplices."

On the accession of James, nothing was done to rescind the previous legislation under Elizabeth. In 1604 the canons were passed which are almost a verbal transcript of the advertisements. The twenty-fourth Canon reads: "In all Catholic and collegiate churches the Holy Communion shall be administered upon principal feast days, sometimes by the Bishop, if he be present, and sometimes by the Dean, and sometimes by a Canon or Prebendary, the principal minister using a decent cope, and being assisted with the Gos-peller and Epistoler, agreeably according to the advertisements published Anno 7, Elizabeth."

Canon 58 says: "Every minister saying the public prayers, or ministering the sacraments, or other rites of the Church, shall wear a decent and comely surplice, with sleeves, to be provided at the charge of the parish. And if any question arise touching the decency or comeliness thereof, the same shall be decided by the discretion of the Ordinary. Furthermore, such ministers as are graduates shall wear upon their surplices, at such times, such hoods as by the orders of the Universities are agreeable to their degrees, which no minister shall wear (being no graduate), under pain of suspension. Notwithstanding, it shall be lawful for such ministers as are not graduates to wear upon their surplices, instead of hoods, some decent tippets of black, so it be not silk."

The second rubric at the beginning of morning prayer, in the second Prayer Book of Edward, in 1552, expressly forbids those vestments which were authorized by the first Prayer Book of Edward in 1549. The language is:—"And here it is to be noted, that the minister, at the time of this communion, and at all other times in his ministrations, shall use neither alb, vestment, nor cope, but being Archbishop or Bishop, he shall have and wear a surplice only." (See "Liturgie Britanica," by Keeling, p. 3.)

In the revision by the Savoy Conference, we do not discover that any exception was taken to the existing practice as to church vestments, which renders it highly probable that these objectionable vestments now pleaded for under the rubric were not then worn—and it should be remembered that the same rubric was in the Prayer Book of Elizabeth, which also forbids the use of vestments, and the canons retained it in 1662, because, as we must believe, the advertisements and canons sufficiently qualified the rubric.

We rejoice that the whole subject will be brought before Parliament. Bishops and archbishops have remonstrated in vain. The Archbishop of Canterbury has expressed the fear that the intervention of the Parliament is necessary to the security of the establishment. The English people are fast becoming disaffected towards the Church of their fathers; dissenters are rapidly multiplying; the Romish Church is offering Glorias and Ave Marias to Heaven, and rewards to those on earth to consummate the "possession" of the clergy, and the whole nation is threatened with the somnolent apathy, the stolid conservatism, and the enslaving power of the Papal hierarchy.

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party, but over the control of political power; and that with such a controversy a court of equity had nothing to do. This argument will, we believe, be found to have decided the judgment of the Court. If so, the whole scheme of resistance to the act of Congress must fail; for there is no possible method by which judicial intervention can be obtained in time to save the de facto Governments of the Southern States.

And yet, notwithstanding all the perils of such a decision, it is clear that it is justified by reason and experience. There is a point in all controversies beyond which no court can safely go. Political economy has demonstrated that human legislation has its sphere, in attempting to transcend which, no matter how worthy the motive may be, it only works the mischief as it strives to attain an ideal.

Purely political controversies are, of all things, the least amenable to the jurisdiction of the courts. The existence of a State, the existence and justice of a war, or the validity of a revolutionary change in the form of Government, are all of them questions which no nation ever allowed its courts to determine.

All devices for protection against the will of a decided majority of the governing class are, in a constitutional sense, unwarrantable. It is more than to thrust a few judges across the path which such a majority have resolved to pursue. As the Attorney-General pointed out in his argument, two-thirds of Congress, united in the pursuit of any object, can crush everything which stands in their way.

The speedy reorganization of the South under the Reconstruction act is now made all but certain; and this done, it is the duty of all friends of peace, prosperity, and reform to press for the adoption of a constitutional amendment prohibiting disfranchisement or other political distinctions on account of color.

Our Political Difficulties—The Solution. We begin to realize what a legacy of troubles our civil war has left us in the South. The New Orleans riot, the Memphis riot, the Mobile riot, the Richmond riot, and the disturbed elements of society in most of the cities, as well as in some parts of the country, all show a very disordered state of things and point to danger in the future.

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whirlwind. The negroes would have been quiet, rejoicing in their new-born freedom, and would have gone to work cultivating the soil and improving their condition, had they been left alone. Now that their passions and cupidity have been aroused, they are looking for confiscation and a distribution of the lands among them, exemption from labor and elevation to positions they are totally unprepared to occupy.

What should be done to neutralize or stop this agitation for political power, which is fraught with so much disaster? Settle the question of the next Presidential election at once. That is the first and most important step. Let the people of the loyal States—yes, of the Southern States, too—take up the question in earnest and without delay.

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