THE NEW YORK PRESS.

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

Presidential Jokes.

From the Tribune.

Doomed, doubtless for our sins, to read all the speeches made by the President and his followers, not less than those made to the President and his followers, our weary eyes have often run down the closely printed column in search of that cheerful interpolation by which the reporters (sly dogs!) point out the jokes, just as a painter wrote, "This is a horse," under his problematical *chef d'œuvre;* and we have come to the agreeable conclusion that the American people are the easiest to tickle in the world, and beat the gods all hollow in ready and resonant laughter. Nor is it every nation which can boast of so many statesmen who are also wags of first-rate water; and we do not see why our Secretary of State should not follow the great example of Lord Bacon, and leave a jest-book for the recreation of future ages. It is wonderful how little fun will set a whole company to crowing. Thus, in the grave and academic groves of Yale, when the Secretary was introduced to the students as an LL. D. of that College, Mr. Seward, bowing, said "*Ad eundem.*" (Laughter.) For six long hours we have studied this joke, analyzed it, translated it, transported it, put it in the form of a conundrum, paraphrased it into an epigram, rendered it into Greek, read it backwards, sought for its esoteric and exoteric meaning, expecting every moment to burst into involuntary convulsions of mirth, but baffled, weary, and disappointed, we have come to the conclusion that its delicate essence was incapable of transportation, or that its distinguished author at that moment of delivery must have aided the comprehension of his auditors by some gesture or physiognomical expression at the precise moment of his delivery. Nothing is flatter than flat champagne, and this, doubtless, was an excellent quirk at the instant of its primal pop. We can only regret that we were not on the spot to enjoy it.

But the humors of P. M. G. Randall, upon the same occasion, were equally recondite, and quite as enthusiastically snickered at. "He had conceived a very unfavorable opinion of Yale College, because it always turns out the best of men." (Laughter and cheers.) The joke, evidently, here is en the words "turns out," that is, expels or rusticates. The students must be incorrigibly sad set of boys if they found anything to laugh at in this melancholy suggestion. If the P. M. G. had ever been rusticated himself, he would know that there is no fun in it whatever. What the Dons of the College thought of this flippant allusion to this most fearful penalty which it is in their power to inflict, we do not pretend to know; they may, for politeness sake, have joined in the laughter, in a hollow kind of way, but their private indignation must have wrenched the very Hebrew and Greek roots out of them, and we should not be surprised to learn that they determined on the spot never to make the P. M. G. either an A. B., or an A. M., or an LL.D., or a Ph. D., or an S. T. D., even *speciali gratia.*

We have a large collection of jokes, made at different points of the Presidential progress, but they are too numerous for commentary in our crowded columns, and we mean to keep them for private discipline and self-mortification at those moments when the exuberance of our spirits may be inconsistent with just views of the melancholy nature of human life. There are several quips of the President's making which might have set Democritus himself to blubbering; but we have compassion on our readers, and forbear to quote them.

The Fate of Maximilian and the Case of Jeff. Davis.

From the Herald.

In the interminable Mexican correspondence of Mr. Seward there is one little passage-at-arms between him and M. Drouyn de Lhuys, at that time French Minister of Foreign Affairs, which is worth reproducing. Maximilian had issued his decree of outlawry against the fighting Mexican Liberals, numbers of prisoners captured by the Imperialists under that decree had been executed, and still the bloody work continued. In the name of civilization and the cause of humanity Mr. Seward appealed to the French Government to interpose and put an end to this savage mode of warfare. The facetious French Minister substantially responded:—"Why do you appeal to us to redress these wrongs? Why not call upon the Government of Mexico—that which you recognize, the Government of Juarez? He is your man." The point of this humorous reply will be understood when it is remembered that just then Juarez was the dimmest shadow of a ruler, cooped up in El Paso, on the extreme northern frontier of Mexico, with not an inch of ground he could call his own, and depending for his personal safety on his chances in the last resort of escaping from the French dragoons by running over the river into the United States. But what a commentary upon this grim joke of the French Government do we now read in the terrible ending of Maximilian and his empire! The moral of this scrap of history, which we commend to the Emperor Napoleon, is this, how narrow is the vision of the keenest sighted diplomat in regard to coming events!

We might further pursue this inviting text, but for the more attractive argument suggested by the peculiar views of the New York *Tribune* on the fate of Maximilian. The philosopher Greeley, who in the matter of human kindness yields the generous milk of a Durham cow, says that he feels more keenly this cruelty to Maximilian "because of our treatment of Jefferson Davis." We had men among us with whom, "like the cannibals of Africa, the only fruits of victory were the wasted bodies of their enemies." Horrible thought! "But the better sense of the people prevailed, and the leader in one of the greatest rebellions was set free," says the rejoicing Greeley. The people! What had the people to do with it? Nothing. What are the leading facts in this case? Simply these:—Jefferson Davis was the chief of the most formidable rebellion in history. His armies at length were beaten, and, fearful of that "sour apple tree," he fled, and was heading for Cuba or Mexico, when a proclamation was issued from President Johnson denouncing him as a conspirator with others in the assassination of President Lincoln, and offering a reward of one hundred thousand dollars for his capture. He was captured in Georgia by a detachment of Union troopers; he was brought back to Virginia, and locked up as a prisoner in Fortress Monroe.

Months have elapsed with Davis under lock and key, when the idea that he is to be tried as a murderer is superseded by the general impression that in the course of time, if he lives, he is to be tried as a traitor. But between the new idea of President Johnson and the technical quibblings of Chief Justice Chase, and the difficulties suggested by the Attorney-General, and the backing and filling of the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives, the chief of rebeldom continues to be held as a prisoner for nearly two years, without any trial, or any prospect of a trial as murderer or traitor. At last, chiefly through the activity in his behalf of his principal legal adviser, Mr. Charles O'Conor, of this city, he is brought up before Judge Underwood, of the United States District Court, at Richmond, in the character of a Rebel. It is then found that by a law of 1862 Rebellion is a bailable offense, and Mr. O'Conor, beginning with the "milk of human kindness" man, Greeley, between whom and the subjugated John Minor Botts, Gerrit Smith is sandwiched, triumphantly parades his roll of bondsmen to the tune of one hundred thousand dollars. Thus released, through the patient and skilful management of Charles O'Conor, Davis, like a conquering hero, hastens from "the Yankee flag" to the new Dominion of Canada, that "happy hunting ground," as peace makers, of Jake Thompson, C. C. Clay, Bev. Tucker, George Sanders, Horace Greeley and Colorado Jewett.

These are the leading facts in this case of Jeff. Davis, from which it is apparent that O'Conor is the lion of the play and Greeley chief of the donkeys. A hundred thousand dollars is first offered and then paid for the capture of Davis as an assassin, another hundred thousand is expended in holding him as a prisoner, and then he is discharged on the promise of Greeley and others to fork over a hundred thousand in case the accused shall fail to come to time when called for to be tried as a Rebel. In this financial exhibit the Government is out of pocket two hundred thousand dollars. Does anybody suppose that for a hundred years to come, by the court at Richmond, before which he is bound in that other hundred thousand, Davis will be called for? No. What, then, have we to boast of in this business? We can boast that, from President Johnson down to Judge Underwood, all our Government officials have acted like a parcel of weak-headed and foolish old grannies, that Greeley has been consistent with his Niagara negotiations, that the Government stands disgraced before the world in the detention and in the discharge of the prisoner, that Davis is not an assassination conspirator nor a traitor, but that he is only a Rebel, and that rebellion is not treason.

Now, we hold that in the person of the head chief of the late Rebellion the people of the United States, while they did not desire the blood of the prisoner, did desire and expect a trial which would define and establish the crime of treason, and the powers of the Government in suppressing a rebellion of individuals or States and in punishing the conspirators and in reconstructing the States involved in it. Thus, what has been settled by the war, it was expected, would be established as the law. In all this the country has been disappointed; and as the case of Davis stands to-day, he needs only a pardon from President Johnson to become Greeley's candidate for the next Presidency.

In Mexico, where they have had a longer experience in revolutions, they deal more decisively, right or wrong, with their defeated revolutionary leaders. Maximilian, with the empire No. 2, has been dealt with as was Yturbide, of the empire No. 1. Santa Anna may be placed in the same category, and, considering that three or four banishments have not cured him, he will probably be the next victim of a file of soldiers, if not already put out of the way. Juarez may justify himself on the plea of sacrificing Maximilian to save his own life. As it is, his next turn may be the reopening of his old cigar store in New Orleans. A parallel between the semi-barbarians of Mexico and the people of the United States does not touch the Mexican in reference to Maximilian's execution. We might as well hold up the usages of civilized warfare to the white squatters of Colorado in behalf of the Indians. States and communities are controlled by the circumstances around them, as we have been in this case of Jeff. Davis, and as the Mexicans have been in the case of Maximilian, and as the Colorado white squatters are in their bounties for Indian scalps with the ears on. Such cheap magnanimity as that of Greeley in behalf of Jeff. Davis will provoke a laugh from the incredulous Mexicans, and it is worth nothing more.

The Murder of Maximilian.

From the Times.

There is little room for doubt that Maximilian has been shot by the Republican Government of Mexico, which first bribed one of his officers to betray him. The Austrian Embassy at Washington seems to have received official advices to this effect.

There is not a man anywhere, with a spark of honorable feeling in his nature, who will hear this news without emotion—without sympathy for this noble and gallant young Prince, and detestation for the monsters who have glutted their vengeance in his blood. He has been the victim of selfish treachery from the very beginning. He was betrayed into the adventure by the Emperor of France, who afterwards deserted him, and when, taking counsel of his courage and his honor rather than his fears, he persisted in maintaining the contest long after it had become hopeless, he fell finally into the hands of his enemies only through the mercenary treachery of one of the Mexican officers who had been fighting by his side.

Nothing could be more manly or more honorable than the conduct of Maximilian through the whole of this most unhappy adventure. His personal bearing has been beyond reproach. Deserted by those who had engaged him in the enterprise, abandoned by the powerful ruler who, for his own purposes, had forced him (to use his own language) to "choose between death and dishonor," afflicted beyond measure in the affliction worse than death which fell upon his devoted wife—all these griefs and tribulations only nerved his naturally gentle spirit to a heroic temper, and opened for him a career of sacrifice and courage which will give him a loftier and more lasting place in history than any success, however brilliant, could have won.

Those who remember only the political mission of the Austrian Prince, should in justice recall the circumstances under which he entered upon it. He did not come unasked—he was invited by Mexicans, who, he was told, represented the real sentiment of the nation, to aid in its deliverance from anarchy and ruin. He sought, not the conquest, but the regeneration of the country to which he had been invited. He refused the invitation until it had been sanctioned and seconded, as he believed, by the voice of the people. He was a stranger to its broils, and owed no allegiance to any of the parties which were contending for mastery upon the ruins of its peace and prosperity. From our point of view his victory would have been a calamity—not that it would have made the condition of Mexico worse than it is, but because it would have struck a disastrous blow at the cause of republicanism on this continent. But he could not be expected to regard the subject in this light. He was not pledged to the Monroe doctrine—he had no faith in republican principles, for he had never had experience of them; and he believed, sincerely and truly, that foreign intervention was absolutely essential to the regeneration and redemption of the Mexican nation.

His death will convince more than half the world, before incredulous, that he was right. It is hard to believe that men capable of such a crime are capable of self-government, or fit to be entrusted with authority. They are insensible alike to every sentiment of honor and to every dictate of prudence. The brutal instinct—the thirst for blood—is uppermost in their natures. The hour of victory is with them not the hour for generous sentiments, but for revenge, for cruelty, for insolent defiance of all magnanimous policy and of the public sentiment of the Christian world.

The murder of Maximilian, which is but one of the scores of murders that mark their triumph, bodes ill for the Republican Government of Mexico. It deprives it of all sympathy from other nations, and brings upon it the distrust, the scorn, and the hatred of them all. And it shows that it is no national triumph that has been achieved—it is no victory of principle prevailing over faction, and finding its consummation in the development of a generous and kindly patriotic sentiment. It is simply a triumph of faction—low in its aims, never more venomous than in its success, and violent and cruel just in proportion to the helplessness of its disabled victims. There is no hope of lasting peace for a party or a government which celebrates so signal a triumph by so signal a crime.

Why We Are Warring with Savages.

From the World.

The hostility of the Indians on the plains will increase in a measure exactly proportionate to the direct and uncompromising hostility against them of the resident whites and the United States military forces. A decisive contest with these people must necessarily be so barbarous, so long continued, and so costly, that it would be a relief to hear that General Sherman was successfully trying to inaugurate such a pacific policy as would bring about another series of unmistakable treaties with them before the co-operative measures of defense and offense which they are now perfecting are matured. The difficulties in the way of dealing with the Indians now are chiefly these:—

1. The Government treaties with most of the tribes, whereby regular annuities of money and goods were to be paid to them, have been shamefully broken by several Government agents and commissioners, who withheld for years, through various cheating devices for their own benefit and that of the traders with whom they were allied, the dues to the Indians placed in their charge.

2. The troops quartered on the plains have repeatedly invaded the territory set apart for the Indians, for the purpose of locating wagon roads, protecting parties in search of mines, and establishing the nuclei of white settlements where there was no right to establish them. The new road to the Montana gold mines is one of these routes.

3. Both the Pacific Railroad lines, which are being built westward from the Missouri directly penetrate the tracts belonging to the Indians, and the building parties employed have been, from the first, accustomed to have arms in racks attached to the ceilings of the cars, to defend themselves against the very naturally expected resistance of the savages.

4. The overland and several branch routes intrude likewise upon Indian territory; so that it is customary for the officials and ostlers employed at the different stations, and the drivers of stages and wagons, to keep small armories of rifles, shot guns, and revolvers handy to repel an attack.

5. Since the understanding has become general that the Indians were to be regarded as always hostile, the setters and frontiersmen of Montana, Colorado, and other territories, the employés of the overland route and of the overland express companies, and the working parties of the two Pacific Railroads, are all said to have assumed an attitude of deadly enmity towards the Indians; to have formed themselves into parties for scalp-hunting; to have, in fact, resolved upon and pursued the policy of shooting all Indians at sight, and holding no peaceful communication with them.

6. The United States Military Commanders and the agents of the Department of the Interior, at the late council held with Satanta and other chiefs, did not suggest or intimtae any desire or intention on the part of the Government to revalidate the treaties with, and restore the theretofore existing rights of, the several tribes; but, on the contrary, dealt merely in vague assurances that other territories would be set apart for them at the discretion of the Government, coupled with irritating threats against them in case they should not behave themselves as the Government and their white neighbors desired them to behave.

These are the facts. It is probable, also, that the railroad companies and the Territorial officials would rather prefer, than otherwise, an exterminating Indian war. The former would have a great deal of profitable transportation to do, and are, besides, anxious to realize upon their immense grants of land before the Indian title to them is extinguished in the ordinary way. The latter would have an indirect interest in the benefit which would accrue to contractors, traders, and speculators in the Government debt incurred, in the Territories. With the Indian business in such a muddle; with a feeling of uncompromising hostility among the Western people and officials aroused to oppose any peaceful solution of the difficulties, it is not very surprising that we are being brought nearer every day to a barbarous war of extermination, which would cost the Federal Treasury hundreds of millions of dollars.

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W. W. CASSIDY,
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ASKS ATTENTION TO HIS
VARIED AND EXTENSIVE STOCK
OF
GOLD AND SILVER WATCHES
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Customers may be assured that none but the articles, at reasonable prices, will be sold at his
A fine assortment of
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WATCHES and JEWELRY carefully repaired; orders by mail promptly attended to. [4 10 wm

SPECIAL NOTICE
TO PROPRIETORS OF HOTELS AND STEAMBOAT COMPANIES.
The undersigned beg leave to inform Proprietors of Hotels, Restaurants, and Steamboat Companies that they are now better prepared than ever to furnish them with FIRST QUALITY HARD METAL SILVER SOLDERED, TRIPLE-PLATED TEA WARE, viz.:—Forks and Spoons (heavy stock), Spoons and Tea Castors, Sugars, Creams, Bread and Cake Baskets, Pickle Jars, Side Dishes (all sizes), Soup Cups, Dinner, Dessert, and Tea Knives (plated on plated), and in fact everything required to furnish tables in the most complete manner.
These goods are all of our own manufacture, of the plate, bearing our stamp, and warranted in every respect to be as represented.
Our facilities for getting out goods in the shortest possible space of time are unsurpassed. Having furnished some of the largest Hotels and Steamboats in the country, we refer to them with pride, and our Ware can be examined and seen in daily use at
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MEAD & CO.,
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Would invite the attention of purchasers to their large and handsome assortment of
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Our GOODS are decidedly the cheapest in the city for
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EVERY DESCRIPTION suitable for
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An examination will show my stock to be as represented in quality and cheapness.
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