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EDITORIAL OFINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS-COMPILED EVERY DAT FOR THE EVENING TELEGRAPH.

The Removal of Threekmorton, From the Tribune.

The Military Commanders in the South have responsibilities as heavy as their powers are treat; they are masters of the situation, and br whatever they do or leave undone will be held to the strictest accountability. Very little has yet been done in any of the five districts of which the people disapprove, and

they will most certainly and heartily approve of the removal of Governor Throckmorten, of Texas, of which we are advised by telegraph. This was an act which General Sheridan seriously meditated, and he had, we believe, decided upon it when Stanbery's opinion was published, and Grant requested that all removals of civil officers should be for the time suspended. Sheridan was convinced that the removal of Governor Throckmorton was necessary to maintain good order in Texas. The North has long held the opinion tersely ex-pressed in the order of removal, that Throckmorton was "an impediment to the reconstruction of that State under the law."

Governor Throckmorton, a Rebel Governor, placted in opposition to the feeble Union party of that State, began his administration by pledging himself to support the laws of the United States, and to aid the policy of recon-struction. We do him but justice in saying that we recall no act of his that directly opposed the laws. Unlike Governor Jenkins, of Georgia, he did not counsel the people to prevent reconstruction by refusing to register, and seems to have carefully avoided all open opposition. But he has been guilty of actual opposition as dangerous. He denounced the Reconstruction bill as unjust and tyrannical; approved the odious labor system made by the Legislature, and its other acts intended to keep the freedmen in virtual slavery. He has defeated the intent of the Reconstruction laws by systematically neglecting to execute them; he has refused to assert his authority, and has allowed his disloyal subordinates to act without rein or check; he has abandoned the State to the rule of outlaws, has encouraged murder by neglecting to punish murderers, and has never taken one honest, manly step to make the laws of the United States respected and obeyed. He is a secret and bitter foe of reconstruction, or a weak and timid man who has become the tool of conspirators and desperadoes. In either case he deserved removal; there is no plea that can be received in its favor; we point to the condition of Texas in answer to all excuses, and say that the Governor who makes no effort to suppress a reign of terror, permits it and connives at it, and should be summarily turned out of the office he is unfit

The Lindley murder is one of the notorious instances of Governor Throckmorton's neglect. The Rev. Mr. Lindley was a Union man whose son had been murdered by Rebels, who afterwards were arrested; while attempting to escape two of them were shot by Major Carpenter, and, it is said, by Mr. Lindley. Lindley was placed in jail, whence he wrote to General Heintzelman, declaring that his life was in danger because of his Union principles. Application was made by General Heintzelman to Governor Throckmorton, who replied that Lindley was in no danger from mob violence, and that he would write to the authorities of Bell county, and impress the necessity of strict compliance with the law. Two weeks had not passed before Mr. Lindley, his son, and another prisoner were murdered in jail by a mob of thirty men. So far did Governor Throckmorton's protection extend! Nor did he ever take any steps to punish the assassins, or to remove the civil authorities of Bell county for their guilt. This is but one instance out of hundreds. When, in May last, he sought to convince the freedmen that their best friends were in the Conservative party, the Colored Union Committee truthfully replied: "You have shown no zeal in bringing to justice the many parties in this State who have committed outrages apon Union men and freedmen. We have made diligent search and inquiry, and we have found no case where the murderer has been convicted by a civil tribunal. Your whole action, from the day you deserted the Union cause and took up arms against the United States Government to the present time has been one sstruggle against the loyal sen-timent in this State." Thus it was, and thus it is. But alshort time since we printed the official report of Colonel Sinclair, Superintendent of the Registration in Northeastern Texas, who says that the freedmen are ruled by the shot-gun and the revolver; that they are ignorant of their rights, and afraid to make complaints, and that they will not be allowed to register a vote unless protected by the power of the army. They are shot down daily by gangs of cutthroats, who, when brought before the civil courts, are liberated by the judges, and ride off not only in safety, but in

General Griffin, in command of the State, with an insufficient military force, could not suppress this insurrection. He had the civil authorities against him; he had Governor Throckmorton to thwart him. There were but two ways of restoring order; the first was to send a standing army into Texas; the second to remove Governor Throckmorton. All loyal men prefer the latter. The true policy is not to crush a disloyal civil government in Texas, but to establish one that shall be loyal. General Sheridan has courageously done his duty, and although he may himself be removed for having thrust a bad man from power, he has left to the President the responsibility of turning him out and restoring a Rebel to the gubernatorial chair.

Governor E. M. Pease is a native of Connec tient, who has been a resident of Texas since 1833. He is a lawyer of eminence, and was a consistent Union man throughout the war. He has served in both branches of the Texas Legislature, and was twice elected Governor. serving from 1853 to 1857. He was Republi can candidate for Governor last year, against Throckmorton, and received 12,051 votes to 48,631 for his opponent.

The President and Reconstruction-In-

tended Removal of Sheridan. From the Times.

There seems no longer any doubt as to the intended removal of General Sheridan by the President. All accounts concur in representing it as resolved upon, despite the warnings and remonstrances which the rumor has elicited.

It is difficult to reconcile the President's action in the matter with any intelligent desire for the welfare of the South or the harmony of the Union. The purpose imputed to him in regard to Sheridan would be manifest, him in regard to Sheridan would be manifest, all the factions. Representative journals of and even consistent, if the Administration all the Republican cliques discuss the Presiwere intent upon complicating the quarrel dency with gusto so long as they are per-

with Congress, intensifying the distrust and hostility entertained by the North towards Mr. Johnson, and adding to the difficulties which overshadow the South.

For the promotion of these objects nothing could be more efficacious than the transfer of Sheridan to another sphere of duty. On any other supposition, it is incomprehensible. To call it statesmanship would be an unpardonable perversion of the term. To hold it up to admiration as an intrepid devotion to constitutional principles would, in the circumstances, he simply ridiculous. The most cumstances, be simply ridiculous. The most that can be said in its extenuation is that it is an exercise of the obstinacy which has marked the President's proceedings since the beginning of his differences with the Republican party. He has said and done so much unwisely, wantenly, with no other result than an increase of partisan bitterness and strife. that we ought perhaps to receive each succeeding display of temper without surprise. Nevertheless, in the present case, it is singularly unfortunate. And we predict that the blow, when struck, will do more harm to the President who aims it than the General at whom it is aimed.

We have never been unqualified eulogists of General Sheridan. His mode of acting has been more than once the subject of animadversion in these columns; and the tone of some of his despatches has not accorded with current ideas of military discipline. Apart from these defects of manner and temper, his course as District Commander has earned the confidence and approval of the Union party. It is felt that he has acted uniformly in the interest of the loyal population of his District, and in hearty sympathy with the policy upheld by Congress. He has carried out its views in his administration of the law. His eposition of notoriously untrustworthy civil officers has been indorsed by Congress, which thus made his acts its own. His removal, therefore, will be a fresh issue raised by the President, who is powerless except in the display of spite, with the representatives of the people, whose measures the people approve, and whose power in the premises is virtually absolute. Is this folly only, or the madness

that rushes to destruction?

The country will see in the removal of Sheridan another instance of the President's hostility to the administration of the Reconstruction law-another illustration of his determination, if possible, to thwart the clearly expressed intentions of its authors. The recent session deprived him of the pretexts afforded by Mr. Stanbery's opinions. He can no longer undertake to instruct the Military Commanders in a sense at variance with the well-understood purposes of the law. He has been deprived of authority to meddle with the doings of the commanders, or to dictate the line they shall take. The power to remove the commanders has, however, been left in his hands, and now that Congress has separated, he turns round and uses this power to remove and punish Sheridan, whose sole offense is a faithful compliance with the will of Congress. This, and this only, is the light in which the removal will appear. The President's Washington organ resorts to special pleading, and argues that while the object of Congress implies "pacifying the country and restoring harmony to the Union," the conduct of Sheridan has promoted the opposite results. A fallacy so transparent will not deceive anybody. Sheridan is to be removed, not because he defeats the object of the lawfor Congress has declared that he fulfils itbut because his fidelity to the authorized principles and rules of reconstruction has exposed him to the anger of Rebels and the vindictiveness of the President. He is to be punished, in fact, for the faithful performance of his duty. And the National Intelligencer proclaims that any other of "the Southern satraps" who, by a similar course, may provoke the Executive displeasure, will share Sheridan's fate. By the abuse of the power of removal, then, the President desires to obstruct the working of the law, and to secure the application of his own views through the agency of more accommodating district com-

There is more than bad judgment in this case. Practically, there is bad faith. Weeks ago a disposition to remove Sheridan was attributed to the President, and was disclaimed by journals and correspondents in his behalf. It was alleged that the purpose, if it had ever been entertained, was abandoned. In this way the impression was created that the district commanders would remain unmolested by the Executive. The House, unwilling to rely upon the professions of his friends, provided for the abrogation of his power of removal; but the Senate, reposing greater confidence in his good faith, objected to the provision, and it was omitted from the bill as enacted. Certain it is that the power to remove would have been annulled as distinctly as the power to direct, but for the conciliatory course of Senators who believe that to this extent the President might be trusted. See now how he justifies their moderation and exemplifies his title to confidence! The only authority which Congress leaves him possessed of he exercises to the detriment of its policy. Professing respect for its will, and a determination to carry out its law, his first step is to punish a district commander because he abides by the law rather than the caprices of Mr. Johnson. It was in view of a contingency like this that a demand was urged for a brief adjournment. That demand was resisted as unnecessary, because, forsooth, obstruction need be no more feared from the President. But the removal of Sheridan will demonstrate a readiness to obstruct the operation of the law to the extent of the opportunities still controlled by the Executive.

In the presence of this unexpected difficulty, the country will turn anxiously, yet hopefully, to General Grant, as the virtual administrator of the law. He is invested "with all the powers of suspension, removal, appointment, and detail granted" to district commanders. The President may, indeed, remove the latter, and may appoint others prepared to do his bidding. But that is all. In General Grant is vested the far more important power of revising the action of the President's nominees, reversing what they may do amiss, and directing to be done whatever to his judgment may seem requisite for the safe working of reconstruction. The responsibility, the fidelity, the sagacity of General Grant constitute the only guarantee vouchsafed to us for the adepuate enforcement of the conditions dictated by Congress in the spirit in which they were onceived. To this quarter we look trustfully for the efficiency and the peace which are most unwisely denied by Mr. Johnson.

The Next Presidency—The Canvass Com-

From the Herald. The campaign for the next Presidency has opened; half-a-dozen candidates are already before the public, paced and landed by their respective adherents and admirers, and the canvass is active, for and against, on all the names. The most significant point developed thus far is the shy fighting against Grant from

mitted to merely laud their little favorites—to mention the virtues and claims of Chase, Stanton, Colfax, and Old Ben Wade; but no sooner is the name of Grant heard than there is a sudden change in their manners. It is amusing in such circumstances to hear them deprecate the discussion of the Presidency. They say it is too soon. They urge, then, that the Presidency should be untouched for some time yet, and argue that there are a great many other topics that naturally precede it and ought to be settled first. They run hurriedly over the list of national troubles—reconstruction and the ten torn-up States, the national debt, the Indian war, and so on. This shallow dodge to escape from what they fear to face will avail but little; for the people have already seen and determined that all these national evils are to be settled by settling the great question of the Presidency. The settlement of the Presidency s the necessary preliminary to all other settlements in matters of national policy. It is at the root of all; it underlies and involves all; it is the great first fact for the next period in the life of the country; and if it is settled right all other points will settle themselves in harmonious accordance with it; while any attempt to patch up an arrangement of great national topics in advance of this settlement, and without reference to it, must inevitably end in

One of the more advanced of the Republican organs puts its opposition to Grant on a rather broader basis. It is afraid that, may be, he is not a good enough Republican. It does not know enough of his principles to feel sure of his fidelity or to be satisfied that he is such a true representative of the power and greatness of the nation—so in sympathy with the mass of the people as to make him their proper Executive. It is one of the astonishing things of the age that there are pigmy people-men who have never done anything better in the world than write trashy politics and try experiments on their own precious digestion with bran bread—who have yet the ineffable impudence to stand up and question the fidelity and the genius of a man with General Grant's history. It is the strongest of contradictions that in the United States, whose whole people are entitled to honor for what they have done more than for what they have said, whose greatness is in their achievements, not in their speeches-in the ideas they have wrought into tremendous facts rather than framed in fine sentences-it is a strange contradiction that in such a country, in the midst of such a people, that man should be decried and questioned who has given the most direct evidence that he is a real type of the people, in having done more than any other man, and said less. To this Wendell Phillips argument—this phrasemonger's notion-that the man who has led the American people to the most wonderful achievements of the age has no ideas and no principles, because he has not written and will not write political letters to two or three men in Massachusetts, we will make no serious

Yet we are happy to be able to state that General Grant has a platform, and one that will bear comparison with the platform of any professed politician in the country. His first plank relates to what the American people should do. He believes they should cultivate the soil. He holds that it ought to be the ambition of every American citizen to be a good farmer, and acknowledges and declares that that is his own "greatest ambition." His reduction of Vicksburg, his capture of Chattanooga, and final destruction of all the Rebel armies, were only incidents in his career, and each success welcome as bringing nearer the happy day when he should go home and smell fresh earth and take a pride in the ripened grain of his farm. From this natural occupation a man may turn for one paramount reason-his duty to his country. To mind that duty is the first great thing a man has to do in life. This is another plank in the platform, and this will disgust the radicals, who believe that a man's first duty is not to his country, but to his party. Grant also holds that when a man has performed this duty he ought to retire to private life. This point in the candidate's principles is expected to secure him the opposition of all the officeholders, including Seward, Welles, and Stanton, who will never retire to private life if they can help it. Grant believes that he has done his duty, and feels, at all events, that he has earnestly tried to do it; nevertheless, if the country still calls, he is ready. If the people wish to give him the Presidency he will take it; he will defer his retirement at the national bidding, though when he has done his duty in that line for four or eight years he will expect to be allowed to go home, giving up politics and every possible public office.

This is the best platform ever laid down since the first invention of that dangerous piece of political machinery. We are aware, nowever, that it does not tell what the party men want to know, and will not silence their clamor; for it gives no indication how they may get at the candidate with their bargains. When a partisan journal declares that it does not know a public man's principles, it means that it does not know his price; it means that the clique it represents has not yet had a chance to see the candidate and find out how he stands with respect to their little gameswhether he will concede this post office or that ministry in consideration of the support of the faction; and exactly this is what is meant by those Republican journals who say they do not know the principles of the man whose principles are ineffaceably written in the history of the war. They say to mention his name for the Presidency is premature. will always be premature till they have made their bargains, and thus they will be telling their readers it is premature when the people with unanimous decision have declared ballot that Grant is the man.

A Trap for General Grant. From the World.

Although General Grant has no experience in the crooked ways of poitics, he is too shrewd and cautious to be drawn into a Republican ambuscade. The only reason why any part of the Republican party have proposed him for the Presidency, is their fear that he may be nominated by the Democrats. There is nothing in his character or his antecedents which can recommend him to the Republicans. He was bred, and, as we may say, born a Democrat; his father being a staunch supporter of Democratic principles, as the public well know from the conversation between him and President Johnson, reported in the newspapers last year. During the war General Grant won his laurels by hard and skilful fighting, never once attempting to court the party in power by incense to their black At the close of the war, the terms of surrender he accorded to General Lee and the Rebel army were so liberal and generous as to give universal dissatisfaction to the Republican party. When the Southern State Governments had been reconstructed under the auspices of President Johnson, General Grant made a tour of inspection in the South and reported that the people gave satisfactory proofs of loyalty, and deserved to be trusted.

Congress after the war, and so hostile was General Grant's report deemed to the spirit General Grant's report deemed to the spirit and policy of that bedy, and so favorable to the immediate admission of the Southern Representatives, that Mr. Summer bitterly denounced it, in his place in the Senate, as a "white-washing report," and compared it to an odious Democratic document sent to Congress ten years before palliating the "border ruffian'' outrages in Kansas, General Grant's personal character is as little in harmony with the Republican party as is his past history. His cool, imperturbable temperament is singularly at variance with the impatient ardor and hot chullitions in which the Republicans resemble all revolutionary parties.

General Grant and his well-wishers have

reason to suspect something sinister when a party distinguished for impetuous fauaticist and extreme opinions make proffers to a self. contained man of habitual moderation to be their standard-bearer. These proffers are a plot to prevent his nomination by the Demoerats. General Grant has such strong elements of availability, that the Republicans dare not advance a step in their arrangements for the Presidential canvass until he is in some way disposed of. They perceive that there are but two ways of preventing his nomination by the Democratic partyone by nominating him themselves, the other by tempting him into such political declaration as would render it impossible for Democrats to support him. He will be given to understand that a large portion of the Republican party desires to make him President, but that another large portion, without whose cooperation his friends cannot succeed, cannot be won to his support unless he will publicly commit himself to the Republican party. The moment he should do this he would be contemptuously flung out of political contemplation. His personal friends in the Republican party (and he has many) could not save him. The only persuasive argument they can use to the stauncher Republicans is, "If we do not nominate General Grant the Democrats will, and his personal availability is so great that enough would go over from our side to elect him." radicals see that if he can be entrapped into endorsing the Republican policy, this argument will be deprived of all force. The radical newspapers are giving him surly words; but they are careful to raise only political objections, and hold out the hope that if General Grant will make an unequivocal pledge to the Republican party, they may be induced to accept him. His Republican friends will pro-bably advise him to yield to this demand; but they would unwittingly lure him to his ruin. The moment he should make such a declaration, and thus preclude all possibility of his receiving any Democratic votes, the radicals would be masters of the situation. They would then insist on nominating some candidate whose principles have always been attuned to their own.

This obvious view will enable us to interpret the article on "President-making by Guess" in yesterday's Tribune. "A few politicians by trade," says the Tribune, "are intent on opening the Presidential canvass, bringing forward General Grant as their candidate." The sentences which next follow, and indeed the style of the whole article, clearly disclose the hand of Mr. Greeley. "We neither affirm nor deny," continues the Tribune, "the fitness of this choice. There are features of General Grant's character which incline us to regard him with favor, especially his magnanimity to the ex-Rebels." This dexterous hit is at once a defense of Greeley and a thrust at Grant. It strikes the aforesaid "politicians by trade" (meaning Thurlow Weed and Company) between wind and water; for they have brandished their scalping-knives about the head of Mr. Greeley for the same kind of "magnanimity to ex-Rebels," which he dexterously (and truly) charges upon General Grant. Tribune then proceeds to invite General Grant to show the Republican colors, in this characteristic strain :-

"Time may prove that he is the man for the ut the question cannot now be deter-We need to understand more clearly issues on which that election is to turn and the views of the rival candidates relative

The people are not in the mood for trying any grab-bag experiments. They will insist on having a President who fully knows his own mind with regard to the political situation, and who has not essentially another mind from theirs. They have once or twice taken candidates on trust, and have not been encouraged to research the venture. to repeat the venture. And when they see that General Grant's name is the Shibboleth of a number of the most discredited of the campfollowers and shoddy patriots of the late war, who barked at the heels of the sorely beset republic whenever it was constrained to take a step forward in the course waich led through emancipation to triumph, they will be more strenuous in their demands for light than if the

General were not cursed by such backers. "Many things are forgiven to a party which has not outlived its ideas and its work; but one bing is never forgiven, and that is distrust of the correctness and value of its own principles. The Whig party was badly beaten in the de-feat of Clay by Polk in 1844—sorely to its own amazement and grief; yet its vitality was so little impaired that it elected the next House of Representatives and the next Governor of New York. Four years later it succeeded with General Taylor, but lost the House of Repre-sentatives chosen along with him, was beaten out of sight in the next one, and never recovered its vitality. And the reason was, that in its contest for Mr. Clay's election it boidly proclaimed and defended its convictions, asking verdict thereon; while in that for General Tay-lor's it rather concealed and evaded a distinct issue of principle, trusting for success to factitious apppeal and clap-trap instrumentali

"Let us repeat, to repel misrepresentation, that "Let us repeat, to repel misrepresentation, that we do not call in question the itness of choosing General Grant as the Republican candidate for President. We will consider that point in due time. What we do say is, that the Republican candidate must represent and embody Republican principles, and be neither afraid nor ashamed to avow his faith in them, and his willingness to stand or fail by them. His personal qualities and popularity are important considerations, but his fearless, explicit devotion to Republican ideas is a primary and essential requisite."

We suppose General Grant is not the kind of man to walk into a well; but only a politician, who would walk into a well with his eyes open, could be caught in such a trap as is set for this great soldier. The radicals were never more sincere than they are in their wish to proselyte General Grant and draw from him a public profession of faith. But it is only to remove the danger of his nomination by the Democrats. This done, they would scorn and slaughter him as a renegade Democrat who had been seduced to profess new principles by the hope of office.

PETROLEUM IN FRANCE.-The French are making fresh discoveries of bituminous shale, capable of yielding petroleum by distillation. One of the most recently worked deposits is that of Vagnas, in Ardeche, which has been carefully described by M. L. Simonin. It belongs essentially to the tertiary formation, and is more strictly of the "bog-head" type than of the bituminous shale series. Its texture is dense and compact, resembling a carbonised and compressed peat. The peaty character is still further shown by the presence of a number of vegetable fibres, which may be seen with the naked eye, and which pass from the surface into the interior of the deposit.

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