

SPRIT OF THE PRESS.

Editorial opinions of the leading journals upon current topics—compiled every day for the Evening Telegraph.

Michigan's New Constitution.

From the N. Y. Tribune. The State Convention of Michigan has finished its labors and adjourned. The new Constitution affirms that all power of government is inherent in the people.

The State has thirty-two members, but after 1870 may have thirty-three—one extra for the thirty-second District (Detroit). They hold for four years, half being chosen each second year.

The House shall have not more than 110 members, chosen by single districts for two years. After the first fifty days of a session no bill shall be heard save by a two-thirds vote.

The elective franchise is restricted to persons of twenty-one years of age, having three months' residence in the State, and ten days in the district.

The article on "Finance and Taxation" presents no novelties, save that the State is forbidden to take shares in public improvements, except in disposing of grants made to the State.

The militia is regulated after the usual plan. Private corporations for railroads, banks, manufacturing, etc., shall be raised under general laws, and no special charter shall issue except by assent of two-thirds of each House.

No money shall be appropriated or drawn from the treasury for the benefit of any religious sect or society, theological or religious seminar, or school, under denominational control, nor for the benefit of any institution, nor for any religious or sectarian purpose.

These are the chief provisions in the draft of the Constitution before us. The matter of prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors is to be submitted separately to the people, and endorsed at the polls will become thenceforward a part of the organic law.

"At the election, at the same time when the votes of the electors shall be taken for the adoption or rejection of this Constitution, an additional section, numbered —, in the words following:—The Legislature shall pass any act authorizing the grant of license for the sale of ardent spirits or intoxicating liquors, but shall by law prohibit the sale of the same as a beverage."

A separate ballot may be given by every person having the right to vote, and the ballots shall be deposited in a separate box. Upon the ballots given for said separate section shall be written or printed, or partly written and partly printed, the words "Prohibition—Yes" and upon the ballots given against the adoption of the said section, in like manner, the words "Prohibition—No."

The changes in the new Constitution are few, but are in the way of progress. The rum prohibition is the most important; that prohibiting the giving of public money for sectarian purposes is noteworthy, as is the voting of taxes upon the cash value of property, instead of upon the whims of ignorant or prejudiced assessors.

The Maritime Rights of Neutrals in Time of War.

From the N. Y. Times. It will, perhaps, be scarcely less surprising to some to find a liberal thinker like Mr. Mill defending privateering as a proper and legitimate belligerent right, than to find a great philosopher like Carlyle defending human slavery as a Divine institution.

During the long and bloody struggle which marked the opening of the century, the first Napoleon found in the expedient of privateering an agency invaluable in view of the unequal naval strength of the two great belligerents. And that agency was employed with a destructive energy to which there was probably no parallel in the history of war.

The privateer "Onondaga" was fitted for the sea before she had fairly organized for the fight, it is doubtful whether the Declaration of Paris, or any similar agreement of an international character, would have been respected in our case.

Mr. Mill's examination of the Declaration of Paris, in the abstract, is close and pointed. He asks how war is to be made more humane by shooting at people's bodies instead of taking their property?

From the N. Y. Tribune. This body has adjourned, after doing as nearly nothing as possible, that is, if the daily reports have fairly set forth its work.

The principle of cooperation was recommended; a representative was chosen to make the tour of Europe, with an inexplicit commission to gather facts pertaining to the labor system there, and to the practical working of cooperation; a step was taken to form a workmen's political party; and a report was adopted which aims to secure better State laws in respect to apprentices.

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man could be counted with us in the great work; but whatever his convictions in this matter, we repeat the warning to keep clear of workmen's political organizations.

The Cabinet Resignations. From the N. Y. Herald. We have long pictured naught but clashing elements in the President's Cabinet.

Mr. McCulloch must not be retained. Upon the finances of the country hangs the nation's greatness or its bankruptcy, with all the attendant ruin. The national debt of three thousand millions, with the corruption that hangs to its management, demands the ablest financial brain in the country to set it into such trained channels that the nation will be willing to shape her destiny upon its wise administration.

As for Mr. Seward, there is no doubt but that the country has suffered sufficiently under his maladministration of its foreign affairs. He has done more to injure republican institutions on this continent than can be repaired in any reasonable time.

The President and Congress are all Republicans together. Heretofore they have, through the Cabinet, been divided on personal issues. The country has, in the meantime, looked on aghast at the real issue presented, and seen, in the exclusion of the white man from the ballot and the forcing of the negro into power, the restoration of political chaos.

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From the N. Y. World. Elections will shortly be held in the following States, viz.:—California, September 2; Maine, September 9; Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Iowa, October 8; Massachusetts, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, November 5. Of these elections those which excite the most attention and interest are the contests for the Governorship of California and Ohio, and the choice of a Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, in place of Judge George W. Woodward, in Pennsylvania.

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The Chicago Labor Congress.

This body has adjourned, after doing as nearly nothing as possible, that is, if the daily reports have fairly set forth its work. A contemporary sums up the fruits of the Congress thus:—"The principle of cooperation was recommended; a representative was chosen to make the tour of Europe, with an inexplicit commission to gather facts pertaining to the labor system there, and to the practical working of cooperation; a step was taken to form a workmen's political party; and a report was adopted which aims to secure better State laws in respect to apprentices."

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The Salzburg Conference.

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