SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS-COMPILED EVERY DAY POR THE EVENING TELEGRAPH.

The Cabinet-Why It Has Not Been Changed, and Why It Should be Changed. From the N. Y. Herald.

Again we have a report from Washington that Mr. McCulloch is about to leave the Cabinet. For two years we have been hearing rumors of changes in the Cabinet. It has been a stock theme all along for Washington correspondents, who rung the changes sometimes on one Secretary and sometimes on another, and occasionally on all the Cabinet at once. Nor have these reports been without foundation at times, so far as the wishes or intentions of the President went. But most of the old Cabinet have remained, and those members of it especially who should have been removed long ago. The President has been vacillating and undetermined, badgered, and threatened by his enemies, and pulled this way and that by his professed friends till he knew not what to do. The consequence is that Mr. Seward, Mr. McCulloch, and Mr. Welles have hung on to their places. Had Mr. Johnson made a complete change at the commencement of his administration, he would have saved himself and the country a great deal of trouble. But that is past. The question new is how far the evil can be remedled and what course the President should take

The old members of the Cabinet have neither the confidence of the people nor of Congress, except, perhaps, that Mr. McCulloch is insidiously supported by the Chase radicals and the national bank men. Yet this is about as strong a reason as the President could find for dismissing him. Welles is a nonentity: Seward is a trimmer and a marplot, and McCulloch is running the country into financial embarrassment by his incapacity and impracticable theories. They are all a positive weakness to the administration; but McCulloch is more than that-he is a great calamity to the country.

The Secretary of the Treasury is simply the creature of Mr. Chase and his friends. He runs the Treasury machine for their benefit. The complicated system established by Mr. Chase and perpetuated by him provides places for an army of that portion of the radical party, and creates colossal fortunes for the national bank capitalists. Two objects are reached by this Treasury machinery and financial policy, if policy it can be called. First, Mr. Chase and his friends and partisans are made rich at the expense of the people, and, second, a powerful combination is estab lished for the purpose of controlling political affairs and placing the Chief Justice in the White House.

When we look at the manner in which our national finances have been managed from the time Mr. Chase went into the Treasury Department up to the present time, we are forced to the conclusion that the objects have been as we have stated. It has been one system all through; a system to enrich friends and partisans, and to create a moneyed power in the republic. Mr. McCulloch has faithfully carried out the purpose of his chief and patron. Bankers and politicians from Ohio, Indiana, and other parts, have had control of the Treasury and the resources of the country. What that has cost the people it would be hard to guess. The sum must be stupendous. In fact, our enormous national debt is the consequence. We need not have been burdened with this debt. If any debt had been nec ssary, been comparatively small had would have Mr. Chase followed the advice and accepted the offers of the New York bankers at the beginning of the war, as it was understood he agreed to do. A hundred and fifty millions in gold was raised for him by the bankers then, and had he sold his securities for what they would bring in the market at the time, as he had been advised to do, the capitalists of this city and other parts of the country would have furnished all the money he required.

But this would not have made Mr. Chase's friends rich, nor would it have erected a moneyed power in his interest We should have had no suspension of specie payments and a comparatively small debt; but Mr. Chase would not have attained the object he had in view. Mr. McCulloch is but the agent and tool of Mr. Chase in perpetuating the ruinous financial system origi nally established. He is merely a small country banker, has no idea of national finance, and only follows his master. Such is the Secretary of Treasury with whom this great country is cursed. We are losing hundreds of millions through his incapacity. Unless he be removed we shall be plunged into dreadful financial disasters. If the President has not courage or sagacity enough to remove the other old Cabinet officers, he should, at least, request Mr. McCulloch to resign, and appoint some able man in his place. We need a statesman, and not a small country banker, at the head of the Treasury Department.

What Might Have Been.

From the N. Y. Tribune.

The New York Times, in discussing the issues involved in our pending canvass, sees

"How are the Southern States to get Into the "How are the Southern States to get Into the Upion, if not by compilance with the Congressional plan? The President's plan may have been better in its day, but its day is past. It is as dead as the rescripts of the Cæsars. If it had been adopted when it was first proposed—if immediately on the close of the war, the conquering North had come forward, and in a spirit of magnanimous and self-reliant generosity, had tendered to the conquered South prompt reading nanimous and self-reliant generosity, had ten-dered to the conquered South prompt readmis-sion to the Union they had in vain attempted to break in two-free restoration to all the rights and privileges of the Constitution they had vainly attempted to overthrow—we believe that long ere this the whole country would hav-been at peace, the principles vindicated and the measures established during the war would have been adopted as a basis of the na-tional policy, and we should have been in a much more prosperous and promising condi-tion than we are at present. tion than we are at present.

-Believing this to be an essentially erroroneous and mischievous statement of very essential facts, we are constrained to ask the Times to reconsider it, and to show the country, if it can, wherein we misapprehend the

On the day after we announced General se's surrender, we began to plead in no incing tones, with no bated breadth, for that magnatimity and self-reliant geneelty" which the Times now so justly comwiends, but which its columns then did neither advise nor exhibit. We indicated no conlitions, proposed no bargain; but it seemed to us so obvious that none could ignore the fact, that the North must take 'care that' its maga nanimity did not surrender the black Union i ts of the South into the unchecked power of those who had rebelled and done their utmost to break up the Union expressly to extend and perpetuate their slavery,

Events soon proved our apprehension too well founded. President Johnson launched his plan of reconstruction, and the States gemmenced their reorganization under it.

Each of the States which remain unrepresented in Congress was placed completely under the sway of what had been its Rebel element. And not one of these States, as thus reconstructed, conceded the right of suffrage to the blacks, nor even to that better portion of them whom no man will soberly pronounce personally unfit to exercise that right.

On the contrary, those States-that is, the ex-Rebels of those States, restored to sway by President Johnson's "policy" -- proceeded forthwith to deal with them as follows:-

North Carolina forbade the reception of negro testimony by her courts, except in cases where blacks are parties. No contract with or by a person of color should be valid unless reduced o writing and witnessed by a white. The marriage of a white to a colored person was declared void, and a punishable misdemeanor. And every person having an eighth of black blood was declared a person of color.

Mississippi enacted degrading laws bearing solely on colored persons similar to the above, and prescribed in addition that no colored person should keep or bear arms (Alabama adopted this also, and by vagrant, apprentice, and kindred acts, reduced her colored population (a majority of the whole) to a state virtual slavery. The act for reclaiming fugitives for labor was quite as harsh as the 'ngitive Slave law; every colored child who is an orphan or whose parents are unable to support it must be apprenticed; every colored person must have a lawful home; every laborer uitting his employer's service without good ause must forfeit all his wages; and, finally, all the penal laws against slaves and free negroes were expressly revived and made aplicable to freedmen. In short, it would not ave been practicable for a majority of the blacks to have kept out of prison and out of slavery if those laws had been allowed to

-So it was throughout the States now awaiting reconstruction from the Potomac to the Rio Grande—not merely an absolute, par-emptory denial to the colored people of all voice in making or modifying their laws or choosing their rulers, but a superaddition thereto of the most invidious, insulting tyrannical enactments, calculated to invade their rights, harrow their feelings, and render their nominal liberty a mockery and a curse. And all this was exulted over by the ex-Rebel journals as certain to make them deplore their emancipation. And, while the greatest stress is now laid on the fact that the blacks are gnorant (through whose fault?) no step was taken in a single State to dispel that igno-rance by the establishment of common schools pen to colored children.

Now, we challenge the Times to show, either that we have misrepresented the action of these Johnsonized States, or that "the President's plan' contemplated the overruling of these cruel, degrading enactments. If not, how can the Times ignore these facts in arraigning the North as deficient in magnanimity and

generosity? Had "the South"-that is, the ex-Rebel south-evinced a particle of these qualities in its dealings with its own colored people-nay, had it treated that population with a decent approach to justice—we firmly believe that the North would have shown abundant magnanimity. Or had Johnson's "policy" provided effectively against Rebel tyranny over the Southern blacks, we believe it must have prevailed. But such legislation as we have instanced, elucidated by the Memphis and New Orleans massacres, enlightened and aroused the North. It was seen that such magnanimity as Johnson desired and the Philadelphia arm-in-arm Convention upheld, was incompatible with justice and good faith to the four millions of Southern blacks whose efforts and prayers had powerfully aided to vanquish the Rebellion—hence the public reprobation of that policy. It fell, not because the North lacked magnanimity, but because 'the South' (so-called) sought to wreak on her defenseless blacks its revengeful wrath at the failure of the Rebellion.

But let bygones be bygones. Here is one ournal in the North that has always been openly, zealously desirous of speedy and horough reconstruction on the basis of universal amnesty and impartial suffrage. And we mean by impartial suffrage that all Rebels as well as all blacks shall vote, unless disfrauhised for some other crime than rebellion or treason. Will the Times instance one distinctively Southern journal that advocates, or has advocated, any basis of reconstruction which, in its judgment, is fairer or more magnani

The Revolutionary Movement in Italy.

From the N. Y. Times. It is not easy to form any well-defined theory of the movement in Italy. The "Party of Action," as it is called, is that which has given the King of Italy three-fourths of his present possessions, and which has raised Italy herself to a respectable position among the foremost nations of Europe. Its leader is a prisoner of state. Without a violation o his parols he can take no active part in the invasion of the Roman States. His arrest, nevertheless, has been the signal for outbreaks at different points of the Roman frontier. In Viterbo, and in several other districts, the insurrection was reported as extremely serious. The commander of the Roman forces had applied at Florence for aid, and the King's advisers had made no favorable response to the appeal. Alarm was naturally elt lest—as a consequence of these events the friendly relations of France and Italy should be disturbed.

Whether the facts of the case are faithfully narrated or not, it is clear that things are gradually shaping themselves for a rupture of the treaty of September. Italy feels, and feels naturally, that she owes more to France than is consistent with her complete indepen-That feeling was the inspiration and the motive of the Prussian alliance, which relieved the Florence Government, in part, from the overwhelming patronage of their Imperial friend, and gave them an opportunity of working out some portion of the scheme of Italian unification by other and

possibly less selfish agencies. The Prussian alliance gave to Italy her natural northern frontier. That alliance, at the same time, led the way to the humiliation of France, in the Danish-German principalities, at Sadowa, when the Rhenish frontier was sought to be made a new dispute, and inally at Luxembourg. The joining of hands by Italy and Prussia has thus struck a fearful blow at French ascendancy in Europe. Italy may have been ungrateful, but Italian statesmanship was so skilfully used throughout the whole of the complications growing out of the German question, that the Emperor of the French was made an assenting party in every step of the negotiations which led to the open rupture between Prussia and Austria, and to the open alliance between Prussia and Italy. That alliance, up to a certain point, was actively promoted in Paris. The trouble has been that it led to doubts which were not bar. gained for by the Imperial patron of Italy, that it inured chiefly to the aggrandizement of the new North German power, and prepared the way for the relief of Italy from perpetual

bondage to France. This Roman uplicaval cannot be discon-

nected from the relations which Italy has established for herself by the German alliance. She secured more than was bargained for in that alliance. She rid herself of an oppressive sense of obligation to France. She made it apparent that the sentiment of Liberal Europe was on her side, whatever might be the policy of the French Emperor, or the special interest of the French nation. The Roman outbreaks are as likely as not to turn out an Imperial diversion from the perplexing condition of affairs in Liberal Europe. The circular of the Prossian Minister, declaring in the same breath his belief in the pacific nature of the onference of Salzburg, and his purpose to proceed, by constitutional means, with the ecorporation of North and South Germany into one political body, is the most provoking ouper that the French Government has had ubmitted to it since the present dynasty was stablished.

The Reman question, then, viewed in its rement form, may prove a good Imperial card g the time. Even if the movement should result as the revolutionary party expect it to io, there is much gained for the Emperor and his system in turning up as the Chief Defender of the Faith. There is a diversion of the political mind of France from the serious numiliation involved in the deflance so coolly thrown down by the Prussian minister. There is a chance of demanding indemnity from Italy for what Imperial logic might easily prove to be a violation of the treaty of September. And there is, beyond all, the prospect of preventing the domestic concerns of France from thrusting themselves too rudely before the Imperial eye and under the gaze of Europe. Whether these Roman outbreaks are the work solely of the revolutionary party. or whether they are encouraged by outside in duence, they inure, for the time, to the credit and sustenance of French Imperialism.

A Way to Reduce the Public Debt. From the N. Y. World.

In a prosecution for larceny proof may be given of possession by the accused of the stolen article. So, too, possession of a large amount of money, several weeks after the criminal act, not identified as the stolen property, is admitted as tending to prove, in connection with evidence of the previous property of the defendant, a single act of larceny by him. We remember to have read a report of a case tried in Massachusetts, where the charge, against a ticket-master of a railroad, was in the nature of embezzlement, extending over a period of two years. The railroad brought a civil action against its former ticket-master, claiming to recover of him a large sum, upon the ground that he had fraudulently abstracted and appropriated it to his own use while in the employment of the road. The railroad could not establish its case by direct proof, but was compelled to resort to circumstantial evidence. It offered to prove that the defendant, when he entered upon the employment referred to, was insolvent; that his salary had been limited to a certain amount, and that, subsequent to his alleged misdoings, he was the owner of larg + property, far exceeding the aggregate of all his salary while in the service of the railroad. This proposition was denounced by the counsel of the ticket-master as monstrous in law, and not sanctioned by the rules of evidence. It was urged that to permit the introduction of evidence by the railroad of the defendant's poverty and riches, would compel the latter o prove transactions and negotiations during all that time from which the property in his possession resulted. The Court, however, admitted the evidence, telling the jury that t was not a competent way to prove that money had been abstracted from the railroad, but if they were satisfied from other testimony that the railroad had really lost money, then they could consider the insolvency and subse quent solvency of the ticket-master as bearing on the inquiry whether he had abstracted or

appropriated the money. It would be edifying to see this rule of law practically applied by the Government to its internal revenue officers, in a suit begun to recover money belonging to the United States embezzled by them. That the Government has lost money can be substantiated by the Tribune editors, who assert that half a million a day is a fair statement of the amount. The next question would be whether the accused officer of the internal revenue had taken any. and how much. A plenty of witnesses could be called to testify to the general bad character, in an official sense, of the men appointed by the present Republican administration, and confirmed by a radical Senate. Commissioner Wells, in his report of December, 1866, says:-"That a very large percentage of these losses is due to the incompetency, neglect, or complicity of officials, no one who has had any experience in the supervision of our revenue system can doubt." Mr. McCulloch, in his communication to Congress of July 18, 1867, testifies that his "officers have been not only inefficient in the discharge of their duties, but in many cases they have been suspected of direct complicity with dishonest men to defraud the Government." Commis sioner Rollins declares, under date of July 16 1807:- "I regret to state that distillers and holders of spirits seem to have turned their attention to corrupting the revenue officers themselves, and am mortified by the apparent frequency of these cases." To remedy this evil and stop the admitted embezzlement, the Metropolitan Revenue Board was organized-a temporizing expedient, which treated only symptoms, and did not touch the cause of the disease. But the Board has, by the necessity of removing one of its members, furnished other testimony useful to the Government in

the suit we are considering. There would be testimony enough forthcoming to justify introduction of evidence as to the insolvency of most of the internal revenue and law officers when appointed, and their better pecuniary condition now. We can imagine the feelings with which some officer of the Government in New York, or Ohio, or Michigan, or elsewhere, who, as collector, assessor, special agent, or district-attorney, has been concerned in the administration o the revenue law, contemplates the disclosures in his case if the facts were made public of his slender means, economical habits when appointed to office, and his changed condition now, with a fine house, plenty of horses, much jewelry, and altogether unlike the poverty-stricken individual he was when he passed the ordeal of a Republican Senate. And yet, Republican office-holder, the time may not be far distant when the people will demand all these things to be revealed and the guilty one to be a victim of that justice which conquered Kohnstainer, and so wresled with Henderson, publisher of the F ming

To the public this legal notion of ours holds out bright visions of reduced indebtedness. What an enormous sum would be gained to the Treasury if Mr. McCulloch's Republican officials could be compelled to disgorge, as was the ticket-master in the case referred to ! We commend our idea to Mr. Tracy, who appears to be the only District-Attorney who has ourage to deal with Government officials, and does not content himself with hallooing about s lew casks of lager beer seized on a cart, or a poor Dutch distiller arrested.

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