SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

MDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS-COMPILED EVERY DAY FOR THE EVENING TELEGRAPH.

The Political Prospect in 1868.

From the N. Y. Nation. The Republican party has sustained a series of defeats this year scarcely equalled in its history. When, on the 17th ultimo, we pointed out that it had lost 107,000 of its majorities last year, and predicted that it would lose the New York election, we were severely denounced both as false prophets and as enemies to the party. But our predictions are much more than verified. We foretold 15,000 Democratic majority in New York, desiring to make the figure as moderate as we honestly could. As soon as the registration was completed we estimated the probable ma-jority at 35,000. In fact, it exceeds 48,000. The returns from other States are very imperfect, but seem to indicate 25,000 Republican majority in Massachusetts, 16,000 Democratic majority in New Jersey, 40,000 Democratic majority in Maryland, 5000 Republican majority in Wisconsin, 4000 in Minnesota, and perhaps 5000 in Kansas. The returns from Illinois and Minnesota, where county officers only were chosen, are so meagre as to afford no indication of the results. Estimating the loss in these States at half the proportion shown by other States, the total loss upon the Republican majorities of last year, in the various elections of 1867, cannot be reskoued

party's entire majority. It must not be supposed, however, that anything like this number of voters have actually left the Republican party. The change has been effected by about 60,000 Democrats voting this year who did not vote in 1866, but were of the same politics then; about 160,000 Republicans who voted last year now staying at home, and not over 50,000 Republicans, at the most, voting the Democratic ticket, unless we include the 5000 German Republicans of New York who voted for Hoffman in 1866.

at less than 320,000, or three-fourths of the

The voters who simply stayed at home are certainly not permanently lost to their party; and the Republicans who this year voted the Democratic ticket are not certainly lost. The former class may easily be brought out on the right side in 1868. The latter class may be won back, but not so easily.

If Presidential electors had been chosen at the recent elections, the result would have been as follows:-

REPUBLICAN. Illinois	16 Calif. 13 Coun. 8 Dela. 3 Kent. 7 Mary. 12 New. 8 New. 4 Penn. 11 5 To. 21 4	wareucky	3 11 7 7 83 26	
				1

We have omitted three small States-Oregon, because no election was held there, and Nebraska and Nevada for want of any returns. Each chooses three electors. We think Nebraska should be placed in the Republican column, and the others in the Democratic, making the vote 143 to 104.

If the Southern States should be admitted in season for the next election, their votes would (judging by the elections just held) be cast as follows, assuming that no change will be made in the law of suffrage :-

FloridaLouisianaMississippi	90 222-7-	DEMOCRATIC. Arkansas	996
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.31 Total. Total ... The vote in Georgia and Virginia would be very close if it were polled to-day and all Possibly both might be carried by the Republicans on a full vote as they have been on a partial vote, but we doubt it.

The prospect for 1868 is still favorable for the Republican party, but the above statement clearly shows that it is by no means free from uncertainty. Much will depend upon the management of both parties. New York, Pennsylvania, Indiana, and Illinois are all very doubtful States. Republican politicians count with great confidence upon New York, but with little reason. The cities of New York and Brooklyn have just given 75,000 Democratic majority. They will increase this in 1868 to \$5,000, if not more. The largest Republican majorities ever rolled up by the interior of the State were 110,000 for Fremont in 1856, 82,000 for Lincoln in 1860, 81,000 for Dickinson in 1861, and 70,000 for Fenton in 1866. On no other occasion has the interior given more than 55,000 majority. 1864, Lincoln had only 48,000 majority in the rural districts to overbalance the 41,000 and over given to McClellan by these two cities. Can the interior poll 90,000 majority for any Republican in 1868? We must say that we consider it in the highest degree improbable. We doubt whether it can make out 70,000 majority; yet that figure will infallibly be overcome by the cities. Without going further into details, we are of opinion that Governor Seymour would certainly carry New " York State, while Mr. Pendleton might possibly carry it, but probably would not if the Republicans were thoroughly united.

Pennsylvania and Indiana are always doubtful, as every one knows. The majority in both States in 1866 was comparatively small, requiring a change of only two per cent, of the electors to reverse it. It may seem strange, however, that we should set down Illinois as doubtfol, when she gave 50,000 Republican majority last year. But Fenianism contri-buted largely to that vote, and will never do so again. Moreover, the Southern part of the State, which has been so wonderfully converted within the last five years through the influence of tieneral Logan and his friends, may be restive under the rapid progress of the Republican party towards equality of political rights. Nevertheless, we think the probabilities are in favor of Republican spacess in Illinois. Illinois seems to us more doubtful. Mr. Pendleton perhaps might carry it, but we

do not think he could carry Pennsylvania. In fact, the great element of americanty in the contest of Isas lies in the action of the Demogratic party. The Republicans will pretty certainly nominate Grant. The Damoerats will as certainly nominate Pendleton or Seymour. Their difficulty is that the for ner cannot carry the East, and the latter caunot carry the West. Nominating one for President and the other for Vice-President will not help the matter, as notody expects the Vice-President to have any influence. We presume that Pendleton is the favorite; but New York and Pennsylvania are too important to be risked, and if they declare with emphasis that they

cannot carry a repudiationist, the Democratic

Convention cannot refuse to be guided by their If the Democrats should lose Pennsylvania they would also lose Connecticut, and would have to carry Chio, Indiana, Illinois, and one other State at the West to make up their loss. The loss of both New York and Pennsylvania would make their prospects absolutely hopeless. It is, therefore, easy to foresee the paramount influence which the delegations from those States will exercise in the Convention.

Republican Work, From the N. Y. Tribune.

The great work yet to be accomplished to complete our national renovation is the convincing of the masses that a State cannot afford to degrade or oppress even the humblest and most despised of its people. Until this end is achieved, our triumph over the Rebellion will be imperfect, and its fruits liable to turn to ashes on our lips. So long as the laws of even one State impose disabilities on a citizen because of the race whence he sprang, the color God has chosen to give him, the victories of the Union arms will be incomplete, and the foundations of the republic unsightly and in-

No proposition is logically more demonstrable than that wrong to any is injury and peril to all; but when an important truth comes in conflict with a rooted prejudice, patient, persistent, self-sacrifloing effort is indispensable. The Republican party owes its late reverses in some degree to the corruptions of those it has trusted with power; in part to popular impatience with the slow progress of reconstruc-tion; in part to Johnson's treachery; in part to local fends and discontents; but, more than to any and all of these, to popular prejudice against the blacks and indisposition to see them impartially protected and regarded as citizens by the laws of the land. We think this prejudice has cost us more votes than anything else-perhaps more than all other adverse influences whatever.

We meet the issue frankly. There are wounds whereof the true soldier is proud while he suffers-scars which he does not seek to conceal. There are Americans who were quite willing that the negro should march and camp and fight for our common country, while they stayed at home in comfort and ease, who, now that the peril is past, would like to deny to that negro the common rights of a citizen They would gladly whistle him down the wind until the time shall come, if it ever does come. when they shall need his body to stop bullets that otherwise might disconcert them; then they will be ready to give him another chance to be killed in their stead. We propose to fight this treachery now and ever-to expose it, and hold it up to the light, till even baseness itself shall be ashamed of it. A Copperhead or Rebel, who hates the war for the Union, and deplores its results, may still fight on for a "white man's government," as he fought or prayed in the war, but a Republican or War Democrat who would put the blacks under the feet of those whom they helped us to overcome, is inexpressibly mean, and as short-sighted and foolish as he is mean.

There are those who indolently say, "Oh, let the blacks have all civil rights—these should satisfy them." Why, you idiot! they never will nor can have civil rights unless they have political rights to back them. Take our city, for illustration: here a few of the thriftier negroes are allowed to vote; yet even these are, because of their race, deprived of precious civil rights. A colored native of this city, who owns his own house, earns an honest livelihood, and is a respected member of a Christian church, is not allowed to drive his own horse and cart and do therewith the carting of such merchants as may choose to employ him. We should like to employ a colored man to take us to and from a railroad station or steamboat landing occasionally; but the ordinances of this Democratic city forbid it. A black man who should try to earn a living by driving his own coach and carrying passengers in it would be first beaten to a jelly for his impudence, and then hauled before a magistrate for violating the ordinance aforesaid.

No; there is and can be no civil rights se curely enjoyed by blacks until all the rights of manhood are won for and conceded to them. And we would much rather be beaten trying to secure them full justice than to succeed by abandoning them to their hateful oppressors

But we can win by systematically enlightening and educating the people; and one such victory is worth twenty gained by playing upon their weaknesses, their ignorance, and their passions. There have never yet been two votes taken in a State on the question of conceding the right of suffrage to blacks wherein the second vote in the affirmative was not larger than the former. And so it will be if proper appeals are made to the reason and science of the voters in every State, till the battle shall be won.

We urge, then, the establishment, in every township, ward, and village, of a Republican Club, whose sole object shall be the diffusion of light and truth bearing upon the great issue of Equality before the Law. While every non-slaveholding country but ours treats men of all colors alike, let us never doubt that the disgraceful anomaly here presented can and will be fully overcome.

Friends in every State! unite in forming shall be the securing of equal rights to every American citizen! We can easily prove that there is no man, but especially no laboring man, whose personal good will not be promoted by such a consummation; all we need is to induce the masses to read and think. Two-thirds of all who habitually read and reflect are now right on this point; we are beaten by the votes of men who never heard our side of the question, and never will hear it unless we make special effort to enlighten them. There are one million voters in the Union who might be won over to the side of justice and humanity by the systematic presentation of facts to their minds. A victory gained by appeals to their better nature will be substant al and enduring and every voter won over from vice to virtue from intemperance to sobriety, is thereby rendered more accessible to our arguments and likely to promote and swell our triumph Now is the time to prepare the public mind for the next Presidential election—to sow the seed which shall yield therein a noble harvest. Lus organize and go to work!

What is the Democratic Policy and What Its Success ! From the N. Y. Times.

The Democratic journals are trying hard to persuade themselves that their recent victories are a condemnation of the Republican reconstruction policy. Having arrived at this conclusion, they demand that the measures for admitting the South shall be remodelled to suit the ideas of their party. It matters not that the more candid of its members have protested sgainst interpreting the result "as a demonstration in favor of the old time Democracy, " or that others have confused their in delitedness for success to the votes of parson "who have not of late years voted with the Democracy." This kind of moderation does

not satisfy the prevailing temper. And hence we have renewed efforts to prove that the country has pronounced against the Republican requirements; while the earnestness with which these efforts are made has the effect of deceiving the disaffected Southerners, who seek excuses for contemning the law. the Republicans now obey the will of the peo-ple?" is the inquiry of the Charleston Mer-cery, by which is means, "Will the party in power now dare to push forward reconstruction on the basis laid down by Congress?"

Why not? To pretend that "the will of the people" has manifested itself against the policy of Congress and in favor of the Democratic purposes on the subject of reconstruc-tion, is either folly or fraud. The people of Ohio have shown that they are against negro suffrage in their own State, but what has this to do with suffrage in the States lately in rebellion? Or by what hoous-pocus can the verdict of Massachusetts against prohibition be construed into a verdict for the unconditional admission of the South, or the revolt of New York against the license law and the knavery and corruption of politicians into a protest against guarantees for loyalty and The Southern newspapers which oppose the law and assail its authors may be glad to have any pretext for their course, and may pervert the import of the elections accordingly. But they are heaping up mortification for themselves and wrath for those who may be weak enough to accept their counsel. For, though there can be no doubt that the hold of the Republican party has been weakened by the extravacance of many of its leaders, it must be rememered that their ultraism relates rather to projects which have been promulgated than to the course which has thus far been pursued towards the South. Impeachment, confisca-tion, interference with the rights of States now in the Union, coupled with general dissatisfaction occasioned by the failure of Congress to satisfy the wants of the country in regard to taxation and finance-these are the main operating causes of the diminished Republican vote, and not the question of reconstruction in the shape in which it now

If Democratic gains proceeded from dislike of the measures actually adopted by the Republican party, we must infer that a preference existed for the Democratic policy. But can anybody tell us what the Democratic policy at this moment is? Beyond a general onslaught upon the action of Congress, what loes it amount to? What is the Democratic plan of reconstruction, for instance? or the Democratic scheme of finance? or the Democratic measure touching taxation? or the Democratic doctrine in relation to negroes and the suffrage? Genuine party success can only be predicated upon alleged approval of some or all of the party's views on these subects. But what these views are is a mystery. Mr. Belmont and Mr. Pendleton are as wide apart on these questions of finance and taxation as are the World and the great body of the Democratic press in reference to compromise as the prelude to reconstruction. With what degree of truth can it be said, then, that the late events indicate a reaction from the Republican policy in favor of the Democratic

The opinion of the Southern opposition, of which the Charleston Mercury is a fair specimen, evidently is that "the will of the people" of the North turns in the direction of immediate, unshackled admission. So far as the Democracy have a policy, this is unquestionably its explanation. Their assaults upon ably its explanation. Their assaults upon the Reconstruction acts are made with the design of securing the readmission of the South without any condition or guarantee

They aim at bringing back the old Southern politicians, and reinvesting the old pro-slavery party with absolute authority in Southern affairs. None of the recent elections, however, have been won upon this issue. In no State have the party managers ventured to proclaim this as their object; for well they know that nowhere at the North could a State be carried on such a platform. Everywhere would the 'unconditional admission of the South" be interpreted to signify "uncondi-tional surrender to the South;" and the Southern friends of the Democratic party have lived to little purpose if they have not learned the hopelessness of a contest conducted on this

The Negro Conventions in the South-Their Effects on the North. From the N. Y. Herald.

Alabama has led the van in the reconstruction of the United States by the negro. Other States are to follow, until, under a glorious negro rule, the ten southern divisions of our republic are bound and given over to Africa, to be governed according to the Haytien style. The principles of the conventions which frame these negro governments are shaped by the most unprincipled of all our demagogues. Without a dollar of interest in the country, they stir the pliable black man to passion aga not the white, and, while moulding the mass to suit radical aims, sow the seeds of an unavoidable war of easte. They do not fail to promise the negro all that his barbarous imagination may desire-freedom from labor, a division of property, and even the government of the country. Thus, for transient political purposes they force the whole sun burned brain of Ethiopia to the same focus, and teach it to expect what it can never realize while there is a Southern or a Northern sword left to defend Caucasian blood-blood originally purer than that of Africa, and purified still more by long centuries of arduous labor towards the summit of civilization; blood progressive, in contradistinction to blood retrograde and naturally barbaris in its im-

In the face of all this we see power centralizing in the South in the hands of that element which, according to all history, is a threat against any civilization with which it comes in contact. The platform of the radiexponent of what threatens us in all the Southern States by raising up a power ten times more destructive and nationally demoralizing than any that has heretofore existed. That platform states:-"We as a party insist on perfect equality, without distinction of race or color, in the right to vote and enter the jury box without any educational or property qualification being required." Again: - "The radical Republican party of Louisiana will support no man for office who will not openly and boldly pledge himself to make an equal distribution among white and colored alike of all offices to which he may have power of ap-

pointment." These are the mad principles which, at a terrible cost, we urge upon one-half of our territorial extent, thus threatening its complete desciation. Were it the destruction of only one half of the country we might, in our wonderful stamins, live under it; but the radiprogramme means more than this-it means the draining of every energy of the North to support the one grand black idea, and, at any cost, forcing the negro down the throat of the nation. We struggle under it, we bleed, we expend our millions, we tax our

people to the last feather's weight, we fairly writhe beneath the terrible effort to swallow a dore that would choke a mammoth anaconda. We cannot do it, and we cast it saide as something that would give the coup de grace to all the cherished hopes of a people who are struggling for civilization, not barbarism. We are taxed to-day one thousand millions per year to support the radical idea that Africa has a higher civilization than Europe, and that it is necessary for the United States, at any sacrifice, to approximate itself to the African standard.

The radicals, determined to give all the strength possible to the negro card, train every element in the North to its support; and while in the South they tear down all barriers which distinguish races, while they abolish every aristocratic privilege, while they inaugurate there a Utopian agrarianism, they give us a singular contradiction of principles in the North. Here they strive to build up great meneyed monopolies, a dictatorial banking system, a centralization of party power, an enriching of the rich and an impoverishing of the poor. Thus it becomes difficult to discover that there is any great underlying principle in radicalism, unless it be the sole to retain at all hazards the power into which the revolutionary throes of the country forced

The North is beginning to dive into this problem, and is rapidly discovering its inconsistencies. There is a deep and settled resolution taking possession of the masses that they will no longer support aristocratic privieges in the North or negro elevation and barparism in the South. Bled to the last drop of blood and treasure, the people begin to ask, "What is this money used for?" and look where they will they see the question answered:—To prop up a quarter section of Africa, until we see if centuries hence it will be able to march onward unaided. God never made one race to support another. For this we made war in favor of the black. As matters now progress under radical rule, we fast advance to a war to relieve the white from supporting the black.

The future aspirants for the Presidency must learn the truths which we here enunciate. If General Grant accepts the radical nomination upon such a platform as the radicals now tread he will be defeated, despite his national popularity and his masterly reticence. General Scott was defeated where there were similar but minor principles involved, and President Pierce, with all his imbedlity, then

stepped into power. In the South we see all the preliminary movements for a desolating war of caste, if the present programme be carried out. The negroes have numerous leagues, and are providing themselves with arms, which are given to them by the radicals. The white people, despairing of returning again to prosperity, and seeing their every effort met by a crushing blow from Congress, now give the country over to negro rule, and emigrate elesewhere. Domestic capital threatened, and Northern and foreign capital frightened away; State and municipal privileges completely under military domination, which is destructive to

every element of our boasted republicanism; the credit of the States destroyed; and onehalf of the country desolated at the expense of the other half-are all mournful indications of approaching barbaric government. The effect on the North is already indicated by the late elections. The negro wave must now ebb. It has had its greatest flow. The radicals may still float on the receding black tide; but the white people of the United States, as a mass, have too much sense left to place their future civilization and government under

negro domination.

Sounding the Bugles for a Retreat.

Our neighbor, the Times, the clearness of whose perceptions sometimes outruns the boldness and vigor of its counsels, is trying to devise a method of retreat which shall save the credit of the Republican party, and be at the same time practical. But it has undertaken a task for which no ingenuity will suffice. With the quick discernment of the possibilities of a situation in which its editor has few peers, and perhaps no superiors, the Times fixes upon the power of revision reserved by Congress over the new State Constitutions as affording an opportunity for a change of base and the substitution of "impartial" for "universal" suffrage. The plan does no discredit to its dexterous author; but it overlooks the chief difficulty of the problem it aims to solve, and (as we think we shall succeed in showing) is quite impracticable. We will insert enough of the Times' article to enable our readers to see what we are criticizing:-

what we are criticizing:

"The action of Congress has placed them [the Republican party] in a false position upon this subject, and has apparently committed them to a principle which they do not hold.

"If the question were free from 'side issues,' it would be easily and promptly settled. If it were simply this—'Are the negroes of the South, as a body, qualified to take part in the reorganization of the Southern State Governments; is it wise or safe to leave them to decide what principles shall be embodied in the State Constitution; what shall be the form and powers of the State Governments; and what shall be of the State Governments; and what shall be the securities for life and property under them?'—there are not ten men out of a thousand in the Republican party who would not say so. Nobody believes they are. How should they be? The great mass of them have been kept in the most would be the control of the property and the say of th stolid ignorance all their lives; they can neither read nor write; they have heard nothing of poli-tics and know nothing of the simplest facts o our history or our government; they have neither the capacity to form opinions nor the material to form them from; and as matter of necessity as well as of fact, they will be and are simply tools in the hands of party leaders and wire pullers on the one side of the other. Cir comstances just now throw them into the hands of the Republicans. The weight of their votes can and will be thrown into the Republican scale. And it is this fact which leads the Republicans to accept for them the principle o

leads the Democra's to oppose it.

"We do not think it would be wise to attempt to change the Recons ruction act in this particular now. In the first place it cannot be done; and in politics nothing is when which impossible. Moreover it would arrest the way impossible. Moreover it would arrest the whole progress of reconstruction, and involves fresh conflicts, complications, and delays in a matter in which delay is of their one of the worst things that can happen. But the reconstruction act reserves to Congress the whole business If on act reserves to Congress the whole business of revising the constitutions that may be sent up from the States for its approval. If they contain provisions which Congress does not approve, it can strike them out and send them tack for revision and amendment. This seems to us a power which Congress should exercise freely and boldly; and it may so exercise it in regard to suffrage as to make the countern constitutions conform to what is the real sentiment and purpose of the Republican party upon this subject. It can substitute imparty upon this subject. It can substitute impartial suffrage for universal suffrage. It can forbid the State Governments from making color alone a ground of disfranchisement, without compelling them to admit Ignorance, stolidities and lineagify to the batter. out compelling them to admit ignorance, stolidity, and incapacity to the balloc-box. It can be incapacit them to prescribe such qualifications for the suffrage as they may deem expedient, instant goods that whatever qualifications may be prescribed shall apply to all inhabitants of the State alike, without regard to race or color. By some such action as this it seems to us the rights of the negroes at the South may be protected, without putting in mediany interests. tected, without putting to perli any interest or principle which the Republican party has at heart.

The absurdity of the Congressional scheme

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of reconstruction is not only fully acknowreasoning which fair minds ought to accept as

ledged in these paragraphs, but is exposed by conclusive. The necessity of a retreat is more clearly apprehended by our contemporary than the difficulty. Before proceeding to show the futility of the proposed method, we must detain the reader a moment while we expose the inconsistency of the Times' proposal with a position which it quite recently held. It is scarcely a fortnight (if our memory be

not at fault) since the Times centended that, inasmuch as the Southern negroes are already in the exercise of the elective franchise, the question is closed, since men cannot be divested of the privilege after they have once enjoyed it. Everybody must perceive that the present proposal is a complete abandonment of that position. The retreat from "universal" to "impartial" suffrage would throw out a great majority of the negroes who have voted in the recent elections. No matter whether the restriction be effected by a property qualification or by an educational qualification, it will shut out the greater part of the present negro voters. A property qualification would exclude nearly all; and an educational qualification, consisting merely in ability to read and write, would exclude at least four-fifths, probably nine-tenths, and for any evidence that appears to the contrary, nineteen-twentieths of the negro population. We are glad that our contemporary has reconsidered and rejected its hasty conclusion that a negro who has once voted acquires an indefeasible right to the elective franchise. Without such a recantation its present proposal would be a flighty and self-stultifying absurdity. Not less self-stultifying, although the ab-

surdity requires more reasoning to set it forth, is the proposal to retreat from "universal" negro suffrage without repealing the reconstruction acts. These acts give universal suffrage to the negroes, both in the election of delegates to the conventions, and in the ratification or rejection of the new Constitutions. But the Times discovers that Congress may annul whatever it dislikes in those Constitutions and send them back for amendment. This strikes us as a somewhat strained interpretation; for as we undertand it, the law merely reserves to Congress the right to approve or reject the new Constitutions, but not to dictate to the States what provisions shall be inserted in new ones. For if Congress may dictate one provision of a State Constitution it may dictate all; and it might as well impose at once a ready-made Constitution of its own framing. We make this criticism in passing, but lay no stress on it. For the sake of the argument we will admit that Congress may send back the constitutions for revision, with an indication of the provisions it requires to be rescinded or inserted. We will suppose the conventions to be reassembled, a new basis of suffrage adopted, and the constitutions as thus amended again submitted to the people for ratification. Now comes the pinch; who shall vote in this second ratification? The negroes in several States are a majority of the voters, and the Times propo es to submit to their decision the question whether they shall be disfranchised! The question cannot be submitted to a different body of voters, for in that case Congress would have to back out-which is the very thing the Times seeks to avoid. That the negroes, after having been once admitted to the suffrage, will never be deprived of it by their own votes, is a selfevident proposition. To remit the question to the same identical constituency would therefore be a great absurdity: but if Congress ordains its submission to a different constituncy it would undermine and subvert the very cundation of its reconstruction policy. An open, manly renunciation would be more creditable than any such a pitiful attempt by Congress to "sneak out of difficulties into which it proudly strutted."

Having thus exposed the futility of any other plan of retreat than a frank renunciation by Congress of its collapsing reconstruction scheme, it may not be amiss to remark on the suddenness of the light which has dawned on our respectable contemporary. Neither the reasoning nor the recommendation would have been admitted into its columns three weeks ago. The intrinsic absurdity of universal negro suffrage was precisely the same before the great Democratic victories as now; and we are not without hope that further manifestation of public opinion may give still greater clearness of vision to Republican journalists. We should probably all run sadly astray if we were not called to revise our views by the rectifying good sense of that public between whom and a leading journal there is a constant reciprocation of mutually educative influences. We must do our contemporary the justice to say that few journals which aspire to mould the public thought seem more habitually disposed to recognize the vox populi as a veritable

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