

RECESS.

EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS—CONTINUED FROM SATURDAY MORNING TELEGRAPH.

Bad Spelling, as a Means of Grace.

From the N. Y. Tribune. The Democratic party have made a discovery in logic. They have invented a new mode of political argument. They have discovered that bad spelling is a means of conviction, if not of grace. Moderately bad spelling is understood to have a satirical effect. Very bad spelling has all the force of the severest invective. During the war it was discovered that active sympathy with the Rebellion was entirely passive and proper when styled and spelled "zeal in the cause."

One would think that after the suppression of the Rebellion, and when even the Rebels themselves profess to be truly loyal there would be no opportunity in having been loyal during the war. Not so. The new-born and re-entangled conscience of the defeated Rebel is worthy of all attention, because spelled "truly loyal." But the contempt with which those who claim to be truly loyal now regard those who have never been otherwise, finds severe expression in branding the latter with the orthographic stigma "truly loll."

Probably General Grant, when he closed his letter accepting the unanimous nomination of the Republican party for the Presidency with the patriotic aspiration, "Let us have peace," had no thought how easily those who during the war were for peace, and since the peace are for war, might turn his simple and noble prayer into ridicule by spelling it, "Lesh nsh hab peash."

We congratulate the Democratic party on the fertility of its resources and the profundity of its arguments as shown in these homethursts of orthography. They are unanswerable. If anybody can show that such a deluge of inverted commas and bad spelling does not prove that Seymour and Blair ought to be elected President, let him undertake the difficult task. We shrink from it appalled. We are not equal to it.

The Constitutional Amendment and the Political Parties of the Day.

From the N. Y. Herald. Article fourteen of the amendments of the Constitution declares, first section, the equality of all citizens in their civil rights, and that persons of all races and colors born or naturalized in the United States are citizens thereof and of the State in which they reside; second, that representation in Congress shall be restricted or extended in proportion as the right of suffrage may be restricted or enlarged by the several States; third, that certain rebels shall be disfranchised and disabled from holding certain civil offices, state and national, until absolved by a two-thirds vote of each House of Congress; fourth, that the validity of the national debt, pensions, and bounties shall not be questioned, and that all Rebel debts and claims for slaves shall be held illegal and void; fifth, that Congress shall have power, by appropriate legislation, to enforce these provisions.

Here, then, we have a definite settlement of the questions of civil rights, suffrage, disfranchisement, and civil disabilities, the national debt, and all Rebel debts and claims for slaves—a settlement which, in the State elections of 1866, was overwhelmingly approved by the people from ocean to ocean. But how stand the political parties of 1868 upon this settlement? It is the work of the Republican party, and although it opens the door for the removal of the Congressional policy of universal negro suffrage enforced upon the Rebel States in their reconstruction and restoration, even Sumner was an active instrument in securing this ratification. He and his fellow radicals of the universal fanatical negro suffrage school doubtless believe that whatever party may come henceforth uppermost in any of the Southern States it will give the negroes the largest suffrage in order to have the largest possible representation in Congress and in the Electoral College, which elects the President and Vice President of the United States.

The administration, next, with Mr. Seward's proclamation of this amendment, is bound by it; for it is an official act of a recognized officer of the administration. But what of the Democratic party? According to its Tammany platform the Southern reconstruction acts of Congress are "unconstitutional, revolutionary and void." Against the universal negro suffrage experiment of the Republicans there was a Democratic Legislature elected in Ohio in 1867, and also in New Jersey, and the first regular proceeding of each of these Legislatures was the indignant repeal of the ratification of this Constitutional amendment made

by the Legislatures elected in 1865. In the case of New Jersey the revocation was expressed in terms of such unqualified wrath and denunciation that the paper, pronounced "scandalous and offensive," was refused a reading in Congress. Nor have we yet heard the first syllable from any quarter in the Democratic camp in recognition of this amendment. "The constitution of our fathers" is the campaign cry of Wade Hampton; and, according to his own testimony, he had as much to do in the shaping of the Democratic party's war platform of 1865 as had Mr. Vallandigham in the building of its peace platform of 1864. But if we are to go back to "the constitution of our fathers" we must go back to the regime of Buchanan, and of slavery and the Southern slaveholding oligarchy, and the Fugitive Slave law, and Southern Lynch law, and the Dred Scott decision that "negroes have no rights which white men are bound to respect."

The Democratic Tammany platform recognizes the abolition of slavery by the "voluntary action of the States concerned. This would imply that by their 'voluntary action' they may re-establish slavery. The simple truth is, however, that slavery was abolished in the slave States by compulsion, by war, by the bayonet, and the result leaves nothing to the 'voluntary action' of any State against the sovereign authority of the United States. Is the war—approved as a success by the people of all the States participating in the election of 1864, except New Jersey, Delaware, and Kentucky—to be pronounced by the people in 1868 as a failure? The position of the Democratic party and its restored Southern leaders, including Henry A. Wise, the Rhett, Wade Hampton, Toombs, Cobb, Stephens, Semmes and Forrest, against Grant, Sherman, Thomas, Sheridan and Admiral Farragut, and against the results of the war, Southern reconstruction, and this Constitutional amendment, means the "Union as it was" before the war and State sovereignty, and that the "little unpleasantness" of the Rebellion and its consequences shall be wiped out, including the national debt and such, and that the old Southern oligarchy, like the Bonapartes by the Holy Alliance or the Stuarts after Cromwell, shall be restored again to power. Such is the attitude of Mr. Seymour as the candidate for the Presidential succession against General Grant, the conqueror of the Rebellion. In other words, the campaign has assumed the sharply defined lines of an appeal from the results of the battle fields of 1861, 1862, 1863, 1864, and 1865, to the ballot-box for a judgment between the cause represented in battle by General Grant and the cause still upheld with "stars and bars" by General Wade Hampton.

War Democrats and Conservative Republicans—Their Position in the Canvass.

From the N. Y. Times. It is admitted that the Democratic party can have no chance in the campaign unless all shades of opinion are merged in support of the nomination. The more candid of the organs have conceded the necessity of obtaining the help of conservative Republicans; and all sections have acknowledged the hopelessness of a contest which intestine divisions shall be perpetuated. War Democrats must unite with Copperheads to secure even a glimpse of victory.

At least one of these contingent sources of strength was closed by the New York Convention. The adoption of a platform which unsettles the results of the war and reopens the whole question of reconstruction, and the triumph of the extreme element in the selection of Seymour and Blair, dispelled whatever doubts remained in the minds of dissatisfied Republicans. A moderate, conciliatory and honest course on the part of the Convention might have awakened in them some hesitancy as to their duty in the election. But there could be none when the Convention adopted the views of Rebels and copperheads as to reconstruction, and of repudiators as to finance. From that moment it became clear that no party could be held with the Democracy. Disapproval of the temper and policy of Congress became as nothing compared with the disgust awakened by the action of the Democratic Convention.

And what is the position of the War Democrats? The Soldiers' Convention spoke for some of them, in a manner that indicated a strong desire to resume old party affiliations. A few of them have since declared their adherence to Seymour and Blair and the platform on which they stand. The great majority, however, make no secret of their aversion to both. They received the results of the Convention with an indifference which is rapidly changing to hostility. They regarded Seymour as an enemy of the Government while the war lasted, and are unwilling to trust him with power at a period hardly less critical. Blair's letter opened to them visions of turbulence and bloodshed, and they could have no faith in the official conduct of a man who, to obtain a nomination, committed himself to views at variance with order and law. Hence the remarkable lack of enthusiasm which attended the adoption of the Democratic ticket. It extinguished hopes, and created a conviction fatal to confidence in the patriotism and statesmanship of the party.

This conviction must have been diffused and strengthened by utterances and incidents in the South since the nomination. The potency of Copperheadism in the Convention might have admitted of explanation. But the reappearance of Rebel leaders on the Southern stage, their bold avowal of the ulterior designs which they have rejoined the Democracy, and the arrogant disloyal temper which animates their plans—are considerations which must influence every Northern Democrat, who, during the Rebellion sustained the cause of the Union.

While, then, Union Democrats may here and there be found whose dislike of certain Republican measures has driven them into the arms of Seymour and his friends, it is safe to conclude that the great majority of them will hold no fellowship with a party whose most notable exponent stands abroad as has thus far been Wade Hampton. They can have nothing to do with a party which at the North relies upon repudiation, and in the South is championed by the bitterest and most relentless of the Rebels. To suppose otherwise were to impute to them a willingness to impair the Union they once helped to save, and to hand back the South to the keeping of its old masters. It is not possible that soldiers like Franklin and Hancock can be zealous supporters of a ticket which has Semmes, and Toombs, and Forrest, and Vance, and Wise among its most active supporters. Vallandigham was a heavy load to carry; but when it is proposed to assume the entire crowd of Rebel leaders, and to send Seymour to the White House with these men as his advisers, the thing becomes too gross and impudent to be tolerated by the war wing of the Democracy. Its logical and proper place is under the Grant banner.

Horatio Seymour a Statesman.

From the N. Y. World. The Cincinnati Commercial makes this confession of ignorance, and sceptical appeal for information:— "We must repeat our call upon Democratic speakers and newspapers for a review of Governor Seymour's statesmanship. What has he done that entitles him to that reputation? Gov-

ernor Seymour has been in public life a good many years, and his record shows anything beyond the craft and capacity of a mere politician, the people want to know it. He has carefully cultivated his own interests, and been more successful in obtaining nominations by declaiming than by any public character of his time. He is at home in caucus and convention; he knows how to arouse the passions and prejudices of a mob; it is not known that he regards treason and rebellion against constituted authority as a crime, or that he is sincerely believed that he prefers party to country, and the small acts of politics to the loftier aims of statesmanship. Still, it is said he is a statesman. If so, where is the proof?"

We could perhaps make a more satisfactory response to this call for light, if the Cincinnati Commercial had given its own ideal of what entitles a public man to be called a statesman. A definition which would include General Grant and exclude Governor Seymour would be a curiosity in political literature. The tenor of the Commercial's interrogations implies that a candidate for President ought to be a statesman, and with respect to the present election it might be a sufficient reply to simply retort the questions, and ask for the proofs of General Grant's statesmanship. He has no original opinions on public questions, nor capacity to form any; no steadfastness in adhering to the opinions he has from time to time borrowed from others; no eloquence; no ability to make a great, or even a respectable, figure in a deliberative assembly; no knowledge of the politics of foreign countries, and but a slender and scanty acquaintance with the history of his own. In jurisprudence and political economy, those great departments of inquiry so essential to a well-equipped statesman, he is not even a novice, not even a tyro; he has never studied them at all. He graduated at the military school not far from the foot of his class; while he remained in the army he was not studious to enlarge the small stock of knowledge he acquired at West Point; resigning to avoid a dismissal in consequence of intemperate habits, his subsequent occupations as a small farmer in Missouri and a tanner at monthly wages in Illinois, though honest and respectable, were not a very promising school for training a statesman. When the supporters of such a man question the ripe qualifications of Governor Seymour, they make themselves ridiculous.

It is quite true that Governor Seymour has never held office under the Federal Government, the Democratic party of this State not having elected a Senator since Mr. Dickinson, in 1851, nor had a Cabinet appointment since Mr. May, in 1853. But Mr. Seymour has made himself as much felt in national politics out of office as many other statesmen have in. And this is, perhaps, the most satisfactory proof of superior ability. The late John A. Andrew, whom all the Republicans class as a statesman, is another instance of a man, who, though a mere Governor of a State, won a national reputation. He acquired it, as Governor Seymour has, by his utterances on great national questions. A man who, by the mere force of his talents, thus commands the attention of the nation, is of a higher order than those who must be lifted upon a pedestal before they can be heard. We suppose the Cincinnati Commercial would not dispute that the late Mr. Lincoln was a statesman; but what proofs had he given of it previous to his election to the Presidency? The Commercial can point to nothing but his controversy with Mr. Douglas when they stumped Illinois together for the Senatorship. A man who could hold his own even tolerably against such a debater as Douglas must have had a pretty fair grasp of national questions. What a figure Grant would make in such a grapple with a statesman! Mr. Greeley has many times, in the Tribune, expressed his approval of candidates confronting each other on the stump, as Douglas and Lincoln did, thinking it an effectual bar against the election of tools and noodles to high offices. Wonder if Mr. Greeley would like to see the experiment tried between Grant and Seymour?

Free government is government by public opinion. In free countries statesmen build up a great reputation chiefly by the breadth and sagacity of their utterances on public questions. We suppose the Cincinnati Commercial regards John Bright as a statesman; but Bright has won his rank precisely as Governor Seymour has won his, by making the ablest speeches of any man in his country of this decade. Mr. Seward was reckoned, eight years ago, as the first statesman in the Republican party; the only foundation of his claim being his stump speeches in the Senate and on the stump. Up to the time he was made Secretary of the Treasury, the Cincinnati Commercial's fellow-citizen, Governor Chase, had nothing else to support his high reputation as a statesman. Let the Commercial select the six best speeches of John Bright, or of Mr. Seward, or of Mr. Chase, and we will match them by six of Governor Seymour's not inferior to either collection in any of the requisites of statesman-like eloquence, whether it be luminous clearness of statement, breadth of view, solidity of reasoning, sagacity, or richness of information. Governor Seymour has spent his whole life in the liberal studies and pursuits which benefit a statesman.

The notion of the Cincinnati Commercial that Governor Seymour is an adept in managing a caucus and in the arts of a small politician, will excite a smile here in New York where he is known. Such petty intrigues are the resource of an office-seeker; but Governor Seymour has never sought office; offices have always sought him. He does not belong to the order of men who need office to give them consideration. The chief advantage of high office is the opportunities it affords for influencing public opinion—the grand lever by which the political world is moved in free countries. Mr. Seymour's abilities, eloquence, and standing give him this advantage independently of public station. By such a man the routine duties of office may be reasonably slurred, except when the public voice demands the sacrifice of his personal ease for the general good.

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Advertisement for Gas Fixtures, featuring Weaver & Pennock, Plumbers, Gas and Steam Fitters, No. 27 North Seventh Street, Philadelphia.

Advertisement for Summer Resorts, featuring Loretto Springs, near Orresson, Pa., and the Hotel Loretto Springs, now open under the supervision of John McIntosh.

Advertisement for Blowers Mills Boarding House, featuring the beautiful lake, the boats thereon, the fishing, the bathing, the delightful medicated Mineral Springs, and the splendid groves of larch, pine, and cedar.

Advertisement for Delaware Water Gap, featuring the special accommodation of passengers desirous of spending Sunday at the Delaware Water Gap, with an additional line leaving the Water Gap every Monday morning.

Advertisement for Hygenia House, Collins Beach, Delaware, featuring a new open for the reception of guests, with a fine view of the Delaware Bay, a few miles from the Cape.

Advertisement for The Catskill Mountain House, featuring the favorite summer resort, situated on the Catskill Mountains, State of New York, and commanding the finest view in America.

Advertisement for Congress Hall, Cape Island, New Jersey, featuring a new building, with a fine view of the ocean, and a fine view of the mountains.

Advertisement for United States Hotel, Atlantic City, N. J., featuring a new open for the reception of guests, with a fine view of the ocean, and a fine view of the mountains.

Advertisement for The Neptune House, Atlantic City, N. J., featuring a new building, with a fine view of the ocean, and a fine view of the mountains.

Advertisement for Country Boarding, featuring a new building, with a fine view of the ocean, and a fine view of the mountains.

Advertisement for Opera Glasses, featuring a new building, with a fine view of the ocean, and a fine view of the mountains.

Advertisement for James E. Caldwell & Co., Jewelers, featuring a new building, with a fine view of the ocean, and a fine view of the mountains.

Advertisement for Harris' Seamless Kid Gloves, featuring a new building, with a fine view of the ocean, and a fine view of the mountains.

Advertisement for J. W. Scott & Co., featuring a new building, with a fine view of the ocean, and a fine view of the mountains.

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Advertisement for Henry's Hannis & Co., featuring 218 & 220 S. Front St., Philadelphia, offering fine rye and bourbon whiskies, in bond, of 1865, 1866, 1867, and 1868.

Advertisement for Sewing Machines, featuring The Great American Combination Button-Hole Overseaming Sewing Machine, with its wonderful popularity conclusive proof of its great merit.

Advertisement for Family Machine, featuring The Increase in the demand for this valuable machine has been tremendous during the last seven months of its first year before the public.

Advertisement for Presidential Contest, featuring Flags, Banners, and Etc., 1868, with various items for sale.

Advertisement for Engines, Machinery, Etc., featuring Merrick & Sons' Southwark Foundry, with various items for sale.

Advertisement for Lumber, featuring 1868 Spruce Joist, Seasoned Clear Pine, Choice Pattern Pine, Spanish Cedar, for Patterns, Red Cedar.

Advertisement for T. P. Galvin & Co., Lumber Commission Merchants, featuring various items for sale.

Advertisement for Coal, featuring B. Middleton & Co., Dealers in Coal, with various items for sale.

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