SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

SDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS-COMPILED SVERY DAY FOR THE EVENING TELEGRAPH.

Southern Recuperation.

From the N. Y. Commercial Advertiser. With all their denunciation of carpet-baggers and Northerners generally, the Southern mouth-pieces are not so unobserving as not to perceive that these strangers are contributing very materially to the regeneration and recu-peration of their well-nigh ruined section. The great mass of those who have proceeded South since the termination of the conflict have carried capital with them. It is their money which is now starting new mills and factories, rebuilding destroyed edifices, reopening, or opening for the first time, coal, iron, lead, and gold mines, and projecting many new enterprises and undertakings which will add to the material industry and wealth of the section, and hasten its recuperation. Had it not been for the capital conveyed thither, the recovered States could have raised no cotton or sugar crops during the past three years. They have not the wherewith to purchase seed, prepare the land and employ laborers. They understand this, and the Southern papers are just now filled with appeals to Northern people to come and settle among them. The Richmond Enquirer of yesterday, directs attention to the plaster deposits of Smythe county, as one of the resources of the Old Dominion, which only requires capital to be made a source of vast wealth. It says:-

The main bed is situated on what is called the "Cove," on Cove Creek, a branch of the North Fork of Holston river, about twenty-five miles north of Wytheville, and fourteen miles east of north of Wytheville, and fourteen miles east of Saltville, the present terminus of the branch of the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad. The route from thence to the Cove is up the valley of the Holston, a most favorable line for a railroad—the grades would be about fifteen feet to the mile—descending with the export tounage. The quality of this plaster is superior to any now known on this continent. Such as have had a fair opportunity of testing it with the Nova Scotla, fix their relative value at fifty to one hundred per cent. In favor of the Virginia—that is to say, one ton of the Virginia is equal to one and a balf to two of the Nova Scotla. In quantity it is enormous—it underlies nundreds of acres in a compact body. A well, or shaft, of acres in a compact body. A well, or shaft, ten feet in diameter, has been sunk at one point. Within four feet from the surface plaster was reached, and continued (with the exception of a few diminutive seams of clay) for the depth of five hundred and eighty-two feet, and operations suspended without reaching the bottom of the vein or deposit, so continuous bottom of the vein or deposit, so continuous was the plaster—no water came in—the plaster continuing of a uniform superior quality throughout. What an immense treasure is here presented for the agriculturist! What a powerful and effective agency to resuscitate the now impoverished South, enabling the farmer to make more available the entire surface of

Some of our Northern capitalists who are on the alert for remunerative undertakings, would do well to look into these plaster deposits.

Mr. Reed on Revolutions. From the N. Y. Tribune. We are obliged in all political contests to make a large allowance for human infirmity. And when a gentleman like Mr. William B. Reed of Philadelphia writes to the Maryland Democrats that their party is the party of coin payments, and that our party is the party of repudiation, we are bound to believe that Mr. Reed thinks so, and that in consequence of his absence from political life, he has never heard of an individual by the name of Pendleton. It is a little too warm for us to attempt to trace the intellectual processes by which Mr. Reed arrived at these extraordinary conclusions. It is fair to suppose that he read the doings of the late Democratic Convention, and that he is not ignorant of its unreserved declaration that "when the obligations of the Government do not expressly state upon their face, or the law under which they were issued does not provide that they shall be paid in coin, they shall be paid in lawful money," i. e. in greenbacks—a doctrine which leaves the Five-twenties payable in notes worth about sixty per cent. of their face. We are not aware that the Republican party, as a party, in any manifesto promulgated by its authority, has ever solemnly indorsed any such doctrine as this; and yet Mr. Reed is mortally afraid that if Seymour isn't elected, all the Government securities will be good for nothing. Of all the Democrats who in the Convention voted for Pendleton, he seems never to have heard, albeit Pendleton is in favor of paying everything in paper, that is if he is in favor of paying anything at all. Moreover, in his hurried anxiety to make out a case which shall be pleasing to those theoretical Rebels, the Maryland Democrats, Mr. Reed lets out of the bag one of the most remarkable cats that ever eried "mew." It is "the disfranchised, persecuted white men of the South" who are to overthrow the public faith, unless "the negro is subordinated, not to slavery, but to the control of a superior race." And pray why not to slavery, Mr. Reed? What good is there in mincing words after this fine fashion? If you mean slavery, substantially, as your talk about "a superior race" shows why don't you say "slavery" plainly and without coughing Moreover, it turns out that Mr. Reed is opposed to negro suffrage because he is afraid that the ex-Rebels will make a desperate attack upon the public credit, and that they will find in "the enfranchised negro a sure auxiliary." Now, it is notorious that nine-tenths of the ex-Rebels, whether reconstructed or not, are strongly in favor of the election of Horatio Seymour. Singular, isn't it? All these good folks mean (according to Mr. Reed's admission) to force repudiation, if they can, while "the enfranchised negro," receiving fiscal lessons from his late master, is to become Pendletonian in every fiber, and the "sure auxiliary" of the most gigantic scheme of swindling ever devised by the ingenuity of unscrupulous men. These are deductions from Democratic premises. These are Mr. Reed's conclusions, not ours. They are, to state them plainly:-

1. The ex-Rebels support Mr. Seymour. The ex-Rebels will repudiate the national debt whenever they shall find it conve-

3. Therefore, Mr. Seymour is presumptively in favor of repudiating the national debt. Q

-It seems to us that a bondholder must be "bloated" out of all common sense, or the capacity for thinking at all, if he can be wheedled or terrified into supporting Seymour by any such prediction as this. Its natural tendency would be, we should think, to make him go for the other man.

In the second part of his letter Mr. Reed dilates upon the enormous iniquity of negro suffrage, which he considers to be the result of "the morbid sentimentalism of New England." We wonder for how many years respectable men like Mr. Reed will continue to talk after this fashion, without seeing or sus-pecting that all the "sentimentality" is upon pecting that all the hard, practical, naked their side, and all the hard, practical, naked their side, and all the hard, practical, naked Mr. Reed, "should negroes vote in South Carolina when they are not allowed to vote in Pennsylvania?" and he puts this query with an air of confidence which indicates that he considers it to be an end of controversy. He does not comprehend that this question is

takes it for granted that because certain class is swindled in Pennsylvania, it is therefore perfectly righteous to swindle it, for instance, in Louisiana! He wants injustice uniform and equal all over the country. Not satisfied with this absurdity, he intimates that Pennsylvania will be so indignant at finding that pegroes vote in South Carolina, while she does not allow them to vote within her borders, that she will first have "convulsions, and then—secede! Why, pray, hasn't she seceded before? Negroes have been voting in a number of States for many years-in some of them ever since the Revolution. Pray, how has sensitive Pennsylvania managed to bear it?-to bear it, when she found "herself" (to use Mr. Reed's language) "a perpetual partner with the negro ?" Still she went on voting, and sometimes some of her free and enlightened and fastidious Democrats so far overcame their feelings as to be able to vote three or four times at the same election. Occasionally even white voters are not the exclusive possessors of every virtue under Heaven.

Mr. Reed is an able and an honorable man: he, therefore, talks very plainly, and avows that if the Democrats carry the Government, one of their first acts will be to take away the right of suffrage, which has been formally and We like plain talking, even when we think that a man talks absurdly; and Mr. Reed speaks plainly enough in all conscience. He would take away a privilege conferred by national law, and guaranteed by the national henor, from what he is pleased to call "an alien and offensive race." His frankness seems to us to be quite superior to his statesmanship. In the course of a not over long letter he has managed to predict a revolution in the South, a revolution in Pennsylvania, and a revolution in the Treasury. Two of these, according to his own showing, would be the result of Mr. Seymour's election, and only one of them-the Pennsylvania "convulsion"-is threatened by the election of General Grant. On the whole, we think that we pre-fer the "convulsion."

The Presidential Campaign. From the N. Y. Herald.

Two points in the canvass are more import-

ant than all others—the history of the radical

party and the nigger vote. For eight years the Republican party has been in power, and the final results, as seen by the people, are the derangement of all the machinery of government, an almost incredible corruption in office, and a weight in taxes that bears commerce and labor to the earth. Will the people longer have patience with a party that has such a history? This is the question of the hour. Is there any fear in our future that should move the people to trust this party again, even despite the fearful chance that it may continue the same destructive career that has already been so disastrous to the national prosperity? Can any other party inflict upon us evils worse than those we now suffer as the consequence of radical misrule? Reconstruction by a system of legislation that deliberately forges calamity for a whole people and prepares the social ruin of ten States to secure power to a coterie of politicians-this is the political crime that stamps the radical faction as utterly damnable before the people. Men inquire what the faction would stop at that would purchase such an end by such means, and they know that it will not stop at anything sacred in the law and will respect the rights of the people in the North as little as it has done in the South. Does the name of Grant furnish any guarantee for the future of the radicals? The people are not ready to believe it. Grant is politically only a promise and a possibility. Respectable men are not willing to doubt his honesty or his upright | nal offenses. purpose; but these do not always qualify for in such a strife he must little hope in the Democrats. Men on either side count for little; it is the history of the radical party that condemns it. Democracy has a bad history, too, but its sins are trivial by comparison. It this faction ever desired to reconstruct society it was in the interest of the white man. The word taxation hardly occurs in its history, and it never aimed a blow at the Supreme Court or sough- to cripple the Government in the person of the Executive. It sympathized with the South in the war, and that can be forgiven by a people who are at last coming to look upon the Republicans as the South looked upon them when the war began. If, therefore, the history of the Democracy were darker than it is the history of radicalism would be infinitely beyond it in infamy. It is upon these broad views and judgments of parties that the people move. The common mind averages great results by processes of its own. Isolated facts are forgotten, this or that virtue or vice seems to pass away; but the balance of history is made up at the polls, and Kentucky indicates the tendency. If the reaction of the public mind stimulated

by the history of the radical party does not sweep the whole North the negro vote will be of the first importance in the struggle. It may save the South to the radicals, but it may give it to the Democrats, and, regarding the possibility of a fairly divided North, Sambo may finally hold the balance of power. Some facts indicate that the negroes may go very largely with the Democrats. Dull as we may consider the whole race, they have seen enough to be disgusted with radical friendship, and are certainly seeking political allies outside that party. Negroes from the beginning had determined upon their part of the alliance with the radicals, and thus formed expectations that the latter could not meet. Confiscation tells the story in a word. Northern restraint on the dominant party, even in its worst moments rendered it impossible for it to carry out the virtual compact; but the negroes will not understand that. They only cherish resentment at the men who promised, but did not perform. Confiscation, by giving the negroes a real as well as a political independence, might have made it possible that they could sustain a political opposition in the Southern States: but without a hold on the land this was not possible. Without the power, therefore, to make their political independence effective, with social facts, more cogent than radical orators, forcing upon them that their interests were identical with the interests of the people among whom they must live; with a heart-breaking disappointment in view of this and a bitter readmess to visit their resentment on those who had raised such high hopes only to betray them, the niggers inevitably go over to the other side. There is nothing strange in this. It would be strange if it were otherwise, for they achieve political revenge and act on the best view they can take of their own welfare.

The case of the Presidency, therefore, judged by the main facts seems to stand thus: sufficiently answered by putting another, viz: "Why don't negroes vote in Pennsylvania?" This view of the case never dawns

upon Mr. Reed's mind, although in the North to the Democrats. If, however, this not prove conversion. Indeed, we should take it is a very good mind indeed. He fails, there is a possibility that Grant may be have had list. beaten by losing the whole South through the defection of the negroes, who will go over to the Democrats, partly led by the natural in-fluences of association, and partly by resent-ment for the relinquishment by the radicals of that measure that was from the first regarded as necessary to sustain their political opposition to their former masters.

General Grant's Magnanimity.

From the Washington National Intelligencer. The exposition of the false pretences of generosity put forth by General Grant's chief of staff towards "persons now in confinement under sentences of military commissions organized under the reconstruction acts of Congress in the States in which the reconstruction laws have ceased to be operative," has fallen like a thunderbolt upon the radical managers. For a whole week before the letter was delivered to the President, they had, through despatches to the press, heralded this letter of "John A. Rawlings, chief of staff," as an evidence of General Grant's willingness for the supremacy of the civil over military authority in matters affecting the lives or liberties of citizens. They thought to make of it a great card in the campaign. They had become painfully conscious that the people were tired of the government by the sword unreservedly bestowed upon the freedmen. and bayonet, and were longing for a restoration of civil government. They had found already their military candidate was a dead weight upon their hands; that the people had turned from the sword to the fasces, from military despotism to a government of law. They had heard the enthusiastic response of the whole country to the noble efforts of General Hancock to restore the supremacy of civil authority within his military jurisdiction, and in humble imitation of this splendid example, they endeavored to hold up Grant in a similar light before the people, and to proclaim him an advocate of the restoration of civil authority in the States that have so long been ruled only by the sword.

The effort was made too late. The opportunity had passed. The government of the sword had been already superseded. There was no longer a shadow of right to arrest and try and imprison citizens by military commissions. General Hancock, in his military department, had long before completely done away with these abominable outrages upon civil right. The erection of civil governments, whatever their validity or however founded, had removed all pretence for a continuation of military control when General Grant's chief of staff, in his name, recommended this extraordinary magnanimity to the President of the United States, upon whom he had always heretofore urged the sternest adhesion to mili-

tary punishments. This reaching after second-handed popularity has missed its mark. There is nothing in all of General Grant's record to sustain it. His whole history, from the date of his commission as a Brigadier-General, is at variance with this latter-day elemency. He had during his career numerous opportunities to have manifested this forgiveness and love for the supremacy of the civil authorities, if he had entertained such sentiments even for a moment. But all the way we find him uphold ing the sword above the law, making the military always superior to the civil authority. His recommendation, as Secretary of War ad interim, in the case of Lusk, in September, 1867, in which he urged the execution of the prisoner, not because he deserved capital punishment, but simply because "it was the first trial for murder under a military commission under the reconstruction acts," is a signal instance of this disposition and desire to substitute military for civil government, even where the civil courts were in operation, and ready, willing, and able to take cognizance of crimi-

It was only through the interposition of President Johnson that this victim of a milicontrol to save the people from his party. He may prove capable; he may not, and penalty until a civil court could pass judgit is a time when the people cannot trust | ment upon him, in accordance with the Contheir future to such a chance. Therefore the stitution and the laws of the land. This is doom of radicalism seems to be burned into only one of many similar instances in the popular brain, and on such reasoning as | which the President, as the sworn defender of we have hinted the people appear to drift the Constitution, has had occasion to stay the toward what they regard as the least of two acts of military despotism, and protect citizens evils, without faith in the Republicans and from military outrage, until they could be remitted to the protection of the Constitution and the laws.

> The radical organ here endeavors to hide its vexation at the exposition of Grant's inconsistency, by claiming that the action of the President in the case of Lusk is a recognition of the validity of the reconstruction acts of Congress. This conclusion is far-fetched and unwarrantable. Mr. Johnson has publicly, in his various messages to Congress, placed on record his protest against the validity of all these acts, and expressed in unequivocal terms his opinion of their unconstitutionality; but he has also declared his purpose-as they have been given the form of laws-to execute them until their unconstitutionality shall be adjudged by a competent judicial tribunal. This surely affords no shadow of pretext that their validity is in any manner recognized by Mr. Johnson, or those who entertain the same opinions he has promulgated in regard to this iniquitous legislation, as it has progressed step by step.

> The inconsistency is conflued exclusively to the radical organs and the radical candidate for the Presidency, who assume that it is an evidence of submission of military to civil authority for Grant to recommend the cessation of punishment by military commissions in States where they pretend to have re-established civil governments. It, by the aid of the deluded negroes and rapacious carpetbaggers, Congress has really set up civil governments in these States, then the recommendation of General Grant's chief of staff amounts really to nothing, for these victims of military despotism can find redress by application to the civil courts, and General Grant is remitted to his previous record and urgent recommendation of the infliction of the death penalty upon a citizen solely upon the ground that it was the first trial for murder under the Reconstruction laws of Congress.

The Question before the People.

From the N. Y. Times. The all-important question presented to the people, North and South, is not whether a Re-publican or Democratic administration shall rule the country. The political conflict which agitates every section of this continent is not simply partisan, as in ordinary cases where the people are called upon to judge between an administration and the opposition—be-tween the "ins" and the "outs." The welfare of the republic during a long series of years depends upon the result of the coming elections. Neither the Republicans nor the Democrats, as such, can rely upon the prestige of a party name in such a conflict, any more than they could four years ago. Now, as then, more serious interests are at stake han those involved in the possession of the White House, or of the Capitol, or of party

The military successes which closed the war for the Union only furnished a basis for the resteration of peace. The absence of actual war is not peace. Lee's surrender was no argument proving the restored loyalty of his troops. It simply indicated their exhaustion, their inability to fight. Of course, the defeat of the Rebellion proved its folly-but it did

victions which could be altered by the mere fact of failure. Our adversaries were unwise in expecting, on the other hand, that we should show the same want of sincerity in the justice of our cause by contenting ourselves with an empty boast of military victory. Our watchword from the beginning had been not conquest, but peace. The war was not a duel -it settled the claim (so far as armed force could settle it) that the nation has a right to the sovereign allegiance of all its citizens. But a settlement thus made by a war might, by another outbreak of hostilities, be jeopardized, and perhaps annulled. thing more, then, was required. The laws which during the war had been silent, must now speak again and ratify and secure the results gained on the battle field. But ordinary legislation might be repealed; hence the necessity of incorporating in a constitutional amendment the legal conditions of a more perfect union and permanent peace. It is true that a resort to arms having once been determined upon, it is easy to throw aside constitutional enactments. But, then we all remembered that the war through which we had passed was made possible only through a misunderstanding as to the exact meaning of our Federal Constitution in regard to the claims entertained by the two great parties in that struggle. Was it not important that any such ambiguous construction should be henceforth prevented? As a rule, our peoble abide by the laws. At any rate, the least we could ask was a constitutional guarantee securing what had been gained at so great cost, and preventing future difficulties.

achieved through the fourteenth amendment. But the people cannot shut their eyes to the fact that this has been accomplished in the very teeth of the former Secessionists, and that the means through which it has been accomplished are pronounced unconstitutional and invalid by the Democratic party. The feeling of insecurity, therefore, as to this most vital element in the restoration of peace, still remains. It has still to be decided by the popular vote, whether the war had any real significance, whether it accomplished any-thing of permanent value for the nation. Admit that the prominent secession leaders acqui sced in their deteat, still the people remember that they did not cordially participate in the work of restoration. They looked upon the allegiance to which they returned as being precisely that which they had repudiated. They entirely ignored all conditions which the results of the war imposed and made necessary. They looked upon the war itself as a simple test of physical forces in which they had failed. When it was over they deemed it a myth, and regarded its re-

And here is the great mistake which the Democrats are now making—namely, in adopt ing this Southern view. And they are build ing their hopes of success upon the idea that the people at large adopt a similar view. It is a mistaken confidence. The popular sentiment has not thus essentially altered; what it was in 1864 and 1866 it remains to-dayand what it demanded then, and now demands, is absolute security and permanent Vituperation directed against either peace. Mr. Seymour or General Grant effects nothing. It is impossible to create a diversion by directing attention on the one hand to the war record of extreme Democrats, or to the incidental abuses connected with the Congressional plan of reconstruction on the other. The popular thought, as we said at the first, goes down far below these surface eddies to the one great argument—to the grand idea of the conflict which cost us three billions of money and half a million of lives, and to the realization of that idea. Two years ago this idea might have been realized but for the Opposition. If this had been the case then to-day, instead of joining issues upon the old questions, the nation, having fairly passed its tremendous crisis, would be divided upon other matters relating to its industrial develop-

ment. As it is, the danger is not yet passed, the fever is not over. The Republicans, in view of the critical situation, have acted wisely in nominating General Grant. But the Democrats have insisted upon their old and favorite ideas that the war was essentially a failure that the public debt is a national disgrace, and that any plan of restoration which insists upon securing the nation against future disturbance,

an essentially just platform, and seeks to identify itself with the sentiment of the people; while, on the other hand, the Democratic once repudiated by the people. It, moreover, appeals to the most ignorant and inveterate prejudices of the past, ignoring the progress made during the most important decade in American history. Making a vain pretense to conservatism, it seeks to disturb, to agitate, and to convulse the nation.

Is the Republic to be Mexicanized by the success of this disturbing element? That is the question for the people to decide. We are not loth to leave the question with them. They see on the one hand a settled plan of restoration already established in seven out of the ten lately Confederate States. They see the Legislatures of those States taking prompt steps to remove disabilities from the disfranchised whites. On that side they remark the disposition toward conciliation, harmony, and peace. From the other side they hear only defiant mutterings, threats of violence and of continued discord. Can we doubt what their decision will be?

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LEGAL NOTICES.

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AND COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA.
Estate of MARTHA, FRANCIS, and THOMAS L.
HACKER minors. The Auditor appointed by the Court to audit, settle and adjust the first and final account of JERE-MIAH L. BUTCHINSON, guardian of MARTHA HACKER, FRANCIS HACKER, and THOMAS L. HACKER, under the Hands of the accountant, will meet the parties interested for the purpose of his appointment, on THURSDAY, August 27 1868, at 11 o'clock A. M., at his office, No. 707 SANSOM Street, in the City of Philadelphia.

B. F. MURPHY, S. 12 wim51*

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