

SPiRiT OF THE PRESS.

EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS—COMPILED EVERY DAY FOR THE EVENING TELEGRAPH.

The Southern Militia.

From the N. Y. Times. The order of Secretary Schofield explanatory of his refusal to furnish arms to the militia of the Southern States...

The case is made a good deal plainer by the extract from the law which the Secretary of War introduces into his order. By one of those unfortunate blunders which have marred the progress of reconstruction...

Meanwhile the President may prevent mischief, and possibly some trouble, by making the fact announced by General Schofield the basis of more decided action than might otherwise be expedient.

Colored Conservatism.

From the N. Y. Tribune. "Governor Seward," asked a Washington acquaintance, during the winter of 1857-58, "what are your views of Mr. Douglas' chances for the Presidency?"

The white aristocracy has beaten the radical constitution of Mississippi by negro votes, and came near beating that of Georgia; polling 15,000 black votes against it.

Yet we warn their new friends to mind the crusty adage that "Fine words butter no parsnips." An old play hits the point thus briefly:—

Sambo has a liking for "Old Massa"—he lives on his land, earns his wages, and has substantial reasons for preferring his good will to that of a "carpet bagger."

dolly bath such extent, that all the niggers they don't shoot will vote for Seymour and Blair, and there will be more of them left alive to vote for Grant next November than if no such delusion had been propagated.

Grant's Generalship.

From the N. Y. World. The Republican newspapers make a practical confession of the necessity of defending and bolstering up General Grant's damaged reputation for superior military skill.

The Sun's attempt to prop up the tottering reputation of General Grant is more to the purpose. The Sun tries to show that the World has exaggerated the strength of Grant's army and the greatness of his losses between the Rapidan and the James.

Now, is it not apparent to the naked eye that there are underplaying and overblowing cases in this campaign which obscure the military glories of Grant?

We think there is no reason to fear that with General Grant's election the administration will fall under the control of the revolutionary radicals, but every reason to believe that in his quiet way, and more decisively than Lincoln, Grant will be the master of the administration and of Congress.

Pierce was elected on the compromise measure of 1850. He was thus elected because on this platform the people believed he would maintain the peace and harmony of the country on the slavery question inaugurated by those great peace measures of Henry Clay.

These strange (they seem strange now) tenders by Mr. Lincoln show how his confidence in General Grant had become prostrated by his loss of so many men, his disappointment of so many hopes, by the complete failure of all the calculations and expectations with which Grant had crossed the Rapidan, by his spinning out a bootless campaign not only "all

summer"—which he thought the extreme limit even after his terrible losses in the Wilderness—but all the autumn, and at the time of the Hampton Roads conference, nearly all winter. The Hampton Roads conference is the best commentary on the campaign of General Grant as it appeared to Mr. Lincoln at that time.

The Political Situation—1868 and 1852—Seymour Another Poor Pierce.

History, they say, repeats itself, and the saying is true. We see it in the records of empires and dynasties, and in the vicissitudes of our own political parties.

In 1852 the Whig candidate was General Scott, a chieflain who in his military reputation stood as General Grant now stands or as King Saul stood among the mighty men of Israel in his day—a head and shoulders above them all.

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From the administration of Seymour, in short, if elected, we have nothing better to expect than another term of poor Pierce or a second edition of Andy Johnson in his conflict with Congress; while in the election of Grant we have every reason to hope for a safe and sound conservative policy against the excesses of the radicals on the one hand and the freeters on the other.

Seymour to Grant, and thus the greatest soldier of the day may again be beaten right and left, North and South, by another poor Pierce.

The Fallen Oak.

It is hard to pen in a few words as much as our hearts prompt us to say of Thaddeus Stevens—now at last in his tomb. Any other President than Andrew Johnson would have announced his death in an official bulletin.

Called "The Great Commoner," like the elder Pitt, Mr. Stevens was like his prototype in imperious parliamentary sway; like him in eagle-like quickness and ferocity of attack; like him in the almost preternatural scorn and contempt which he could express by his countenance and forefinger; like him in arrowy directness of argument; like him in whiteness of unspotted honesty; like him in that self-abnegation which substituted for personal interest a passionate pride of country; and like him, to have all things else, in illustrious devotion to liberty.

Of course, we are far from saying that Thaddeus Stevens was gifted with that majestic eloquence which, if tradition be true, made Lord Chatham the Demosthenes of modern times. But it must be remembered that Mr. Stevens rose from a local into a national reputation, not by efforts made in the prime, but in the decline of life.

His private life was not a good example. His habits included the offenses common with many English statesmen of quarter of a century ago, and with some American gentlemen of to-day. We do not believe in lying—least of all in the solemn presence of death and the grave.

These words of ours as best to suit his own wishes, he would command us to paint him as truthfully as we could, and would find us to omit the necessary shadow of the picture. But we have noticed, as an occasional phenomenon in morals, that public spirit sometimes becomes all the more a passion with men who have lost something of private virtue.

Not many months ago, on learning that the cemetery in Lancaster in which he expected his ashes to be reposed would not admit the body of negroes to burial, he indignantly sold his lot, and purchased one in another ground, where, in the consecrated dust of God's acre, all men might be equal—and so, even in his grave, we may still salute him as "The Great Commoner."

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