SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

2

EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS-COMPILED EVERY BAY FOR THE EVENING TELEGRAPH.

Minister Johnson's Reception by Disraeli-Progress of our Diplomacy in England. From the N. Y. Heraid. *

Minister Reverdy Johnson, after enjoying a very cordial and respectful reception from the English people at Sonthampton and in London, has had a personal interview with Premier Disraeli in audience at Hughenden. The time for the presentation of the new envoy of the United States to Queen Victoria was arranged on that occasion, and there is little doubt but that Mr. Johnson read to the head of the British Cabinet a rough draft of the address which he intends to deliver to her Majesty, and that Mr. Disraeli intimated to our representative the tenor and tone of the reply of the Court. This instant and satisfactory progress, this talking over the situation in a friendly way, is not only complimentary to the American nation, but shows forth the estimate which has been formed in England of Mr. Johnson's talent, probity, and character as a public man and gentleman.

In the present aspect of our relations with Great Britain Minister Johnson is the "right man in the right place," and, being so, his path has been made easy and his way clear to the throne from the very commencement. Our special correspondent in London intimates, indeed, in his letter published in the Herald yesterday, that business of a very delicate and interesting character had been transacted between the two statesmen even before the special meeting at Hughenden, and that the troublesome and perplexing Court breeche question has already been disposed of and will no longer present a source of embarrassment to our Minister in his communications with the sovereign of England. Mr. Johnson, aware of the worries and delicate perplexities which occurred to the late General Scott, the deceased ex-President Buchanan, as well as to ex-Minister Adams, by means of pantaloons and "nnavoidable circumstances," availed himself no doubt of the occasion to submit to Mr. Disraeli that at a moment when all England was en deshabille owing to the extraordinary heat of the weather, and when in the law courts judges and lawyers had trenched on the constitution by throwing off their huge wigs of horse hair, and found that they possessed just as much brains without them as before, the British people would come to be regarded as a very "stiff-necked generation" should they stand too rigidiy on an "old clo" form of etiquette with the more juvenile branch of the Auglo-Saxon race, so that Premier Disraeli, who is not personally given so much to the use of "purple and fine linen" as were many of his distinguished ancestors, consented to take the court breeches, shad-bellied west, and gilt-flapped coat from the "peg" in our case and lay them "on the shelf" for a next customer. Our London correspondent assures us that the matter has been disposed of in such an effectual way that Minister Johnson may, if he so choose, appear at Buckingham Palace in a shooting jacket-a step of democratic revolutionism which we are quite certain will never enter his head.

It is a great national privilege to enjoy the right, however, and after such a graceful concession on the part of Mr. Disraeli it is very likely that Mr. Johnson and himself will shortly meet again at Hughenden and figure up the Alabama claims bill, the Premier drawing a draft on the Treasury for the amount, and our Minister exchanging a receipt duly stamped. There is no need of arbitration in the matter. England can take her time and hand the cash to Mr. Johnson, in plain citizen dress, when convenient.

no more substantial meaning or force than the reaction (equal in degree and amount) which was exhibited in 1863, after Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. The latter did not then save the Democratic party from humiliating defeat in 1864; the former will do them no more service this fall. The Republican party must hold its position

firmly, and move without hesitation or any consciousness of weakness upon the enemy's works. Its victory now is as necessary to the salvation of the republic as it was in 1894. Then, under General Grant as a military leader, we proposed to conquer the Rebellion, instead of surrendering to it; now, under the same leader, we propose to secure perfect peace and reconcliation.

Grant's Resignation.

From the Washington National Intelligencer.

The Radical organs generally maintain a guarded silence in reference to Grant's resig-nation from the army in 1854. The Chronicle, however, has attempted, with most ludicrous feebleness, not to answer, but to evade the questions as to the reason why the "man with a dozen and a half lives' left a captaincy in the regular army for the position of common la-borer in a tan-yard. The Chronicle quibbles about his having become a "common" laborer. Well, concede that he was an "uncommon" laborer. All this, however, is an avoidance of the main question, which is, "Why did Grant resign ?"

All that the Chronicle can say upon this point is the following:-

"In regard so the 'terrible disgrace' alluded to the question occurs whether, if his offence had, been so terrible, Grant would have been allowed to resign? Would he not rather have been severely punished and dishonorably dismissed? Military law is not quite so lenient as to allow such 'terrible offenses' as the *Intelligencer* would have us believe he had committed to go unpunished; and it will be remembered that at that this is been and it will be remembered that at that this Grant's rank was only that of captain, and that he could not have commanded any such powerful influence as might have secured him from publishment had he deserved it."

This may be to the Chronicle a most clear and intelligible explanation of why Grant did resign; but few will be able to see wherein the explanation consists. The question is not whether he ought to have been allowed to resign, but why, and for what reason, and under what circumstances did he leave the army in 1854? It is certainly a plain, unequivocal question, and the Chronicle's stilly attempt to dodge it only serves to show that there is something about the answer to be concealed, some terrible plague spot in the character of the many-lived hero that not one of his lifemakers has dared to touch.

If the question had been asked previous to the Chicago nomination, it might have been answered by Theodore Tilton, or Wendell Phillips, or Anna Dickinson, who boast of more than ordinary independence in daring to speak out and bear testimony against wrong doing; but even their vaunted independence in speaking of Grant has dwindied into abject subservience since the Chicago Convention set him, like the "Old Man of the Sea," astride of the neck of the radical party, to ride to death.

The silence of all the other radical journals, and radical life-makers, and radical song-writers and radical stump speakers, only render more prominently ridiculous the very feeble attempt of the Chronicle to divert attention from the real question, which still remains unanswered—"Why did Grant leave the army in 1854?"

The Old Issue Over Again. From the N. Y. Tribune.

Dearly as the American people loved peace, many of them feared that the war would end too soon. There were periods in the Rebellion when peace would have been a greater curse than a score of battles fought on Northern soil, and the capture of a dozen Northern cities. Better that the Rebel flag had floated

have been set up in their midst as legislatorshall be onsted by Frank Blair, whom our party has expressly appointed for that pur-pose." Said Howell Coob; -- "In war we drew the sword, and bade them defince; in peace we gather up the manhood of the South, and raising the banner of constitutional equality, and gathering around it the good men of the North, as well as the South, we had into their teeth the same defiance, and bid them come on to the struggle. We are ready for it, if you are." Albert I'ke calls upon the young man of the Sonth to swear that the Snequehanna and Ohio shall be like rivers of fire, which no Northern Hun shall attempt to cross and live. "Secession is not dead." says Governor Wise; "it is more alive to-day than ever. I support Blair because he promises re-volution." J. M. Ramsey of Georgia dustance J. M. Ramsey of Georgia declares that the true men of the South are realy to rally once more under the Rebel flag "and try the issue at the cartridge-box," and promises that there are men in the North who will lead their battalions. "If are successful in the approaching contest," says the Mobile Tribune, "we shall gain all that we lost in the Lost Cause."" "The country is by far too large to remain very long under one Government," says the Memphis Appeal, and the day will come when the South will be independent." "By the election of Saymour and Blair," says Governor Vance, of North Carolina, "all that the Confederacy fought for will be won." The Mobile T ibane declares that "the great Democratic party will rise in its might, and the dagger of Brutus may aid in accomplishing our redemption from radical rule, ruin, and usurpation." "There are many Democrats at the North who believe," asserts the Mobile Register, "that the counter-revolution will not be complete without more blood-letting;" and the "The white Richmond Enquirer adds. men of the Southern States have seen the day when they could use the bullet, and, if God in his anger permit the necessity to arise, they will use it again." "With the skull and cross-bones of the 'Lost 'Canse' before us," cries the Meridian (Miss.) Mercury, "we will swear that this is a white man's Government. We must make the negro understand we are the men we were when we held him in abject bondage." "General Blair at the head of the militia will be a match for General Grant at the head of the regular army," boasts General Ewing. The Georgia Democratio Convention declared: - "There might once have been a necessity for the Rebels of Georgia to submit to the military anthorities, but there is none now. The Democratic chivalry of the North are marching to our rescue.

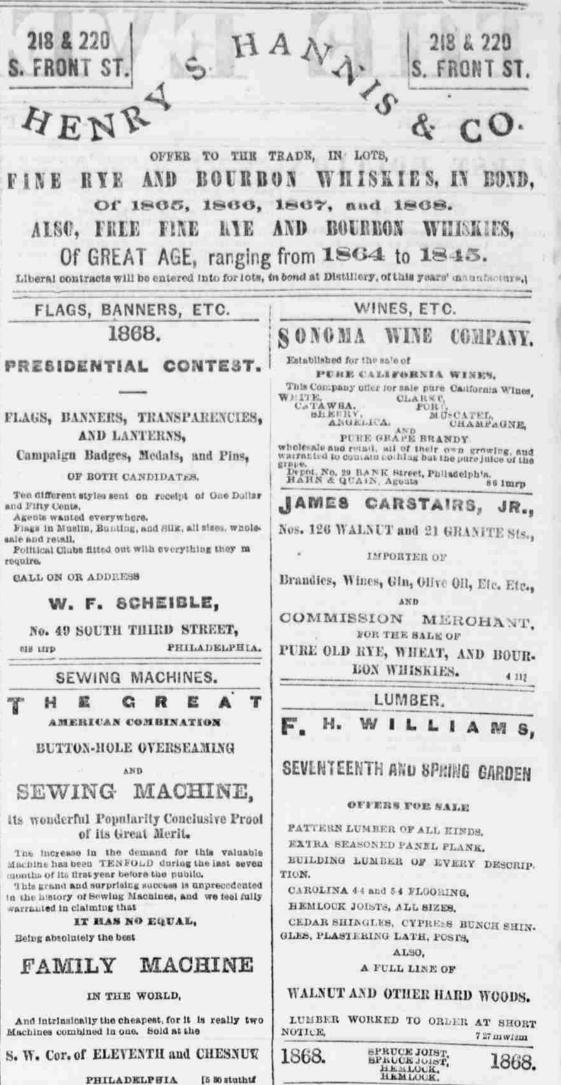
This is enough. We might fill columns with such shricks and yells of Rebellion, the echoes of 1861, but every day swells the evidence that the Sonthern leaders repudlate the surrender of Lee, and repay with plans of a new war the generosity which saved them from the gallows. Whether it be right or wrong that treason deserves death, it is certain that the people of the North did not permit that question to be raised; in their magnanimity they put it aside, and required of traitors no indemnity for the past, imposed no punishment for their crimes, but demauded only security for the future. It was peace for which we longed, and are we now to learn that we were wrong in seeking to establish peace in the spirit of mercy rather than in that which demands an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth ? We must believe so, if we can believe Frank Blair, Wade Hampton, Howell Cobb. the leaders of the Democratic party North and South, and the unanimous voice of the Rebel press. In 1860 and 1861 these identical threats were made by the same men, but the patriotic masses could not credit their sincerity, till the attack upon Sumter proved that the South was in deadly earnest. It is the duty of the American people to profit by that terrible ex-perience. We are warned by the Democratic party itself that its triumph means war; that it intends that Blair and Seymour shall establish the principles of the Confederacy. That warning it would be criminal folly to despise. It is Grant who represents in this contest the great cause which he represented in the war, and only by his election can peace and order be preserved and permanently established.

last year against the Congressional policy has | shall not stand. The grinning skeletons that | if by "the lost cause" be meant either the right of secession or the re-establishment of slavery. The South fought for a severance of the Union-for independence. It fought with a heroism which does honor to Southern man hood, and won the admiration of the world The "cause"-namely, independence-which was then "lost," was lost beyond all hope of redemption. The South fought for independence to save slavery, and one is as irretrievably lost as the other. When, therefore, one or two erratic men in the South vapor about recovering the lost cause, they talk quite at random, neither expressing any intelligible meaning of their own, nor any expectation of the Southern people. Such extravagance is lifted into potice only by the calumnious use made of it in the Northern press.

If su han address should be issued as is bruited to be in preparation, it ought to be numerously signed. There should appear appended to it the names of a majority of the most distinguished officers on the Southern side in the late war, and of the ablest civilians who exert a controlling influence ever South ern public opinion. These men are competent to speak for the South. They understand the Southern people too well to mistake their views; whatever pledges they give will be kept by the great and chivalrous community who recognize their leadership.

The most stupendous and absurd mistakever made by a party pretending to states-manship, was the attempt of the Republicans to reorganize the South without the co-operation of the natural leaders of the people. There are fifty men in the South who control its public opinion and its political action. They are men of character, of personal honor, and individual influence, men incapable of forfeiting their word, and whose public engagements would be respected by those over whom they exert the ascendancy due to superior abilities. Instead of using the influence of these men to re-establish and cement the Union, the Republican party put them under political ostracism-a blunder which has cost the country hundreds of millions of dollars, and three years of discontent and turmoil. Such men cannot be deprived of influence. The public opinion which they control is a current to be rowed against if you attempt to force a policy to which they do not consent, and especially if you attempt to force a policy by which they are ostracised and degraded.

When hostilities terminate between Governments foreign to each other, the transition from war to peace is immediate and perfect. Armies are safely disbanded, because each Government is recognized as having power to bind and control its own people. This saves a long and burdensome afterpiece of quasihostilities. When our civil war ended the Confederate Government went out of existence; but the circumstances nevertheless admitted of the same complete settlement as in the case of a foreign war. Nobody doubted that the terms of surrender agreed to by Lee and Johnson would be faithfully kept by the Southern coldiers. These war-worn veterans were ready to fight or lay down their arms, according to the judgment of their trusted commanders. Grant and Sherman would not have made a more fatal, a more preposterous blunder if they had disdained and ignored the Southern generals and attempted to make peace without them, than the Republican party has in disdaining and ostracising the Southern statesmen and political leaders. In its vain and futile attempt to extinguish their influence, it has been obliged to keep up war expenses in time of peace; been obliged to overspread the South with armies to superintend the erection of governments which will fall to pieces in every State as soon as military protection is withdrawn. No policy can be permanently successful in which the leaders of Southern opinion do not co-operate. Under Republican management the country will never reach tranquillity. The Democratic party can uarantee peace-not the peace of the bayonet but of consent and good-will-because the Democratic party can pacify the South through the influence of its leading men. Nobody doubts this; but a great many weak-minded men in the North fear that the Southern leaders will consent to nothing reasonable. An address, signed by the proper persons, setting forth explicitly what the South is willing to regard as settled against further disturbance as the result of the late war, might allay groundless apprehensions, and make the De mocratic majority so large that everybody would recognize the Presidential election as a final settlement.



PEILADELPHIA

262

The Elections in Vermont and Maine. From the N. Y. Times.

In this country where public opinion, independently expressed, has so great weight, the importance of the elections to be soon held in Vermont and Maine cannot be over-estimated. In this respect Vermont has an extraordinary advantage. She fires the first cannon of the campaign. As we have formerly shown, the Kentucky elections were subject to conditions which entirely deprive them of value as an indication of public opinion. There is an absolute reign of terror in that State, growing ont of the prejudice against both negroes and Union men, which deterred large numbers of Republicans from voting. But for this fact, the result of the election would not have differed substantially from that of 1866. It is fortunate, then, that the first free expression of popular opinion is to come from the Green Mountain State. Through and through that State is for Grant and Colfax. Only let the full vote be polled, and the Republican majority ought to reach, if it does not exceed, that of 1866, which amounted to nearly twenty-three thousand.

No Republican should stay from the polls because it is only a State election, and because it is impossible for the Democrats to win. Let him remember that every vote lost by the Republicans in September and October is so much lost in the weight of public opinion on the side of General Grant, Vermont will influence Maine, and the wave from those two States will flow over Iowa, Indiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania in October. The momentum and effect of that wave will be measured by the Republican majorities given in these early elections.

There is every reason why Vermont and Maine should maintain the positian held by them in 1866, and we believe they will do it. Let no voter allow himself to be diverted by the side issues which Democrats are urging so strongly, because they dare not face the one great question which is involved in the campaign. The charges of financial corruption and of heavy taxation should be hurled back sgainst the assailants. We are to take the offensive, and not the defensive. When a Republican voter is asked to account for revenue frauds, let him reply that these have grown out of the quarrel between Congress and a refractory President-a quarrel which was perpetuated by the attitude of the Democratic party. If he is asked to account for the burden of au immense national debt, let him charge the responsibility of that burden upon the party which forced the war and made the debt a necessity. If negro supremacy is thrown in his face let him deny the existence of such an element in our politics, and point to the late Mississippi election as the basis of his denial; and let him, moreover, charge against his opponents that they, by their factious opposition to an amendment which left suffrage to the States, made the negro vote a necessity of any possible restoration. If he is told that the Republicau party has been to any degree surrendered to extreme radical leadership, let him deny the surrender, and point to the nomination of General Grant for President as the surest indication of a liberal and conservative policy. Let him, moreover, attack the Democrats on the ground of their extreme policy, shown both in their platform and their candidates, as well as in the published speeches and letters of their nominee for Vice-President, and of their paroled Confederate friends in the South.

Every Republican voter in Vermout and Maine may also remember that the reaction of Reconstruction acts are null and void, and by the election of the Democratic candidates

in 1863 over the old State House in Philadelphia, wherein the first Congress declared American independence, than that the armistice had been granted which the Democratic party urged and the Rebel Government desired. Better, far better, that the war were raging now, with Grant still before Richmond, and Sherman at Atlanta, than that the people of the North had indersed the declaration of the Democratic party in 1864, that the war was a failure, and compromise with traitors a necessity. Peace hath her blessings, and war, even in the noblest cause, cannot be other than a giant evil; but false peace comes sometimes to a nation, crowned with thorns and robed in shame, offering short respite as the price of long misery, and perpetuating the strife which she pretends to end. Bloodshed is not the worst of evils. It is better that men should die than that principles should be destroyed. For such reasons many of us feared that peace would come too soon. After Bull Run the whole North repudiated the idea with indignation; the Union could not treat with victorious Rebellion. As the war grew older men trusted that victory would not come till blav-ery had been abolished. Long before May, 1865, the loyal men of the United States were resolved that the Rebellion should be utterly crushed, and that the elements of treason should be extirpated. When Lee surrendered to Grant we thought that the Rebellion was ended.

Is it ended ? No. From all parts of the South and from many men in the North comes the assurance that the war for the Union ended too soon. Their voices tell us that Mu-Ciellan's weary and costly delays were not blunders; that Grant made an error when he closed up the war in the West, and forced the fighting in Virginia; that Sherman should have waited at Atlanta, and delayed for another year his triumphant march to the sea. Those magnificent combinations, by which the superior strength of the Union was brought to bear upon every point of resistance simultaneously, were faial mistakes. We are taught every day that the war should have been indefinitely prolonged; that the Rebellion should have been crushed inch by inch, till its leaders had died in battle or fled from the country; till its armies had dwindled into bands of robbers; till it had been driven into the woods and swamps, to starve and perish where the negro had starved and perished in the days when rebellion was only an uplifted menace in that insulting hand which slavery shook in the face of the republic. Victory was as premature, we are assured, in 1865 as it would have been in 1862. Nothing was decided by the war, if we may trust the defiance now hurled at us by the South. It has gone back to 1860, and proposes to begin over again.

But there is a difference. In 1860 the country was warned that Rebellion would follow the election of a Republican President. In 1868 Rebellion is promised in case of a Republican defeat. The election of Seymour and Blair is to be the signal of another war. The Rebels of the South have made it unmistakably clear that they intend that a Democratic victory shall pay them for what they lost at Vicksburg, and Gettysburg, and Richmond. The lost cause of the South is found again, and lives in the Democratic party. The Rebellion declares that Grant did not subdue it, and that it is ready to fight again. Let us hear it speak.

Frank Blair promises revolution if he is elected. Robert Toombs declares that "the

The Sulphur Springs Rumors. From the N. Y. World.

General Rosecrans, the new Minister to Mexico, defers his departure until the season is a little further advanced, prudently avoiding exposure to the deadly climate of Vera Cruz, while the dog-star shoots down pestilence. While thus waiting, he makes a visit to Sulphur Springs, the fashionable watering place of Virginia, where some dis-tinguished, and more undistinguished citizens of the South are sojourning during the oppressive summer heat. A circumstance so natural, and seemingly so trivial, as this visit of General Rosecrans to the Sulphur Springs, has filled the air with rumors which magnify his visit into the importance of a mission. The newspapers are filled with accounts more or less imaginative, of a long political conference between General Rosecrans and General Lee, of a political conference not quite so long, but of the same tenor, between General Rosecrans and Alexander H. H. Stuart, another influential citizen of Virginia, and of a detention of General Rosecrans for further political consultations with other leading Southerners with a view to some sort of an address, to be signed by the chief men of the South, particularly the officers of the late Confederate army setting forth their views of the political situation.

These rumors are of little account: and yet they suggest a possibility of usefulness which ought not perhaps to be entirely overlooked. Such an address as has been hinted at, setting forth, with the manly frankness which belongs to the Southern character, what consequences of the late unhappy war the Southern people do and what they do not accept, might have a beneficial influence. It would help confute the calumnies which are the chief electioneering resource of the radicals. A few indiscreet expressions, uttered by one or two men who formerly had some prominence in Southern politics, are constantly paraded in the radical press as expressing the deliberate views of the South. Men like Governor Wise, who has always been regarded as somewhat erratic and hair-brained, or Mr. Toombs, who never weighs his words but blurts out the most defiant things that occur to an ardent, haughty mind in heat of a public speech, cannot with any candor be regarded as representing the sentiments of the South. The mass of no community is erratic or hot-headed. However they may be amused by the vivaoity of that kind of men, their own sober views are more truly expressed by cooler and more dispassionate speakers. Spouters who are quaint and extravagant easily catch public attention, and when they make slips, their words are caught at by political opponents, and unfairly held up as expressing the sentiments of the party with which they act. If the warm expressions to which we allude do not (as we are sure they cannot) represent the views of the great mass of the Southern people, an authoritative exposition of their actual sentiments would do good.

Of course, the Southern people do not be-Heve that "the lost cause" would be regained

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