## SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

EDITORIAL OFINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS -- COMPILED EVERY DAY FOR THE EVENING TELEGRAPH.

The Democracy and the Lebt.

From the N. Y. Times. Western Democratic journals point to the resolution adopted last Thursday by the Albany Convention as proof that the party, East and West, is one on the debt and greenback question. It must be admitted that their exultation is not without cause. Until now the Democratic party in this State has stood aloof from Mr. Pendleton and his doctrines. Mr. Seymour, up to the very eve of his nomination, held strong ground in favor of an honorable and honest recognition of the rights of the public creditor. Mr. Hoffman, too, presiding over a State Convention in October, declared that the honor as well as the property of the country is pledged "to the payment of every dollar of the national debt, honestly and fully, not only according to the letter but according to the spirit of the bond." Nothing could be clearer or more emphatic, and as Messrs. Seymour and Hoffman were so were the other leading members of the party in New York. On this issue they resisted the nomination of Pendleton, and the propositions of which he is the consistent and conspicuous

But the Convention which nominated Mr. Hoffman has pledged the party in this State to the repudiation plank of the platform adopted by the body which nominated Mr. The State resolution affirms the Seymour. greenback doctrine in the plainest possible terms, thus:-

"The payment of the public obligations in strict accordance with their terms; in gold only when gold is nominated in the bonds, and in the lawful currency of the country when coin the target reporting and the country when coin

How Mr. Hoffman will reconcile this distinct declaration in favor of adhering to the letter of the bonds, with his recorded respect for the spirit of the contract, remains to be seen. The personal aspect of the question, however, is of minor importance compared with the fact that by the action of the Albany Convention, the dividing line between the Eastern and Western Democracy on financial questions is ebliterated. The party is now a unit in support of the policy of repudiation; and the Western organs exult in the victory. The New York World has succumbed to the Chicago Times, which announces that the re-solution we have quoted, "sets at rest all doubt of any difference within the Democratic party as to its financial measures."

Encouraged, apparently, by the victory over its Eastern allies on the bond question, the Western Democracy is preparing to push its demands for more currency. The two measures go together. The only pretext for increasing the issue of greenbacks is their use for the redemption of bonds; and vice versa, the redemption of bonds with currency necessitates the circulation of more greenbacks. In this way repudiation and inflation are in-separable. Mr. Pendleton, it is true, address-ing Eastern audiences, has recently attempted to show that his plan dees not necessarily involve inflation. But the West holds to his original view, and calls for more currency as an essential sequence to the Democratic policy on the debt. The Louisville Journal has presented this version of the case strongly, and the Chicago Times insists that the circulation be raised to a thousand millions forthwith. Some large increase would assuredly follow a Democratic victory. The same influences which have controlled the July Convention, and which have compelled the Democracy of dorse the principle of repudia tion, would fasten upon the party the policy of inflation. There would be no escape from it if

that party were in power.

In assuming this position, the party championed by Mr. Seymour makes itself the enemy of the trade, the industry, the thrift of the country, as well as of its bondholders. We have but to turn to his speech at Tweddle Hall, in March last, for an exposition of the mischief which the Pendleton plan would entail upon provident institutions, whose maintenance is so essential to the welfare of millions. On that occasion Mr. Seymour showed that the interests of the workingman and the bondholder are identical, and that the results of tampering with the public credit would fall most heavily upon the classes least able to bear disaster. The orator has since trampled on his own argument, but its force and justice remain unextinguished. And the party whose standard-bearer dexterous duplicity has enabled him to become, in indorsing the heresy he denonneed, arrays itself against the wel fare of the people. The certainty that inflation would follow its policy on the debt renders it still more obnoxious to every solvent business man, and indeed to every man interested in the industrial and commercial growth and prosperity of the country.

The Sulphur Springs Correspondence-General Lee.

From the N. Y. World.

Rosecrans and Lee were alike educated at West Point at the expense of that Union, anke taking a solemn oath of fidelity to that Union. That oath, General Lee deliberately broke, to plungeinto a rebellion for which he at the time declared, in a letter to his sister, that there was no justification. He persisted in that Rebellion till more than half a million of his countrymen had lost their lives by it, while nearly an equal number were mained and crippled for life. At number were maimed and crippled for life. At least five billions' worth of American property were sacrificed in that wanton, therefore, wicked Rebeilion. Lee fought for it till he and his army were taken prisoners, and could fight no longer, and has never hinted that he regrets having done so General Rosecrans fought on the other side. And now Reserans volunteers a certificate that he has "unqualified confidence" in Lee's 'purity and patriotism," and in his "reverence and regard for the Union, the Constitution, and the welfare of the country." Constitution, and the weifare of the country." Such being the case, it is very natural that Resecrans should wish to defeat General Grant and restore the Government of our country to Lee and his confederates. His White Sulphur mission had that express object.—N.Y. Tribune.

Now that the war is so long over and the country yearns for peace, we cannot see the advantage or the decency of these constant invectives against General Lee. To assail a man whom the Southern people esteem has no tendency to soothe old irritations. If the favorite phrase of the Republicans, "Let us have peace," be anything more than an empty ory, why do they tear open old sores, and sharpen the sting of old animosities? Attempts to blacken the character of General Lee and hold him up to public odium tend to revive the embittered state of feeling of which the late war was the consequence. General Lee is regarded in the South with an affectionate veneration, like that felt for the late President Lincoln by so many people in the North. If the most influential portion of the Southern press should assail the character of Mr. Lincoln as the *Tribune* habitually assails that of General Lee, such studied affronts to Northern teeling would keep the North in a state of chronic irritation against the South. A similar course by Northern journals is a zerious obstacle to the revival of good-will in the South. Yet such accusations are the political capital of a party which thrives upon hatred, a party which, while pretending to desire peace, does all in its power to rekindle the passions and asperity which led the Southern people to regard the Union as

does its editor refuse to General Lee the lenity he practised towards Jefferson Davis? It looks too much as if he were trying to make penitential amends for signing the bond of Mr. Davis by severity towards a less objectionable man. It would probably puzzle the Tribune to tell why the commander of the Southern armies should be held up to execration rather than the chief of the Rebel Confederacy. If General Lee was educated at West Point (which the Tribune makes a principal charge against him), so was Jefferson Davis. Mr. Davis took an active and leading part in setting the rebellion on foot, but General Lee went into it reluctantly at the last moment, after his own State had seceded against his wishes and judgment. The Tribune makes this reluctance its chief ground of inculpation; in our opinion it enhances the lustre of General Lee's character. In motive, it was a noble sacrifice of private inclination to what he regarded as the lawful authority of the body politic. The Southern doctrine of allegiance was no doubt erroneous; but it was nevertheless very sincerely held. The theory of Mr. Calhoun had been set forth by that powerful reasoner with such acuteness and ingenuity that it commanded the nearly universal assent of the whole Southern mind-and of General Lee among the rest. By that theory allegiance was due primarily to the State, and only through it to the Federal Government. The citizen of Virginia was made a citizen of the United States by the free action of Virginia in ratifying the Constitution; and it was claimed that she had the same authority to unloose that she originally had to bind. Now as General Lee believed this doctrine with all the sincerity of a frank, manly nature, what was his duty, as he understood it. when his State came to secede? Clearly, to go with his state what ever his own private judgment might be respecting the expediency of her act. Nobody disputes that it is the sacred duty of a citizen to submit his own private inclinations to the public will of the pelitical community of which he is a member. In General Lee's case it was a question as to which of two Governments asserting contradictory claims upon him, his obedience was due. His error was a mere error of judgment, shared by many other good and able men. His noble loyalty to his sense of duty sheds lustre upon his character, and merits the esteem of all generous men. There is no reasonable moral standard

by which it can be made a ground of reproach. But whatever estimate may be formed of the character of General Lee, it is an unquestioned fact that he is the most influential man in the Southern States. There is no other whose judgment and advice his fellowcitizens would follow with such implicit and unhesitating confidence. Now, it is the part of statesmanship to deal with facts as they exist, and make the most of them. Shall the great influence of General Lee be utilized, or shall a vain attempt be made to destroy it? Let us take for illustration a somewhat parallel case. If the Italian Go ernment desired to assure itself of the support and loyalty of the followers of Garibaldi, the easiest and shortest way would be by coming to an understanding with Garibaldi himself. It would be preposterous to revile him as a means of conciliating his devoted admirers. would be preposterous to attempt to ignore or vilify him so long as he retained his great mastery over the affections and enthusiasm of his followers. If he exhibited a moderate temper, and a willingness to use his influence for the common advantage of Italy, it would be preposterous not to adopt so easy a method of controlling those who look to him for guidance. The case of General Lee is somewhat similar. Like Garibaldi, he has no political authority, but unbounded personal influence. The wishes of Lee are as potent in the quiet shades of his college, as those of Garibaldi are in his small island retreat. But Lee is not, like Garibaldi, an opinionated, visionary agitator. but a calm, wise, just, practicable man, who does nothing for display and would gladly sacrifice all self-importance to the good of his country. His letter in reply to General Rosecrans is written in a spirit and temper which he can easily diffuse throughout the whole South. If the professions which he and those who sign the letter with him make, are professions made in good faith, the country can be tranquilized at any moment with complete security for the stability of the Union and the freedom of the negroes. Why, then, should we not have pacification by moral influence which costs nothing, rather than the expensive subjugation under which the South has

#### so long languished? The Presidential Campaign.

From the N. Y. Heraid. Every Presidential campaign in the United States, beginning with the first election of Jefferson, in 1800, has been contested between two or more parties or candidates upon some broad and general principles, and some special issues, and has been marked more or less by its political curiosities. The campaign of 1800 was a sharp and embittered party contest between the old Federalists and Republicans, which resulted in a decisive victory of the latter, and the State rights theories of Jefferson against the centralization policy of Adams, Hamilton, and Washington, for Washington was a Federalist. We say a decisive Republi-can victory, because the Federal party from its defeat of 1800 never again came into power, but gradually declined down to 1820, when it was disbanded and dispersed. So in 1824, when the people and politicians were "all Re-publicans and all Federalists," we had the serub race between Jackson, Adams, Crawford, and Clay, and the election of Adams by the House of Representatives.

Out of this election sprung up a new organization of parties in 1828 in the first election of Jackson. He came in on his victory of New Orleans and on the cry of a bargain and sale between Adams and Clay. His war with that old financial monopoly of the United States Bank secured his re-election and made his will the law of the Democratic party, so that in gaining the special favor of "Old Hickory" Martin Van Buren in 1836 became his successor in office. In 1840, however, the man in running for a second term fell a victim to the financial pet bank and inflation blunders of his master, and the campaign of '40, the funniest and liveliest political carnival in American history, resulted in a political revolution. As a victory to the whigs, however, it was spoiled by the defection of President Tyler, and so on the platform "of Texas and Oregon," "fifty-four forty" and the "Tariff of 1842" the Democrats under Polk came in again. Beaten again in 1848 by Taylor, they in 1852 not only recovered their lost ground, but in taking up the whig platform they swept the Whig party out of exist-ence. Here was another political revolution, which promised under good management a new lease of twenty years of power to the Democracy. But we know how poor Pierce and Buchanan, "under the whip and spur of the slave power," turned the tables against their party and brought about the terrible smash-up of 1860 in the Charleston Convention, and the stupendous sectional war and political revolution and the work of political reconstruction which have filled up the inter-

Here, then, we stand under a new order of

These assaults on General Lee come with a | things so novel, so unique and so momentous peculiar ill grace from the Tribuns. Why I in the issues at stake for good or evil to the country that we have no Presidential precedent to compare with this contest for the succession. We may say that in its party bitterness on State rights and State wrongs it resembles somewhat the Jefferson campaign of 1800; that the personal abuse levelled at General Grant in 1868 by the Democratic Copperhead press is very much the same as that of the Whigs against General Jackson in 1828; that we have a parallel for the defection of Andy Johnson in the defection of Captain Tyler, impeachment and all; that the Democratic war against the financial system of Congress is only an enlargement of the fight between Old Hickory and Nick Biddle; that the same corruptions and wastages which characterized Van Buren's administration have been practised in a tenfold degree by the party now in power, and that the same war-cry of "anything for a change" may be as aptly raised now as it was in 1840. But still we may say that from the shape which it has assumed, this Presidential conflict more nearly resembles that of 1864 than any other.

The Democratic National Convention, the Democratic Copperhead press and the Democratic Rebel fire-eaters of the South have made it so. Under Chief Justice Chase and his platform they might have secured another victory as decisive as that of 1852; under Seymour and the Pendleton-Hampton platform, from all the signs of the times, they are threatened with another defeat like that of McClellan. They might have thrown the radicals completely upon the defensive on their financial and taxation blunders and burdens by accepting the constitutional amendment, article fourteen, as a final settlement of the questions of State rights, African rights, and negro suffrage. Instead of this, however, by denouncing or suppressing that amendment and by declaring all the reconstruction doings of Congress "unconstitutional, revolutionary, null and void," the Democratic managers of this campaign take us back to the contests of 1866 upon said amendment and to the old issue of 1864-whether the war for the Union was or was not a failure. This is the very shaping of the contest which the Republicans desired, including especially the scandalous attempts of certain Democratic organs to blacken the personal and public character and to belittle the military services of General Grant.

Some of these personal assaults are among the most remarkable of the stupidities and curiosities of this canvass. For instance, a certain scribbler for party purposes undertakes to show that General Grant's grand and crushing campaign against the Rebellion deserved a drumhead court-martial instead of promotion of any kind; and another scribbler of the same school, while portraying Grant as the greatest of butchers and blunderers, presents Lee as the finest living model of a great soldier. This is the height of Democratic folly. In various other ways, including the Rosecrans White Sulphur mission, they are doing mischief to their cause in bringing into the foreground the active leaders and politicians of the Rebellion as the supporters of the cause of Seymour and Blair. Then, again, while in Mississippi the white Democracy at their campaign barbecues are feasting their fellow-citizens of African d scent on a footing of equal rights, the Democrats of the Georgia Legislature are spoiling this work of conciliating and gaining the black vote by expelling the negro members of the House as ineligible on account of their race and color.

All these things, we say, have wiped out the political popular reaction, which was inaugurated in the election of 1867, just as the copperhead leaders spoiled the successes of 1862 by their follies of 1863. This contest is thus thrown back substantially to the great issue of 1864, on the war, and the result is promised from all the lights before us to be the

The Conference.

From the Boston Post. To candid minds the correspondence between General Rosecrans, General Lee and others, will afford deep satisfaction. It presents additional evidence of the earnest desire of influential citizens of the South to find protection under that flag they have often gallantly defended, and to enjoy those advantages and that equality of government the Constitution provides for every State. There can be nothing more wicked, politically, than the efforts of radicals to misrepresent the conduct and disposition of the South, at this time, for party purposes. A radical press near us saysmen refuse to go to a region (the South) in which, as they hear, there is no security for property or life, where they would be exposed to the masked assassin at midnight, and to the ambushed murderer at noonday. The author of this knows his insinuations are scandalously false, as is testified by thousands from the North who live safely and quietly at the South, and by the observations of men whose veracity is beyond impeachment. The Rev. President Sears, Secretary of the Peabody Board of Trustees, made a tour through the Southern States and reported the public mind to be placable and the people careful in the observance of their duties. Breaches of the peace occur no oftener at the South than similar disorders occur among a population of equal number at the North. Reports of "Rebel" murders and trespasses are invented for the Northern market, and correspondents of the Northern press at the South who send the most harrowing accounts of "horrible Rebel atrocities" command the highest salaries and most essentially aid the political objects of their employers. A writer in the "Atlantic Monthly" for September, who was for some time an assistant commissioner of the Bureau, says, "As chief of a sub-district I made a monthly report headed 'Outrages of Whites against Freedmen, and another headed Outrages of Freedmen against Whites'-the first generally, and the second almost invariably, had a line in red ink drawn diagonally across it, showing that there were no out-rages to report." The manner in which the South yielded up its arms, the quiet return of the Confederate soldiers to their homes, the repeal of the secession acts, the repudiation of the Confederate debt, the abolition of slavery, and the prevalence of that "excellent feeling" which General Grant reported to exist at the South, established the sincerity of the acquiescence of the people in the result of the war, their anxiety restored to their old relations with the other States, and their readiness to meet squarely all obligations incumbent upon them in their new condition. That this disposition still dominates is rendered clearly apparent by reliable proof before the country, and the fact is impressively corroborated by General Lee and his associates in the present correspond-ence. There is nothing of sullenness or obstinacy in its tone, but an unimpassioned appeal to truth and justice for the vindication of the motives of the author and signers of the reply, in which we find the strongest pledge of fidelity to the National Government. General Rosecrans is entitled to the gratitude of all sincere friends of peace for his patriotic purpose in entering upon the correspondence he

ken-unity and fraternity.

The Dardanelles.

of the opinions of the Paris journal, La Presse, upon "the demand that United States war vessels shall pass the Dardauelles," from which one might be led to believe that Admiral Farragut had been threatening the Sublime Porte, and purposed visiting Constaninople in the same manner he once went up to New Orleans. The Dardanelles, or the four forts defending the entrance from the Archipelago to the Sea of Marmora, are reckoned the keys of the Turkish capital, and the Sultan has always claimed the right of forbidding foreign war vessels to pass them. The right has often been challenged, especially by the United States, but it was recognized by the principal European powers, in 1841, and reaffirmed by the Treaty of Paris, in 1856. Ten years ago, however, the United States frigate Wabash persisted in disregarding this prohibition and visiting Constantinople, her commander holding that we were not bound by the Treaty of Paris, as we were not parties to it. The Turkish Government, without admitting our right in the matter, received the Wabash hospitably, and no complications therefore ensued. In the present case we are at a loss to understand the comments of La Presse, for Admiral Farragut received an express invitation from the Sultan, three weeks ago, to bring his squadron through the Dardenelles. It is rather funny, therefore, to be told by La Presse that our "demand" was probably inspired by Russia, and that the Sublime Porte, encouraged by England and France, will refuse it.

A New Champion. From the New York Tribune. And now the Democratic party has another accession to its list of eloquent and experienced orators. The Hon. Felix McCloskey, recently a candidate for the office of Vice-President be fore the Democratic Convention, and supposed to have been the secret choice of Mr. Johnson for that high and responsible position, has arrived in Washington from the South, and is about to take a tour through the Northern States. Mr. McCloskey, as another champion of the Red-Hot Democracy, believes in striking direct from the shoulder, and is profoundly convinced that unless Mr. Seymour is elected President every negro in the South will insist upon marrying a white woman, that our daughters will no longer be sa'e, that our freedmen will not only have a "bureau," but a wash-stand and a farm, and that the hornyhanded plough-holders will be reduced to beggary in order to pamper such bloated bondholders as Belmont, and Barlow, and Cisco, and Tilden. Mr. McCloskey comes to us fresh from the people. We don't suppose he will be in time to take part in the Maine canvass, as the Yankees of that State require a different class of orators from the red-hot eloquence of McCloskey and his friends. But the Maine election will soon be over, and we shall have him in New York. Felix McCloskey, and "Shanghai" Tommy Hedden, and "Brick"
Pomeroy, and "Sunset" Cox, and "CarpetBagger" Perrin, travelling through New
York, will make a profound sensation.

It has been said that the epitaph of a certain noted public character should read:-"Died of doing the right thing at the wrong time." Wa greatly fear that some such inscription may now be fitly recorded concerning another of our lost idols.

the Rebels who have had such weighty reason to respect him. We do object to its being adopted at a time when leading Rebel Generals are boasting their determination to overthrow the Fourteenth Article of the Constitution, and when its intended effect is to aid the election of the candidate who has announced that revolution as the only issue before the

We are heartily glad that General Lee and his associates are now devoted to the Union, and ready to abjure secession and slavery. We only regret that it took four years of war and three years of confusion and semi-anarchy at the South to extort such an admissio from them. We should have been rejoiced if they had held such language when Congress submitted to the South its first liberal and generous terms of adjustment. They rejected them then with scorn, and are now barred from complaining that they are not in the pre-

sent enjoyment of the rejected gifts. three years when the voice of Robert E. Lee would not have been potential for good at the South. He chose never to lift it. The scornful rejection of the Constitutional amen 1ment drew from him no words of warning to his late soldiers. The organization of the Ku-klux Klan, the murders of Union men, the efforts to re-establish slavery under the specious form of apprenticeship, the turbulence and defiant tone of the conquered Rebels provoked no rebuke, when a word of rebuke from him would have stilled it all. The declaration of Wade Hampton that the South would demand the dispersion of the carpet-bag Legislatures, and the trampling under foot of Congressional enactments, never moved the old commander, at whose slightest whisper Wade Hampton would have been silent. The declaration of Forrest that unless the late Rebels could have their own way in Tennessee he would "toot his old horn," and call together again his Rebel troopers, elicited no remonstrance from the General, at the wave of whose hand Forrest would have been quieted.

At last, from Northern Democrats came the cry of alarm. The extravagant threats of Southern Generals were lessening the chances for the election of Seymour and Blair. Then, and then only, was Robert E. Lee moved to speak-not to quiet turbulent Rebels at the South, but to lull the justly aroused appre-hensions of indignant loyalists at the North. He need not be surprised to find the time for heeding his voice gone by.

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From the N. Y. Tribune. The Cable has surprised us with a summary

## Rosecrans and Lee.

From the Cincinnati Gazette.

We make no objection to the tone of manly respect in which General Rosecrans addresses

There has been no time within the past

As for General Rosecrans, we make no doubt of the purity of his motives. We only regret that so gallant a soldier should fall, in peace, to do the dirty deceptions for the Rebels whom he fought so gallantly in war. He may have done the right thing in seeking to open amicable relations with the men he helped to conquer; but he has done it at the wrong time.

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