

SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

General Grant's Popularity and How He was Nominated.

From the N. Y. Herald.

Since the nomination of General Grant as the Republican standard-bearer, the Democratic journals and stamper, to a great extent, have been laboring to create the impression that he is not a popular candidate; that he is a cold and austere man, who has nothing but the elements of personal popularity about him; that he possesses neither the direct experience nor the qualities of statesmanship necessary for the Presidency; that as a military leader his record is that of a butcher and blunderer; that his success against the armies of the Rebellion may be credited to his overwhelming forces, the exhaustion of Rebelldom, and the chapter of accidents, and, worse than all, that he has no policy of his own, but is a voiceless automaton, subject to be moved and managed by the radical powers behind the scenes. Under all these drawbacks his political adversaries contend that his name and military fame give him strength to the Republican party, but that against Seymour he stands somewhat in the relation of General Scott to poor Pierce in 1852.

Now, we think that to establish the popularity of General Grant it is only necessary to recite the popular movements and influences which brought about his unanimous nomination on the first ballot in the Chicago Convention. At this time last year he was not by any means a favorite with the Republican managers and leaders. They, Greeley and all, distrusted him, and leaned decidedly towards Chief Justice Chase. In fact, in the last October election in Ohio, the Republican managers made their fight upon the merits of Chase and his negro suffrage policy, and Mr. Chase himself, as if his political fortunes depended upon the result, took an active hand in that canvass. The result was the defeat of universal negro suffrage in Ohio by a very decisive majority, a Democratic Legislature, and a narrow escape of the Republican Governor. So much for Ohio. In the last November State canvass in New York Governor Fenton, Greeley, Spencer, and others of the radical clique of managers undertook a little more emphatically than it was done in Ohio to make the election a test of the availability of Mr. Chase as the next Presidential candidate. The result was overwhelmingly against him. The conservative Grant Republicans largely contributed to this result and larger bed the result.

All this time the radical leaders, managers and newspapers, labored zealously against the Republican organs and movements in favor of Grant. Their reasons for this course—very strong as party reasons—were, they said, that Grant had not shown his hand; that his position on the great party issues of the day was very uncertain; that of his antecedents as a politician little or nothing was known, and that in accepting the position of Secretary of War *ad interim* from Andrew Johnson, especially when it involved the displacement of Stanton, the General placed himself to some extent on the side of Johnson and the Democracy. Nor was this construction of this incident limited to the radicals; for the Democracy were so well pleased with it that in General Grant they began to think they would have the very man they were searching for—the man required to beat the radicals with Chase as their candidate. Nor was this discussion of the chances and probabilities of the Presidential fight brought to an end till about the 22d of February last. Meantime, upon the heels of the Pennsylvania and Ohio elections, and more actively after the New York election, with its forty-seven thousand Democratic majority, spontaneous outbreaks of the Republican rank and file, here, there, and everywhere, in favor of Grant began to be the order of the day. Thus the popular tide had already set in very strongly in this direction when an event occurred at Washington which instantly settled all doubts upon the subject in favor of Grant.

The event we refer to was the surrender of the War Department by General Grant back again to Secretary Stanton, with the refusal of the Senate to concur in his resignation by the President. From this event, and the correspondence between Mr. Johnson and General Grant resulting from it, the stone which the radical builders had rejected was made at once the head of the corner. In defining his position on this business Grant had done it so effectually that immediately he became the favorite of the radical leaders against all comers, and immediately all the batteries of the administration and the Democratic party were turned against him. Had Grant preferred it he could just as easily have made himself the mounted champion of the administration and the Democracy, so manifest on all sides was his strength among the people.

This change of base on the part of the Republican leaders, following in the wake of the masses of the party, settled the question for the Chicago Convention, and resulted, too, in a change of base on the part of the Chief Justice. This was developed on the impeachment trial, and soon after the President's acquittal, Mr. Chase, as the defender of the Constitution, began to loom up as the most available man for the administration, the Democratic party, and the conservative Republicans. But this immense stride forward was too long for the short legs of the four-headed managers of the National Campaign Convention, and so we have Seymour, another poor Pierce, against Grant, who, in a quiet and more unobtrusive way, is another General Jackson, and a man of far more than Jackson's claims to the impartiality and confidence of the people. They know it, and from the first test election on his merits in New Hampshire last spring down to this day they have expressed their confidence in this quiet, sensible, cool, and practical man in a voice which cannot be misunderstood. And so, from all the signs and facts before us, it will be to the end of the battle; for the masses of the people, even against the radical leaders, have an abiding faith in the sound conservatism of General Grant.

The War Question in Europe.

From the N. Y. Tribune.

A disarmament of Prussia, as announced by a cable despatch in our issue of Saturday, would be an event of great importance. For many years the reduction of the war budget, and consequently of the army, has been a standing demand of the majority of the Prussian Legislature, and as the Government declared it impossible to accede to the demand, it has been a constant cause of quarrel between it and the people. After the establishment of the North German Confederation, the enemies of Prussia in the South German States found none of their arguments against a union with Prussia so effective as that of the heavy war budget of Prussia. Formerly, the Prussian Government justified the maintenance of the large standing army by pointing to its powerful neighbors, who greatly exceeded her in point of population, and made it necessary for her to defend her position as one of the great powers of Europe by keeping up the most efficient possible military establishment. The most natural explanation of a disarmament of Prussia,

whenever it may take place, would be that Prussia now feels herself sufficiently strong and safe to dispense with a portion of the army, to gratify the wishes of a majority of the Prussian people, and to court the applause of all the progressive minds of Europe by assuming the initiative in the question of a general disarmament, which the Progressive party have begun to agitate in every country. The military power of Prussia during the last two years has vastly increased. From being a nation of 18,000,000 of people, she has at present under her immediate command the forces of a Confederation numbering 29,000,000, and as, in case of a foreign war, the South German States would undoubtedly adhere to the stipulation of the treaties which places their armies under the chief command of Prussia, she represents in such a case a nation with nearly 39,000,000 of people. As the army of the North German States has been wholly consolidated with the Prussian, and that of the Southern States has been reorganized after the Prussian model, the army of which the King of Prussia, in time of war, assumes the supreme command, is double the strength of the Prussian army prior to 1866.

So powerful, indeed, was Prussia after the reconstruction of Germany in 1866 that the French Government admitted the superiority, in point of numbers and of readiness for a great war, of the German to the French army. A reorganization of the latter, though it was extremely unpopular and alienated some of the staunchest friends of the empire, was forced through the legislative body, on the plea of its absolute necessity for the safety of France. The reorganization having been carried through, the French Government declared that now it was prepared for any emergency. Ever since there has been a widespread opinion that Napoleon, believing France to be possessed of a military force superior to that of Prussia, was desirous of bringing on a war and conquering all of Germany that lies west of the Rhine. The opinion has gained strength in spite of perhaps in consequence of the many semi-official pacific declarations on the part of the French Government. It has been supposed that, after secretly completing all the preparations for a great war, Louis Napoleon might, as a pretext, spring upon Prussia a peremptory demand for the reduction of her army. Such a demand would, of course, be refused. Prussia has shown that she can muster courage to refuse improper demands of Napoleon, and that she will not and cannot disarm at his bidding. Whenever Prussia may disarm, she will do so because she thinks herself sufficiently strong to risk such a step, and probably with a view to the effect upon home policy in allaying the opposition of the South German Liberals.

The moneyed men of France do not believe in the pacific intention of the Emperor, and the Bourse continues to be greatly agitated. Everybody believes that the Emperor, notwithstanding his pacific assurances, would not hesitate an hour to declare war, if he were entirely sure of the issue. If he refrains from war, it is because he regards the prospects of success as anything but sure. We adhere to the opinion that Prussia will avoid as much as possible to give Napoleon a just cause of offense, and that Napoleon will not dare to precipitate a war.

General Grant and a Democratic "Peace."

From the N. Y. Times.

The organs of the Democratic party insist that "peace" cannot be secured to the country by the election of General Grant. Precisely so in 1864 they insisted that peace depended on the election of McClellan and the defeat of Lincoln. Then war was waged, and the Democratic mode of securing peace was by stopping the war by proclaiming a truce between the contending armies, and making that the occasion and the basis for a permanent adjustment of conflicting claims. The people did not sanction this programme. They preferred to "fight it out," and in that way to settle the issues that had been made. They re-elected Lincoln, and thus proclaimed their fixed and unalterable determination to make peace by overcoming and conquering the rebellion which had disturbed it. The Democratic plan would have ended the war, undoubtedly, and would thus have given us peace; but it would have been a peace lacking all sanction—a peace that would have settled nothing—that would have left all the original elements of the rebellion in full vigor and force, and that would have been speedily dispelled by a renewal of the contest under circumstances infinitely more favorable to the rebellion.

Time has thoroughly vindicated the wisdom of the decision in 1864. Peace came—the war closed—the moment that decision was pronounced. And so will it be now. The election of General Grant will have the same effect on the political passions and conflicts that now disturb the public mind, which the election of Lincoln in 1864 had upon the contest waged in the battle-field. It will declare the fixed purposes of the people; and that itself will go far towards settling the question. For, in spite of the clamor and contending parties, it will be the expression of the will of the people, when once declared, always challenges and commands respect. All parties, all sections, all interests and all classes respect it. It is the natural tendency of popular sentiment to defer to and obey it. The history of the nation affords only one instance of an effort to disregard and resist it—and the result of that was so disastrous—so utterly fatal to those by whom it was made—that there is but little danger of its being renewed, during the present generation at all events.

The Democratic party is dealing largely in threats of resistance to the public will, if that will shall be pronounced in favor of the election of General Grant and of reconstruction on the basis of universal suffrage laid down by Congress. There is neither terror nor strength in these threats. Indeed, a portion of the Democratic press is already learning that they only damage the cause they are designed to serve. There may be differences of opinion as to the wisdom of the Congressional plan of reconstruction, but there will be none as to the necessity of not allowing that plan, or any other that will be embodied in the law of the land, to be overthrown by force. Democrats may threaten such resistance now, as they did in 1860; and the South may trust to hopes of party aid in resisting it now, as they did then. But it will fall them still more signally and disastrously now. The national sentiment—the sentiment of loyalty to the law—the sentiment which reinforces and sustains the will of the nation as embodied in law, and which will maintain and enforce that will against hostility from any and from every quarter, is stronger now than it ever was before.

In the personal character and temper of General Grant, moreover, the whole country feels a profound assurance that under his administration peace will be sought and secured in the spirit of peace. He has held himself aloof—steadfastly from the very beginning—from everything like party rancor and sectional passions. He has taken part in none of the political or party conflicts of the day. He has neither shown nor felt anything like hostility or distrust of any portion of the people, in any section or at any time. He is no theorist—no schemer or speculating politician. His statesmanship is purely practical—seeking practical ends solely by practical means—and aiming to secure the highest permanent good of the

great mass of the people, and the consequent strength and stability of the nation, rather than the indulgence of personal ambition or the gratification of a restless, theorizing mind. He will maintain the ascendancy and authority of the law, first, because the obligations of his office and oath will require him to do it, and, furthermore, because it is only through the agency and authority of the law that peace can be preserved, and the welfare of the nation can be secured.

The Democratic party has proclaimed the great aim and object of its contest to be the forcible nullification of the law, and the overthrow by force of the authority of the Government which seeks to maintain it. Frank Blair's letter, which is everywhere accepted by the party as its real platform—the keynote of the canvass—proclaims this in language so clear that it cannot be mistaken. The paramount object of the Democrats is to have in view in electing a Democratic President, is to secure through him, by means of the army that will be under his command, the overthrow and dispersion of the State Governments newly established in the Southern States, and to compel by the bayonet the Senate and, if necessary, the House of Representatives, to obey the dictation of the Executive alone. This is the Democratic programme for the government of this Republic. It corresponds precisely with the programme by which Louis Napoleon, in 1852, converted the Republic of France, of which he had been elected President, into an Empire, and made himself Emperor. It differs only in this, that Napoleon did the act in the darkness of midnight, and then asked the people to sanction it, while our Democratic party has the frankness and the assurance to ask the people to sanction their *coup d'etat* in advance. Napoleon told the French that his Empire was "peace." The Democrats tell our people the same thing; but as their Executive Empire is not yet established, and they have not yet the command of the army, the people will probably look for "peace" in some other direction.

"Repudiation."

From the N. Y. World.

One of the chief sections of the Republican platform adopted at Chicago, is a bill against repudiation, culminated in these words:—"We denounce all forms of repudiation as a national crime; and the national honor requires the payment of the public indebtedness, at home and abroad, not only according to the letter but the spirit of the laws under which it was contracted."

Now we undertake to say, and shall find no difficulty in proving, that this resolution condemns the whole action of the Republican party in relation to the payment of public debts up to this time. First, we will meet them on their own ground, and using their own boastful pretences as the foundation of our argument, will show that the Republicans are admitted and self-proclaimed repudiators, if the public debt is due, as they contend it is, in gold. The chief point of the recent speech of Mr. Atkinson, indeed, by all the Republican papers, is that since the close of the war the Government has paid off more than eight hundred millions of the public debt, or one-fourth its whole amount in 1865. Just for the nonce, merely for argument's sake, let us admit this preposterous claim. One-fourth, then, of the whole public debt has been paid by the Republican party. But paid in what currency? Is there a Republican who will stand up and say that that great amount, or any portion of it, has been paid in gold? In good truth, not a dollar of the debt has been paid in gold; nor a dollar of the floating debt, nor a dollar of the funded debt. Now (still reasoning on the absurd claim of Mr. Atkinson and his indorsers) if one-fourth of the debt has been paid without using a dollar of gold for that purpose, why may not still more of it be paid in the same way? What consistency is there in contending that the public debt is honestly payable in gold, and claiming credit in the same breath for having paid off eight hundred millions of it in greenbacks? For certain it is, that all which has been paid, thus far, be it much or little, has been paid in lawful money.

Reasoning on the false assumptions of adversaries is not, however, very satisfactory. Dismissing these assumptions, we proceed to deal with unquestionable facts. The Republican party has had possession of nearly all the State Governments since the legal-tender act was passed. Those States had debts contracted previous to the passage of that act; debts contracted on a gold basis; debts due for gold actually borrowed, and for the payment of which, principal and interest, the States had issued their bonds. Now here were existing contracts respecting the "letter" and "spirit" of which there could be no possible question. The money borrowed by the States previous to the war was real money, either gold or notes convertible into gold at the pleasure of the holder. The understanding on both sides was that the faith of the States was pledged to pay those debts in a currency of the same value. With what face can a party which has repudiated nearly every one of those contracts put on airs of indignant virtue and denounce repudiation? It is the very same party which has had control of the Federal Government and the State Governments; and having repudiated contracts about which there can be no question, it only exposes itself to derision when it affects to be so very tender about other loans made after the legal-tender act was passed, and included in its terms. In this State, Governor Seymour insisted on maintaining the faith of contracts inviolate; but he was overruled by the Republican Legislature.

Again, at the extra session called in the summer of 1861 Congress passed an act authorizing a large issue of Treasury notes to run three years, bearing seven and three-tenths per cent interest, and receivable for duties on imports. A large amount of those notes was issued—one hundred and fifty millions in all. Be it observed that this loan preceded the passage of the legal-tender act; in the contemplation of both borrower and lenders it was a gold contract. It could not have been otherwise, because no other money than gold was then recognized in the laws of the United States. Yet the legal-tender act was repudiated by the Republican party, and repudiated in every conceivable form. It was repudiated in theory by the passage of the legal-tender act, which made the greenbacks a medium for discharging all demands and claims against the United States of every kind except interest. It was repudiated in practice by Secretary Fessenden, who refused to receive the notes of 1861 in payment of duties, although they were expressly made so by the terms of the law. The contract was again repudiated in practice by actual payments in greenbacks at maturity, although the debt had been incurred in gold. When the debt was contracted, the Government received dollar for dollar, when it was paid, at the expiration of three years, the lender got back only forty cents in gold value for the hundred cents in gold value which he had loaned to the Government. And a party which treated the public creditors in this shabby manner has the assurance to denounce as repudiation the payment of the public bonds in strict accordance with their terms!

What Say the People of Maine?

From the Boston Post.

On Monday next the voters of our sister State of Maine will be called upon to decide, not merely a question of local administration, but indirectly to pass upon the merits of great national parties and issues. As they will participate in the first State election which may be considered to have any political significance, since the naming of candidates for the Presidential contest, their action upon this occasion must be regarded as of the highest importance. We trust they realize the weight of responsibility which rests upon, in exercising the right of suffrage, and the far-reaching consequences, either for good or evil, which may hang upon their popular verdict. They have lately heard the great political and financial issues of the day discussed by able men of both parties, and, if they are not blinded by prejudice or unshelved by party ties, they will have no difficulty in discriminating between the true and the false, or deciding what is their present duty to themselves and the country at large. They will bear in mind that, notwithstanding the artful appeals of demagogues who would keep alive the dying embers of sectional strife, the war for the Union is over, and that the political issues settled by it are dead beyond the power or hope of resurrection; and, moreover, that there is no party or clique, representing public sentiment in any part of the country, which professes or desires to revise these issues. If there is any spirit of disunion or disloyalty to the Constitution remaining, it is represented mainly by those Northern radicals who did their best (or worst) to precipitate the country into civil war, who urged its prosecution for the sake of plunder and party gain rather than national unity, and who now refuse to acquiesce in any restoration of that Union that does not subvert the very foundations of republican government and guarantee them a perpetual lease of power. If there are any remnants of rebellion and secession still extant and needing to be subdued, this is the principal form in which the loyal people of the North have got to meet it—at the ballot-box. With the dead past buried out of sight, the business in hand relates to the restoration of political harmony and friendship, to the rescue of the nation from ruinous debt and taxation, to the renewed co-operation of those commercial and industrial forces, which in the past have given us plenty and prosperity, and to the building up of those great material interests in all sections of the country, which are mutually sustaining and contribute to the general welfare. These are the living, paramount issues of the day—the matters which vitally affect the finances, commerce, and industry of every State in the Union, and come home to the business, the pockets, and the families of each and every one of their people. These are the real questions upon which our fellow-citizens of Maine are to vote; and we believe they will vote understandingly, notwithstanding the efforts of the radical mouthpieces to keep them out of sight. Urged by the highest patriotism, fully appreciating the importance of the result of their action, we are confident the Democratic and conservative voters of Maine, on Monday, will so discharge their obligations to their country as to win its grateful admiration.

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F. D. CALLENDER, Lieutenant Colonel Ordnance, and commanding Arsenal, St. Louis Arsenal, Mo., Aug. 29, 1868. 93211

PUBLIC SALE OF CONDEMNED ORDNANCE

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F. D. CALLENDER, Lieutenant Colonel Ordnance, and commanding Arsenal, St. Louis Arsenal, Mo., Aug. 29, 1868. 93211

LEGAL NOTICES.

IN THE ORPHANS' COURT FOR THE CITY

AND COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA, deceased, the account of ELIZA P. BARTMAN, Adm., trustee of the estate of JAMES T. CALLENDER, deceased, and to report distribution of the balance in the hands of the accountant, will meet the parties interested, for the purpose of his appointment on TUESDAY, 23d September, 1868, at 11 A. M., at his office, No. 624 WILLIAM STREET, Philadelphia.

93211thost WILLIAM STREET, PHILADELPHIA, Auditor.

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JOHN W. EVERMAN & CO., 201 N. 10TH STREET, PHILADELPHIA.

218 & 220 S. FRONT ST. HENRY'S HARDWARE & CO. 218 & 220 S. FRONT ST.

OFFER TO THE TRADE, IN LOTS, FINE RYE AND BOURBON WHISKIES, IN BOND, OF 1865, 1866, 1867, and 1868. ALSO, FINE RYE AND BOURBON WHISKIES, OF GREAT AGE, ranging from 1864 to 1845. Liberal contracts will be entered into for lots, in bond at Distillery, of this year's manufacture.

RELIEF ASSOCIATION.

NOTICE.

OFFICE OF THE MANHATTAN CO-OPERATIVE RELIEF ASSOCIATION.

No. 42 WALNUT STREET, PHILADELPHIA.