

SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

Do it if you Dare!

From the N. Y. Tribune.

It appears that there are men still living and moving, and making speeches (on the Blair-and-Seymour side) who think that the people are to be secured into the rejection of Grant and Colfax. Some of the threats which reach us are hardly of a nature to awaken the interest of public opinion...

Two things the missionary from the West to the East is certain will follow the election of Grant—universal bloodshed and general bankruptcy. We pass over for the present his financial forebodings; but did Mr. Pendleton think to scare the stout hearts of the Maine backwoodsmen who know the rotten lumber of a platform...

France and the Peace of Europe.

From the N. Y. Herald.

Day after day our cable and mail news renders it more and more difficult to be in the continuance of peace in Europe. The Pall Mall Gazette, one of the most enlightened and cautious of English journals, has at last been compelled to acknowledge that war is more than probable before the end of the year...

ment of a French Zollverein, Holland and Belgium to be included.

These various items of news, all connected more or less directly with the west of Europe, do not exhaust the alarming rumors current all over the continent. The threatened Franco-Spanish alliance has already produced a not unimportant excitement in Italy.

So is it in the South. Matters are scarcely less alarming in the East. The Greeks, whatever we may say of their success, are still as full of ambition as ever.

Europe is thus seen to be in a peculiarly combustible condition. It requires but the application of the match to produce a general and destructive conflagration. It matters little where the match is applied, whether in the West, or the South, or the East, it is all but absolutely certain that the flames will spread until every nation of the Continent is wrapped in their ruinous embrace.

Unconstitutional, Revolutionary, and Void.

From the N. Y. Times.

Governor Baker, of Indiana, in a discussion with Senator Hendricks, traced the course of the Democrats from the commencement of the war, with the view of showing that the opposition now offered to the reconstruction policy is identical with that which assailed every measure employed by the national Government in the struggle for its existence.

The men who now condemn reconstruction as "unconstitutional, revolutionary, and void," in the same terms denounced the purpose to put down the Rebellion by force of arms. That was a pre-eminently unconstitutional policy, in the opinion of the managers of the New York Convention.

The plea and the purpose have been the same all the time. At every step the party of the Union was compelled to contest the ground with the politicians who nominated Seymour and Blair. They were not simply indifferent. They were active on the side of the enemy; not indeed waging battle in the open field, but doing service as aiders and abettors of the enemy at Washington and in the Northern States.

The worthlessness of this pretended respect for the Constitution has been made more apparent by the acquiescence of the Democracy in the course of Mr. Johnson. They hurled epithets at Mr. Lincoln's proclamation of reconstruction, which specifically recognized the control of Congress over the representation; while they gladly accepted Mr. Johnson's proclamation defining the method of reconstruction and exacting the oath he imposed.

which bubbles incessantly about the Constitution! So it is also with the reconstruction policy of Congress. It has law for its foundation and the restoration of the Union as its end. But it works through unfranchised loyalty, with the help of the majority of the whole people, and in a manner that gives strength to the Union; and for this reason it is condemned by the Democracy as "revolutionary, unconstitutional, and void."

The Day of Wrath.

From the N. Y. Independent.

It makes a man hold his breath to read the accounts of the appalling earthquake which lately ran like a sea-wave up and down the west coast of South America, overthrowing ten cities and hundreds of towns and villages; killing probably thirty thousand people, and maintaining an unnumbered multitude besides; destroying ships, houses, churches, and various property, officially estimated at five hundred million dollars; and, altogether, constituting one of the most extensive, destructive, and awful calamities which have ever befallen the human race.

The accounts thus far received are crude and meager, giving rough guesses rather than accurate statements of losses; but all the writers unite in a concurrent testimony to the unparalleled havoc caused by the earthquake, and to the universal panic among the people. After various premonitory symptoms, the chief shock was felt almost simultaneously throughout all Peru, at about 6 o'clock P. M., August 13. The convulsion extended more or less destructively through forty degrees of latitude—or one-ninth part of the earth's circumference. The horrible phenomenon took some new shape in each new place, but preserved some general features everywhere.

The richest cities of the west coast of South America may be said to have been totally destroyed or for their inhabitants to have been destroyed with them. What a drama of anguish was enacted in Callao, in Arica, in Lima, in Ibarra, in Quito! Whole families crushed to death under their own tumbling roofs! Hosts of mangled survivors left who at this moment are enduring the prolonged agonies of too slow a death!

Not far from quarter of a million of people are made homeless and homeless by this calamity; and tens of thousands of these are suffering for want of clothing and food. It is a case for the whole world of charity. We sincerely hope the Government and citizens of the United States will show a princely beneficence towards these ruined republics and their stricken people.

A Frank Answer to an Insidious Question.

From the N. Y. World.

"According to the policy thus authoritatively proclaimed, it will be incumbent on Mr. Seymour, if elected, to set aside the new Government as null and void, and the help of the military to disperse them and re-establish the order of things which Congress abolished. This programme involves the forcible destruction of the Government and the disfranchisement of the freedmen in defiance of the existing law; and the restoration to power of Rebel leaders in spite of the disability imposed by the fourteenth amendment."

This strain of remark and request for information proceeded upon the unwarranted assumption that General Blair's letter is a part of the Democratic platform. But there is no process of fair reasoning by which it can be made to appear so. The Democratic National Convention adopted its platform before balloting for candidates, and without any expectation that Mr. Seymour would be its nominee for President or General Blair for Vice-President.

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It is a case for the whole world of charity. We sincerely hope the Government and citizens of the United States will show a princely beneficence towards these ruined republics and their stricken people. Professor Agassiz at his head, to proceed at once to South America, for the purpose of collecting, without delay, accurate data of this great upheaval, with a view to a thorough inquiry into the origin of earthquakes—a mysterious problem still unsolved.

of Georgia demonstrates that everything desirable can be accomplished through the agency of the new State Governments. That fact is in the greater part of the South the white citizens are a majority, and that they monopolize the property, the education, the social influence, and the political experience of their section, proves that, if left alone, they can manage their institutions into any form they please.

We are confirmed in this view by the fact that the ingenuity of the Times itself can devise no other remedy than a refusal to admit Senators and Representatives from the States which thus transform their governments. In an article, on the 11th inst., upon the expulsion of the negroes from the Georgia Legislature the Times said:—

"How the wrong may be remedied is a question we are not disposed to answer with the same degree of confidence which without any doubt we would give to the election and qualification of the members, and no State court has jurisdiction over the Legislature. It may be announced, but the prominent advocates of exclusion have announced their intention to disregard it. They claim to be judges of law, and as a fact, and will need no opinion or decision at variance with their action. What, then, can Congress do? May not the Senate and House in turn assert their supreme control over elections and qualifications, and respectively refuse to admit the Senators and Representatives whom Georgia will send to the next meeting of the body? It is not exclusively in view of the fact that Georgia regained its privilege of self-government, in part by ratifying the Constitution on the ground of fraud. For if that would still be the law, the act of ratification, however, in the Georgia House, was carried by the votes of the colored members who have been expelled, and if they had no lawful title to seats they could have done so; and after striking them off the roll to ratify the Constitution, it is not the act of the Legislature in respect of the amendment in the light of its recent proceeding, no special pleading would seem necessary to justify revision by each State of its members, and to expel such as were not entitled to sit. For if it were so, admission obtained in reliance upon it was in fact null and void, and the Georgia Senators and Representatives, that step would be a declaration that the reconstruction of the State is null and void."

Now, whatever may be thought of this remedy in other respects, the Times must perceive that it cannot work when we come to have a Democratic President and House of Representatives. All that Congress could do at the next session, would be to stultify itself, and make itself a laughing-stock, by expelling the carpet bag members it has just admitted, and covering with derision the first plank of the Chicago platform, which congratulates the country on the perfect success of the reconstruction policy. But as soon as there is a Democratic House, the R-republicans are checked. The joint resolution readmitting the States and sanctioning their governments cannot be repealed without the concurrence of both Houses; and until it is repealed neither can refuse to admit members on the ground that there is no valid State Government. The Times must therefore see that its party will be bound, hand and foot, in letters of its own forging. There will be no necessity for demolishing the gallows erected by Haman, when he can so easily be hanged on it himself.

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