THE DAILT EVENING TELEGRAPH-PHILADELPHIA, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1868.

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SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

The Elections.

From the Richmond Dispatch.

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The premonitory elections of Tuesday settle the question of the next Presidency in almost every man's mind, we suppose. Not having deemed any other result probable, we have not to add to our deep grief at this result the sharp pangs of disappointment.

We conjecture that there will be now no very vigorous fight over the Presidential election. The whole strength of the parties, including the immense means they had con-centrated to inflaence the opinions and votes of men, having been exerted upon the struggle of Tuesday, we imagine that the defeated party will hardly continue the contest. It is clearly without hope. That the canvass has been most wretchedly

mismanaged is indisputable. The nomination made by the Democrats was the worst they could have made out of the list of leading aspirants they had before them. The body of men who it is supposed coerced Mr. Saymour's nomination professed inexpressible repugnance to Judge Chase, and yet were guilty of the monstrous inconsistency of nominating the man who attended the Convention with the avowed object of securing the nomination of Judge Chase.

There were two alternatives before the New York Convention-viz., to nominate a man with a view to his election, or to nominate one wholly upon principle. Chase would have done for the first; Pendleton or Hendricks for the second. But the Convention avoided both, and nominated a friend of Chase, who had not his (Chase's) power, and who yet wanted the boldness and stamina to maintain the principles avowed by the Convention; therefore there has been a heavy fall between two stools.

Mr. John Quincy Adams plainly foresaw this result. His speech at Columbia the day before the election was shaped to meet the exigency, and Mr. Adams deserves very great credit for his frankness, his honest and wise advice to the people of the South. This speech elevates him in dignity and public respect. We recom-mend it to the perusal and consideration of every Southern man. No party can keep this country prostrate or long continue sectional oppressions and inequalities of rights amongst the States. It may be that what has happened at the South has shed enough light to guide even the more prejudiced Northern statesmen to some policy more wise, more beneficent to the nation at large, than that which they have so ruthlessly pressed upon the South.

We can certainly do no better than to be cheerful, and hope for the best. We say to the people, in the language of Mr. Adams, "Call to your aid that grandest of all human qualities-self-control-and all will yet be well."

Revolt in Line of Battle. From the N. Y. Tribune.

The returns, which at first afflicted the World by their bad shape, have finally reached our neighbor in a sufficiently intelligible form to enable it to find out what has happened. Its leading editorial on Thursday morning consisted of two columns of doubly-leaden wisdom thereby evoked. To our surprise, the famous arithmetician succumbs to the pressure. We thought better of him than that. But, poor man, he has been fighting with the figures a long time, and at last they are too many for him. One lingering spark of his ancient flame does reveal itself. He shows that if halt the Republican majority in Pennsylvania had been given to the Dem crats, then-why then-the two parties would have been equal ! Accordingly we have this half explained away. They persisted in voting with the Republicans, and so defeating the Democrats, for two reasons, we are told, either of which, if rightly considered, sufficiently accounts for it. First, General Grant was running against the Democrats. Second, General Blair was running for them. But the hand that showed the gains in Maine has not wholly lost its cunning. See how delicately and charmingly, in the statement of this double reason for defeat, the art of putting things is illnstrated:-"Two reasons appear, in the absence of either of which our triumon would have been certain. These reasons are such as to show that a mahave been repelled from our support by things having no proper connection with the merits of the canvass. If the military prestige of General Grant had been out of the scale we should have succeeded; or, that remaining, if the perversions of General Biair's position had been out of the scale, we should have succeeded.

of rebellion and rascality. On the Fourth of July, in Tammany Hall,

the Democratic party, still great, and with the prestige of unexpected successes, stood at the dividing of ways. It was almost persuaded to accept the issues of the war, to turn its back upon the past, apply itself to the questions of the day in the spirit of the day, and place a great statesman at its head. We do not believe that it would, even thus, have attained success. The people had made up their minds that the men and party that had saved the country should rule it. But, with such a policy and leader, the Democratic organization would have had a present and a future. In-stead, falling then into the hands of the Rebels, it now has neither. The World calls in vain for a change of base. A change of nature is what is needed, and paper bulletins, on the heels of a rout and the eve of another battle, can work no such miracle.

It will be seen that we attach very little importance to the convulsions that are now agitating the leaders of the Democracy. They are merely an acknowledgment of the handwriting on the wall. Armies that acknowledge themselves whipped and ready to ran do not easily change front in the face of the enemy. Parties that admit themselves defeated by the popular loathing of their princieles cannot recall vanishing victory by kicking aside the candidates who embody those principles. The Democratic party defeated itself by declaring for revolution at the South and dishonesty at large. No change of candidates can erase that record. The damned spot will not out at their bidding. To seek to conceal it by other candidates is absurd. Haucock as a figure-head would not interpose bulk enough to cut off the echoes of the Rebel yell of delight with which the platform was received. Johnson would only turn the present comedy into a farce. The name of Salmon P. Chase is the only one to charm with, and he will repel their solicitations. However ambitions he may be, his ambition has not made him a fool. He knows that to place him where Seymour stood, on Vallandigham's and Wade Hampton's platform, would be only to soil a great name for naught. He knows that his candidacy could not change the fell spirit of the Rebel Democracy, which has startled and shocked the North. Much as the nation has trusted him, he knows that it would scorn his promises if he stood on the Damocratic platform, and received the support of the party that in three short months has made the South as rebellious as in 1860. The blandishments with which Mr. Chase was last night assailed are in vain. His enemies say he might do much to attain the Presidency; his worst enemies never accused him of a disposition to sell himself for nothing. And so the distress of the defeated Democracy returns. Whom shall they conscript ? Friends ! you see how the enemy's line is

wavering. Once more let us take up our leader's heroic order, ' Pash things !"

Final Collapse of Santa Anna.

From the N. Y. Herald. Santa Anna is again in trouble. Ever since

his exile by the Juarez government this headless rooster has excited the pity of the world. All the arts of revolutionists have been exhausted by him in the vain effort to get an egg from which to hatch a full-blooded revolution in Mexico. Every one of them, however, has proved addled. The old hero's cork leg evidently can no longer bear a spur, and the strategy of the cockpit will not avail with slippery customers like the greasers. Santa Anna should have profited by his experience of the last few years in the United States. He came here with the belief that his revolutionary plans would be aided and abetted by the American Government. This was natural, for the policy of our State Department has been and still is one of irrepressible conflict. But Santa Anna did not prove irrepressible. He showed himself to be a headless rooster, fit to be consigned to the care of Mr. Bergh's society for the prevention of cruelty to animals. With the full determination to again bleed his native country, the old gamecock went into the arena only to be bled himself. He got entangled in lawsuits for the equipments necessary to a first-class filibustering raid, left here in tow of his heartiest enemies, to get up a pronunciamiento in Vera Cruz, was captured, and would have forfeited his life but for the fact that the Juarez government knew him to be a headless rooster. Not deterred by his bitter experience the old hero would venture on slippery ground again, pre-suming on the American stability of his game leg. This time, again, he took into his confidence emissaries of the very government he was seeking to overthrow. Colonel Cosme Garcia Padilla pumped the whole secret out of Santa Anna, General Taboada, and the rest of the interventionists who have their headquarters at Havana. According to the revelations made to the Mexican Congress Santa Anna was to restore the laws of the late empire, renew relations with Earope, and give the United States to understand that their annexation policy should go no further. His addresses to the Mexican people were to set forth that the United States wanted the northern frontier States of Mexico in consideration of our assuming the foreign debt of that republic. The late mission of Minister Romero was to be marked as the opening wedge of Uncle Sam in the dismemberment and eventual annexation of the republic. Bat all this fine scheme failed; Padulla got the secret, divulged it, and Captain General Lersundi ordered the headless rooster to be re-

is the fact that they are placed on a platform [plied and strike off the superfluous fragments! if an elephant is to pass a river on ice not quite heavy enough to bear him, he had better lose a tusk than be drowned in the stream.

If we had been badly beaten in the October elections, we should not think of making these suggestions. But, in point of fact, we have grazed the mark which we meant to hit. We have probably carried Indiana; the Republican majority in Pennsylvania is but a few paltry thousands made up of fraudulent votes, and even in Ohio the majority of our opponents is less than a sixth part of what it was when their power was at its height. We feel like a person who, in a lottery, has drawn the next to the winning number, or the owner of a horse that failed to win the race by half a neck in consequence of having slightly too heavy a rider. The vexation of defeat is never so keenly felt as when success was just within grasp.

We have not been beaten in these elections on the proper issues of the canvass, but by things quite extraneous to the public questions. The military prestige of the Republican candidate has really nothing to do with the questions of policy involved, and yet that has deprived us of more votes than were necessary for our success in every State. But this is an element which we cannot eliminate. Another thing which has arrested the tide of our gains, and has done us far more injury than the military popularity of General Grant, is the use that has been made of some inconsiderate expressions of General Blair previous to his nomination. The Bepublican leaders, who are doubtless good judges of the kind of appeals best calculated to prevent desertions from their party, have harped upon those expression more than upon all other topics put together. They have succeeded in filling timid or credulous minds with apprehensions that the election of the Democratic candidates would be followed by the employment of the army for the forcible ejection of the negro governments, in a rough Crom-wellian style. There can be no doubt that the American people yearn for peace, and that nothing could be so fatal to the success of the Democratic party as a belief that it would attempt to cut the gordian knot of Southern politics with the sword. The use made of General Blair's letter has, of course, been uncandid and unfair; but what care the unsorupulous radicals for fairness or candor? Enough has been said to give a color to their perversions, and in point of fact they have deluded thousands of weak minds into the absurd belief that the Democratic party is asking the country to indorse a revolutional y programme. The mischief of such representations does not depend upon their being true, but upon their being believed. They carry an imputation which the party cannot stand under, and unless they can be in some way effectually rebutted, we shall again come just near enough to success to wonder that we failed.

This calumny needs to be met by something more effectual than a mere argumentative refutation. Every time it is refuted, our opponents slur over or ignore the exposure, and rehearse again their quotations from the Brod-head letter, asserting that it was on account of that letter, and of those perticular passages in it, that General Blair, was nominated. Now we suppose that anybody can easily conceive of ways by which this damaging libel upon the Democratic party could be summarily exploded-so exploded that no more would be left of it than a heap of exploded gunpowder. Of the two or three ways in which this may effectually be done, we do not feel called upon to particularize any; for the individuals are very few in whose hauds the remedies lie, and the remedies themselves are not so recondite as to need any ghost from the other world to reveal what they are. It is obvious enough what they are not. There is nothing to be gained by the incessant and endless contradiction by our party organs of a



"The bearings of this observation lays in the application on it." In other words:-

"We may succeed yet, if we can remove or "We may succeed yet, if we can remove or neutralize these adverse influences, which have really nothing to do with the merits of the public questions. Can this be done? It is a grave question, fraught with the most mo-mentons consequences. We commend it to the attention, to the most earnest reflection, of the recognized leaders of the party. We have still nearly three w. eks for action; and where so slight a counterpoise would suffice to turn the scale, prompt action—if it be judicious as well as prompt—will accomplish wonders. If, in a review of the whole situation, it shall be concluded that mistakes have been made, it is better that they should be corrected now, than better that they should be corrected now, than that the country should be dragged through four more weary years of strife, to be redeamed then by measures of the same kind that might by a magnificent exercise of pluck, be as easily adopted now."

The "magnificent exercise of plack" will not be exh bited. "The adverse influences" cannot be "removed or neutralized." Democratic candidates, from Seymour to Valland'gham, have a profound understanding of the art of declining-before the nomination. They don't understand the first motion in such a process after being nominated. It is within the bounds of possibility that by a combined, concentrated attack of all arms, horse, foot and dragoons, the warrior of the ticket might be made to retreat. But as for the civilian, the World may as well dismiss its crazy hopes No miser ever clutched his gold more closely, no old maid ever clung to the hope of yet achieving matrimony more fondly, than Horatio Seymour clings to the nomination it cost him so much to win. All things are possible with the Democracy, since the party of Andrew Jackson has become the party of treason; the party of Thomas Jefferson the of Seymour. The head of the ticket might then be forced off after all; but it could only happen, it would seem, after some such convulsion of hearts, and throats, and tears as put him on.

For the rest, we have only to observe that, having mistaken the symptoms of the Democratic disease, the World is naturally at fault in proposing a remedy. The causes of their defeat last Tuesday go below and beyond the mere worthlessness and offensiveness of their candidates. Mr. Frank Blair's fulminations, as such, are of as little consequence as Mr. Frank Blair himself. Mr. Horatio Seymour's weakness and malignity are only more conspiouous, not more dangerous, since he has been lifted from his insignificance by a national nomination. What has made these men not

moved from the Havana cockpit. Without a doubt Santa Anna has been crnelly treated in all this business. He needs and will get the sympathy of many in our community. When such a society as Mr. Bergh's can prosper here there must certainly be a large class of sympathizers with one so cruelly treated as Santa Anna has been. We fear, however, that he is mostly to blame himself; although it is undoubtedly oruel to encourage an old headless rooster with bat one leg to enter the arena with a cock that is lustily crowing over having pulled feathers from the eagle of France and drawn blood from a scion of the Hapsburgs.

The Ever-Vigorous Democracy.

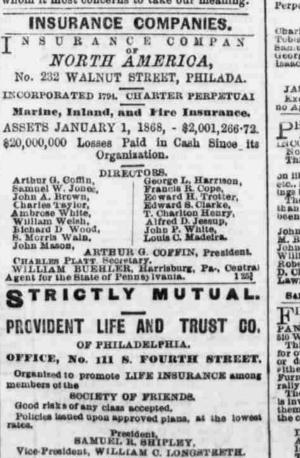
From the N. Y. World,

The great and gallant fight which the Democratic party has made in the October elections increases the pride which its friends have always felt in its indomitable courage and energy. If these October elections were the final contest, the result would fill us with the profoundest regret that such a wealth of high and noble qualities should have been expended in vain; that they should have brought us so close to the summit of success, and yet have stopped just short of it. "When Ajax strives some rock's vast weight to throw," and, instead of hurling it the thirty feet intervening between him and the mark, the too great weight of the missile causes it to fall short by a few inches, our admiration of the mighty feat increases the regret that it was not quite successful. But if this is a mere trial, preliminary to the final throw, our pride in his prodigious strength inspires the wish that it should not a second time be expended in vain. If the armor of the hero has slightly impeded the freedom of his motions, let him strip away the incumbrance ! If the weight is a few ounces, or a few pounds, too heavy merely displeasing but odious to the people, for his strength, let a stone-hammer be ap-

calumny which the Republican organs will repeat faster than we can print the contradiotions, which never reach their readers. The public mind is educated quickly by events, slowly by arguments. What is needed is some event, of such a nature that no voter in the United States can ignore it; of such significance that it can, by no possibility, be misinterpreted. This requires something of the boldness of a great soul, equal to the demands of a great emergency.

A bold manœuvre, after a repulse on the field of battle, has two good effects: it places the men where they fight to better advantage, and it keeps up their courage by showing that their commanders are competent to deal with new features of the situation. But to go on charging in the same way against the same obstacles, as Burnside did at Fredericksburg, discovers a poverty of resources which impairs the confidence of the men. A repulse with nearly equal numbers is nothing serious. so long as they see that the resources of their officers are not exhausted.

No Democrat admits that the success of the party binds it to use the army to disperse the new State governments. And as the party has no such intention, why should it bear the odium of the damaging imputation? As it contemplates only peaceful and legal modes of redress, it is simple justice to the party that its skirts should be cleared of aspersions which, so far as they are believed, repel voters from its ranks. The party, as a body, has no other means of clearing itself of this injurious imputation than by futile contradictions in its public journals. But there are individuals who can extinguish this calumny in a moment, and silence it forever. And this must be done, if we are to win the election. This is a time for plain talk, and we trust we have spoken intelligibly enough for those whom it most concerns to take our meaning.



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