

SPiRiT OF THE PRESS.

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

Grant and the Office-Seekers.

General Grant has begun by a very bold and startling act. He refuses even to read letters of application for office, and directs them to be destroyed! Suppose he had announced his intention to do this before the election, how rapidly would the zeal of some of his most earnest supporters have fallen even below the freezing point!

The time, labor, and money spent in a Presidential campaign are enormous. Thousands of men in each party devote their time and toil, for weeks and months, to the contest. In organizing parties, in getting up meetings, securing speakers, and making speeches, in distributing partisan documents and papers, in canvassing for votes, getting voters to the polls, and all the many other details of an election, the zeal and energy expended by active party men in every canvass are very great.

Now, comparatively a small portion of the most active and zealous "working" politicians are prompted by motives of mere patriotism. As a general rule, they are not men who are capable of such a sentiment. They follow it as a business—for its profit, in hand and prospective. The great mass of the orators who figure so largely in every campaign and deluge the country so freely with their eloquence, are hired and paid so many dollars for every speech, like lawyers, actors, and other professional performers, by the committees that have them in charge; and they take their chance of getting, in addition, some fat office as a reward for their "disinterested" service in the cause.

Those of our friends who have felt scruples as to whether the State of New York has any right to exert a redeeming influence over the politics of the city, may now find relief in the fact that the question is changed, by the late election of Hoffman, into the more vital one whether the city shall rule the State. If the people of the rural districts have had any doubt whether they had a greater interest in the good government of this city than they have in that of Kamehahkaha, such doubt must be dispelled when they see this city, owing to its local misgovernment, give the electoral vote of the State to Seymour by 20,000 fraudulent ballots, and elect a Governor and State officers by the like dishonest means.

Persons elected by such efforts and such men, to places of power or influence feel bound to "take care" of their "friends." A member of Congress must spend half his time and strength in getting places for the men to whose arts or efforts he owes his election. He haunts the high places of power, begging for office, thus to reward his followers. His position is stripped of all dignity, its legitimate duties are neglected, and he loses all respect and self-respect in this humiliating and degrading mediocrity. The evil for the last eight years has increased to frightful proportions. President Lincoln's good nature set an example of submission to it, which was followed by his successor, and which has sapped the vigor and efficiency of the Administration almost as much as it has impaired its dignity and independence.

General Grant probably sees—as Presidents who have gone before him have seen—how utterly fatal such a system is to everything like an honest, efficient, and useful administration of the Government. Whether he will be able to remedy it, or not, is doubtful. The Tenure-of-Office bill, now in existence, originally passed by the Republicans as a curb on Andrew Johnson, may do something to aid him in his efforts. It is a very important one in some of its details, and might as well be amended in some of its provisions. It ought to be amended, and, if not replaced by the Civil Service bill of Mr. Jencks, ought at least to embrace some of its provisions.

But a great deal will depend upon General Grant personally for a correction of this gross and growing abuse. His military training and experience will be of essential service. Never having been accustomed to receive orders from his subordinates, he will probably not submit to dictation from any quarter as to his appointments. This method of habits of military routine, in which each officer attends to the duties of his own position, will probably induce General Grant to impose upon the heads of departments the selection of their own subordinates, and to occupy himself less than has been the recent custom with these matters. He may think it due to his dignity as well as to his comfort not to have hordes of office-seekers swarming in his ante-chamber, and invading his private apartments at all hours of the day and night. And he will be likely, we are inclined to think, to attach more weight to special fitness and competency, and less to party service, as qualifications and claims for office, than has been done for a good many years past.

General Grant has ensured it to be pretty generally understood that he prefers to see persons to fill office, and advice as to his conduct of affairs, rather than to have them thrust upon him. An adherence to this principle will save him a good deal of personal discomfort, and contribute to the efficiency of the public service and the respectability of the Administration.

Humburg Exposing Himself.

For several days the World has been publishing columns of figures pretending to give the precise number of persons disfranchised in the several Southern States, in which it assumed to be so accurate as to be able to come down to units in each instance. Some days ago we called attention to the game of fabricating statements, and pronounced the whole thing a humbug. Yesterday it openly confessed the fact. It calls for "the statistics" of the importance of a precise exhibit can hardly be too earnestly impressed on those who, by local knowledge, are best fitted to furnish such information, and adds, "that the exactness is desirable, so that the scrutiny these exhibits will encounter may be successfully met."

for statistics, when, for four days in succession, it has been endeavoring to give them in full, and to the very minutest particular! On Sunday it commenced this game. We saw what a humbug it was, and how it was calculated to mislead the public, and on Monday morning exposed it, and ourselves called upon our friends in each of the Southern States to furnish us the statistics with as much accuracy as possible. Still this brazen sheet persisted in its game of deception, on Monday morning repeating its fabricated tables, and again on Tuesday morning. On Wednesday morning it calls for "the statistics," when what it pretended were "the statistics" had even on that same day, in one of its high-flying, ridiculous, double-headed appeals for support, it holds on to the aggregate, while dropping the statistical tables, by stating the disfranchised persons to number 545,251, coming down to the exactness of the figure one as a unit. Of course 280 would do—there was just one more disfranchised person, and he must be put in. Still, this brazen concern knew nothing at all about it, and in another column was confessing it, and calling for "the statistics."

This sheet is becoming desperate. It feels itself outlawed from the party, discredited by the public, and held in universal contempt. It makes the most frantic efforts to regain its lost position. It mistakes the method. Lying and charlatanism are not Democratic qualities, and will not secure Democratic confidence and support. The more it struggles the lower it sinks. Guided by no political or moral principle, it makes the mistake which rascals generally fall into, of resorting to tricks to gain what can be secured only by honesty.

We shall follow it up and expose it with untrifling vigilance. We feel greatly encouraged in our efforts. By persisting, day after day, in denouncing its statements in regard to disfranchisement, we have at length on the fourth morning brought it to confess the fraud and call for the facts. One instance like this stamps the character of the paper, and must destroy all confidence in the truth of what may appear in its columns. Crowning won't save it. "It's a dead cock in the pit." Falling back to the "quadrilateral" is of no use—turning the "elbow of the Minnie" will be of no avail—it's a gone rooster.

The State of Tammany.

Those of our friends who have felt scruples as to whether the State of New York has any right to exert a redeeming influence over the politics of the city, may now find relief in the fact that the question is changed, by the late election of Hoffman, into the more vital one whether the city shall rule the State. If the people of the rural districts have had any doubt whether they had a greater interest in the good government of this city than they have in that of Kamehahkaha, such doubt must be dispelled when they see this city, owing to its local misgovernment, give the electoral vote of the State to Seymour by 20,000 fraudulent ballots, and elect a Governor and State officers by the like dishonest means. This shows that unless the State govern the city the city will certainly govern the State. The Evening Post has a pleasant theory that our misgovernment in matters still remaining under the sway of the Tammany ring is due to the fact that the control of the Police, Health, and Fire Departments has been taken from them and is conducted with greater purity. We supposed that misgovernment caused the withdrawal of these powers, not that the diminution of the powers of the city caused its misgovernment. But the Evening Post thinks the turbid water runs up the stream instead of down, and that the wolf is innocent, while the lamb is greatly to blame. Does the fact that Mayor Hoffman has ceased to control the police in any way cause him to make the Court House cost \$7,000,000 instead of \$2,000,000? If the City Government is faithful, rotten, and corrupt over a few things, would it become faithful if its sway were extended over many things?

Nor are we able to understand how the condition of things would be improved by erecting New York and its environs into the State of Manhattan. It would lose control thereby over the railroads and canals which it has built, and which in turn have added to its wealth and prosperity. The new State would be in effect an alien commonwealth, ruled by an irresponsible and reckless element such as in all the other States of the Union is kept in a minority of power if not of numbers. We doubt if it may be long before we are exposed to the horrors of a State Government absolutely controlled by the New York City Democracy. But if such a new State is to be formed, let us not call it "Manhattan," but frankly accept the situation and call it "Tammany."

The Other Johnson.

Reverdy is sad. The emotions that overcome him are almost as painful as those which brought tears to the eyes of the virtuous and noble abused Peckinpaugh. The wounds of Peckinpaugh are not to be compared to the which Reverdy has received from the American people. Tom Finch and John Westlock and his numerous relations, and even that confiding young genius Chuzzlewit, not to speak of Mr. Moody and the rich old grandfather, united in betraying the confiding architect. Reverdy told the English nation, the other evening, that he had been "greatly criticized for the manner in which he had received offered civilities while in this country, but such strictures on his conduct had not affected the negotiations which were in progress. However dissatisfied people in England or in America may be, they will find that there is no ground for such a feeling." Far be it from us to intrude upon the griefs so magnanimously avowed by Reverdy Johnson. No one objects to his "negotiations," nor to the ordinary interchange of "civilities." No one expects Mr. Johnson to carry to England any of the griefs or resentments of the war, but we certainly did not expect that the men whom he would single out and publicly honor as his friends would be the enemies of our country. We did not expect him to embrace noblemen like Lord Wharfedale, who had taken a prominent part in favor of the Rebels, or speculators like Laird, who had built private vessels to destroy our commerce, and even going so far as to evade and dishonor his flag by sending them surreptitiously to sea, or demagogues like Roebuck, who publicly insulted the American people in the presence of his minister, by his degrading and loathsome rhetoric. Reverdy should be allowed to return to Maryland, and, by the quiet waters of the Chesapeake, to brood upon the ingratitude of his countrymen. He certainly is needed no longer in London.

Financial Quackery.

Secretary McCulloch is said to have been deliberating for several days as to whether he would intervene to alleviate the present stringency in the money market. This is a subject on which he should not trouble himself to deliberate at all. It is a subject with which, as head of the Treasury Department, he has no proper concern. It is no business of his to make a tight or an easy money market, but to collect the revenue, meet the obligations, and maintain the credit, of the Government. Speculators and men in legitimate business (we know no reason why speculation is not a legitimate business) are said to be alike suffering from the present stringency. The real difference between the two classes is, that one are fitful and the other steady employers of capital. Let us consider their cases separately as respects the expediency of relief from the Government. If men in regular business have not sufficient foresight to plan with reference to such periodical variations in the money market as are of constant occurrence, they justly suffer the consequences. At this season of the year, when large amounts of money are employed to move the crops of the West and the South, the rate of interest for short loans is naturally higher than at other times. If, at this season, large speculative movements of any kind set in, the rates go still higher, and men in regular trade, and all other men, find it more difficult to obtain loans. Now it is one of the most obvious precautions in the world for men who foresee that they must use borrowed money while the crops of the country are moving, to make some preparation beforehand. If they neglect to do so, they expose themselves to a voluntary risk, and cannot with propriety ask the Government to shield them from the effects of their imprudence. Nothing is farther beyond the proper scope of government than to insure individuals against the consequences of their lack of judgment or foresight in the management of their private business. But if men in regular business are not entitled to such relief, then certainly not the speculators. Such men buy on their judgment of the future state of the market. They take a voluntary risk, and if they miscalculate they meet the loss. If they over-estimate the forthcoming supply of the commodity in which they speculate, or over-estimate the demand; if they fail to take the probable state of the money market into their calculations, or attend to it and miscalculate, their speculations will turn out badly, and they have only to blame their own want of sagacity. So far as money is an element of business calculations, speculative or other, we admit that the Government has a duty; which is, to furnish a currency as well guarded as it is possible for legislation to guard it against sudden fluctuations. But for the Government to intervene on emergency in any way to unsettle all stability. If business men cannot know beforehand how much currency there is to be in the country; if it is liable to be expanded or contracted at any time according to the judgment or caprice of the Secretary of the Treasury, an additional and unnecessary source of risk is added to the ordinary hazards of business. If speculators miscalculate the market, and are obliged to sell at a loss, they will learn to be more cautious another time. If they use only their own money, they can still hold their losses long as they please, and put them on the market at such times as they think they will bring the highest price. But if they are speculating on borrowed capital, and cannot get renewals when their loans mature, their losses may be great; but that is no reason why the Government should come to their rescue. If the Government expands and depreciates the currency for their relief, it does it at the expense of their creditors. When money is worth less, goods are nominally worth more, and the seller of the goods is enabled to pay his debts in a medium less valuable than he borrowed. If the Government intervenes to favor such an operation, it punishes the lenders of money for the imprudence or miscalculations of borrowers. Even if such intervention were within the proper sphere of Government at all, it would be grossly unjust. Before we can ever get back to a sound currency there must be a good deal of financial pressure, and the business community must make up their minds to bear it in a heroic spirit. But reumption will by no means be attended by such widespread distress as it was in England after the long suspension in the early part of this century. Our agricultural interest (which is the life of all the others, as furnishing their chief market) will suffer but lightly as compared with the agriculture of England, where the soil is not owned, as here, by its actual cultivators. In England the land is leased for long periods, in order that tenants may be encouraged to improve it by the certainty of enjoying the results. But tenants who took their leases at fixed rents when an inflated currency made prices high were ruined by the return to specie, which left them with the same rents to pay and small prices for their crops. Our farmers, who own their land, are exposed to no such calamity. Their crops may bring lower prices, but less money will buy an equal quantity of all other commodities. Still, there must be considerable suffering in getting back to specie. One consequence of past mismanagement is, that we are reduced to a choice of evils; but those who have a clear perception of the value of health will not refuse to take necessary medicines, however nauseous or bitter.

A Chance for John Jay.

We do not know whether it is or is not true that Mr. John Jay, in the warmth of his new-born intimacy with Colonel Daniel E. Sickles, is exerting himself to have the post of envoy to England, which was once filled by his favorite ancestor, Chief Justice Jay, conferred upon that eminent radical stamper. But as Mr. John Jay must, of course, be omnipotent with his radical brethren in Congress, we trust he will use his influence with them to have the same role adopted now which his favorite ancestor proposed in the first Colonial Continental Congress, suppressing the practice of sending the senators to Congress in prayer. Should he do this, Mr. John Jay would at once honor the memory of his favorite ancestor, and render a much more important service to morals and religion, decency and piety, than the appointment of Colonel Sickles as Minister to England. Dr. Boynton, now chaplain of the House of Representatives, made a prayer in the Capitol on Tuesday morning last, to Colfax "Speaker" and five or six other members, in which he was kind enough to inform the Almighty that Boynton, Colfax, and the few friends then present, were approved of the "issue" to which his (the Almighty) had brought the great questions before the country." Also, that they were so amiable as to "believe" that the Almighty had "directed the minds of the people to right conclusions;" or, in other words, to vote for Grant and Colfax. The John Jay of 1775 objected to prayers before Congress, on the ground that all possible differences of religious opinion existing among the members ought to be scrupulously respected; and that it was better to have no prayers than prayers that would be unpleasant even to one member of the body. It surely is not possible that the John Jay of 1868 can be less shocked by prayers the very substance of which offers, and is intended to offer, an insult to the political convictions not of one or two members of Congress, but of a powerful minority of the whole body? Such well-known pietists and religious fanatics as Horace Greeley and George Wilkes may possibly believe that Boynton and his prayers really move the Almighty mind and enlist "the registering

angel" in the radical interest. Perhaps they even regard the attempt of the brother of "the wickedest man in New York" to give his party thirty disciplined votes out of a pot-house as a providential recognition of the conversion of John Allen. But Mr. John Jay, more loyal to the courtly and philosophical traditions of his noble house, must be superior to such notions. Let him intervene, then, in behalf of decency and religious decorum.

Republicanism is Peace.

An installment of the peace that was to follow the election of a Republican President and Congress has been realized by the formal acceptance of the situation by Wade Hampton and a number of other prominent South Carolina Democrats. They called on Governor Scott in a body, and declared their determination to accept the result, abide by the decision of the people, stand by the State Government, and use their influence to induce the people to do the same; and they expressed their conviction that the future prosperity of the State depended upon the hearty support of the Government, and the reference of all differences to the ballot-box, which alone should, in future, be the remedy for unwise legislation. Surely this is better than Democratic success, with the ulterior revolution. The very author of the revolutionary plank in the Democratic platform thus recognizes that the peace and prosperity of the State have been secured by the defeat of his party.

This is what we expected would be the effect throughout the South, if the North presented a united front in the elections. And when Wade Hampton, the dictator of the most important plank in the Democratic platform, has taken the lead, bringing with him the other prominent Confederates of South Carolina, there is good ground to expect that the movement will be general. The very author of the party has had no bond of cohesion except its determination to destroy the National Government, this is its formal dissolution. The election has decided that there is no possibility of a reactionary revolution, no probability of the Democratic party getting into power without a radical regeneration in character, and no hope to the South in resistance to the National Government. The Southern leaders will accept this decision. The Northern Democratic managers, who have hitherto deluded the South to its ruin, should now candidly confess to them that this is the only policy which has any hope of peace.

General Grant on Flank Movements.

All the great commanders have been celebrated for some salient point in their campaigns. General Grant is famous for his flank movements. At Fort Donelson, where he first rose to fame, he moved upon the enemy's works by the right flank. Having been successful in this, he took that line for awhile, and so, in his final campaign to conquer Vicksburg, he crossed the Mississippi by the right flank, while Admiral Porter ran the river batteries with the fleet, amid the blazing tempest of shot and shells that illumined the heavens. Then Grant recrossed the river, and by a series of celebrated battles, all fought by the right flank, reached the rear of the Rebel stronghold, which, by dogged obstinacy, he at length subdued, and split the Confederacy in twain.

He subsequently signaled his commission as Lieutenant-General by a right flank attack on the Rebel intrenchments at Chattanooga, won a glorious victory, avenged the disaster of Chickamauga, relieved Burnside in East Tennessee, drove Bragg pell-mell into Georgia, and opened the gates for Sherman's grand march to the sea.

In the spring of 1864, when placed in command of all the armies, with headquarters in the saddle, he crossed the Rapidan with the oft baffled but never routed Army of the Potomac, met the foe in the terrible battles of the Wilderness, and thence fought it out on that line, always moving by the right flank, till, nearly one year afterwards, he received the sword of Lee at Appomattox Court House.

These successful flank movements undoubtedly entitle General Grant to all his reputation as a soldier; but they pale when compared with his strategy as a politician, as for example:—

While in the War Department, he bailed Johnson's attempt to draw him into a collision with Congress and the Courts by refusing to hold on as Secretary in violation of law, and obstinately declining Johnson's generous offer to go to jail in his stead.

During the heat of the late canvass, he escaped from the disagreeable impertinency of hungry partisans, and the offensive odor of torchlight processions, by a retreat to the rural shades of Galena, where he enjoyed repose and quietude without molestation.

When Grant returned, he returned to Washington by a well-executed flank-movement, wherein he foiled an army of office-seekers, bursting with rhetorical effusions, all along the route, and avoided being smothered by a reception of office-holders at the capital, by going through on the night train.

He found awaiting his arrival a bushel or two of written recommendations of Jones, Smith, Brown, Robinson, Doe, and Rea to every place which will be at his disposal on and after the 4th of March next; and he commended his first mistake. He ordered the whole lot to be thrown into the fire. He should have sent them, as he ought also to send the bales which are yet to be heaped upon him, to No. 25 Ann street, in this city, to be sold for waste paper, and the proceeds devoted towards the liquidation of the public debt.

Not quite appreciating the significance of the holocaust, the cormorants who feed on official garbage at the national metropolis, landed upon him Tuesday evening with their votive congratulations, and insisted on torchlighting him through the dirty streets of Washington. With a grim smile, he told them to "take everything for granted," politely bowed the committee to the door, and quietly went to bed.

May he be as uniformly successful in his flank movements during the eight years to come as he was throughout the four years of the war!

Y. P. M. Y. P. M. Y. P. M.

YOUNG'S PURE MALT WHISKY. YOUNG'S PURE MALT WHISKY. YOUNG'S PURE MALT WHISKY.

WILLIAM S. IRWIN, CUTLACK'S PATENT ELASTIC JOINT IRON ROOF AND CLARK'S PATENT INDESTRUCTIBLE HORSE-SHOE CALLS.

Republicanism is Peace. From the Cincinnati Gazette. An installment of the peace that was to follow the election of a Republican President and Congress has been realized by the formal acceptance of the situation by Wade Hampton and a number of other prominent South Carolina Democrats. They called on Governor Scott in a body, and declared their determination to accept the result, abide by the decision of the people, stand by the State Government, and use their influence to induce the people to do the same; and they expressed their conviction that the future prosperity of the State depended upon the hearty support of the Government, and the reference of all differences to the ballot-box, which alone should, in future, be the remedy for unwise legislation.

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STRICTLY MUTUAL. PROVIDENT LIFE AND TRUST CO. OF PHILADELPHIA. OFFICE, No. 111 S. FOURTH STREET. Organized to promote LIFE INSURANCE among members of the SOCIETY OF FRIENDS.

PHENIX INSURANCE COMPANY OF PHILADELPHIA. INCORPORATED 1804—CHARTER PERPETUAL. No. 21 WALNUT STREET, opposite the Exchange. This Company insures from loss or damage by fire on liberal terms, on buildings, merchandise, furniture, etc., for limited periods, and permanently on buildings by deposit of premiums.

FIRE INSURANCE EXCLUSIVELY—THE PENNSYLVANIA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY—INCORPORATED 1804—CHARTER PERPETUAL—No. 21 WALNUT STREET, opposite the Exchange. This Company, favorably known to the community for over forty years, continues to operate against loss or damage by fire on Public or Private Buildings, either permanently or for a limited time. All our Fire Stocks of Good and Standard Merchandise generally on liberal terms.

IMPERIAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY LONDON. ESTABLISHED 1803. Paid-up Capital and Accumulated Funds, \$8,000,000 IN GOLD. PREVOST & HERRING, Agents, 111 St. No. 107 South THIRD STREET, Philadelphia. TRUSSES. "SEELY'S HARD RUBBER TRUSS. No. 1215 N. BROAD STREET. This Truss corrects all diseases of the back, and restores the spine to its natural position, and is a most valuable and difficult rupture, always clean, light, easy, safe, and comfortable, used in bathing, sitting, standing, walking, and in all positions of the body.