

SPiRiT OF THE PRESS.

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

The Policy of the New Administration.

Two weeks have elapsed since the election, and already the excited discussions which characterized the canvass, both in the press and on the hustings, are hushed, and the whole country is speculating over what is to be the future course and policy of "the coming man," in his conduct of the civil affairs of the Republic.

This is a subject of deep and solemn interest to the people of this country. To find out and safely conjecture that course and policy by the lights of his past life and actions is by no means an easy undertaking. The talents, experience, and knowledge necessary in the conduct of varied concerns of a great Government like that of the United States are so entirely different from those required in the management of a single and distinct branch of the public service, that we can form no adequate conjecture of what the success of General Grant is likely to be.

We wish to do the President elect justice, and we mean to give him an earnest and generous support in all measures which he may project for the restoration of peace to our distracted country; the restoration of the rule and reign of the Constitution in this land; the lifting off the burdens of taxation from the labor of the people; the introduction of economy and honesty into the administration of every branch of the public service; the relief of the financial difficulties which now afflict the Government and the people alike; the payment of the public debt in as honest and speedy a manner as possible, with justice to all classes alike, exclusive privileges to none; the remaining of the State governments of the Southern States to the control and management of their own people, and the States of the Union to as perfect an equality in every respect as they enjoyed before the breaking out of the unfortunate hostilities which have so sorely afflicted the whole country. He will turn his energies in this direction, and realize the sublime fact that "peace has its triumphs as well as war," and that he is the President of the whole people, and not of a party, he may yet give himself a name and renown which may yet give him a claim to stand on the same pinnacle of fame with Washington and Jackson, as he is about to take his seat in the same chair which they occupied at two important epochs in our history, when difficulties no less formidable than those which now encompass him threatened the cause of liberty and constitutional right in this land.

Distinguished as he is now, when reflected in the gleam of his sword he must seek to be great by protecting the constitutional liberties of the country in the Cabinet. As great as the military glory of Washington and Jackson was, the civic renown which endures their memory and history is far more resplendent. They never forgot the sublime injunction which was imposed upon them by their country to reverence and protect the Constitution, the anchor of all the hopes of their country. They had a party to obey, but never forgot that they had a country to serve. This thought and thus acted the heroes of the first and second War of Independence.

With General Grant himself is then the issue. He now holds his own destiny and the destinies of his country in his own hands. Without the civic experience of either Washington or Jackson, he may not equal them in wisdom and may make their lives and conduct models for his own. Their teachings, with those of all the great sages and statesmen who have rendered the administration of our Government illustrious, are before him. Aided by that common sense with which God has endowed him, and his knowledge of men acquired in his intercourse with them, he ought to be able to call to his counsels the best men in his party. If he will do this he may star fairly, and win the confidence of his countryman in advance. He will need the conservative man of his party. He has said, "Let us have peace," and thousands upon thousands of his countrymen took him at his word, and voted for him; because they believed that he meant the peace which an observance of the Constitution and the law brings, and not the turmoil, disorder, and bloodshed which force, the bayonet, and the bullet produce. If he seeks to be great, as he is now distinguished, he must put his feet upon a rock, and that rock is honesty and fairness which burst from his own heart when he met General Lee and the remnant of his gallant army at Appomattox Court House, and when he made his report to President Johnson of the condition of the South and the bearing and temper of its people towards the Government. With all of his reticence, all of his apparent coldness of nature, here was a gleam of relief to his generosity in the hour of triumph. It awoke a response in the heart of the country, and excited the alarm and fear of the Jacobins in the Capitol. Now another and greater hour of triumph is here. Can he be as magnanimous now as he was generous then? We shall see.

An Appeal to America.

From the N. Y. Times. A number of European radical Democratic-Republicans—including representatives from France, Spain, Italy, Poland, England, Germany, Slavonia, Switzerland, and Belgium—have issued an address to the "People and Congress of the United States of America."

Over its head is the device, Liberty, Equality, Fraternity. It opens by glorifying the American republic, which has "swept victorious from a colossal struggle for liberty."

By virtuous steps it advances toward a point, which we may as well signalize at once, by saying that it is a cry for American intervention in behalf of liberty in Europe, and more especially in behalf of republicanism in Spain.

It argues that, after freeing the blacks of America, we have still the duty of freeing the whites of Europe—the European slave, though called a subject or proletarian, is none the less a slave, and that "The masters of the whites are not better masters for being Kings and Princes, and the great principles of equality of races of mankind, which stirred the North against the South, one-half of the continent against the other, for the negroes, should now stir the whole republic—the truly United States of America—against the slave masters of Europe, in favor of an equal and humane peace, who admit and enjoy you, and can only be assisted by copying you. Yes, your duty is to assist by peaceful means, never you can, and consequently in Spain, whose people have just shaken off the yoke. You have already recognized the revolution, but this is not enough. You should use the people to maintain it, to reach the object they have declared for themselves—the republic."

But what can we do for European freedom and Spanish republicanism? Are we to fight for them, and who, when, and how are we to fight?

These are matters which the radical Democratic-Republicans approach cautiously. At

first it might be thought a very simple matter. Say they—

"This will be merely a vote, a simple resolution—at the most the taking an attitude. The least declaration of will, followed by a vessel upon the coast of Spain, and your duty is fulfilled; no more will be spoken of a monarchy for Spain. Assist the Spanish republic, and Europe will be republican without firing a shot."

We would certainly be unworthy the title of republicans and the name of men if we refused a vote and a vessel to free Europe from the crowned tyrants and armed despots that have for ages crushed out its liberties, ground out its life, and trampled down its people. Congress shall take the vote, Farragut will command the ship, and—Man will be enfranchised!

But hold! Suppose a cloud should arise in your closest heavens, and a storm burst forth threatening to sweep the world, what then? Why then, thus shall it be—

"Should there be a struggle, as there is cause to fear, you will not fail to send a fleet to protect your citizens. Very well; in this mission of defense, include the republicans! All republicans are your citizens."

Ay, indeed! Here we have battle in earnest, war with a vengeance, and a world in arms! It begins with a "snow-flake" vote, and ends with a planetary cataclysm!

It is feared, say the radical Democratic-Republican delegates, who represent "all nations assembled in public meetings," that France, Prussia, and their allies may take a part in the Spanish imbroglio. It is feared that the tyrants may combine, and it is, in that event, the issue with them that we are called upon in the name of liberty. This is the appeal.

We have had many appeals of this kind before from the Radical Liberals of Europe. They always touch our feelings and sympathies. We have heard them in the matchless eloquence of Kossuth. We have felt them in the strong language of Garibaldi. We have read them in the passionate rhetoric of Mazzini. They come from earnest men, and from the depths of their souls. We cannot hear them without a response of the heart. We cannot refuse them without grief at its necessity.

But that which is impracticable and impossible—that which would be ruinous in the very attempt—that which would bring defeat as its first result, and dismay as its inevitable consequence—that whose assured effect would be the damage of the cause it was started to serve—might as well, first as last, be understood as sure of refusal.

And yet we know that upon the American Republic is imposed a mission for freedom and republicanism throughout the world not to be shirked. It is our mission to hold up before the nations the high attractions of democracy, the greatness of a free people, the supremacy of the law. It is our mission to develop from the democratic idea a better government, a purer society, wiser and juster laws, and a higher type of national character, than have ever been possible under a system of repression and despotism—under kings and aristocrats, and great armies and ecclesiastical establishments—under Machiavellianism and intrigue and Caesarism and force. When our developed power and character shall be unfolded to the world—when we are able to display the result of institutions hardly yet complete in their formation, every despotism in Europe will be undermined, and the reign of the people will be established. But were we to go forth in folly and madness, fighting for Spain and Hungary, and Italy and Ireland, and Crete and Cuba, we should quickly find our own power undermined, and the Great Republic consigned to history.

Bombard Run into the Ground.

From "Irish" Pomeroy's N. Y. Democrat.

"The World, since it fell under the ban of the Democracy of the country, and is losing subscribers by hundreds every day, is tearing around like mad to try to save itself from total destruction. It has gone into the sensational line, and is running into all sorts of exaggerations to try to attract readers. It publishes a *canard* every day, in the hope to check the rapid fall in its circulation. It is over-stating, over-exaggerating, and inventing, to a degree unprecedented in the metropolitan press. From the stately dignity which it once assumed, it has dropped down to the performances of a mountebank, and turned the veriest blower that ever soiled white paper with red-inked lies. It is in vain to seek the simple, unvarnished truth upon any subject in its columns. Such a recklessness of statement is nowhere else to be found. There is not the slightest reliance to be placed upon anything which appears in its pages. Its boasts are as ridiculous as its assumptions are false. One day it claims credit to itself for the immense Democratic majorities in the metropolitan district; the next for the whole Democratic vote of the country. Miserable pretender! The Democracy has polled an immense vote in spite of the *World*—not in consequence of its existence, or by its aid. We should be hundreds of thousands stronger to-day if Mayor Opdyke had not closed his ears and hardened his heart against the base, insinuating appeals for pecuniary aid made by the rife, crawling, dirt-eating beggar who was then courting a prostitution which he professed to loathe, but so far put on a show of reluctance as to express a preference to be hired to be virtuous rather than to be sold to shame. Out upon the false knave!

Where President Grant is Needed.

From the N. Y. Tribune.

Now, while the politicians are mustering their clans for the division of the spoils of the late victory, and before the posts of greatest trust and responsibility are allotted, we beg to be interested as respects the Republican must be, in the success of President Grant's administration, to bear in mind that the three posts of greatest importance, in an economical point of view, are those of Secretary of the Treasury, Chief of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, and Collector of the Port of New York. The first needs not so much a popular politician as a sound financier and an able, prompt, honest administrator of affairs. Of 41,000 officers of the Government, upwards of 16,000 are appointed through, and are under the orders of, the Secretary of the Treasury. We do not think it ought to require two officers to collect and pay out the money necessary to pay the other three for the services they perform. But it is true that two-fifths of the officers of the United States are doing only this and nothing more. This shows that our laws for collecting public revenues are less wisely adapted to the end than our rules for transacting private business. Our revenue laws can be so framed and administered that it shall be the interest of every man and taxpayer to pay honestly and promptly, and it will be mainly the fault of the management of our Treasury Department if this be not done. Congress stands ready to pass any laws which the Treasury Department may show to be adapted to obtain the prompt and economical collection of the revenue. We believe that the worst and most corrupting feature of our import tariff and internal revenue laws is the system of dividing the proceeds of seizures for violation of the tax and tariff laws, and of compromise made in such seizures, among the officers of the Government, as

informers. This pernicious and rotten system disgraces both our custom-house and our internal revenue offices. What is the result? The officers of the Government are not interested in an honest collection of the revenue, for that passes all the money into the Treasury, and they get only their salaries. Their pecuniary interest lies in having, or pretending, as many violations of the revenue laws as possible, for out of those result seizures, suits, compromises, and the division of hundreds of thousands of dollars among the revenue officers, as informers, the Government getting nothing or next to nothing. One of the phases of corruption to which this system gives rise is the seizure of the establishments or goods of innocent persons, in order to share in the profits of a compromise. In one instance, in this city, a collector was removed, partly because he would not make a seizure of a distillery which he believed was paying its tax honestly. 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