

SPRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

General Grant Searching for a Cabinet.

From the N. Y. Herald. The cabinet-making clique of the Republican party are busily at work all over the country framing a Cabinet for General Grant. It is amusing to witness the activity and excitement of the discussion of the subject...

Then, again, there are a Stanton clique, with headquarters in Washington; a Sumner and Wilson clique, with headquarters in Boston; the New York quadruple clique, answering alike for the North, South, East, and West, and ready to take the entire job of cabinet-making for the new administration at a heavy discount. Of course there are, besides the above, the Pennsylvania high tariff clique, the Down East shipping clique, the bondholders' clique, the Pacific Railroad or California clique, the army and navy clique—which is a strong one—the annexation or filibustering clique, and we do not know how many more, all ready to push before General Grant a representative man for a place in his Cabinet.

Meanwhile, like Diogenes with his lantern in search of an honest man, General Grant goes quietly on a tour of inspection in search of Cabinet material. He writes no letters asking the views of this or that personage upon official matters, but makes a personal reconnaissance for himself. He leaves Washington, reaches Philadelphia, and after meeting Macalester, of the fine old revolutionary Scotch stock, takes a social bite of haggis with his Scotch friends of the St. Andrew's Society, and finally drives with his friend, General Rucker, to the latter's private residence in West Philadelphia. He arrives in New York and goes to the private residence of Mr. John C. Hamilton, a descendant of the fine old Hamilton family of the Revolution, especially famous for its distinguished names.

Thus by personal inspection and conversation, by a practical reconnaissance of the whole field, with the aid of Grant associates who may have the best of the position of Cabinet advisers, whose ideas (upon finance particularly) agree with his own, and who may be willing to carry out his own decided views and policy. In this tour we pray that General Grant may be more successful than poor old Diogenes was when searching for an honest man, and find, what the country has sadly needed for many years, an honest Cabinet.

Lincoln Monument.

From "Brick's" Pomroy's N. Y. Democrat. We notice in the papers that some ambitious architect has at last planned a monument for the renowned President who shuffled off this mortal coil at Washington, and who was, for political effect, carried like a sideshow from the City of Magnificent Distances to his final home at Springfield, Ill. The cost of the monument is to be two hundred thousand dollars, and several years are to elapse before the same will be completed, under the superintending care of the genius who has designed the same.

If ever a man deserved a monument it was Lincoln. He erected all over this land, from Maine to the Gulf of Mexico, monuments to his opidity, imbecility, inefficiency, and despotism, and it is very fitting that his dupes and victims—that the American people, who suffered so much from his hands and by his life—should still further bleed for the erection of a tower, like that proposed in the days of Isabel, to commemorate not his virtues, but the wrongs he inflicted upon his unhappy country. Presuming that there are many panels upon the aforesaid monument, we would suggest to the committee which has the matter in charge a few designs which may have escaped the mind of the one who planned the same.

We would suggest on one panel a picture of a divided country which was once at peace and prosperous—divided by the abolition party through its interference with constitutional rights. On another a picture of the States, the provinces, or departments existing in the South, under the iron heel of Grant and the Rump Congress, which was upon the people of the subdued section, not for the benefit of the country, but for the enrichment of the bondholders of New England, who are day by day boasting that they hold as their slaves the poor white men of the North, South, and West.

We would suggest as a design for another panel the enormous national debt created, not to save the country, but to carry on the murderous crusade for cotton and negroes, for the benefit of Lincoln's poets and the pickled effluvia of creation, and the pined-up humanities from the tan-vaults, gutters, prisons, saloons, and grogeries of the land. We would suggest as another panel a picture representing the slaying of soldiers in the South in the raids for cotton, mules, and household goods, for the benefit of the homes of the loyal and Christian churches of the States in the North.

We should represent the pulpit orators of the land, a procession of long-haired, whining-faced, uplifted-eyes, white-choked gentry, who have been set apart and ordained to preach Christ, and Him crucified, but who, like Beecher and other clerical hypocrites of the country, forsake the cause of Christ for that of the nigger; who think more of politics than religion; and who turn the temples dedicated to the worship of Almighty God into caucus-rooms and political pothouses.

On another panel we would picture the bondholders who pay no taxes, who ride in their elegant carriages, who sleep in their elegant homes, who drink costly wines, who occupy front seats at the opera, and who live on the money wrung by radical taxation from the honest laborers of the land, no matter whether they be black or white, native or foreign born. On another panel it would be a good idea to place pictures of the Freedmen's Bureau and of the lazy blacks of the South, who are not capable of supporting themselves, but who must be fed at the expense of the laborers of the North, and yet who, by radical legislation, are made law-makers of the country, and for whom the entire energies of the nation for the past ten years have been exerted.

On another panel we would represent the profits made by the plough-holders of the land after they have been robbed for the benefit of the bondholders, the negroes, the standing army, the speculators, and the contractors, who grow rich as radicalism grows strong. This panel would be the smallest of the lot, for the profits made by these people, after paying for the support of the ones who fatten upon their earnings, would be so little that it would hardly be worth a panel at all. On another panel should be a picture of Lincoln riding over a battle-field, and asking Marshal Lamont to sing him "Dan Tucker," or some other song, that the cries of the wounded soldiers might not penetrate his ears, for there is nothing like being jolly and joyful at all times and under all circumstances!

On another panel a representation of Mrs. Lincoln selling her old clothes at auction. On another panel we should have some drunken members of the "God and morality" party in council at "Willard's" Hotel. Or we should have a picture of Hiram, teaching the aborigines of the Pacific their letters; or a picture of the black scoundrels of Tennessee, at the instigation of Brownlow, murdering an innocent woman and children there. Hurry up the monument; build it high and build it quickly. If you will only have it erected in such manner as will convey to coming generations the exact character of the so-called martyr; if you will only give us his true history; if you will only, on that monument, tell just what kind of a man he was, and how much misery he has brought upon this country, we will contribute as liberally to the same as any man in all the land. Let the monument be put up. Let its base be broad as the ruin he has wrought. Let it be made of the skulls of those he caused to be slain in the crusade for cotton and negroes; but do not let it be stained with the tears of those who weep in suffering over acts by him and his minions committed. Do not let it be disgraced with a representation of Seward tinkling his little bell, and sending innocent men to the bastilles of the land, for that is a blot on our national name which would rather should be forgotten than remembered. And on the top of the monument, should its top ever be built, in the place of liberty weeping, but the bust of some noble wench, some dusky damsel of Ethiopia, whose charms have such weight with the followers of radicalism, that coming generations may know who and what the American public worshipped for so many years, and at such cost. And there, right beside Lincoln's monument, let the haters of oppression and lovers of liberty erect a plain marble shaft, on which shall be engraved the name of John Wilkes Booth on one side, and on the other the name of his heart-broken mother kneeling in prayer, supplicating the government of Lincoln for the body of her son.

Election Frauds—Returns by the Electoral Colleges.

From the N. Y. Times. An impression prevails in many quarters that when the lists made out by each body of electors of the vote for President and Vice-President are opened by the President of the Senate, in the presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, it is competent for the two houses thus convened to reject the vote of any State if a case of fraud is made to appear. It has been suggested, in order to bring up this question before the two houses, that the Grant electors in this State assemble, on the assumption that the actual legal vote was in their favor, and transmit their list to the President of the Senate, so that with the two before them, the Senate and House of Representatives may reject both, and proceed to an investigation of the alleged frauds. But as the time fixed by law for the completion of the duties of the Electoral College expired on Tuesday, this part of the plan must fail. There are abundant reasons why the other must fail.

An inspection of the twelfth article of the first amendment to the Constitution of the United States will clearly show that the two Houses thus convened are merely a ministerial body. In the shape in which they are thus required to meet, they are shorn of all legislative functions, and are not endowed with any of a judicial character. Their duty is thus defined:— "The President of the Senate shall, in the presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the certificates, and the vote shall then be counted. The person having the greatest number of votes shall be the President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of electors appointed," etc.

But it is alleged that fraud vitiate everything, and consequently that the Seymour electoral vote is void, and should have no effect given to it by the body which is to count. The answer is manifest that the regularity of the election is to be assumed until the contrary is made to appear in the manner provided by law. The remedy is ample, but it must be pursued at a time and within the jurisdiction of the State in which the fraud is alleged. The Constitution of the United States bestows this authority on the several States, and gives none whatever to the General Government or any of its departments.

The second section of the second article provides that "each State shall appoint, in such manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a number of electors, equal," etc. The only power devolved upon Congress over the matter is contained in the fourth section of that article, as follows:— "The Congress may determine the time of choosing electors, and the day on which they shall give their votes, which day shall be the same throughout the United States."

The significance of this nakedness in bestowing authority upon Congress will readily appear from an inspection of the clause declaring the mode in which Senators and Representatives may be elected. Section 4 of article I provides:— "That the times, places, and manner of holding elections for Senators and Representatives shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof, but the Congress may at any time by law make or alter such regulations, except as to the places of choosing Senators," etc.

In this division of power it thus appears that although Congress may alter the State regulations as to the time and manner of holding elections for Senators, and as to the times, places, and manner of holding elections for Representatives, it can determine only the time of choosing Presidential electors and the day on which they shall give their votes, the latter to be uniform. Under these respective clauses Congress has fixed the time for choosing Senators, and the time for choosing electors, and the day on which they are to assemble throughout the Union to cast their votes. That day, this year, is the Wednesday which has just expired. The fact that Congress has abstained from doing more than to fix the time of choosing the electors and the day on which they are to give their votes, is to be explained only on the assumption that the manner of choosing electors is devolved upon the States, to the exclusion of Congressional power, in the clause which declares that "each State shall appoint, in such manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a number of electors," etc. The exercise by Congress of jurisdiction over the rebellious States, founded upon the war power—a jurisdiction which supposes a forfeiture of every constitutional right and privilege, and claims authority for prescribing the time, mode, and manner by which, in advance of their readmission, they shall exercise the right of suffrage—is not to be confounded with the power of Congress with respect to States which have maintained unbroken their true relation to the Union. The exercise of the extreme powers which arise from a state of war have no doubt led many to suppose that they may be resorted to during a state of acknowledged peace. The mere amount of the case is all that is required to correct this error.

On an examination of the National Constitution the theory is supported that the whole subject of suffrage and its exercise, so far as concerns the Presidential election, is devolved wholly upon the several States. South Carolina, at one time, appointed its electors by legislative ballot. New York provides in her State legislation for the precise mode of their election, for the mode of gathering the returns of local boards first, in some locality convenient to several counties, and finally at Albany. The returns were to be gathered by the State Canvassers, shall proceed to ascertain the final result. The Secretary of State then, without delay, to furnish each elector appearing by the returns of the Board of Canvassers to be elected, with a certificate to that effect, armed with which the elector enters the Electoral College.

The Board of Canvassers met last week and concluded their labors, and thereupon the Secretary of State issued his certificates to each member appearing to have been elected. The Electoral College met and acted in precise accordance with the plan provided for. They were authorized to organize on Tuesday and to fill vacancies in their number, and to ballot on Wednesday. These duties having been performed, no power can now recall into existence the Board of Canvassers—such are the frequent decisions in this State—or the Electoral College. The result must now be deemed the voice of this State, incapable of being reversed by any authority whatever.

The question may then be asked, is there no redress for the gross frauds which unquestionably gave to the Seymour electoral ticket its preponderance? The answer is this: that the courts of this State, and those alone, are authorized to correct such frauds when their power is invoked in time. It was competent for them to order, on proof of such frauds duly made, the issue by the Secretary of State of certificates to the Grant electors, under which they might have assembled on Tuesday. But as the theory of the creation of such a body supposes the exercise by its members of discretion in casting their ballots, it would be impossible to give the vote of this State for General Grant, except by the action of the courts. If the courts are appointed by the State, they would be deemed thus appointed if the State Judiciary had ordered the certificate of appointment issued by the Secretary of State to be withheld from the Seymour electors and given to those of General Grant.

As General Grant will be pronounced elected on the strength of precisely such certificates, in form, as were issued by the State electors of New York, the foundation of his authority should not be disturbed by the action of the Senate and House of Representatives when they assemble in their ministerial capacity to count the votes. If they would reject any of the certificates issued by a recognized State, on an allegation of fraud in the election, it would amount to a clear violation of the Constitution.

In a case like that of the Dorr rebellion, if the de facto Government and the Dorr government had both voted and sent forward certificates, it would unquestionably be proper to reject one of them and act upon the other. The two houses would be bound to recognize the State Government which the General Government recognized as the true one. This case furnishes, however, no precedent for not counting the Seymour vote in this State, although strongly they may be tainted with the frauds in election districts which are so generally charged and believed.

As the time between a Presidential election and the action of the Electoral College is only four weeks, it will unquestionably be expedient that every State should prescribe a summary mode of correcting frauds. If frauds can be committed with ease, and their correction is difficult and uncertain, our State elections will prove that the system, in whole or in part, is a failure, and as will extend to the whole structure which rests upon it to ultimate ruin. The subject is too momentous not to engage the most deliberate attention.

General Grant's "Foreign Policy."

From the N. Y. World. The Times had a leader, a few days since, setting forth the great advantages which would accrue to the country from the probable foreign policy of General Grant. So far-fetched a topic of encomium has a complimentary look, and tends rather to belittle General Grant by suggesting his deficiencies than to exalt him in the estimation of reasonable men. It is dressing him out in "a tawdry laced suit of qualifications which nature never intended him to wear." A man who has given so little spontaneous attention to domestic politics of course does not possess a statesman's knowledge of foreign affairs. As to other national standing in greater awe of us in consequence of General Grant being President, it is the shearer's flattery. His claim as a soldier would avail us more if he were to remain General of the Army than in his new position; his civil duties as President preventing his taking active command, if a war should occur during his administration. We are quite secure against a foreign war for a long period to come, unless we should be the aggressors, and clearly in the wrong. Our security does not lie in General Grant's prestige as a soldier, but in the prestige and moral effect of our success in the late war, which was conducted on so great a scale, and furnished such a signal demonstration of our stupendous resources and military energy. The heroic resistance of the South has a national value in this respect as well as the indomitable vigor and vast resources of the North, since both would be available in a foreign war. The great military abilities of

General Lee would be as much at our service as those of the Union generals. Even Semmes and the notorious achievements of the Alabama are valuable as a national recollection, magnificent as they were as a fact. If two or three could inflict such hideous destruction, and frighten the commerce of a great nation from the seas, what would fleets of such cruisers not accomplish?—fleets which we could build in our own parts, and let loose upon the commerce of an enemy. No matter who might be President for the next four years, we should be in no danger of a denial of justice by foreign nations. And besides, it will not be for General Grant, but for Congress, to decide whether the country shall engage in war or remain at peace.

In managing our foreign relations, General Grant will be wholly dependent upon his Secretary of State; and it is of great importance that this officer should be wisely selected. When the appointment is announced, the qualifications should be so prominent and acknowledged, that nobody would think of inquiring why it was made. If Grant offers this position to the fittest man in the Republican party, it will be given to Charles Francis Adams; but we have no reason to expect so suitable a choice. The appointment of Mr. Adams would be wise in every view. The firmness, high and quick sense of national honor, and masterly ability which he exhibited in the most trying and important diplomatic post during the war, have given him a recognized rank among the first statesmen of the world. Moreover, his appointment would have a tranquillizing effect upon our domestic differences. Although Mr. Adams has been a steady Republican, he is respected by the Democratic party and by the South. We are sorry that we cannot hope for so fit a selection.

While we do not expect so good an appointment as Mr. Adams, we trust that we are not to have so bad a one as Mr. Sumner. Mr. Sumner's knowledge of foreign politics is respectable enough to suggest his name in such a connection. He has been for a long time the chairman of the Senate Committee of Foreign Affairs; he has a considerable acquaintance with the public men of Europe; is conversant with diplomatic usages; has a turn for research which would stand him in good stead in the negotiations which a Secretary of State has occasion to investigate. But he is a man of great ostentation and deficient judgment; a bigot, a pedant, a prater, a political fanatic, with a chronic soreness and touchiness which make him hate the South as a dog in the agonies of hydrophobia hates water. To place him at the head of the Cabinet would look as if General Grant took an unmanly pleasure in irritating and humiliating the South. We trust that the country has a guarantee against such an indication in the natural incompatibility between Adams and Sumner, and that of General Grant. The pompous arrogance and ostentatious display of this worthy rhetorician should naturally be unpalatable if not disgusting, to a cool, sedate, unpretending man of action, a hater of parade and ritualism, like General Grant. It was Sumner who stood up in the Senate and denounced General Grant's report on the condition of the South as a piece of dishonest "whitewashing." We are pretty safe against the calamity of his being made Secretary of State.

The range of selection for this office is so narrow among the Republicans with any recognized qualifications to fill it, that we can hardly ignore Mr. Seward as a possible selection. His retention would have at least this advantage, that it could not be construed as manifesting an unfriendly feeling towards the South. Mr. Seward's large acquaintance with our domestic politics and public men would be of great service to a President so inexperienced as General Grant, owing to the fact that he diplomatically smoothed over General Grant's conduct in the matter which raised a question of veracity between him and President Johnson. But it is easy, on the other hand, to discover many reasons why Mr. Seward is not likely to be retained. His only chance, if he has any, lies in the conflicting rivalships of inferior competitors. He may possibly be retained because no other man really qualified for the duties of the office is strongly enough pressed to make it difficult for General Grant to set aside his claims. If Mr. Seward should be kept a few months because General Grant does not see his way clear to a fit appointment, he would have a pretty secure hold upon the office afterwards.

Our Mayor-Elect.

From the N. Y. World. Now that the World and the Democrats who read and are influenced by the World have elected Mr. A. Oakley Hall as Mayor of this city for the coming year, and as we are thus directly responsible for Mr. Hall and his official conduct, the Mayor-elect must understand that he is thus put upon his very best behavior, unless he would compromise us as well as himself. We candidly say at the outset that Mr. Hall will bring to the office many qualities that admirably fit him for the position, or we certainly should not have supported and elected him. He is a man of vast versatility, and his previous occupations have given him an insight into the needs and concerns of the whole city. We expect that he will put this experience to practical use. For what we have done for him we reasonably look for something in return, and as we are responsible for Mr. Hall, we trust that he will feel the full responsibility of both the position in which we have placed him and the position in which he places us.

To begin then: Now that the election is over there can be no harm in stating that the city owes the racially radical commissions which hamper and fairly fetter us to no one man more than to A. Oakley Hall. He did his best to bring these locusts upon us to eat up our substance. To be sure, it was in the days when he was an old line or other line Whig; but the sins of youth can be repented in age, and if Mr. Hall will but display one-half the energy in getting rid of the commissions that he did in creating them, he will do something in the way of atonement for the past.

Next, Mr. Hall must keep a sharp eye upon the frauds which the radicals, with little basis but with great effect, charge upon the Democracy of the city. The new Mayor must understand that every job which comes up in the City Council is not merely an assault upon the treasury, but an attack upon the Democratic party. The politics and the party which preponderate in this city must be preserved in their purity. The monopoly of fraud should be left to the commissions, the revenue on the one hand, and the radical Federal officials generally. The whole country looks to New York for the standard of Democratic purity, and in the past it has not looked in vain; the future of the Democratic party throughout the country depends upon the preservation of this purity, and Mayor-elect Hall must see to it that none of his friends or his enemies are permitted to sully that purity. The World and the good citizens who elected Mr. Hall will stand by him in his war against corruption in any form or from any quarter.

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