## SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

### Johnson's Forgetfulness.

From the N. Y. Tribune.

President Johnson seems not to have heard of the election of Grant, and is stumping Con-press in favor of Seymour. He repeats in his message the language of the Democratic platthat there is no reason why "those who defend us on the land and protect us on the hea," the pensioner, the public servants, the farmers, the mechanics, artisans, etc., should be paid in depreciated currency, while the

bondbolders are paid in gold.

It is the payment of coin interest on our bonds which has preserved the national credit, and so made the greenbacks worth what they are. Without coin interest on the bonds our credit would be much lower and our currency nearly worthless. But there is another difference between the bondholder and all the other classes mentioned. The rate of interest on the bond has never been increased. On the contrary, when our currency depreciated, in order to compensate the depreciation the wages of the soldier were raised 75 per cent., which is more than the average and twice the present depreciation. The pensions were fixed after the depreciation and adapted to it. Some of the salaries of public servants have been raised, and some have not, but not the first officer of the Government has yet suffered from poverty, or retired from his position because the salary was too small, or evinced a desire to exchange his place for the risks and remunerations of private business. On the whole, our officers of the Government, in a pecuniary sense, are at the average doing remarkably well. Farmers' prices have doubled and tripled in the depreciated currency, and the agricultural classes have never made as much money at the average as in this very currency. So of mechanics and artisans. The demand for labor has for eight years been steady, abundant, and remunerative. Especially the me-chanics and artisans in the employ of the Government, who are getting ten hours' wages for eight hours' work, are receiving in gold values about twice as much as they ever received under a specie currency. The inde-structibility of error seems to be shown in the fact that this wretched fugitive blunder, after being hunted down in the Presidential campaign, has taken refuge in the President's Message.

Concentration of Wealth. From the N. Y. Times.

Baron Rothschild is reported to have died worth four hundred millions of dollars, and greatly regretted by the poor of the neighbor-

hood where he lived. The first fact is an overwhelming proof of the tendencies of modern civilization towards concentration; for, if we mistake not, this enormous fortune is the growth of but three generations. This tendency to concentration is evident in the alarming growth of our great cities both in this country and in Europe. London increased in the decade from 1851 to 1861 some half a million souls (440,000)equal to a city like l'hiladelphia. The great increase of our cities is not accounted for by the increase of the whole country, but is caused by the same tendencies which are at work in the Old World.

Not only is this tendency evident in these great cities, but it is found in all departments of manufacture and trade. To-day and with us it is strikingly apparent in such bazaars as Stewart's and Claffin's. Already under these two roofs, which cover one to two acres each, are gathered all that pertains to the dress of men and women, all fabrics for household uses, and many other articles. Thus a retail dealer may here select a complete stock, may have it packed and shipped without wetting the soles of his shoes.

There is no reason why this class of merchants shall not or do not undersell all smaller ones. They buy larger quantities, they control mills, they do their business with one set of experienced men, and they can undersell others even if they do not.

Now all mankind will buy where they can buy cheapest, and there is no reason to doubt but that such establishments as these, in another generation of thirty years, will swallow up all the smaller ones. It is inevitable. And why not? If the great end and purpose of life is to buy cheap and sell dear, why not? Because the great end and aim of life is not to buy cheap and sell dear, but is to so organize society that it shall perfect the bodily and spiritual welfare of the race, and insure com-fort and happiness to men. Will this vast aggregation of business and wealth in a few hands secure this? It is evident that it will not, unless along with the rights of wealth go the duties of wealth.

We hear a rumor that some of our great capitalists propose to erect, near their wonderful establishments, perfect and complete houses for their clerks and workman, supplied with every convenience, to be furnished at the smallest cost. There will be reading rooms, rosms for games and for exercise, a good public table, a cooperative laundry, bath-houses,

We venture to hope that this is true, and that our millionaires propose to use their money as well as to get it, and thus to mark the civilization of the New World by a beneficent use of wealth, and not by its vulgar display.

# How Shall Women be Tried !

From the N. Y. Times. The singular activity displayed by certain good ladies of New York in the case of Hester Vaughan, condemned for infanticide, in Pennsylvania, has not been accounted for. Governor Geary assured them that their services were not and had not been needed to induce him to act with justice and mercy. But the preamble to the resolutions passed at the meeting at Cooper Institute may seem to explain it. The preamble sets forth the justice and necessity of woman being tried by her

peers, that is, woman must be tried by woman. In this day, when the hard facts of life seem to be crowding large numbers of women to the wall, and they are looking with frightened eyes for protection and help, it may be asked, "Will this help them?" It may be well for us not to lose sight of a great fact, as old as human nature, and ordained for some wise purpose, we have always supposed—viz., that woman being by nature weaker in body than man, man, the stronger, is inspired with a certain de-sire to protect and defend the weaker; and out of this has grown the old feeling of chivalry and the modern sentiment of deference. We have always supposed that these were Godinspired, and therefore not to be lightly undermined or destroyed. We come now to another fact, the direct offspring of this wise and subtle instinct; it is that man's judgments of woman have been more merciful than woman's judgments of woman, while woman's condemnation of man has been less savage than man's.

If this be so, we may venture to suggest that woman will gain nothing by being tried by woman, but the reverse. We may venture to doubt the wisdom of the preamble; we may venture to suggest that if woman insists

Spain. From the N. Y. Herald.

It is now manifest that Spain is in great trouble. The revolutionary leaders are now seen in their true characters. Prim, Serrano, and the others are now rather the men we thought them before the revolution than the men they seemed to be in the first flush of revolutionary success. A couple of months ago Spain hailed them as liberators. Now Spain regards them as traitors, or as men who are miserably incompetent. Rumor has it that the elections which were fixed for the middle of this month are not to take place till towards the middle of January, and that in consequence the Cortes will not meet until February is far advanced. It is now difficult to resist the conviction that the revolutionary leaders are hampered by pledges which they find it impossible to redeem. Montpensier bade a good figure; so no doubt did Napoleon; but the people, who seem resolved to have their way, who know nothing of pledges, are a bar both to Montpensier and Napoleonic plans. Judging from late news, the republican sentiment is growing. We know it is strong in the southern provinces. Such hesitation as is now manifested by the provisional government can have no other effect than to band the people together and to inspire them with a common republican sentiment. The revolutionary tide, if we are to judge from recorded facts, is too strong to be controlled, and it seems to be the determination of the Government to save themselves and to get rid of their pledges by allowing events to take their course.

Count Bismark and the Peace of Europe.

From the N. Y. Herald. Count Bismark has returned to Berlin. One of our latest cable despatches informs us that almost immediately after his return he took occasion to meet the Ambassadors of France, England, and Russia, when he expressed his conviction that there was no reason to apprehend a disruption of the friendly relations now subsisting among the different European powers. This is very well for Count Bismark. All the world knows he does not want war, but all the world knows he is ready for war, and that the nation of which he is real chief is armed to the teeth and ready for any emergency. The situation of Europe is far from satisfactory. No one knows better than Count Bismark that war is a possibility which might become a reality at any moment. Who can say that a war, European in its dimensions, may not yet spring from this Spanish revolu-Who does not know that at the present moment the question of peace or war, as between Turkey and Greece, is hanging in the balance? Who does not know that the Schleswig-Holstein question is still unsettled, and that provocation is only wanted on either side to make this a casus belli between Prussia and France? If anybody else is ignorant, Count Bismark is not, that Prince Charles of Roumania has been forced, much against his will, to maintain peaceful relations with the Ottoman Porte. With all these questions still unsettled, with all these facts before us, we have a perfect right to treat with levity Count Bismark's assurances of peace. War might, but it might not, be a gain to Prussia. Peace will be a gain beyond all chance of questioning. South Germany requires but time to gravitate towards the great German centre. Time will accomplish Count Bismark's purposes. War might do it, but it might not. The Count, like a wise man, prefers the certain to the uncertain. He is not unwilling to fight, if to fight be necessary; but he prefers to wait and allow peace and time to settle the question.

The Corrency Question.

From the Chicago Republican. We are glad that the session of the so-called National Board of Trade has been held at this juncture at Cincinnati, and there would have resulted one advantage to the public in giving its loose discussions much more wide dissemination and publication even than the liberal space accorded them by the press. And this, not because they reached anything, and did anythin but be-cause they made about the same progress as a horse that should take half-a-dozen turns round a bark mill. And this is timely in its suggestiveness just now when Congress is coming in session. It should tend to create among the people more patience with their representatives, and a better temper at the delays that must be borne before we worry through to any solution of our currency perplexities. We venture the opinion that every one of the fluent and ready speakers at Cincinnati has been fond of calling himself a practical business man, and by inference and by direct assertion giving the people abundant sympathies that the number of practical business men has been so lightly drawn upon for our national lawmakers. We could settle this whole subject with a Congress made up of business men, has been said so many times, in all parts of the country, that it is instructive, if not entirely satisfactory, to discover how illy these gentlemen agree when their views come to be compared in a public gathering of their own class. And this is not a reflection on their general sagacity or their thorough earnestness. It is simply saying that they squabbled like a beyy of new and old school physicians over a doubtful case in therapeutics, belabored one snother with their pill-machines and clyster-pumps, and left the sick man just where he was. What reason is there to believe that the same diversity of views and the same inconclusive results would not have followed, if all this had been matter for the Congressional Globe to print at Government expense? We doubt whether any policy upon which twenty of the most solid and successful financiers of the country could agree, as a solution of our currency difficulties, would not be laboriously confuted by a like number of equally solid and successful financiers; and the chances are that the attacking party would be quadrupled, so much easier is it to pull down than to build up. By this we do not mean that currency discussion can do no good, in or out of Congress, but to bring up the fresh proof of the wide diversity of views prevailing on the whole subject, and how likely it is that any cure can be speedy when a decision is so difficult as to what cure is needed. There are several of our brethren of the press who can safely take the moral home to themselves. By all means let them go on with their learned and prolix lucubrations, but let them not get ill-tempered at postponement of their adoption as national policy, since we can see that what is a middle with Congress is equally so with the National Board of Trade, and with editors learned in finance-these opinions resembling the zebra's stripes in the showman's

The Coming Peace. From the N. Y. World.

advertisement-"no two alike."

"Troops," says Grant, heading the pack "The troops on the Plains are all needed; troops are still needed in the Southern States." "Troops," says Sherman. The In-dians must be reservationed, and this "desired result can only be obtained by coercion." 'Troops," says Brevet Major-Gene ppon doing the dreary business of sitting on ral Davis, from Alaska, and dwells on "the

juries, she shall sit on men, and so secure | needlessness of a civil government for the them a greater measure of kindness than they | Territory at present." "Troops," says Brenow get from their fellow-jurors. vet Major-General Ord, from Arizona; "au increase of the force, with a view to more energetic operations against the Apachesthe worst of all Indians—is recommended by the division commander, who speaks highly of the agricultural capacity of the Ter-ritory." Ab! he does, does he? Then let him grow his crop of armed men on that fruitful soil. "Troops," says Thomas, from Department of the Cumberland; "no improve ment in the state of public and social affairs," and "the necessity for the presence of troops is as great as heretofore." "Troops," says Stoneman, from Virginia; but then, for a wonder, he wants no more, finding "two regi ments of infantry and one company of artil lery" quite sufficient for the birthplace and tomb of Washington. "Proops," cries Meade, from the consolidated Second and Third Mili-tary Districts; "more power." I want my military finger in the civil pie. "Troops, says Reynolds, from Texas, who found in the civil pie." necessary for reconstruction purposes "to withdraw troops from the frontier posts to such an extent as to impair their efficiency for protection against the Indians.' " Of course, perish the settlers, so that reconstruction live.

"Troops, troops, troops," almost every man-jack among them is crying, from Let-us-have-peace down, all save Brevet Major-General Alvan C. Gillem, who writes: -"The civil courts have continued to dispense justice, under the supervision of the military authorities, and there has been no necessity for the use of the troops stationed in the State!' This State is Mississippi; Mississippi is not reconstructed, neither reconstructing, and, therefore, has no use for troops.

This is the bright exception. Everywhere else there comes up a roar for soldiery. Grant heads it and Secretary Scholield claps his hemi-demi-semiquaver to its tail. There is "unusual disposition to lawlessness and crime and comparative inefficiency of civil government in those States," says he—those reconstructed States, those successfully re-constructed States—and "the only laws of Congress providing for the employment of the military force of the United States in support of the government of any State were passed in the infancy of the republic"—for a won-der, he didn't get it nation—"with a jealous care to avoid undue interference by the National Government in State affairs, and not designed for such a condition of society as now exists in the Southern States." All of which means "troops," and so the song, which began with "troops, troops, troops," winds up

with "troops, troops, troops."
And this is Let us have peace!

Will He Never Have Done!

From "Brick" Pomeroy's N. Y. Democrat. That garrulous old nincompoop who is misrepresenting this country at the British court still keeps making his silly and unwarranted speeches. He is travelling from place to place spouting his ridiculous twaddle at every opportunity. In his latest speech made the other day at Brighton, he modified his tone a little, but still persists in making himself a partisan in politics, in addressing a British audience. In one of his earlier speeches, he asserted, unqualifiedly, that the abolition of slavery was ample compensation for all the blood and treasure expended in the war. Now he draws it a little more mildly, and he puts it on a somewhat different footing. He 83 VS: -

"But the war is over, and what have we accomplished? We have accomplished that which, independent of the blood that has been split, almost compensates us, if it does not more than compensate us, for the treasure we have lost. We have shown to the world that our Government possesses an inherent power which is adequate, and will continue to be ade-quate in all time to come, not only to protect itself against foreign invasion, but, however dreadful it may be, against any domestic in-surrection."

The meaning of this is, that we are compensated for the treasure if not the blood expended in the late war, by showing the ability of our Government to destroy itself as a constitutional system, and crush the liberties of the people. Our fathers thought that the blood and treasure which it cost them to win those liberties and establish that government were well expended; and now this degenerate citizen officially representing our country abroad assures a foreign people that the de-struction of what it cost the men of the Revolution so many sacrifices to secure is a boon worth infinitely more, and compensates for expenditures a hundred times greater. No man ever made a more pitiable spectacle of himself, or more disgraced his country, than this miserable old flunky in his series of performances before the British public.

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the door on Monday evening. 12 10 4t UNION LEAGUE HOUSE, BROAD STHEET.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 7, 1888. The Annual Meeting of the UNION LEAGUE OF PHILADELPHIA will be held at the LEAGUE ROUSE on MUNDAY EVENING. December 14, at 7 o'clock, at which meeting there will be an Election for Officers and Directors for the ensuing year, GEORGE H. BOKER, Secretary. REPUBLICAN INVINCIBLES.

Union Club House, No 1105 CHESNUT Street, or FRIDAY EVENING, December 11, at 8 o'clock. Business of Importance. WILLIAM McMICHAEL President.

A meeting of the Club will be held at the Nationa

WILLIAM L. Fox. Secretary. PENNSYLVANIA BAILROAD COM-

PANY, TREASURER'S DEPARTMENT. PHILADELPHIA, Pa., December 3, 1863, NOTICE TO STOCKHOLDERS.

The second instalment on the new stock subscribed for under resolution of the Board of Directors of May, 1868, is now due.

Unless paid on or before the 15th instant the instalment will not draw its proportion of dividend due May, 1869, and those paying up ALL the remaining instalments will receive full divideads in May next.

THOMAS T. FIRTH, Treasurer. CITY TREASURER'S OFFICE PHILADELPHIA, Dec. I, 1868.

NOTICE.—The Semi-annual Interest on the five and six per cent, loans of the City of Pulladelphia due January 1, 1869, will be paid on and appropriate the control of the City of Pulladelphia due January 1, 1869, will be paid on and part that data. after that date.
Loans maturing January, 1869, will be paid on presentation, interest ceasing from date of

maturity.
The ordinance of Councils approved May 9. The ordinance of Councils approved May 9, 1868, directing that "ail certificates of city loans shall be registered previous to the payment of the interest," will be strictly adhered to at the payment of the interest due January, 1869, to both resident and non-resident loan-holders,

JOSEPH N. PEIRSOL,

123 27t City Treasurer.

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