### SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

Women as Politicians.

From the N. Y. Nation. Whatever may be the result of the inquiry now going on as to the professions for which women are best fitted, there can be little doubt that greater and greater numbers of them will hereafter take part in political discussion, and that once they get the fran-chise they will introduce into the political arena a greater or less number of questions as peculiarly "women's questions," and demand for them special legislation or special treatment of some kind at the hands of the State or General Government. We have little doubt, too, they will exercise a much greater influence on male opinion than most of us imagine. No matter how freely the professions may be open to women, a very large proportion of them will not follow any profession, but will live at home at leisure, as they do now, and if they have votes, will give more attention to politics than they have ever done-more, probably, than the great body of their male relatives; and will form opinious which, whether good or bad, they will preach

with considerable vigor, and we dare say with

considerable effect.

It is, therefore, not a minute too soon for women who want to influence legislation, either through the press or the platform, to begin their political education; that is, to make themselves moderately acquainted with the influences which regulate the conduct of men in society, and with the extent to which they can be suspended or directed by legislation, as far as has been ascertained by human experience; in other words, to make themselves moderately acquainted with history, political economy, and jurisprudence. Unless they do this, we fear, so far from exercising the "elevating and purifying influence" on politics of which we hear so much, they will simply increase the force of the very worst element in politics; that is, the element of blind and ignorant zeal, which we, for our part, consider just now only less dangerous to good government than simple rascality. About the character of corruption or treason there is no room for doubt, and there is no difference of opinion. You have only to reveal them clearly to rouse popular opinion against them. But we make bold to say that if anybody will go through history carefully he will find that what humanity has suffered from wicked and unserupulous conquerors or tyrants or knaves is a mere tritle compared to what it has suffered from well-meaning ignoramuses and zealots.

If, therefore, female politicians as soon as

they appear in the political arena are simply

going to reinforce the ranks of those who make a mockery of reason and experience, disdain to argue, and vote and make specches by the aid of an inner light of their own, of which the rest of the world knows nothing, and to treat the nature of man, as seen and known in the world, as if it did not form the leading element in all the great social problems, female politicians, instead of proving a blessing to the country, will prove a curse. It will not do to tell us in reply to these counsels that the mass of male voters do not study the science of politics any more than women. All men, or nearly all men in this country above the ignorant laborer, have taken an interest in politics and been made familiar with political ideas and political processes from their very boyhood. They are, at least in-directly, trained to politics by the nature of their studies at school and college, and by the nature of their business in active There is no man who does not find his calling more or less affected by legislation, and who does not, therefore, give more or less attention to political measures. Clergymen, lawyers, doctors, merchants, farmers, mechanics-all become politicians, in a greater or less degree, from necessity. Moreover, it is one of the familiar facts of domestic life that boys, from the time they begin to read and observe, turn their attention to political affairs, to wars, to laws, to revolutions, to the fortunes of states and of rulers, just as regularly, and with as little direction from without, as girls to dress and dolls and visiting and cooking and ether incidents of household economy. Whether this difference be natural or conventional merely, we shall not here discuss. It is enough for the purpose of our argument that it exists, and that nearly all women of the present or next generation will, on entering on a political career, have to acquire by hard work even that amount of fitness for the discussion of political questions which most men acquire without any special effort at all, by merely going on their way, following their natural bent, and attending to their business. Of course there are, and will be, women who will be able to contribute as much that is valuable to political discussion as any or all but a very few men, but then the mass of female politicians will not, without special preparation, be able to contribute snything at all that will not positively

Female politicians, however, thus far, with three or four exceptions-we would willingly make the number larger if we could-have not given, on the platform or in the press, much, if any, indication of either thought, study, or experience. They show, indeed, an ardent interest in the growth of human happiness and virtue, but about the means of promoting them through legislation they seem to be in a state of simplicity not far removed from that of very small children about their father's capacity for procuring money. We would refer anybody who thinks these remarks too severe to the history of the agitation about Hester Vaughan, the woman recently sentenced to death for in anti-cide in Philadelphia. The woman found her husband had committed bigamy in marrying her, and refused to prosecute him after he had deserted her. Another scoundrel then committed rape upon her, and she refused to prosecute him or even tell his name, lest it should hurt the feelings of his wife; and she then murdered, or appears to have murdered, her newly-born child, and has been convicted for it. Meetings of women have accordingly been held in New York, in which the laws under which the woman has been condemned have been made the subject of wholesale reprobation by female orators, and the conviction denonneed with as much fury as if the woman's story of bigamy, and the rape which the victim refuses to prove, made it in some mysterious way the duty of the Governor to treat the infanticide as really a blameless act and the woman as simply an object of commiseration, and as if, moreover, it was his duty to accept the findings of the meeting in this ebullient state of mind as a guide for his official conduct. No proof of anything, be it remembered, has been offered or proposed. The sole object of the meetings held seems to have been to embody fine moral sentiments in a petition, and to give the petition the force of a political demand. It was laid down, too, amongst other things, that there was semething peculiarly monstrous in swarding a woman under such circum-tances the treatment that would be accorded been considered solely from the practical

to a man, thus surrendering the doctrine of | point of view, and with strict reference to | doctrine on which its opponents rely most doctrine on which its opponents rely most firmly, that the very peculiarities of woman's moral and physical constitution, which so often in life place her at man's mercy, make it improper to throw open the professions and the ballot-box to her. Moreover, a demand was made by some speakers that Hester Vaughan should be tried by a female jury—that is live a jury spleaded from the class of that is, by a jury selected from the class of the community least accustomed to weigh evidence, most strongly moved by its passions and prejudices, and in a case appealing with peculiar force to these passions and prejudices. We do not say that cases of this kind should never be tried by female juries, but we do say that we hope the experiment will not be tried till women have acquired experience in the art of drawing inferences and greater control over their emotions than the great body of the sex now display. Moreover, they accused the convict's counsel, without a particle of proof, of having betrayed and deserted her, and, to cap the climax, sent off a deputation to Philadelphia climax, sent off a deputation to Philadelphia in such complete ignorance of the facts of the case that, when it got there, it found that everything they wanted to have done had been done already on the motion of benevolent people in that city, who had gone to work in a silent, Christian, and efficient manner, without a hall, gaelight, or speeches or "commit-tee on resolutions." The New Yorkers now owe the Philadelphia lawyer a public apology, which we trust they will make, and make hardsomely; we hope they will not imitate too many of the reformers by pretending that they never heard of his vindication, or by

treating his denial of his guilt as simply a fresh proof of his depravity. The sum and substance of the whole matter is this -and it is as worthy the attention of male as of female humanitarians—that the experiment they seem disposed to try of the direct application of the moral law—as evolved at public meetings—through legislation to the regulation of society, without regard to the disturbing elements introduced into all political and social problems by human nature, by habit, tradition, prejudices, weaknesses, vices, and ignorance—in other words, without regard to the lessons of history and the facts of human life—is sure to fail. It has been tried in various ages and amongst various races, and has always ended in confusion and disaster. It is but another form of the theocratic government over which everybody now laughs or mourns. What Providence clearly intended the politician for is to take men and women as they are—their vices along with their virtues, the things in which they differ as well as the things in which they are alike-and having made himself thoroughly acquainted with the history and results of legislative experiments in other ages and places, do what he can, not to recast their character, but to place their character under favorable influences while leaving free play for their individual tastes and energies. For instance, when he comes to legislate on the relations of the sexes, he must not fix the position of woman as if she were simply a weak man, and as if he had never heard of such offenses as seduction or rape or bigamy; and then when such offenses are committed begin to rave against those who commit them as if they were unheard-of monsters, for the possibility of whose existence, like the paricides at Rome, the lawgiver was not expected

Wanted-A Few More Hundred Thousand Niggers.

From the N. Y. Herald. Our President in his message to Cengress indicates a somewhat fllibustering spirit when he says, "L am satisfied that the time has arrived when even so direct a proceeding as a proposition for an annexation of the two republies of the island of St. Domingo would not only receive the consent of the people interested, but would also give satisfaction to all other foreign nations." this a grim joke on the part of our Execu-The radicals have had such a dose tive? of African blacking that their opposers now wish to surfeit them to the point of reaction. To annex St. Domingo is to add to our troubles, and increase our population by half a million of negroes fully educated to revolutionary turmoil. They would make an excellent element for the carpet-baggers to work upon. A large aristocratic faction predominates there, and a grand duke will black your boots while his duchess does your washing. Congo is also well represented, and our missionaries will find an excellent field of labor in the correction of voodooism and fetichism existing among these natives. Altogether there are numerous arguments in support of this broad nigger view of our President. Let us, by all means, annex the island.

Congress and the Message. From the N. Y. Times.

We wish Congress would bear in mind that takes two to quarrel. The President's Message is a document as well calculated to provoke a saint as could well be concocted. But Congressmen would have proved themselves to be saints more effectually if they had refused to be provoked. That the message of the President of the United States, sent into Congress in pursuance of his constitutional duty, should be read to that body is a matter of course. That body is not responsible for its character. It cannot be hurt by its temper or tone. Congress is not, or ought not to be, so sensitive as to make its reading painful; or if it is, the conrage of Congress ought to be equal to the emergency. If an Indian chief can be riddled to pieces with arrows without ilinching -if a Christian martyr can sing psalms while being burned at the stake-and if a denizen of Delaware or Sing Sing can endure the tortures of the whipping-post without becoming insane, Congress ought to be able to submit to the reading of the President's message without unseemly contortions or other indications either of rage or pain. The message certainly is scurrilous, but Congress did not write it. It was designed to be offensive and insulting, but it is not necessary for Congress to regard and resent an insult as a personal wrong. Congress has a dignity, both official and personal, that relieves it from that necessity. We concede that Congress is not obliged to listen to an offensive document-if it were, there would be no merit in doing it. But we think it would have been wiser, more becoming, and more dignified to have done so - and then to have expressed, just as freely and as formally as it should see fit, its opinion of its character. The resentment actually shown looks too much like petulance-just and natural, perhaps, but unseemly. It tooks like the act of a man stung by a wasp, or a child teased into wrath by a malicious comrade.

Preparing for Resumption. From the N. Y. Times.

The commercial intelligence of the country has been well represented in the deliberations of the National Board of Trade, for some days in session at Cincinnati. Party politics have had no influence in its proceedings. The delegates present have represented the varied business interests of all sections, and the subjects that have engaged their attention have

the equality of the sexes on which the woman their bearing upon legitimate enter-suffrage movement is based, and accepting the prise and prosperity. The resumption of specie payments has been discussed at great length, and the relative merits and leasibility of the plans most generally advocated have been carefully balanced. The conclusions eventually arrived at, therefore, represent the matured judgment of a body whose experience predisposes it to reject the speculative and to accept only that which seems most likely to divest an unpleasant

process of unnecessary embarrassments. The Board has decided, by a three-fourths vote, that it is expedient for Congress to determine the time at which resumption shall take place. The time, however, is not indicated in the resolution adopted. By a similar vote the action of Congress is invoked to compel the national banks to accumulate the gold they may hereafter receive in the shape of interest on bonds deposited with the Government, and a proposal to impose the same policy of accumulation on the Treasury is sustained by a majority of the delegates. Emphatic approval is also given to the principle of a measure legalizing gold contracts; while an opinion is expressed adverse to the redemption of bonds until after specie payments shall have been restored.

Except upon a single point—that relating to the fixing of a time for resumption-it will be seen that the majority of the Board hold opinions identical with those of the Times. The hoarding of gold is regarded as an essential preliminary to resumption, and the unde-sirableness of allowing the banks to sell their gold is clearly recognized. Business men averse to hasty action and to a discrimination for which there is not even a plausible reason, are not willing to encounter the responsibilities of resumption unless the national banks fully share the preparedness of the Treasury. Their demand for permission to buy and sell for gold at pleasure is equally just, and we trust will not long remain unsatisfied.

Our National Disgrace. From the N. Y. Tribune.

The fact that barely twelve weeks of Andrew Johnson's Presidency remain to be endured should console us under many afflictions and reconcile us to many hardships. Plead as we fairly may that the great party which he has betrayed never meant to make him President, while the party he has treacherously served and fawned upon despised him too heartily to think of accepting him as a candidate, the Republic has been shamed as well as scourged by him from the hour wherein he reeled into the Vice-Presidency, and will be till the place that knows him shall know him no more. We have had bad men in high office before; yet we are confident that no man but Andrew Johnson was ever chosen Vice-President of these United States who could have provoked the scorn of Christendem by such an exhibition of native depravity as is made in the following portion of Johnson's last message: -

"Our national credit should be sacredly observed; but in making provision for our creditors we should not forget what is due to the masses of the people. It may be assumed that the holders of our securities have already received upon their bonds a larger amount than their original investment, measured by a gold standard. Upon this statement of facts it would seem but just and equiable that the six per cent, interest now paid by the Government should be applied to the reduction of the principal, in semi-annual instalments, which in six een years and eight months would liquidate the entire national debt. Six per cent, in gold would, at present rates, be equal to nine per cent, in currency, and equal to the payment of the debt one and a half times in a fraction less than seventeen years. This, in connection with "Our national credit should be sacredly ob than seventeen years. This, in connection with the other advantages derived from their invest-ment, would afford to the public creditors a ment, would allored to the public creditors a fair and liberal compensation for the use of their capital, and with this they should be satisfied. The lessons of the past admonish the lender that it is not well to be over-anxious in exacting from the borrower rigid compliance with the letter of the bond."

Comments by the Tribune. Mr. Johnson has probably borrowed money in his day, and may have done so when his debts were so heavy, and his prospects so bad, that his note was not worth half its face. Let us suppose him drawn into a difficult law-suit, which involved all he was worth. He applies to a thrifty neighbor for \$5000, being in absolute want of that sum to prosecute his suit to judgment. The prudent capitalist inquires as to the security, and is pointed to the estate in litigation. "Yes, but if you lose the suit, you will have no estate." "Well," he responds, if I lose the suit, you must lose the debt; but if I win it, I will pay you double."
"Agreed," says the capitalist; "I will take the risk." So he borrows the \$5000, and with it wins the suit. How much does he owe? How much ought he to pay? Your answer decides whether you are bonest or a villain.

So far, we have admitted the truth of Johnson's fundamental assumption; but that assumption is false. What the nation owes its creditors is precisely what it agreed to pay them-no less, no more. But the great mass of them paid for their bonds the full sum specified on their face-often more. True, they paid in greenbacks; but those greenbacks had cost them their full amount in gold. It was the debtor, not the creditor interest, that profited by the depreciation of our currency. Hundreds of thousands paid off in greenbacks their mortgage and other debts which were contracted when the currency was at par with gold-paid them eff with money obtained by the sale of their products or their labor at prices greatly enhanced by our currency depreciation. Every one can call to mind instances where farmers and others, who had for years been struggling to meet the interest on the mortgage given when they bought their lands, have been able to wipe out that mortgage by the proceeds of two or three crops sold during the latter years of the war. Creditors complained (not unjustly) that they were thus paid off too easily, and were answered, "Lend your money to the Government. and you will fle paid your bonds in gold; so what are you grumbling at?" They did lend it—not millions only, but hundreds of mil-lions—and thereby was the Union saved. And now a President of the United States tells the public creditors that, if they are paid seventeen years' interest they may think themselves lucky, though they never see a cent of the

The man who makes this suggestion is a villain-a brazen, reckless, shameless villain. He has sheepish confederates who share his knavery but lack his effrontery. The people have set their heel hard down on the whole tribe in indorsing the Republican plat-form of 1868 through the election of Grant and Colfax. Repudiation will gain nothing by Johnson's indorsement-it will rather receive a darker smirch from his well-earned infamy. How naturally a traitor to those who trusted and honored him leads himself to every form of baseness was already known; but the truth has received a fresh illustration

in Johnson's crowning infamy.

It is extremely desirable that we should begin forthwith to fund our past due Fivetwenties at a lower rate than six per cent .; but Johnson and his fellow repudiators seem resolved that we shall never be able to do so. This message will compel our people to pay many millions in six per cent. interest which they could have saved had our President been content with the pyramid of disgrace he had already so laboriously erected. Only twelve weeks more and the country will be rid of him forever. It is hard; but we can endure him twelve weeks longer. Thank Heaven that he has power only to disgrace us !

A Chicken and Celery Convention. From the N. Y. World.

The annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Anti-Slavery Society met in Philadelphia on Thursday. As there is no slavery in this country, excepting the subjugation of intelligent, tax-paying white citizens to their black parbarian rulers at the South, or the slavery of ignorance so prevalent in the schoolhouse ess Republican counties in this State, or the slavery which compels white children to work in the Massachusetts factories from twelve to lifteen hours a day, we should conclude that the fresh war of anti-slavery was to be waged against Cuba, or against the savagery of lavery which the free Republic of Liberia, in Africa, is new trying to suppress, if the Anti-Slavery Standard, which publishes the call for the meeting, did not enlighten us as to the fresh wrongs which breaten our own colored man and brother. The freedom of that unfortunate and trouble some individual, we are told, is not yet consummated, and "the present condition of the country, the testimony to the fearful peril of the colored population in the South which s constantly borne by themselves and their friends who witness it, urges us by the strongest motives to work mightily for the consummation of their freedom." But how is this mighty work to be performed? Happily, we are informed. It is by the support of the Standard, and the Standard, we are told, can only be supported by lavish contributions of "coffee, tea, sugar, oysters, celery, boiled chickens (for salad), eggs, butter, cream, biscuits, cake (especially home-made cake)," which the aunouncement says "will be gladly received," not by the colored suf-ferer, but by the Standard. Here is some thing as yet undiscovered by Ude or Soyer er Blot. Mr. Wendell Phillips is to assimilate vast quantities of cold boiled chickens. celery, and home-made cake, and forthwith the freedom of the colored population of the South is to be finally secured. Much salad for Phillips is more suffrage for the negro; cold-boiled chickens for the Standard are the consummation of liberty and happiness for Sambo. As this collection of chickens and celery seems, then, to be the immediate object of the Anti-Slavery Convention of this year, it will be curious to see how this chicken and celery collection will ultimate result in the consummation of the freedom of the colored man.

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