SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

Mr. Jenckes' Civil Service Bill. From the N. Y. Herald.

Mr. Jenckes has spent a great deal of time unnecessarily on his Civil Service bill. The only feature of any value in it is that of putting candidates for office through an examination to test their fitness. But this can be done now without any special act of Congress. Every secretary or head of a department has the power now of establishing a system of thorough examination, and the President could order that to be done at any time. It is an administrative prerogntive, just as it is the right and duty of the managing man of any business house to ascertain the fitness of clerks before he employs them. As to removal from office, that ought to be left to the President and his secretaries, where the power always existed until the Tenure of Office bill was

passed. Efficient administration depends upon the responsibility being placed in the heads of the Government: but under the Tenure of Office bill or Mr. Jenckes' Civil Service bill the subordinates are in a measure independent. The bill of Mr. Jenckes is altogether unnecessary. All that is needed is the repeal of the Tenure of Office law. Thus untrammelled, the new administration under General Grant will be as well disciplined and effective as the regular army. The General will hold the secretaries responsible, and they again their chiefs of bureaus. There is no way of restoring the public service to anything like honesty and efficiency but this. General Grant can be trusted, and is just the man to organize a good administrative system if not hindered by the intermeddling of Congress. The Tenure of Office bill should be repealed at once, then, and the track cleared for the new President.

Military Bummers.

From "Brick" Pomeroy's N. Y. Democrat.
There has been a gathering at Chicago called an "Army Reunion," but really a mutual admiration society, the principal business of which was to try to give themselves notoriety, and keep up the illusion that they had been of some service to the country, by that kind of "blowing" so characteristic of army bummers.

It is a poor time to attempt this kind of thing, when the war is demonstrated to have been an unmitigated evil, and has left the trail of its curse as distinctly marked upon government, finances, society, industry, and prosperity, as was Sherman's ruthless march upon homesteads and plantations in Georgia.

Aside from the leading object of endeavoring to impress upon the public mind the idea that they are persons of great merit, the memory of whose deeds must not be permitted to die out-and to make sure of this with characteristic modesty, taking it upon themselves to do their own "blowing"—they assume to instruct the country upon the science of politics. The master-spirit of this game is Tecumseh the Second-the Great Torch-bearer-who, with the cunning of insanity and the wickedness of the Arch-fiend, wantonly and gratuitously, in violation of the rules of civilized warfare, and without the excuse of military necessity or advantage, destroyed the dwellings and food and plundered the valuables of the non-combatant inhabitants of two whole States, leaving old men, women, and children to suffer from exposure and perish from want, and refined and delicate females, in not a few instances, experiencing an infinitely worse fate at the hands of the licensed and brutal ravishers whom he set on to teach the people of the South what war meant, as dictated by the hell-born spirit which he let loose in his "march to the sea."

He shows that he knew nothing of the character of the contest when he engaged in it, and that he has learned nothing since. He still talks about having "fought for the Union" -a fallacy that events long since exploded as conclusively as it can be demonstrated that the war was brought on for the purpose of destroying slavery, and that with that object it was prosecuted at every step after its commencement, and not to preserve the Union, which would never have been endangered had not slavery been unconstitutionally menaced.

He displays equal intelligence and good taste when he denounces what he calls "the pernicious doctrine of State power." This 'State power" is what the fathers who founded our institutions regarded as the great bulwark of free government. And yet this chief of bummers attempts flippantly to sneer it down as a 'pernicious doctrine." If his dis-honorable life be drawn out many years longer, he will see how vain are such sneers from such

But the superlativeness of his ignorance appears in the remark, as he doubtless intends to apply it, that "you may search history in vain for a more flagrant violation of faith than that which resulted in our civil war." charge is directed against the South, but in that application it is supremely false and unjust. But turned in the opposite direction, and it is true, most true, and would admit of much greater severity of expression.

Does not this frantic ravager in war and bold slanderer in peace know that the people of the South had, prior to the war, a property equal in value to the public debt of the United Stater, as doubled by overstatement to feed the greed of the usurers to whom it was contracted, and to destroy which property the war was brought on and the debt created That that property was held under State law, and that its security, so far as co-State and Federal action was concerned, as well as against domestic in-urrection, was guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States And that by a series of acts of flagrant bad faith, many of those co-States had instigated that very domestic insurrection which, through their Federal agent, they were bound to aid in suppressing; had refused to enforce certain essential provisions of the Constitution, resting in compact between all the States, affecting the safety and value of the species of property referred to; had passed laws obstructing the enforcement by the Federal authorities of other provisions of the Constitution having a similar bearing; and finally, that the people of those recusant States had organized a political party whose sole idea, object, and efforts were directed to the destruction of that great property interest in the South, and of the system of labor and order of society based upon it, and that this party had gained an election which would place in its hands the whole enginery of the Federal Government, to be wielded for its nefarious and destructive ends. Up to that point, when all hope seemed to be lost of peace or safety, the South had borne and forborne, hoping at every stage of the mad career of "these internal fanatics" that reason would resume its sway in the public mind, and fraternal feeling be restored to the hearts of the Northern people. But all in vain. Matters only grew worse and worse. Finally the case became desperate, as above stated. Then, and not till then, did the Southern people, seeing that the Constitution could no longer be depended upon as a shield as possible, peaceful relations with Eugland. against encroschment and violence, and that Above all things, it was hoped that his wis-

paralleled only by the base and perfidious breaking of the treaty of Limerick by William of Orange and his successors on the British throne, and take such measures as they deemed necessary for the preservation of their property and the maintenance of their liberies. They failed, not from lack of justice in their course, but because the brute force of a subsidized world was too strong for the "few but undismayed" heroes "who wore the grey." But these facts, not one of which can successfully controverted, will enter into history, and compel a verdict for the right in spite of all such "army reunions" as that lately held at Chicago, and of the reckless as-sertions of ignorant and crack-brained warriors like this modern Tecumseh.

Improving Condition of the South.

From the N. Y. Times.

A more hopeful feeling is rapidly spreading throughout several of the Southern States, whose restoration to the Union has been completed. The subsidence of political excitement has been followed by a calm review of the situation; and this, again, by a conviction that material prosperity is within the easy reach of the people. They have found out, too, that a little effort will pay, and are addressing themselves to practical measures with an earnestness that promises the happiest results.

The generally improved condition of the cotton-growers is stated and explained by the Mobile Register. Now, for the first time in their lives, they are really their own masters. Before the war, they were deeply and perpetually in debt. Their expenditures were always in advance of their crops, which were pledged to their factors. From the bottomless pit of debt they have been extricated by adversity. Without credit, they were compelled to pinch and economize. The result is a habit of thrift to which they were previously strangers, and the product of the last crop in their own pockets instead of those of the middlemen. Notwithstanding all disadvantages, therefore, as the Register admits, the planters of Alabama are better off than for years past, while their industry rests upon a sounder foundation than it has ever had before.

Onr Georgia correspondent has shown that in that State, also, a decided change has occurred in the right direction. The planters and farmers are satisfied with the returns of the year. They have discovered that dependence on the soil is more profitable than dependence on the Democratic party, and are prudently inclined to make the best of advanages under their control. It is not clear that they have fully learned how to render immediately available their unoccupied lands, or to tempt into their midst the diversified industry for which their State is admirably adapted. But a good deal is gained when they confess the want, and seriously consider in what manner it may be satisfied. This point gained, we may hopefully look for a more correct understanding of the circumstances which must precede any large influx of Northern skill or capital. With this capital they may, perhaps, dispense. Left to themselves in this respect, their progress will be slower than otherwise it might be; but still it is possible, and may be sure. Additions to the population are, however, indispensable, and whether these be had from the Northern States or from abroad, the measures adopted to induce them must be broad and just. If the good sense of Georgia will assert itself so far as to cut the knot tied by its Legislature on the negro question, and to recognize as essential the conditions which have made the growth of the West a marvel to the world, they may restore to the State its old preëminence in the South.

Quite as encouraging is the new aspect borne by South Carolina. There, if anywhere, we might expect to find depression. The preponderance of the colored element, and the unyielding attitude assumed by the whites, were causes of difficulty not easily overestimated. But even these are rapidly losing their daugerous character. The despondency they originally occasioned has disappeared, and plans are in operation which promise to secure the development of resources that have been too long neglected, and the extension of railway facilities which will contribute greatly to the commercial importance of the State. The recent judicious course of influential planters has tended to improve the credit of the State, whose means are being made the basis of material improvement. The climatic advantages of the higher districts, and the evident disposition to make them the seat of industries to which they have hitherto been strangers, are further reasons for the increased confidence which the white citizens now dis-

The same self-reliance which leads South Carolina to project great internal improve-ments, and which prompts Georgia to increased attention to the resources at her command, is in some degree apparent in Eastern Tennessee and parts of North Carolina. Both are States rich in natural advantages, and needing only the assurance of peace to grow rapidly in population and wealth. Nowhere on the con-tinent are agricultural and mineral resources more happily blended than in Tennessee: nowhere is there a finer field for manufacturing industry, or one in which enterprise would be more bountifully rewarded. It is satisfactory to know that the fact is beginning to be appreciated by the people of the State, and that, despite the drawbacks incident to a lawless spirit, its undeveloped wealth is gradually attracting attention.

Reverdy on his Kners.

From the N. Y. Tribune.

If anything more were required to justify Mr. Smalley's letter upon our Minister to England it would be found in Mr. Johnson's last publication. The sententious cable tells

"Mr. Johnson justifies his friendly intercourse with Laird and other gentlemen friendly to the South during the late civil war in America, by the example of Generals Grant and Sherman in their treatment of ex Rebel officers. If he is guilty of beason so also are Grant and Sher-man. General Grant has entertained at his own hose a distinguished Confederate leader. He ascribes the attacks upon him, in the American news papers and elsewhere, to a secret dislike for the preservation of peaceful rela-tions between the two countries."

The charge which Mr. Smalley brings against Mr. Reverdy Johnson is that, as the representative of the American Government, he has estentatiously sought to do honor to men who have been conspicuous for their enmity to America. Mr. Johnson confesses this, but makes a plea in bar of judgment. He has done nothing that General Grant would not do, and he is attacked by the newspapers here because we have a "secret dislike" to peace with England!

Mr. Johnson went to England under circumstances of more than ordinary distinction. He had been many years in public life. During the war he was as much of a Union man as could be expected from a Maryland politician. A Democrat, and the nominee of a Democratic President, he had been unanimously confirmed by a Republican Senate. He was preemi-nently the ambassador of the people. We did not send him to the British Court as a party man, but as an American, charged to defend the honor of his country, and preserve, as far

the Federal Government, the common agent of all the States, was about to be made the instrument of their destruction, rise and protest against this most "fiagrant violation of faith" tries, and settling all questions at issue, tries, and settling all questions at issue, especially the questions arising out of the depredations of the British vessel Alabama. We presumed he would meet many Englishmen who did not sympathize with us during the war. He would most probably be brought into relations with Lord Russell, who made such swift haste to give rebellion belligerent rights, and to humiliate us after the accidental capture of Mason and Slidell. We felt sure he would have conferences with Mr. Gladstone, whose imagination once soared into a rhetorical recognition of the Southern Confederacy and the exaltation of Mr. Davis to the rulership of a sovereign people. We did not require him to make any distinctions in his treatment of the English people based upon their feelings towards the North and South. There were two classes of Englishmen-those like Mr. Gladstone, whose fancy, or perhaps whose prejudics, had swept them into an indiscreet fondness for the Southern people, especially for types of men like "Stonewall" Jackson. With them we had merely an intellectual difference of opinion, which events have determined. There were those who not only sympathized with the South, but even went so far as to trangress the laws of England to give the South aid. They did not even have the poor merit which belongs to Jefferson Davis, of believing that they were an oppressed people struggling for freedom. But for money, for hatred-because they saw in the downfall of the American Republic another argument against progress and liberty-they made themselves the allies of an armed Rebellion and the enemies of the United States! Mr. Laird was a conspicuous example. In

> defiance of the orders of the Queen he built vessels to destroy the commerce of America. Many a good ship went down under their Lord Wharncliffe was prominently a leader of the English anti-American senti ment, and accepted the chairmanship of a society avowedly established to aid the Rebellion. Mr. Roebuck, in his violent, coarse way, was the lusty champion of Rebellion in the House of Commons. His enmity took him all the way to Paris to coax the French Emperor to interfere in behalf of the South. Here were three Englishmen who were as much in the Rebel interest as though they had taken up arms under General Lee. Mr. Johnson's mission might bring him into relations with them. No one expected that he would exhibit the least discourtesy. What the duty of his office required was proper, and nothing more. But the duty of his office certainly did not require him to meet them in friendship, to make them speeches of adulation; to single out Lord Wharncliffe as a man dear to America, to publicly welcome Mr. Roebuck as his friend, even while he assailed America with a disgusting criticism, and to proudly salute Mr. Laird before a company of English gentlemen. All this Reverty Johnson did, and when the cable flashed to us the story of his deeds every Americans blushed with shame. It is no excuse to quote the example of General Grant There is a vast difference between the attentions shown to General Longstreet by the President elect and those showered upon Mr. Laird. General Longstreet is a soidier who fought in a mistaken cause, who was beaten, and who accepted defeat like a soldier and a gentleman. He used his inflaence to restore peace. He had risked his life for what he believed to be his duty. Mr. Laird risked his money for what his Queen told him was a crime, and in a contest in which he had neither part nor lot. He sent out ships to destroy the commerce of a nation with which he was at peace. He was a mere pirate cowering under the English flag. Nay, f he had even been a pirate, he might at least have courageously accepted the risks which the Alabama encountered off the coast of France, and enforced the respect which is ever

due to courage. We would do no harm to these gentlemen. All we expected from our minister was that he should cross over to the other side, and permit them to go their way. We regard him as a man unmindful of the dignity and selfrespect of an American Minister. He is no ambassador of ours. He is a mere salaried adventurer, who has forfeited his position, and is in no sense the representative of the United States. And when Mr. Johnson ascribes this sentiment to "a secret dislike for the preservation of peaceful relations between the two countries," the makes his position forlorn and pitiful. We honor the great English nation. So far as our poor influence has gone, we have labored for harmony and peace and unity. The Eugland of Bright and Cobden is a glorious nationality, and its flag has long been the emblem of civilization and jns-

We have criticized her policy, and especially the policy which has oppressed Ireland; but in this we have only joined with her most trusted statesmen. The England of Laird and Wharncliffe and Roebuck deserves no respect, no consideratian, no friendship. For Mr. Johnson to seek out and cover it with his eulogies and adulation, and publicly embrace it, is as much an insult to America as it would be in the eyes of Englishmen for Sir Edward Thornton to do honor to Mr. John Savage or Mr. George Francis Train.

-Mr. Johnson evidently feels this. His humility is touching. There are some sins that cannot be forgiven, and these he has committed. His usefulness as a Minister is at an end. When ambassadors find it necessary to go down upon their knees they had better come home.

H. G. at Ottawa.

From the N. Y. World. Who said a "Briton dearly loves a lord" He was a narrow minded noodle whoever he was. For it is not the Briton as Briton, but the Briton as a man and a brother who loves a lord. H. G. is no Briton. H. G. is a man and a brother. Yet see how H. G. loves a lord; nay, not only a lord, but even a baronet; ner a baronet only, but even a knight banneret, who is of no nearer kin to a lord than this, that the wives of both shall be called "my

Here has one Sir John Young, doubtless a most estimable person as Britons and knights banneret and K. C. B.'s in this poor world go, yet simply Sir John Young, come all the way from Australia to be "inaugurated" as Governor-General and Viceroy in and over her Britannic Majesty's Dominion of Canada. The ceremonies celebrated upon the occasion in the brand-new Canadian capital of Ottawa were probably quite as pretty and as pompous as the resources of Ottawa, of the Dominion of Canada, of Sir John Young, and the northern temperate zone would allow them to be. The interest taken in those ceremonies by the rest of mankind could hardly have been expected, either by the Dominion of Canada, or Sir John Young, or by the British empire, to be of a positively feverish kind. But H. G., whether moved by his innate passion for pomps and ceremonies or by the stirrings of that new di-plomatic ambition which now boils in his bucelie bosom, could not be happy unless he beheld with his own eyes and with his own pen described the august scene. So we have it all set forth in the Tribune. And in what magnificent style!

"If ever the good people of Ottawa," begins the exalted theme, "were supremely trious chief" at Washington!

happy, it was yesterday, when they turned out with loyal heartiness to welcome, en masse, the new Governor-General of the Canadian Dominion." Observe the adroit conciliation in this opening sentence of the proper radical civility to the multitude, with a side suggestion to the upper classes that "this sort of thing, you know," is the "regular thing, you know," and "doesn't mean anything, you know." It was not the "People" of Ottawa, with a large P, who were "supremely happy."
It was the "good people," which is a patronizing, condescending kind of phrase, like "my woman," and "really now, my good man," and implies, we fear, the same sort of aristocratic conviction that "goodness," in and of itself, is a poor vulgar quality, which lurks in the use in the Middle Ages of the word "innocents" for "idiots," and in the modern Continential corruption of "Chréor "Christian," into "Cretin," as a designation for those whom Heaven, by depriving them of their wits, has condemned to be harmless. But last Sir John Young might be angered by seeing it stated that his fortunate advent to power had pleased the populace only, the Tribune makes haste to add that the "supreme happiness" of the occasion was particniarly felt by the "aristocracy, with their high-sounding titles." We did not know that the "Dominion of Canada" possessed a peer-But perhaps a few Canadian barons, and here and there among the British officers a lord, a baronet, or a lord's son, may have graced the auspicious hour, and even for these comparatively small favors H. G. is thankful, awaiting that more glorious moment when a tide of titles, titles of dukes and of earls, of marchionesses and of countessesa truly "high-sounding" tide-shall be rolled in waves of music upon the thrilled and enraptured ear of the first radical envoy to the

Court of St. James. For he shows himself to have a delicate appreciation of the great charm which lies in the rescendo of sensations. He is not merely a lover, he is a positive voluptuary of pomps and vanities. Thus, in the first mention which he makes of the hero of the great event at Ottaws, he contents himself with styling Sir John Young "the distinguished Viceroy. few lines further on he strikes a higher key, and quivers with incipient ecstasy as he speaks of the "Royal Representative," heightening the delicious emotion by a side-dig at the "forces of nature" for their insensibility to the glories of the occasion. "Nature," he observes, "did noi hesitate to turn to the Royal Representative her most rugged and cheerless side." Such conduct on the part of "Nature" was certainly most reprehensible, if not positively indecent. But then nature, as Mr. Squeers has wisely remarked—Nature "is a rum thing." One never knows what nature may or may not do, even in the presence of a "Royal Representative." Nature, through the Duke of Vendome, played queer tricks, St. S mon tells us, even in the presence of the Papal Nuncio.

But Nature's disrespect only deepened the homsge of H. G. When Sir John Young next moves upon the glowing canvas, it is not merely as "a distinguished Viceroy," nor yet only as a "Royal Representative." He towers full statured and sublime,

"An Illustrious Chief!"

But let us not mar the picture by a partial presentation. The "illustrious Chief" comes in, like the King Gambrinus at the Liederkranz balls, preceded by a wild glory of flags and music, of scarlet faces and flashing weapons of snow and ice, of sunshine and small beer, of gas and gaiters! All the bells in Ottawa ring out welcome, all the church spires "contain a full supply of streamers," which, we may remark, was doubtless an oversight of the sextons, who, instead of hanging out their banners on the outer walls to be seen of men, ran out themselves to see the passing pageant, and so forgot the duty mposed upon them, and left the flags "contained" in the belfries. This was happily not the case with the "Grand Cathedral." From that imposing edifice, "far above the highest decoration, the red and white banner of St. George, with its fierce dragon, fluttered madly in the wintry wind." This must have been an attempt to combine the Chinese standard with the standard of Great Britain, and as such will we hope, be made a note of and duly honored by Mr. Burlingame and his comrades.

No wonder that, in response to such inspiring appeals to all that is noblest in the human heart, "everybody"—the "good people" and the "high-sounding aristocracy," and H. G. and the "illustrious Chief"—soon became "as happy as fairies." The soul of H. G. even relented towards "Nature," and Nature, ashamed of herself, faced about towards the "illustrious Chief" and tried to make amends for her previous gross conduct by turning upholsterer and putting down a snowy Aubusson for the company to move upon. Her penitent efforts H. G. thus handsomely acknowledges:-

"For the beauty and brilliancy of the pageant the good people of Ottawa were a thousand times more indebted to nature than art, for she had laid her white carpet on which all could tread noiselessly. The road by which his Ex-cellency was to arrive was lined with pine trees, the branches of which almost touched each other. Sir John was escored from his own lodge. The numerous orders and societies that occupied most of the space it would be tiresome to narrate. It is enough to state that every to narrate, It is enough to state that every saint was fully represented. There were English, Irish, and Scotch saints, and not a few French ones. Portly aldermen with their staves looked and behaved very important. At last his Excellency's sleigh came in sight of the first triumphal arch, which was handsomely festioned with evergroups and place and sure. festconed with evergreens and pines, and sur-mounted with the royal arms. This was the welcoming arch, and as the proud and handsome face of the lilustrious chief was upturned to salute the standard the vast multitude covered, and cheer after cheer made the very earth tremble.'

After this H. G. becomes a mere kaleidoscope. Keats' vision, which caused him to exclaim,

"Lo! I must tell a tale of chivairy, For large white plumes are dancing in my eye," was stupid and commonplace in comparison with the things which H. G. saw and heard in Ottawa. "Lovely and accomplished women," 'brave and polished courtiers," armies," "veteran soldiers," "petite blondes, with heavenly blue eyes and charming angelic slightness," "majestic and stately brunettes, with long and sweeping lashes and lustrons black eyes," "ravishing strains and vibrations of rich music," "bewildering sweetness," love whispers from a vine-clad grotto," all these in rapid succession rushed upon his dazed and dancing soul in the Parliament Halls of Ottawa.

The gorgeous (sic) star and collar of the Bath Cross" (Sir John Young, being only Knight Commander, wore the Grand Cross, we presume, in consideration of his being "an illustrious Chiet") was the last thing which flashed upon the expiring eyes of our great radical leader. That finished him: and so, like the vision of Mrs. Hominy, his "vision faded."

It must have been lovely while it lasted. It is a blessed privilege even to read about it in the Tribune at this distance from this "supremely happy" scene. But if all this neryous force of feeling was consumed over the imagination of "an illustrious chief" Ottawa, where, oh where is H. G., who disbelieves in all stimulants to recuperate his faculties of admiration and his stores of adjectives for the "inauguration" of another "illus-

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