

SPRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

Mr. Jencks' Civil Service Bill.

Mr. Jencks 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.

Efficient administration depends upon the responsibility being placed in the hands of the Government; but under the Tenure of Office bill or Mr. Jencks' Civil Service bill the subordinates are in a measure independent.

Military Banners.

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.

It is a poor thing 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.

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 displays equal intelligence and good taste when he denounces what he calls "the pernicious doctrine of State power."

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."

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 States, as doubled by overstatement to feed the greed of the users 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 insurrection, was guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States?

Mr. Johnson justifies his friendly intercourse with Grant and other gentlemen friendly to the South during the late civil war in America, by the example of General Grant and Sherman in their treatment of ex-Confederates.

The charge which Mr. Smalley brings against Mr. Beverly Johnson is that as the representative of the American Government, he has ostentatiously sought to do honor to men who have been companions for their enmity to America.

The Federal Government, the common agent of all the States, was about to be made the instrument of their destruction, his aid and protest against this most flagrant violation of faith—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 liberties.

Improving Condition of the South.

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.

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.

Our 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 advantages under their control.

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Beverly on his Knees.

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 us:

"Mr. Johnson justifies his friendly intercourse with Grant and other gentlemen friendly to the South during the late civil war in America, by the example of General Grant and Sherman in their treatment of ex-Confederates."

The charge which Mr. Smalley brings against Mr. Beverly Johnson is that as the representative of the American Government, he has ostentatiously sought to do honor to men who have been companions for their enmity to America.

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.

dom, his experience, and his conservative temperament would do much towards removing every trace of ill-will between the two countries, 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.

Mr. Laird was a conspicuous example. In defiance of the orders of the Queen he braved the risk to destroy the commerce of America. Many a good ship went down under their guns. Lord Wharncliffe was prominently a leader of the English anti-American sentiment, and accepted the chairmanship of a society avowedly established to aid the Rebellion.

But Nature's disrespect only deepened the homage 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.

But let us not mar the picture by a partial presentation. The "Illustrious Chief" comes in, like the King Gambrinus at the Liederkrauz 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!

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, and she had made a show of her excellency was to arrive was lined with pine trees, the branches of which almost touched each other.

After this H. G. becomes a mere kaleidoscope. Keats' vision, which caused him to exclaim, "Lo! I must tell a tale of chivalry, 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.

Here has one Sir John Young, doubtless the most estimable person as Britons and knights banneret and K. G. B. in the poor world, moved by his innate passion for pomps and ostentation or by the stirrings of that new diplomatic ambition which now boils in his plebeian bosom, could not be happy unless he beheld with his own eyes and with his own pen described the august scene.

It must have been lovely while it lasted. It is a blessed privilege even to read about it in the Tribune, and to this day, from his "supremely happy" scene. But if all this persons force of feeling was consumed over the imagination of "an illustrious chief" at 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 "illustrious 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."

To be shown himself to have a delusive appreciation of the great charm which inheres in the crescendo 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 Ottawa, he contents himself with styling Sir John Young "the distinguished Viceroy."

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