#### SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

General Grant's Next Battle.

From the N. Y. Tribune. The Government now employs over sixteen thousand office-holders in collecting, accounting, and paying the revenue and expenditures of some twenty-five thousand other officers, and the interest en the public debt. The temptations and opportunities for dishonesty in this branch of the service exceed those in all the others combined. The majority of the people believe, with good reason, that rottenness and corruption reek in the Departments of Customs and Internal Revenue, and that in these fields will lie President Grant's earliest and most urgent opportunities for reform. The causes of this corruption are manifold. At first we were willing to assign as a leading one the novelty of the internal revenue system. But the internal revenue taxes have now been in operation long enough for the modes of prevention, as well as of stealing under it, to be reduced to a system. If this has not been done it is due not to the novelty of the system, but to the negligence of those who administer it. The internal revenue system was organized by the Hon. George S. Boutwell, as chief of the bureau, and most of the obstacles arising from its novelty were over-come under his vigorous and efficient administration. The administration of Andrew Johnson has been one long effort to use the appointments in the revenue and customs service as bribes to buy up supporters for his political policies. This has been the main cause of dishonesty in the collection of revenues. For the moment it was understood, as it has now for three years been, that no official, however honest, would be retained who opposed the President's Reconstruction policies, nor, however corrupt, be removed if he supported them, it was public notice to all to "steal all they could, and stand by the President." Behind Commissioner Rollins and Secretary McCulloch there has been for three years the marplot hand of Andrew Johnson, interfering with and overruling every effort to secure honesty; for it has been a sommon coincidence that those who were most ready to agree with the President, in order to keep office, Were most ready to sell the revenues for their private profit. It is impossible to know, therefore, whether McCulloch and Rollins are deficient in executive ability or not, since they have had no opportunity to execute their own policies. But the majority of the customs officers and internal revenue assessors, from Maine to California, being selected from those who have sold their convictions to get office, have, with the same ease, prostituted their official powers to get money. The difficulty is not, as the President untruly charges in his message, that these officers collect the revenue and do not pay it over. An ordinary mode of swindling the Government is for the collector to accept, on his own account, a third or fourth of the tax to which the Government is entitled, and allow the distiller or other tax-payer to escape the remainder of the tax by a false return. Another mode is to make seizures, and then effect compromises, in which a thousand dollars paid to the collector or district attorney has more influence to settle the case than \$20,000 paid as tax to the Governmen.. The whole system of seizures by informers is of very doubtful expediency and economy. For the informers, having as large pecuniary interest in the transaction as the distillers, and consisting often of men of at least no better character, go into the business as a speculation. They work every seizure as a placer for plunder, not as officers in the interest of the Government. They so often use corrupt means to secure a profitable compromise, or the conviction of some obstinate party who refuses to compromise, that a pretended effort to collect a tax becomes a criminal conspiracy

When the Government begins by bribing and buying informers and witnesses, it ought to remember that it will only secure the services of its agents in case the criminals whom they are prosecuting shall not bid higher. The moment their bribe covers the informer's fees the case will be settled to suit them. The whole system of giving informers a distribu-tive share—a third or half of the property seized-tends to endless corruption. Take the Collector of the Port, for instance. He receives a salary of \$6400 to pay for his services towards collecting so much of the revenues as are paid without seizure, while his distributive shares or fees as an informer in the seizure cases amount to over \$30,000 a year. His perquisites in these plunder cases are five times his salary, and considerably more than the salary of the President of the United States. But what he receives from these cases is but a small share of the whole plunder divided. The Naval Officer comes in for an annual income of forty thousand dollars from the same source. The Surveyor of the Port and the hundreds of subordinate inspectors and other officers by whom these seizures are worked up all have their shares. As these officers make five times as much out of violations of the law as they do out of its obedience, five times as much of their attention is given to seeing the law violated as to seeing it obeyed. Here opens another system of corruption. Importers, knowing that customs officers can by a seizure put them to about as much loss in an unjust case as in a just one, prefer to retain and pay certain officers of the Custom House, and so avoid all seizures, whether guilty or innocent.

to defraud the tax-payer.

The discovery, the other day, that certain firms had imported over half a million dollars' worth of silks, under pretense that they were window shades, shows one of the modes of swindling rendered possible by corruption in the Custom House. Of course, only a few of the packages of goods imported can be actually opened and examined. It is supposed, however, that if out of twenty packages the appraiser examines two at random, he may safely pass the others. But if the importer can, by a card or a wink, designate to the appraiser's clerk which packages he shall examine, the two examined will be window shades, while

the others will be silks. Twenty columns of this paper would not suffice to detail minutely the various modes which corruption in the Custom House and Internal Revenue Department assumes. The loftiest fiction ever put forth by the pen of genius was the recent statement of Mr. Sargent, Commissioner of Customs, that the col-lection of the duties was never more houestly done than now. It was never more corrupt. In both departments the Government is losing fifty millions a year, and the people twice that

What will General Grant do to check them? We believe he will drive the thieves out of the revenue service, as he drove the cottontraders and soldier-swindlers out of his camps before Vicksburg, as Christ drove out the money-changers from the Temple. If members of Grant's own family could not trade in cotton within his lines, we have full faith that no leeches will suck at the public revenues under his administration. The first eminent Atness President Grant will display for this | Fisk's card, which is much more likely to

sum, by these corruptions.

no more division of responsibilities between or alarm. divers officials, so that ultimate responsibility Mr. Bo shall rest nowhere. We believe that Grant will appoint his Secretary of the Treasury, and hold him responsible for the fitness of all his subordinates. By a prompt and judicious system of removals in every case of failure in administration, purity and efficiency could be secured from the highest officer to the lowest. We need for this great reform first and chiefly the organizing mind and honest, firm will of President Grant.

Plainly Answered.

From "Brick" Pomeroy's N. Y. Democrat. A correspondent, writing from Columbus, Ohio, asks:-

\* \* "And now a few of us would like to have your opinion as to the causes which led to our defeat, and would like the same in print if you have no objection to thus giving it.

To our friends we make this reply, believing it to be correct in fact and position: -First, we had the strongest man in the country to contend against in Grant, and another strong one in Colfax, against whom the only thing to be said was that he had been a Know Nothing. But as Blair had been a Know Nothing and a Republican, the opposition had us even in that. Grant was strong. He had succeeded in leading an army to viotory. To be sure, his victory was at a most frightful cost, but the people of America have not yet learned the true difference between a genius and a butcher, who had but to lead up men and see them shot down till the enemy gave up from exhaustion.

Besides this, Grant had been endorsed and named for the office by many Democrats, including the chairman of the Democratic National Committee and his private mouthpiece. He was and is in sympathy with the pondholders, and these people take care of their own.

The Democratic campaign was badly managed—the Republican campaign was managed admirably. They outbrained us. The Democrats, as a general thing, believed one thing, wished for one thing, and talked another. They defended rather than attacked. The only gains made by our people were where they at-tacked boldly and persistently.

The holding of the convention in New York was suicidal. Scores of delegates came here with hardly money enough to last two days. The allurements of the city were too strong. They ran out of money. This is an expensive city to stay in—that is, if you would see all of it. The successful managers of that convention wanted gold interest on bonds more than Democratic victories, and they invested accordingly.

The action of the Southern delegates hurt the Democratic cause greatly. They complimented Johnson till they beat Pendleton, a strong man, identified with the West, whose present and future interests are with the South against New England avarioe graspingness. They played smart till they beat themselves. And their leading men, with pardons and credentials sandwiched, talked too much. They were better warriors than politicians. They should have come up from the South like men of dignity-held their peace-helped their best friends, the Western men-voted with their friends from natural interests, and then gone home and worked for the victory within reach.

It was by the Republicans made to appear to the people that the South was doing all the managing, no matter what were the real facts of the case. The Republicans had more papers, more political pulpit crators, more persistent, outrageous liars than we had, and the majority of witnesses, swearing even to a known falsehood, generally win. The result would have been different had the convention been held in the West, out of the reach of bondholders' money—if there had been less talk and more work—if the entire Democratic party had not been given over to the bondholders, and to men who originally wanted Grant, and who intend to go to him yet.

If the delegates had acted solely for the people, for the States, for the Constitution; if they had not, to so great an extent, been willing to sell out to the very interests they were sent to fight; if brave, bold, determined earnest Democrats, who from the first had been in favor of equal taxation and equality of States; if the management of the grand plan of the campaign had not been given so much to those who so often had sold and betrayed the Democracy; if the fight had been from flank to flank, from right to left, by brigades, battalions, and companies-one steady, continuous, aggressive attacking of a cunning, unscrupulous, and vulnerable opposition-we should have won the day.

But for all this, we made a good fight, and by 1872 will have learned wisdom sufficient to win the fight, restore the Democracy to power, and save the country.

Mr. Fisk, Jr., in a New Role. From the N. Y. Times. With the most profound regard for Mr.

James Fisk, Jr., that is to say, such regard as his public performances warrant us in feeling for him, we feel constrained to think he has made a mistake in rushing into print. His card, which we printed on Tuerday, is not calculated to raise him in public esteem, or to virdicate his conduct from censure, in the arrest and treatment of Mr. Bowles. And it is quite certain to create the impression that he knows little of English grammar, and still less of good manners or the decencies of speech and of life. Mr. Fisk, Jr., may not think very much of this, or of any impressions the public may entertain in regard to him; and it his operations were to be hereafter confined to Erie and other railroads, perhaps he would be right. It does not make much odds to a man who bags his million as coolly and as easily as Mr. Fisk, Jr., has been in the

habit of doing, and who jugs an editor who

talks irreverently about him, without the

slightest let or hindrance, what anybody maythink of his Euglish or his manners. But Mr. Pisk, Jr., is about to enter upon a new field. He is about to become a great patron and supporter of the arts-a devotee of the Muses -one of the great pillars and ornaments of the sublime temple of genius and art which his country hopes to erect for the admiration of mackind. Now, there is certainly a prejudice in the public mind, which Mr. Fisk, Jr., would be wiser to respect than to contemn, in favor of a great patron and minister of art being able to write grammatically and to express himself as well as to deport himself generally like a gentleman, rather than a boor. Mr. Fisk's card indicates no sort of respect for this prejudice, but rather defies and affronts it. It will, we fear, create the impression that Mr. Fisk should employ a private tutor, or in some other way culti vate a little familiarity with the English grammar and dictionary, and the rudiments, at least, of writing, before presenting himself to the world as a distinguished patron of the arts.

As we have already said, we see nothing of any great outrage or tyrannical wrong in the arrest of Mr. Bowles for libel. The liberties of the American people are not endangered either by the arrest itself, or by the manner in which it was made; and nobody will laugh more heartily than Mr. Bowles himself at such pretensions. We have no doubt he will forgive all that, since the publication of Mr.

duty will be rigid organization. There will be | move him to pity and contempt than to anger

Mr. Butler's explanatory letter, though it evinces a spirit of resentment and spicen against Mr. Bowles for which we see no occarion or call, is a much more straightforward and creditable performance than the card of the gentleman for whom Mr. Butler seems ambitious of acting as sponsor and champion. If all its statements are correct, and we presume they are, his letter relieves the affair of some of its most uppleasant features. Mr. Fisk, Jr., would do well to hand over his literary and srtistic matters wholly to Mr. Butler. and go back himself to his Erie corner: it is there he shines most and appears to the best advantage—though that, we fear, will sound like damning Mr. Fisk, Jr., with very faint

Piscicultural Protection. From the N. Y. World.

The Fish Commissioners from Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, and Pennsylvania, together with sundry professional and private fishbreeders and amateurs, met in convention at the Fifth Avenue Hotel on last Tuesday evening. It may be premised that these delegates generally are gentlemen of culture beyond pisciculture, and that they thoroughly understand what they are talking about in this convention. The general object, too, which they have in view is an interesting one to read and talk about. There is something fairly fascinating in the unlimited piscatorial production which the fish-farmers' programme promises -the actual performance in our own day of the miracle of the five loaves and the few small fishes a thousand-fold in a thousand places. We are even told that shad, instead of being scarce, shall be so plentiful that they can be spread as manure on farms. The people are to be fed to the full with fish. The musical horn which is now blown in certain wards on Friday only shall make the whole metropolis melodious every morning in the week, and fish will be so plentiful and so cheap as to be fairly forced upon every table at every meal.

Now, this piscatorial promise, which would vitally concern a community of cats, seems of very little account to the general public. It mainly interests Mr. Seth Green and other successful pisciculturists, who have made the matter of artificial fish-breeding a study and decided profit, and who should not ask State legislatures to pass laws to protect and appropriate moneys to encourage what is a purely private enterprise. But we are told that salmon and trout are nearly out of market, and are held so highly as to be beyond the reach of all but the rich, and that shad, which were once sold for twenty-five cents the fish, now command one dollar. Well, what then Flour, which was sold not long ago for six dollars the barrel, brings sixteen dollars now, and poultry is sold for nearly as much per pound as chickens used to bring per pair. Shall we, therefore, have "protection" for the poultry-producers and grain-raisers of the country? If Mr. Seth Green or any other man can produce salmon, shad, and trout by the millions, it is clearly for his profit to do so, and that without the aid of the Government or the State. This "protection" business, after being fairly run into the ground, is now extending to the water. By-and-by the clams of Cohasset will ory out for protection; the porgies of Massachusetts Bay will set forth whereas they are ignominiously carted afield to fructify the bean crop, the porgy of San Francisco is esteemed so great a luxury as to bring twenty-five cents per pound, and protection will be demanded to bring the Eastern fish up to the San Franciscan price and standard; the Oregon and Californian salmon will protest against their own cheapness as compared with the dearness of the Maine product, and call for protection. Clearly, if the Fish Commissioners can do what they say they can do-if they can fill our houses as well as our rivers with fish-they should set about it. But they confess that they cannot do it without legislative protection and pecuniary encouragement, and the extracts which we printed on Tuesday show that with these things fish-farming is, as yet, a failure: the people will not obey the fish laws; the dorporations refuse to out holes in their dams; the spawn put into the Connecticut river by State appropriations came to several thousand dollars, and came literally to nothing else. On the other hand, the reports of individual enterprises in pisciculture are highly favorable; the fish farmers raise spawn and small fry, and sell the same to "the amateurs and others interested in pisciculture" at a very great profit, and they do not need our advice to keep on doing so for an indefinite period. But this business of asking "protection" by means of laws and public money in the way of "appropriations," to carry on the fish business, is wholly impolitic and certainly improper, and if it is encouraged we shall next have the chicken-raisers of New Jersey and the bean-bakers of Massachusetts calling conventions to demand protection.

THE BANK OF ENGLAND

Its Extent, Arrangement, Government, and Something About its Business. London Cor. Hartford (Conn.) Post.

\* \* It is a great affliction to have much money. One never has any peace nutit he gets rid of it. Here now this great bank can hardly sleep nights for fear somebody will be threving its treasures. It has a company of soldiers come down from the Tower of London every night to stand guard within its walls. And as for the daylight hours, why it has its whole force of work-people, 1200 s'rong, ready to fly to arms in any emergency, they being organized and disciplined as a military force, and every man knowing his exact place should an alarm be raised. And you may so clear around that four acres of granite, and you cannot find a single outside window. It is all wail and nothing else. And all the way around are stones so arranged that they can be suddenly displaced for the protusion of rules. And when you are visiting the interior, as you pass from room to room, belis ring and guards fly about until you might think they had taken you for a king and were paying you honor, but that isn't it a bit. It is because you are probably a thief and will be pocketing thousand-pound notes or great bars of gold, if you have a chance. And they never permit you to enter the vaults where the bullion is except in the presence of a director of the bank. With us the President suspicious characters, I suppose; for while a clergiman, by virtue of his office and pretensions, is under special pledges not to steal, by virtue of his poverty he is under uncommon temptation to do it. When we went into the room where their cola and bank notes are suthered in almost fabulous sums, the treasury, four men watched us, with I do not know how many more hidden behind screens and doors. And when they put into my hand a package worth \$5,009,000 in gold, I wondered that the entire building did not quake. They expected me to quake, I presume, but I didn't half as much as I do when I draw my monthly salary at home. Now, what is the use of being im-mensely rich and living in perpetual consternation, like that great bank? I would not change places with it for the world. The President of the concern has a great salary, I was told (I was about to put down here how much, but do not dare trust my memory on the subject, but name any figure you please and it is mo e than that), but what is that to peace of mind? They have wonderful balances to this bank, balances that know more than men do, for in weighting coin, if any pieces are of underweight, the machine detects it forthwith, and discharges

the under-weights fulo a recentacle all pr temsolves, while the full-weights are sent in another direction. The bank does its own printing, too, and does it spletdidly, using machines for numbering and registering that can do everything except

Some 300,000 persons go annually to the counters of this back to receive dividends. I think they ought to rotate, and give us all one opportunity before we die. But Eugland is a rather feudal country, and once in always in seems to be the rule from the Queen down. When they had told me their big stories till they saw I was in a perfectly receptive state of mind, and wide open to anything, they said that iney used to have there, in their employ, a man seven feet high, and that he was in such fear the anatomists would be after him as a curi-caty, after his death, that he begged to be buried in the court yard of the bank, and was, which teaches us that much beight, like much money, or excess in any direction, is a curse, as

I said before,
I left the vast building in a perfectly dazed condition, confused by the enormous and unac customed figures and facts which they had dispensed to me, perfectly turned round by the many rooms, halis, and staircases through which I had been led, wondering how any one in England could be poor, with such a mighty affair as that making money in full run all the time, speculating as to what rank among human occupations ought in fact to be assigned to this bandling of money, and sure that my pockets were just as empty as when I

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## LEGAL NOTICES.

IN THE ORPHANS' COURT FOR THE CITY

AND COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA.

ESTATE OF JOHN HOUR.

The widow of said decedent, FRANCISCES HOCK, has filed her petition with appraisement of personal property to the amount of \$298 which she elects to retain under the act of April 14 1851, etc., and that the same will be approved by the Ceurt on SATURDAY, January 9, 1689 unless exceptions be filed thereto.

THOMAS J. CLAY CON, 12 24 thatu 5t

Attorney for Petitioner.

IN THE ORPHANS' COURT FOR THE CITY
AND COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA.

Estate of WILLIAM EAGER, deceased.
The Auditor appoint of by the Court to audit, settle, and adjust the account of GEORGE W. FRANKS and JOSEPH B. SUBERS. Executors of the Estate of WILLIAM EAGER, decrased, and to report distribution of the balance in the hands of the accountant, will meet the parties interested, for the purpose of his appointment on MONDAY, January 4, A. D. 1869, at 3 o'clock P. M., at his Office, No. 408 WALLAUT Street, in the City of Philadadelphia.

12 24thstu51\* WILLIAM D. BAKER, Auditor,

IN THE ORPHANS' COURT FOR THE CITY AND COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA. Kaiste of JOSEPH and THOMAS WOOD. deceased.

The Auditor appointed by the Court to audit, settle, and adjust the account of THOMAS 8, and JOSEPH WCOD, surviving administrators of the colate of JOSEPH WOOD, deceased, and of MARIA WOOD and THOMAS WOOD, deceased, acting as agents for the heirs of said estates, and to report distribution of the balance in the hands of the accountant, will meet the parties interested, for the purposes of his appointment, on MONDAY, January 4, A. D. 1859, at eleven (11) of cock A. M., at the office of Wood's Estate, No. 18 8, THIRD Street, in the city of Philadelphia.

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where he will be glad to see his friends.

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would call the attention of the public to his
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This is an entirely new neater. It is so constructed as to at once commend itself to general favor, being a cumbination of wrought and cast from It is very simple in its construction, and is perfectly airtight; self-cleaning, havinging I ples or drums to be taken out and cleaned. It is so arranged with upright flues as to produce a larger amount of neat from the same weight of coal than any furnace now in use. The hygrometic condition of the air as produced by my new arrangement of evaporation will at once demonstrate that it is the only Het Air Furnace that will produce a perefetly healthy atmosphere.
Those in want of a complete Heating Apparatus would do well to call and examine the Golden Eagle, CHARLES WILLIAMS,
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