SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

EDMORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS-COMPILED EVERY DAY FOR THE EVENING TRIEGRAPH.

General Grant and His Appointments to Public Office.

From the N. Y. Times. We have hdard a startling report concerning General Grant's intentions in making appointments to office. He is reported to have said that he intends to pick out for office the men who will best do what needs to be done;

and that, while he does not intend to go ontside the Republican party, as a general thing, he will attach no importance whatever to mere party services either in nominations or elections.

Such a plan of action as this will carry consternation through the great and noble army of office-seekers. There are probably not less than half a million of men in the United States who expect to get appointments to office, on the strength of service rendered in some form or other, and at some time or other, to the Republican party and its nominees. About haif of them probably think, and will claim, that they were the first to nominate General Grant for President; the other half will be prepared to prove that nothing but their efforts saved the town, the county, and the State in which they live from voting against him. They have all spent time, money, and strength in securing his election, and they all agree that such efforts and such sacrifices can only be fitly requited by an office—not a big one, perhaps they will be modest enough to say, but one that will give them a comfortable support, and enable them to lay up a little something for a rainy day. And certificates of such service, duly attested by local committees, by leaders of the party, by members of Congress and other men of credit and renown, are now in circulation for fresh signatures, in every town and village and at every cross-roads hamlet throughout the country.

Is it possible that all this is to go for naught? Must all this labor be wasted? Will these credentials and recommendations be thrown aside as of no avail in the grand scramble for office? The bare possibility that General Grant may prove thus ungrateful to his friends, and thus oblivious of their services and claims, will incline thousands of them to forswear politics altogether, and let the party and the country go to the dogs in their own way-which some perhaps will think a better way on the whole than that which these hungry politiciaus would prefer. But that both the party and the country will go to the dogs, if any such policy as this is followed by General Grant, the politicians of the class in question will all most vehemently assert and sincerely believe. No party, they will assure you, can possibly live which does not take care of its friends. What motive has anybody to work for a party which will not reward those who work for it by giving them office? How can a party be kept alive and built up and made strong but by just such efforts-and why should anybody make such efforts if they are to get nothing in return?

These are very practical questions, and they will put, with terrible earnestness, to General Grant, more or less directly, by a great many thousands of his friends before he has been in office a single month. Nor can it be doubted that there is a good deal of force in them. A political party can only be kept up by a great deal of hard work, and the amount of time and energy and toil given to political parties in this country is enormous. A great deal of it is gratnitous -given by men from the interest they really feel in the government of the country. But probably the greater part of the work, that which tells most directly and powerfully on the result, is done by men who cannot afford the time it costs, and who do it in the hope of getting an office which shall reward their labor and make up for the time and money they have spent. And one of the worst results of the prevalent system of distributing office as a reward for party service is, that it builds up this class of professional politicians-that it increases the number of those who look to political work as a regular reliance, and abandon all other modes and forms of industry. The existence of a large class of men with whom politics is a business, and who seek in public office the reward for their labor, is always injurious in any country. It is always a source of corruption, operates always as an obstacle to needed reforms, and greatly enfeebles the administration of government and the execution of the laws.

While General Grant will not, we are confident, be unmindful of the merits and just claims of those who have rendered valuable service to the party in power, we hope it is true that he intends to make all such service a secondary consideration altogether in making appointments to office, and that fi'ness, capacity, energy and honesty will have the first and strongest claims on his regard, as

credentials for office. It is the general opinion that nothing is easier than to get good, qualified men for office. No man dreams that it is in the least difficult to find plenty of men, at a moment's notice, capable of filling any office from the Presidency down, and competent to perform its duties as well as draw its pay. We suspect this is a very great mistake. There certainly is no difficulty in fluding men who will take office-any office, no matter what; but there are but few, we suspect, who thoroughly understand the duties of Government office and can perform them readily and efficiently. The work of the Government, in all its branches, in small as well as in large affairs. is at least as much a business to be learned, and requires certainly as much training and capacity, as the business of a railroad corporation or a bank or a large commercial establishment. Yet who would think of filling any position, in any of these concerns, as the various offices of the Government are filled? It is not an easy thing to find a first-rate manager, or cashier, or subordinate of any grade, for any great business establishment. The number of persons not already engaged to whom such interests can sately be intrusted is always small, and they are to be found, when wanted, only by inquiry and careful search. Why should it be different when persons of the same qualifications are wanted for similar service under Government?

We shall be very glad to know that General Grant intends to introduce into the matter of appointments to office a new system and new standards of fitness. Appointments for party service, and on party grounds, have been made long enough. The working of the system thus administered is so had that reform is absolutely imperative. General Grant will be sustained by the great body of the people, even if he is opposed and resisted by the whole class of professional politicians, in inangurating the change which it is said he intends to make. He has the strength and popular confidence which the task requires, and he is the first President who has had them for many years.

The Past Year.

I rom the N. Y. Tribune. year of the great pro-slavery Rebellion. For eagles.

when Rebel arms were stacked at Appomat-tox, and the last gasp of Copperhead malice was vented in the assassination of Lincoln, only our superior physical force, the product often, as in this case, of moral force, was vindi-cated. Caunon and bayonet had restored the South to the Union, but had not solved the question of the social condition of the two classes of the Southern people, the late masters and the late slaves. This problem has now been solved by the enforcement, though imperfectly, of the Reconstruction laws, the virtual impeachment of their great adversary, the readmission of most of the Southern States to the Union on the basis of equal rights for all men, and the election on the same platform of Grant and Colfax. While the Southern Rebels hoped to return to the Union on the basis of caste and the renewed subjugation of the black race, a large share of the Northern Democracy hoped to punish by repudiation the leaders whose wealth had

bought our victory. This heresy also is dead.

Looking back on these signal victories of justice and truth, they seem of such importance and beneficence as those now living may never hope perhaps again to see crowded into a single year. These transition epochs in which ancient strata are broken up and new foundations laid, are too destructive to come often, and too far reaching and permanently salutary in their effects to be often needed. The revolutions of the past eight years are like the upheaval of Europe under Napoleon or of England under Cromwell. We have the guarantee of internal peace for the remainder of the nineteenth century, in the fact that the whole of that period will be required to recover from the exhaustion of this conflict and to accumulate forces for another. The moral and physical courage with which the cause of truth and justice has been sustained during the past year has insured us peace for the next half century.

Had the South been restored with all political power in the hands of the whites, the political subjection of the negro would have soon restored him to personal slavery. Slavery of the negro would have queuched freedom, education, discussion, religion, and progress for all classes. We should again have bad a defiant and united South, a divided North, repudiation, secession, a new rebellion, and this time a successful one.

Had Congress yielded to the usurpations of a President determined to reconstruct the South and receiet himself on the single basis of scorn for the pegro, regardless of law and of the law-making power, our Government would have become an autouracy. Never without a bloody revolution could the Chief Executive have been compelled to obey the law. We believe that justice, law, and statesmanship demanded the conviction as well as the mere impeachment of Audrew Johnson. It would have saved a thousand lives in the Southern States which have been sacrificed since his acquittal, in the same hope to give success to his political folly. In our judgment the blood of a thousand Southern Unionists, crying to Heaven, if not for vengeance, at least for protection and peace, is of more account than robes of office which have been so stained by deceit and polluted by vice that we doubt whether they most deserve abhorrence or contempt. For the sake of the past we wish this bundle of treacheries had been removed. But the effect of the precedent on the future will be hardly less valuable than if his impeachment had resulted in conviction. For the first time in the world's history, the chief executive officer of a great empire, commending the army and navy, was calmly tried at the bar of the Senate, on the charge of the Representatives of the people, for a disobedience of a statute. He appeared by counsel, bowed to the jurisdiction, and, through coun-sel, higgled, "shystered," begged, pleaded, twisted, and wriggled for days and weeks, and at last, by a majority lacking only one of being two-thirds of the Sepate, he was morally, virtually, and historically convicted, though technically acquitted. The principle is vindicated that the President is responsible to Congress for his obedience to the law, and this

reignty of the Union over the States. The discussion in what mode the Southern States shall return to the Union is nobly and happily ended. All rights for all men are essential to the highest prosperity of the South as well as the safety of the country. The Southern States will enter on the practical enjoyment of these rights on the fourth day of next March. In the turmoil of the past three years industry at the South has nearly held its own, and nothing more serious than poverty has resulted, even to the suffering class. From the present year the South, as a whole, comes out better than in many former years of peace. Having raised all its own food, it has not consumed the cotton crop in advance, as formerly, but will net a substantial profit on the year's industry. A better condition of the South than was ever before known will be inaugurated du ing the coming year. Our incoming President, in the course of his four years' tour through the Southern States, won the respect, though he did not enjoy the hospitality, of the Southern people. We believe he will continue to deserve it. Freedom, peace, and that security to capital and prosperity to industry which result therefrom, will speedily cover the wasted fields of Virginia with the cultivation and wealth of New York, and make of Georgia a more genial and sunny Ohio. Texas will arise from her rags and vermin and bound forward like the young and giant Iowa of the Northwest, and the mountains of Tennessee will form the Pennsylvania of the South. These great changes are not to be the slow growth of years. No moss will gather in the path of the great march of emigration southward. Heads now grey will live te see the South not only as loyal but as pros-

was as important as to vindicate the sove-

perons and wealthy as the North. The prosperity of industry at the North during the war and up to the present time has formed one of the marvels of history. Bankers and economists tried for a time to warn the people that this prosperity was unreal and delusive; but as every body made money, built houses, paid their debts, enlarged their business, lessened their labors, and increased their comforts, the cry became stale. These visible and tangible results are certainly sound. We have instead of a currency redeemable in specie at par, one which is redeemable in specie at about 75 cents per dollar. We have a disuse of specie, but not a suspension of payments. The people generally were never more nearly on a cash basis, never had fewer long or inflated credits. The only debtor who has borrowed more than he can presently pay is the Government; and the depreciation in its credit causes a like depresiation in the ourrency in which business of every kind is transacted. But as this depreciation is now uniform and almost without variation, stability is in a great degree restored to business; and however bulifonists and economists may argue that we ought not to be prosperous, the people have a sort of stolid faith in the fact that they are prosperous.

That the country will speedily resume the use of a currency redeemable at par, in gold, for the present depreciated one, we cannot for a mement doubt. The question how this desirable end is to be attained will be settled, if not by the present, certainly by the next Congress. We do not doubt that the year The past year has been in fact the closing | 1871 will see ten-dollar notes again at par with

England as the years preceding 1860 were in our own history. But reform has nobly, benefi-cently triumphed there as here. The exten-sion of the elective franchise effected in 1867, has resulted in the separation of the State and Church in Ireland, to be followed in due course in the other kivgdoms. The political agitation of the Irish question as the leading problem of the British Government has quieted the efforts of the Fenians to foment revolution. The peace thus produced has even more effectually ratified the liberal policy of Gladstone and the democracy of Bright and Mill than the elections themselves. As the enslaved negro elected Lincoln President, so the discontented Irishman appoints Gladstone Premier; and so the world learns afresh that more power lies in the cross than in the sceptre.

The revolution in Spain, we fear, will prove that republicanism is the mere sentiment, while monarchy is the ruling power. But if it end in monarchy it will at least be a monarchy based on an advanced constitution and broad individual liberty.

Russia has found difficulties and d-pression

in her work of peaceful emancipation nearly as great as those which have attended our abolition of slavery by war. But there, as elsewhere, it will ultimately be found that ambition and interest are the strongest spurs to industry and cheeks upon vice.

France and Prussia are mortgaging their future prosperity to secure their present strength by amassing enormous standing armies. "France," said a Frenchman to Bismark, "both fears and desires war." "Prussia, on the contrary," replied Bismark, "neither desires nor fears it."

-The year bears with it to the tomb many who go out, lik stars in the heavens, leaving points whence darkness radiates; Brougham, the eloquent defender of Queen Anne, and Thaddeus Stevens, the dauntless champion of the weak and impeacher of the strong, Sir David Brewster, the venerable pioneer in science, and Lord Cardigan, of the famous "charge of the six hundred." While many others whom we might name have seemed to fill large spheres in life, few have been more mourned or missed in death than our pleasant friend Halpine, so rarely endowed with wit and genius. Art loses a devoted servant and master in Charles Loring Eliott, and Music trembles mournfully through all her chords over the grave of the great Rossini. Thus the old year sleeps with its fathers, and much of its joy and sadness, its hopes and fears, sleeps with it. But out of all this decay there survives progress-for the race defies death and advances with steady step through all the years and centuties.

The Conference and the Pastern Question. From the N. Y. Herald. From cable despatches which we printed

yesterday morning it will be gathered that there is now little if any doubt that the proposed conference on the Eastern question will be held. The official journals of Paris speak of its success as certain. It is not said that the Ottoman Government has given its consent that a conference should be held, or that is willing to abide by its decisions. mined to be ready to act with vigor, if to take action be necessary, it is forwarding supplies to Hobart Pacha and his fleet, still in the Bay of Syra. In all the Tuckish arsenals the greatest activity prevails. The most important announce ment comes from Vienna. According to the Presse, an influential and generally well-informed journal in that city, the Greek Government is ready to comply with the recent demands made by Tarkey. If this announcement be cerrect, it simplifies matters very much. If it be the object of the congress simply to prevent war, its vocation is already gone. The congress, in fact, is rendered unnecessary. If, however, it is the object of the great powers to remove the causes which have led to the threatening aspect of affairs in the East, the congress, notwithstanding the altered attitude of Greece, is as much a necessity as ever, and the presumption is that it will be held. Now that the question has been so much agitated, and that the hopes of the Cretans have been excited, something definite must be agreed upon with regard to the island. The best thing, perhaps, that could now be done would be to grant the Cretans complete independence and to allow them to try their hand for a time at self-government. To this course neither Turkey nor Greece could reasonably object. Moreover, if the great powers agree upen this or any course, objection on the part

Good Advice to the South.

of either Turkey or Greece, or both, will be

From the N Y. Herald. General Longstreet has written a letter which is intended to give instruction to the disorderly elements in the South, in advance of the new policy which is probably to be pursued by Grant's administration. The advice comes in wisely and properly, and has a tone good sense about it which, if the young blood of the South comprehends and acts upon, will do some good. General Longstreet advises that all the old feelings of hostility shall be buried, that the South shall endeavor to carry out the laws of Congress, and shall await the action of General Grant, trusting to his honesty of purpose in the administration

We hardly think, judging from the antecedents of the President elect, that the South will be deceived in the policy which he will pursue. It will no doubt be directed towards peace, good-will, and a genuine reconstruc-We notice that many of the Southern papers, the Richmond journals especially, echo the sentiments of General Longstreet's letter, in which matter they also exhibit their good sense. If this thing of reconstruction is to be done at all, it were well that it is done quickly. The elevation of Grant to the Presidepoy affords the best opportunity for bringing the whole affair to a healthy solution, and it is well to see that the South is beginning to comprehend this fact.

Architectural Luxury.

From "Br ck" Pomeroy's N. Y. Democrat. It is gratifying to our self-esteem that we are progressing in the asthetical in architecture, for nothing denotes more greatly a nation's advancement in civilization than the ornate and improved style of architecture, and the erection of palatial private residences We are too imitative a people in style, as the long rows of buildings to be found everywhere too plainly attest by their wearisome uniformity and a sterility of ornament that the exigencies of increased population gave them existence. Time, however, is making material changes, as the possessors of mammoth fortunes, having long invested in property for the hand some percentage it returned, are now commencing to gratify their tastes irrespective of such pecuniary considerations. Mr. A. T. Siewart has led the prospecting parties into new fields of domestic architecture by the erection of a costly private residence of a somewhat different style from the conventional brownstone houses, to dwell out of which we have long considered to be utterly incompatible with true gentility. Others are coming to his support, as we hear of several of those "men who think in millions" lossen-

The past year has seemed as critical for ing their purse-strings, and devoting surplus funds in beautifying the city. This is as it should be, for our nomad people ought to be more permanently located, for even our wealthiest families are too much given to change of homes, and, consequently, to inhabit houses where they feel they but take up a mere temporary residence. The delightful associations that hinger around the "happy homes of England" are entirely foreign to this city. Those many comforts and adornments of art, which can only be found in homes long in possession of the same family are very rare in this country, except, perhaps, in New Euglan 1; for our destructive system of moving often compels an entire change of furniture. This mania for building substantial, handsome houses, marks a new epoch, and though the absence of laws of entail and primogeniture may eventually cause the sale of such homesteads by the necessity of division of property, still there is a very convenient and popular way of keep-ing a mansion for some time in the family, by leaving it to the grandchildren. There is little danger yet of the following aphorism of Dr. Johnson becoming applicable in this city:-"He that has built for use till use is supplied, must begin to build for vanity, and extend his plan to the utmost power of human performance, that he may not be soon reduced to form another wish." Let vanity, then, have its sway; we are too practical a people to permit it to ruin us, as it has done the ambitions Venetians, whose marble palaces, though involving the owners' ruin, have yet made that charming city the architectural wonder of the world.

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

E-TATE OF JOHN HOUR.

The widow of said decedest, FRANCISCES HOCK, has filed her petition with appraisement of personal property to the amount of \$256 which she elects to retain under the act of April H 1831, etc., and that the same win be approved by the Ceurt on SaTURDAY, January 9, 1689 unless exceptions be filed thereto.

THOMAS J. CLAY 1001, 12 24 that 6t Autorney for Petitioner.

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

Estate of WILLIAM & AGER, deceased,
The Auditor appoin ed by the Court to audit, sottle,
and sejest the account of GEORGE W. FR in a
and JOSEPH B. SUBERS, Executors of the Estate
of WILLIAM EASER, Cecased, and to report distribuden 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.
1889, at 8 o'clock F. M., at his Office, No. 408 WALNUT Street, in the City of Philadadelphia.
12 24thstubts WILLIAM D. BAKER, Auditor,

IN THE ORPHANS' COURT FOR THE CITY

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

Estate of JOEPH and TRIOMAS WOOD, deceased.

The Auditor appointed by the Court to audit settle and acjust the account of THOMAS S and JOSEPH WGOD, surviving administrators of the estate of JOSEPH WOOD, deceased, and of MARIA WOOD and THOMAS WOOD, deceased, and of MARIA WOOD and THOMAS WOOD, deceased, acting as agents for the 1s of said estates, and to report distribution of the 1s of said estates, and to report distribution of the balance in the hands of the accountant, will mee the parties interested, for the purposes of his appoint ment, on MOSDAY, Januas y 4, A. D. 1869, at elever (11) o'clock A. M., at the office of Wood's Estate, No 18 S. THIRU Street, in the city of Philadelphia.

12 24thatuble WILLIAM D. BAKER, Auditor,

STOVES, RANGES, ETC. NOTICE.-THE UNDERSIGNET

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