

SPiRiT OF THE PRESS.

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

The New Republic of the Occident.

From the N. Y. Herald.

Advices from the Pacific coast inform us that a plan is on foot to split off a large strip from Northwestern Mexico and erect a new Republic of the Occident. The scheme includes the rich mineral districts of Sonora and Sinaloa, and is no doubt fomented by enterprising spirits from our side of the border, with disaffected ones in Mexico, both of which elements abound in the heterogeneous population now laying vast foundations of empire on the American borders of the Pacific Ocean. Such a scheme is resisted by the condition of affairs within the Republic of Mexico itself. That Government, although counting a period of existence of barely fifty years, is worn out and confessedly incompetent to perform the duties for which governments are instituted among men. Peace has fled the land, except it be in some mountain fastness, where a bold Indian like Alvarez, in Guaymas, or Leonida, in Tepic, defies the Government within his territory. Industry and trade have dwindled until they are the mere shadows of those of former days; public revenue has become the legitimate prey of every local ruler, and the bonds of society are so completely dissolved that human life and individual liberty are safe only in the large cities, or within the walls of poverty and individual security. To-day we behold the degrading spectacle of a national government sitting in the halls of the Montezumas, fomenting worthless paper decrees against the robbers and kidnappers who prowl securely on every road within the republic.

We are not disposed to lay upon the present rulers of Mexico the whole blame for this state of things, nor do we look to them for the cure of evils which are not entirely of their creation. They are but simple individuals in a social and political organization which obeys laws called into existence with the birth of the government, and these must work out their full mission. Every nation at its inception receives an impulse which may be called the law of its political existence. When the thirteen colonies rebelled against the British crown they were separate political organizations, conflicting and often at war with each other. The first impulse was towards union and centralization, by the calling of a general congress. From this came the confederation for the war; out of this the greater centralization of the Constitution of 1787, and from that we have gone on centralizing our political forms to the present day, when we witness its thus far greatest but not ultimate degree of centralization. In this we but obey the impulse received at the birth of our political forms.

So it was with Mexico, only her impulse was in an opposite direction. When New Spain rebelled against the Spanish crown it was a centralized viceroyalty, divided into departments merely for the convenience of fiscal administration. The political impulse which attended the birth of the Mexican nation was one of decentralization. The departments were erected into sovereign States. Government there has followed the line of this impulse until for years past its decrees have been powerless beyond a radius of thirty leagues from the capital, and not obeyed unless they coincided with the personal interest of local rulers. As with us society has prospered with the growing strength of government to protect, so in Mexico has it dwindled with the decay of the protecting power. The entire political being of Mexico is dry-rotted with the law of its existence. It can look for regeneration only in the breaking up of its present forms and the establishment of new ones upon other principles, of which the proposed new Republic of the Occident is an example. Within Mexico itself there are now at work the germs of other similar movements, and the end of all these will be one. Each in turn will be attracted to our stronger political system, as Texas was, until all revolve in the harmony of the Union.

Some three years ago, in this city, at the old Union League Club House, General Grant, in a crisp little speech, referred to our sister republic as a proper subject for active intervention. From that passing remark we were satisfied that the General, who goes for thorough work, did not admire the dilly-dallying and temporizing policy of Mr. Seward towards Louis Napoleon. Nor do we suppose that the General is altogether satisfied with the success of the Secretary of State in getting rid of the Franco-Austrian imperial usurpation by persistent scolding. Nor is it likely that the do-nothing programme upon which General Rosecrans, our new Minister to the Juarez Government, seems to be acting will be followed under Grant's administration. We expect something better and more comprehensive and decisive from the practical mind of our great soldier. We dare say that Grant has not forgotten (for he was there at the time) the great mistake made by General Scott, when in occupation of the Mexican capital, in refusing to accept the government of the republic as a free gift, and with a splendid salary, and a seat in the cabinet of the United States. We anticipate in some practical shape the revival under President Grant of the grand idea involved in that offer to General Scott, and within the next four years, in all probability, as a territorial delegate to begin with, we shall have a man in Congress from each of the Mexican States. Sooner or later this substantially will be the solution of the Mexican question, and General Grant is the proper man so to settle it.

Senator Hamlin as Vice-President.

From the N. Y. Times.

There is a feeling of general satisfaction at Mr. Hamlin's return to the United States Senate, due to the public appreciation of his own merits and not at all to any dissatisfaction with Mr. Morrill, whom he succeeds. Excesses of this feeling are almost always accompanied with complaints of the injustice done him by the Republican Convention of 1864, in not re-nominating him with Mr. Lincoln for a second term. But this is so clearly unjust, for he failed of a re-nomination, not at all because of any distrust or complaint of his official character, but because it was thought important by those who directed and controlled the sentiment of the Convention, that some prominent Union Democrat from the South should go on the ticket with Mr. Lincoln, then, on the eve of peace, just as Mr. Hamlin, a prominent Union Democrat from the North, had been run with Lincoln in 1860, on the eve of war. When Mr. Seward—and either Senator Morrill, Preston King, or any other prominent New Yorker could have had the nomination for the Vice-Presidency then—but for their peremptory refusal to accept it. But the New York delegation, to whom the selection was conceded by common consent, named Mr. Hamlin because he had been a Democrat up to the Kansas crisis, and had refused to go with his party on that question. Like all the Vice-Presidents Mr. Hamlin had little opportunity to take an active part in the

questions that arose during his official term—and, of course, at its close had no stronger hold on the country or his party than at its beginning. In the Convention of 1864, therefore, while it was conceded that Mr. Lincoln's nomination was essential to the cause of the Union, as an indication of the settled purpose of the people to preserve it, no such importance was attached to the re-nomination of Mr. Hamlin. Every one would have been contented with it, but no one saw any special reason for desiring it, and his name was heard only casually in the canvass. The feeling was very strong that the Vice-President should be a Union man from the Southern States; that the nomination of such a man would be just reward for fidelity to the Union cause under great difficulties, and would facilitate the restoration of the Union upon the downfall of the Rebellion. Mr. Johnson was the most prominent of this class, though there was a strong feeling in favor of Mr. Holt.

There were some who strongly resisted and denounced the nomination of any Southern man, Mr. Thaddeus Stevens being at their head, and their candidate was D. S. Dickinson. The question again, as in the case of this State, turned on the decision of the New York delegation—the issue with them being directly between Johnson and Dickinson, and being finally decided in Johnson's favor by only two majorities. When this vote was thus given in convention, Pennsylvania, which had voted for Hamlin, changed and went with New York, and this virtually settled the question. Mr. Stevens denounced the choice of the Convention, declaring that no Southern man had any right to a place in the Government, or could be trusted in it; but even he neither hinted nor probably felt any special doubt of Mr. Johnson's fidelity to the Union cause, or to the party which had put him in nomination. He probably had towards him very much the same feeling he had towards Mr. Lincoln.

Mr. Hamlin resumes the place he held in the Senate when he was made Vice-President. He commanded general respect for his ability and integrity, and after he joined the Republican party was a staunch and effective supporter of its principles. He has taken very little part in public affairs during the last four years, and is quite free from the dissensions, personal and political, which have grown up in that time. He has the full confidence of the Republicans of his State, and will render good service in the position to which they have called him.

Quarter-Deck Privileges.

From the N. Y. Tribune.

A surgeon in the navy is a human being. Moreover, the presumption is that he is an educated gentleman. We do not by any means assert that he is equal to a rear-admiral, or even, perhaps, to that perfection of promise, a midshipman; but then, when pain and anguish wring the brow, is he not a ministering angel, with his tourniquets, saws, scalpels, probes, lancets, and, moreover, with the skill to use, for the sake of the alleviation of pain, all those ingenious implements? If a line officer should be grievously wounded, and should require instant manipulation, would he consider it to be intrusive on the part of the surgeon to rush upon the quarter-deck to attend to his case? On the contrary, would he not welcome the doctor with delight? It seems, however, that the professional personage is not good enough for those sacred planks. One would that in many cases his company would be sought for the sake of his conversation; that well-merited attention would be pleased to show him merited attention; and that a sentiment of gratitude would save him from insult and neglect. We whose fortune it is to live upon land, make much of our physicians when they bring us balm from Gilead, and a good chat with a good doctor is often found to be much more sanative than all his pills and powders; but seafaring, we suspect, is not promotive of the blander virtues. At any rate, the naval doctors have sent a complaint to Congress that they "are not allowed the privileges of the quarter-deck and the cabin," and a proposal to remedy this evil is now pending in the House of Representatives. We are ashamed to say that to the passage of this measure, which their own ill-manners alone have rendered necessary, there is an organized opposition on the part of the line officers, who are signing and sending in petitions in support of their dignity. We have before known commodores to ill-treat their chaplains, but we should have supposed that common prudence would have kept them from thus rashly offending those to whom their very lives may at any time be committed. The surgeons are not only an officer, but one of the most important officers in the ship's company; for occasions may at any time arise which will make him responsible in some degree for the lives of the men and the consequent safety of the vessel. Unquestionably the result of degrading the officer must be to drive able medical men out of the navy.

While we are perfectly well aware that certain distinctions of rank are necessary for the discipline of the ship, we are equally unable to see how the good of the service is to be promoted by a rigid adherence to the rules, a pulled-up and pompous etiquette. In the army, during the late war, there was always a reasonable degree of familiarity between the officers and the rank and file, and we have never heard that the latter fought a morsel the worse for it. A good officer knows how to secure the respect and obedience of his men without snubbing them; and an admiral who is afraid of losing his dignity by encountering a surgeon on the quarter-deck can have no pretensions to the dignity to lose. At any rate, he will hardly help matters by treating with disrespect one to whom a majority of the crew are commanded to show a studied deference.

If our public ships were commanded by earls, with barons' sons for lieutenants, and baronets' sons for midshipmen, some might think it proper enough to remind the doctors of their low degree. But if we have Democracy everywhere else, what reason is there why we should not have a little of it in our war ships? It is easy even for a landsman to see that sometimes the word of an officer must be imperative, and that it would never do to call a town meeting to consider the propriety of reefing topsails. So, too, if a surgeon is ordered to do something, he must obey, or disobey at the peril of a court of inquiry. All this, however, has nothing to do with the social intercourse of a ship. An admiral who thinks it disgraceful to have a staff officer on his quarter-deck might send him to mess with the men, or might manhood him for making his physician a little too easy. And it is simply because there is a natural tendency in mankind to abuse authority that we find some sea-captains treating their seamen like dogs, and running the risk of damages on getting ashore. Instead of falling into this fault, we believe that a considerate naval officer, since he is forced sometimes to be peremptory, will temper the asperities of his place by a judicious courtesy. A sensible man will know how to do this without in the least lessening the weight of his authority. We may be sure that if the great man be a boor in his manners, those under him in rank will follow his example, until the headless middy will feel quite at liberty to snub the surgeon, unless

the gallant boy happens to have the belly-ache. If any admiral of the rear, or other description, can prove to Congress that the presence of a surgeon on the quarter-deck endangers the ship, then we are in favor of a law forbidding the said surgeon to set foot thereon, under penalty of being straightway knocked down. If line officers think that the service is not grand enough for them, with mere doctors admitted to the privileged place, perhaps it would be well to abolish the doctor altogether, and give up the crew to the medical mercies of the gunner and boatswain. But while the doctor stays in the ship at all, we insist that he should be treated like a gentleman.

Deterioration of the American Senate.

From the N. Y. World.

The new law regulating the election of Senators brings so many of these elections together, that we form a reader estimate of the average fitness of the new members than when they were chosen one by one, according to the caprice of the State legislatures. The general impression produced by the elections last week is humiliatingly unfavorable to the future character of the Senate. Most of the new Senators are men of mediocre talents and standing, and some of them notoriously corrupt in their political morals. The carpet-bag Senators recently admitted from the reconstructed States are of a still lower grade. This great influx of mean abilities and low morals into a body which has for many years lost its former reputation and prestige, forbids alterations in the structure of our Government. The Senate, as now constituted, is a great absurdity, except in connection with State sovereignty and State importance. It is a gross injustice to New York, with its four millions of people, that it should have only the same weight in the Senate as petty States whose population is barely sufficient to entitle them to a single representative in the other House. Its inherent absurdity is attested by the universal sense of the American people, who, in constituting their State Legislatures, have, in no instance, from first to last, organized a Senate on the same principle. In the State governments, the Senate districts, like the Assembly districts, are made equal to one another in point of population, each Senator having a constituency of the same size as every other. The deviation from this equitable rule in the Federal Senate was a concession to the sovereignty of the individual States. But the sovereignty of the States, although it remains true as a constitutional doctrine, has been practically abolished since the advent of the Republican party; and, if the large States are to lose the advantages of sovereignty, there is no reason why they should bear its disabilities and burdens.

In a practical view, there is no section of the country, nor any great interest, which is any longer benefited by the present constitution of the Senate. While slavery existed, and was jealous of its security, the equal representation of the States in the Senate was of great practical consequence. Up to 1850, new States were admitted into the Union in pairs, a new slave State always coming in at about the same time as a new free State. The consequence was, that the South remained equal to the North in the Senate long after the growth of Northern population made it inferior to the South in the representative body. While this equality in the Senate existed, Congress could pass no law to which the slaveholding States made a unanimous opposition. The equality was broken by the admission of California as a free State, which gave the North a preponderance in both branches of Congress. Many sagacious men saw that, from that hour, slavery or the Union was doomed. The door was then finally shut against the admission of any more slave States; and the certain future preponderance of free States would in time make the latter the ablest legislative body in proportion to its size, that the world has ever seen. It was only two-thirds as large as it is at present, and among its members were Daniel Webster, Henry Clay, John C. Calhoun, Silas Wright, James Buchanan, Thomas H. Benton, William C. Rives, Richard H. Bayard, William C. Preston, John Davis, John J. Crittenden, Hugh L. White, and a number of others scarcely less able and distinguished. Of late years the character of this body has been steadily degenerating. The recent admission of the carpet-baggers and the low standing of most of the Senators just elected degrade the body to such a level that it can no longer command the respect of the country. The new accessions of mediocrity and venality must soon bring it into contempt; and the people of the large States will indignantly inquire, why every just principle of representation should be violated to bring together a body of legislators who are a discredit to the country and whose long terms make them practically irresponsible. Any system which should give us a Senate of great ability, dignity, moral elevation, and legislative character, would be strongly interested in the respect and affections of the people, although they might be sensible of the inequality and injustice of the mode of choice; but they will be keenly alive to the defects of the system, when they see it producing such fruits as it is now about to exhibit.

Manhood Rights.

From the Raleigh (N. C.) Standard.

The common school-system, the centre and power of our educational system, the people's colleges, should be found everywhere in our land, with doors wide open, inviting all to enter upon whom God has bestowed the signs of his gift of manhood. Address of Ex-Governor Pollock, of Pennsylvania.

We have reproduced these words in our columns as giving expression to several thoughts that we suppose deserve the attention of all the people in our State who are interested in the work of popular education. The conception of what our common schools should be, as it now holds in the public mind, will determine their character and extent. The creations of men do not usually transcend their idea of what it should accomplish. Our free public schools will not serve any higher purpose than will be fashioned in their plan of organization. This will afford all the education we mean formal education; that nine-tenths of the future citizens of our State will receive. They will be for them the colleges of the State, and are properly named "the people's colleges." This requires that very special attention should be bestowed on them so as to

make them as valuable to the people as possible, that they should be made to afford, as near as can be, all the training that is needed by a citizen of a free government, as fitness for all the responsible positions imposed upon him; that his college training effectively serve him in the vocation in which he serves his generation. It is a question that invites a candid consideration, What amount or degree of education shall the State afford to her children? Does this question now receive the attention it should from our legislators, as they are preparing to enact the law that provides for this education? So much, in our view, of the future of the State depends on this education that, in leaving out of view the personal benefit of individuals, so deeply is the State in her organic life to be affected by it, that, simply as patriots, there is overwhelming interest attaching to the work now in hand by the General Assembly. We do not now intend to criticize the plan that has been prepared by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, nor do we propose to speak of any probable changes to be made upon it. What we are intent upon is, that the schools shall fully realize the ideal of "colleges for the people" in every community, accessible to every child of North Carolina. It is the State's bounty bestowed on them, and it should be worthy of the State, and realize the purpose of its bestowment. We shall not now indicate a curriculum for these public schools, but only ask that such be the course of study prescribed in them that it will serve to fit the pupils for life and its duties, as that life lies open before them under our free Government. There are now incessant crises coming up to the ears of the General Assembly from an effete past—from the lips of stolid prejudice—niggardly, selfish ignorance, and even from a press that sacrifices all to the ungodly ends of partisan success, to deter from an advance step in the education of the masses of the people. Should not the education that the State provides qualify its citizens not only to be intelligent electors, but also qualify them to fill any and all offices and places in the State acceptably and efficiently? Shall those who are expected to serve the State be required to educate themselves for the work at their private cost? Should not the State prepare all, that she may select from the whole number such as she may need? We maintain that the State should afford, in "the people's colleges," education in such departments as are needed to qualify for active duty, in and for the State. Should not every citizen have a correct acquaintance with the history of his State and the Union; with the institutions and laws of the same; with the principles of political economy; with knowledge of such arts and sciences as enter into the employ of the agriculturist and the mechanic? And should not an education, with a view to the business of life and its successful prosecution, be offered at least to the acceptance of all? This it is for our educators to consider, and our General Assembly to give or refuse. Such studies we deem essential to be taught in "the people's college."

In addition to this education afforded, it is demanded in our day that it be unrestricted. In Governor Pollock's words, that the schools, or rather colleges of the State, "institute every one to enter upon whom God has stamped the sign and stamp of manhood." We had such utterances from the Keystone State with emotions of pleasure. Even in that State of Pennsylvania the prejudice of color has been very extreme. When such representative men as Governor Pollock, whom the people have delighted to honor, rise above all contemptible opposition growing out of race, we hope speedily to see the schools of the State and the ballot-box accessible to every one who bears God's "sign and stamp of manhood." It will be a sturdy blow at antiquated ideas before which political party opposition must yield. We are hopeful of a better day when God's image will be acknowledged wherever seen.

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FINANCIAL. THE UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY OFFER A LIMITED AMOUNT OF THEIR First Mortgage Bonds AT PAR. Nine Hundred and Sixty Miles

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Besides a donation from the Government of 12,500 acres of land per mile, the Company is entitled to a subsidy in U. S. Bonds on its line as completed and accepted, at the average rate of about \$20,000 per mile, according to the difficulties encountered, for which the Government takes a second lien as security. The Company has already received \$24,078,000 of this subsidy, being in full on the 140 miles as has been examined by the United States Commissioners. Government Aid—Security of the Bonds. By its charter, the Company is permitted to issue its own FIRST MORTGAGE BONDS to the same amount as the Government Bonds, and no more. These Bonds are a First Mortgage upon the whole road and all its equipments. Such a mortgage upon what, for a long time, will be the only railroad connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, is the highest rank as a safe security. The earnings from the way or local business for the year ending June 30, 1868, on a average of 42 miles, were over FOUR MILLION DOLLARS, which, after paying all expenses, were much more than sufficient to cover all interest liability upon that distance, and the earnings for the last five months have been \$2,388,570. They would have been greater, if the road had not been taxed to its utmost capacity to transport its own material for construction. The income from the great passenger travel, the China Freights, and the supplies for the new Rocky Mountain States and Territories, must be ample for all interest and other liabilities. No political action can reduce the rate of interest. It must remain steady, except in case of a panic, and in such cases, the principal is then payable in gold. If a bond with such guarantees were issued by the Government, its market price would not be less than from 20 to 25 per cent. premium. As these bonds are issued under Government authority and supervision, upon what is very truly a Government work, they must ultimately approach Government prices. The price for the present is PAR. Subscriptions will be received in Philadelphia by

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