

SPRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

Concerning Washington Percentages.

From the N. Y. Tribune. The efforts of the Washington clerks to get twenty, or even ten per cent. extra pay, having been once more killed, we trust that now it may be allowed to stay dead.

It has been a misfortune of the clerks that they have wasted their valuable time on an effort which they have made in vain.

We do not ignore the speciousness, in some respects, sound pleas in favor of liberal dealing with the servants of the Government.

But, aside from the fact that we can select better reasons for a display of liberality than a time when we cannot pay our just debts, we imagine that in Government service, as well as in all other kinds, the law of supply and demand will be expected to exercise a large influence in fixing the rates of wages.

With this prospect in the early future, our Government need be in no haste to make negotiations in reference to Cuba, nor need the partisans of independence within the island fear that the opportunity will slip from their grasp.

Mr. Wells' Report. The Evening Post, in attempting to defend Mr. Wells, says: "After Mr. Wells' report was published, the Tribune insisted, day after day, that it was impossible to learn what amount of duty was collected on, for example, sugar, tea, and spices, and that Mr. Wells was utterly unskillful."

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Dangerous Situation of Spain.

From the N. Y. Herald.

The public advice from the Spanish peninsula continues to teem with indications of disquiet on the part both of the provisional government and the people, while private letters, come from what source or partisan they, or from whatever portion of the country, bear unanimous witness to the general expectation of an early carnival of strife and blood.

The military and privileged classes threatened the country, while the people ate, wore and thought as did their forefathers of three centuries before. With the rail, following and often preceding its advance, came an invasion of French cooks, tailors and milliners.

outward habits, the nation was changing its ideas. When the hour of ripeness came to the court corruption, the people, and even the army, were ready for the change, and the this shell of royalty was found as fragile as that of an egg.

In this condition of things the provisional government was constituted of the three antagonistic elements which it comprised. The monarchial party claimed the first place in the person of General Serrano. The advocates of a radical change, which might become republican or monarchial, as circumstances should warrant, received the command of the army for General Prim, and the judiciary was assigned to the advocates of a still more liberal class of ideas.

Sarranized by this state of intrigue and eavesdropping, the Cortes is called to meet during the present month to determine the new constitution of government and to nominate its head.

It is true, as wise persons in Washington aver it to be, that Mr. Seward means to improve the "shining hour" of his return to private life in a semi-triangular tour throughout South America, this intention of his may perhaps explain his extreme anxiety to defeat General Butler's attempt to reduce our diplomatic expenses by cutting off some and cutting down others of our South American missions.

General Grant and the Democracy.

From the N. Y. Times.

The World's endeavors to excite dissension between General Grant and the Republican majority in Congress are certainly persistent and from a purely party point of view may be deemed praiseworthy.

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or elsewhere, less under the influence of the personal ambition which alone could lead to such issues than General Grant. Nothing in his past career, nothing in his known character, nothing he has ever done, or said, gives the faintest color of decency to such speculations concerning his future course as those in which the World sees fit to indulge.

We do not expect that General Grant will govern his official action by the rules or requirements of party discipline; but we have no idea that he will so far depart from party principles or maxims as to provoke the distrust and hostility of the Republican party.

But we do believe that General Grant will look to the great body of the people, rather than to any mere party, for that support and approval without which a successful administration of the Government is impossible.

Our South American Relations.

From the N. Y. World.

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It is said that a gentleman employed in the State Department to translate documents from foreign languages made the discovery of a list of words or radical members of Congress, lobbyists, and pious brethren of the dead Person Lincoln's church, who were the beneficiaries of this little swindle.

To an ex-public printer, \$500; to a near relative of the Great Commoner, \$10,000; to an ex-Commissioner of Penitentiaries, \$10,000; to the Washington correspondent of a New York radical morning paper, \$500; to a Washington correspondent of a New York radical morning paper, \$500; to a Chicago Democratic morning paper, \$500; to a representative of the Jones family, \$10,000; to an Eastern Senator who had a hand in the late diplomatic swindle, \$10,000; and the great king of the New York lobby, who had the general management of the swindle, received the modest little sum of \$50,000.

This accounts for the business-like visitations of Thurlow Weed to Washington, about the time of the Alaska negotiations. And it will be remembered by the reader that there was a hint at the time that a near friend of the "Great Commoner," old Thad., had received a big plum out of the Alaska cake.

The amiability, the decidedly more than sweet-tempered committee of Congress, which pretended to be investigating this fraud, are ominously silent—nay, indeed, foolishly so; for they ought to pretend to be doing something. They know how to cheat; lying is as easy to them as blowing in a fan, or any other wild instrument; and they ought to at least keep up the appearance of seeking to find out where all the plums of the Alaska cake have gone to.

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diplomatic representatives ought to be the political well as the commercial importance of our relations with the countries to which we send them, and our greater or less facility of communication with those countries.

This intercourse we say is "decaying." This is the lamentable truth. To take but a single example:—Our trade with Peru, which appears in 1864 at no more than a million of dollars, amounted in 1853 to more than five millions.

The Plums of the Alaska Cake.

From "Brick" Pomeroy's N. Y. Democrat.

The radical press has been very adroit in lashing up all reference to the Alaska swindle, by which some lucky brethren of the God-and-morality party must have pocketed among them over two millions of dollars.

It is said that a gentleman employed in the State Department to translate documents from foreign languages made the discovery of a list of words or radical members of Congress, lobbyists, and pious brethren of the dead Person Lincoln's church, who were the beneficiaries of this little swindle.

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