

SPiRiT OF THE PRESS.

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

General Grant and Political Parties— Things to be Remembered.

From the N. Y. Times.

There are some leading facts which it may be well for those who are so anxious concerning General Grant's party relations and probable action to bear in mind.

1. That General Grant never was a member of the Republican party until after the war.

2. That he was nominated at Chicago not mainly because he was a Republican, but because he had more of the confidence of the people than any other man in the country.

3. That the canvass proved that he was stronger with the country than the party, and received a great many votes and a great moral support from outside the party limits.

4. That his hold on the confidence of the country is quite as strong to-day as it ever was, and is not likely to be forfeited or lessened by any rash or reckless action on his part.

These considerations combine to give General Grant a degree of independence, in his official action, which few of his predecessors have ever had. The people do not expect or desire him to be a mere party President.

5. That throughout the war General Grant received no support from the Democratic party, and always regarded its action as hostile to the cause of the Union, which the war was waged to sustain.

6. That after the war he took more than one occasion to say that no party which, during the war, failed to do its utmost in support of the Government deserved the confidence of the country.

7. That he has more than once declared that he had far more toleration for Southern men who went into the rebellion than for Northern men who did not do all in their power to put it down.

8. That he regards the efforts to obstruct and embarrass the Government in its endeavors to reorganize Southern society on the basis of existing laws as hostile to the peace, which is essential to the prosperity of the country.

9. That in accepting the nomination of the Republican party, he evinced and declared his reliance upon that party, rather than any other, to restore harmony to the nation, and bring the Government back to its natural and beneficial course of operation.

While General Grant has a right, therefore, to expect from the Democratic party such a degree of support as the wisdom and justice of his official action may deserve, there is no reason to suppose that he will look for, or try to get, anything more at its hands.

10. That any of the patronage of his office will be offered as a consideration for Democratic support, no one for a moment dreams. And that he will shape his measures with a view to securing Democratic favor, any further than to make them such as will deserve the favor of all, there is no more reason to suppose.

11. More party considerations of any kind, we think, will enter much less into General Grant's administration than many suppose.

12. His first aim will be to deserve the favor and support of all honest and patriotic men of all parties, by doing that which will best promote the welfare and prosperity of the whole country. That there is any better way than this of securing the support of his own party, none but its enemies will for a moment pretend.

The St. Domingo Job.

From the N. Y. Times.

We are quite prepared to credit the rumors connecting the St. Domingo annexation scheme with private, speculative, and even corrupt considerations.

Some hypotheses of this nature are requisite to render intelligible the project of annexation. On its merits, such a project could not stand a day. It involves an admission to the responsibilities of our Government, a serious embarrassment to the work of pacification, and a sure source of financial difficulty.

Grant and Ben. Butler.

From the N. Y. Herald.

On the whole historic canvass perhaps no figure has ever stood out in such singular, solitary, and, in some sense, sublime grandeur as at this moment does that of General Grant.

Patents.

OFFICE FOR PROCURING PATENTS, FORRETT BUILDING, AND MARBLE BUILDING, No. 119 SOUTH FOURTH ST., PHILADELPHIA.

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THE NEW BARON OF MORALITY.

From the N. Y. World.

Could anything be more inexcusably disgraceful than the attempt which has been made in Congress to cheat the widows of soldiers out of the miserably pittance to which they are entitled under the pension law, and to place the character of these women as well as their money at the mercy of the caprice, the capriciousness, or the last of the distasteful officers of the Pension Bureau?

There is a generation that curseth their father and doth not bless their mother; a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet are not washed from their filthiness; a generation whose eyes are lofty, and their eyes lifted up on high; a generation that for their teeth have swords, and grindeth with their jaw-teeth, to devour the needy from off the earth and the poor from among men.

Here you have the party of moral ideas photographed to the life, and never were their hypocrisy, their self-righteousness, and their insufferable meanness made so vividly apparent as they were by this proposition to turn the Pension Office into a bureau of morality, and to compel every woman who presents herself to receive her pension to come armed with a certificate of good character, and to disprove any allegations against her chastity which malice, envy, or lust may have contrived to invent.

It appears that the moral sense of the Commissioner of Pensions has been shocked by the discovery, fancied or real, that some of the widows borne upon the pension rolls of the United States "were cohabiting with married men, and that they had committed the crime and living in open prostitution," and he became at once taken up with zeal that "the Government should not be unwittingly placed in the strange attitude of offering a premium on immorality."

The method which he, or rather the members of Congress whom he inspired, proposed for the cure of this evil, and for bringing back these erring women to the paths of virtue, was substantially simple and severe. It was to starve them into chastity; to withdraw the annual stipend upon which they were leading a life of riotous profligacy and unbounded luxury, at the rate of eight dollars a month; and to tame the fever of their blood by cutting off their hair.

It might have occurred to any one who was not a very moral philosopher that, if it were true that the widow of a soldier was leading a life of shame, her downfall might be traced, not to the fact that she had too much money, but rather that she had too little, and that the Government might be placed in the strange attitude of offering a premium on morality if a little of the money which is yearly squandered for the good of the party were devoted to creating the stipends of pensioned widows, placing them above the reach of temptation and relieving them from the pressure of absolute want, and that good results might also follow a reform in the whole matter of disbursing pensions, since, under the present system, frauds innumerable and grievous are constantly practised upon the pensioners, and in many cases the money due them is withheld, month after month, on the most frivolous and vexatious pretences, swelling meanwhile the bank account of the pension agents, and bringing to him a handsome interest.

All this, however, has nothing to do with the principle involved in the pension law. The pension law, placed before the House of Representatives by the Hon. Mr. Perham, "of the cold and frigid regions of Maine," that the payment of a pension to the widow of a soldier should be made contingent upon her chastity.

There was no such stipulation in the contract which the wives of the soldiers of our army made with the Government when they gave up their husbands to its service.

It was not so nominated in the bond. The contract simply was that, if the husband of a woman was slain, she should receive, as the price of his life, a certain pittance of money, to be paid her so long as she did not take to herself another husband. It was a hard bargain at the best, and none but a hard philosopher would dream of now

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