## THE DALL'I EVENING TELEGRAPH-PHILADELPHIA, MONDAY, MARCH 1,

# SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

ROITORIAL OFINIORS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS-COMPILED BYREY DAY FOR THE EVENING TELEORAPH.

## The Cabinet. From the N. Y. T.mes.

We regret to find that we wounded the sensibilities of our triend of the fribune by the bit of what we deemed harmless badinage in regard to the Cabinet, the other day. We did not think it possible he could be offended by it, as he had not seemed to be by the much more elaborate, and less evident, badinage of the Sun about his going as Minister to Eagland. We are quite willing to concede the "cheapness of the wit," but we demur to the imputation of "discourtesy." Meantime we know of no better service we can render, by way of atonement, than to give currency to the Tribune's assurance:--

"The Times may as well now state the well-understood truth that 'H. Greeley' never de-clines, nor evinces a purpose to decline, an office or nomination which has not been ten-dered him. Adherence to this rule has gene-rally obviated any necessity for declining at all."

That is quite true, and possibly it is that, and that alone, which has generally saved him the necessity of declining at all. But we presume it is his well-understood willingness to accept the office (and possibly it was that alone) which has led to his name being so generally connected with the position of Postmaster General. But on the strength of the Tribune's rather petulant protest, we feel quite at liberty to withdraw it from the jocose programme we ventured to publish two or three days ago. Any other one of the gentlemen mentioned can have his name withdrawn on application; but we advise them to do, as Mr. H. Greeley has not done-wait till they are appointed before they decline.

## The Senate and the Debt. From the N. Y. Times.

The country is so accustomed to the slow movements and procrastinating habits of the Senate when practical reforms are to be achieved, that the failure thus far to touch the bill prohibiting any increase of the goldbearing debt excites no surprise. It is a simple and obviously beneficial measure, involving no difficulty of theory or practice, and ought to be disposed of without delay. But the Senatorial tashion of talking everything to death may deteat even this bill. It still lingers in the Finauce Committee, where its fate is further jeopardized by conflict with the prearranged plans of Mr. Sherman. There is nothing half so dangerous as a pet financial theory. And as Mr. Sherman would cure financial ills by increasing the most oppressive form of the debt as a result of putting greenbacks out of the way, it is perhaps natural that he should wish to smother a bill which assumes that that debt is sufficiently large already, and aims at preventing its increase. But Mr. Sherman's partiality for his hobby, though it may explain, will not excuse, the suppression of one of the most useful measures of the session.

The positions assumed respectively by the House and Senate on financial questions differ somewhat from those with which public opinion has commonly associated them. The House has been suspected of heresies; the Senate has rejoiced in a reputation for orthodoxy. The events of the present session have altered the relation. The House has proved tself desirous of strengthening the public credit, and by a series of acts has contributed to the marked increase of confidence which is revealed in the rapid rise of our securities ava referre as slumbering in the Senate committee is one of these, and by no means the least important. The Senate, meanwhile, indulges its fondness for debate by nursing Mr. Sherman's scheme for increasing the debt, the enactment of which would neutralize all the good effected by the judicious action of the House. The promise of Mr. Sherman to push forward Mr. Schenck's Public Credit and Coin Payment bill is good as far as it goes. But if he would do his whole duty to the public credit, he will not let the session close without finishing the effective means devised by the House for stopping the growth of the goldbond debt.

extent to which they might be jeopardized and injured.

In the selection of a candidate for the Internal Revenue Commissionership, General Grant must expect an immense pressure on the part of the "whicky ring." Every infla-ence, of course, will be brought to bear, and every expedient resorted to which human ingenuity can suggest, by those whose interest it is to secure a man for the place who will lend himself, either directly or indirectly, to their designs. The rivg are parfectly well aware that, with a competent and upright man in the office, the frauds in whisky, which are going on to this day in the open market and under the very nose of the officials, would be broken up. It is idle to talk of Mr. Rollins' probity or capacity while his bureau is in the condition it is-s condition of disorganization and demoralization, not to say corruption. It is not much to his credit that he has permitted his whole office to be run by a lique who have recklessly trifled with the national interests. If he had been mentally fit for the post he has so long disgraced and so stubbornly held in defiance of the popular condemnation of his conduct, the whisky and tobacco frauds throughout the country would never have thriven as they have done; that is, assuming him to really be what his friends claim that he is-thoroughly honest. He would have purified his bureau, broken up

the pernicious set of understrappers who have worked the office business in their own interest, and displaced some individuals who are strongly suspected of corruption. General Grant should understand, in making

a choice for the place, that simple honesty alone is not sufficient. What is wanted is combined integrity and ability-ability of a high order; and until the post is thus filled. there will be no improvement over the pre-sent order of things. At this hour, illicit whisky floods the market, even under the low rate of tax, which it was confidently and reasonably expected would insure honest payment upon the whole dutiable production. With energy, determination, and ability at the head of this bureau, there would be no such condition of things. Let General Grant put an honest and expable man in Rollins' place, and the country will soon perceive the difference between the results of an efficient and inefficient administration.

#### Mullins. From the N. Y. World.

Will the Honorable Mullins, of Tennessee have the goodness to let the Angel Gabriel alone! In a general way, we have no particular objection to Mullins. He is to the average stupidity and monotonousness of the average radical member of Congress in this country what the late Colonel Sibthorp so long was to the average stupidity and monotonousness of the average Tory member of Parliament in Great Britain. Mullins cheers us, and, as we are glad to believe, without inebriating himself. Mallins sober is more muddled and more amusing than nine in ten of his colleagues would be drunk. Mullins on mules, for example, on Friday entertained the House and the country very agreeably; and the gifts of Mullins, in the character of "Mark Antony" pronouncing funeral orations, have heretofore received in these columns ne stinted praise or inadequate exposition. It would really gratify us to have Mullins both praise and bury the vast majority of his fellow-members. But we decidedly object to the interference of Mullins with the Angel Gabriel. In one of his "obsequious" orations, the other day delivered, Mullins alluded to the trumpet of Gabriel as a "catastrophe," and now in a financial speech he turns the Archangel into an artilleryman, and declares that certain things will not be achieved until "Gabriel snaps his resurrection gun !" We pray Mullins to understand, once for all, that the Angel Gabriel is no radical. His "trumpet" is a trumpet not of self-praise but of judgment; and, instead of cannonading the universe, the Angel's chief connection with our poor human history has been to announce the coming upon earth of the Prince of Peace. We do not require of Mullins either discourse of reason or actions of wisdom. But we protest, in the name of piety and decorum, against his irreverent and ignorant misrepresentation of anything more sacred than the "troely loil" sentiment of Eastern Tennessee.

ant places have been used with utter disre- | largely contributed. Mr. Bright is the very gard for the interests of honest citizens or the | man to take up the question of cheap ocean extent to which they might be jeopardized postage. It is one of those improvements which to prove successful requires only the advocacy of such a map. The times are ripe for a change. There is but one argument that can be used sgainst ocean penny postage-that it will not pay. This, however, is an argument that has no solid foundation to rest upon. All the facts are against it. It is a truth which cannot be gainsaid, that in proportion as national and international postage tas been cheapened, so has it become serviceable and so has it proved remunerative. The ties which now bind Great Britain to the United States are so numerous and so strong that facilities for the communication of thought and feeling, not to speak of more substantial interchanges, for the present cannot be sufficlently multiplied. A two cent postage be-tween this country and Great Britain would be immediately followed by a similar arrangement between this country and Germany. The arrangement would be a gain to all concerned. It would be a special gain to the United States, for which reason we hope, not merely that Mr. Bright will keep up the fire, but that it will be warmly responded to on this side. The thing has but to be started to prove a success.

#### An Impudent Politiciau. From the N. Y. Berald.

Mr. McClure wants General Grant to appoint to his Cabinet from Pennsylvania some man who will keep the Republican party in that State together-who will vitalize it, and make it "pulsate." This is the true political argument, and what these words as used by politicians mean can be understood when people understand McClure. McClure some months ago went out to the Indian country, and there saw how things coald be done in the way of a big job. His eyes were opened-he was excited. He must get that thing in his hands somehow. Curtin is McClure's man McClure pulls the wires that move Curtin in the eyes of the public, just as Thurlow Weed has pulled the wires for many political pup-pets from this State. McClure's plan, then, was to make Curtin Secretary of the Interior. and through him as such Secretary to get possession of the Indians. This is the whole of it. This is what his concern for the "Republican party" means, and this is the beginning, the middle, and the end of all that he had in view in his indecorous assault on the President-elect.

#### Emigration to the South. From the N. Y. Tribune.

We receive almost every day inquiries about Southern lands from Northern farmers who want to emigrate. It is impossible for us to advise all these correspondents as to particular localities, for a country that would snit one would not snit all. We are glad to perceive that the Southern railroad companies have combined to facilitate the diffusion of information respecting these millions of rich acres which await the hand of industry, and to diffuse it, too, in the only way which can be of much practical use, namely, by enabling farmers to go and apy out the land for themselves. A convention of officers, representing between thirty and forty roads, met in Atlanta on the 4th of January, and adopted a system of excursion tickets, at greatly re duced rates, for actual settlers or for persons who wish to examine the country with a view to settlement or investment. There is a vast extent of country between the Potomac, Ohio, and Mississippi rivers where skilled labor is badly wanted, land cheap, and nature prodigal of her gifts to those who have the industry to gather them. The regeneration of this region we believe is to be effected by the stardy farmers of the North. But it en difficult for them to select homes in



and Other Principal Cities, and Letters

PHILADELPHIA. MARSHALL Street, above Poplar.

## General Grant and the Internal Revenue Bureau.

### From the N. Y. World,

It may possibly be that Mr. Rollins, after a dozen feints in that direction, will actually go out of office on the incoming of the new ad-ministration. The belief that he may do so is strengthened by the statement that he has made an engagement with Jay Cooke to take the Boston agency for one of that gentleman's finance genemes which has received the favor of Congress, and also by the fact that he cannot decently retain the post longer than the fourth of next month. When he does go out one of the most important offices under Government will become vacant, and General Grant should realize the full measure of the responsibility which will rest upon him in filling it. President Johnson has been repeatedly accused by radical journals with having been the sole cause of the deep demoralization which has marked the whole revenue service since he succeeded to the Presidential chair; but little has been said as to the Senate's agency in the matter. The simple truth is, neither the President nor the Senate have realized that the Revenue Bureau is a great trust. Appointments of assessors and collectors have been made from political considerations alone, and the natural consequence has been that places of great importance and power have been filled by incapacity and rascality, effectively protected in the perpetration of wrong by the Tenure of Office bill. Instead of these posts being filled for reasons of fitness, they have been filled for political reasons. Some of the outrages committed upon the people by the Senate through these appointments are already well known to many in the community. The cases, however, of the five Republicans holding internal revenue posts whom the Presi-dent was absolutely compelled to suspend under the Tenure-of-Office act may not be so widely known as they deserve to be. Although the Senate was perfectly aware that the course of the Executive in this matter was in compliance with the recommendation of Mr. Rollins, and that the latter official had withstood all pressure and allowed the five to go unchecked as long as the local public sentiment would possibly permit, that body firmly refused to confirm a single one of the suspensions, and never did do so. Of the five, one died before legal action against him was consummated; they were convicted of official corruption and imprisoned; and the remaining one, Collector James, of Richmond notoriety, was actually restored to office by the Senate with the proofs of his crime be-fore its face, and in face of the report against him, made by its own Finance Committee, and it is likely that he would have been in the office to this day but for the developments in a case tried in the adjoining district which fastened guilt firmly upon him. This is but one out of many cases that could be quoted to illustrate the manner in which these import-

**Becovery of the Second Cuba Cable.** From the N. Y. Herald.

It will be remembered by our readers that the attempt of the International Ocean Telegraph Company to lay a second cable between Key West and Havana failed last year from the drifting too far to the eastward of the steamer Narva while laying it, and the consequent necessity of dropping some miles from the shore the end that was to have been landed in Cuba. The one was buoyed, but the buoy-rope broke one hundred and twentyfive fathoms below the surface, and hence the necessity for grappling for the cable in the same manner that the Great Eastern grappled for the first Atlantic cable. The work to recover the Cuba cable was performed under very different circumstances from that of recovering the Atlantic cable. The latter lay at a depth of one thousand nine hundred and eighty fathoms, on a level-bottom, under still water; while the Cuba cable was lost at a depth of eight hundred fathoms, on an uneven bottom, and with a vast volume of water driving over it at an average rate of four miles an bour.

Preparations for the work were made by placing on the steamer New England machinery similar to that used for recovering the lost Atlantic cable on board the Great Rastern. Owing to the strength of the current, the grappling ropes were required to be unnanally strong. They consisted of sixteen steel wires, each encased in Manilla hemp, and laid up in strands of four each. This rope was divided into lengths of two hundred fathoms, with shackles and swivels between each. The point where the cable was found was passed over with the grapples six times, and thrice the cable was caught. On the first occasion the cable parted, through some fault in the machinery, and the second time it parted at a splice, a heavy sea running. On the 15th of February it was caught sgain and successfully raised and landed, and now we have a double cable to Cuba as we have to Europe. The operations were performed under the personal supervision of General William F. Smith, President of the International Telegraph Company, and Sir Charles Bright, Engineer-inchief of the company. This event is another assurance of the practicability of handling ocean cables and laying them, and will conduce to strengthen the science of ocean telegraphy.

John Bright on Ocean Penny Postage. From the N. Y. Herald

At a banquet of the Associated Chambers of Commerce held the other evening in London John Bright made a characteristic speech, and urged, we are told, the importance and neces-sity of adopting the system of ocean penny postage. There is no public man living now in England whose name is so extensively and honorably associated with reform as John Bright. Since 1832 up until the present time there has been no reform movement in Great Britain to the success of which he has not

South. The distances are great, and fares the Southern roads are very high. This arrangement will remove the difficu Holders of excursion certificates will be ta at the rate of two cents a mile over any of thirty-odd roads which have joined in agreement, and actual settlers at the rat one cent a mile. A great number of least hotels in Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, sissippi, North Carolina, South Carolina ginia, and Georgia will deduct one-third f their usual charges in favor of the same sons. Most of the roads in question are the Southwest, forming a complete netw from Louisville to New Orleans, Mobile, Charleston; but there are some also in ginia and North Carolina.

Fuller particulars as to roads and distan and the conditions on which excursion tificates are granted, can be obtained of G Huntington, No. 229 Broadway, New Ye The arrangement is to remain in force p

the 1st of July.

### Advising General Grant. From the N. Y. Tribune.

It has not seemed to us advisable to pr any counsel whatever to the President-elec to the formation of his Cabinet. We h several excellent reasons for his retice only one of which need be mentionednamely, that he has not asked our advic the premises. The others may or may no equally good, but it cannot be necessar adduce them.

For, while we do not question the right any citizen to volunteer suggestions in premises, and would by no means incite President to disregard and defy the wish his friends, we do insist that his own pers judgment and wishes should have very weight in the selection of those high f tionaries who are to be his confidential of advisers, probably throughout his tern service. They are to be his familiar of associates, his intimate, trusted counsel e must rely implicitly on their integrity fidelity; he must, to a great extent, through their eyes, remove and appoin the strength of their recommendations, be honored or disgraced in the public est tion as they shall do well or ill. It ma too much to call them his personal or staff; yet it is simple truth to say that stand to him in a confidential relation of timacy and trust which imperatively dem that they shall be emphatically the m his choice, and not imposed upon him by

tical combinations or personal pressure. The administration will be known in tory as his; he must and will be judge measured by its success or failure; and terity will not admit as valid the plea i behalf-"He would have succeeded ha been surrounded by the right men;" fo ready, unanswerable retort will be-"It his duty as well as his privilege to be surrounded; he had no moral right to round himself with others; and if he cumbed to dictation and accepted as head departments men whom he did not dee test for such grave responsibilities, he t in proved himself unfit for his own high

In saying this, we indicate no opini our part that those whom the new Pres may call into his councils are abler or wor than others whom his choice will exclud only that his personal preference is entit peculiar and even paramount weight choice of Cabinet officers.

-The wolf bounty in Minnesota has been reduced from \$10 to \$3 per head.

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