

SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

The Finale of Johnsonism.

Yesterday was the last day of the Presidency of Andrew Johnson. Elected Vice-President by the great party that carried the republic successfully through the trials and struggles incident to the most formidable rebellion known, and speedily elevated to the Presidency by the pistol of a Rebel assassin, he disdained his inauguration as Vice-President and disgraced his country by uttering a drunken, incoherent farago of nonsense before the official representatives of all civilized nations, while the gaze of mankind was fixed upon him, and signaled his accession to the Presidency by most intemperate denunciations of vengeful inflictions on the now prostrate Rebels—infusions often imposed on the vanquished, but never gloated over in advance, nor boasted of, by victors who respect themselves or the opinions of mankind. His subsequent transition from "breathing out threatenings and slaughter" against the rebel chiefs and insisting on his right to hang some of them in defiance of General Grant's parole, to complete identification with their views and interests, and the most sweeping condonation of their offenses, is characteristic of his selfish, passionate, capricious, headlong career. Throughout his Presidential service it is quite within the truth to say that he has done his best to earn the detestation of those who elected and the contemptuous plaudits of those who would much sooner have voted to hang him—who eagerly profited by the treason, but despised the traitor. Mr. Johnson will leave behind him in Washington the good-will of every man who exulted over the Rebel triumph at Bull Run and ardently longed for the triumphal entry of Lee's army into the capital; he will return to Tennessee escorted and cheered from city to city by those who wished success to the Rebellion, and shunned by nineteen-twentieths of all who wished that Rebellion overthrown. If he becomes a candidate for Governor of Tennessee, he will receive the votes of nearly all who would have killed him in 1862 if they could, and will be badly beaten by the votes of nearly all those who rejoiced over him as the one Tennessee Democrat whose soul was untainted by treason.

Mr. Johnson was closely followed in his apostacy by three United States Senators, and a little way by several others, whom a whole-some dread of their constituents soon returned to the part of loyalty and duty. We propose to speak here only of the fated three.

Mr. James Dixie was twice (in '45 and '47) chosen (from the Hartford district) a Representative of Connecticut in Congress, and has since been twice (in '56 and '62) elected by the Republicans to serve a full term of six years in the Senate. An amiable and courteous, rather than an earnest or strong man, Mr. Dixie owes much to his personal assiduity and tact in pushing his own fortunes; yet even he cannot doubt that few men ever received so much from a great and intellectual party who gave so little in return for it.

A Whig by education and conviction, he became a Republican through the force of circumstances, and had hardly secured his second term in the Senate when he was seen to falter by the way. In the Presidential canvass of 1864, though Connecticut was one of the most doubtful of the many hard-fought States, persistent efforts to induce him to raise his voice for Mr. Lincoln's reelection were baffled; heart disease was (very properly) pleaded as his excuse for silence; he could not even be induced to affix his signature to the avowal—"I desire the reelection of Abraham Lincoln to the Presidency." Of course, he sank naturally into the slough of Johnsonism, and has for two years past been in full affiliation with the sham Democracy, who gave him their votes last summer for a third term in the Senate, and are now running him in his old district for the House. And this is as it should be. Let him descend all the rounds of the ladder he ascended, and, having been run out of the Senate for his apostacy, let him be excluded from the House for the same reason. He will then be just where he started, save that he has got over to the wrong side of the fence, and will henceforth find his friends among those who throughout his better days were his enemies.

Mr. James R. Doolittle of Wisconsin began his career as a New York Democrat, and as such participated in the "Barnburner" revolt of 1848—impelled, we must conclude, rather by his affiliations than his convictions or his sympathies. When that revolt was quelled, he went back to his first love; supporting Barstow for Governor and Pierce for President. When the Republican party was organized, he stood about till late in '68, when he became satisfied that it was certain to triumph in Wisconsin in any how. He thereupon went in, and had hardly been three months in the Republican party when he became its candidate for the United States Senate! Whether his ability or his assurance was the more influential therein, we cannot say; we only know that he had the address to be preferred to better men who had never cast an anti-Republican vote, and was duly elected. He stayed with us just long enough to secure his reelection—some six years and a half in all—for which he was rewarded with twelve years in the Senate. If any one can shave the wind closer than that, we should like to see him try. Able, adroit, and early schooled in the arts of the self-seeking politician, he has for years done his "level best" against the party which so honored and trusted him; and he figured in our late Presidential canvass as Chairman of the Seymour and Blair Democratic National Committee. He worked like a beaver, with tongue and pen, to defeat General Grant, and his labors were crowned with the largest Republican vote and the most sweeping Republican victory ever realized in Wisconsin. We believe the majority there would have been 20,000 had he remained faithful; it was swelled to 24,152 by the intensity of the popular detestation of Doolittle, his works and his ways. Being now out of a situation, we respectfully suggest to Mr. Doolittle the expediency of emigration. Wisconsin has had a surfeit of him; but this city—which has absorbed Jack Rogers, Sunset Cox, and ever so much more of the debris of past campaigns—can surely make room for one more. Let him come to New York, by all means, and take a fresh start.

General Grant's Views About His Cabinet.
From the N. Y. World.

We are constrained to say at least this in General Grant's favor: that he is a growing man, and evinces a rare capacity to improve by experience. Completely in the dark as the country is kept respecting the composition of the new Cabinet, it is evident enough, from the stiffness with which General Grant declines advice and repels intrusion, that he holds a very decided opinion of his right to be the most perfect freedom of choice. He repulses all interference because he regards the selection of his confidential advisers as his own sole prerogative; as a thing which so peculiarly concerns him that he will brook no

merely no outside dictation, but no outside counsel. All this shows that, within the last year, General Grant has been making a very commendable proficiency in his political education—at least upon this particular subject. About a year ago General Grant was one of the most active, and by all odds the most efficient man in the country in forcing upon President Johnson a member of the Cabinet whom he did not want. Had it not been for General Grant's unexpected tactics—tactics by which President Johnson was taken in and deceived—the President would have had no difficulty in getting rid of Stanton. General Grant's views at that time respecting the right of the President to be the sole judge whom he would have in his Cabinet, were very different from the views which he holds on that subject at present. Everybody recalls a remarkable letter which he wrote to President Johnson protesting against the removal of Stanton on the ground that the people demanded his retention. General Grant has surprisingly outgrown the idea that public opinion should be consulted and deferred to by the President in the choice of his confidential advisers.

General Grant's notions as to his exclusive rights in this matter are so high and strict that he will not even tolerate the advice of his friends; and yet he is the same man who, a year ago, aided in an effort to compel President Johnson to take a member of his Cabinet from the dictate of his enemies. In a letter which General Grant wrote to the President about the time that the question of veracity was raised between them, he explained his motives for accepting the office of Secretary of War *ad interim* in a manner which contrasts oddly enough with his present estimate of his own rights. He then wrote:—"From our conversation and my written protest of August 1, 1867, against the removal of Mr. Stanton, you must have known that my greatest objection to his removal was the fear that some one would be appointed in his stead who would, by opposition to the laws relating to the restoration of the Southern States to their proper relation to the Government, embarrass the army in the performance of the duties especially imposed upon it by the laws, and that it was to prevent such an appointment that I accepted the appointment of Secretary of War *ad interim*, and not for the purpose of enabling you to get rid of Mr. Stanton." In the same letter he says that he urged the President to appoint Governor Cox, of Ohio, Secretary of War in Stanton's place. General Grant surely did not entertain, at that time, his present high notions about the right of the President to be the sole judge whom he would have in his Cabinet, or the impertinence of giving him advice on that subject. General Grant not only presumed to give to President Johnson a kind of advice which he permits nobody to give to him, but when the advice was not taken he accepted the office himself for the sole purpose of preventing the President making his own selection. Having thus bridged over the interval till the meeting of the Senate, General Grant, when the Senate was in session, actively co-operated with the President's enemies in thrusting back upon him a recusant member of the Cabinet, with whom he could have no official intercourse; with whom he was not even on speaking terms. It is very pleasing to witness the ripening influence of General Grant's election upon his political education! If his progress has been equally rapid on all other subjects, we shall not despair of finding him, on the whole, a tolerably satisfactory President.

The novel course which General Grant has been pursuing in relation to his Cabinet can easily be justified. It has an excellent tendency to educate his political party to just views of the independent authority of the President—a kind of education which the Republican party greatly needs. It is true that most of the party leaders do not take very kindly to the lesson; but if he perseveres, there is no telling what he may not accomplish in time. If he could have taken his pupils in hand at an earlier stage, his success might not have been so slow; as it is, it is a very wise observation how much more difficult it is to unlearn errors than to instill truth into minds that are not preoccupied. It is like the difference between writing upon a clean sheet of white paper and preparing a scrawled and blotched sheet for new writing. If General Grant's course is unusual, it must be remembered in, extenuation, that the circumstances which they had undertaken to raise, and the outbreak in November last seem to have taken them completely by surprise. The Hau-Haus leader commenced hostilities early in the month, compelled the colonial forces opposed to him to retreat, and, finally, with 400 men surprised a pah, or palisaded entrenchment, from which he repulsed nearly an equal number of Europeans and friendly natives, the assailants losing their commander, and with great difficulty rescuing his corpse from the tomahawks of the savages. Then came the Poverty Bay affair, in which nearly every white man, woman, and child in the settlement was put to death by a band of Hau-Haus, who rode into it in the dead of night, in many cases killing their helpless victims in bed. After this, the war seems to have been not unnaturally taken up by the colonial authorities in a spirit of extermination, as far, at least, as regarded the Hau-Haus, and preparations were made on the largest scale that the revenues of the colonists admitted of. Now, at length, their efforts appear to have been successful, and a decided victory has been achieved with inconsiderable loss—ninety Maories killed and wounded, with a loss of only three wounded Europeans. It is clear that in this case somewhat more generalship must have been exhibited by the British commander than has been customary in New Zealand wars. If the Maories had not been caught at a disadvantage, they would never have allowed their foes to gain such a bloodless victory. Behind entrenchments, they have more to offer, and once proved a match for fully their own number of British troops.

It is to be hoped that, while the whites, both British and colonial, will vigorously follow up their success against the Hau-Haus, or irclaimable savages, they will do their best to abstain from needless or indiscriminate slaughter, and that, if possible, the great problem as to whether a race like the Maori can be saved from extinction in the face of advancing civilization may be solved in the affirmative. The English in New Zealand have much the same difficulties to deal with, though on a smaller scale, that we have on the Plains. It remains to be seen how far they will be successful in dealing with them.

General Grant's Views About His Cabinet.
From the N. Y. Herald.

In 1859 Massachusetts received the principal of the debt due her by the United States for money advanced during the war of 1812-15. She was glad enough to get that, for her debtor refrained from bringing in a counter bill for damages occasioned by the use of blue lights by Massachusetts citizens for the benefit of the enemy during the war. The principal of this debt was obtained through the influence of that "arid-land" Jeff Davis, and even after paying the lobby bills a handsome bonus was left for the treasury of the State, the receipt of which was acknowledged in full liquidation of the claim, principal and interest. Now, after a lapse of forty-seven years,

Mr. Sumner, in the Senate, puts in a bill for the interest on the debt, which he claims to amount to the snug little sum of five million dollars. Besides all this, it appears that the claim has been transferred to some railroad corporation in Massachusetts, and, in short, is but another of those swindling railroad schemes and jobs to rob the public treasury which confer inevitable disgrace upon legislation in Washington. If the claim be persisted in, the following would be a good way to draft the bill:

UNCLE SAM.—To the Commonwealth of Massachusetts: De:-
To interest on money advanced for
the payment of debts in 1812-15..... \$5,000,000
Per CONTRA—Commonwealth of Massachusetts to Uncle Sam: De:-
To damage done American prestige
and credit by the use of blue lights
against the enemy, and
obstacles thrown in the way of
a successful prosecution of the war
by the Hartford Convention. In
which movement Massachusetts
cordially sympathized..... 20,000,000

Balance in favor of Uncle Samuel, less interest..... \$15,000,000

—which the aforesaid Commonwealth is expected to fork over to General Grant's Secretary of the Treasury, when that functionary shall be appointed.

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The First Mortgage Bonds,

HAVING 30 YEARS TO RUN,

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For \$1000 1881, we pay a difference of..... \$134-17
\$1000 1862, we pay a difference of..... 141-92
\$1000 1863, we pay a difference of..... 107-92
\$1000 1865, Nov., we pay a diff. of..... 121-98
\$1000 10-40, we pay a difference of.... 90-42
\$1000 1865, July, we pay a difference of 100-42
\$1000 1867, July, we pay a difference of 104-17
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Or in proportion, as the market for Government Securities may fluctuate.

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Compound Interest Notes Wanted.

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FIRE AND BURGLAR PROOF SAFE
CHAMPION SAFES!

PHILADELPHIA, January 15, 1869.

Messrs. FARREL, HERRING & CO.,
No. 629 CHESTNUT STREET.

Gentlemen.—On the night of the 13th instant, as is well known to the citizens of Philadelphia, our large and extensive store and valuable stock of merchandise, No. 629 Chestnut street was burned.

The fire was one of the most extensive and destructive that has visited our city for many years, the heat being so intense that even the marble cornice was almost obliterated.

We had, as you are aware, two of your valuable and well-known CHAMPION FIRE-PROOF SAFES; and nobly have they vindicated your well-known reputation as manufacturers of FIRE-PROOF SAFES, if any further proof had been required.

They were subjected to the most intense heat, and it afford us much pleasure to inform you that after recovering them from the ruins, we found upon examination that our books, papers, and other valuables, were all in perfect condition.

Yours, very respectfully,
JAS. E. CALDWELL & CO.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 18, 1869.

Messrs. FARREL, HERRING & CO.,
No. 629 CHESTNUT STREET.

Gentlemen.—I had one of your make of safes in the basement of J. E. Caldwell & Co.'s store at the time of the great fire on the night of the 13th instant. It was removed from the ruins to-day, and on opening it I found all my books, papers, greenbacks, watches, and watch materials, etc., all preserved. I feel glad that I had one of your truly valuable safes, and shall want another of your make when I get located.

Yours, very respectfully,
F. L. KIRKPATRICK,
with J. E. Caldwell & Co.,
No. 629 Chestnut street.

FARREL, HERRING & CO.,

CHAMPION SAFES,

No. 629 CHESTNUT Street,

FROM THE GREAT FIRE
IN MARKET STREET.