## SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

DITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS DPOR CURRENT TOPICS-COMPILED BYERT DAY FOR THE EVENING THLEGRAPH.

Taxing the Poor. From the N. Y. Tribune,

We do not defend any resolution merely because some knot or convention of Republi cans may have passed it, nor condemn any because passed by Democrats. For instance, we like the clause in the last national Demooratic platform demanding such an adjustment of our tariff on imports to our internal revenue taxation as shall protect American manufactures, better than we like the last resolutions of the Republicans of the State of Indiana, which at least squint toward partial repudia-tion. It is not, therefore, because Republi-cans adopt it, but because it is sound, that we endorse the following plank of the recent Connecticut Convention, into which the New York
Times and Evening Post are trying by high
pressure to force the virus of free trade, but which we do not take to be sufficiently perous to admit their injection. The resolution calls npon Copgress to:-

"First, formally affirm that when the national debt is paid it must be paid in gold; except where it is otherwise distinctly provided in the original contract; second, introduce the strictest economy into every branch of the Government; third, refuse all subsidies and appropriations to railroads and other enter-prises outside of the indispensable machinery of the Government; fourth, see to it that the laxes are impartially levied and energetically and honestly collected, and surplus revenues applied to the reduction of the debt; fifth, make it a constant aim to resumespecie pay-ment and give the people a uniform and steady currency, as soon as may be without a violent disturbance of business; and sixth, to remove taxation from labor and necessaries of life, and to impose it as far as possible upon articles of luxury."

Now this is so distinctly a Tribune platform as well as a Republican one, that we pity the mental weakness of the dolt that can bother his brain by looking for any indorsement of foreign free trade in it. We ask that taxa-tion shall be removed from labor and the necessaries of life first, and imposed so far as possible on articles of luxury. Now what are the taxes that rest most heavily on labor and the necessaries of life? First and heaviest come the duties "for revenue only," levied on the leading articles of food which every laborer uses three times a day, every day in the year, viz., tea, coffee, and sugar. At least one-third of our entire gold revenue is levied on these three articles alone.

We have been among the miners of Pennsylvania, the frontiersmen, woodsmen, and hunters of the West, as well as among the laborers of cities and the soldiers of our armies, and we have observed that at the average the first thing a working man or woman demands, when exhausted by expo-sure or toil, is tea or coffee. The last articles of food the working masses will part with, and almost the only ones on which the tariff regs, are these. The tariff on these articles is for revenue only, as we do not produce them (except sugar to the amount of oneteach of our consumption), and the principle of protection would demand that they be free. A fimily will use as much in value of tea, coffee, and sugar in a week as they will of salt, lumber, and iron in a year. A poor family will use as much of either as a rich one. These are the classes of tariff taxes that rest heavily upon labor, and the moment we can afferd to lessen our taxation these are the taxes that we and every protectionist will de-mand the repeal of. Will free traders, like the Times, World, and Pest, unite with us in removing these free trade taxes from labor? On the other hand, we regard the importation of French and Prussian beaver cloths, cassieskins, to take the American cloths of equal fineness, texture, and durability, as something that would be a luxury if it were not a nuisance. We regard the importation of sixth-rate English rails, as shown in Mr. Hewett's "Report on Iron," of such wretched quality that they have to be taken up and re-rolled after six mouths' use at the average, and of such abominable reputation that they find no sale in European markets, and their substitution in place of American fron and steel rails, than which no better or really cheaper are produced in the world, as something that would be a luxury, i. c., a waste of wealth, if it were not some thing far worse. We will go to any extent with all who really want to lighten the taxes on labor. But what the Post and World want is to flood British goods into our markets, so that their advertisers, the importers and auctioneers, can have a good time in selling them. Meanwhile, the country would come to grief in trying to export gold and bonds enough to pay for them.

Opening Fire on General Graut. From the N. Y. Times.

If we may believe the World, General Grant is remarkable for "confidence and self-suffipiency." He is declared to be more presumptuous than Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Madison, or Monroe, because, while avowing his sense of the responsibilities of his position, he ventures to "accept them without fear." His address is characterized as "empty," of-fensive in its "self-assertion," yet "really very servile." The entire document is assailed as proof of unfitness for his position, and of a character in which conceit and sub-

serviency are about equally mixed.

A few days ago the World had a different estimate of General Grant's character. It then represented him as modest, selt-reliant, and gensible under the influence of extraordinary temptations, as indicating, in fact, "great solidity of character and an inborn sense of diguity." Our contemporary said:-

"His character is surely cast in no common mould. He has undergone the severest trial to which character can be subjected unlooked for prosperity, and sudden, giddy elevation—and he has stood the test in a manner which would have done no discredit to any man that has ever lived. His head has never been turned by his wonderful fortune, he has exhibited no ever lived. His head has never been turned by his wonderful fortune, he has exhibited no levity, no foolish vanity, none of the airs of an upstart, none of the besetting weaknesses of a porcens; but has borne himself with a quiet and becoming reserve which, under the circumstances, betokens great solidity of character and an inborn sense of dignity."

From the World's present low opinion we appeal to its high opinion of last Monday. The best answer to the personal attack from that quarter is the testimony which emanated from it before General Grant indicated the policy of

his administration. But General Grant "does not intend to have any serious differences with the Republican party." That is the difficulty with the World. It disclaimed every expectation of direct help for the Democracy from this administration; but cherished hopes of quarrel with some portion of the Republican party. These hopes the inaugural has dispelled. Its language shows General Grant still occupying the ground on which he was elected, and because this ground happens to be identical with the general principles and purposes of Republi-

"All his independence," we are told, "is exhausted in the mere empty proclamation of it." Why? In what portion of the address is there a trace of faithlessness to its author's convictions or his duty as President? But, fersooth, "he has not had the real indepen-

dence to differ from his party on any particular." What then? Does independence consist in difference without cause? Was it to be supposed that one whose conduct "betokens great solidity of character and an inborn sense of dignity" would falsify his own principles and predilections in order that by quarrelling with the Republican party he might exhibit his independence?

The attack of the World, unreasonable as it is, illustrates the kinti of crit clem to which the new President will be subjected. His

the new President will be subjected. His opponents are on the look-out for small faults of literary style, or for the slightest departure from old rules of action. They will assail him because he does not aspire to be original or profound in political philesophy, and be-cause his ethics lend no favor to treachery or tergiversation. The country is prepared to interpret both his words and his conduct in a different spirit. It sees already that he bears no resemblance to Andrew Johnson. It draws a proper distinction between a consistent adherence to the principles and aims of the party that elected him and abject obedience to partisan behests. Above all, it recognizes in his large patriotism and distinguished services evidence of honest devotion to duty, in the generosity of his character a guarantee against intolerance or proscription, and in the general tone of his address the precursor of a policy in which sound common sense, practi-cal ability, and undeviating rectitude will largely preponderate.

The Cuba Question. From the N. Y. Tribune. The insurrection in Cuba is now passing into its second stage. Spain having successfully asserted her independence of a degraded and oppressive monarchy, her children naturally followed the example, and endeavored to rid themselves of a system which was quite as degrading and oppressive to them as ever the Bourbon dynasty was to the mother country. It has been for centuries the Spanish policy to ignore all rights of her colonies, but providing money in no scanty measure to the necessities of Spain, to pour on to their shores crowds of hungry officials, not always of reputable character, and often adventurers who as literally "left their country for their country's good" as if they had been trans-ported by the legal tribunals. All the places of trust were filled by these offcasts from Spain, and no opportunity was ever given for native talent, while native industry was cramped and shattered. No wonder, there-fore, that one by one Spain's colonies have slipped from her grasp, and the last and the most cherished excites all the energies of the Home Government to prevent the dire example to be followed by the Queen of the Antilles. Dulce, personally popular in Cuba, and fully enjoying the confidence of the Home Government, came out charged with the impossible duties of recognizing the rights of the colony and reconcil ing them with the pretensions of Spain. It was a significant fact that even he was ac-companied by shiploads of needy applicants for office, shelved by the Provisional Government and sent out to prey on the Goshen of Cuba. As was to be expected, his mission has failed and he has been forced to assume the offensive. In the meantime his successor is on the sea to supersede him, and the scabbard is thrown away. Let us look at the forces in opposition, both physical and moral. The native Cubans to a man-even women and children-are sworn to win their independence. Those even who cannot take arms cheerfully give up their property, and, if such cases exist, those who are neutral or lukewarm have their possessions sequestrated by their friends and neighbors for the cause that all kave at heart. It may be taken for granted that the whole native population are unanimous for emancipation from Spain. On the other hand, the whole power of the mother country is pledged to prevent it. Independently of national honor, which ranks higher in the Castilian mind than in most nations, the material worth of Cuba is so great, the practical value of such a colony, especially in the present im-poverished state of Spain, is so thoroughly present to the mind of every Spaniard, that they will strain every nerve to prevent her breaking the chain. Such a war will be one of the most popular that could be presented to the people, and most nearly touches their pockets. In the sympathy which every free-born man must feel for the native Cubans, we must be careful not to underrate the resources of Spain, or to ignore the serious reasons she has for abhorring the indepen-dence of Cuba, as a direct robbery upon her public and private purse. There is also a third element in the centest, and that not the least, though by no means apparently prominent, viz.: the recently and prospectively emancipated colored population. It is worthy of observation that the insurgents recognized the principle only when the news arrived of its proclamation by the Provisional Government at home; nor is this to be wondered at, for men are seldom in a hurry to divest themselves of valuable 'property" they hold as their own. We have not yet sufficient evidence of what the action of the colored men has been up to this date to be certain of what it will be. Then as to the moral phases. All history is apt to reproduce itself; nor are the Castilian races in any portion of the globe much different from their immediate, nor indeed their remote, progenitors. The Spaniards are very chary of foreign intervention, accept it gradgingly, set it in the front of the battle, give it all the labor, all the expense, and appropriate all the results possible, repaying the aid with an ingratitude which has no parallel in the history of nations. Both sides are well aware that upon the amount of American help depends the success or failure of this struggle for independence. Commercially as well as politically the welfare of Cuba must be a vital question

for American politicians. With this view of the case, which it is just to present as the fair deduction from the latest news, we cannot but add our fullest sympathy with the cause of the revolution. If the revolution is good for Spain, it is good for her splendid colony. We commend prudence, statesmanship, and persistency. Cuba has her fate in her hasds, if her true sons will it. Nations, like men, have periods when destiny seems to stretch out its hand. They are the wisest who do not fail to see it. May Cuba and her gallant sons be wise with the best

The War in South America-The Results of the Allied "Victory."

From the N. Y. Times.

We are now in receipt of considerably later intelligence from the seat of war in Paraguay, and it is scarcely necessary to state that the great Brazilian victory, of which we heard so much by the last mail, turns out to have been exactly like all the other great Brazilian viotories that have preceded it. It is true, doubtless, that the Paraguayan losses during the recent engagements were enormous in pro-portion to numbers of their forces; but, them, those of the allies were scarcely less so. And we now find that instead of being a fugitive, accompanied only by a few demoralized stragglers, Lopez is still at the head of an army, and is fortifying himself in the interior. After their lavish expenditure of men and money, the allies find themselves as far from attain-

ing their object as ever. Their coatly first of iron-clads, to which so much of their previous success has been due, is now useless. The campaign has to be commenced anew on a totally different basis. Practically, beyond killing a certain number of Paragnayans, the Allies have done nothing whatever towards the subjugation of Paraguay and the deposition of Lopez during the two years of the war.

The Brazilians, at least, avow that nothing short of these two objects will satisfy them, and their allies of the Argentine Republic seem to have been easily induced to resume their old place as catspaws for their powerful neighbors. But it must be evident now to the most obstinate as well as to the most sanguine among the allies that nothing short of the extermination of the Paraguayan race can secure for them the objects at which they aim.

Under these circumstances, it is not surprising to be teld that the dissensions in the Allied army have culminated in the resigna-tion of both the Brazilian and Argentine generals. The Marquis de Caxias, who has cer-tainly shown both valor and determination in his efforts to accomplish his never-ending task, is succeeded in the supreme command by another Brazilian officer. It is no wonder that two years of fruitless losses and hardships should have ended in mutual recriminations between the Allied commanders. But the simultaneous resignation of the two Generals seems to have proved a particularly injudicious case of changing horses while crossing the stream. While they were quarrelling Lopez was fortifying himself, far away from iron-clads, and in the interior of his own country.

Nothing in the history of modern warfare is more remarkable than the extraordinary and almost unparalleled devotion to Lopez dis-played by the Paraguayans. That singular race, isolated from their neighbors by tradi-tionary restrictions, accustomed to self-sacrifice by the austerity of their Jesuit training, and proud of their comparatively pure nationality as contrasted with the heterogeneous mixture of races to be found in the ranks of their opponents, regard their President-General with something little short of religious awe, and receive his orders, civil or military, in a spirit of unquestioning obedience. What ever faults or deeds of cruelty may be urged against Lopez, it is impossible to maintain that he rules by mere arbitrary power or terrorism. No personal government based on such a foundation could have stood the strain to which that of Lopez has been subjected.

It is to be hoped that the time for mediation cannot be far off. The Allies must now see the impossibility of achieving their object without simply destroying the Paraguayan race from off the face of the earth. And even supposing they are prepared to attempt and able to accomplish this, the blood and treasure which they would have to expend would be utterly out of proportion to the stake at issue. Their honor must be satisfied by the material triumphs they have gained in the face of the most heroic resist ance, and we cannot help believing that judicions joint diplomatic action on the part of any two or three powers might put an end to a most sanguinary and uncalled-for struggle.

The Foreign Policy of the New Administration.

From the N. Y. Herald. President Grant has boldly laid down a rule of action in his inaugural with reference to our foreign policy, saying:—"I would deal with nations as equitable law requires individuals to deal with each other." \* \* \* "I would respect the rights of all nations, demanding equal respect for our own. If others depart from this rule in their dealings with

us, we may be compelled to follow their precedent." This is clear, unvarnished language, readily understood. It will do more to effect iial and immediate understanding with foreign powers than all the Machiavellian statesmanship of the past four years. It is a simple enunciation of our desire for strict justice; and when we fail to obtain it, and there is no disposition en the the offender to grant it, then there but a single resource left for us, and that is the law of retaliation. For instance, if England makes no reparation for the Alabama outrages, it is plain that there is but one mode of settlement left to us, and that the taking of Canada as a just reprisal. The Minister who now so sadly misrepresents us must be immediately recalled and a firmer and more dignified exponent of the United States people be sent to the Court of St. James. If the President's words are the gleam of

action then this will at once be done. There is a Spanish-Cuban question also on hand. The resolution lately passed in the House of Representatives with reference to it is the best Executive guide. President Grant will not satisfy the people of the United States unless he takes prompt measures to give at once the whole moral influence of our Government to the liberal movement there. We do not want Cuba desolated because Spain cannot hold it; and we are "compelled to follow the precedent" set by Spain when she lent her indirect aid to the breaking up of our republi-

On the southwest we find a people who set-tle into chronic anarchy and block the progress of at least one-third of our territory Mexico neither moves herself nor permits us to move. Our Executive should carefully submit a general plan of national policy to Mexico which shall be in unison with our own. If the Mexicans refuse to listen to it, their Government must disappear to give place to a military colonial government under the direction of the United States. There is also a policy to be adopted with reference to South America. There are over thirty millions of people there consuming per capita over seven dollars' worth of goods annually, and producing for exportation a still larger amount There are two principles of government struggling there for the mastery, the one monarchical, supported powerfully by European influence, and the other republican, unsupported and hitherto almost derided by the great republic.

In the next four years there is to be shaped an Asiatic policy, around which may cluster more of future greatness to our people than we at present dream of. This future must be formed with wisdom and with a breadth in proportion to its promise. Asia will soon be as closely linked to us as Europe, and it is unwise to let it grow into prominence without legislative notice. The clear common sense language of the President, however, gives us every hope that we are now to have, not only with reference to Asia, but with all the world. a boldly defined national policy that will en-able foreign powers to understand that which it has been impossible for them to learn heretofore—what the United States proposes toward them and what is expected in return.

Financial Views of the Inaugural Address. From the N. Y. Herald.

President Grant has devoted the largest portion of his brief and terse inaugural address to the financial situation of the country. This shows that he regards the subject as most important and overshadowing all other subjects. He lays great stres upon the necessaity of protecting the national honor by paying every dollar of the public debt and the interest as it becomes due according to the contract. To do this he would give the public

creditor the benefit of any doubt, even as to how certain securities should be paid, and emphatically declares that every portion of the debt should be paid in gold, unless otherwise expressly stipulated in the contract. This will have the effect, undoubtedly, of appreciating the market value of our Five-twenty bonds both abroad and at home. He will not trust any one in public office who is a representation. trust any one in public office who is a repu-diator. He believes that by making this the policy of the Government we shall be enabled ultimately to convert the debt into bonds bearing less interest than we now pay.

To accomplish this object he deems it important, however, that there should be a faithful collection of the revenue, a strict accountability to the Treasury for every dollar collected, and the greatest practical retrenchment in expenditures in every department of government. These are brave words; and we have no doubt our new President will use all his power to carry out the views expressed. But it will be necessary for Congress to confide in and aid him in the good work. The Government has been defrauded in the collection of the revenue a hundred millions a year, and the expenditures in these times of peace are at least a hundred millions more than is necessary. It may be in his power to save all this by reorganizing, in the first place, the whole machinery of the Revenue Department and holding the heads of it responsible; and, in the second place, by cutting down the expenditures of every branch of the executive gov ernment. There are a thousand ways in which he can do this—in the army, in the navy, in the civil service, and in checking the extravagant appropriations of Congress. It is evident he is opposed to further large ap-propriations for railroads, however valuable such works may be, till the finances of the country be restored and we reach a specie basis; for he intimates that the Government should give its aid to these only when a dollar of obligation to pay shall be no more in value than the dollar of aid that may be afforded—that is, the Government should not lend its credit in a depreciated currency and

then have to pay in gold.

On the subject of reaching specie payments
President Grant takes a sensible and practical view. He desires to return to a specie basis, but only when it can be accomplished without material detriment to the debtor class or to the country at large. How the public debt is to be paid or specie payments resumed is not so important, he says, as that a plan shoul i be sdopted and acquisseed in. He admits that legislation on this subject may not be necessary now, nor even advisable, but will be when the civil law is more fully restored in all parts of the country and trade resumes its wonted channels. The first step, he maintains, is to see that our prostrate commerce be rebuilt and all industries encouraged as the basis of resuming specie payments, restoring the finances, and paying the debt. This is just what we have maintained all along. Specie payments will come gradually and as insensibly as the dew falls, when the national finances shall be placed on a good foundation, retrenchment and economy be practised, and as the industry and trade of the country become improved and developed. Those inexhaustible mines of precious metals in the mountains of the Far West, too, which President Grant designates our "strong box," will be unlocked and contribute to bring about at no distant day an abundant specie circuletion. On the whole, President Grant takes a sensible, practical, and conservative view of the financial situation and prospects of the country. All that remains to be done is the application of the policy he has laid down and the co-operation of Congress in carrying it out.

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