## SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

MDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CUREMNY TOPICS -COMPILED RVERY DAY POR THE EVENING TELEGRAPH.

The French Press on General Grant's Inaugural.

From the N. Y. Herald. In discussing the national debt and our means and resources for its payment, and in reminding the young men of the country of the importance of maintaining the fastional honor intact, General Grant in his inaugural says: — "A moment's reflection upon what will be our commanding influence among the nations of the earth in their day" (the day of our young men) "should inspire them with national pride." The French press has seized upon this hint of "our commanding influence among the nations" as a figure of speech sig-nifying war. The Débats sees in it "the germ of many future wars." The Moniteur is fearful that "the future preponderance of which General Grant speaks may be big with storms." The Public thinks that "apart from the pretensions about preponderance" the inaugural is harmless. These French journals are barking up the wrong tree. They trans-late "commanding influence" as "prepon-derating influence," in the European sense, and as involving the European balance of power. General Grant speaks of the glory of paying off, fairly and fully, every dollar of our national debt in his reference to our floommanding influence among the nations. and in uttering the words was not dreaming of a war with France. Napoleon made it all right with us in backing out of Mexico; but if there is a hint in the inaugural touching British neutrality, which may possibly mean gunpowder, that is all.

## Johnson.

From the N. Y. Tribune. Last Thursday, at Lynchburg, Mr. Johnson observed, "In rising at this time to acknowledge the honor paid me, it is not for the purpose of making a speech." The next day, at Greenville, Mr. Johnson observed, "In rising at this time to acknowledge the honor paid me, it is not for the purpose of making a speech." In each place he likewise observed that since the 4th of March he was no longer a slave but a freeman; and in each it was nosiced that he didn't seem at all glad of it. He further observed at Lynchburg, and likewise at Greenville, that Congress was a body of msurpers; that he had been battling for the Constitution; that the people would soon rouse from their spathy and vindicate their vio-lated rights; and that he should cherish the memory of this welcome so long as his heart continued to beat. And with this conclusion our hero of the circle sinks into his own place. We are free to say that we are disappointed. We expected to hear of the flag with thirty-six stars. Does Mr. John-son mean to "go back on" the flag? We made sure of another discourse on Judas Iscariot-has Mr. Johnson lost his old-time regard for that eminent independent Christian? even trusted that with the freedom from the sense of official responsibility might come a burst of the old virtue that proclaimed treason a crime and promised to hang traitors by the score. We are afraid we must give up Mr. Johnson. He has not fulfilled the promise of that golden prime when he swung around the circle and fought traitors at the other end of the line. Henceforth we shall have to depend upon Mr. Jewett alone.

## The Postal Telegraph.

From the N. Y. Herald. The signs are clear and positive that the postal telegraph is a coming thing. Senator Ramsey, of Minnesota, has introduced a bill in Congress "to establish a postal telegraph system and to incorporate the United States Postal Telegraph Company," which has been read twice and referred to the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads. Its plan is a great advance on the proposition presented at the last session of Congress, and shows how much the question has grown with Mr. Hubbard and his coadjutors. But it contains the germ of an immense evil, which we hope the gentlemen interested in the promotion of the plan will consent to modify in behalf of their own interests, those of the Government, and the preponderating interests of the public. England has preceded us in this movement, and has contracted to purchase all the telegraph lines in Great Britain and make them adjuncts of its postal system. But it has now been discovered that the railway and telegraph companies there have contrived to convert this wise measure into an immense job, and to saddle the Government with obligations to pay for the existing telegraph lines a sum far beyond their real value and what it would have cost to build new ones. It is against the perpetration of a similar evil in this country that we demand precantion shall be taken by the Penate Committee on Post Offices; and we shall point out, before we close this article, how the interests of the people and the Government can best be protected in this matter. But before taking up that point we will look at the bill as it now stands.

To do this we must reverse the order of the bill, as in it the cart has been skilfully placed before the horse, for evident purposes. It is proposed to incorporate Gardner G. Hubbard and his associates by the name of the United States Postal Telegraph Company, with a capital of four hundred thousand dollars. This capital seems ridiculously small for the great purpose which it is proposed to achieve; but we will refer to this again. This company, it is proposed, will build its lines between Washington, New York, Boston, and Chicago within six months; to Cincinnati, St. Louis, and New Orleans within two years; and to every other city of five thousand or more inhabitants within three years from the execu-tion of the contract. The postal telegraph offices are to be in connection with the post office in every city, at railroad stations, and at such other places as the business of the country may demand. Messages are to be received at every postal telegraph office, post office, suboffice, and select letter box, prepaid by stamps, and to be delivered free within the limits of free delivery of letters from any post office, or within one mile of every postal telegraph office, and to be transmitted by mail to or from the nearest postal telegraph office when received at or destined for any place not having such office, and postal money orders may be remitted by telegraph. The rate of toll for this service to be one cent a word for each five hundred miles or less, and the minimum message to be twenty words.

The advantages of this system to commerce and ta every private interest in the country are obvious. It will quicken trade to an immense degree, while in a proportionate measure it will diminish the capital requisite to transact the exchange of commodities, by enabling every dollar to do its work in much less time than is now required. The disadvantages contained in the bill are pertinent only to the manner of establishing this im-mense reform, and not to its plan for the postal telegraph system. It is proposed that this shall be done by authorizing the Postmaster-General to contract for the transmission of the messages with any telegraph company or sompanies now or that may hereafter be incor-

debt for an incomplete and vicious system of telegraphs, constructed by private companies, and which it is found necessary in a great measure to reconstruct. If the existing lines, or those to be constructed by any private company, are equal to the work that is to be required of them, we have no objection to their being purchased at a fair price; but we do insist that the country shall not be called upon to pay forty millions of dollars for a set of old and much worn lines, when better ones, covering the same extent of territory, can be con-structed for ten millions of dollars. And it is in view of this fact that we referred to the small proposed capital of the new company-four hundred thousand dol-There is a further proposition in the bill before us, to the effect that the company may from time to time increase its capital stock to an extent not exceeding two hundred dollars for each mile of wire owned and operated by it. We do not hesitate to characterize this proposition as an immense swindle. An excellent and substantial two wire telegraph line can be constructed at a cost not to exceed one hundred and fifty dollars per mile, with stations furnished and complete at every twenty-five miles; and the same posts and construction will carry eight wires, if necessary for the business. These extra wires can be put up at a cost not exceeding thirty dollars per mile; and why the company should be allowed to increase its capital stock two hundred dellars for every thirty dollars expended is not clear to the mind of any honest man.

We accept the plan of a postal telegraph as proposed in this bill, and will now point out the amendments which we call upon the Senate Committee on Post Offices to make to it before putting it upon its passage. Drop the words Washington and New York in the twenty-first line of section three, and add to the bill the proposition made by Mr. Wash-burne last session for the appropriation of sixty thousand dollars for the construction of an experimental postal telegraph between Washington and New York, and direct the Postmaster-General to advertise immediately for the construction of said line in the best manner known to telegraphic science and skill. The country will then have a practical test of the cost of telegraph construction, which will serve as a type for the purchase of old existing lines, or the construction of new and improved ones; and we shall be saved from committing the great blunder England has just committed, and while securing the new system will avoid incurring an immense and needless debt.

Our Differences with England-Settlement of the Alabama Claims. From the N. Y. Times.

It is quite clear that the Alabama treaty, concluded by Mr. Reverdy Jounson with the English Government, will be rejected by the Senate; and that rejection will be approved by public sentiment. A great many motives combine to produce this result. A large and influential part of the Senate is opposed to ratifying the treaty, because doing so would give a triumph to Andrew Johson's administration and to Mr. Seward. Others object to specific provisions of the treaty; and others still maintain that the wrongs of which we complain are not such as can be redressed by payment of the pecuniary damages which we have sustained.

This may be true. We are inclined to think it is. But it is by no means easy to see how, upon this theory, those wrongs can be re-dressed, or in what way any adjustment of difficulties can possibly be reached.

We insist that the conduct of England in conceding belligerent rights to the Confederates, in acknowledging their flag on the high seas before they had achieved their indenavy when they had not a naval port on the face of the earth, in building, arming, and manning for them ships-of-war and sending them out in their service to prey upon our commerce, was what gave to the Rebellion the enormous proportions it finally assumed, prolonged the war at least one or two years, added enormously to its cost in life and in money, and was in gross violations of the laws of neutrality, and open disregard of the obligations of friendship which England had assumed by treaties with the United States. Such acts are not atoned for -such wrongs are not redressed-by paving for the commerce they destroyed, or the losses they caused. Admit this to be true; the question still secure-how are they to be redressed? In what form can the English offer satisfaction, or in what form can we demand it? Mr. Johnson's "administration strove very hard to bring about a settlement of this question. Mr. Seward spent four laborious years, first in trying to prevent England from doing us the damage she did, and then in trying te convince her that we were entitled to some signal redress, which he put in the form of payment of losses sustained. And England has finally been brought to take the initial step towards a settlement of the question on

Now the mere rejection of this basis does

not establish any other. The question will

still remain, and none of its difficulties will be removed. General Grant's administration will succeed to all the embarrassments in dealing with it which Mr. Johnson's encountered, with some very formidable ones freshly added, by the contemptuous repudiation which everything thus far done is likely to receive. What demands will General Grant make upon England, in satisfaction of our complaints? The London Times, in an article which we recently copied, contends that nothing less than the concession by England that there was no war, but merely a rebellion, an émeuté, or an insurrection of which England had no right to know anything whatever, will satisfy the United States. This, though stated in extravagant terms, is not as wide of the of the truth as the Times affects to believe. Throughout the whole diplomatic controversy Mr. Seward insisted that the conflict in the United States was not war in any sense known to public law, or in any such sense as authorized the resort to principles applicable to war between sovereign and independent powers. He insisted that in the eye of public law it was merely an insurrection, to which only one of the parties had ever obtained recognition as an independent nation or had ever established a claim to such recognition-and until such claim should be established he demanded that England should remain faithful to the treaty obligations into which she had entered with the United States, and abstain from aiding in any way, or to any extent, those who were striving to overthrow their anthority and destroy their national existence.

We still insist that this position was right. and that England ought to have acted upon it. Her wrong to us lay in the fact that she did not do so. Virtually and practically she joined our enemies in making war upon us— not so fully nor so openly as she might, but fully enough to do us enormous damage, and as openly as she dared. General Grant will probably feel that England owes us an acknowledgment, that she was wrong in treat-

porated. Herein lies the same job that has | war, and he may demand that she shall make fastened upon the British Government a great | this acknowledgment as preliminary to paying whatever damages an impartial commission may decide that her action inflicted upon us. This, though not expressed in exactly the same terms, is probably in substance what the London Times means by the concession that there was no war, as the only concession which will satisfy the United States. And it may be true, as the Times says it is, that "no British statesman will ever so stultify and disgrace himself, or will ever be such a hypocrite, as to make a public confession" of this sort.

Suppose this is so; what can happen then? It is not easy to say what can happen, or what may happen. Both parties may become so exasperated over the matter as to go to war about it—though Mr. Reverdy Johnson is certainly right in saying that it is impossible to conceive greater insanity than this would imply. But the worst thing that is likely to happen is that our differences with England on this subject will remain unsettled for a good many years to come. And we are bound to add that in our opinion the American people will be better satisfied, on the whole, with this result than with any other. There are too many elements and motives of hostility to make a peaceful and harmonious adjustment of our differences with England universally acceptable in this country. The Irish element alone is, in numbers, in social weight, in religious sentiment, and especially in political importance, too considerable a power to allow full acquiescence in such a settlement. It is a comfort and a consolation to a very large portion of our people to reflect that we have grounds of complaint outstanding against England upon which we can go to war with her, and conquer Canada, to say nothing of Ireland, whenever we "feel so disposed." Not that we have any immediate purpose of doing it, or intend to fix a date when we will do it; but we don't want to feel absolutely precluded from doing it, with a show of reasons whenever we may be in the mood.

Another point in the case our people do not forget. England, in the acts by which she wronged and damaged us, introduced new rights and rules for neutral nations, of which we may avail ourselves hereafter whenever we choose. The right which England exercised, and which she yet defends, of furnishing a navy with munitions of war and ports of refuge to the privateers she herself builds for communities in rebellion, but without any of these things, remains open to us; and our people are by no means blind to the emergencies which may open the way for us to retort its exercise. And this is among the considerations which will incline them to be quite content even if our Alabama differences with England are not at once adjusted.

"Hace "

From the N. Y. World. "Race"-that accursed mistake of the Al mighty-pokes up its head in a stravge place. It will not be legislated down. There is a general order just out in Washington which sends the troops now on duty in Florida to Nebraska; and those in pleasant Louisiana, two thousand miles away to the great north lakes; and those in Texas go, some to Kansas and some to Virginia; and those in Virginia to Mississippi and to California; and from California a regiment goes to Kentucky; and from Kentucky another to Georgia; and from Dakotah still another to Georgia; and still another from Louisiana to Minnesota; and from Minnesota one to Texas; and so on, and so on, and so on.

Now, why all this? Wherefore is the whole United States army thus sent trapezing all over the country from one extreme end of it to the other? What is the reason of this great expense to transport so many thousand men so far, and wherefore is it that, at the oncoming of a Southern summer, acclimated troops are withdrawn from its influences and unacolimated sent in their stead?

We will tell you. It is because the army will not do the dirty work of reconstruction so soon as it sees how very dirty that work is. There is no disobedience, no revolt, no mutiny; but they see and feel that they are white men. put there to exalt the negro above other white men, and they cannot be relied on to do it. Here and there some officer who disgraces an honorable calling enters into this fifthy business con amore, but, for the great part, there is a mere stiff compliance with the exact letter of the order, and no more. Wherever possible, commanding officers will neither ge themselves nor send their subordinate officers (in this distasteful service often their only companions and always their only friends) on those disgusting inquisitorial parties so frequently demanded by the loil reconstructing vagabonds, who keep everything about them in a turmoil. The colonel won't go, and the majer says it's the captain's time, and the captain thinks the lieutenant ought to go, and the lieutenant swears it's —— hard they can't send a sergeant and a file of men along with the dirty beast, and so it comes down to a corporal and three or four privates at last. Now, it has been discovered by these latter that it is infinitely more pleasing to eat a good dinner at accused's house and top off with free whisky than to take the man to the guard-house, and if the loil vagabond complains at this dereliction, he is apt to get a sound beating the next time he comes about headquarters.

The picture is a little highly colored, but the main tints are true. After so long a time the army sees the asstiness of kicking a man when he is down-for that, when you rub the fine words off it, is about what this thing means-and when it sees it, the only thing to do is to give it the route and bring a fresh force in.

Hence all this marching and counter-marching, and skurrying this regiment off to Dacotab, and t'other one back to Texas. It is the same stale old game to be found in any good history which treats of the little dodges of despotism. Keep changing your troops, has been the motto of oppressors for hundreds, yes, and thousands of years. It was part of the Roman polity to send the Syrian levies to Cappadocia, and the Cappadocians to Syria; but never let them stay with a friendship, and always keep moving your troops. In the corrupt days of the French monarchy, just before Louis XVI was pulled down out of his throne and beheaded, it was a chief function of the Minister of War to change the troops. Prior to his day, it was James II.'s device to put his English regiments in Ireland and his Irish troops on English soil. And just so now. Something is due, no doubt, to army likes and dislikes, but the main point in this general order is as stated. There is work to be done in the South. Right rogue Senators are to be lugged in; thirty-three reliable Re-presentatives are to be "elected;" the screws are to be tightened in the sacred name of peace; and to do this dirty work men must be had who will not find out what they are doing

until too late. What a testimony to the unutterable scoundrelism of this vile thing! Army officers, proverbially the most careless and indifferent of men in cival affairs, cannot but revolt at this botch upon statecraft; and army privates, drilled into machines, are yet not so far drilled but that the blood in their veins rebels at the unnatural work they are set

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