SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

ROPTORIAL OFINIORS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS DPON CURRENT TOPICS-COMPILED BYERT DAY FOR THE EVERING THIEGRAPH.

General Grant as a Military and as a Political Leader. From the N. Y. Herald.

The commencement of General Grant's military career was not brilliant. Almost under any other circumstances it would have been pronounced a failure. His first affair at Bel-mont, which was intended as part of a grand movement for the protection of St. Louis and the suppression of the Rebel sentiment in Missouri, although comparatively insignificant in itself, did the Union cause but little good and the enemy no harm. He was mistrusted by the commanding general, and even his subsequent successes, the capture of Forts Henry and Donelson, could not help a shadow being thrown upon his military reputation by the disastrous first day's fighting at Shiloh and Pitteburg Landing. He had to encounter the animosity of his superior and the jealousy of his rival officers from that time even to the fall of Vicksburg. He refused to fight according to the prescribed rules of war as laid down by the red tape martinets in Washington, and worked out problems of his own, sometimes with partial and at others with complete suc-He discarded the old rules and tactics of European as well as our own regular armies, as being entirely unadapted to the habits and nature of the newly developed American soldier; and having the instinct to discern the ability of his officers and the disposition of his troops, he had the sagacity to use them to advantage and the genius to reap therefrom legitimate fruits. Being an even-tempered and unambitious man, he reconciled differences which otherwise might have led to serious embarrassments and ripened into national disasters. All this time he was, for obvious reasons, encountering hostility in high official quarters, and it was not until his triumphant banners entered Richmond and the Rebellion was pronounced extinct that this hostility As General Grant commenced his military

so has he commenced his political career. It is not brilliant. His first movement, like that at Belmont, was a comparative failure. His Cabinet hitched. Here was a bother, if not a blunder. He had to make a retrograde movement and reform his fines. He finally succeeded in reorganizing his staff of official counsellors, and began the work of his political campaign. Here he was met by the odious Tenure-of-office act; and he finds that, as in his military career he had to encounter the opposition of officials in high quarters in the War Department at Washington, he has now to be embarrassen with a similar hostility, through the ambitious, designs of the oligarchy in the United States Senate. The old politicians, too, are annoying him by their endeavors to circumvent his plans, and to make him believe that party is superior to country, and that public plunder is the proper reward of those trading partisans who helped to elevate him to the Presidency. We believe he has a harder fight now than he ever had in the field, and that he would any day rather face the blaze of an enemy's battery than undergo the daily ordeal of meeting the battalions of office-seekers that invest the White House. But his day is coming, just as surely as his standard rose above the capital city of the foe. He is abused now as he was on his partial successrs during the war, and the abuse that is now bestowed upon him will in the end, as it was at the end of the war, be turned to prease of praise. He will overcome obstacles that the envious, the fanatical, the ambitious or the treacherous may cast in his path. He will have a political Vicksburg as he had a military one; he will have political successes similar to those military successes which followed in regular train on the peninsula of Virginia, culminating in a grand and final political Appomattox. vote on the Tenure-of-Office act shows that he has the House with him, and the temper of the Senate is exhibited in its action Wednesday. He cannot be impeached because the House would not originate the proceeding. Therefore he might as well go on, make his appointments, let the Senate slide, and, after demoralizing the radical party by a magnificent strategic movement, erect a party of his own that will rally around him in any emergency. Thus will his political mission-beginning, like his military career, in a somewhat buugling manner-end as that did, in an efful-

"The Truth About Georgia."

the country.

From the N. Y. Tribune. Under this head the N. Y. Times indulges in a tirade against Governor Bullock and his friends, which we pass over, choosing to deal directly with the following passage:—

gent ray of glory, imparting alike union and harmony, confidence and prosperity all over

"The Tribune, while blaming the Democrats, substantially admits that the non-ratification of the amendment was a consequence of Re-publican opposition. It failed because the vary men who now citie its failure as evidence of local hostility to the policy of Congress, had resolved that it should not succeed." -The Tribune, to show how erroneous and

unjust are the above assertions, is impelled once more to call attention to the controlling antecedents of the recent action at Atlanta: 1. Congress passed an act or acts providing for and prescribing terms of reconstruction for the States lately in rebellion. 2. Georgia held a convention and framed a

constitution accordingly; and the present is her first Legislature under that constitution. 3. The Legislature, as elected, contained a small Republican majority, whereof a portion was wholly or in part of African lineage, and a strong Democratic minority, composed in part of men who, by the terms of the recon

struction acts, were disqualified by prominent participation in the Rebellion. 4. The Republicans waived or overruled all objection to these disqualified Rebels, allowing them to sit and vote as though they were legally qualified. By their votes, reinforced by a few Republicans, Messrs. Hill (Republican) and Miller (Democrat) were chosen United States Senators over Messrs. Brown

and Blodget, the regular Republican nominees. 5. The Democratic minority, elated by the nomination and confidently expecting the election of Seymour and Blair, now proposed the expulsion of all the colored members, and, aided by the treachery of some white Repub-licans, carried it, thus making the Legislature Democratic in either house.

6. The earnest Republicans (not the Times' sort) regard the Legislature as invalidated by this expulsion, and the reconstruction of Georgia virtually overthrown. And they desire that Congress should in some way counteract and render nugatory the expulsion aforesaid and its consequences.

7. Under these circumstances the fifteenth amendment came before that expurgated Legislature for ratification. On its merits every Republican was in favor, every Democrat adverse to it. But men of either party compre-hended that its ratification would tend powerfully to strengthen the disposition in Congress to let Georgia alone, and treat her as finally gone, some of these Republican journals are reconstructed. Hence some Democrats voted now pelting with stones the idol which,

to ratify, hoping thus to fortify their dom-stic position, while some Republicans veted not to ratify, and others refused to vote at all, for reasons identical with those which impelled some Democrats (as aforesaid) to vote yea. And, though the Times roundly asserts that "the ratification of the amendment would have had no effect whatever upon the Democratic members, their present position, or their chances in the future," we submit that legislators in Georgia were probably quite as competent judges on that point as any editor in New York can be.

In saying this, we by no means intimate that the greater number of Republicans who voted for ratification, as of Democrate who voted against it, were less shrewd or less earnest than their dissenting brethren. It was a case wherein the members of each party were called to make what they considered a choice of evils; and some decided one way. some another. Time must decide who were the wiser and more discerning.

-We have thus succintly set forth all the material facts in the case. They seem to us to refute most emphatically the assumptions of the Times. The responsible authors, in our view, of the present interreguum in Georgia are those Democrats who, nearly a year since, expelled the colored members from their seats in the Legislature. That was the root of bitterness whence springs all that is now anomaleus and tantalizing in the condition of that State. Let the great wrong be redressed or receded from, and the fifteeth amendment will forthwith be ratified, whether any Democrats shall see fit to vote for it or not and the State will be fully restored to representation in Congress and to her proper place in the Union.

Grant and the Two Houses.

From the N. Y. Herald. Grant, as President, has encountered desperate opposition from the squad of outside politicians-the multitude of office-seekers who have no other reasons to give in support of their claims for places than that they hurrahed for "the party" before election and hoped it would win. He would not recognize these as reasons; hence the hostility of this element. He has also encountered a desperate but ineffective opposition in the House of Representatives and a stronger one in the Senate. These inside oppositions are inspired by the plunder rings, and that of the Senate is the stronger because the Senate is more in the hands of the men who buy and sell votes. Fresh from the people, the members of the House yet act on those thoughts and sympathies that prevail among the people. They have not yet been sufficiently long under the hands of the jobbers. But the Senate has another character. Its members stay longer at Washington and are more under the influences that prevail there. Wherever there is a new Senater, as we see in several cases-notably that of Fenton-his sympathies also are with the President in his fight for the purity of the Government. Grant seems to act on this view of the elements in organizing his friends in the two houses. Judging by the clamor we hear against Fenton from the more corrupt parts of the Republican press, our new Senator must stand high in Grant's confidence. We believe he will prove a valuable support to the Executive where he just now needs support most. Fenton is a man who has been long in political life, has had experience in Washington, and, what is more, has gone to the top of that Jacob's ladder of experience that is found in New York politics. best friend in the House is a man, if possible, even better suited to the work before him Butler is the strongest man in parliamentary tactics, in political sagacity, in the rough and tumble of discussion, or in a fair stand up debate, that has made his appearance in the House in a long while. Grant's measures in Butler's hands are sure to carry everything before them in one house, and in Fenton they have a strong help in the other house. It is ood promise for Grant that he an omen of shows his old perception in securing the right

Mr. Grant, Thus Far. From the N. Y. World.

sort of help.

The adulation bestowed on General Grant by persons of social pretensions in the Eastern cities, who ought to have been above such fawning sycophancy, inspired the object of all this servile flattery with such an immoderate conceit of himself that, when he came to the high office to which he had been elected, he was as a ship in a gale without rudder or ballast. Whoever administered most to his vanity by words er gifts had most of the confidence of the President-elect. When he wrote and delivered his inaugural address, we do not doubt that Grant really believed he was equal to carrying on the executive department of the Federal Government alone. To be sure, this insane condition of mind was made possible by his downright ignorance. He had never read any books since he left the narrow, one-sided, and elementary education which is all that is furnished at West Point. It would be a safe bet that never in his life has he read the Constitution of his country from beginning to end. He knew nothing of what is on record about the trials and difficulties which have always beset him who would make a great and good civil government. Of the commonest narratives of English history he was altogether uninformed. His mind was a blank in respect to the inner working of the machinery of the Government of his own country in those crises in which Washington, Jefferson, or Jackson stood at the helm and gave direction. This deplorable destitution of knowledge on the part of Grant was cunningly exploited by all sorts of people, and the victim got at last into such a condition that he was unhappy when removed from the titillating flattery of these selfish men and women. As a consequence, when informed by a committee of Congress of his election to be President, he babbled foolishly about his own personal headship of the administration; how he should remove his own appointess, if they failed to suit him, as readily as those of his predecessor-clearly intimating that he would rid himself at any moment of a Cabinet minister who should give him temporary dissatisfaction. It never seemed to occur to him that such language could not be safely used about men who had achieved sufficient eminence to be really fit for heads of departments. No man, great and able, would consent to take a leading part in the administration of a resident who felt no more interest in his own appointees than in those of some one else. This pretension and vainglory on the part of Grant filled reflecting people with painful disgust, and made it clear to them that such a President would not only fall into the hands of cheap and worthless persons, but would do things disgraceful and stupid which would in

The World was one of the first to foresee The World was one of the livst to foresee and fix public attention upon inevitable events. Republican journals, true to the behests of partisanship, either could not or would not see, and so, like the Evening Post, Tribune, and Times, blundered on—in the Stewart business, for example—without a theory or plan of their own, but vainly looking to Grant for leadership. As was to be expected, after the effect of a delusion is

due time have to be undone.

but three weeks ago, they so estentationally worshipped. In the case of the Evening Post, the fawning sycophant of yesterday is converted into the austere critic of the present hour," and the Tribune says "how art thou, my brother?" as often as it dares. Such "blind guides" cannot fail soon to hear the popular denunciation, "Woe to you!"

It will be remembered that the earliest and most trusted advisers of President Grant were Washburne and Rollins. By either of these fourth-rate men he could be led into any folly. The latter induced him to sanction or write letters or orders in respect to Mr. Binckley. late Solicitor of the Internal Revenue, which Judge Wylie, in passing sentence on Binckley, said "should not be whitten, and it was wrong to publish them." He added that the archives of the Government did not furnish a similar case."

The comments of the Werld upon the attempted revocation of the Depuy pardon are not forgotten, nor the attempt of the Times to vindicate the proposition of Grant, Washburne, and Rollins, that the pardon, being in the hands of Marshal Murray, had not been delivered to the petitioners, and therefore was revocable by the President. A similar effort of revocation was made in Boston; and we will permit the accomplished Federal attorney of the Massachusetts District, Mr. George S. Hillard, who brought the subject before the court a day or two since, to state the facts in his own language. He said:-

"The Marshal received the pardon on the 5th of March, a document entirely unlike the usual form of a pardon. The words 'and thereupon was sentenced to — on the — day of are erased. The word 'sentence' is used when there has been no sentence. It is in the handwriting of the Assistant Secretary of State, is I am in-formed. It reached the bands of the Marshal by mail on the 5th of March, and in the afteroon of that day was recalled to Washington. The present Altorney-General, upon considera-tion of the subject, held that the pardon, hav-ing been delivered to the Marshal, took effect, and caused the document to be returned. In his opinion I think he was right as a matter of

And yet, when this outrage upon common and statute law, no less than common sense, was perpetrated by this triumvirate, every Republican journal in New York was dumb or else, like the Times, vindicated the act, and called in question the correctness of the opinions expressed by the World on a question of public law.

Verily, "the makers of an idol have gone to confusion !"

What Next?

From the N. Y. World. "The sudden and sweeping reversal of the order concerning the relations of the staff offi the remaining the relations of the State of the Army, with which the accession of General of Sherman was recently signalized, is remarkable. What is its meaning?"—N. Y. Tribune.

Not at all remarkable! It is only one more in the lengthening list of the blunders of President Grant. It is Stewart's case over again, with the difference that Grant has not asked Congress to repeal the laws which he violated. It is much the same as the attempt to revoke the pardons of his immediate predecessor, which Judge Hoar has told his chief he had no legal power to make. As proof of the universality and deuseness of the ignorance of the President on all matters of public law, this last abort is perhaps more convincing than its predecessors, inasmuch as Grant has claimed to be an expert in army matters and army legislation. The World denounced the original order of March 5, 1869, and thus the eyes of the military hierarchy at Washington were opened.

The idea of taking away from the Secretary of War the authority which he had heretofore exercised in military matters, and conferring it on the General of the Army, has been a pet with Grant for long time. When not discoursing of horses and pups, he talked of how, by reason of the absence of General Scott from Washington with his headquarters in this city or West Point, the War Departtion, and make the Adjutant-General, sitting in the War Office, in effect the commanding officer of the army. So when he got to be President he fired off the order which he has just now been compelled to rescind, because it vested in General Sherman the control of matters wherein, by law, the judgment of the Secretary of War must be exercised and declared. The General Order No. 11 abolished, in great part, the office of Secretary of War, just as the performances of Admiral Porter annul and set aside the functions of the Secretary of the Navy. It required, in the present case, twenty-three days for Grant to comprehend that his order to Schofield of March 5, 1869, was not, as a legal order, worth the paper on which it was written. What next?

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