## THE DAILY EVENING TELEGRAPH-PHILADELPHIA, TUESDAY APRIL 6 1869

## SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURBENT TOPICS-COMPILED EVERY DAY FOR THE EVENING TELEGRAPH.

Good Idea in Mr. Grant. From the N. Y. World.

It gives us pleasure to see that Mr. Grant, who unfortunately has not at all times either leisure or inclination to see his own people, is yet ever ready to interview a Rebel's slave. It is evidently the purpose of the President of the United States, in these interviews, to draw wisdom from these black sources, and yet, while the search for knowledge is ever commendable, it is almost a reprehensible dis-tinction on second of color to receive that intinction on account of color to receive that instruction on account of color to receive that in-struction from a negro which is rejected, evaded, and despired in a white man. Mr. Grant is willing to hear Rthiopia out of its own mouth. Only let him be sure that it is a genuine Southern negro, a real late emandipated slave, a fully representative freed-man, and the more that come to the White House the better. There are certain glib mulattees from Canada, Jamaica, Boston, and other points frequently foisted on these Washington delegations, and of these let Mr. Grant be wary. They are not just out of slavery, and are not fair criteria, therefore, whereby to judge those that are. With this caution, it is quite commendable in the President to interview these blacks. Let him talk to as many field hands as he can, or rather let them many field hands as he can, or rather let them talk—a kind word or two will start 'em— and it will not be long before he can form very sound opinions as to the correct solution of the negro problem. He will find it to lie half way between the North and South—incapacity for self-government, as the South says, and necessity for protection, as the North 8878.

A Bold National Policy Relative to Cuba. From the N. Y. Herald.

The order of the President to Admiral Hoff, in command of our naval forces at Cuba, to protect all American citizens, looks like business and a decided policy. The high-handed outrages on American citizens, to say nothing of the inhuman atrocities and uncivilized of the inhuman atrocities and uncivilized mode of warfare of the Spaniards, called for this prompt and decided action of General Grant. But it is to be hoped our Government will go further than this and recognize the independence of the Cubans. The resolution reported by the House Committee on Foreign Affairs should be passed by Congress at once, and the President should lose no time in act-ing more it for commitmeen where interests ing upon it. Our countrymen whose interests or convenience compel them to reside tempo-rarily in Cuba are at the present moment placed in the greatest peril through the bitter hatred for everything American which ani-mates the mob of volunteers now ruling the Government and the island. To add to their perplexity, diplomatic intercourse in their behalf is denied to our Consul-General in Havana, and they must either look for redress in case of wrong to the tardy action of a Gov-erament three thousand miles away from the scene, or cling to the action of our Govern-ment in their behalf. In the emergency it is right and just that our naval commanders should be authorized to interfere in behalf of our countrymen.

There can be no doubt that the people of Cuba desire their independence and are determined to acquire it at any cost. This much at least has been developed in the progress of the revolution. That fact alone should be suf-ficient to call for the sympathy and support of the American Government and people. Then the barbarity of the Spaniards in the war calls for the protest or interposition of this neigh-boring republic, and, indeed, for the protest of the whole civilized world. But there is another important reason why the United States should take a bold national policy with regard to Cuba. We have vast interests at stake-a large trade, and prospectively's much larger one, and a broad American policy to carry out. The opportunity has come, as far as regards Cuba, to apply the Mouroe doctrine of excluding, as far as practicable, European powers from this continent. What would such a man as Bismark do in such a case? What would the man who seized and annexed the small German States, in carrying out a grand national policy for Prussia, do nnder such circumstances? What would Na-poleon, England, or Russia do? Proclaim the independence of Cuba at once, and, if desira-ble, annex. There would be no half-way measures or hesitation. What would General Jackson have done-that brave old American who selzed Florida when a colony of Spain on high national grounds? Let Congress and President Grant take the same high ground and settle the question at once. Any half-way measures of a quasi recognition of belligerent rights may lead to diplomatic complications with Spain and other European powers. Gene-ral Grant has done well in his order to Admiral Hoff. Let us see if he has the stuff of Bismark or General Jackson in him to go further, and settle at once and forever the Cuban question.

fallen upon evil times when such great powers are reposed in incompetent hands.

Albert Edward and Abdul Aziz.

A fellow-feeling makes us wondrous kind. Nowhere, probably, since his triumphal tour in unsophisticated America, has the Prince of Wales been so heartily received as in Constantinople, where, says a recent London telegram, he has already arrived and been "received by the Sultan with great splendor."

It is touching, this greeting between the young heir to the English throne and the debaucher of the Bosphorus; but it is only a fair exchange for the civilities shown to the latter by England during his western tour. What revolutions, what revenges has not time brought about in the relations of cross and crescent! The heir to the crown of Covar-de-Lion plays a friendly bont, not with mace or ax, but with knife and fork, as boon comrades and fellow-trenchermen, with the successor of Saladin. It was a token of changed times and manners when the "sick man of the Bosphorus'' arose, took up his bed, and walked westward; when, against custom and statute, and amid the doubtful head-shakings of conservative Mahometans, the Sultan electrified the faithful and made an epoch in Turkish history by gathering up his house-hold and starting to visit the Christian dogs of London, Paris, and Vienna. It is hardly less a wonder when Albert Edward makes a new crusade to the infidels, and is received with open arms.

Steam, telegraph, and the printing-press have at once revolutionized and saved the Othave at once revolutionized and saved the Ot-toman Empire. It was the toss of a penny, but the other day, whether the sick man should die and be dissected, or undergo that injection of new blood which, with nations as with men, may make even those in the valley and shadow of death live again. Ever since the allied intervention drove off the Surgeon-Czar who had prophesied the sick man's death, and who meant to make his word good, Tarkey has become a new nation. One might almost say the shock it took from its danger of death had re-toned its system. What we know, at all events, is that, with the example of travel and free intercourse which the Sultan set, and with the new nineteenth century ideas which now permeate Mohammedanism, Turkey has aligned herself with the Western Powers in the march of progress, and is capable of any-

thing. "The time has come," said the Sultan, in that remarkable speech with which he opened his last year's Council, "when Turkish manners must yield to European civilization." There was a noble omen in these pregnant words, themselves no doubt the fruit of the Sultan's tour. And that they were not idle is shown by the spirit with which Turkey received the Paris solution of the Greek question. Before the Conference met, the Porte acceeded to and urged its gathering; when it met, the Porte pledged its word to bow to the decision; and when that decision was made, it was accepted.

Another omen for the Ottoman Empire is the peaceful issue of the Grass-Cretan ques-tion-a matter surcharged with danger. Philanthropically, some of us may have sympa-thized with the Cretan insurgents, or depre-cated the harsh measures whereby Omar Pasha crushed it; but practically we must admit that crushed it is. Sensational stories of new risings cannot avail against official facts; and, meanwhile, the mutual disarmament of Greece and Turkey has been followed by the significant appointment of a new and acstantinople. Outriding this storm, Turkey may look with more confidence to avoiding other breakers ahead. We do not know, however, that we are justified in diverging into these general re-flections aprepos of the visit of the Prince of Wales. Very likely he knows little and cares less for the new prospects of Turkey; a man of different stamp from Napoleon III (who will not run from Paris to Havre without a deep political purpose), he may, for aught we know, journey eastward for mere amusement. Nevertheless, his visit will not, on that account, provoke the less comment, or be watched and reported from day to day with less interest; and if personal enjoyment be the Prince's end, doubtless he will be able at least to testify that the Sultan's dinners are deli-cious, and that, in Thackeray's words, "his Port is Sublime."

The country is now in condition to receive and dispose of a large proportion of the sur-plus gold in the public treasury—never more so. But the wretched bungler whom the radicals have forced upon Grant will not act up to the eccasion, but continue to unzettle confidence until a panic bring the business of the country about his ears. We have, indeed, fellen more avil times when such great no set. than an antiquarian, or, at least, a personal as distinguished from a public interest.

About Pardons.

From the Pittaburg Com The indisoriminate use, not to say abuse of the pardoning power, has been the subject of much complaint and criticism among the people of Pennsylvania for many years, and while every citizen will readily admit that nincteen twentieths of the pardons granted operate directly against the peace, safety, and well-being of society, still the evil is not only perpetuated, but increasing every year. It is a common thing to throw the responsibility entirely upon the Governor, but this is a grave mistake. It is true, the Executive holds this power alone, but when we consider the manner in which par-dons are obtained, it will be found that the people are responsible, in a large measure, for the harm done to society in this way. A corrupt Executive may, of his own volition, or through mercenary motives, grant pardons in unlimited numbers; but, under ordinary circumstances, nine-tenths of the convicts turned loose upon society are released through the influence and representations of parties claiming to be familiar with their character and standing, and who certify that they are proper subjects for executive elemency. Our political organizations, ramifying through every ward, township, and county, and the facility with which party men of influence and character can be induced to sign petitions for pardons, are mainly relied upon as the means for accomplishing the end sought. When an attorney fails to prove the innocence of his client, and the sentence of the law has been pronounced, he at once sets in motion all the machinery available to secure a pardon. All the appliances, social and political, are brought into action. A wife; mother, or sister is sent to importune the Governor, letters from prominent gentlemen are obtained, and petitions signed by carefully selected names are forwarded. It is amazing how easily good men can be induced to violate their clearest convictions of right and justice in the matter of signing these petitions. We have known in-stances where men who sat as jurors and judges, in the trial and conviction of criminals justly deserving of punishment, and unfit to mingle in society, have signed petitions for their parkon even before they had been sent to the penitentiary. Those who undertake the work of obtaining a pardon do not count so much upon the number of names as upon the social and political influence represented by the signers. The masses are never appealed to. Senators, Representatives, clergy-men, lawyers, politicians, editors, and all sup-posed to have weight with the Governor are approached by the pardon-seeker, and too often give their signatures thoughtlessly, often give their signatures thoughtlessly, recklessly, oriminally. No citizen who has at heart the welfare of the society in which he lives, should sign a petition for pardon unless he is convinced that the subject hasbeen illegally convicted, or that the penalty imposed was not justified by the circumstances of the case and the nature of the orime. If this course were pur-sued, improper pardons would be rare indeed. sued, improper pardons would be rare indeed. The Executive would hesitate long before extending elemency to a convict upon the mere representation of his counsel or the appeals of his family for sympathy. It is impossible, in the multiplicity of official duties, for the Gov-ernor to examine into the facts of each case (and in most cases the facts are carefully concealed), and he simply acts upon the representations of others. If these representations are truthful, no harm results to society, and the party restored to liberty is saved from a grievous wrong. On the other hand, if the representations are false, and a great criminal turned loose, the most serious conseis quences ensue-the law falls into contempt, orime increases, jury trials become a farce, and justice a mockery. For all this, then, the community is mainly responsible. They unlock the prison door and set the culprit That the pardoning power should be abridged, or modified in some way, is the opinion of many who have given this subject their attention. In some States this has already been done-as in Connecticut, where the Legislature alone exercises the power; in New Jersey, where all pardons are submitted to a regular Board; and in Maine, where they are passed upon by an Executive Council. In each of these States, the prerogative for-merly belonged exclusively to the Governor, as in our own State now. These changes might or might not prove beneficial in Pennsylvania. The Legislature would hardly be a safe depository for the power, while a Board of Pardons might be influenced quite as readily as an Executive. These facts only make the evil more apparent, and suggest the difficulty of devising an adequate remedy. In the meantime, let every citizen ponder well the responsibility resting upon him as an individual, and as a member of society, when called upon to sign a petition for pardon. Let him consider well the consequences, and give his signature only from knowledge of the case. When our men of influence, position, and power cease to lend their names for this purpose, the responsibility will be thrown solely upon the Executive, and pardons will be rarely granted.

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The Interest on the Public Debt.

From the N. Y. World. Mr. Bontwell makes his first demonstration as Secretary of the Treasury with an order to anticipate the interest on the public debt, subject to a rebatement of 6 per cent. In this step he makes clear his character as a fussy, Impracticable politician, and demolishes all pretensions which he may have had to be con-sidered a statesman and a financier.

Government bonds are held for two pur-poses. One class of holders have put their money in them as an investment. Are these going to accept prepayment of their interest when it is accompanied with the practical defeat of the purpose for which the bonis were purchased ? Another class of holders are speculators operating for a rise or fall, and at all times auxious to use them as collaterals for temporary loans, for which purpose they are in great favor. But they cannot be negotiated, nor are they available as collaterals when coupons not yet due have been removed. Therefore, Mr. Boutwell's order becomes merely a demonstration which the proprietor of a mock-auction or gift-jewelry concern might practise, but which is discreditable in the Secretary of the Treasury.

Mr. Boutwell has, we believe, been a small trader in his day. He may be presumed, there-fore, to know comething of the practices of business men in anticipating their paper. Do not they often go into the money market and buy up their notes when they may, from any cause, be purchased at a discount? Mr. Boutcause, be purchased at a discount? Mr. Bout-well has a surplus of at least sixty millions of gold over all needful reservations to meet such contingencies as may arise. The Government has outstanding large amounts of bonds which it is pledged to redeem in gold at par. But these bonds may now be bought with gold at 85 per cent. of their face. Mr. Boutwell might now buy and cancel seventy-five millions of these bonds with about sixty-four millions of dollars, thus saving eleven millions at once to dollars, thus saving eleven millions at once to the Federal Treasury, and four and a half millions in annual interest. Instead of this plain, business-like proceeding, he drags the Government into Wall street as a peddling money shaver, and brings upon his adminis-tration of the Treasury Department the disgust of the Treasury Department the disgust of all business men.

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## Mr. Johnson at Knoxville.

From the N. Y. Times.

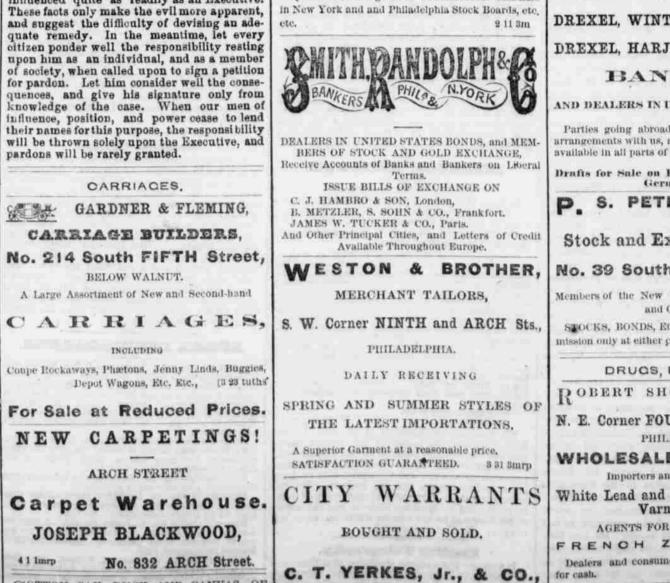
Mr. Johnson has most emphatically shown, at Knoxville, that he is not dead-physically, at least—but very much alive; as the phrase goes, he is "alive and kicking." But he is kicking against the pricks in his useless tirades against events which history has made "fixed facts." Revolutions never go backward-a philosophic principle which, as Mr. Johnson ignored it during his administration. will probably help toward making him comparatively ignored now.

Whatever influence the ex-President may hereater exert on local Tenneesee politics, it is probable that his influence on national politics is on the wane. Fortified by his position as Chief Magistrate, and throwing his whole weight constantly upon that tremendous lever of official patronage which the President controls, Mr. Johnson maintained through four years a stubborn struggle against overwhelming numerical odds. But Mr. Johnson in the Presidency is a very different power from Mr. Johnson out of the Presidency; and, though he is fond of comparing himself to exiled Marcellus, while his rival is "Cæsar with the Senate at his heels," yet he himself must feel the difference in leverage power on public sentiment between his present and his former state. "Slave" though he calls himself, in referring to his past four years, it was a species of bondage which he was perfectly willing to have the Democratic Convention of July reimpose upon him; and if he has escaped the yoke of the car of state, he must also be aware that he no longer draws that car after him. Nor has Mr. Johnson anything new to say to the people-any new view or idea upon which he may claim their attention. He is a

very frank, earnest, and honest man; and, accordingly, his Presidential policy has been repeatedly explained by him to the people in an intelligible way-nobody could possibly mistake it—and, having understood it com-pletely, the people have repeatedly and em-phatically condemned it. Mr. Johnson now says that he designs to devote the remainder of his life "to the vindication of his official career." In other words, just as he vetoed for the twentieth time Congressional measures on certain grounds, and did not fail to reite-rate the reasons which had been overruled nineteen times before, so now we are to hear again those doctrines which the people have refused to sanction.

But the political history of the past eight years shows nothing more conclusively than that the men and the parties who devote hemselves exclusively to reviving dead





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