## SPIRIT OF THE PRESS

MOSTORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS-COMPILED BYERY DAY FOR THE EVENING THURGRAPH.

The Cuban Question. From the N. Y. Herald.

The resolution passed by the House of Representatives on Saturday last, by the large vote of 98 yeas to 24 nays, is a clear and truthful expesition of the feeling entertained by the people of the United States in regard to the revolution now in progress in the island of Cuba. Its words are these:-

"Resolved, by the House of Representatives, That the people of the United States sympathize with the people of Cuba in their patriotic erforts to secure their independence and establish a republican form of government guaranteeing the personal liberty and the equal political rights of all the people, and the House of Representatives will give its constitutional support to the President of the United States whenever, in his opinion, a republican government shape. ever, in his opinion, a republican government shall have been in fact established, and he may deem it expedient to recognize the independence and sovereignty of such republican government."

Had time permitted in the short session of Congress which has just closed that the resolution should have been offered in the Senate. it would no doubt have been passed by an equally large vote in that body. The passage of this resolution by the Senate would have strengthened its record before the people, but could have added nothing to the strength of the resolution nor to the duty incumbent upon the administration to recognize the wish of the country and to act in accordance with it.

In all great questions of national polity the instinct of the people is always in advance of the politicians and placemen; and these are successful in administration in proportion only as they recognize the ideas of their age and act in accordance with them. The Cuban question is the touchstone of President Grant's administration. He will succeed or fail in proportion as he exhibits capacity or incapacity to grasp the problem now presented to him.

If he fail to comprehend the true grandeur and power which attend the march of the American idea, and waste in diplomatic parley and inaction the precious moments, when "from the nettle danger" he should "pluck the flower safety," he will forfeit the high confidence which the country has reposed in him, and consign his administration from its very start to the distrust and doubt of the people of America and to the contempt of the states-men of the world. The resolution offered on Monday by Assistant Alderman Stephen Roberts, and so promptly passed by the Com-mon Council of New York city, is the true echo of the popular voice to the House reso-Intion we have quoted above, and we hope, and the whole country hopes, that the President will listen to the call of duty and prove himself equal to the task of its requirements.

The first step for him to take is to lay down a bold and national line of policy for his administration in this great question, and to require every member of his Cabinet to live up When the fires of civil war were lighted in this Union the Cabinets of Western Europe did not hesitate to show their sympathy with the Rebellion, and England, France, and Spain in rapid succession proclaimed their nentrality between the contending parties, which was in fact a proclamation of their sympathy with the Rebellion. Upon the sels of this announcement came the great fact that the harbors of England and Spain in the islands of the American Mediterranean were converted into nests of blockade-runners. while France undertook the still grander role of establishing an empire in Mexico. From all these points war was actively made upon us, and the conflict was greatly prolonged, and our sacrifices of treasure and of blood were enormously increased in consequence. When victory perched upon our bauners, our arst step was to drive the French out of Mexico. This we did, not because the contending parties in Mexico had no right to invite French intervention there, but because France made that intervention a part of the war of Western Europe against the integrity

of the American Union. The march of events leaves us no choice in taking the next step in this truly American policy. Spain converted Cuba into a picket post hostile to us during the late Rebellion, and now that the natural development of American ideas and the love of freedom have led the Cubans to proclaim their independence, we owe it to ourselves and to the cause of humanity and civilization to throw the moral weight of our sympathy and favor in their behalf. The war which Spain is to-day waging in Cuba is much more a war against us than was French intervention in Mexico. It is a war to perpetuate African slavery. It is a war to perpetuate a hostile position on our coast, from which to annoy and harass us whenever occasion shall offer. It is a war to stay the march of American pre-ponderance in America. We should accord to the Cubans at once the belligerent rights which Spain hastened to accord the Rebels. When the Sumter ran out from New Orleans to inaugurate the Rebellion upon the seas, had she run into Havana she would have been perfectly safe, and the lives of her crew secure under the proclamation of the Spanish Government. It was the activity of our own craisers in those waters only that closed the perts of Cuba to Semmes. When a few Cubans boldly captured a Spanish steamer on the high seas, a few days since, had they taken refuge in an American port they weuld have been subject to trial and execution as pirates; and if the friends of free Cuba now buy a few arms from us to help the cause of freedom, they subject themselves to fine and imprisonment; while the agents of Spain are allowed free access to our workshops and private arsenals, and are liberally availing themselves thereof to arm their troops and their mad volunteers.

Let an end be put to this anomalous state of things, and let us confer upon the patriots of Cuba the rights of belligerents by procla-mation. They have earned these rights by a successful prosecution of war for six months; by a conquest of more than one-half of the territory of the island; by pouring out their blood and treasure freely in behalf of freedom; and by their indomitable resolution in burning their towns and the seat of their free government, when the tide of war has swept adversely to them. Let the administration be bold and courageous enough to proclaim to the world that it will not hold every man who chooses to risk his life in freedom's battle to be a robber and a pirate, and entitled to none of the rights of honorable warfare. Let it be true to the instincts and aspirations of the American people, as so well announced by the resolution of the House of Representatives, and be it not afraid to let the whole world know that it loves liberty, and will hail with satisfaction the triumph of American ideas and of freedom.

Grant-Mexico-Rosecrans.

From the N. Y. World. It has been understood, for several weeks, that President Grant inclines to recall General Rosecrans from Mexico, and that he would be glad to replace him by the ex-Rebel General Longstreet if he thought the Senate would confirm the latter. It has been currently reported, in the Washington gossip, that he nominated Longstreet for the New Orleans

temper of the Senate, in order to pave the way for his nomination to the Mexican mission, if he floated him easily through that body for the minor office. The formidable opposition to Longstreet's confirmation as Surveyor has extinguished the hope of making him minister. At any rate, it has been de-cided to recall Rosecrane; and it has leaked out, in Washington circles, that the subject was recently discussed in the Cabinet, and that the chief reason for displacing Rosecraus is the fact that he is a Roman Catholic. General Grant takes a more active interest in the affairs of Mexico than in those of any other foreign country. At the close of the war, he wished to march an army thither and drive out Maximilian. He now aspires to be a pacificator for settling the internal disturbances of that ill-fated and anarchical republic. He thinks that the Protestant sentiment of the United States requires the repression of the Church party in Mexico, and that a Catholic minister is not a suitable agent for counterworking the designs of the Mexican clergy. And it is in this view that he has decided to recall Rosecrans.

In our judgment, this is a mistaken and parrow-minded policy. It the first place, our Government cannot concern itself with questions of religion without violating one of its fundamental principles. That it can take no cognizance of religious questions at home, is universally admitted; and surely it has less right to intermeddle in the religious disputes of foreign countries than in those of our own. All the internal affairs of foreign countries are matters of domestic policy with which we have no proper concern; and if we were to intrude beyond our sphere at all, it would seem that religion should be more exempt from our interference than any other subject. According to our American ideas, religion is entirely outside of governmental jurisdiction; and if the domestic government of a country cannot properly include it, how much less a foreign government, which has no jurisdiction of any kind beyond the limits of its own territory.

It is no doubt true that one of the chief impediments to the success of republican institutions in Mexico is the influence of its church dignitaries. They were the abettors of Maximilian, and they have never had any sympathies with the liberal party. But nothing could be more absurd than the expectation of countervailing their influence through a Protestant minister of the United States. There are no Protestants in Mexico; the only religious differences being between the bigoted and the liberal Catholics. The readiest and most effective weapon of the high church party is to accuse the liberals of a leaning towards Protestantism and a design to subvert the Catholic faith. The withdrawal of a minister of the United States for the sole reason that he is a Catholic, and the substitution of another for the sole reason that he is a Protestant, would strengthen the high clergy by supplying them with a formidable means of rendering their opponents odious. There would be plausible grounds for accusing them of an attempt to subvert the Catholic faith, and to subvert it by Protestant intermeddling from the United State-topics which would appeal powerfully both to the Mexican sentiment of religion and the Mexican sentiment of patriotism. A change of religion at the dictation of a foreign government is the one thing which would be more strenuously resisted by the popular sentiment of Mexico than any other; and this is the light in which the clerical party will represent the attempt of President Grant. Even allowing that he may properly concern himself with the religious difficulties of that unfortunate country, he could hardly adopt a more self-defeating method, or commit a more fatal blunder, thau the substitution of one minister for another solely on the ground of religion, and thereby arousing and uniting every element of reli-

gious hostility. The difference between the Mexican liberals and the Mexican bigots is of the same nature as the difference between Gallicism and Ultramontanism in France: that is to sav, it turns on the authority of the Papacy in the regulation of religion as a state establishment. The full extent of the Papal claims is not necessarily admitted by a Catholic community, as is proved by the example of France, of the new kingdom of Italy, by the recent ecclesiastical history of Austria, and, more convincingly to us, by the staunch republicanism and nationality of the Catholics of the United States. There being no Protestantism in Mexico, it would be the most obvious dictate of good policy-if it were permissible for General Grant to concern himself with religion in that country at all-to co-operate with liberal Catholics by giving them his moral support, and sending a minister in full sympathy with their views and aims. The minister best suited to that purpose would be a liberal Catholic, whose appointment would shock no religious prejudices in Mexico, and who would be considered as a representative of the great and liberal Catholic denomination in the United States. A liberal Catholicism is sufficiently favorable to republican institutions, as we all know in this country; and at all events, it is the only element which can be arrayed in successful hostility to the bigoted clerical party in Mexico. A liberal Catholic, who would easily gain the confidence of the liberal Catholics of Mexico, is the fittest selection for the Mexican mission. Of course, General Grant does not aim to be a propagandist of the Protestant religion in Mexico, but only of political reform; and this cannot be promoted by shocking and exasperating the religious prejudices of that

General Grant is demonstrating his lamentable incapacity to approach political questions on their moral side, and put moral forces in operation to accomplish political results. The first Napoleon had a maxim, which he expressed by an apt military figure, that a government should never attack religious errors in front, but always operate on their flank. They are intensified and strengthened by open opposition. If President Grant desires to weaken the clerical influence in Mexico, he should attempt it in a manner so covert and indirect as not to frustrate his own design by arousing Catholic hostility and supplying it with formidable weapons. His plan operations is calculated to strengthen the olerical party in Mexico, and to arouse against him the indignant opposition of the Catholics of the United States—a double blunder which shows his unfitness to use any other appliances than physical force; shows, in other words, that his talents are only adapted to war, and not to peace.

Financial Situation in Europe.

From the N. Y. Bulletin. The financial situation in Europe is posi-tively startling. Its various States appear to be dritting into certain bankruptcy. With the exception of Prussia, which seems to be the wisest governed nation in Europe, they all have enormous debts which can never be paid; and, excepting Prussia and England, their expenses exceed their incomes. Taxation has been reduced to a science, and there is no art of extorting money from the people with which their respective governments have not made themselves familiar. The excess of expenditure over income has been so common in all the European countries that the fact of a deficiency scarcely excites attention. Yet it is not to be supposed that such Surveyorship as a pioneer experiment on the | a condition of affairs is not as injurious to na-

tions as to individuals. The only difference that the only method by which the laborer is, that the end is slower in the case of national can be relieved from what he calls the pressure is, that the end is slower in the case of national indebtedness. An individual is ruin-t by debts more easily than a nation. But in both cases the inevitable results are bank-

ruptcy and ruin. In this view, the fatal facility with which the European governments continue to live beyond their means is by no means encouraging to the friends of kingly government. How they can contrive to obtain credit is a matter of surprise. But human credulity has a limit, and people, sooner or later, will realize that the enormous national debts they are piling up represent their own misery and poverty. The deficit of the six leading nations of Europe, last year, was five hundred million dollars-more than the expenditures of the United States, including interest on the national debt.

This indebtedness, however, is not an unmixed evil. It increases the dependence of the Government upon the people, and its ten-dency is to break down the last remaining links of feudalism. The Governments have contrived to obtain possession of the best portion of the soil of their respective countries, which are mortgaged for the payment of prin-cipal and interest. By-and-by there will be a fibancial collapse, and no payment of interest. Then will come the foreclosure and sale of public property.

This process has been going on for some time in Spain. The government of that country could obtain no more loans, and was obliged to sell off large slices of the public or royal property to pay expenses. As for the Pope, his property, Vatican and all, is pass-ing slowly but surely into the hands of the Rothschilds, who have mortgages upon almost everything of salable value belonging to him. Other nations are passing through the same ordeal, and will doubtless some of them soon be in the hands of the money king.

Our own national debt is large enough to cause uneasiness. But there seems to be at least an honest purpose to pay it, principal and interest. It is the price of the nation's existence, and synonymous with the national honor. Even Mr. Gladstone, the great English financier, admits that it may be paid off in one generation. But the enormous debts of European nations "represent vast standing armies, odious monopolies, and class legislation," and their extinction is only possible through bankruptcy and revolution.

The Tyranny of Capital. From the N. Y. Tribune.

To divide the fruits of industry between the capitalist and the laborer, that there might be harmony, has been attempted from the first organization of society; and attempts are still made, but without success, and there are closing of workshops, and strikes, and apparently never-ending antagonisms.

In all the elaborate discussions, so far as we

have seen, no reference is made to an important element in our social structure, and it seems to us that this should receive careful consideration as a preliminary to an understanding of this question. We refer to the absolute need, in society, that a considerable portion of the wealth created shall be reserved that it may be drawn upon in times of necessity, and for the appropriation of another portion for public improvements -now become a requisite for individual well-being, and for the maintenance of the poor and the unfortunate; for, we may think as we please, and protest as vehemently as we will, society is a unit, and it is as much possessed of individuality and power as the most despotic emperor. That the required wealth may be set apart, it is necessary, as a first step, that a part of the individuals who form society shall have the mental quality leading them to save and to accumulate, and as we have such, this quality of saving may be said actually to inhere in society. These persons we call capitalists, whatever may be their rank, station, or culture, and, viewed in the proper light, they are public benefactors. Although they contribute all their powers to the accumulation of wealth, with the idea that what they save is wholly their own, still they are little more than stewards; for whatever disposition they may choose to make of their wealth, it still will be used for the good of society; and, besides, should the public necessity ever require it, they may be dispossessed of the last dollar. It is true that the necessity must be very great before such spoliation would be permitted, for society instinctively watches and guards reserved wealth, and its total extinction is as much dreaded as is the death of the queen bee by her subjects. When the laborer, and those who sympathize with him, declaim against the accumulation of capital, they do not consider that without it neither themselves nor society, except in a savage state, would exist. That wealth engenders extravagance and follies of every name is to be granted, but the evil done is confined to unfortunate individuals who, in our country, seen run their race; nor is this evil at all equal to the good which accumulated wealth brings to mankind at large.

It must be seen, then, that the complaint of the laborer that he is robbed of his earninge is not true, at least to the extent he alleges, for he is made a partaker of this wealth in many respects, and, beside, it will be preserved for the benefit of his children The only real complaint he can make is that he is not permitted to control it; but, as he has shown himself incapable of keeping it, the control is placed in more careful hands.

When a man accumulates wealth he no less accumulates within himself qualities of equal -indeed, we should say of much greatervalue. These are persistence, patience, foresight, and self-denial, which contribute in a marked degree to the enlargement of the mind, and hence such must, in the nature of the case, be superior to the laboring man who with health and strength consumes all he earns. Of course we refer to the condition of things in this country, where no real obstacles prevent development; and we may say, also, that all similar discussions should refer to society on this continent, for their application to European society is out of place, since barbaric institutions which should have died out during the last century really do oppose and op-

press the laboring classes. The first thing which the laboring man is to consider is whether it is not practicable for him also to become a capitalist by saving a part of his earnings, and, as a consequence, acquire an enlarged mind, by which he will be able to abcumulate still more, for saving to any extent is an intellectual achievement. spend the whole of one's wages at the close of each week requires no skill, but the saving even of a small portion actually brings out some high quality of the mind, and this will be a basis, and the only one porsible, by which ultimate prosperity is to be secured. Nor is he to compare his poor attempts with others, except to consider that the ability to acquire large sums had a beginning as humble as his own, and that his own, humble as it was the natural outgrowth of years of self-denial and wise management. If he should suspect that such a power is a hereditary gift, he may as well suspect that he him-self has this hereditary gift, lying unde-veloped; or, it will not be less important to know that he can transmit such powers to his children, for it is more glorious to be the first than the last of a family. Thus, in whatever light we consider the subject, it will be seen

of capital, but which really is the weight of his inactive self, is to acquire the habit of saving, whether in a cooperative or in an individual capacity, that he may place himself upon the side of capital and secure the advantages which it brings, more or less; and thus he will correspond to society, which, as a unit, insists upon the accumulation of a reserve to be drawn upon in times of necessity.

No More Indian Treaties.

From the N. V. Times. A new point of departure in our policy regarding the Indians has now been taken. By the Senate's recession from its amendments making appropriations under the new treaties, a policy is as good as agreed upon for overthrowing the old treaty system.

Treaty? the very word almost implies the mutual agreement of two sovereign powers; and, until we are agreed that there exists a power besides our own Government within our domains, the very word used of Indian negotiations is a misnomer.

But we have not hitherto been content to use a wrong name; we have also been doing a vicious and pernicious thing. We have been making treaties with the Indians for years, as if they were hostile sovereigns. The Senate has sometimes discussed these treaties, and passed them in the same way as treaties with England or France—that is to say, not in its legislative, but in its executive or treaty-making capacity. Until the other day, hardly a voice was raised against this monstrous incongruity, except by the army, who have always, from their peculiar habits of thought and action, seen it and deplored it. Nay, we doubt now whether our people in general have noted the grand, fundamental legislative error we have been guilty of-an error of that sort which lies at the root of all political action. This is the legal view of the old treaty system; its moral aspect, or that of expediency, is still more strikingly, though not more intrinsically, awry. Under the pre-tense of treaties, jobs, swindles, and truck-and-dicker of all sorts have been rushed through the Senate-often when but a haudful of members were present—and the Indian ring controlled everything to its purposes. When these wholesale swindles had been perpetrated-and sometimes, it is alleged, an Indian tribe had not half the number of members a Senate treaty would take for granted it had-equal trouble arose on the Plains. A erew of sharks, sharpers, runners, traders, sutlers, swindlers, and Indian agents generally, took care to let as little as possible of the worth of any money set apart to the use of the Indians reach them. Thence came complaint, protest, anger, recrimination, revenge, plunder, and war.

Such was the treaty system hitherto flourishing. It is cheering to know from Mr. Dawes, who presented to the House the conference report on the Appropriation bill, that "probably not another Indian treaty would be made."

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40 To Paris.

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THE SOUTH AND SOUTHWEST FAST FREIGHT LINE, EVERY THURSDAY.

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WILL FORM A REGULAR WEEKLY LINE,
The steamship PROMETHEUS will sail on THURSDAY, April 15, at 4 P. M.
Through bills of lading given in connection with S.
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