SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS DPON CURRENT TOPICS-COMPILED EVERY DAY FOR THE EVANING TELEGRAPH.

CIVIL SERVICE-THE ONLY REMEDY. From the N. Y. Time

The warmest upholders of our present sys-tem of appointment to office must agree that the spectacle recently presented in Washington has been peculiarly disgraceful. To find that city crowded with men who are eager applicants for offices to which they have not the smallest adaptation, to hear of the Vice-President so badgered by these uublushing place-hunters that he is obliged to abandon his official position and take refuge in the country; and that even the iron constitution of the President sinks under this incessant and shameless importunity for office, and Congress is glad to adjourn to escape it-is certainly altogether one of the most unpleamant pictures we have had in a long time of the tendency of our method of filling public

Along with this spectacle, which is calculated to bring disgrace everywhere on republican institutions, come the thousand com-plaints and proofs from all sides of the utter demoralization of our civil service. Our most trustworthy officials estimate that the public losses from the incompetence and dishonesty of the public servants, amount now every year to the enormous sum of one hundred millions of dollars. In other words, of every four dollars paid by the poorest citizen in taxes, one is stolen by rogues or lost by incompetents. Every man, woman, and child suffers from this degradation of the public service. It is paid for in the hard earnings of the poor, by the salaries of the professional classes and the wealth of the rich. All lose from it. Worst even than this, it corrupts character and disturbs honest industry. The buying and selling of offices is depraying every department of Government, and casting far and wide the seeds of corruption. We see the effects in Albany, in every State capital, and at Washington. Names that ought to be most honored are not free from its stains. The public is losing the sense of manly independence and high-toned honor, under the influence of this scramble for office and bargaining with public positions. Young men are continually leaving pursuits of industry and honest production for this waiting for chances—this drawing of prizes. The system has become a curse and a disgrace to the country. That great political philosopher and economist, J. Stuart Mill, rightly characterized it recently, in a public letter, as "the one great blot and disgrace on American institutions."

What is worst, too, in the whole matter, the evil will continually increase. There never was such an undignified scramble for place as this year; there was never more jobbery and corruption, and never more difficulty and seeming impossibility in filling the right place with the right man. Four years hence the spectacle at Washington will be only more degrading, the scramble more disgraceful, the jobs and bargains more corrupt, and the inefficiency of the public servants more glaring -simply because the number of offices will become each year greater, the prizes richer, and the public sense of honor more dulled nuder the present system. This is evidently the inevitable drift of things in this country.

There is but one practical remedy for this state of things, and that is the entire change of the mode of appointment to places of public 1rust. This can be secured only by the adoption

of the system begun so favorably in Great Britain-of appointment by examination, and not by favor or from party service; or, in other words, the passage of Mr. Jenckes' bill. Yet we cannot say that the prospects of this most salutary measure are very hopeful. What Mr. Mill calls "the greatest perverters of free institutions"-the professional politicians-control both houses of Congress and all the machinery of elections. Two hundred and twenty men could not, with the utmost care, be picked out from the population of the whole Union who are, by interest, habit, and tradition, so opposed to the principles of this bill as the members of the present House of Representatives. The Senate, too, has its own grounds of opposition. The President, indeed, is on the side of the bill, and a vast and growing constituency of intelligent men and the opinion of the civilized world. But all these allies are as yet weak against the professional politicians. Moreover, there are among the masses cer-

tain unfounded prejudices against the measure. It is stigmatized as "English," though it might more properly be called "Chinese;" appointment by examination being a custom of the Celestial Empire as old as the Norman conquest. It has given the English an honest custom house, a post office which is un-equalled in the world for accuracy and rapidity, and a most intelligent Indian ad-ministration. We have received too many good things from the little island to object if we at length obtain an honest civil service

Mr. Jenckes' bill, it is said, will establish aristocracy of officials." But this has been a measure in England which was most of all a pet of the Liberal party, and was at first opposed by the aristocracy. It does away with favoritism and appointment by blood or by personal or party influence. It comes down to the true democracy of intelligence and char-acter. To establish "a profession" of office-holders—a trained body of men of character and fitness for their places, with the esprit du corps of a regular profession, is what is most of all needed in this country. The sooner we have such an "aristocracy," the better for

It is urged, too, that it is a mere measure of "pedantry," making book-learning the great test for public service. This is a mis-take. In the British competitive examinations, an expert in every depart-ment is present at the examina-tion of the applicants in his own branch. Moreover, character and bodily health are both made tests, and, on a broad scale, it is found that intellectual training is, to a certain extent, a pledge of character. But the advan-tage of the examination in ordinary school branches is, that the public secures at least a respectable education in its servants, and this, with character, health, and the tested knowledge of the practical branch aimed at, makes a better basis for eventual selection than the fact that the applicant is a friend of a Congressman, or has made a stump speech

Mr. Jenckes' bill, we believe, provides that all those who obtain the certificates of the Examing Board shall alone form the class from whom the final selection is to be made; so that we shall have, then, a trained class of office-

we shall have, then, a trained class of office-seekers, who can apply without any loss of self-respect, and whose appointment entails no corruption or jobbery.

This great reform is, perhaps, too profound to be expected speedily. But everything may be expected, in an intelligent community like curs, from discussion. When we remember what discussion has accomplished within two years, in exposing "the greenback heresy," we may hope, in time, even for the success of "competitive examinations."

THE ENGLISH NEGOTIATIONS

the N. Y. Tribune Mr. Chandler is a Senator whose filelity to his convictions is only equatled by the marvellous freedom with which he sometimes expresses them. There is never any doubt about his feelings. He is nothing if not downright. Withal, he is so good a man, and has rendered such sturdy service, in times past, to a good cause which was not then popular, that we may now regret, but can still forgive, his extreme demonstrations against Great

Yet, since Mr. Chandler has himself chosen to remind the country of his past course on the questions that are now resolved into the Alabama claims controversy, we may recall the fact that he has never on this subject represented the position or purposes of the American people. In 1864 he wanted to de-clare that the base of the Rebellion was in the Canadas, and to act accordingly. As a matter of fact very few now believe that this was true, and as a matter of policy everybody sees that its announcement would have been unwise if not disastrous. He tells us now that he did not make his proposition without consultation with the military authorities, and calculations as to how soon threats of this sort would emable us to collect our claims from Great Britain. But his consultations came to nothing, and his resolution was never reported, one way or the other, from the committee to which it was referred. In 1866 Mr. Chandler wanted to have peremptory demand made for immediate payment of our claims, and, this failing, wanted an act of non-intercourse, and the instant withdrawal of our Minister. Probably no one but the earnest and patriotic Senator himself now believes that non-intercourse was the remedy to be employed in 1866, or that the withdrawal of our Minister would have resulted in graver discomforts to the British empire than it would have inflicted upon ourselves. There may be those who think with Mr. Chandler that such a course would have insured a settlement of the Alabama claims, but they cannot be of the number who remember with us that our cousins across the water have nearly or quite as much human nature as ourselves. The Sena-tor's next adventure into this field was a proposal to repeal our neutrality laws. Surely there cannot be three members of the Senate who agree with him in regarding the suggestion that we do wrong because Great Britain refuses to do right, as any solution of our difficulties. In 1867 Mr. Chandler wanted to declare our strict neutrality between the Governments of Great Britain and Abyssinia, in the war then pending. If any one besides the Senator now thinks that the moral position of the United States before the world would have been improved by such an abandonment of all the principles we professed on the subject, we should be at a loss to know where to look for him. In all these demonstrations we believe Mr. Chandler to have been sincere -and solitary. He occupies very nearly the same position now.

The Senator proposes that our newly-ap-pointed Minister should go to London with a demand in one hand and a threat in the other. "If Great Britain should meet us in a friendly spirit, acknowledge her wrong, and cede all her interests in the Canadas in settlement of these claims, we will have perpetual peace with her; but if she does not, we must conquer peace. We cannot afford to have an enemy's base so near to us. It is a national necessity that we should have the British possessions. He hoped such a negotiation would be opened, and that it will be a peaceful one; but if it should not be, and England insists on war, then let the war be 'short, sharp, and decisive.' If war should come, he would say now that the 60,000 veteran soldiers of Michigan would take the contract to capture the Canadas in thirty days, without a man or gun from any other State."
From the tone and temper of this we hasten to express our utter dissent. We believe, with the Senator, that this nation has been grieveusly wronged. We believe, with him, that the measure of our redress must be far more than the mere money value of the ships actually destroyed by pirates equipped in British ports. We believe, with one whose words, rising from a grave over which both hemispheres have uttered their lamentations, that "Great Britain car-ried on war from these shores with the United States, and inflicted an amount of damage greater than would be produced by many ordinary wars;" that the capture and barning of American vessels, in itself great, has been but a small part of the injury inflicted on the American marine;" and that, to quote Mr. Cobden's emphatic conclusion, "we (the British) have rendered the rest of her vast mercantile property useless." We believe that, when this just and honorable basis for estimating the liabilities actually incurred by the unfriendly and most unfortunate acts of the British Cabinet shall be ence settled, the offer to cede the Canadas may well be made on the one hand, and considered on

the other. But we do not believe that the proper spirit in which to conduct this negotiation is one of bluster or threatening. We do not believe that it is desirable to approach an ancient empire, as proud as she is still powerful, with the notice that she must settle promptly, on our terms, in thirty days, or fight for her possessions, which we are quite capable of taking, in thirty more, with the volunteers from a single one of our States. We doubt, indeed, whether we need make haste to settle the matter at all. We lose little by delay; she may lose much. The longer the adjustment is postponed, the surer we are of recompense for our losses. Time is our ally.

Meanwhile we trust and believe that whatever negotiations may occur will be conducted in a spirit of the most perfect courtesy and the sincerest desire to promote a peaceful ad justment. Neither the new administration nor the new Minister will forget that, after all, the English are of the same blood with ourselves, and that, because they are, they must not be bullied. Mr. Sumner's speech, in this and most regards, represents the settled determination of the American people; Mr. Chandler's, only passionate prejudices, which will not control our policy. We all know that Great Britain is too proud a nation to be coerced by unworthy fears. Let us not forget that the United States is too great a nation to fail in securing justice, and too absolutely assured of her power to secure it to be guilty of the bluster and bravado which characterize only the weak.

CHANDLER ON THE ALABAMA CLAIMS. From the N. Y. Herald.

At the present stage of our negotiations with England on the Alabama claims, we ought not to belittle and weaken our own case by conduct wanting in national dignity or by such extreme assertion of our own views as must at once close discussion by forcing it be-youd the rational limit. Such an utterance as that of Mr. Chandler in his resolution in regard to Canada damages our case, so far as it has any effect whatever, and if his resolution were acted upon it could have no other result than to forfeit the very strong ground we now hold in our difference with England. If Mr. Chandler was talking for Michigan, we must regret that he chose this very important subject at a time when every word spoken in our Senate may be scrutinized for the

indications of our temper; for certainly it would not be creditable to us to have it supposed that we entered in this spirit upon a grave question of national right and honor. grave question of national right and honor. Bull's and vaporers have no man's respect and it is a weak case that has to be sustained with threats. Our position among the nations and our demonstrated power are such that no nation can put us off with a joke unless we begin the joking. England cannot refuse to hear and heed with due respect our statement of grievances unless we put that statement in such a shape that a common sense of courtesy and right the world over will justify her in refusing to listen to it. And his we do if we open the case with a threat that her territory shall not be safe so lsng as she refuses to accept our conclusion. Our case might have been very well lett to go to the common sense of England on Mr. Sumuer's statement of it; but our opponents on the other side of the water may well use Mr. Chandler's ridiculous clamor to show that we are a people with whom it is in vain to

GRANT AND GREELEY.

From the N. Y. World, Mr. Horace Greeley's remarks in Tuesday's Tribune, upon finally finding that the President was not minded to give him any office, form one of the most mournful and lugubrious attempts at jollity which the melancholy mind of man ever gave vent to. The Mark Tapley of fiction cheering himself in the wreck of matter at Eden, and bearing up against the unboly tricks of Scadder, is a spectacle upon which the humane mind may find a certain satisfaction in dwelling; but the Doctor Johnson of history "cracking his jokes and cursing the sun," is one from which even pity must turn repelled. And it is much more in the latter guise than in the former that the versatile philosopher of the Tribune represents himself to us. Indeed, if we take away from the lexicographer his wit, his wisdom, and his learning, the residuum presents some points which have a striking resemblance to the character of H. G. But although Dr. Johnson has recorded, in the most pathetic of his productions, how he endured to dance attendance upon the couchees and to be shouldered by the lackeys of a Chesterfield, he at least had the grace to withdraw after months of a fruitless suit, and when he perceived himself to have exhausted "all the powers of pleasing that a retired and nncourtly scholar can command." And, moreover, he had not the dishenesty to dissemble how sorely he was hurt. But H. G. has notoriously wooed President after President, and exercised all the wiles of a "retired and uncourtly" journalist upon a series of political mistresses, who, agreeing in nothing else, have nevertheless agreed in rejecting him. And, having so far and so often forgotten his high calling, H. G. comes before us now with the air of an undertaker's mute off duty, and disingenuously endeavors to persuade us that the contortions of his benevolent features under torture are the unforced smiles of hilarious joy.

"Though he"-Greeley relates of Greeley-"has twice conversed treely with the President respecting certain meditated appointments, no word or hint was dropped on either side which imported that he was or suggested that he might be himself appointed to any post whatever."

Conjecture is baffled in the endeavor to recall what may have been the conversation of these two great men. What blandishments can H. G. have employed to win the heart of Grant withal? One can fancy him wandering from polities to poultry, and from the tariff to the strawberry patch, without touching a responsive chord in the bosom of Grant or awakening a gleam of intelligence in his piscine eye. And the ignorance of the philosopher upon those subjects which engage the profound mind of the President is, if possible, more marked than his ignorance upon things in general. He knows nothing to speak of of orseilesh, and nothing whatever of the pups of Marshal Brown or of other men. His little accomplishments in the way of dancing and dressing are not such as to commend him to a functionary who cares for neither. Worst of all, it does not appear that he ever gave Grant anything-except some political services, which were all the more meritorious in proportion as they were distasteful, but which are the one sort of gifts for which Grant has evinced no gratitude. It is not surprising, therefore, that "no word or hint was dropped, from the President at least, about the propriety of bestowing an office upon an H. G. who came to him thus uncongenial and thus empty-handed.

But it is none the less fatal to Mr. Greeley as a journalist and to the profession of jour-nalism in general that Mr. Greeley as an individual should even incur the imputation, which he takes pains in his forced mirth not to repel, of seeking a Federal office. He en-deavors to fortify himself with the name of Franklin, who undoubtedly held office, and who also undoubtedly owned and edited, with such editing as was then called for, a newspaper of the period. But Mr. Greeley will not undertake to say that journalism in Franklin's time was a thing even analogous to the journalism of his and our day. A public journal may now be a great power, but its power depends not only upon the ability with which it is conducted, but upon the reader's belief in the entire disinterestedness of the man who conducts it. Of course, this belief cannot survive the spectacle of an editor running about, or even being thought to run about, after an office for himself. The quid pro quo which he can give for it is only of one kind. The office must be a reward for services past, or a payment in advance for services to come. That is to say, the public good must be pursued by him only so far as it does not conflict with the political interests of the party or the person to whom he owes his place. The case is similar to that which the law that excluded Mr. Stewart from the Treasury was framed to meet. It was feared by the wise man who drew up that prohibition that a merchant who was also a public officer would be tempted to administer his office with an eye to his mercantile interests. In this case, the danger is that an officer or an office-seeker who is also a journalist will be tempted to manage his journal with an eye to the getting or the keeping of his office. By how much it is more important that people should not be lied to or misled by their political teachers than that they should not be robbed by their political agents, by so much this latter danger is more to be guarded against than the other. It is lamentable that a journalist should not see it to be a danger at all, and should hold so low an opinion of his readers as to believe that his weight with them would not be lessened by his refusal to disavow, as Mr. Greeley has refused to disavow, aspirations for public office for himself.

From the N. Y. World. Porter's man Borie, who has very little to do in Washington, is as busy as a bee at Philadelphia. He is reconstructing the navy yard, by turning out efficient mechanics who are Democrats and filling their places with incompetents who are radicals. Kelley, Myers, and O'Neill are running Borie at Philadelphia as Portor runs him at Washington when Borie chances to be there. Mr. James Patton, the foreman boiler-maker of the yard, testifies that the chief engineer, Lawton, who is stated to

clared that "no workmen should be employed in the yard unless they support the present administration." The question of competency was not to be considered. Democratic boiler-makers must be turned out to make way for radical ballot-box stuffers. The examination of applicants runs as follows: - "Are you recommended by Kelley & Co. " "What ticket do you vote?" If answers to these questions are satisfactory, in goes some tradeess ward politician, and out goes a competent Democratic mechanic to make way for him. It is thus that Borie subserves the interests of his masters, Kelley, O'Neill, Myers, Porter,

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Attorney for Libellant.

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THOMAS J. WORRELL, Auditor.

IN THE ORPHANS COURT FOR THE CITY IN THE ORPHANS COURT FOR THE CITY AND COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA.

Estate of CLAMOR FREDERICK HAGEDORN, Dec'd.

The Auditor appointed by the Court to audit, settle, and adjust the account of GODFREY FREYTAG and HERMAN THEOPHILUS PLATE, Executars of the last will and testaments of CLAMOR FREDERICK HAGEDORN, deceased, and to report distribution of the balance in the hands of the accountant, will meet the parties interested, for the purpose of his appointment, on MONDAY, the 26th day of April 1869, at 4 o'clock P. M. at the office of JAMCS W. PAUL, Esq., No. 220 S. FOURTH Street, in the city of Philadelphia. 415 that 15th

EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

At Philadolphia, April 21, 1869.

The undersigned gives notice of his appointment as assigned of BENJAMIN M. FELTWELL, of the city of Philadelphia, in the county of Philadelphia, and State of Pennsylvania, who has been adjudged a Bankrupt upon his own petition by the District Court of said District.

425 thilt*

R. L. ASHHURST, Assignee.

DR. F. GIRARD, VETERINARY SUR-and all surgical operations, with efficient accommodations for hornes, at his Infirmary, No. 980 MARSHALL Street, above Poplar.