SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

MINTORIAL OFINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS **UPON CURRENT TOPICS-COMPILED EVERY** DAY FOR THE EVENING TELEGRAPH.

JOHNSON MEN IN OFFICE. From the St. Louis Republican.

It will, perhaps, be remembered that, not long ago, correspondents of different papers related what purported to be the words of a conversa-tion between the President and Senator Ross, of Kansas, the end of which was that Senator Ross told General Grant to go to the devil, and General Grant told Senator Ross to leave the house and never come back again. In the Senate the day before the adjournment, Senator Ross rose personal explanation, in which he declared that the statements in question were grossly incorrect and slanderous, not only in regard to himself, but in regard to the President; adding that so words inconsistent with the strictest propriety and decorum found utterance by either party during the interview.

The remarks of Mr. Ross are important as disclosing the rule, or one of the rules, of Exeentive conduct in the matter of appointments. The purpose of his visit to the President was 'protest against the sweeping changes which were being made in the officials of his State, whereby men who were among the best Republicans and the bravest soldiers of that State were being removed for no assignable cause, and an entirely different class of men installed in their places." To this, as Mr. Ross affirms, General Grant replied that "where any man had held office during the past year and a half, it was presumptive evidence that he was a Johnson Senator Ross thought that the doings and rule of conduct laid down by the President were "in the face of his oft-repeated declara-tions that changes in the offices of the country should be made only for cause;" and in thisunless the fact that a man had held office during the past year and a half is cause-he is not far out of the way.

Luring more than the year and a halt which preceded the retirement of Mr. Johnson, he was unable to remove a man from or to appoint one to office, without the consent of the Senate, and the prerogative to give or to withhold consent was exercised in the most dictatorial and unscrupulous manner, and to an unlimited execut No man who was believed to be unfriendly to Mr. Johnson could be removed: no one who rested under any suspicion of being his friend could be confirmed.

FIGHTING THE SPIRIT OF THE AGE. From the N. F. World.

It was stated in a Washington despatch to one of the morning papers that Mr. Greeley's reason for declining the commissionership to examine the Pacific Railroad, is, that he has engaged to write a book this summer in defense of protee-We welcome this evidence that the tottering tariff is felt by its foremost advocate to need propping up; but, if we may borrow one of Mr. Greeley's favorite similes, he is like the bull that planted himself on a railroad track with his butting head defiantly turned towards the coming locomotive, expecting to resist and stop it. Here in New York, where Mr. Greeley has been advocating protection for nearly thirty years, the cause has been steadily losing ground. The Times, which was formerly a protectionist organ, now leans the other way: the *Express* has deserted the tariff cause and become an open supporter of free trade; the *Commercial Adver-tiser* has ceased to print protectionist articles; Mr. Dana, a zealous protectionist when mana-ging editor of the *Tribune*, has never a word to say on that side in the *Sun*; the *Courier* and Enquirer long since merged its existence in that of a free trade organ. The Tribune is left alone, as the sole surviving representative in the New York press of the expiring cause of protection, and it has not produced a new argument on the subject for the last ten years.

If we look abroad over the rest of the country. we shall find that most of the old protectionist oracles are smitten with dumbness, while nearly every Western journal which has the elements of a vigorous life is scouting protection as an obsolete absurdity. The Western public men are moving in the same direction as the Western press. Some two years ago, the *Tribune* had

running and turns out millions and millions of yards, there is no economy in its use. A single yard of cloth made in such an establishment might cost half a million dollars; a thousand bil-lions of yards could be manufactured at a small price per yard. But to manufacture on a large scale, you must have the command of an exten sive market for the sale of your goods; and the cost of manufacture plus the cost of transportation is far less, and brings the goods to distant customers at far cheaper than if they were made in each locality where they are consumed either with or without the appliances of modern machinery. The pro-tectionist policy is, therefore, hostile to the use of the mechanical inventions by which produc-tion has been so surprisingly cheapened in this To make the most of the command which age. mankind have recently acquired over the forces of nature, goods must be manufactured on an immense scale in large establishments admitting of the extensive use of machinery, and dis-tributed throughout a vast market by cheap modes of conveyance. This method of production and distribution illustrates, more signally than anything else, the most valuable achieve ments of this improved age, whose whole spirit and tendency is adverse to the protectionist notion that the producer and consumer ought to be near neighbors, and insured against the intrusion of distant competition. "The stars in their courses fought against Sisera;" and the chief agents in the progress of modern civilization are equally fighting against the fossil economists who are trying to infuse new life

SOME FACTS FOR PRESIDENT GRANT. From the N. Y. Times.

into a doomed and dying system.

One of the most striking instances of what Ma Mill calls "the blot on American institutions" that is, the condition of our civil service-way presented on Wednesday in the telegrams of the hamber of Commerce in San Francisco to the President. The facts are these:-Three thou-sand miles from Washington, almost in another ountry, a United State. Mint has been for some fifteen years coining the bullion intrusted to it by private citizens, under the superintendence of an official—R. B. Swain, Esq.—known and esteemed by all parties for his integrity and ability. His subordinates and employes have been equally valued and trusted by the whole community of California for their honesty and fidelity. No Republican or Democrat has ever gathed a word of reproach against the thorough integrit, and fulthfulness of all incese Mint officials. Mr. Swaln bimself is a man of fortune and high position outside of his official It will interest our readers to know place. something of the honest work done by these California office-holders. In the course of each year some \$30,000,000 worth of bullion are put into the hands of these men for coining, being deposited by some tirelve thousand different persons, and requiring sixty thousand separate ISSAVS.

So Decessary is loss and wastage, that the Government allows one-fifth of one per cent. on the amount of bullion handled. This legal wastage in gold would be in one year \$59,810. This is the loss allowed to the Superintendent. We need not say that, under a political superintendent appointed suddenly by a successful party, this has been usually the loss, whether through incompetency or dishonesty. Under the changes threatened, this amount will certainly go "up the chimneys," as the saying is in San Francisco. Under Mr. Swain's management this legal loss was reduced in one year (1866) to \$2126; and in silver, owing to the silver contained in gold, there was no loss, but a gain of \$3141, though the legal loss was \$3290. In the coiner's department the results are qually remarkable.

During the year 1866 the legal loss allowed him was \$44,023; the real loss was only \$1503. Taking gold and silver together in that year, \$30,000,000 of bullion were manipulated in the San Francisco Mint, and the legal wastage was \$109,937, which of course could have gone into the pockets of the Superintendent and his subordinates, and which will undoubtedly do se with their political successors.

The real loss to the Government was only five hundred and sixty-three dollars. We hear much of California "sharpers" and

rogues (and undoubtedly our California fellow-effizens are tolerably wide awake), but we should like to know of any important Eastern office managed with half such integrity and business efficiency as this General Grant is said to have a leaning towards honest men who do public work as if it were their own. We commend him to these imple facts in San Francisco. This mint, as is well known, is an important national institution. It was established in 1854. and has coined since then over \$240,000,000, o half the amount coined by the Philadelphia Mint since 1798. It had accommodations for coining \$5,000,000 per annum, but so efficient has been its management that its work is from four to five times that amount. This well-conducted business establishment managed by a Republican and an appointee of Mr. Lincoln's, saving to the country nearly one hundred thousand dollars a year, and, above all, showing the nation that public business was capable of being conducted as honestly and thoroughly as any private business, one might have supposed was safe from being the prize of successful partisans in an election campaign. Certainly the vast majority who voted for President Grant never supposed that he would so come under the control of "the professional politicians" as to hand about such offices as

From Republican journals we are informed that the great Washburne is little better than a small political Jeremy Diddler; that he cheated Wilson, of Iowa, out of the State Department, and has humburgged the President and disgusted Secretary Fish in naming Washburne's men for all the foreign appointments before retiring; that there is no love lost between Fish and Washburne; that Sceretary Borie is tired of the gold-laced straight-jacket of Admiral Porter. and will get but of it very soon; that Attorney-General Hoar has had enough of Grant's Cabinet; and that Grant himself thinks the time for another reconstruction has come. From the same sources it further appears that at least half the Republican Senators are sourced with Grant's appointments: that the Senatorial disaffections igainst the administration are not limited to Sprague, Ross, Carl Schurz, and Parson Brownlow by any means; that the party leaders in almost every State excepting Massachusetts and Illinois consider the President a poor stick, and that he will find it out in the coming fall elec tions; that, in short, in failing to bring about Titmouse, "everything for everybody," the administration is a failure and "the party ma-chine is smashed."

A few specifications of the sort of harmony which prevails among our Republican contemporaries will serve to season this dish.

Isn't it a dainty diah To set before the king?

For instance, the patriotic free trade poets of the Post have a fling or two at some of General Grant's appointments; and then we learn from another quarter that it is because they have failed to be sent to take possession of their "castles in Spain." The facetious Dana next eases to be funny, gets out of patience, gets into a rage, and proceeds fervently and furiously to scold and scandalize the administration; whereupon it appears that it is because Dana has failed in his dreams of the Custom House, and even of a good whisky district, which would enable him, in his coach and four and diamonds and gold chains, to shine like Sheridan Shook. Worst of all, Dana, dropping his mock heroics over Greeley, produces some biting revelations of the curiosities of a joint stock newspaper system calculated to petrify the Tribune philosopher: where upon the enterprising Dana is brought face to face with a hundred thousand dollar libel suit, and there is a great fuss among the small fry in Philadelphia. With these things and the Sprague war still on in Rhode Island, and amid the gene ral turmoil noise, and confusion in the Republican camp, the formidable Fisk and his railway awsuits are for the time celipsed. When the politicians get into a Donnybrook "scrimmage over the spoils Fisk, must fall back, for he ceases o be the fiving sensation.

But where is all this mutiny and uproar among the powers that be to end? "We shall be broken up," says Senator Trumbull, "unless some administration will set the example, or some legislation will compel it, of making the price of office good behavior only." He says, moreover, that "the scenes and the scramble of the bet month have been disconcised in the form the last month have been disgraceful;" that Congress is becoming demoralized and paralyzed, and that unless we have a great reform in this business of the spoils, "the political state of the country will be degraded beyond recovery." Our opinion is that a terrible recoil will come upon the corrupt and demoralized party in power, and that a wholesome political revolution will follow, in bringing a new party into the foreground. Thus, while the signs of the times indicate that the present administration will be a disastrouone to the Republican party, we think it will be good for the country. In the policy which General Grant is pursuing of faithfully and rigidly carrying out the laws and the orders and the wishes of Congress, the consequences are becoming apparent to the people; and thus the dominant party, through its own devices, is rapidly hurried on the road to ruin. Andy John-son, from his policy of opposition to Congress, kept this party alive and furnished it political capital for every election; General Grant, in giving to Congress and the party programme full way, and in carrying out the party law of rotation in office with an unsparing hand, is in a fair way to the inauguration of a new and more startling and more progressive revolution than that which colminated in his election. We say, then, let him go on, and let it come. A sweepin revolution is the only remedy for universal corruption.

etc., in half the States. Has the average pro-duct of a day's work in these fallen off one-lifth, or one-tenth, or to any extent whatever ? We ought to know; but the facts have not even been required. When we shall have been informed, we can tell whether it is or is not just to reduce compensation, and to what extent; until then, we are quite in the dark.

We are quite in the dark. We urge the workers for wages to consider the whole matter calmly and carefully. We do not know that the time has yet come for reducing the hours of labor to eight per day; bur, if it has not, we cannot doubt that it will. It will come through the progress of discovery and in-vention, making eight hours labor more effec-tive than was that of ten hours a few years ago, or twelve hours forty years earlier still. We do not approve the making of Government employes a favored, petted, pampered class; but if the act of Congress shall result in demonstrating that a day's work of eight hours is as pro-ductive as one of ten, it will have done a great good at a very moderate risk and cost.

THE PRESENT DUTY.

From the North Carolina Standard. The long and heated Presidential campaign terminated in a victory for the Republican party, and Grant is now President of the United States. The duty of Republicans is, however, far from finished. Grant's election is but the beginning of the end. By his triumph the country was prevented from falling under the control of the traitors who had before used their utmost endeavors to disrupt the Government. It now remains to repair the evil they have worked. and to use our best endeavors to restore to our country that prosperity which she lost by the Rebellion. To do this we must keep our organization full of life and our ranks firm and unshaken. Without unity of action nothing can be accomplished—with it, every-The Republicans of the South have much thing. to do. They have to perfect their organization and increase its strength. They have to ad-vance the interests of Republicanism by disseminating its publications and expounding its principles to the people, that thousands who now oppose it from ignorance of its true principles may be brought to favor it. They have to encourage every industry that promises to benefit the State. They have to replace the evil wrought by years of Democratic and Rebel rule with good. All this and much more the Republicans of the South have to do. The hour for victory is not the time for rest. It is the hour for arduous and continued exertion, that the foe may be prevented from recovering, and that the victor, may be rendered lasting. There is one thing that Republicans must look

one evil which must be rooted out-Rebel office-holders. Throughout North Carolina men openly hostile to the Government and to the dominant party are in places of honor and trust. This is manifestly wrong. No traitor should be allowed to represent the Government in any po-sition, no matter how small may be its impor-There are loyal mon enough to fill all tance. the offices, and they alone should have them. No man can do good work with tools, neither can a political party accomplish great and good results when represented by men who are un-friendly to it. The Reproduced by none but Republi-cans, for to none that its friends can it trust the administration of its affairs. Wherever a man is found in office who is not

true to the Government, let him be turned out and his place filled by a loyal man. Wherever a man is found, elected to office by Republican votes, who is unfaithful to his party, use every endeavor to have him removed, for he has shown himself unworthy of the confidence of the people. If any State or county officer gives ald and comfort to traitors, by retaining them in office or in places of trust, to the exclusion of loyal men, mark him, and let him feel the anger of the people whose trust he has betrayed. this manner the influence and power for evil of the Copperheads will be destroyed, and the arm of the Government be strong to protect the good and to punish the bad.

This is the present duty of Republicans, and upon its faithful performance depends future success. Earnest and constant work should never stop, but those who are true to the Government, true to the great and glorious principles of Republicanism, should use their influence to extend their power. As the true aims of the Republican party become more generally known, prejudices are giving way, and thousands, who before condemned it, are now arraying them-scives under its banner. The present is bright, but the future is glorious, and North Carolina will be far greater in the future than she has been in the past.

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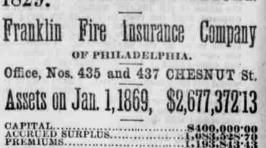
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LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY,

occasion to take Senator Grimes and other Western Congressmen sharply to task for their desertion of the cause in a critical juncture. Even the Massachusetts manufacturers are becoming convinced that a protective tariff operates against their interests. Dagon falls down in his own temple and puts his worshippers to shame

If Mr. Greeley turns his view to other countries, he must find the prospect still more dishearten-ing. Since he commenced his labors, protection in England has been completely overthrown and eradicated. There is no longer any political party in that country, nor any segment or fraction of a political party, that professes any lingering fondness for the defunct cause. There is no organ of British public opinion that does not habitually speak of it with the contempt due to a superannuated absurdity. Those Englishmen who have given to Mr. Greeley's anti-slavery sentiments their zealous sympathy, like Cobden, Bright, and Mill, are among those who have exerted the most powerful influence in exploding protection. France has been for some time moving in the same direction with England, as the Cobden treaty long ago bore witness

The kind of facts to which we have now alluded, impressive as they are, do not so conclusively prove that protection is contrary to the spirit of the age as some others whose bearing on this subject is not quite so obtrusive. The most remarkable monument of economical progress in the last thirty years is the growth and wonderful extension of communication by steam. It is within this period that steam communica-tion has been established between the two continents. It is within this period that nearly all the railroads of the world have been constructed The most distinguishing achievement of this most remarkable age is the wonderful multiplication of quicker and cheaper means of inter-course between all untions, and between all the parts of every civilized country. But what is the significance, what is the advantage, of this vaunted achievement, the proudest boast of the period? If the protectionist theory be correct, this marvellous multiplication of the means of cheap intercourse is all a mistake, a most fatal and mischievous blunder. According to the protectionists, every locality ought to supply its own wants; the producer and the consumer should be in close proximity; goods manufactured at a distance should be shut out by artificial barriers, in order that home producers may have the monopoly of the home market. There is no method by which this result could be reached with so much certainty as by the destruction of cheap means of communication. A tariff laying fifty per cent. duties may be evaded by smugglers; but if it costs fifty per cent. of the price of goods to transport them that is a protection against which the smugglers are powerless. Fill up the Eric Canal, tear up the tracks of all the railroads between the East and the West, convey all goods between the Atlantic coast and the Mississippi valley in wagons, and Western manufacturers would be perfectly safe against the competition of the Eastern States and of Europe. The cost of transportation would make the Eastern goods so high by the time they reached the Western markets, that the Western manufacturers would easily undersell them. If home production is true economy, if shutting out all foreign productions is a proper means of fostering and building up home industries, then our exultation over the most conspicuous achieve ments of this age is an empty, foolish boast; and the thousands of millions of money that have been invested in steamships and railroads have been worse than thrown away. Protection, therefore, is opposed to the spirit of the age and contradicts the common sense of mankind. The protectionist theory is as hostile to the

improvements in machinery by which produc-tion is so wonderfully cheapened, as it is to the new facilities for intercourse. Machinery cheapens production only when the production is on a large scale. A few hundred yards of cloth could be far more cheaply made with an old-fashioned hand-loom than in one of the great factories at Lowell. It costs so much to construct the ma-chinery that, unless it can be kept constantly broglio of General Jackson.

these for party rewards. Had he stood firmly on the position that an honest official, doing his duty well to the country, should not be changed for partisan reasons, the whole nation would have hailed him as the great reformer of the cay. He would have inaugurated a new era in our affairs.

For some reasons unknown to the public, the President felt it necessary to change the whole force at the San Francisco Mint, and to hand the establishment over to new men-probably to party tools of politic il leaders in California.

Immediately the leading merchants and citizens of San Francisco, the Chamber of Commerce, and others, without distinction of party. form public meetings and telegraph to Washington that a change would be very disastrous to business interests; that a large amount of bullion is awaiting coinage, and that new officials would not understand the management, and thus great delay and loss would ensue. It is rumored that the administration will delay the proposed removals

But the whole transaction is enough to call up a blush of shame on the face of every friend of republican institutions. The loss and delay to public and private business will be just as grea a few months hence as now. Here is a public duty honestly discharged for years by private citizens, and the new Fresldent's only reward is summary dismissal, because a defeated Republican candidate in California wants the places. and has in some way persuaded his superior that the old officers must be changed. We trust that the united representations of the California business men will be heeded by the administration.

THE DEMORALIZATION OF THE REPUB-LICAN PARTY.

From the N. Y. Herald.

The Republican party is fearfully demoral-ized. The rank and file of this hitherto allpowerful organization have no longer any common bond of union, except the common bond of the public plunder, and over the plunder since the 4th of March last they have been growling. snarling, snapping, and fighting like infuriated cats and dogs. There have been, on an average, say ten applicants for every desirable office in the gift of the President with the consent of the Senate, and so, for every patriot removed, nine patriots are disappointed and some are incensed and disgusted. The President has been making quick work of an ugly job. Within two months from his inauguration he has filled nearly all the desirable places; but he has at the same time, with the consent of the Senate, filled the land with the groans of the wounded. The unlucky dace-hunters have turned against him, against the incky ones, and against each other; and such an exhibition of wrath and scandal, with the washing of dirty linen before the public, we have not had since the first great Cabinet im-

EIGHT-HOUR LEGISLATION. From the N. Y. Tribune.

The movement for a reduction of the usual hours of daily toil seems to us wise and timely There have been very great strides taken of late in the way of increasing the efficiency of human effort, and labor should and must share in the resulting bencits. If, by the help of the spin-ning-jenny, power-loom, and sewing machine, two coats are now made with the labor re juired to produce one coat a century ago, we lught, as a consequence, to have cheaper coats. or coat-makers should receive more for a given amount of work. And, while higher wages are the ordinary mode of increasing compensation. we think it may quite as well take the shape of reduction in the hours of labor.

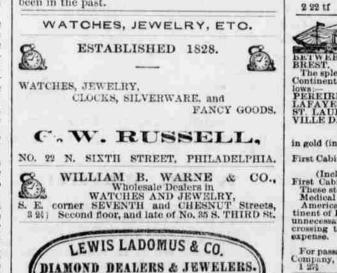
Why should it not? If labor is now twice as efficient as formerly, why should not fewer hours' work suffice to earn a man's living? Te be sure, he may choose to dress more richly. have a better house, more costly furniture, and daintier food; but suppose he does not choose this, and does choose to have more leisure for reading and reflection, why should not his choice be respected? We cannot imagine. But when the advocates of the Eight-hour reform virtually say, "We propose to take all the advantage of the proposed change to ourselves, and inflict all its cost upon others," they demand what seems to us at once unjust and impossible.

For what are wages? Why does one man work for another? Simply because he can make more by doing so than by working for himself. Nearly every one could work for hunself if he would; if he does not, it is because he thinks he can do better. Men leave the farms they inherited, and come to New York to hire out, in order to increase their earnings. They work, for the most they can get, and of course where the most is offered them.

Now the wages one receives are the market value of his work-neither less nor more. he does more work he will be pretty apt to secure more pay; if he does less, his wages must fall. We do not deem it possible to reduce the amount of labor performed without reducing the sum paid for doing it. The number of *dollars* may be the same, but they will inevitably *buy* less than they formerly did. If the shoemaker gets more for making a pair of shoes, the shoe-wearer must pay more for those shoes, and must charge more for his produc whatever it may be; so that the net result of doing less work must be a smaller recom-pense to the workman. Unless he can upset the law of gravitation, he cannot escape this result

But does a reduction of the hours of labor involve a corresponding reduction in its product -That is the vital question. If a day's work of eight hours will produce as much as one of ten, it ought to be paid as much; if it will produce ninety per cent. of the former amount, it ought to command nine-tenths of the pay. The vita question is one of fact.

Congress passed an act making eight hours a legal day's work in the public service, but said nothing as to the effect of this change on the compensation of the employed. That question now comes up for settlement. Senator Wilson's have comes up for settlement. Senator who is one late letter discusses part of it incidly and fit-tingly. But, as to what seems to us the main issue, he only quotes Senator Conness as hold-ing, in the Senate, that "every man who labors knows very well that he can perform as much work in eight hours as he can in ten, taking the average of the season through." Now, if this be the truth, the controversy is ended. But is it the truth? We have had the eight-hour law in force nearly or quite a year in the Govern-ment Printery, the NavyYards, Armories, etc.etc. What has been the relative value of the new as compared with the old day's work? Here as compared with the old day's work? Here is the turning point; yet no information respect-ing it seems to have been even sought. Con-gress ought to have required each superinten-dent to report upon it specifically and promptly. Here is the Springfield Armory, there is the National Printery, with Navy Yards, Arsenals,



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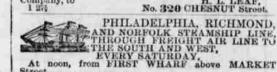
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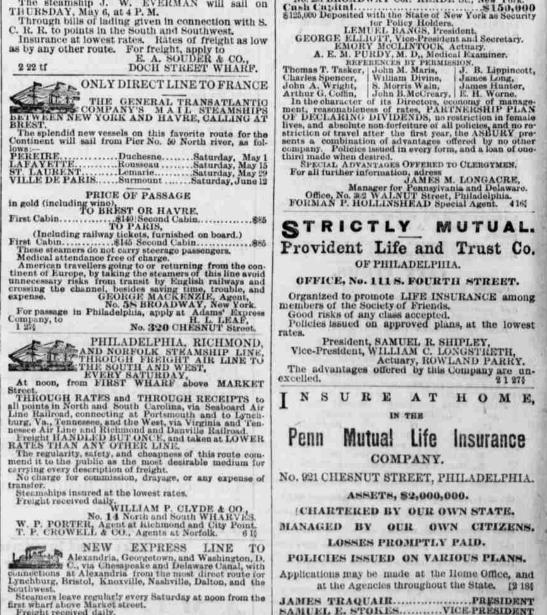
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