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RDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS-COMPILED EVERY DAY FOR THE EVENING THEAGRAPH.

MR. MOTLEY IN ENGLAND. From the N. Y. World.

It is pretty clear, from the tone of the English journals in commenting upon the recent speech of Mr. Sumuer concerning the Alabama claims, that Mr. Motley will by no means enter into Mr. Reverdy Johnson's glowing inheritance of dinners, public and private. If ever there was a man upon whom England con-ferred that dearest of her liberties—the freedom of her mahogany—Mr. Johnson was that man. Every knite and fork in the three kingdoms was put at his service. It used to be said of West Indian hospitality, in the days before emancipation out down the noble liberality of the planters-who never presented a bill and never paid one-that, if it pleased a guest to sit on the saddle of mutton and put his feet in the soup tureen, nobody would object to his doing so.

This somewhat violent figure of speech hardly exaggerates the tolerance-the more than tolerance, the cordiality-extended to Mr. Johnson as a diner-out by all England. Of course, we all understood that this gushing temper of our cousins expressed not only their appreciation of the social merits of Mr. Johnson as a man, but their eagerness to make friends over the dead past with Mr. Johnson's countrymen. The Johnson-Stanley treaty may be said to have been signed in Great Britain amid a feu-de-joie of champagne corks, and to a running accompaniment of Sheffield cutlery beating out applause on Worcestershire crockery upon fifty thousand British dinner-tables.

The rejection of the Johnson-Stanley treaty by the American Senate will infallibly change all this. It is all very well for Lord Clarendon to get up and pretend that he has private assurances to the effect that the treaty was rejected at Washington only for a political purpose. Lord Clarendon knows better. The English press know better. The instinct of the English people will teach them better. Mr. Motley, whose chief claim to his appointment (apart from the fact that it would embitter sorely the retirement of Mr. Seward at Auburn) seems to have been a notion that he would have peculiar social advantages in England, will find the face of English society set against him. He will be civilly treated, of course. But all Englishmen who respect themselves will feel that to show any extraordinary courtesy to him would be to humiliate their country before a rival nation which has just taken the plainest possible way of signi-lying its deep distrust of Englsh statesmanship, if not its positive hostility to England.

This inevitable result of the action which we have just taken makes it still more desirable than before that any future deliberations on the subject of the Alabama claims should be conducted, not by Mr. Motley in London, but by Mr. Fish in Washington.

SPANISH WARFARE.

From the N. Y. Tribune. Should the report be confirmed that Count Valmaseda, commander of the Spanish forces in the Eastern Department of Cuba, has actually issued the proclamation that came last week by telegraph, the fact will do more than could anything else not only to alienate the sympathies of the world from Spain and warm all hearts towards her insurgent foes, but to dash the young hope of her own resurrection. According to that proclamation, every native male over fifteen years of age, found away from his residence without sufficient cause, is to be executed. Every uninhabited dwelling, and every inhabited dwelling where a white flag shall be undisplayed, is to be burned. All women, absent from their homes. must come to Bayamo or Jiguani; if they do not come of their own free choice, they will be forced to come. This is simply barbarous. It is war in the old brutal style; war against all the modern principles of war; war as it was conducted in the Middle Ages. It suggests the policy of Philip II. The barbarity is marked by that characteristic of utter contempt for the subject which signalized the operations of that most Catholic prince. We have been trying hard of late to think well of Spain, hoping sometimes against hope. We have read over again her history with kindly eyes; we have made generous allowance for her difficulties; we have pitied her sorrows, cheered her endeavors, put the most charitable construction on her blunders, estimated at their follest value her national qualities, thrust ferward boldly the promising features in her new efforts at administration, praised her Ministers, borne witness to the good conduct of her people, hailed with enthu-siasm every indication of improvement in her civil system, greeted with hearty thanks her aspirations after liberty of thought, worship, and speech, bespoken for her the indulgence of the public opinion, and maintained a stout conviction that her painful travail would issue in her deliverance from the ancient thraldom of tradition; and now, in a moment, she turns upon us and bids us believe ourselves grievously mistaken. She is the same old Spain her calumniators, as we thought them, declared her to be-haughty, supercilions, oruel, reckless, scornful of the opinion and the feeling of the civilized world. She could not, of course, be blamed for wish-

ing to retain her possessions. Every nation on earth does that. All dismemberment is painful. We do not blame her for employing force to keep so precious a tributary as the Island of Cuba. Every nation on earth would do the same. But she is to blame for using force as no nation on earth would do who values its fair fame. War, unhappily, is not likely to pass away from the usages of people calling themselves civilized and bearing the name of Christian. Nay, it seems to be as prevalent as ever. The art of war is studied. the machinery of war is perfected, to an extent never dreamed of till this generation. The engines of destruction are numerous and fear-ful beyond precedent. But, at the same time, it is not the monster it used to be. If not divested of its physical terrors, it is to some degree divested of its moral hideousness. There is in its conduct far less of hate and vindictiveness than there was. Civilization comes in to protect all but actual belligerents in life and property. Humanity comes in to save even belligerents from all nunecessary suffering through exposure, wounds, and cap-tivity. War is entered into reluctantly, under protest, and with something like an apology to the spirit of a better age. The element of murder is sternly prohibited and kept down. Not a life is wasted that can be spared; and the tenderest services of men and women are pressed into the field to mitigate the horrors that cannot be avoided. This is now the recognized rule among all people. A new conscience has been created in military and imperial breasts which will demand to be respected and obeyed. No nation is strong enough to disregard its decree. Least of all can a nation afford to disregard it that, like Spain, labors under the repreach of being behind the rest, and claims sympathy on the score of her purpose to cast the reproach off. She should lead the rest, and justify her title to praise, as well as her promise of attainment, by showing how well she ap-

preciates the lessons that civilization has | learned. Is this the way she proves herself to be worthy a place among the great powers? If it is, she may abandon all hope of ever re-writing her history, for she will turn against her the very hearts that were beating proudly in her cause of national regeneration, and the very hands that were ready to render all the help they could towards its victory. They who hoped to see her live will rejoice to see

A CHANGE OF CABINET THE ONLY SAFETY FOR THE ADMINISTRATION. from the N. Y. Herald.

When General Grant commanded the armies of the Union, victory perched upon his banners, because no man had the right to question his acts or demand his purposes. But the Presidency is a different thing. Congress has reduced it to a mere second mate's position, and every party leader who controls a section in Congress claims the right to issue orders and to know all the plans. To make the matter still worse, these political section masters are not agreed among themselves. Each is jealous of his competitors, and the result is confusion. The Washington despatches all agree that there is much dissatisfaction among the politicians there, and the Western newspapers are beginning to find fault with the President for this state of things. There is ground for complaint, and it lies in the fact that the recognized head of the Cabinet, though a very worthy gentleman of the old school, is entirely unfitted by his ideas, habits, and tastes for the post he fills.

The fact is, General Grant is not a politician and does not wish to become one. He fought many splendid battles and won great victories, for which a grateful people have elected him to the first office in their gift, and are willing to pass over his shortcomings. He cannot at this time take hold in an entirely new field and become a great worker, and his disposition, therefore, is to let matters take their course in Cabinet council. He has no foreign or domestic policy to urge, no plans to carry out, no ambitious designs to foster, and therefore he has confidence in those he has called around him. But for this very reason he should have the strongest possible Cabinet he can construct. This would be the best evidence that he entertains a lively interest in the welfare of the nation, and a signal return for the confidence reposed in him. It is admitted on all sides that the present leader of the Cabinet is not up with the ideas of the time, and though eminently respectable and desirous to do all that lies in his power, he holds no grasp on the heart of the country, and is incapable of marking out and carrying into execution a policy for the

administration. The President, therefore, should not court disaster by procrastination and unseemly delay. The voices from the East and from the West are signs of the rising spirit of the times, and must be heeded if we would not invite defeat. The unanimity with which the Senate and the whole country have responded to Mr. Summer's recent masterly utterances on our foreign policy points to him as the best man to place in the position of Secretary of State and at the head of the Cabinet; and reconstruction of the Government should at once be made, not only by calling him to office, but also by consulting him as to the persons who may be called to hold the other portfolios. With Mr. Sumner in lead as the working man of the administration, the President can feel a confidence that no gross mistakes will be com mitted like those of waiting to know what England says before we decide upon our policy in the Cuban question, or drawing up the in-structions of Minister Motley; and without taking upon himself the supervision of every step in foreign or domestic affairs, he may be sure that his administration will not stand before the country convicted of incapacity and meritorious of defeat.

MR. PUNCH AND MR. JOHNSON. From the N. Y. Times.

"Mr. Pusch hopes," says the organ of that estimable humorist, "that something in the shape of an English tribute will be offered to that kind-hearted gentleman, Mr. Reverdy Johnson, before he is allowed to go away. He has been assiduously doing his best to create the international sympathy which we desire to believe exists; and if ever a man came under the provision of the beatitude about peacemakers, Mr. Johnson is the man." This is the kindliest-we might almost say the only kindly -public tribute from his English friends which Minister Johnson has received. It is remarkable that, while he has been overflowing with good words, fraternal pledges, and generous prayers for the prosperity of England, he has in return received rather less thanks, or even acknowledgment, than a gruffer ambassador is wont to secure.

Take, for example, Mr. Roebuck's case. That gentleman certainly could not have felt aggrieved had the American Minister refused to cultivate his acquaintance. But what was the fact? Mr. Johnson saw him afar offeven from Loudon to Sheffield-ran to him, and metaphorically if not literally fell on his neck and kissed him. Instead, however, of accepting the rôle of repentant prodigal, Mr. Roebuck, at the banquet which Mr. Johnson said he would have attended even for his sake alone, abused and vilified the American people; a few days later, in a public speech, he expressed the desire to see America torn asunder; and yet a few months later, he gave his countrymen this dying legacy, "Beware

of America." And this will stand very well for one example of fifty of the reception Mr. Johnson's courtesies have met. They have been almost State, that whatever he advises or assents to uniformly, and often rudely, rebuked. The English press has joined in a common cry against him, even the Edinburgh Keview now taking up the refrain. His desire "to create spect. Whatever President Grant attempts in international sympathy" has been described as "soft sawder," "soft soap," and, at best, "soft sentiment." Now, while it was very well for the American public to resent what they justly considered their Envoy's misappreciation of their feelings, it is quite a different matter for the British public to sneer at his friendly manifestations as either insincere or maudlin. Mr. J. huson has made sad mistakes, but not on the side of insincerity, since he evidently believes what he says. Punch," therefore, does a fair thing when he demands for Mr. Johnson "kind regards tied up in a large parcel." The duty of rebuking Mr. Johnson for over-demonstrativeness is not an English duty; and, indeed, we shall not be surprised if, when he really leaves English shores, he obtains a more generous token of appreciation than hitherto from those whom sought to please, even at the cost of mortally offending his own countrymen.

THE QUESTION OF C BAN RECOGNITION AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

From the N. Y. Herald. According to the Washington correspondents, Mr. Secretary Fish has been ventilating a little the question of recognizing the bellige-rent rights of the Cubans. He was brought out, it seems, by the report that the British

likely to take any step that would bring it into collision with Spain or any other Euro-pean power while the Alabama claims remain suspended over it. Then, it is said, so far from dreading the recognition of Caban belligerent rights by Rogland, he wou'd regard it as a favorable circumstance, and calculated to lead to the early acquisition of Caba by this country and the injury of British com-

We take it for granted that these are the views of our Secretary of State, for they are characteristic and crude enough. We agree with him, and think it not likely that the British Government is contemplating at present the recognition of Cuban belligerency, but not for the reasons he assigns. England is not afraid of a war with Spain or any other European power for such action. There is not the least reason to fear. Spain is not in a condition to go to war, and would not make that a cause of war. Nor would any other European power trouble itself to maintain the anthority of Spain over Cuba, or interfere in the least in the matter. A war with Spain seems to be the bugbear in Mr. Fish's mind. He has not the least comprehension of the situation or limited power of Spain nor of the Cuban question in an international point of view. Though a respectable gentleman, he is a timid old fogy, and utterly unfit for Secre-tary of State of this mighty republic. Though, speaking of Spain going to war with Eugland should the belligerent rights of Cuba be re-cognized by the latter, he evidently had in his timid mind the silly apprehension of such an event with this country should our Government take the step first. Such puerility, timidity, and want of comprehension in our Secretary of State are enough to make every American indignant and blush for shame for the humiliating position his country is If even England were disposed to take the

first step in recognizing the Cubans as belligerents, there is no reason, as Mr. Fish justly says, to dread that. Indeed, we ought to look at it favorably. Nor do we think it would prevent the acquisition of Cuba by the United States hereafter; for that is written down in the book of manifest destiny. But England might gain great advantages both to her commerce and prestige in Cubs and throughout the Antilles, and in that point of view the British Government is quite capable of comprehending its interests and acting upon them should no higher political considerations deter it from such action. England will never act from sympathy with the cruelly oppressed and struggling patriots of Cuba; but she might from self-interest, should she see her way clear to head off the United States and to weaken our influence over the Cubans and throughout the Antilles. As a reproach to our timid and weak Government, we could almost wish that England would take the lead in recognizing the Cubans as belligerents. We could wish this were it not for the shame and damaging effect it would bring upon our country. Let us talk no more of the Monroe doctrine, of sympathy with any brave people struggling for their independence, of an American system of policy for the American Continent, or of the power and dominating grandeur of our great republic, if we do not promptly accord to the Cubans belligerent rights. There never was a worse and more cruel despotism than that of Spain over a people who are our neighbors, whose interests are closely united with ours, and who have no ties or sympathy with their rulers or the old European world; yet we hesitate to accerd the boon of belligerent rights to them. The world will treat us with contempt for our weakness and stupidity; for we fail in magnanimity, in comprehending our own interests, and in perceiving when the hour of destiny points so plainly to the opportunity and necessity for action. Would to heaven that we had at this particular time an American statesman like Bismark or Napoleon at the helm of affairs! Then Cuba would soon be free, and the foundation would be laid for a grand and progressive American policy worthy of a mighty nation.

THE INTERVIEW BETWEEN PRESIDENT GRANT AND GENERAL LEE.

From the N. Y. World. If it be true that the consultation between these distinguished chieftains, on Saturday, took place at the request of the President, and that his purpose was to avail himself of General Lee's advice respecting the steps most suitable to be taken for restoring Virginia to her Federal relations, it is the most judicious and creditable thing which General Grant has done since his accession to office. General Lee is doubtless better acquainted with the actual public sentiment of Virginia than any other man in the State; and the measures which the President may adopt will be successful just in proportion as they accord with, and are supported by, that public sentiment. To proceed intelligently, he must know what the people will consent to; and an officer in quest of correct information acts sensibly in applying where it is to be had. All men of real influence in Virginia are in the habit of expressing themselves to General Lee with the most entire unreserve, and he is a better judge than any other man in the State of the cooperation or the opposition which any particular course of policy would meet from the great body of its respectable citizens. A previous consultation with General Lee ought to prove valuable on other grounds, besides being the most authentic source of information. So great is the confidence which he enjoys in that will be likely to receive the support of that large and most influential class of citizens who hold his judgment and character in re-Virginia with their co-operation cannot very

well fail. The fundamental mistake which the radical party have made throughout the whole progress of the reconstruction controversy, has consisted in spurning the advice and assistance of the representative men of the South. Had it not been for their bigotry in this respect, all questions could have been settled immediately after the close of the war, and the country have been spared these four trying years of distraction and turmoil. The fact that these representative men had been steeped in the Rebellion, so far from being a valid reason why the Government should not have arranged terms with them, was the strongest reason for doing so. The whole Southern people had supported the Rabellion, and there was no way of reclaiming them to loyalty so short, simple, and easy as by operating through the leaders whose moral ascendancy it was impossible to destroy The sentimental repugnance to utilizing the leaders of the Rebellion ought to have weighed no more against arranging the terms of a political, than it did in arranging the terms of a military surrender. Why did the war end all at once, end completely, every Rebel soldier laying down his arms and returning to his home to act the part of a peaceful citizen? Why was there no necessity for dealing with any scattered military remnants of the Rebellion in detail? It was because the Confederate armies respected the authority of their generals, and thinks such action on the part of England.

The dolowing Managers and Officers have been soldier laying down his arms and returning to his home to act the part of a peaceful citizen? Why was there no necessity for dealing with any scattered military remnants of the Rebellion in detail? It was because the Confederate armies respected the authority of their generals, and were willing to be bound by their engraphers and Visitum W. Keen, Ferdinand J. Dreer, Gillion Dallett, Edwin Greble, Samuel S. Moon, Gillion Dallett, Edwin Greble, The Managers have been detected for the year Rebell soldier laying down his arms and returning to his home to act the part of a peaceful citizen? Why was there no necessity for dealing with any scattered military remnants of the Rebellion Dallett, Edwin Greble, Samuel S. Moon, Gillion Dallett, Edwin Greble, The Managers have been deceted for the year Rebell with the part of the year Reference of the year Refe end all at once, end completely, every Rebel

not at all probable. Our Government, it is hosts. General Lee, General Johnston, and said—that is Mr. Fish, we suppose—believes General Dick Taylor carried the proxies of that the British Government would not be their respective armies. There was no necessity for treating immediately with the armies themselves; the surrender of these generals included the surrender of all the men whom they commanded. A similar course ought to bave been adopted in dealing with the political problem. The Southern people would have promptly complied with any conditions which had received the assent of their recognized leaders. Instead of the cumbrous method, which was actually adopted, of dealing with the whole Southern people as an unorganized mass of individuals, and operating through carpet-baggers whom they despised, and whom they would never consent to follow, the method which suited the circumstances was to arrange terms with the natural leaders of the South, and trust to their ascendancy over their followers for bringing over the great body of the people. Had this course been pursued, the controversy might have been settled at once; confidence and kindness would have been immediately restored; and the South would have had no difficulty in borrowing the capital which was needed for the resuscitation of its prostrate industry. In a war between two nations foreign to

each other, there is no delay or difficulty in closing up the controversy after the flual cessation of hostilities. The reason is, that each nation considers itself bound by the action of its government, and the conditions to which its rulers assent in a treaty of peace are observed without question by all the people. If, instead of possessing this convenient machinery of settlement, two nations were completely disorganized at the close of the war, it is difficult to see how a controversy between them could ever reach a stable adjustment. If one of the two nations should refuse to treat with the government of the other, and undertake to arrange a settlement with the great body of its people, the dispute would draggle on through an era of confusion as the reconstruction question has in this country. The reconstruc tion controversy could have been arranged with nearly as much certainty and satisfac tion by an understanding with the recognized leaders of Southern opinion, as by a treaty with a government, if there had been a government in the bouth with authority to command the obedience of the people. By disfranchising, humiliating, and spurning all the men of real influence, and attempting to control the people through intruders whom they detested, the South has been converted into a political chaos for a period of four years.

If President Grant has really invited General Lee to Washington to confer with him on the state of affairs in Virginia, he is exhibiting the first gleam of sense which has yet been manifested in dealing with the reconstruction question. The influence of such men as General Lee, the ascendancy of such men over the party sentiment of their section, cannot be annihilated or weakened by any thing which the Republican party is able to do. It will continue to exist and operate as a potent political force; and it depends upon the wisdom of the Government whether it shall be an obstruction or an aid. If President Grant has concluded to ascertain and conform to the best public sentiment of Virginia, he may reasonably hope that the new State government, when once organized, will be selfsustaining. No government which requires an outside military force to uphold it can be considered as republican. In a government truly republican, the chief sanction of the laws is a supporting public opinion; and if General Grant desires to see governments of this character in the Southern States, he must put himself in relations with those Southerners whose antecedents and standing make them the natural leaders of the people.

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