SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

THE REVENUE.

From the N. Y. Tribune. It is encouraging to know that the receipts from both customs and excise have shown such improvement of late that we may confidently expect a total at the end of the current fiscal year, terminating on the 30th of June next, considerably in excess of the official estimates. The most careful one of these on excise was that made by Mr. Rollins himself in his last report, calling for \$145,000,000, and in forming conclusions on the subject he was materially aided by the actual returns from all sources for the first three months of the present fiscal year. These returns revealed considerable increase in several specific sources as compared with results for the corresponding period of the preceding year. The total tax paid by spirits, for instance, during July, August, and September, 1867, on all accounts, only amounted to \$5,293,000, while for the corresponding mouths of 1868 it amounted to \$8,465,000. This, however, was the heaviest increase shown by any one source for the time named. The totals for fermented liquors were respectively \$1,716,492 and \$1,790,601; and those for sales \$924,203 and \$1,739,512. In place of tobacco giving an increase somewhat in the hav been the case, there was a large falling off, aggregates being \$5,029,800 and \$4,295,673 res ctively-a difference of \$734,000 in fayor gmented fraud, beyond a doubt, als last report, Mr. McCulloch estimated

thin we would this year receive \$174,500,000 from customs and \$138,750,000 from internal sources. But we have ground for believing that his figures on these two sources will be as much exceeded as will those on other sourceslanus and miscellaneous, for example. He erred on the right side, however; for it is much better to underestimate the public income than to overestimate it-more particularly where there is a sincere effort to bring the expenditures within the estimate of receipts. Assuming the total receipts up to the 1st instant to be \$118,000,000, and the average daily returns for the remaining sixty days of the year to be \$400,000, we have \$143,000,000, independent entirely of the special taxes which fall due this month, which last year paid much above \$15,000,000, and which will be likely to pay more this year. In addition to this, we shall have the benefit of a collection of the income tax and the taxes in Schedule A, the former of which last year yielded between \$41,000,000 and \$43,000,000, and the latter upwards of

Our estimate of the per diem average for the balance of the year, from the 1st instant, is based on the results for the preceding ten months, but we think we might safely enlarge our ngares and advance upon the totals of last year to correspond with what may be reasonbly expected in the way of increase from the changes that have been made in the service under the new administration. Of course these must go for something, and many of the rogues in onice having been replaced by honest men, it is but right to expect that much or all of the revenue actually collected, but hitherto diverted from the Treasury into the pockets of knavish officials, will, under the new order of things, find its way safely into the public coffers for proper application. The receipts from spirits during the first half of this fiscal year were \$20,000,000, compared with \$9,000,000 for the corresponding period of last year. At this rate we should have \$40,000,000 for the entire year under the same general condition during the last half of the year as that prevailing during the first half of it. But there was a change of that condition, covering four months out of the six remaining ones up to next July; which ought, in the nature of things, to cause a healthy improvement, not only in the revenue directly but also indirectly, through the increase of general business resulting from removal of disturbing political causes, and consequently of its ability to pay more revenue; and under this change we ought to get \$25,000,000 from this article, at the lowest, bringing us within \$5,000,000 of the estimate of the Committee of Ways and Means last year on this subject.

Reviewing the whole situation, and taking into consideration all the causes which should legitimately tend to improve the inland revenue, at least, we see no reason why we should not pre dict a total of \$175,000,000 from that one branch. This would give an excess over all the official estimates varying from \$20,000,000 to \$37,000,000. Customs will undoubtedly give a surplus of several millions over estimates, as will also lands and miscellaneous sources combined. By adding to these amounts in excess the sums saved by entting down useless expenses, we may have from \$40,000,000 to \$50,000,000 more than we expected, apon starting on the year, to apply to the extinction of the debt, or to any other wise purpose preferred.

THE INGRATES LEAVE EARLY.

From the Chicago Post. The insensibility to shame that marks the conduct of certain Republican editors who. being refused office by General Grant, have gone over to his detractors, is a significant sign of the political degeneracy of the times. In the better days of the republic, the journalist who thus advertised to the world his true character as a soldier of fortune-a free lance, ready to battle under that leader who gave to his followers the most wine and the largest share of the common spoil—could not have faced popular indignation for a day. He would not only have lost his subscribers, but he would have sunk so low in publiesteem, that the members of his profession would have hooted him out of their brother-hood. Yet the history of the last two months affords, among the pro-fessedly Republican editors of the half-a-dozen instances in which first one and then another has made public proclamation that his fidelity to the party, and his professed admiration of its leader, the executive head of the nation, was all the while secretly conditioned upon the expectation of office; because General Grant surely has done nothing or neglected nothing which can bring him within the just censure of his party friends. He is to-day the same man that he was when these ingrates were bespattering him with ex-travagant praise. So far as he has had occasion to vindicate the policy of the party in his official action, he has not falled to come up to the standard by which his partisans will judge him, hence, the utmost of which he can be accused is that he has here and there made a mistake in the character and fitness of those upon whom he has conferred his patronagemistake in every instance due to the want of discretion or want of honesty on the part of his But in the minds of the malcontents, the President's unforgivable offense is his failure to reward their high qualities and arrogant pre-

It is perhaps fortunate that these gentlemen have displayed their weakness and venality thus We are yet in the first quarter first year of the new administration; and Grant's real business as President has hardly commenced. Thus far he has been merely a distributor of the spoil, of victory—one office to every ten appli-cants. We know, as yet, nothing of his admi-nistrative qualities. As we time and time again foretold, in the attempt to abate the extrava-gance of public expectation, he has been the victim, often an unwilling and not unfrequently a rebellious victim to the disgraceful traditions to the victor belongs the spoils—upon which both parties act. But it is not possible that Congress will get through its next session without the necessity arising for calling around him all the strength of his supporters; hence we say that it is fortunate that the men who have already furled their banners and gone to the rear or over to the enemy, because of the insufficiency of the pay, will not be in a position, when a struggle comes, to make their treachery felt. Now, the Republican party can afford to con-gratulate itself on the fact that the apostacy to its policy and principles which we have lately observed, is harmless to all except those who here estocked.

There are to-day three boldly marked divi-sions in American politics. These are the domi-nant Republican element, the Copperhead, and the less noisy yet stronger force which supports the President. The former represents a radical, victorious body of men, who, having had un-limited power placed in their hands, are intoxi-cated with it. In all the world's history there is no parallel to their lavish expenditures of trea-sure. We have seen Rome rocked by civil wars and foreign conquests; have seen empires ride into power upon the ruins of the Roman repub-lie; we have seen France, England, and the German countries run through centuries of war; but the debt, the expenditures, the corruptions, and the plundering which have followed the wreck of their national morality have been light in comparison to those which have characterized our own civil strife. North and South, those who were the legislative leaders during the Rebellion appeared to make it a rule to rake into their own pockets and into those of their friends the wondrous wealth which modern prosperity had poured upon the United States. In the North Congress has held the reins, and, mounted upon our national treasure box, with the people in harness, has driven in a manner which can only be estimated by the two thon-sand six hundred millions of dollars of debt which mark its track. So firmly have its members seated themselves in power that they no longer represent the people whom they originally used as a stepping stone to political pre-ferment. Congress is, in its unity, our dictator. Each State has furnished a larger or smaller number of particles to form this dictatorial element.

But how of the Copperheads? They are a curious combination. Among them are men who, too cowardly to have a well-defined opinion, maintained a sort of political vagabondage during our war. During the same period they furnished from their ranks that element which, behind our backs, was worse than a Rebel army of two hundred thousand men. Since the war they have taken advantage of the character of that "bull in a china shop," Andy Johnson, and have stirred up large masses of the people, North and South, with the fallacious idea that the war settled nothing, that slavery still exists, that no political conditions have been changed, that three hundred thousand slaveholders even now hold the power, that steam and electricity are dreams, that all the gentlemen are South and that their education North counts for nothing, that England cannot breathe without American cotton-that, in fact, eight years of desperate war and political turmoff have had no results. They surrounded the Presidential bull, and persuaded him that, in the main, they were right. He, with horns down, gored by friend and foe, charged here and there. He beliewed for "my olicy" and the "Constitution," to the delight of Congress, to which he gave more power, and to the joy of the Copperheads, whose sole hope of office was and is the keeping of the country in

an unsettled condition.

There is another element. It is that off of which all this Republican and Copperhead war scum has grown fat. It is the sturdy conserva-tive heart of the country. It represents the yeoman who, back of the seaboard cities, gives the nation its sinew and power. It comprises the soldier who, on both sides, fought from the conviction that he was doing his duty. It is this element that, firm as a rock, has saved us from disintegration since the war closed. It is this both copperhead and Republican have tried to control—the one trying to gain power, the other to perpetuate it. Both parties felt that President Grant had the strongest hold upon this sturdy backbone of the country, and it became a desperate game which should nominate him for the Presidency. Grant took the Repubican road because of the two offered it was the leaner. The Republican party got the name of electing their President; but this party in the election of Grant simply recognized the silent but irresistible governing force of the United States—the common sense of the people.

We have thus pictured three distinctive political elements. Two of them were even before the war too vile for national good, now they are reeking with the corruption which festers in the last eight years of our history. Congress represents the dominant one. Coppercivil hatreds into action, represent the second. President Grant represents the third. He is the sole exponent of all the force that gives us national cohesiveness at home and national respect abroad. It is to him that the common sense of the country turns, with the hope that he will express, by word and act, the will of the

It was in opposition to the contending Republican and Copperhead elements that Grant took The hounds at once set upon him. The force they brought to bear was terrific. The vast and intriate system of "rings" that held and dictated the methods of public plunder were at the heels of Congress and urged its members to the attack. Congressional salvation hung upon its power to force its instruments into office. United States Senators went so far as to dictate to the President who should and who should not be nominated or confirmed. Their colleagues sustained them in this dicta-tion. Again the Copperhead press, true to its principles to create turmoil, immediately opened upon the Executive. The whole hungry pack which it represents echoed the howl.

The President has stood the assault well. He has thrown them the bones and they are now purring over them. This gives him time to ook about him and study his position. He must discover that the Congressional party that had him forced upon them are bent upon making him a nonentity in the Government-that the Copperheads and Democrats are but a crowd of political Rip Van Winkles. He can, therefore, turn nowhere for support except to the yeo-manry and the common sense of the country that gave him his fame, enshrined him as the commander who saved us from national disintegration, and virtually made him President. There s yet a greater victory in store for him than any he has won. His first step towards it is to reorganize his Cabinet and place young, energetic and able men in the chairs of those who represent 1800 in-tead of 1869. Doing this, the people will feel that their President really places himself at their head, and is willing to fill the position which they have given to him. Doing this, and ignoring Republican and Copperhead, President Grant will take the initiative in the organi-zation of a party which can within three years sweep away the existing ones with all their obsolete ideas, dictatorial proceedings, and corrup-

CUBA AND THE CUBANS.

From the N. Y. World. The recent manifestations in this city chaltage fresh attention to the Cuban insurrection. sailing of the Arago may prove a serious affair; or rather it might prove serious if Spain were a strong nation, with resources to resent and chastise an affront. But it would be an act of supreme folly for Spain, crippled as she is, to call the United States to account for that or any similar dereliction of duty. Her motives are a hundred-fold stronger for keeping out of a war with this country than ours were during the civil war for avoiding a war with England or France. To the escape of the Alabama from a British port we opposed nothing but remonstrances; and against the French expedition to Mexico we did not even remonstrate, A war with either of those powers, at that time, would have made them allies of the Confederates, and have destroyed all reasonable hopes of ever subduing the Rebellion. In the same manner, a Spanish war with the United States would make this country the ally of Cuba, and deprive Spain of all reasonab hope of retaining her sovereignty of the island. Spain may remonstrate; but the escape of a dozen Aragos would not induce her to declare She can only do what we did in the case of the Confederate cruisers-send her navy after the hostile vessel and attempt to capture and destroy it. The sailing of the Arago was, of course, immediately telegraphed to Hayana, and the Spanish men-of-war, having ample notice, will be on the lookout, and attempt to intercept her. It is highly improbable that the Spanish Government will take any other practi-It is clear enough that our authorities at

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THE ASSAULT UPON PRESIDENT GRANT. | Washington have been derellet. The Government affects to discredit the news of the sailing of the Arago with an armed force on board, on the alleged ground that it has received no notice of the fact from the Federal officers here. Bu the Federal officers here understand perfectly well that the President is inclined to wink at such expeditions. As a matter of course, they are conveniently blind. If General Grant had followed the precedents set by his prede cessors; if he had published a proclamation warning the people against violating the nentrality laws, and stimulating the vigilance of our officers, the expedition would not have sailed, or, at any rate, the Government could not have pleaded ignorance and affected disbelief. There is no danger in this voluntary blindness; but is there no dishonor? General Grant is sworn to take care that the laws be faithfully executed; and in his inaugural he pro-mised to enforce all laws, whether they met his personal approval or not, saying that the best way to make a bad law odious and secure its repeal was by its strict enforcement. He is neither ruifilling that pledge nor keeping his official onth. And he connives at law-breaking without any chance of benefiting the Cubans; for there is no good reason to suppose that their effort for independence will be successful. The meeting at the Cooper Institute was a splurgy affair, which amounts to nothing unless

General Grant should choose to consider it as an evidence of public sentiment, and make it an excuse for continuing to give his moral support to the insurrection. The speeches, with the exception of Mr. McKeon's, were mere gushes of unreasoning sympathy. Mr. McKeon dealt largely in precedents and historical citations. and his argument was perfectly conclusive on the point to which it was mainly directed, namely, that the Government of this country has always taken a lively interest in Cuba, and has long cherished a fixed determination that it shall never pass into the hands of other European power than Spain. But that argument has no relevance to the present state of facts. There is not the slightest evidence that any other European power is attempting to acquire Cuba. If there was any such design, the public sentiment of the country would be unanimous against tolerating it for an instant. It would be strenuously resisted by the whole force of public and by the zealous application of all the resources of the country. The Cooper Institute meeting was not directed against the acquisition of Cuba by other European powers, but against its retention by Spain. Mr. McKeon's citations have therefore no pertinence to any real ques-tion. They make against him, for our Government has constantly professed its acquiescence in the sovereignty of Spain over the island un-less she should choose voluntarily to part with it for a valuable consideration.

The avowed purpose of the meeting was to encourage the Government to recognize the independence of Cuba. Except with a view to its mmediate annexation to the United States, the independence of Cuba would be a doubtful advantage, either to the Cubans or to us. There is no reason to suppose the people of Cuba are capable of organizing and maintaining a wise government; and unless they can, their indeendence would be anything but a blessing. It Tuba is to be a miniature Mexico, she would gain nothing by throwing off the Spanish yoke. From the Rio Grande to Cape Horn, there is nothing in the condition of the countries on this continent to justify the expectation that Cuba would be well governed and prosperous as an independent community. With the exception of Brazil, which is a monarchy, none of the South American countries have established governments that promote order and progress. There is no reason to suppose that With the exception the Spanish race in Cuba is endowed with political capacity superior to that of their brethren on the continent. Training in free institutions they have had none; and they are entirely desti-tute of all the habitudes that conduce to political success. The following extract from Mr. Richard H. Dana's book, "To Cuba and Back," published in 1859, shows how utterly destitute the Cubans are of the qualifications requisite for conducting a tree government:-"Science. arts, letters, arms, manufactures, and the learning and discussion of politics, of theology, and of the great problems and opinions that move head and Democrat, in their attempts to stir | the minds of the thinking world-in these the people of Cuba have no part. These move by them as the Gulf Stream drifts by their shores. Nor is there, nor has there been in Cuba, in the memory of the young and middle-aged debate, or vote, or juries, or one of the least and most rudimental processes of self-government. * No Cuban votes, or attends a lawful politi cal meeting, or sits on a jury, or sees a law-making assembly, except as a curiosity abroad, even in a municipality, nor has he ever helped to make, or interpret, or administer laws; or borne arms, except by special license of govern-ment granted to such as are friends of government. In another part of his book, Mr. Dana says that one who reflects on the character of the Cubans "may well be slow to believe that with their complication of difficulties, and their causes of disorder and weakness-with their half million and more of slaves and quarter million or less of free blacks, with their coolies and their divided and hostile races of whites—their Spanish blood, and their utter want of experience in the discharge of any public duties, the Cubans will work our successfully the problem of selfgovernment. You cannot reason from Massachusetts to Cuba. When Massachusetts entered the Revolution, she had had one hundred and fifty years of experience in popular self-government; under a system in which the exercise of this power was more generally diffused among the people, and extended over a larger class of subjects, and more decentralized than had ever been known before in any part of the world, or at any period of the world's story. been all along, for most purposes, an independent republic, with an obligation to the British empire undefined and seldom attempted to be

With the example of Mexico and the other rickety and anarchical Spanish-American repub-lics staring us in the face, it is a very wild ex-pectation that the Cubans would succeed, as an adependent nation, in establishing and administering a good government. But unless they have capacity to do this, their independence would be a curse instead of a blessing. The mmediate annexation of Cuba to the United States is a different question. Under the super ntendence of the Federal Government, and with he large emigration of American citizens which would flow into the island, it might in time be come a successful republican State; but the Federal Government has, at present, too much of that kind of superintendence already on its hands, in the negro governments it is attempting o establish in the South. This country had better be in no haste to swallow any more of such crude food, until it has digested the heavy oad which is already on its stomach.

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