SCHOOL MANAGEMENT - GIRARD COL-LEGE.

From the N. Y. Tribune. Girard College in Philadelphia is an Institu-tion of some national interest; and it is no nuwelcome sign that its affairs are creating an attention far outside of its local sphere. Never was grander structure devoted to the homespun utility of lodging and clothing poor orphan boys, giving them education, and putting them out to trades. The general problem presented to those who have ever studied its management is to reconcile the advantages of an excellent education and some disadvantages of a school life of eight or ten years within walls, with the destiny of hard work to which the graduate-apprentice is committed after leaving them. ur or five years back the directors of the college, thinking that a great deal of study, less play, and no work, might make the future apprentices still no better than poor boys, caught vaguely at the idea of turning their school in

part into a workshop.

The experiment of the workshop, begun wholesale, was both overdone and underdone, and never led to very direct or remarkable results, so far as we are aware. The Girard boys were schooled every day to the full extent of the long hours then, if not still, prescribed for the schools of Quakerdom. He the labor principle must have worked unsatis-factorily for scholars, though it must have been excellent for graduates or unteachable pupils waiting to get places. Some of them set some hoed out garden weeds, some raked hay, or planted vegetables; others could make shoes soap. Time was when the Girard boys, in expectation of apprenticeship, took very generally, and even with liking, to agriculture, as is afforded within the forty acres which be-long to the college bounds. A more general teaching of technology and the use of machines had been introduced to an appreciable

Professor Stephens, noteworthy for what good he has in former days essayed to do the institu-tion, was in the habit of taking his pupils into all the Schuylkill factories, and often taught them botany on the way to an iron-foundry. The practical system was encouraged and stimulated by President Allen, a well-known and able educator, quite in identity with any success the college has achieved as at least a well-ordered institution, and it is possible that he still gives t an earnest and intelligent countenance. have no notion that the work-a-day plan can be readily divided up with schooling. It is best that what may be called the labor culture should be applied only to the advanced and somewhat developed pupils who have a particular interest in understanding a little of the world's workshop before they go to bear a hand in it. A Girard boy enters the world at from fourteen to sixteen or seventeen; and hence whatever work is taught his young arms had better come to-wards the end of his collegiate term.

We have at hand an echo of the complaint made by a few of the Philadelphia journals that the college has been badly mismanaged of late. Of this we are far from being so sure as we are that the present head of the institution enjoys the wide respect and esteem of its graduates and friends. The college has had two parties of foes. First, were the so-called natural heirs of Stephen Girard, a dangerous crew in all probability, who cared little for the shrewd, kind old money-maker when he was poor, and who were handsomely cut off by him with \$10,000 apiece. Second, were Girard's other bad heirs, a class of politicians into whose hands public bequests are apt to fall in the accidents of politics, and who are supposed to be pilfering the estate of the college's founder. The institution, as is pretty well known, is controlled by the city government, in accordance with provisions of the bene

volent Frenchman's will. We ought to say that the Philadelphia management is candidly pure compared to what it would be if our own aldermen had their hands upon its purse-strings. Nor are we certain that the charges made against the direction of the Girard funds are in any way so plausible as those which might have been made years ago, when the Demoeratic party managed that great trust in their own blind, bad way. We have heard that a double saving has been effected for the revenues of the institution under their present handling; and, though we conceive it to be a great shame that an institution of the importance and sacredness of Girard College should be at the mercy of politics, still, matters might be worse than they are now. The college is in charge of the worthiest President it ever had. This is especially why we are surprised at the attacks just made upon its domestic management.

Judge Allison, the other day, charged his grand jury that it was their duty to investigate rigidly the conduct of the public institutions; and we heartily trust that they will be less lazy and stupid than some grand juries within easy memory. But the testimony which the Judge repeats that delinquent Girard boys are kept in "filthy dens," which one Mr. Horne says are not fit for dogs, and are otherwise deprived of com-forts the absence of which is nightmare and despair to the heart of shivering small boys, strikes us as a shade sensational. Indeed, this testimony at best, if altogether true, belongs to a period three years back, when Democrats were the maladministrators of Girard's bounty. It is unfair, then, if not a little unscrupulous, in the Philadelphia Judge to quote it as a fact in any exist-ing circumstances. There has never been any reason to suppose that the college, upon the whole humanely and well-meaningly if some-times blunderingly managed, has had even a re-mote resemblance to the Dotheboys Hall immortalized by Dickens.

The character of its graduates is in the main about as good as that of almost any alumni of the large popular schools. Among them are doctors, lawyers, chemists, engineers, army officers, bankers, brokers, editors, besides the commoner classes of tradesmen. This does not speak ill for our present highly democratic civilization, but it also speaks well for Girard College. We could have no objection to seeing this favorite and sacred trust directed by appointees of the judges, under some kind of egislative or gubernatorial check, or in any way that might be deemed honester and safer than the present plan. We would better like to see it controlled by its own alumni, one or two of whom are, by-the-way, members of the Philadelphia Councils, and who ought to know its tenderest wants. It is by no means impossible for a rather respectable city like Philadelphia to give an institution in which it takes a proper pride something better than a general Pumble-chook direction at the expense of the general

Pip intellect and and welfare.

At all events, no amount of added eare and carnestness can work harm to the noble experiment made in Girard College. The more teachers and governesses of zeal it can have, the more concern its direction can show in preparing its pupils for binding out, the better for them and all. It is measurably true that charity may defeat itself by making the beneficiary too much used to dependence on benefits; but that is almost as true of the common schools as of other public philanthropies, and it urges us all the more to put earnestness and sugacity into our plans of education, and not to be weary of well-doing because we find a point at which the best-de-vised benevolences may come to a halt—just for want, perhaps, of that stimulant of earnestness whereof we speak.

IS IT WAR?

From the A. V. World, What attitude has President Grant assumed in

our dispute with England? If we are to put trust in the representations of Washington correspondents of leading Republi-can journals, the President has taken refuge in the arms of Sumner, and overruled the judgment of the Secretary of State.

The Times declares:-"The Times declares:—
"The precise character of these instructions is a matter of much speculation here, although it is hardly one of doubt. Mr. Molley's sentiments on the Alabama question are known to be in accordance with the recent speech of Senator Sumner, and many | jaugh is at the ridiculous anti-climaxes of Grant's

The Herald, which is at present the organ of

Mr. Sumner, says: Mr. Summer, says:

That part of them (the instructions) which relates to the Alabama claims is understood to be founded, substantially, on the speech of Senator Summer so far as material indemnity is concerned. Mr. Fish does not agree with the sentiments of Mr. Summer with regard to a demand upon Great Britain for a sentiment with regard to a demand upon Great Britain for a ational apology in addition to payment in full for amages to our commerce. He considers this would be treated by Great Britain as equivalent to a declaration of war, and, therefore, would not be enter-tained if presented by Minister Motley. Mr. Fish was scarcely in favor of going as far as Mr. Sumner in other matters connected with the Alabama claims, out the President was of the opinion that the people demanded a firm policy towards Great Britain on this guestion, and, therefore, overruled the Secre-

If our Government has come to the conclusion that England is the mighty malefactor she is represented by Mr. Summer in his speech; if she wilfully, deliberately, and maliciously counived and co-operated with the Confederates to disrupt Federal Union, and so far destroy our Federal Government: if, to that end, she recognized the Rebels as entitled to ocean belligerent rights, permitted Captain Bullock to build and equip in her territory Rebel cruisers and launch them against our commerce; If, in a word, the British Government intended to do and did what Mr. Summer describes—then the United States cannot rest quietly under the insult and outrage to our national dignity. England must make atonement and reparation, or fight. No self-respecting nation would or could submit to such ndignities as Sumner says have been heaped on the United States.

The only question is, has President Grant repudiated Mr. Fish and gone over to Sumner and Motley? The price of gold will speedly tell what Wall street believes, and whether the Herald and Times are correct.

DYER AND PORTER.

From the N. Y. World. The case of General Dyer has just been settled in Washington by a handsome and complete acquittal of the accused upon every one of the charges preferred against him. This is not only an acquittal of General Dyer, it is a conviction of the "Joint Committee of Congress on Ordnance" by which the charges, now dismissed as both baseless and base, were preferred against him. That committee made its charges under the influence-or, as we may more truly say, at the dictation-of Benjamin F. Butler. To gratify the personal spite of this bad man, his colleagues were found willing to throw as much obloquy as an indictment of corruption by them could throw upon the reputation of a veteran officer who had served his country for a lifetime with-out fear and without reproach. Fortunately for General Dyer, his case has been investigated in a time of peace and when the angry passions of the war had cooled. He has thus found the justice which assuredly he would never have met with had his trial taken place while a Stan-ton shook the shadow of his Turkish beard over the War Office, and played the Bashaw unhindered with the lives and liberties of free-

Now that daylight is dawning, what has President Grant to say of the case of General Fitz-John Porter? It is not General Porter, but President Grant, who will be put on trial before the bar of history if he, a soldier, suffers the term of his Presidency to slip by without ordering a soldier's due of honest investigation and impartial inquiry to be meted out to a fellowsoldier most foully wronged-whatever be the truth about the substance of his conduct—in the form of the inquisition to which he was subjected and by which he was robbed of the immediate jewel of a soldier's name.

THREE MONTHS OF GENERAL GRANT. From the N. Y. Herald.

It is easy enough to say that Grant is a failure, and perhaps from this very ease many have hastily said it. Are the facts such that men must say it after deliberate thought? It is at least quite certain that Grant's decadence in one sense is clear; he is not what the people fondly thought him; he does not realize the generous national expectation of his career, and hence he has fallen from that height which estimation had accorded as justly his. But is it not possible that the people in their enthusiasm placed him at a point that no man would seem to fit when looked at in cooler moments? Did we not expect too much of him? Did we not in one humor expect him to do things that in another humor and with our jealousy of one-man power we even would permit no man to do? It is an old fault of the world that it exaggerates its heroes. and then contemns them that they do not come up to the false measure. Here for ages has the world been standing with folded hands before the grand conception of Marius sitting on the ruins of Carthage. Patriots and soldiers have accepted it on canvas and mused it in verse with peculiar melancholy. Well, Marius never sat there at all. It was only a figure of speech. Must we then scout the old democrat altogether because he sat down many a muddy mile from the place we have pletured him sitting? It is for this nation not to vote as a failure in any captious spirit that man to whom it owes the final success of its great efforts; but if he is a failure, there is an equal duty plainly to say it.
But what did the country expect of Grant? It

expected broadly the administration of the Government on new principles. It expected a reversion of the primitive system—that is, a revo-lution against the office-holders, against a sort of political and official oligarchy, that in an immunity of fifty years had come to look upon the Government patronage as exclusively its own. If we consider only this point fairly, we shall see that Hercules had but little to do by comparison with what we expected of our straightforward soldier. For what were the carnivorous birds of Lake Stymphalis, the mad bull of Crete, the Lernen dydra, the Nemeen lion and the wild boar of Eurymanthus but so many ideal types and figures of the ferocity, recklessness, roaring, grumbling, shricking, and tossing of the politicians, mad for place and plunder? We expected too much. But then it must be assented that we have got much less than we might even reasonably have looked for. We have got nothing, and here it is that absolute failure is obvious. Grant was relied upon to do all, because in his whole career he had seemed a man of common scuse, common honesty, and resoute purpose. But his resolute purpose has become puerile vacillation; his common honesty is nepotism, or worse; and common sense is the quality of all qualities that the administration is

Pressed to exclude the grovelling politicians from office, General Grant was ready to meet the public view of the necessity of such a course; but he immediately confounded with these grovelling politicians every public man whose name had strong party affiliations. How great a blunder this was is seen in the reflection great a bunder this was is seen in the reflection that in such a crisis as we have recently passed through all men disposed to serve the country faithfully in civil life, and who were men of force, became necessarily party men. By the terms of his exclusion, therefore, he forced him. self to a choice of respectable, good-natured nobodies. Can the American people be persuaded that there is nothing between that extreme and the miserable place-holders of the reme and the insertable place-noiders of the corrupt cliques? On this principle Grant's Cabinet was made. Di-gasted with the result, he then fell into the other blunder of giving up his efforts altogether, and politicians of the worst stripe had a freer sweep than they have worst stripe had a freer sweep than they have had before this long while. Here is failure. In a rude age of the world's history so simple a soldier as the second Caliph could remember that "the family of Omar had enough in Omar," and did not need office. He could advise his successor, also, "not to prefer his relatives above all others." For a President in this age

third month of Grant's Presidency. Popular enthusiasm has cooled his disappointment. Autheipations of a vigorously honest discharge of public duties have faded away, and the common

indications have been developed within the last two or three days which go to show that the President and the Secretary of State very nearly coincide with the Massachusetts Senator." grain of the man He may have been misled as to his own powers and qualities, and the praise of his reticence may have given him the notion that wisdom consisted in holding one's tongue—a notion that materially damaged the constitution of the Cabinet. We still believe that there is in the fibre of this man what we want to make a President of the right sort; but the President is not there already made. Some of the greatest careers of political history began in failure Grant can scarcely become so laughable a figure as that great genius of modern politics, the Emperor of France, has been, and George Canning was once a great failure also. We shall be reconciled with the failure we chronicle in this third month, if from this point Grant shall ad-dress himself to his great duties with something of the energy and patient persistency he has shown in another sphere; for in that way, but not otherwise, he may yet make his Presidency

SECKLES AND THE "TRIBUNE."

From the N. Y World, We did the Tribune more than Justice in supposing that it might possibly object to such an outrage upon the national character as the appointment of General Sickles to represent the Juited States in the Spanish capital. The apointment has actually been made, and the Tri oune thanks Heaven and the President for the blessing in this handsome manner:—

"General Daniel E. Sickles, yesterday commissioned United States Minister to Spain, served his country gailantly during the war, aided with marked wisdom and great executive capacity in the reconstruction, and goes out to the liberal Government of Spain a faithful representative of the men who have preserved the United States a nation, and guaranteed the success of republican institutions in their last and greatest trial. To these qualifications he adds culture and social qualities besitting the station; and, with the record he has made in our history, he needs neither recommendation to the liberal authorities to whom he is sent, nor defense against the maignant dehe is sent, nor defense against the malignant de tractors he leaves behind him."

We have italicized the most touching and ap-propriate phrases of this truly beautiful tribute virtuous and noble citizen. How exquisitely agreeable it must be to the thousands of respectable and reputable men who have 'served their country gallantly during the war' to be informed that the Tribune considers them to be both almost and altogether such as General Daniel E. Sickles! And what a pretty contribution to the world's opinion of the great republic it is which the *Tribune* makes when it declares General Daniel E. Sickles to be a "faithful representative of the men who have preserved the United States a nation!" The two most felicitous points, however, in this unique composition are the homage paid by the Tribune to the "social qualities" of the assassin of Philip Barton Key, the "gallant" man who, after using his wife's confession of her shame to save life, complacently condoned the crime which he declared had driven him madly into murder, and the graceful allusion of the Tribune to the 'record" which this person "has made in our

The Tribune claims to be not only the "gentleman's newspaper" of the period, but the organ also of the "intelligence and virtue" of the United States. "Malignant detractors," of course, are unworthy of notice. But we submit that the Tribune owes it to the rising generation to republish from its own columns for May, 1859. to republish from its own columns for May, 1859, the interesting and characteristic "record" made "in our history" at that time by this model of the best "social qualities" whom it now blazens forth as the ideal "representative" of American intelligence and American virtue. De Quincey wrote a famous essay once on "Murder considered as a Fine Art," The Trilmne may and ought to match it now with a paper on "Murder considered as a means of Social Culture and Moral Training." Moral Training.

JAMES FISK, JR., AND HIS LIBELS UITS. From the N. Y. Times.

We see it announced in some of our exchanges that Mr. James Fisk, Jr., has discontinued his libel suits against the Springfield Republican and the New York Tribune. What may be his motive for so doing we do not know Whether he has concluded that his character cannot be injured, or that it has been so badly damaged as to be beyond repair, we are not informed. Probably, however, the sums for which he has sucd those journals—a paltry \$100,000 in each case-do not seem to him adequate to the emergency.

No such objection holds in our case, and we trust he does not intend, for that or any other reason, to discontinue the suits commenced against the *Times*. We want those suits tried. They allege damage to his character to the amount of a million and a quarter—a sum which, if recovered, will do something boword patching up his reputation, and may even bolster up his failing credit for a little longer. The amount claimed is certainly respectable. By means of swearing that he resides in Massachusetts, he has succeeded in bringing the suit in a Federal Court not overburdened with business and presided over by a learned, able, and industrious udge; and now that the regular theatrical season is drawing to a close, Mr. Fisk, Jr., can find leisure to attend to the suit and thus bring it to a speedy trial.

There are several points involved in Mr. Fisk's career, and especially in his financial opera-tions, which, for the information and protection of the public, ought to be thoroughly cleared up, and a libel suit affords the best possible means of bringing this about. The history and nature of his relations to the Eric Rallroad-the amount of bonds he has caused to be issued, the amount of money he got for them, and what has become of it, are all points of very great interest to a great many people. In the various railroad suits that have been had, he has man-aged to evade them all; but in a libel suit he annot do so, and we propose to avail ourselve to the fullest extent, and for the public good, of all the opportunities which the law affords us for making the investigation thorough and satisfac tory. We shall have the opportunity, first, t prove the truth of everything we have said of Mr. Fisk; next, to show, by its relation to the public interest, that it was said with good ustifiable motives; and finally, that Mr. Fisk' character is one which cannot possibly be in jured by anybody, to one hundredth part of the extent he imagines it to have been injured by us In the course of such a trial, covering so large a field and involving so many points as this one does, we shall be able to show a great many things which could not possibly be elicited in an ordinary controversy growing out of business

We protest, therefore, against Mr. Fisk's dis continuing the suits he has commenced against us. The various little attempts he has made at bullying or black-mailing us into silence or ac-quiescence in his views and purposes are of no consequence, and we are quite willing to over-look them. We do not propose to change our course of comment upon Mr. Fisk and his financial operations in any respect, or in the least particular. The only effect his proceedings can have will be to enlarge the field of comment, and sharpen the public interest in the whole af-

But it is greatly for the interest of the publi that the suits should go on. Fisk, Jr., is a pheomenon-one which the public ought to un stand a good deal better than they do. The three-tailed calf, or the horned seal, was a commonplace, everyday affair by the side of Fisk, Jr. His operations in Wall street and elsewhere have been more curious than the performances of Aladdin, Blue Beard, and Signor Blitz put tothe sake both of the subject and of the spectators; so we beg Mr. Fisk, Jr., to lose no time, but push the trial forward as rapidly as possible. He will find us quite ready for active operations. But he must not be surprised if the parties to the case, plaintiff and defendant, should change places during the trial. places during the trial.

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