SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

THE TWO ASSEMBLIES-THEIR COMMON CREED.

From the N. Y. Sun.

It looks as if the two sections of the Presbyte rian denomination, which, with its cognate scanches, is perhaps the most powerful in the nation, were about to come together again. With no right to speak for either, but as friends with no right to speak for either, but as friends of union and harmony in all things, we hope they will succeed in restoring the most cordial relations. Nevertheless, as independent journalists, whose mission it is to pour light along the pathway of all parties and sects, we feel bound to warn our brethren of the Old School, whose adherence to the letter of the Westminster Confession and the prelections of the Synod of Dort nobody doubts, that the New School are not rigid Calvinists, but moderate Armenians rather; or, to speak more correctly, they accept the creed of the great Genevan with Armenian explanations, therein following the example of leneral Jackson, who said he had sworn to support the Constitution as he understood it The truth is, the teachings of Taylor, Beecher.

Beman, Barnes, and Finney have left an impres-sion upon their section of the Presbyterian Church too deep to be effaced by a mere sigh for Measured by the Procrustean creed of Calvin, the large majority of the clergy who have graduated during the past thirty years from the divinity schools at Andover, New Haven, New York, Cincinnati, Auburn, and Oberlin would [be found too short or too longwe are not quite sure which. For examplelistening thirty-five years ago to a lecture before the Moral Philosophy class of Lane Seminary, y Dr. Lyman Beecher, a student, who was niversalist and a tectotaller, like, for instance, the Hon. Horace Greeley, asked the lecturer how he could reconcile ternal punishment with the benevolence of the Whereupon the doctor, with the speed of light, flashed back upon him--"God will never punish anybody any longer than he con-tinues to sin against Him; and the punishment will only be the natural consequence of his own ets; as, if a man gets drunk and falls into the ditch, no fire and brimstone are necessary to give him a good roasting." Now this may be sound philosophy, but is it thorough Calvinism? We commend it to the calm consideration of Dr. McCosh, of Princeton.

Again, to show the light and airy style in which eminent New School divines were wont to treat fundamental doctrines of the Church in the acrimonious stages of this controversy, we refer to a fact respecting the Rev. Nathan S. S. Beman, D.D. Dr. Beman, in the acme of these quarrels, was the Moderator of the General Assembly. The contest was about the orthodoxy of a minister since highly distingnished. Those who were present in Philadel-phia at the Republican National Convention, in 1856, which nominated Fremont to the Presidency, will recollect the striking appearance of tall man with an expressive eye, his hair rapidly sprinkling with grey, who opened the convention with an eloquent prayer. This was the Rev. Albert Barnes, paster of the largest and richest Presbyterian Church in Philadel-About twenty years anterior to that time he had been arraigned for heresy; and Dr. Beman, Dr. Patton, Dr. Krebs, Dr. Ely, Dr. Green, and other divines of both schools, contended over certain phrases in some almost for-gotten sermons of Mr. Barnes, as eagerly as the Greeks and the Trojans fought over the dead

The airy incident to which we more especially refer was this:-The main charge upon which Mr. Barnes had been arraigned was a want of faith in original sin. He was admitted to be sound on actual transgression, but he questioned whether the men of our day ought to be damned for not repenting of Adam's weakness in yielding to Eve in the matter of the apple. On the Moderator's return from the assembly, he himself was taken to task by a venerable female of his church for heterodoxy on this very point, who sought to confound him by citing that well-known passage of Scripture, as she called

We sinned all."

Ah! replied Doctor Beman, with a sarcastic twinkle in his eye and a dash of Hudibras on his tongue, you ought to give the whole pas-

"In Adam's fall We sinned all: In Cain's murder We sinned furder; By Doctor Green Our sin is seen"-

meaning thereby—to quote a phrase from the complaint in a recent libel suit—the Rev. Ashbel W. Green, D. D., LL.D., the patriarch of the Thological Seminary at Princeton, who, we believe, had been Dr. Beman's unsuccessful com-petitor for the Moderatorship of the Assembly. Now, we submit to Dr. Spring and the other grave divines in session at the Brick edifice on Fifth avenue: Can the pupils of such a teacher be regarded as sound in the faith?

are reminded of the fate which awaits the Old School in their reunion with the New, by a well-known parallel passage in the history of the Democratic party of this State. For several years they quarrelled over the Wilmot Proviso. and in 1847 they had shivered their organization on that rock of offense. The Barnburners, who may be called the New School, introduced the proviso as embodying doctrines in accordance with the advanced spirit of the age. The Old School Hunkers repudiated it, and turned the Barnburners out of the Democratic church. After having avenged themselves by the defeat of General Cass in 1848, defeat of General Cass in 1848, the new lights, in the following year, proposed a reunion. The two wings of the Democracy met in separate Conventions at Rome in the summer of 1849, the Hunkers sitting in the Presbyterian Church, and the Barnburn-ers in the Baptist. William L. Marey, Daniel 8. Dickinson, and Horatio Seymour were the leading spirits in the former, and John Van Buren, Sanford E. Church, and Martin H. Grover in the latter. After a stormy session of three or four days they falled to agree, mainly, it was asserted, because, through the influence of John Van Buren and Henry B. Stanton, the Barnburners insisted upon making the provise a test of genuine Democracy. So they separated apparently more acrimonious than ever.

But Marcy and Seymour were ambitious, and

with their connivance, a mass convention of the Democracy was soon after held, irrespective of past divisions, over which James S. Wadsworth presided. Prince John of Lindenwald was present, and made a speech for union and harmony, oxplete with that persuasive eloquence of which he was so perfect a master, while Horatio Sey-mour smiled approvingly in the lobby, and Governor Marcy, whose name was a tower of strength in the orthodox ranks of the party, assured the Hunkers in a private room at a hotel near by that he had no doubt it would all come

out right in the end. out right in the end.

And so it did! The Barnburners got control of the party, and soon made Marcy Secretary of State and Seymour Governor of New York, throwing Dickinson and his inflexible adherents of the old school quite into the shade. The simple explanation of this turn of affairs was, that the Wilmot Proviso Democrats kept step with the progressive soirit of the times, while with the progressive spirit of the times, while the Hunkers typified an era which had passed away. Ultimately, at the appropriate period, the more sanguine elements of the Barnburner faction fused with the fragments of other political organizations in the formation of a powerful party which carried the country through a great var, and gave it a constitution that insures the

freedom of all men within its jurisdiction, So, we apprehend, it will turn out with the Presbyterian Church when its two Assemblies have become one again. The radical, progressive, audacious New School will, like the New York Barnburners, absorb the conservative, cautious, timid Old School; for the former are the more lively type of the times, and in the vital matter of doctrinal tests are in accord with

almost without exception, nearly the entire body of the Congregationalists and Lutherans, three-fourths of the Baptists and Episcopalians, a majority of the Dutch Reformed, with other ler sects, are in perfect unison with them in the liberal glosses wherewith they are wont to soften and ameliorate the rigid text of the creed

This being so, we would respectfully suggest to the two assemblies the appointment of a joint committee to revise the Westminster Confession. That time-honored formula is the off-pring of an age remarkable both for its bigotry and its fanaticism—an age which produced Charles and Archbishop Laud, Oliver Cromwell and Praise God Barebones. The New School must be tired of trying to evade the charge of heresy by twisting (to use the language of young Beecher their modern opinions into conformity with the crabbed phraseology of the seventeenth century and as to the Old School, they may as well yield the point, for we have warned them of the fate that awaits them so soon as they walk into the parlor of the bold, withy brethren who are so eager to enmesh them in their paculiar meta-

We live in an era of reconstruction and emendation. Within three or four years we save renovated the Constitution of the United States by amendments which reach to its very foundations. Should not the ancient Confession of Westminster likewise yield to the enlightening interpretations of the times? Need any phase of orthodoxy be alarmed at doctrines which have been sanctioned by Grotius, Arminius, Tillotson, Doddridge, Wesley, Robert Hall, and Lyman Beecher, and which, aside from quesions of mere ecclesiastical polity, have received the assent of eminent fathers of the Catholic

THE AUSTRIAN CURRENCY SYSTEM.

From the N. Y. Herald. We published in yesterday's Herald an exhaus tive and highly interesting review, by our Vienna correspondent, of the system and history of Austrian currency and fluance, with a comparison of our own system with that of Austria will be remembered by the readers of the Herald that we gave shortly after the close of the war, in 1865, a series of similar exhaustive articles on the currency and finances of England at the conclusion of the long wars with Napoleon, and also on the financial history of our own country during the crisis of a like character The teaching of Austrian. British, and American history is the same, and our Vienna corres pondent shows in his communication what we have urged over and over again, that it is ruinous to the best interests of the country to tamper with and unwisely contract the legaltender currency. Whenever Austria has had an ample currency of such a character, the empire has been more prosperous, trade and manufactures have een more active, and the people generally in a better condition than at any other period; and whenever the bullionists contracted or swept away this currency for the purpose of forcing specie payments, ruin and appalling distress to the mass of the people inevitably followed. The same ruinous policy in England produced, however, a worse state of things in that country, as its history, from 1815 to 1824, or even long after, shows. Our correspondent justly remarks that the transfer into gold of public and private obligations, contracted in depreciated paper, as car-ried out in Great Britain and as demanded by the bullionists in the United States, is, to use the language of Sir James Graham, in his pamphlet on "Corn and Currency," a fraud upon every debtor, public and private. Yet this would be the effect of forced resumption here. The debtor class—that is, by far the largest portion of the community-would be ruined, and the burden of the public debt immensely increased upon the tax-payers, for the benefit of the capitalists and bondholders.

Whether the views of General Butler, which are advocated by our correspondent with regard to establishing a permanent paper currency, in the form of and to be called taxation money, are sound and practicable or not, there can be no doubt that the present legal-tender currency is best for the country, under existing circumstances, and that it ought not to be withdrawn. Indeed there ought not to be any other paper money. The circulation of the national banks should be taken up and greenbacks issued instead. We would then have a uniform and cheap currency, based directly upon the credit of the Government, and twenty to twenty-five millions of dollars a year would be paid in taxes; for with the issue of three hundred millions of legal tenders in the place of national bank notes, a corresponding amount of interest-bearing bonds could be cancelled. There would be no expansion, and as the population, trade, and wealth of the country increased this Government paper money would gradually and insensibly ap-proximate a specie standard. The people would learn to like this cheap and convenient currency more as time rolled on, and in the end, when it would reach par with specie, they would prefer it, probably, to a metallic currency; for it would not be subject to contraction and expansion in obedience to the ebb and flow of bullion or the balances of trade with other nations. The history of Austrian finances and currency, as given in the article referred to, and the views thereon expressed by the writer, are worthy the serious attention of the Government and people of this country.

PRESIDENT WOOLSEY ON THE ALABAMA CASE.

From the N. Y. Times.

We published on Tuesday morning a synopsis of two interesting lectures on the Alabama case and the English proclamation of neutrality at the beginning of our civil war, delivered by President Woolsey to the Senior Class of Yale Col-lege. Dr. Woolsey is one of the first authorities in this country on the topics which he discussed and on the general subject of international law: yet he expressed opinions in these lectures which will expose him to the sharp censure and bitter denunciation of every party demagogue in the land. He did not think that the recogni-tion of the Confederate Government as a belligerent power by England proceeded from en-mity to the Union, or that it was of necessity a hostile act. He ventured to criticize with a

good deal of sharpness some of Mr. Sumner's

positions, and dissented wholly from their general

tenor and effect. President Woolsey said he wished it "distinetly understood that he had not been bought up by British gold" to take this view of the case. ndoubtedly he would like to have this believed but we presume he is not rash enough to expect that it will be. How can any man—any American-of common sense expect to be credited with sincerity in holding such sentiments? How can be possibly hold them unless he is paid for doing it? Goldwin Smith may, but he is an Englishman, "only an American pro tem.," as the Tribune styles him, and lives here only as is well understood, for the sake of a "fat professorship" and the opportunity of corrupting the sentiments of the ingenious youth of America. He used to be, when at home, thorough-going Yankee—rather more of a Yan-kee, perhaps, than the Yankees themselves. But has got over all that, and is now generally

known to be neither more nor less than a British spy, though what special thing he is to spy out, or how he is to learn anything except by reading the newspapers, we are not aware.

But for President Woolsey to agree with Goldwin Smith on alce points of international law, rather than with Chandler and Samner and the "war horses" of the mighty West, is something that finds its only explanation in the fact that he has been bought over with British gold. Of course he will deny it; he could not do less than

that. But who will put any faith in his denials?

The aroused indignation of the country must look into this matter. It may be necessary to expel Dr. Woolsey from the high position he holds as President of one of the leading colleges of the country, and to put in his place some one more thoroughly imbued with the "true spirit of our institutions" than he is. It must not be forgotten that General R. E. Lee, who commanded the Rebel armies, is also Professor of something or other in a Southern college. Are that. But who will put any faith in his denials: something or other in a Southern college. Are not these coincidences somewhat alarming? It may be well for Presidents Woolsey and Lee and a large majority of the members of other deno-minations called orthodox. The Methodists securing passage for some more congenial clime,

THE CHURCH IN SPAIN From the N. Y. World.

Senor Castelar has made another great speech in the Cortes upon the proposition to extend a partial religious toleration in Spain. The elonence of this speech even in a translation i thring, and in the orator's own words, and with the advantages of the direct and fervid personal appeal of which he availed himself to the full, we can easily believe that the effect of it was electrical. It is strange to think of a Spanish Senator quoting Shakespeare, and it is still stranger to find a Spanish Senate appreciating and relishing the quotation. The speech shows a range of reading which is remarkable, but it also shows a faculty of thinking, and a modern and methodical training of that faculty, which is more remarkable still. If we suppose the ex-pressions of affection for the Church with which he orator sets out to be sincere, they show that ae is capable or rising superior to the strongest and most ineradicable prejudices; and if we suppose them to be simulated for the purpose of concillating an audience of churchmen, they orm one of the finest examples extant of ora-

But even the eloquence of the speech is not so notable as its wisdom. Castelar may cherish about the same religious beliefs as those with which his colleague Suner scandalized the Cortes a few weeks ago. But Castelar has the sense, which Suner had not, to know that Spanish opinion is not advanced to the Suner point, and so contents himself with pleading for what there is a probability, and, as it has turned out, a certainty that he can get. This is the differnce between a visionary and a statesman, Castelar and a Suner, a Solon and a Sumner, And Castelar has acquired the statesmanlike habit of mind in spite of the strongest prepossessions to its opposit: He is a scholar and philosopher, and he come nto the Cortes from a professor's chair. These drawbacks have sufficed to mullify the talent of some of the brightest men of our generation who have been misted into abdicating their rea power for the barren boon of a parliamentary osition. In France and in England, the men who have been called from the "still air of delightful studies" to devise practicable measures for the just administration of governments, have in almost every justance, conspicuously falled That Castelar has succeeded stamps him as one of the very first men in Europe to-day.

A WARM WELCOME FOR MR. BANKS.

From the N. V. Times, The news from St. Domingo must be encour aging to Mr. Banks and the other members of the excursion party for whose expenses he drew three thousand dollars from the House Contingencies' Fund. The Foreign Affairs Committee as our readers may remember, propose to visit the Dominicans, and talk over with President Baez the terms of annexation. Of course the Washington lawgivers calculate upon an enthu-sinstic welcome. They go to tell the darkeys that this country appreciates their anxiety for admission into the Union; and it is assumed naturally enough, that they will go into costnels over the prospect, and will canonize Banks & Co. as their deliverers. This, we say, is Mr. Banks calculation. Only with these anticipations could be reconcile to his conscience the taking of three thousand dollars for a St. Domin go pleasure trip.

And now comes doleful news. Instead of being delighted, the Deminicans are disgusted. They don't want annexation to the United States. and will not have it at any price. incensed against Baez for negotiating in its be half that they are in arms against him, with fair prospect of driving him into the sea. case is not one of simple opposition. Advices represent the feeling as one of hatred to the man and his schemes. We have no doubt that the United States will survive the disappointment. It is provoking, certainly, to find a prize beyond our reach which schemers at Washington have described as ready to tumble into our lap; but we shall probably get over the mortification. We have so many blacks to educate and care for the Southern States that it may be possible for us to get on without St. Domingo. But what will Banks do? And what will be the fate of his excursion?

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