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

OUR POLICY TOWARDS ENGLAND. From the N. Y. World.

If the correspondents of a portion of the Republican press in this city, and especially the Evening Post, are to be relied upon, President Grant has directed that no instructions be given to Mr. Motley in respect to our differences with England and the rejection of the Johnson-Stanley treaty. These correspondents, or a portion of them, assert that the President has declared to them that he would leave the violation to our injury by England of admitted rules of international law to rest without settlement, so as to furnish a precedent for violation in kind should that nation find herself at war and ourself at peace, holding an attitude of pretended neutrality. Grant proposes to postpone enforcing due reparation until our enemy is hampered by war, and then repeat the villany

It can but be that if President Grant now and then bethinks himself of such a policy, it is only uttered as a spur to England to reopen negotiations. He must see that the conduct of that power towards us was either right or wrong in a legal sense. If right, there is an end of the matter. If wrong, the law of nations, which it is our duty to vindicate, has not been changed by the disobedience of one nation. As no one government made, so no one can unmake, the rules of

national intercourse

The United States has, for five years, publicly maintained that the acts of England, in fitting out Confederate cruisers, were palpable infractions of neutral obligations as defined by international law, which is an ensemble of treaties, usages, and received opinions, aided, in case of need, by the doctrines of abstract justice and universal reason. The United States has never said that those acts modified or repealed any portion of that law. By our own declarations, therefore, we are estopped from following, as a neutral, the precedent England gave us, and calling it lawful. Whenever England is at war with some power foreign to us, we may fit out privateers or cruisers against her commerce, burn innocent merchantmen, and so retaliate in kind or by way of reprisals; but that is imperfect war, not neutrality. If President Grant means that we shall lie by till our rival is assailed by some other nation, and then join in the hostilities against her, his policy is comprehensible, even if not quite chivalric. proud and high-toned man at the head of the Federal Government would the rather say to England:-We scorn to take you at disadvantage, and, unless you straightway do us justice, we will attack in the plentitude of your unhampered strength. If we are to fail or win, it shall be with honor; but under no circumstances will we, while professing to be neutral, sneak into war.

The dog-in-the-manger policy is a confession that we are inspired only by emotions of spite. It lets the controversy down from national indignity to one of individual grievances. It gives no consideration to what a humane and expedient neutral code demands of us, its foremost champions from the days of Washington, Jefferson, and Hamilton.

For another reason, this policy, in the forum of statesmanship, is vicious. Our cause is not yet in a condition to bear it. The record, the pleadings, are not adapted to it. What has been done? The Department of State asked, or England proposed (we know not which), a stipulation by treaty that the individual claims, since 1853, of our citizens against the latter power be referred to a commission to be thereafter constituted, which commission shall have power to select an arbitrator in case of disagreement. This stipulation was given by convention; it covered the claims for damages to individuals by Anglo-Rebel cruisers; and the Senate rejected it. That is the record! With nothing more asked on our part and refused on the other part, can we build on this record a case for retaliation in kind, or a case for carrying on what publicists call "imperfect war," like that we waged, prior to 1800, against France for placing an embargo on our vessels at Bordeaux? The proposition is boylike! How can Lord Clarendon know whether the views advanced by Mr. Sumner controlled Senators in rejecting the treaty, or what measure of atonement and redress will satisfy President Grant? He asks Mr. Motley. According to the reported policy of Grant, the Minister replies to his Lordship:—"Oh, you know! we can afford to wait till you offer what is right !" "But," answers Lord Clarendon, "what is the demand of your Government?" "I am not prepared to answer," responds Mr. Motley. "Our policy is, in the language of the turf, to ride a waiting race."

"Very well!" concludes Lord Clarendon: "if your Government has not standard nor expression of the reparation it demands, further conversation between us on the topic is use-No such management of our controversy

with England befits the dignity and frankness of the United States, nor can it command popular approbation. Lightly as we estimate the intelligence of President Grant, we do not believe such can be the policy of his adminis-tration. It is unlikely that Mr. Fish can be made a party to such a line of conduct. He appreciates the importance of enlarging the prerogatives of peaceful industry and commerce, by upholding the doctrines of neutral reserve and impartiality in the intercourse of nations. The United States, instead of falling back into the international ethics of barbarism, burning as many ships of England as she has burned of ours-"an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth"-needs to revise her own municipal laws in the interest of honest neutrality, advance still higher her standard of neutral rights, and insist that England shall join us in making a new and improved neutral code. Whatever other nations may do in this business, this country can "take no

steps backward. We do not believe that any folly such as the Evening Post and Republican correspondents attribute to President Grant has received indorsement or utterance at the Department of State. To have sent Mr. Motley to Europe (after it began to appear how mischievous in its influence Sumner's speech was destined to be) without any instructions as to the views he was at liberty to express, officially and unofficially, in respect to the rejection of the treaty, and whether the United States abandoned the national and individual claims it had for years nrged with so much earnestness, simply impossible. The policy of non-intercourse on the subject between our new Minister and Lord Clarendon would have been next to diplomatic idiocy. After Sumner's 'fluent acrimony," there was needed antidote to the poison. Mr. Fish is too far-sighted to leave the London Foreign Office to understand

that the views of Sumner controlled the votes

rejected the convention. That the treaty— | with its aleatory system of justice for individual claims, its utter refusal even to consider the claims of the nation, and its failure to make even an effort to define for the future the relative rights to be held and duties to be performed by neutrals and belligerentswas refused ratification, probably the admistration does not regret; but that is very far from allowing England to believe we are inclined to let the matter sleep unad justed, so that when she is attacked, from within or without, we can jump for her throat It will be a calamity for both nations if Mr Motley is authorized to conduct negotiations on our part; but that is not involved in per mitting him merely to convey to the Queen through proper diplomatic channels, an expression of the hope of President Grant that prompt and satisfactory settlement of all differences between the two nations would be reached, and the two great commercial powers of the world be permitted to unite in efforts to advance the freedom of trade, and to suppress in the future all piratical flags by a revision of the neutral codes of both Govern-

We predict that, by reason of what Mr. Motley is directed by his chief to say in England, on all proper occasions, in respect to the rejection of the treaty, the speech of Mr Sumner, and the purposes, or rather the wishes, of the Department of State, we shall before many days see a marked change in public opinion throughout England.

THE ALABAMA CLAIMS. From the N. Y. Herald.

We have the news from England that the war panic created on that side of the water by Senator Sumner's trenchant American speed on the Alabama claims has subsided, and that Mr. Motley's pacific assurances at Liverpool have been followed by a great reaction. was expected as the messenger of war; he is recognized as the herald of peace. The transition, like that from night to morning under the Equator, has been so sudden and so complete that the oracles of the British press can

hardly realize the change; but they are still constrained to confess it. We presume that the last lingering doubt among them will be removed with the positive assurance that peace is the policy of General Grant on the question at issue, and that in its settlement he has no intention or apprehension of the tremendous alternative of war.

We can say that our Washington despatch of Friday on this subject is from good author rity—that General Grant has no idea of making Mr. Sumner's estimated damages the ele ments of his ultimatum. On the contrary, General Grant, it appears, concurs in the uni versal English opinion that Mr. Sumner speech logically means only war; that it is good rhetoric, but bad logic; that if we declare w do not wish to appeal to the last resort of kings, we must adopt diplomacy; and that in adopting diplomacy we must conduct it with dignity and decorum, and not with threatand blustering. It further appears that General Grant is of the opinion that Mr. Sumner does not believe in his own plan for the settlement of this Alabama difficulty, but that, being opposed to any further territorial expansions, the object of his speech was to create a check in England against the movement on this side looking to the annexation of the New Dominion; and that it is feared by the administration that the proposed negotiations to this end have been nipped in the bud by this flank movement of the Senator from Massachusetts.

Such, however, being the position of Gene ral Grant upon this delicate and difficult question of the Alabama claims, we think the promise may be safely volunteered to the British Government that our policy will be pacific and conciliatory, at least until the reassembling of Congress in December next, What may then come to pass, time and the drift of events can only determine. That there are powerful popular elements in this country who believe that a war with England would be the best thing that could happen for the United States is true. Wherefore? Because it is believed that such a war would give us the river and the Gulf of St. Lawrence as a free outlet for our Western agricultural products, and all British North America for a new field of enterprise, and would give, moreover, such an impulse to American manufactures as to make this country wholly independent of English goods, and able to outsell her in other markets. There are, also, many men of this warlike school who believe that it is now with the United States and England as it was with Rome and Carthage, and that this new conflict for the supremacy must some day come to the same conclusion as the

All these elements of hostility to England, including three or four hundred thousand able-bodied Irish born and warlike American citizens, are for pushing the ultimatum suggested but not proposed by Senator Sumner. But on the other hand, through all the ramifications of American society there are the holders of the Government bonds, and bondholders and banks and merchants and shippers and property-holders generally have a paramount interest in the preservation of peace with England. They generally believe that a war with the United States would eventually be the destruction of the British empire, be ginning with a revolution in Ireland; but they also believe that such a war meantime would involve this country in repudiation and financial and political chaos. This peace party contends, likewise, that while peace with England is indispensable to the payment of our national debt, financial order, and the development of our vast internal resources and our rapidly expanding foreign trade, it will also serve best our "manifest destiny" ideas of the progressive annexation of neighboring territories. North as well as South.

The administration of General Grant is with this peace party, and hence we may confidently repeat it that at least till the reassembling of Congress peace, and the fairest prospects of continued peace, between England and the great republic, will prevail. Meanwhile let Mr. Motley and the administration beware of any Johnsonian treaty; for any such treaty will meet in the Senate the fate of Mr. Seward's over-zealous efforts for a treaty of peace. There is in the dominant Republican party, including both houses of Congress, a strong desire to give the deathblow to the Democratic party by winning over what is called "The Irish vote"—say half a million of voters. They can be secured on the direct issue of a war with England. Next, there is a large body of men among the masses of the people with whom repudiation as a consequence of a war with England has ceased to be a drawback in view of the extinction of our burden of taxes. In short, if the fixed wealth of the Union is with Grant, the movable vote of the Union is with Sumner by an overwhelming majority. Accordingly, while exchanging congratulations of peace with England on the position of General Grant's administration, it will be well for Mr. Motley to remember that Congress is the war-making power; that one branch of it is in reality the treaty-making power: and that the managing Republicans in both branches are moving for "the Irish of all or a majority of those Senators who vote.

CONCERNING BEGGARY. From the N. Y. Wethrens

We hope there is no truth in the story that lately went the rounds, importing that Miss Anna Dickinson, as she journeys, orating from city to city, is infested with missions from ardent, ingenuous youngsters, who begin by praising her wit, her beauty, her philan-throps, her eloquence, and consinde by reher eloquence, and on the state of gift or can (a distinction without a difference) of a \$50, a \$20, or at least a \$10. from her amplheards in relief of the writer's urgent necessities. Some of the mendicants are pious and solicit help to enable them to qualify for dispensing the bread of life; others are philanthropic, and want to arm themselves for battle against all the ills that flesh is heir to: other some are simply ambitions, and want to study law or something else that (they fancy) will put them up a round or two on the ladder of Fortune. For the credit of human nature, we should hope that such base curs exist only in the realms of fancy; yet we have had experiences that make as fear that they

The age we live in is worse in some respects than many of its prodecessors, but it is better in others. It is less sanguinary, but not less venal: less given to cruelty, but more prone to beggary. To seek to obtain something for nothing is its grand mistake; it makes wretched its votaries, and they in turn diffuse the curse on every side. We are all the victims in some

shape of omnipresent beggary. Labor is ennobling, and man is invigorated and elevated by work. No one can heartily address himself to it without being blest in his deed. Let a man step out of doors early in the morning, saying, "Here am I, able and willing to work; show me whatever is to be done, and I will take that part of it which suits me best, and do it with all my might, and he compels general respect. But if he says, "Here am I, needy and famishing, with a wife and children looking vainly to me for bread; I am willing to take a place in the Custom House, a clerkship in a dry goods store, an appointment on the police, or even a situation on a newspaper, the multitude will not conceal their disgust. For he, being in need, should consider not what he would prefer, but what he can get, and take hold of it with frank alacrity. His way to finding what he would like lies through doing cheer-

fully whatever he can get.

Spring opened late this year, and planting was finished much later than usual; so that the late warm, showery weather is bringing forward the farmers' work with uncommon rapidity. Henceforth till August hereabouts, and till September further north, weeding, haying, sowing buckwheat, harvesting, preparing for turnips, and for fall seeding, will drive our farmers to the utmost. No eighthour rule for them! they will be lucky if they get off with an average of twelve hours' work six days per week. Many will overtax their strength rather than see their crops suffer, when they would gladly hire additional help, if such was to be had. In the event, the hay crop alone will be depreciated in value many millions because it could not be seasonably made—could not, because those who should have helped to make it are away in this and in other cities, pacing wearily their hot pavements from morn till night, looking for tions" where there are none to be had, wondering why they cannot find "something to lo," and protesting that they are "willing to o anything"—that isn't wanted.

Infinite are the shifts and disguises of begary, wherewith life's cup runneth over; but one are more baleful than those which dishonor work by sinking its manly utterances into the whine of mendicity and obliterating, so far as possible, the broad line of demarcation between wages and alms. Heaven bless and keep the true hearts that would rathe earn fifty cents per day where they are really wanted than five-fold that amount where they are employed for pity's sake, and because they nust have "Something to Do."

REDUCTION OF THE DEBT.

From the N. Y. Times. Let the dead have justice as well as the living. The reduction of the debt, carried on vigorously under General Grant, was begun as vigorously under Mr. Lincoln, and prose cuted steadily under Mr. Johnson. It is a feature of its policy to which the Republican party may point with pride, and Mr. Boutwell, in adhering to it, treads in the footsteps of his predecessors. The net reduction of the debt, since the close of the war, has amounted to \$235,771,064, and the merit of having effected it belongs to two administrations. Dividing the sum among the four years over which the reducing process has extended, we have a yearly average of \$58,942,766, and we submit that this rate is quite as rapid as comports with the industrial and business interests of the country. The per centage of reduction contemplated in the act of 1862 has been more than maintained. The precise plan indicated has indeed been departed from, but the general object has in the main been accomplished. Any attempt to increase the rate will justify the interference of Congress and the more strict definition of the boundaries of the Secretary's action. Mr. Wells, in his reports, estimates the yearly contribution to debt-reduction with which the Government should charge itself at fifty millions. This figure has been attained and passed during the last four years; and with this we should be satis-

If it be found that the surplus means at the command of the Government exceed fifty millions yearly, a case will be made out for a reduction of taxes. The debt is not the only legacy of the war that is entitled to attention. The burden of taxation is a legacy still more oppressive, and therefore one that calls still more urgently for mitigation. A revenue required to carry on the Government has been submitted to cheerfully; but the productive and mercantile forces of the nation are not in a condition to contribute many millions annually for the payment of obligations long before they reach maturity. Let Mr. Wells fifty millions be added to the current expenditures, if the addition be deemed advantageous to the public credit, but beyond this the Government should not collect a dollar. For there is an interest to be considered more critical than that of the bondholders-the in terest of the American people; and the relief they require must be given through diminished taxation. 'Let us not hear of the Treasury being encumbered with money acquired at serious cost to interests which are identified with the national prosperity.

We look to the present administration for relief to the tax-payers. Its energy and integrity in the collection of revenue will do much towards determining the measure of its productiveness; while continued retrenchment will widen the margin for a surplus. Next session, then, we hope Congress will be in possession of data that shall facilitate a reduction of taxes to an extent required by the people. That is, all things considered, the best method of dealing with any surplus with which, at the end of its fiscal year, the Treasury may be blessed.

ANNEXATION IN NOVA SCOTIA. with N. Y. Times.

Mr. Murray's resolution, and more particular larly Mr. Murray's preamble, which the Hair fax House of Assembly considered on Tuesday, has at least the merit of perfectly plain lan guage. It begins by "most firmly denying the right" of the Imperial Government "to force a free people into any connections with out their consent; but, at the same time, with a rather doubtful concession, it very pressingly "admits the right of the Imperial Government to withdraw their protection, It declares that the old Government was forcibly changed without the consent of the people," whose "petitions have been treated with contempt;" that the Dominion has brought "financial disaster and oppressive taxation," and made the Nova Scotians "a de graded people." And, in fine, "ichoreas, our principal commercial trade always will be, naturally, with the United States of America. and, whereas, there is "great injustice in keeping this heretofore loyal colony in a hoten therefore her Majesty is asked "that our beloved institution be restored to us, or that her Majesty will be graciously pleased to absolve us from our allegiance to the British

What final disposition will be made of this proposition remains to be seen; it is now hought probable that it will be withdrawn; but its very offering carries moral weight and suggestions. Two gentlemen rose at once, on its presentation, to endorse its language. Its anthor declares "it is not an annexation resolution; but certainly it goes part way towards being a "secession" resolution. Are not Messrs. Sumner and Chandler alarmed lest there be nothing left of Canada, ere long, for them to "invade?"

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