SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

THE PUBLIC FEELING ABOUT THE ALABAMA CLAIMS.

From the N. Y. Times. There were somewhere between 150 and 200 people present in the great hall of the Cooper Institute on Monday night to hear the lecture on "England and the Alabama" (i. e., the Alabama claims) by Mr. Justin McCarthy, editor of the London Star.

It seems rather remarkable that there should only have been sent a mere shadow of an audience to listen to the views of an able Englishman on this great question.

Certainly the lecturer was a man well worth listening to on any subject; and one might have thought that on this subject especially the public would be eager to hear him. As a prominent London editor, who boldly, and firmly, and strongly upheld the Union cause during the great Rebellion-as a free and forcible public speaker-as a man whose views on this particular question were known to be as decidedly favorable to the American side as they are opposed to what may be called the Pall-Mall side—it might have been supposed that public interest and feeling would have secured him a large audience on the occasion of his Alabama lec-

Yet, a mere handful of people took the trouble to go and listen to it.

Everything was done to secure the success of his lecture and the gathering of a large assemblage. Advertisements were inserted in all the papers; notices of the occasion were given in all their columns; and eulogies of the ability of the orator, with hints of the novelty of his views, as well as their agreeableness, appeared in almost every journal of the city. Large posters were stuck up in the streets, announcing the man, the subject, and the place, as well as the charitable object. Small handbills, of like import, were passed around, and little cards were circulated giving all the particulars. In fact, every means were adopted to secure publicity and attract interest—except, perhaps, the ringing of "Hoff-man's bell," the firing of skyrockets, the playing of a brass band, and the hiring of a corps of those cadaverous caricatures of humanity who promenade Broadway with advertisements painted on their coats and hats. Even the expedient of giving the "proceeds" that might accrue from the small admittance fee to a noble charity was adopted.

And yet, to such a small degree was public interest aroused, that there was only collected a little knot of people in the great hall which, one might have supposed, would be densely crowded.

The night, too, was auspicious. The heavens were clear, the air was mild and gentle, the streets were dry. The place was in the centre of the city, and everybody knew the location of Cooper Institute, and how easy it was to get there. There were no other popular attractions. Nobody else lectured that night, and in none of the theatres was to be seen the moral drama or any other drama that had any relation to that part of humanity which exists above the legs.

Now, was it because people did not care enough about the Alabama question that they could not be attracted by all these attractions, and all these favorable circumstances, to hear about it? One would hardly be led to think so by

reading the newspapers. They work it up every day, in long metre and short. Many of them are constantly in the most terrible state of excitement about it. They threaten war and vengeance over it. They would raise millions of men and expend billions of money for it. The "eyes of Delaware" are said to be fixed on it. The "Michigan volunteers," sixty thousand strong, are reported to be so mad that they can hardly help invading Canada when they think about it-or rather when Senator Chandler, with his two negro flunkeys in their lavender coats with white buttons, on which appears a stag supporting the letter C in red enamel with gold edge thinks about it. The Southerners are alleged to be ready to join hands, or rather hearts, with the Northerners, is one fraternal burst of rage over it, and the negro will lead the white man to bloody fields to show that the cause is one which links us all in a common vengeance. One might think that even the "sleepless nights" which Judge Cardozo spent in thinking of Mrs. Pearsall and Miss O'Connor were periods of blissful repose compared to the inflamed and maddened hours spent by the loyal subjects of Hail Columbia in contemplating the Alabama question.

We fear it must be confessed, after all, that the greater part of the excitement and wrath over England and the Alabama is in the excitable newspapers. The froth which they work up is on the surface, and does not agi tate the deep sea of American feeling. No doubt everybody would like to have the matter settled, and properly settled. But the country is in no such uproar or frenzy about it as an outsider would suppose who had no means of judging of public sentiment except the red-hot editorials of our contemporaries.

THE NEGRO ELECTION RIOTS IN WASHINGTON.

From the N. Y. World.

The negro-suffrage experiment is beginning to bring forth its natural fruits in scenes of riot and bloodshed. That disturbances similar to those in Washington have not yet taken place throughout the Southern States, is doubtless owing to the fact that all the elections yet held in those States under the negrosuffrage regime have been under the overawing and repressive superintendence of the Federal army. In the seven States which ratified negro constitutions, the officers were chosen at the same time that the constitutions were voted on, and while the States were still under martial law. Had Washington been under martial law on Monday, with an armed Federal force present to preserve order and repress outbreaks, the election riots would not have occurred. The natural working of the negro-suffrage experiment can be judged of only by its operation in places where the terror of military authority does not hold the negroes in check. The District of Columbia

is as yet the only place to which this description will apply. As like causes, in like circumstances, produce like effects, we may expect similar disorders throughout the Southern States as soon as elections are free. There is no pretense, in any quarter, that the Washington election riots were provoked by aggressions or insults offered to the negroes by white men. There was no attempt by white men to prevent any negro from voting, or to interfere, in any way, with the freest exercise of the rights conferred on the negroes by law. The riots were begun by the negroes; they were the fruits of the domi-

neering insolence of black radicals, who at-

tempted to murder other negroes. Until the

disturbances became dangerous and alarming,

white men did not appear on the scene; and

then not to participate in the riot, but to sub-

members of the police. White men may have instigated these riots; but, if so, they did it as friends and fellow-partisans of the negroes, setting them on in the interest of the Republican party. The object of the riot was to frighten and coerce the whole negro population of the city into voting the radical tickst

The system of terrorism and coercion which has been begun in Washington will probably be extended through the Southern cities. The suffrage was conferred on the negroes from sheer partisan motives; the object was not to protect them, but to benefit the Republican party. It was foreseen that without universal negro suffrage every Southern State would be almost unanimously Democratic, and that as soon as the two political parties should become tolerably equal in the North, the power of the Republican party would be extinguished forever. It was assumed by the Republicans that they would always be able to control the negro vote and wield it as a solid mass. If this expectation should be disappointed, if the negro yote should be divided and a considerable portion of it be given to the Democrats, the Republicans would lose all the expected fruits of their conspiracy against the rights of the States, To prevent their conspiracy from recoiling against its authors, unscrupulous politicians, like Forney, have set the negroes on to regard every negro who does not vote the Republican ticket as a traitor to his race, whom they may hang or shoot with as little compunction as they would a mad dog. The Washington negroes have been educated by their white radical patrons to tolerate no negro voting except on their side; and the bloodthirsty vengeance with which they sought, on Monday, to take the life of colored men who intended to vote the other ticket, shows what kind of influences have been at work in moulding their feelings. The future ascendancy of the Republican party is staked on its ability to keep the negro phalanx unbroken; and when they can no longer control it by the Freedmen's Bureau and the army, their last desperate resource consists in inspiring the boldest and most unscrupulous of the negroes with a feel-

cratic party. In Washington, which is the focus of Rapublican intrigues, where a Republican Congress and a Republican administration are so overshadowing and powerful, they have succeeded in imbuing a majority of the negroes with a spirit of brutal domineering and murderous intolerance which thirsts for the blood of every black man who refuses to vote in accordance with Republican dictation. But in the greater part of the South, the negroes will be less exposed to Republican influence than they are in Washington. If, even in Washington, they can be kept in the Republican traces only by threats of violence and attempts on their lives, it is probable that large numbers of negroes in Democratic neighborhoods will incline to act with the Democratic party. In the cities and large towns, where the Republicans can get access to them, the negroes will be inspired with the same diabolical feelings which broke out in bloody riots at the Federal capital; but throughout the rural portions of the South black men will be able to vote as they please without exposing themselves to instant death at the hands of infuriated radical negroes; and | defeat. large numbers of them will be found acting with the Democratic party. After the Republicans have conferred universal suffrage on the negroes for a partisan object, Democrats will vindicate their right to use the elective franchise in the spirit of freemen, in defiance of the dictation of negro mobs instigated and set on by reckless radical politicians.

ing of bloody intolerance, which will make it

unsafe for any negro to act with the Demo-

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY IN PENNSYL-

From the N. Y. Times. "The Republican party has one more chance," declares the Harrisburg State Guard her grand design of breaking up the Union on in view of the next Pennsylvania election. Now, the State Guard is a Republican journal of unquestioned orthodoxy; the name of Governor Geary is inscribed on its banner for reelection; and it is zealous, in season and out of season, in its endeavors to promote the party's prosperity. When it asserts, therefore that the party in its State has but "one more chance," we must assume that clouds darken the horizon of which outsiders have as yet little knowledge. Vagueness is mixed with emphasis in the warning:-

"We have been watching the course of public sen timent on the subject of rewarding the soldier, for some time, and we are now convinced that unless the Republican party adopts a new rule, and adheres to an old pledge, in this connection, there will be serious trouble at the coming election."

What is the "old pledge" which has been broken ?-what the "new rule" "which must be adopted?" "Recognize the claims of private soldiers for the highest honors in the gift of the Republican party"-is the answer of the State Guard. This must be done, we are told, or there will be embarrassment-perhaps defeat. It is admitted that soldiers generally have been rewarded with the prizes of which a victorious party is the distributor, but the complaint is that while soldiers of rank have been selected, the private soldier has been neglected. The Harrisburg journalist insists that this procedure must be reversed, or the Republicans will throw away the "one more

chance" before them. The wisdom of the proposition is not apparent. The business of the nominating convention is to select the best men-the men combining capacity for public service with the popularity which commands votes. Assuming that in their general qualifications two candidates for nomination are equal, it may be a duty to give the preference to one who has earned a greditable record as a soldier over a civilian. To this extent the claim urged in behalf of soldiers is reasonable and just. But the grade of the soldier has nothing to do with the question. The element of fitness enters into and controls it. And while it would be absurd to contend that a retired brigadier-general of doubtful competency should be nominated at the expense of a civilian of admitted ability and unsullied character, it would be equally absurd to plead that a private soldier should be chosen over the brigadier-general simply because he never rose above the ranks. Whether the candidate is only a private soldier or a soldier of rank, is an altogether irrelevant inquiry. By nominating either, military service is recognized, and that is all which the friends of the soldier can properly ask. As between the private and the officer the only points to be determined are those of character, ability, and availability; and these points no party can afford to disre-

The pledge of the Republican party to the soldiers of the Union does not imply their exclusive elevation to positions of honor and emolument. When other conditions are equal, the soldier is entitled to the first choice. And in appointments to office the rule has been extensively adhered to. So far as we can judge, soldiers have fair play in the cus-tom houses, post offices, and other branches of official labor; and of the rewards distributed at Washington, great and small, they cer-

tainly have their share.

have not the means of determining. If they have, the warning of the State Guard is proper enough. If otherwise, the attempt to separate soldiers from citizens, and to make the name of the one superior to the marits of the other, indicates local desparation. The 'que more chance" is a saying possessed of difference.

It is a saying, however, which other Pennsylvania oracles interpret differently. The Washington correspondent of the Evening Post

"Leading radical politicians in Pennsylvania write here that unless our differences with Engian1 are made a party issue, the contest will be close between

If this view be acquiesced in, soldiers may be at a premium in another capacity than as candidates for office. But what estimate shall be placed upon the party management which has reduced Republicanism in Pennsylvania to the strait indicated by these demands?

THE ALABAMA CLAIMS AS A PARTY QUESTION.

The active managers of the Republican party, it is said, have resolved upon the agitation of the Alabama claims on the ultimatum suggested in Senator Sumner's speech as the leading issue in the approaching fall elections.
All the old issues of the last eight years having been settled or used up, it is contended that unless the Republicans can bring forward some new proposition appealing powerfully to the popular sentiment of the country, the party will fall to pieces. Hence this project of bringing the Alabama claims into the foreground. The idea is not a bad one as a party movement. Since the American war of inde pendence every political agitation of hostility to England has been a winning card with the American people. Jefferson and the old Republican party came into power in 1800 as the anti-English party against the Federalists as the anti-French party. The Republican party, thus coming into the possession of the Government, was so greatly strengthened by the war of 1812 against England that the Federal or British party became at once a powerless minority, and from that time getting weaker and weaker till 1820, it wholly disappeared in the second election of Monroe.

In 1824, the Federalists being merged with the Republicans, a new organization of parties was initiated in the Presidential scrub race of that year between Jackson, Adams, Crawford, and Clay. This election was thrown into the House, where it resulted in the choice of Adams, as was charged, by "a bargain and sale" between Adams and Clay. Upon this ery Jackson was brought out again in 1828, and upon his victory of New Orleans over the British, against Adams as the so-called British party candidate, Old Hickory was triumphently elected. It was the strong popular feeling of the country of hostility to England, intensified by the capture of Washington and the burning of the national Capitol in 1814, that gave to Jackson his great popularity; and thus the Jacksonian Democratic party came into power. Nor could this party be ousted until, in 1840, the Whigs took up General Harrison as their candidate, a man who had also gained his victory over the British in the war of 1812. Thus the great gun of the Democracy as the anti-British party was spiked, and they suffered a smashing

But in 1844, on the cry of "Texas and Oregon-fifty-four forty or fight," (a war with England)—the Democratic party came in again; and in 1848 they were again beaten, this time by General Taylor, not only as the hero of Buena Vista, but as a hero of the war of 1812 against England, From Taylor down to the election of Lincoln the slavery question wallowed up all other questions in cal contests; but even upon the slavery ques tion the Democrats used to some purpose the cry that the abolitionists were but the tools of England; bought by British gold, to assist in the slavery agitation. This, becouse it was substantially true, was always a strong card for the Democrats. From the outbreak of our Southern Rebel-

lion down to this day, it has been the good fortune of the Republicans to stand as the Union war party against the South, against the Northern Democratic party, and against England. The Republicans thus hold the inside track on these Alabama claims, and in agitating the settlement involved in Senator Sumner's exposition they have nothing to lose, but everything to gain. As Jackson upon his glorious slaughter of the British redcoats at New Orleans secured the Irish vote of this country to the Democratic party, so, now, a Republican party movement promising a difficulty to England, which will be Irelan is opportunity, may win the Irish vote and leave the forlorn Democracy hard aground.

OF DISJOINTED THINKING AND THINKERS.

From the N. Y. Tribune. Dr. James Rush, who died the other day in Philadelphia, left (as we have already noticed) large sum for the foundation of a library, at the same time recommending to the managers that they should not give much space on the shelves "to those teachers of disjointed think-ing, the newspapers." This seems to us to be an unnecessary sneer, which we, who sincerely admire the liberality of Dr. Rush, and appreciate to the full his own previous large contributions to sound knowledge, canno regard without regret. We believe that the earned gentleman was an isolated student, of festidious tastes, spending his life in his li brary, and taking but small interest in the affairs of society. Of course, newspapers whose business it is to chronicle such affairs could have but little interest for him, and i is possible that he may have mistaken their vocation and under-estimated their value. Any keeper of a library would have told him that the files of newspapers are among the volumes which are most constantly consulted, and for a very good reason. They are history in the rough. They may not be always accurate, even with the best intentions; but, on the other hand, they correct one another, and balance each other's prejudices. It is safe to say that without the aid of newspapers the history of the French Revolution, and of our own Rebellion, could not have been written. In addition to the facts which they preserve, they are also invaluable as indicating the various currents of public opinion, and the relations of contemporary parties. Where, in default of such sources, the future historian is to find materials for his work, we should be at a loss even to conjecture.

The jibe of Dr. Rush at "the disjointed thinking" of the newspapers, we are quite ready to pardon. It is probable, if there had been no newspapers, that he would never have thought of bequeathing his money to a library at all; for newspapers have done much to make great and free libraries a public want. The "thinking" of newspapers, we suppose, is much like the thinking of the world in general, which seldom determines its course, in moments of emergency, by the pedantic pro-cesses of logic; but which relies (as it can afford to do) pretty much upon its intuitions. ainly have their share.

Whether the Republicans of Pennsylvania

The cautious conservatives who would govern by the rule of three exercise, no doubt, at

members of the police. White men may have have not the means of determining. If they upon society; but the mass of men, especially in a republic, must expect to make many mistakes, and must be always really to profit by them. The best public policy is not invariably that which admits of the most rigorous demonstration; and it seems to us better to contend against injustice by erroneous methods, groping gradually towards those which are truer and better, than to suffer wrong to continue and control without a protest, however feeble. The "thinking" of newspapers, even if "disjointed," is certainly better, in periods of public peril, than no thought at all. It may be various, loose, and even contradictory; but at any rate it is not timid and dishonorable acquiescence.

PISTOLS FOR TWO.

From the N. Y. World. At the trial the other day of a "breach of promise" suit in Chicago, the defendant ap-peared in court "with the butt-end of a revolver sticking out of his vest pocket." is mentioned by the local press merely as a detail of costume, like the color of the man's cravat or the cut of his coat. No attention seems to have been paid to the circumstance by any of the officers of the court, and an enlightened foreigner, making up his notes from the daily journals for an 'exhaustive work" on American institutions, might fairly enough set down the wearing of revolvers in court by the parties to a suit as a curious but characteristic feature of American, or at least of Western life. We cannot help thinking, however, that the phenomenon should b otherwise interpreted. A number of recent cases in the criminal jurisprudence of this happy land seem to have established it as a fixed principle of American social law that any woman to whom any man ever was engaged to be married, or who thinks that any man ever was engaged to be married to her, may with impunity, yea, and with applause, shoot down and put to death the said man, if, either through contempt or through ignorance of his engagement so to be married, he shall fail to fulfil the same. The law was thus defined by the jury, for example, in the famous case of Miss Harris, who came all the way from the setting sun to murder a Treasury clerk in Washington, because he had failed to appreciate and return her passion for him. Miss Harris was pronounced a much injured but noble-spirited girl. The jury acquitted her with tears in their eyes; and her lawyer, albeit himself a married man, was so carried away with joy at her triumph that he fell upon her neck and kissed her in the open

Of course, the promulgation of this short and simple code may very well have weak-ened the hold of the ancient law upon the female mind. No doubt, when the defendant with the revolver went into court in Chicago he went thither penetrated with a profound uncertainty as to whether he should ever get out of the court again alive. Nothing, he must have felt, would be more natural than for the plaintiff, if she should see her witnesses failing her or her lawyer making a mess of their testimony, or, in short, anything of an uppron ising aspect going on, suddenly to elect to transfer her suit from the jury-box to the cartridge-box.

Poseibly, she might do th's out of a mere feminine vexation with the prosiness of the proceedings, or out of a sudien loss of faith in the shape of the judge's nose, or peradventure (if one may use such a phrase of a lady) out of that strange modern disorder known as "pure cusse lness." Whatever her motive, her act would of course be admired, and the defendant left dead without a remedy. It is quite probable, therefore, that the Chicago court, taking all these things into consideration, may have winked at the defen dant's revolver. If this be so, we think the Chicago court deserves commendation rather than censure. It is but fair that a poor creature, even if he be a man, should be allowed at least one chance for his life. 'Tis an ill rule that works but one way; and, if the ballot is to be without sex, let the bullet be so too.

SECRET HISTORY. From the N. Y. Tribune.

Queen Isabella, during the early part of our late war, was tempted to recognize the nationality of the South, but was prevented by fear that if once established the South would take pains to annex Cuba. We were assured by one highly connected with the Bourbon administration of Spain, that this was the overruling fear of the Queen in her final resolve not to enter into open hostilities to the United States. She lived, we have heard, to regret what she esteemed her error. Isabella was a woman of more shrewdness as a politician than either her face or her fame would suggest; and notwithstanding her spiteful regret that she did not recognize the Confederacy. and make Cuba a base of supplies equally for Maximilian and Jefferson Davis, there are probably some of her countrymen who think she did well by forbearing. Another version of the story of contem-

plated war upon the North by Spain has come to us from a not undistinguished source in Madrid. It is told us that Isabella, under teaching of the French interest at that capital, was about to order her fleet in Cuba to open fire upon any of our vessels which took prizes within six miles of her boundaries. This order would have been an overstrained effort at war, contrary to the international code: but it was the design of the Emperor of the French to create a diversion in favor of his Mexican experiment, and Isabella was to reap the benefits of alliance. If we are rightly in formed, our friends in the Spanish capital were keenly active, and the misstep of the Queen was prevented. Those who were mainly instrumental in effecting this result were persons in familiar relations with Isabella, and eminent in the current history of Spain. Their action was as prompt, we are told, as the danger to ourselves was imminent; and we presume this assurance is give us, not in order to arouse a prejudice in their favor with a view to such conspicuous relations as they may assume in the future toward ourselves, but from a sense of justice to those to whom we owe at least an acknowledgment for having acted honorably and sagaciously. Though every policy of wrong-doing is necessarily fatal, and especially so in the case of a subsidiary nation, we cannot be blind to the formidable character of the policy conceived by Napoleon and urged upon Isabella. W know of no other so likely to have secured the object aimed at-the success of the South and of the Mexican Empire. Both Spain and France would have lost inevitably in the endthe one Cuba and the other Mexico-but in the meanwhile the hour hand in the clock of American civilization would have been put back. We have reason, then, to rejoice that the scheme of France to make use of Spain, to her own eventual mishap, and to destroy the power of the North, was frustrate d. TO THE PUBLIC.—THE FINEST AND

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STOCK AND EXCHANGE BROKERS. No. 121 S. THIRD St., PHILADELPHIA CARSTAIRS' OLIVE OIL-AN INVOICE

of the above for sale by CARSTAIRS & McCALL, 5 28 29; Nos. 126 WALNUT and 21 GRANITIC Sts.