SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

PENNSYLVANIA'S FAVORITE SON.

From the N. Y. World.

Pennsylvania has so many favorite sons! There is Forney, there is Cameron, there is Kelley, there is the poet Boker! But we mean Andrew Curtin just now. The true amphitryon is the amphitryon who entertains us at dinner. Pennsylvania's real favorite son is the last son got into a high office. Curtin now fills the post, for Curtin is now on his way as Minister to Russia. Before he wrung his nomination out of Grant, Curtin had not been latterly much of a favorite. But the commission did the work. Like a Canadian field—to-day all snow, to-morrow all flowers; like a varioloid patient—to-day all fever, and to-morrow all pustules—Curtin, despised of all men when Borie was preferred before him, suddenly bloomed out the Pennsylvanian of the period. Pennsylvania is agonized at the thought of parting, even for a brief period, with her "favorite son." The Rachel of the Delaware refuses to be comforted. Every village within her wide borders, from Stony-Batter to Young-Womanstown, from Tinicum to Tideout, is in mourning. The hammers of Centre county droop and decline to trip. The eyes of Bellefonte—the Governor's natal place—have become fountains of tears, and the Bald Eagle and the Susquehanna rivers, ordinarily as dry at this season as the Spanish Manzanares, swell and throb with emotion.

Philadelphia is a perfect Niobe, save that hers is not a voiceless woe. All her institutions shriek, save, indeed, the Union League; and from that, owned, as it practically is, by Borie, of the late Roman but now disjointed nose, nothing was to be expected. All else is genuine praise and heartfelt lamentation. Independence Hall, which, in 1855, was refused by Know-Nothing Councils to an eminent Pennsylvania statesman returning from a successful mission, is tendered to Curtin; the Democratic Mayor writes him a "touching letter" and makes him a mild speech, and for an hour by the cracked bell of the "Declaration" he shook hands with the tag-rag and bob-tail of his party—occasionally, after the manner of Lafayette on the same spot, embracing some transient anti-Catholic veteran of 1854. Then in the evening there was a banquet at the Academy of Music, with Hassler's band and reserved seats for "the ladies;" none, however, for the negroes—they, *proh pudor*, being secluded in "the gallery." Judge Thayer presided, and made a judicious introductory speech, to which "the guest" responded, and the gay scene went on without interruption till the small morning hours. And yet to us who look on things at a distance, there are in all this some unpleasantly noticeable features—negative and positive. Why were so many well-known Pennsylvanians, military and civil, absent or mute? Why was it that, at the festivity in honor of the great "War Governor," Philadelphia soldiers, now residing within a stone's throw of the Academy of Music—Meade and Humphreys and Patterson and Cadwalader and Nagle and Wister and Haupt and Crawford and Tyndale—were absent, and do not seem even to have been invited. The hero of Gettysburg (we don't mean Sickles) was not even toasted or alluded to. Then, eminent loyal Philadelphia civilians, founders of sanitary fairs and Christian commissions—Stuarts and Ornes and Claghorns and Bakers and Fells and Pratts—where were they? We do not detect Forney even in a letter! though we do our own Walbridge. Sumner does not seem to have been bidden, and Senator Scott absolutely went out of his way to pooh-pooh the great anglophobist's Alabama rhetoric. These are certainly strange omissions. Nor is this all. There were ominous utterances, too, as well as awful lapses, at the loyal board, to which, as faithful chroniclers, we feel bound to call attention. If a Democrat, soldier or civilian, were even now to speak disparagingly of the war administration of the sainted Lincoln, whether as manipulated by Cameron or by Stanton, great would be the wrath of the "loyal;" yet Governor Curtin said, with emphasis and apparent deliberation, speaking of that very administration, and no bottle of just indignation silenced him:—"The General Government, charged with the preservation of the life of the republic, was *pitiless, relentless*, and *deaf* to the just claim of a volunteer soldiery." To which his friend, Colonel McClure, whose speech is carefully reported, added:—

"Major-General Patterson, commanding in Pennsylvania, made a requisition for 25,000 three-years men, and they were being rapidly organized when the national authorities revoked the order, denied the commander's authority, and refused to accept the troops, because not needed. Our State was threatened and defenseless, and the Reserve Corps was authorized after a painful and desperate struggle with united imbecility and infidelity."

The truth is, and it was so known, though concealed at the time, that in her hour of need Pennsylvania was more than once shamefully abandoned and offered up a sacrifice to Lincoln's chronic alarm about Washington and his own precious person, and to Stanton's fierce personal antipathy to everything and every man that bore the name of "Pennsylvanian;" and Governor Curtin really does deserve credit for what he did, with Governor Seymour's help, to protect his State and its metropolis, and the miserable ornamental Leaguers who now shrink away from him, and who, says the *Evening Bulletin*, commenting on this very banquet, "could have no power but for the lavish use of ill-gotten money."

With all these drawbacks, however, the honors of Curtin were worthy of his mother commonwealth, and he goes on his way rejoicing in their fresh luxuriance. On his arrival at St. Petersburg, which we trust may be safe and speedy, he will, as all newly-fledged Ministers do, study the archives of the legation and the correspondence of his predecessors. In Russia this correspondence extends over nearly ninety years; for the first American Minister reached there in August, 1781, so the work of revision will not be an easy one. Aided, however, by two intelligent and experienced secretaries, Mr. Curtin can, perhaps, accomplish it—especially as, in the light of contemporaneous republican illamination, he is not bound to trouble himself with the obsolete diplomatic rubbish of the Democratic past. He may dip into the original Dana, out of respect to the eminent Boston publicist of that name, a shining light in the radical heaven, of whom General Butler knows something and Mr. Beach Lawrence more; but even then he should be on his guard, for Francis P. Dana was a very pestilent "rebel," and labored hard for "recognition." But surely an orthodox Republican like Governor Curting will not be expected to trouble himself with what was written by Adams, father of Charles Francis, or Bayard, the father of James A., or Middleton, or Randolph, or Buchanan, or Wilkins, or Dallas, or Thomas H. Seymour and Francis A. Pickens, or John Appleton. He had better ignore the fact (for it will commend him to his employers) that the only treaty ever made with Russia, and which now binds us together, was negotiated by James Buchanan. All he need do is to study with care the diplomacy of his two immediate predecessors, over which shone the serene brightness of Mr. Seward's imperturbable intellect, and which was guided by the precepts of that stainless sage and adorned by the splendor of his style, more gorgeous than all windows of all apothecaries upon earth. Especially will Pennsylvania expect of him to study that brief and brilliant period of diplomacy extending from July to October, 1862, and illustrated by no less than five despatches, when this country was represented at the Court of the Czar by one in whose footsteps Governor Curtin, no doubt, must delight to tread—her favorite son, number two, three, or four (we really forget which)—Simon Magus Cameron; may his tribe increase!

THE FOLLIES OF A KNIGHT.

From the N. Y. Tribune.

Earl Spencer, like the loyal Lord Lieutenant of Ireland that he is, determined to keep the last birthday of Queen Victoria as the birthday of such a good woman and royal lady ought to be kept, especially in Ireland, which has such good reasons for thinking her good and royal. The land is poor, Earl Spencer thought, the people wretched, ground down by taxes, familiar with famine, fed full of oppression in nearly every form, loathing their rulers, fleeing by thousands to a land, of equal rights from their own land where they have no rights to anything but wrongs—how can the good Earl Spencer but testify to the tender sympathy of Victoria, mother of all her people, Queen of Great Britain and Ireland?

Earl Spencer has a bright idea born of practical statesmanship, and the famous good sense of the ideal Englishman. The Irish people need help and sympathy, and this is the way they get them. The Viceregal Lodge is illuminated, the drawing-room is fitted up as a chapter room, a throne is placed in it for Earl Spencer, and a table in the middle covered with blue cloth and with the star of the most illustrious order of St. Patrick embroidered upon it. The object of all this splendor is the investiture of Lord Carysfort and Lord Gosford as Knights of this famous order, and "Sir Bernard Burke, Ulster King-at-Arms, is bound to conduct the ceremonial with a scrupulous attention to every minute detail of courtly form and etiquette for which the Irish prince of heraldry is distinguished." And, if we may believe the *Times*, he carried out his purpose. There was a banquet, first of all, which wanted nothing to its perfection but the gastronomic presence of an American Minister, the lack of whose well-known speech was but tamely atoned for by Sir Bernard Burke's grandiloquence. Perhaps, however, he ate better than he spoke. But the banquet was merely preliminary, and Sir Burke was soon in the midst of a scene where nature made him to shine. The guests rose from the table and went to the drawing-room, where the Countess Spencer and a brilliant assemblage of ladies, who had been holding a sort of Sorosis with their teapots while the men were making for port, awaited the ceremonial of investiture, the tea things having having been cleared away. (N. B.—This statement about the tea things is made on our own authority, but we suppose we are justified in taking it for granted that, though the Irish people were starving round the Viceregal Lodge, while Earl Spencer and the rest of the gentlemen were faring sumptuously, yet the lovely Countess and her ladies could hardly have been permitted to share the fate of the unhappy natives.) The ceremony of investiture was no doubt a stately scene. There was a flourish of trumpets, and Earl Spencer, in his part of Grand Master of the Order for that night only, entered the apartment with his procession, while a band stationed in the adjoining room played the national anthem with excellent effect. Then the Grand Master, with the aides-de-camp in waiting and the aides-de-camp not in waiting, and Sir Burke, C. B., Ulster King-at-Arms, and the Right Hon. This and his Excellency That, and the sword of state—an implement with which the Irish people are well acquainted—took their seats at the blue-table. Then, more trumpets, or, as the Jenkins we are drawing upon beautifully puts it, "the trumpet-call was heard in the distance." Then enter more processions in pomp and state. Then the new comers make the customary reverences. Then the Grand Master asks for more. Then to please him the formalities are repeated, and the knights are led in one by one, and "invested in accordance with the customary usages." Then the Grand Master gave them bonny blue ribbons. And badges of the order. And admonished them. And congratulated them. And made them sit down at the blue table. And the farce ended by the whole noble set getting away from Ireland a soon as they could to stay for a couple of months.

The effect upon the prosperity of Ireland of these judicious measures was at once made evident. The ceremony was on a Monday, and on the next Tuesday Mr. Furney, of Killinick, County Wexford, was called up for trial. Mr. Furney had bought some landed property in the Landed Estates Court. A poor laborer named Whitly lived in a wretched cabin on the estate. Mr. Furney wished Whitly to leave his cabin and live in his gate lodge, Whitly taking care of Furney's herds, Whitly's wife and family taking care of the lodge. Whitly did not like the work he was set at, and he and his family went back to their old cabin. Then Mr. Furney requested him to leave. Whitly said he would go when he could find a place to go to. Mr. Furney, like a noble-hearted landlord, ordered Whitly's cabin to be pulled down, and pulled down it was over the heads of the family. Whitly's wife said she would allow the cabin to fall on her before she would leave. But Furney, in the goodness of his heart, had her pulled out first. St. Patrick, being at that time at the Viceregal Lodge, could do nothing for these wretched people. But they managed, for a wonder, to get Furney prosecuted, and he is to be tried at Quarter Sessions, perhaps. Meanwhile he was admitted to bail on his own recognizance for £20, and the Whitlys are probably looking out for a place to cover their heads. Meanwhile, if their Excellencies, the Knights of the Most Illustrious Order of St. Patrick, while sporting their blue ribbons in England, should hear that Mr. Furney had been found dead on his own grounds, bludgeoned or shot by some unknown hand, how surprised they would be that all their efforts to please the Irish had proved of no avail!

NAVAL NOMENCLATURE.

From the Chicago Republican.

Secretary Borie is emulating an amiable weakness of the Oxonian Secretary of the British navy. Since the joint advent of himself and Admiral Porter to the command of the naval office, he has been industriously making use of his leisure hours in brushing up his recollections of Lempriere; and, as the sequel will show, with great success. The fruits of his labors were made apparent recently in issuing a ukase rechristening some forty vessels of the United States navy. His order robs them of the names under which some of them made for themselves a proud place in the history of our country, and substitutes therefor a miscellaneous collection of cognomina, culled without sense or reason from a dictionary of the mythological personages of the Greeks and Latins. Contocook, Tippecanoe, Miantonomah, etc., are to give way to Ajax, Castor, Hercules, Circe, etc. The names which have a direct reference to the history of our country, and which are quite common in Maine and Connecticut, are abolished for those whose wearers were not of a character which would qualify them for being welcome guests in refined society. For instance, the honorable Secretary has rechristened one of the vessels Fury, and another Harpy. But as there were three Furies and more than one Harpy, future generations will be at a loss to determine which individual personage of these celebrated families he was desirous of commemorating. A large number of the gunboats and other vessels in the British navy are named after gods, demigods, goddesses, and other discreditable personages of history (no doubt in deference to that well-known veneration of the English mind for the classic, as the word is applied to education), and it is not difficult to reach the inference that Mr. Borie is infringing on a patent to which he has not the shadow of a claim. In addition to that act of piracy, he robs the seamen who manned our navy during the war for the Union of all the glory, honor, and reputation which they won in those vessels. Jack Tar, on being asked in what vessel he served, will give the name it bore when chasing Rebel privateers; and on being questioned as to her whereabouts now, will answer, as "his pumps start working," "I don't know; they changed her name, and I can't tell what's become of her." Captain Winslow, of the Kearsarge, enjoys a reputation extending from pole to pole; but who is Captain Winslow of the Jupiter? Echo answers, "Who?" He has, also, by his injudicious action, destroyed that peculiarity of nomenclature which has added materially in giving a distinct character to our navy, and making it known as the navy of the United States in every port in every sea. Some few pedants, who harp on the euphony of the Greek and Latin, objected to the use of the Indian names with which our navy was so profusely christened during Mr. Welles' administration; and, no doubt, in deference to their opinions Mr. Borie has made the change. To fall back on the mythologico-naval, Mr. Borie has evidently run aground on Charybdis, while endeavoring to steer clear of Scylla, both of which were studiously shunned by the naval secretaries of those nations from which he has borrowed so much. Congress should, at its next session, pass an act restoring to the navy the nomenclature of which it has thus been deprived for no good reason. Far better have the quaint Indian names which Welles bestowed (and which was nearly the most sensible thing he did in office) than such bombastic titles as Centaur, Erebus, Spitfire, and the like, which, besides being foreign to our civilization, are nearly every one duplicates of the names of vessels in the navy of the "blarsted Britishers." Give us American names for American vessels. The Secretary has slavishly copied from foreigners; his device has not even the merit of originality; let us stick to our own ab-originality.

FREE TRADE AND PROTECTION.

From the St. Louis Republican (Democratic).

Mr. Horace Greeley has been latterly publishing elaborate essays on the above subject in the columns of the New York *Tribune*. The alternative that is really presented is not between free trade and protection absolute and unqualified. It is between free trade and artificial protection. There is a natural protection that no human laws can abrogate. This is local distance, time, the labor, the expense and danger of conveyance. Wheat grown in Missouri or Illinois is shipped to Liverpool, and sold there at or about the price of English wheat. Nothing is plainer than that in such case the English farmer will pocket a considerably larger proportion of that price than the American farmer. To this extent, notwithstanding the full acceptance of free-trade doctrines, the English farmer is protected, and it is a great and substantial protection. In England an article of prime necessity like corn should never have received any greater protection. An English farmer has to pay rent; an American generally owns his land. But he pays a much higher rate for labor. It was, in fact, to uphold the rents that the corn duties were maintained by the English landocracy. It may be observed that with all England's zeal for free trade, it was not until the present session of Parliament that the duty on corn was completely abolished. A quarter dollar was retained as duty on the quarter of corn or grain of every description. This was much felt on the coarser and cheaper grains. Mr. Lowe, the present Chancellor of the Exchequer, noticed this, and lately proposed the abolition of it. This natural protection is most efficacious in bulky articles, as for instance corn. In light, portable commodities it is less felt, but even on them it operates. A Geneva watch, in the ordinary course of affairs, will sell at a much lower rate near the place of its production than in England or America. The dealer in watches will only give such price to the Swiss or Geneva manufacturer as will admit of sales in other countries yielding him a profit. This protection, then, which nature itself upraises, is very considerable, and of much efficacy in favor of the native producers of every country. There is in addition a protection which may be called that of convenience. There is no country in which it is not necessary to raise some revenue. That revenue can be most easily, securely, and cheaply collected in the shape of customs at the outports. We, to our sorrow, find that in addition to the customs there must be an excise and internal revenue collected also. Before the war, the internal taxation was altogether for the support of State government and local institutions. There is no prospect for some considerable time of the return of any such happy state of affairs. The amount of this species of protection will, whilst a large revenue continues, necessarily be great. And it is but just that it should be so. The producers, the mechanics, and the laborers, all, in one shape or another, contribute to the revenue. It would not be just that those who do not so contribute should be allowed to compete with them tax-free.

We see, then, that the American producer, whether manufacturer or artisan, has two great walls of protection, of one of which he can under no circumstances be deprived. How can it be that the production of any commodity or article can legitimately require more? Prohibiting foreign competition, and forcing the consumption of a native article, for the production of which the soil or circumstances of the country are not adapted, will only lead to smuggling, with all its demoralizing results, and force the consumers, including the laboring classes, in whose interest it is said to be done, to purchase at an exorbitant rate, and put up with an inferior commodity. It was not by protection of the prohibitory kind that Peter the Great introduced ship-building and the arts into Russia, or the Swiss mountaineers established that manufacture of watches for which they are famous.

THE REGENCY IN SPAIN—THE PROBABLE END OF MONARCHY.

From the N. Y. Herald.

The situation in Spain continues to command attention. Improving prospects have given increased boldness to Montpensier. He has not only appeared on Spanish soil, but a little too much in public. Remembering that it was his gold that made the revolution a success; remembering, too, that the gold was paid down on the understanding that the crown should be his if a crown remained in Spain, it is not wonderful that he should be at once more hopeful and more bold when he sees all power given to Serrano, the man who is pledged above all others to his support. The Republicans in Spain have been defeated. The new constitution has been carried through the Cortes and proclaimed, and Spain has been declared a monarchy. The new King of Spain has yet to be found. Montpensier is but one of many candidates whose names have been prominently mentioned. There are Isabella and her son; there is the youthful Don Carlos; there is the father and there is the brother of the King of Portugal; there are, besides, at least two German princes. Which is to be the successful candidate is now the great question. The outery which has just been raised in Valladolid and Seville against Montpensier's presence in Spain at the present juncture seems to indicate that the Republicans are resolved that if Spain is to be a monarchy the candidates must have a fair chance. With Serrano as regent Spain can wait for a king, and wait with patience. Although Serrano is more or less pledged to Montpensier, his duty points first to the welfare of Spain and the wishes of the Spanish people. It is possible that Montpensier has ruined his own hopes. If Serrano cannot reconcile the Spanish people to Montpensier, Serrano is free. If the regent is successful in preserving order, Spain will be taught that good government is not necessarily associated with a crowned head. It is not, therefore, at all impossible that the regency of Serrano may prove the destruction of the monarchy in Spain.

PATRIOTISM SHOULD BE TAUGHT AT WEST POINT.

From the N. Y. Sun.

The Military Academy at West Point has just sent out another graduating class, whose members will soon enter upon their duties as officers of the United States Army. They have received a theoretical and practical instruction in their profession which is unsurpassed by that afforded by any other military school in the world. It has long been the ambition of American youth to procure admission to the Academy, more, we believe, for the sake of the education which is there obtained than even for the subsequent position in the army. Successful in the highest degree in forming soldiers, does West Point succeed equally in graduating patriotic men?

The country can never forget the patriots who were educated there—Grant and Sherman among those still living. McPherson and Kearney among the dead. But the traitors whom West Point has nurtured have also made a record in our history that is as well remembered. Jefferson Davis and Robert E. Lee are both graduates of the United States Military Academy.

The one great, leading, controlling, all-pervading sentiment to be inculcated at West Point is that of patriotism. The instructors there, in teaching the history of the great campaigns of the Rebellion, should take care that wherever admiration for the skill of any Rebel leader is excited by the account of his battles, abhorrence for his treason should accompany it. Unless heed is given to this suggestion, a new crop of traitors may at some future day spring up from West Point. If such are to be educated anywhere, let it not be at the expense of the nation.

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