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

TERMINATING REBEL DISFRANCHISEMENT.

From the N. Y. Times.

The question of putting an end to the present disabilities of those connected with the Rebellion is engaging attention more and more throughout the country. In some and more prominent States, like Virginia and Tennessee, it has become one of the principal political issues.

Among the Union men of the South—even the radical portion of them—there is a perception of a bad anomaly in a state of things under which the highest prerogative of citizenship is denied to thousands of the most wealthy, intelligent, and virtuous while it is freely exercised by tens of thousands who have lived all their lives until very lately in the most debasing slavery and benighted ignorance.

The radicals of the North, too, are growing more sensible of this incongruity. It is hard for them to keep up their old cry of "manhood suffrage," and make the application stop short of the white race if its principles are worth anything at all, its validity is absolute, and its application must be universal.

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Without, there is something in this permanent proscription that is calculated to make it unpopular, without any reference to party divisions. It is essentially un-American as opposed to the whole spirit of our institutions, and to the fundamental principles of our Government.

It may be allowed that disfranchisement, with its attendant "iron-clad oath," for a time served some good purpose. But that is really no argument for their continuance. There is no reason in persistently keeping up an extreme medicine in advanced convalescence, simply because it did some good at a more dangerous stage of the disease.

If there was any significance in the last Presidential election, it was just this which the people of both sections pronounced for, in uniting as they so generally did upon General Grant, with his watchword, "Peace." The peace that was then voted was no hollow pretext or sham affair. It was honest, heartfelt peace, springing from a sense of common brotherhood and common interest—a peace sought and found in its natural course, laid in liberal forgiving sentiments, and in principles purely pacific, as far removed as the poles from all intolerance and proscription.

The opportunity and the failure of the Government. In view of the events which are passing around us and in the immediate neighborhood of our southern shore, it becomes an important question to the country and to the nations with whom we hold intercourse to know what position the Government will take in the Cuban question and the developments which are following it.

Of their own arms new relations to the powers of the world. No American can or does doubt their right to do this. Our political education is based upon a belief in the sacred right of revolution, and wherever we behold a people treading the path which our fathers trod before, our sympathies go out to them, and no small number of our people are willing to follow the example of Lafayette, who came to the assistance of our fatherland in its dark days.

It cannot, then, be otherwise that in the struggle for liberty in Cuba some, perhaps many, of our own citizens will be found treading the wine-press of freedom side by side with the impulsive sons of Cuba. If this were not so we should belie our own teachings, and, admitting this fact, the question comes up, what position will the Government hold towards them? The war in which they embark is a fierce and sanguinary one, "The foe claims to rule 'by the grace of God,' and proclaims that all who oppose him are robbers, pirates, and enemies of the human race. Prisoners are slaughtered in cold blood; homes are given every where to the devouring flames, and extermination is the policy adopted and acted upon. Further than this, the stipulations of treaties of amity, commerce, and navigation with neighboring powers, and their local laws, are apparently violated.

Will the Government admit the claim of the Spanish rulers in Cuba, and deny the right of a whole people to throw off the yoke of despotism, and of our own citizens to take part in the struggle without running other and greater risks of the chance of battle? That the entire people of Cuba reject the rule of Spain has been over and over again proclaimed by the Spanish press, the Spanish authorities, and the Spanish volunteers who now rule Havana. It is testified by the fact that not a Cuban is trusted with arms in behalf of Spain; that Spain rules only where her troops stand; that where her troops are, an exodus of the Cuban population is witnessed.

No treaty of amity, no laws of neutrality can sanctify before the people of the United States, or of the world, the claim of any power to the right to govern a nation when the nation rejects such a claim. If this were not so, Mr. Fish would be involved in an endless perplexity as to who should be recognized by him as the reigning sovereign in any country in Europe or America. But we may go even further. No treaty of amity can be expected to be by any power as conferring upon it the right to use practices beyond the pale of humanity in its efforts to preserve itself, and all such claims will be rejected by every right-minded statesman.

We have brought forward these views because of the great occasion now before us. Cuba is in process of successful revolution. American citizens have taken and will take part therein, animated by the holiest feelings of human nature and justified by their natural rights. The Government which is struggling to perpetuate its despotism proclaims its foes to be pirates and robbers, and not entitled to the usages of war. Our own Government has failed in its duty to place itself on record in such a way as shall lend its moral influence to the cause of humanity and human progress.

The whole Government, from President Grant down to Mr. Hoar, is responsible for the acts which mark its policy and prove its partisanship. If Mr. Fish has consented to this course willingly, he has exhibited a want of sympathy with American feeling and with the march of American ideas which disqualifies him for the high place he holds. If he entertains sympathies for the Cubans in their efforts to establish their own freedom, to sweep slavery from their land, and to participate in the political happiness which we enjoy, he should show it in some other way than by whispering through the pen of a newspaper correspondent. Such breathings are not sufficient to contract acts in which the hand of the Government is plainly visible. It will not be an act of war to perform our duty to human nature by recognizing the belligerent rights of the Republicans of Cuba, and to intimate to our fond ally Spain that we expect her to carry on war as a civilized government, and not as an enemy to the human race, especially as we are supplying her with guns, powder, and ships wherewith to make the war. As for a national policy, it is plain that the weak and cold administration of Grant and Fish is not equal to the task of devising one. We look to the American people to take care of that, intimating to the administration that they will do well not to place themselves, in their timorous apprehension of European complications, in an attitude of hostility to the national policy the people shall lay down.

CRIME BY INFLECTION. From the N. Y. World. That crime is contagious is a belief so ancient and approved that it has been embodied in our copy-books. How many an archer has twisted his tongue into chiropographic contortions over the maxim that "evil communications corrupt good manners." Though a heathen, Menander said the thing; the great Apostle Paul cited and endorsed it; and, as it is written in schools, it is set by law and held, we presume, to be a settled truth. But is crime also infectious?

This question is raised for us by a clever writer in the Medical Gazette of this city, who seems to be more than half disposed to charge upon the most enterprising and successful journals of the day a certain measure of detestable and culpable responsibility for the multiplication of monstrous offenses against humanity. The writer's theory is that the sort of latent or half latent insanity which is called "moral insanity" and others have shown to exist in most men may be stimulated and developed by familiarity with the exciting details of any particularly striking crime, and so, arousing the imitative faculty, may lead directly to the perpetration of a similar act.

THE CHURCH BILL. From the N. Y. Tribune. Few words will suffice to define the triumph which the English Commons have obtained over their Lords, by the vote in the latter house on the bill for disestablishing the Irish Church. By a vote of 179 to 70, and for the pleasanter disappointment of the apprehensions felt a week ago, the Lords have abandoned their retrogressive and crab-like hold of the Establishment, but yet, we fear, have not abandoned it altogether. Carnarvon, Salisbury, Stanhope, and the Archbishop of Canterbury have proved safer counselors than Derby, Cairns, and the other Lords whose tenure of prejudice and oppression was less tractable or yielding. Mr. Disraeli, the leader of the Tories, has not continued to manifest the affected desperation of his late speech before the Commons. As a consequence of so much defection in their ranks, the Tories have been compelled to bend a proud knee to the volume and multitude of British opinion. Still, we believe they will contend with energy for some recompense of their concession, with a chance of being successful in obtaining it in some form, however inconsiderable, the administration of Gladstone and Bright, and of offending the popular good sense and feeling of which these men are perhaps the truest representatives which England has ever produced.

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It could be established to demonstration, it might warrant, perhaps, the interference of grand juries and district attorneys to suppress the strictly "sensational" journalism of this wickedness. But it strikes us that this is eminently one of the many cases in which there is "a great deal to be said on both sides."

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