## THE DAILY EVENING TELEGRAPH—PHILADELPHIA, FRIDAY, JUNE 25, 1869.

# SPIRIT OF THE PRESS. EDITORIAL OFINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CUBBENT TOPICS-COMPILED EVERY DAY FOR THE EVENING TELEGRAPH.

THE RHETORIC OF "RECONSTUCTION. From the N. Y. World.

The politics of Tennessee, as they are now conducted, furnish a beautiful testimonial to the merits of that policy of radical reconstruction of which they are the ripest fruits. With the view of enlightening persons not exposed to the blessings of reconstruction upon the practical workings of that boon of a benign Cougress, the World yesterday published a report of the canvassing which is now in progress between the rival candidates for the succession to the courteous and Christian Mr. Brownlow in the Governorship of Tennessee. It is a melancholy pleasure to ascertain, from the manner in which Stokes and Senter carry on their oratorical projection of mutual mud, that, whichever of them succeeds, the office will be filled with all the gentleness and all the dignity with which Mr. Brownlow illustrated its incumbency.

There does not seem to be anything to choose between the persons of Messrs. Stokes and Senter, and quite as little between their politics. For, as in Paris in the height of the French revolution, as its greatest historian has described it to us, so now in Tennessee, there is no distinction of patriot and unpatriotic, but only of the limited patriot and the un limited. Both candidates lay claim to bound less localty, and the endeavor of each is to discredit the loyalty of the other, with nearly equal success. Both these spotless lovalists have disgraced the service of the late Confederacy-Stokes in a military and Senter in a civil capacity-and the aim of each now is to establish, what is almost a selfevident proposition, that his adherence was of very small benefit to the Confederate cause, as well as to show forth the loil works by which he has proved his repentance of that political sin. We blush to say that Senter is at present the more conservative of the two. although, if their positions were reversed, we would be forced equally to blush in saying the same of Stokes. But Senter is conservative in wishing to exclude negroes not only from the polls, but from the witness-box. The arguments which he adduces for this latter deprivation can only be fitly weighed when it is given in his own lofty language:-

"What have we come to when it is gravely pro-posed to let a nigger come up and be sworn like a white man. Think of it! A buck nigger, with his toes spraddled out like a pair of tongs, a nose as fat as a pancake, and his heels running so far behind that they would hold a bolt of calleo; such a thing coming up to swear away the life of a white man! Why, it's too preposterous to talk about."

From this fragment the rest of Senter's speech can be conjectured. It devotes itself to a great deal of scurrility about Stokeswhat the papers friendly to Senter call a "seathing exposure" of Stokes-a great deal of clumsy but heartfelt panegyric upon Senter, and a touching compliment to the audience upon the prevalence of clean linen and shaven faces which the orator remarked among them. Mr. Senter also dwells at great length, although not exactly with extreme unction, on the bald head of Mr. Stokes, the baldness of which appears to the mind of Mr. Senter to be a conclusive reason why Mr. Stokes should not be elected Governor of Tennessee

It would be impossible to excel Mr. Senter in the peculiar rhetoric in which he enwraps his thoughts; but what man could do in that direction Mr. Stokes undoubtedly did. ginning his remarks, he picked up Before be

held antagonistic opinions on both these subjects.

The two parties continued to bear these names until the era of good feeling under the second term of Monroe's administration, when the Federal party expired. During the ad-ministration of John Quincy Adams, his opponents, under the lead of Van Buren and Jackson, assumed the name of Democrats or Democratic Republicans, the latter being the favorite designation in New York; while their antagonists called themselves National Repubicans, their conspicuous chiefs being Clay, Adams, and Webster. During this period, a third party arose, called Anti-Masons, whose founders and leaders were Thurlow Weed, Thaddeus Stevens, and William H. Seward. This party exerted a good deal of influence in moulding the politics of New York and Pennsylvania, but on national issues it was in close

accord with the party of Clay and Webster. Under the administration of Jackson the materials of which parties were composed changed very essentially. Large numbers of old Federalists went over to Jackson, while a respectable body of Democrats rallied around Clay. Near the close of Jackson's administration the party of Clay and Webster was made up of the mass of the old Federalists, now called National Republicans, and the rank and file of the Anti-Masons. Scarcely had Van Buren pronounced his inaugural address when the opposition to the Democracy assumed the name of Whigs. General James Watson Webb, of the Courier and Enquirer, claimed the honor of bestowing upon that great and powerful organization the popular cognomen which it bore through ighteen eventful years.

Soon after the formation of the Whig party the slavery question began to assume prominence in national affairs, and resulted in 1840 in organizing the Liberty party, which, though small in numbers, inculcated doctrines that ultimately controlled the country, and, as the fruits of a long controversy and a successful war, incorporated into the Constitution those amendments respecting slavery, the rights of citizens, and the universality of suffrage, which have so radically changed that instrument. Among the founders and leaders of this party were James G. Birney, Gerrit Smith, Joshua Leavitt, John G. Whittier, and Henry B. Stanton. From the same root sprang first the Free Soil party of 1844, in which Salmon P. Chase and John P. Hale were distinguished, and then the Free Democracy of 1848, with its famous Buffalo platform, whereof those eminent Barnburners, John Van Buren, Samuel J. Tilden, Sanford E. Church, and Dean Richmond were the main architects-Martin Van Buren, better known as the Sage of Lindenwald, being the chief cornerstone. This celebrated organization swept into its ranks all the Liberty party, all the Free Soil party, a majority of the De-mocratic party of the State of New York, and a large number of prominent Democrats and a respectable sprinkling of Whigs throughout the free States.

This remarkable party, though it did not dwell among men for a great while, lived long enough to prepare the way for the advent of the Republican party. Under the inspiring lead of John Van Buren, it was the precursor of the new political dispensation of 1854-5, when the free-soil principles of the Buffalo platform furnished the materials for the erection of the great political organization which for the past ten years has ruled the country.

These historical reminiscences show that the Democracy have been more tenacious of their name than their opponents. But Mr. Lincoln used to insist that though the Democratic party had saved its name, the Republicans had stolen away its cardinal principles, and that the latter were now the only orthodox disciples of Jefferson. However Mr. Lincoln is no more, and it will be well for the party that gave him power and prestige to take heed lest it also soon pass into history, and be known among living men no more.

pirates, enemies of the human race, or in any [ way entitled to harsher treatment than what is imposed by the laws and chances of war. The fourth and last point which we desire to be made known to Spain in the outset of any little private discussion is this:-It is the admitted belief of every public man and private citizen in this country that "Caba gravitates towards the American Union," and we are by no means ignorant of the weakening which recent events have brought to the ties that bind her to Spain. We therefore cannot admit that the latter power, because she finds it impossible to retain Cuba herself, has the right to do anything which shall have merely the effect to reduce the value of Cuba per se and make it less useful to us when the ripeness of time shall have brought it into the fold of free and independent States.

With these injunctions and a reminder to the commander that he had a finger, if not an entire hand, in the Ostend convention, we think Mr. Fish may venture to send his new expedition into the heart of Spain. We advise both the Secretary and the commander not to expect too much from their enterprise, nor to let the grass grow beneath their feet in the pursuit of it. Events on the American shore of the ocean are hastening to new and greater complications, and if they delay too long their hoped-for adjustment of present questions others of more urgent import will push them from the field of diplomatic consideration.

BRITISH AMERICA. From the N. Y. Tribune.

There are unreckoned possibilities in the immense territory north of us. Viewing this fact, the Governor of Canada made a remarkable speech the other day on the union of British America. Lord Bury, in Parliament, not long ago, said that the navigation of British America needed improvement but in three places in order that a ship might be taken from England to the foot of the Rocky Mountains. Other Englishmen have been speculative enough to agree with the noble lord that the future communication between England and India, China, and Japan would be by the way of Canada, the Rocky Mountains, and the Frazer river. It is in accord with this prediction that a scheme, provoked by the completion of our interoceanic highway, has been revived in England. As far back as 1850 this scheme proposed "to extend the broad belt of England in the temperate zone round the world," by a railroad through Cauada, the Red River settle ment, and the Hudson Bay hunting-grounds, to the Pacific, a route calculated to be 1500 miles shorter than our own, and, in the judgment of its advocates, more practicable and less costly. This British-American highway to the sea would open up a new intermediate country, which, it is said, comprises some of the most fertile tracts in the world, and have its Pacific terminus in the natural and admirable harbor near Fort Langley, at Vancouver's Island. Projects of emigration, and of the utilization of convicts, have been associated with this prospectus; and by those who see most in it, it is held that British America, what with its broad water-courses, its fertile acres, and its great railroad, has in itself the elements of vast enterprise.

Therefore many Englishmen object to the guarantee by England of the \$1,500,000 with which Canada is to purchase the territories of the Hudson Bay Company. They believe that Canada can well trust to her exhaustless future, rather than borrow from the mother country, anything but its population. The purchase money secures all but a comparatively small reserve of the great hunting grounds, and yields up to immigration and labor what before was jealously kept up as a preserve for wild beasts. The ambition of the

and the forces on both sides. The try opinion is general, grounded on the best evidence that can be extracted from Cuba, that the encounters in the Sierra Cubitas, at Las Tunas, and lately at Puerto Padre, rose to the rank of battles. We grant that the Government may have no official advice of this fact-but has it any to the contrary?-has it, in fact, any specifically official advice whatever that we may take as authoritative? We have no agent with the Cubans, and it appears to be not safe to believe the Spaniards. In short, it is a very fair question whether the Government has any agent in Havana capable of giving it certain or trustworthy information of the Cuban revolution. What is so far hinted to us only seems to show that the informants of the Government are either not sufficiently self-possessed, or are not enabled by circumstance to find out what to believe.

TEARS FOR TEXAS. From the N. Y. Times.

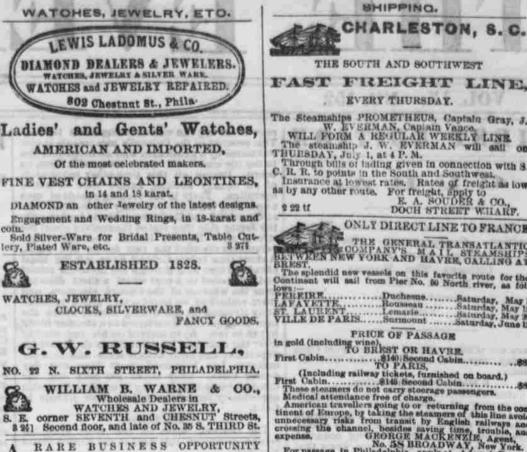
The World weeps for Texas. "The Lone Star has been drawn back," it sighs, "by the powerful attraction of United States bayonets. The trouble with Texas is not, according to the World, in "native Texans of conservative extraction"-oh, no! They are never among the desperadoes and ruffians who plunder and murder innocent people there. The villains are all "radicals," so that, "if you are not a devout radical, the chances are nine to one against you that you will get murdered by a delegate or a delegation of outlaws, who have neither military commission nor civil process to fear." Is not this a dreadful state of affairs? And is not the World's a fair and candid review of the condition of Texas, where it tells us, every max who is not a devout radical is "murdered"-or, at least, stands but one chance in ten of escaping?

The World should take comfort from Semmes. That worthy reads its articles, likes them, borrows its phraseology, calls the Government troops "military satraps and tyrants," and spells loyal "loil." Yet he hopefully addresses Texas thus:-

"Glorious Texas! what if thou art a little too mu given to the bowie-knife and revolver, and what if grass widows are somewhat frequent in some of thy localities, thou art all right at heart! In an evil hour you were beguiled into accepting the fatal embrace of the Yankees. Bide thy time! Thou art rapidly filling up with population. Thou wilt soon become an empire in thyself, and the day is not far distant when thou mayest again strike for free-

Cheery language like this from a man who is not "loil," ought to stir up the World from its despondency. Semmes does not grieve, as without hope, over the fact that "the Lone Star has been drawn back to the present galaxy by the powerful attraction of United ' No more should the World States bayonets.' play the part of Dismal Jemmy because the Attorney-General has given an opinion in favor of the legality of the conviction by military commission of Weaver, who wantonly murdered the negro. "The one reflec-tion," says the World, "which at present can gild the dismal horizon which encompasses Texas round about is, for the inhabitants thereof, 'We once were Texans.'" Not at all. Such reflections may do very well for the Weavers and the Yergers of the Southwest to gild their horizons with, but the Weavers and Yergers are, fortunately, a very small part of the peaceable, order-loving, and murderhating communities who are to control the destinies of those regions.



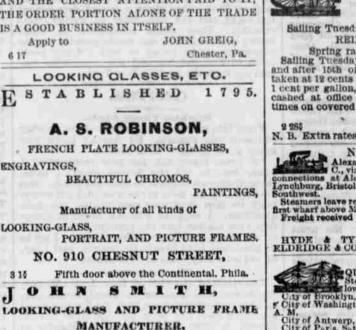


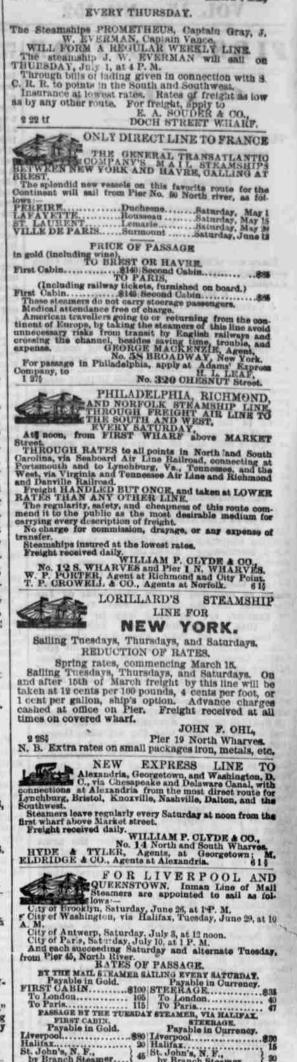
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SHIPPING.

THE SOUTH AND SOUTHWEST

the pitcher from which his predecessor had been imbibing what purported to be water, but what the disgusted sniffing of Stokes proclaimed to be spirits, and nobly cried-"Take this away! Take it away! I want water!" The heat of his subsequent criticism of Senter betokened that he did. Stokes admitted that he had bought and sold the colored brothers whose votes he was then having the honor to supplicate; but he hurled back with scorn the charge of Senter that he had sold the last negro sold in Tennessee. and proved how, although he had offered him for sale, the market was so dull or the negro so essentially unmarketable that a sale of him could not be effected, and he was therefore left on Stokes' hands to receive the blood-bought boon of freedom. And if he had been a Confederate officer, was it not a notorious fact that Senter had been a Confederate legislator? And if he was bald, was it not flagrantly obvious that Senter was fat? Without assuming to decide, in the abstract, upon the relative degree of his disqualification wrought by baldness and by pinguitude, Stokes continued to affix a special stigma to the pinguitude of Senter :---"How came he fat? Why, he had set back on his sofa during the war, and done nothing. Why didn't he go into the army and relieve himself of his fat-ness? The army was a good place to get fat off."

We have given this outline of the great questions in dispute between the two parties which divide the State of Tennessee, as stated by the chosen champions of those parties, for the purpose of showing what a state of things that "reconstruction"-which has had a longer and a fairer trial there than in any other State, and which was to inaugurate a reign of higher and purer politics the South and to the country-has to actually resulted in. What a descent it is from the politicians of an earlier era, from Andrew Jackson and John Bell-nay, from Andrew Johnson-to this blackguard Stokes and this blackguard Senter! From the decent discussion of national measures which prevailed in that era to the nasty squabbles, the low buffoonery, and the sickening demagogy of those hungry camp-followers of Congress, how vast an interval it is! Yet Stokes and Senter are the ripe consummate flowers of the same rank vegetation which is, in the blade or in the germ, throughout the South, and what we now see in Tennessee we may look in the fulness of time to see wherever the seed of Congressional folly has been sown. Absit omen.

#### AMERICAN POLITICAL PARTIES. From the N. Y. Sun.

The controversy carried on in our columns by several distinguished writers as to who stood godfather at the baptism of the Republican party awakens reminiscences concerning the names borne from time to time by the great political organizations of this country. The earliest titles assumed by parties after the adoption of the Constitution were Federal and Republican. The more conspicuous leaders of the former were John Adams. Alexander Hamilton, and John Marshall; of the latter, Jefferson, Madison, and George Clinton. Among the prominent younger members of the Republican party were Henry Clay, De Witt Clinton, and, near the close of Jefferson's administration, John Quincy Adams, all of whom subsequently became listinguished opponents of the same party. The Republicans favored a restriction of the powers of the National Government, and advocated State Rights, while the Federalists

#### OUR NEW SPANISH EXPEDITION. From the N. Y. Herald.

Our telegraphic report from Europe on Wednesday brought consoling advices to Mr. Secretary Fish in the shape of an encouraging pat on the back from John Bright's Quaker organ, the London Star, "for taking measures to prevent the departure of filikustering par-ties for Cuba." The only drawback to the pleasure of our worthy Secretary of State, if it is a drawback, is the fact that his measures do not seem to have prevented the departure of a single filibuster. We admit the doubt because private assurances from persons very near to Mr. Secretary Fish insist that he sympathizes with the Republican cause in Cuba, that he desires to see it triumph at an early day, and that he is only coquetting with Spain for the purpose of keeping a dreadful European complication off the backs of the belligerent Cubans. The said private assurances furthermore intimate, with a tone of in tense wisdom, that something particularly private in relation to Cuba is going on between our Government and that at Madrid -that General Prim has been seen, Serrano looked after, and that the best results may be hoped for if we will not commit the Government.

Our experience in both public and private affairs is that straightforward truth and manliness is the best, and, as Sir Boyle Roach said, that the only way to get round a difficulty is to meet it plump. Now, as the administra-tion is about to send a filibustering expedition into the very heart of the Iberian peninsula. under the command of one of our most keen and audacious generals, and as the Cabinet is preparing his instructions, both public and private, we desire to say a few words on the state of affairs in these Spanish-American questions. The first point of interest is that we mean to keep faith-not such faith as Spain kept with us in our late war, but loyal, good faith-with the friendly powers of Europe and America, and we wish it to be distinctly understood that this determination does not commit us to the policy of assisting Spain to break faith with her own people, or to the waging of a style of warfare in defense of her resisted claims, which shall be an outrage to humanity and Christian civilization. The second point of interest in these great question is this .- In common with the whole world we hold that a prisoner is not to be punished for availing himself of an opportunity to escape, nor an oppressed people for improving an occasion to throw off the hate-ful chains of a colonial despotism; and we desire that this feeling on our part shall not be hidden from Spain, but rather do we desire that it shall be clearly made known to her.

The third point with which the commander of this new Spanish expedition should be impressed is this .- Should any of our enthusias. tic and liberty-loving citizens, believing that the cause of republican Cuba is the cause of freedom, which all true men love, choose to emulate the example of Lafayette, and, run-ning the risks of hostile cruisers at sea and well-armed (seeing that we sold them their breech-loaders) foes on shore, proceed to take part in honorable warfare in Cuba, we will not fact that they have fought battles, severe

Canadians is to extend their dominion from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and the possession of the new territories encourages them. Though to the further north of the hunting grounds nothing invites the settler, yet the southern and fertile belt just above Minnesota has the capacity of receiving a popula-tion equal to that of England, and is upon the proposed highway between Canada and British Columbia. What change might be wrought in this quarter by a continental en-terprise such as we have described may be best conceived by the fact that when the Duke of Newcastle first brought the project of purchase before the English Commons, Minne-sota had but 2000 inhabitants, whereas twenty years after, and about present writing, it has 400,000 inhabitants or more, 562 manufactories, and 500 miles of railway. The connection of British Columbia with

Canada is logically considered as of the highest importance to the British dominion in America. It was announced in Parliament that the former province contained vast mineral wealth, and that the Coal Company of Vancouver had raised its dividends eighteen or nineteen per cent.

Nevertheless, we hear occasionally from Victoria that the province is a chronic sufferer financially and industrially, and, to some extent, loyally, if we are to value such pleas for annexation as come to us through its journals. True it is that a great many settlers in Columbia are Americans, and a great many of its Britons are loyal; but so long as the colonies there have but a half-life the proximity of the laws, institutions, and proscerity of the United States will be tempting. British America has but one remedy for the desire of annexation, and that is to rely upon herself, to awake at once to the enterprise of opening up a great part of this continent, and to grow as we have grown. She can thereby centre the attention of her millions on her own empire and destiny. But we fear that under the slow-going methods of Great Britain, her growth will not be fast enough.

### THE CUBAN PROBLEM.

From the N. Y. Tribune. The Government has not yet found cause or occasion to concede to the Cubans belligerent rights. Such is the substance of an important declaration made on Thursday from Washington. The authorities there, it is said, have no proof positive that the Cubans have been able to hold a single town, or any official advice that the opposing forces in Cuba have ever met in the open field. There is a further avowal that while the Spanish Minister has been frankly told that the United States sympathize with Cuba, he has also been assured that they hold themselves bound to enforce the legal neutrality. Our authorities have been selling surplus arms to all buyers without asking questions, and we suppose that Cubans and Spaniards have alike had chances to buy.

The course of the Government has been evidently inspired by caution and fairness. But we have to take serious exception to one of the statements which have been made apparently with semi-official assumption. Surely our Government knows better than to have said or to have quite believed that neither of the parties in the island have fought in the open field. Cuban, Spanish, aud American testimony has been given of the under any circumstances hold that they are ' enough, considering the nature of the coun-

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