SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

"THE GIRL OF THE PERIOD." From the N. Y. Tribune.

How far woman will profit, personally and socially, by that discussion of her true relation to the race which has become so com mon, cannot at present be accurately determined. We are living in a day of provokingly loose dialects; there are even those who appear to think that bad logic is irrefragible. only it comes from a woman's mouth, and that she is safer in trusting herself to the guidance of notions which she has received from others than to those pure intuitions which have heretofore been her safeguard and ornament. That woman's place, even in the highest forms of civilization-a place which has been occupied for centuries without a protest-is the result of mere accident, or of the superior physical strength of man, we shall believe, when we can believe also that human affairs are governed by no immutable law, and that material force is the motive power of human progress. Tare we yet able quite to discard certain opinions concerning the predestinate duties of maternity-the bearing, the nurture, and the education of children-which thousands of noble, womanly natures have heretofore found sufficient to save them from ennui and from frivolity. We may surely be pardoned if we perceive something more than chance, something more effective than masculine despotism, something fixed from the beginning, in the relative constitution of the sexes, and with which legislation cannot meddle without producing mournful and disastrous confusion. In the beginning we may venture to point out how extremely difficult, how almost impossible, it seems to be to discuss these questions with continuous gravity; and without

occasional touches of satire and ridicule. Mr. Stuart Mill, if we are not mistaken, is the only first-rate thinker who brings to the champion ship of "Woman's Rights" a serious and coherent mind; yet even he commits in the beginning the capital error of regarding the duties of wife and mother as simply occupation." Against a definition so thoroughly mechanical as this, every human heart in a normal condition will indignantly revolt. But though the opinions of Mr. Mill are entitled, whether he may be right or wrong, to the most respectful consideration, it may be safely said that a majority of those who are loudest in their demands for what they call the emancipation of woman are also shallow in their reasoning, trifling in their illustrations, and crooked in their philosophy. We take the liberty of declaring that with a few notable and praiseworthy exceptions, the female orators who are engaged in promoting one of the greatest of all possible social revolutions do not seem to us to be in earnest. There is too much jesting. There is too much scolding, pure and simple. There is too much loose generalization. There is altogether too free an assumption of premises, and even from these the conclusions are drawn with an unsteady hand. There are too many freaks of costume, and there are too many frisks of speech; and too often upon the platforms the least acute observer detects rather a love of notoriety than a passion for genuine and permanent reform of social errors. To strengthen their position, and to make up for deficient reasoning, by presenting in their own persons a concrete argument in support of substantial sexual identity, women, thus far, have too often shown a disposition to imitate the worst masculine peculiarities, and to astonish society into acquiescence, even if they cannot convince. The inevitable result of this is to

give a ridiculous air to the whole proceeding.

and to encourage the gibes of the mocking and the irreverent. Men truly are not to

blame if the boisterous disagreements of

female conventions lead them to refuse to attach to the proceedings of such assemblages more than a moderate degree of importance. As evidence of the truth of what we have just asserted, we might point to a new magazine which has recently been set on foot in England, and which is entitled The Girl of the Period. This is a slang title-a translation, we believe, from the French-which has been of late a good deal in the mouths of English men and women, and the exact purport of which we have never been able to determine. Even the journal before us is not particularly felicitous in its definition. "The Girl of the Period," it says, "is a natural outgrowth of circumstances. She is an involuntary Protest. She is the masculine Giggle of the Hour. She is the Irony of the Situation." What this means, we cannot undertake to determine; but the well-executed engravings of this magazine explain sufficiently its appearance in the literary market. Anything more thoroughly vapid and worthless than its letterpress, anything more flimsy than its contributions, anything sillier than its prose and its verse, we do not, after a rather long experience of such matters, remember to have encountered. The prints, however, are no doubt expected to atone for the pages; and for those who think that leg-pieces are the noblest productions of art, these illustrations must have an unspeakable charm. There is a picture of "The Croquet Girl" in a short petticoat; of "The Nautical Girl" in a shorter petticoat; of "The Hunting Girl" in a petticoat briefer still; and of "The Ballet Girl" in no petticoat at all. There is a picture of "The Ladies' Dressing Room" There of "A Private Theatre," with one 'lady' (smoking a cigar) in tights and trunk hose, and another "lady" gesticulating in trousers before an enormous mirror. There is a picture of "The Abyssinian Girl of the Period, in sufficiently scanty raiment. There is a pic ture of a young lady in ducks and a Jersey jacket, pushing a skiff from the shore. There is a picture of "A Muscular Maiden," who has knocked down an impudent gamin. There is a picture of two girls making a most liberal display of their limbs upon velocipedes. But our catalogue is sufficient. The world undoubtedly advances (or recedes). Ten years ago such pictures would not have been tolerated in any magazine published outside the walls of Paris; and it is from Parisian levity and looseness that these artists have drawn their inspiration. They are of the French, Frenchy. No delicacy of execution can conceal their prepense coarseness and sensuality. They seek, not to promote the true interest of woman, but to gratify the grossest physical tastes of man. Such works may answer, however, a useful purpose as a warning. They show that the old safe-guards of home, the old influence of welldefined social relations, the old ideas of matronly and of maidenly purity, are not to be atterly discarded without incurring frightful dangers, and diminishing that modesty which can make even homeliness beautiful. The wild license with which we are threatened can have no charms for that man who truly loves

his mother, his wife, his sisters, his daugh-

ters. Ready as we are to go as far as any

one in all acts of justice to woman, disclaim-

ing all desire to make her either a plaything | or a slave, anxious for the full cultivation of her intellectual powers, regarding her purity with reverence, and solicitons for the full development of her peculiar mental powers, we should yet be blinder than blind if we did not see that innumerable dangers must attend a sudden change of relations which have been naturally established and so long maintained. It is one thing to abolish laws which injuriously affect the material interests of married women-it is quite another to attempt the repeal of nature's ordinances.

SOURCES OF STRENGTH IN THE CANVASS.

From the N. V. Times It is fortunate for the Republican party that the general policy of Congress, and the course marked out by General Grant for his administration, furnish precisely those elements of strength which most readily commend themselves to the favor of the people While the more thoughtful of the Democrats are engaged in the almost hopeless task of weaning their party from its worn-out traditions, and inspiring it with an appreci-ation of new issues, the Republican may confidently point to what they have accomplished, and what they are doing, as evidence of ability to satisfy the requirements of the country. These requirements we take mainly to be, the introduction of honesty and purity into the administration of the Government, economy in every branch of the public service, the improvement of the public credit, a readjustment and large reduction of taxation, and the earliest possible completion of the business of reconstruction. Enough has occurred to show that on each point the popular wish is reflected in the measures of Congress and the work to which the administration, during its brief existence, has

faithfully applied itself. To estimate properly what has been effected. it is necessary to keep in mind the condition to which the rule of Andrew Johnson had reduced public affairs. His conflict with Congress entailed other evils than those connected with reconstruction. The entire service of the Government was demoralized. Expenditures were kept up to the war standard long after the exigencies which had occasioned them had passed away. Corruption pervaded every department. The revenue service was largely in the hands of imbeciles and knaves. Organized fraud turned into private channels streams that should have found their way into the Treasury. Thus while all forms of expenditure, civil and military, were maintained on an extravagant scale, the collection of the revenue everywhere suffered from the operations of swindlers and thieves. Integrify seemed to have been banished from the service where it was most needed, and the revenue service became a scandal to the Government and a source of constant and ruinous loss.

The advent to power of General Grant wrought an immediate change. Congress had performed its share of the work called for with an energy against which outgoing secretaries had previshly remonstrated. The appropriations were largely cut down. The army was greatly reduced, and a plan inaugurated which will reduce it further. The navy was shorn of its costliness. And effective means were adopted to carry the same practice of economy into every department. All that was possible in this direction may not have been accomplished by Congress, but nearly all was done that seemed to be expedient until the results of earnest co-operation on the part of the Executive had been fairly tested. A period less than four months is too brief to develop these results fully. But it has sufficed to bring about great reforms, and to justify sanguine expectations as to the working of a Republican administration.

General Garfield, in a speech delivered the other day at Columbus, sketched some of the more striking characteristics of the four months' effort. First, as to the revenue. Its collection has been transferred to capable and honest men. The rascally "rings" which too long controlled it have been broken up, and reforms have been brought into play with immediate advantage to the Treasury. Although the first three quarters of the fiscal year vielded but \$256,000,000, the current quarter will yield not less than \$10,000,000 or \$20,000,000 more than was received in any single quarter under Johnson. The whisky tax exemplifies the change in detail. In May 1868, the total manufacture gave to the revenue but \$1,500,000, whereas last month it produced \$4,500,000, with thirty-six collection districts yet to be heard from. And every branch of the revenue service exhibits proportionate improvement. With the revenue thus rendered more productive, we may confidently anticipate material reductions in taxes next session.

Turning to the expenditure side of the account, General Garfield's statements are equally suggestive. During the first three quarters of the present fiscal year the expenditures amounted to \$256,000,000, or an average exceeding \$85,000,000. On the other hand, in the current quarter they will not exceed \$60,000,000, or \$25,000,000 less than in any other quarter of the year. Not only, then, will the Congressional appropriations, reduced as they were, meet the wants of the Government under General Grant, but there will be a surplus of some \$37,000,000, and the nuisance of deficiency bills appears likely to be avoided for the first time in years. Meanwhile, too, the reduction of the public debt goes on, and the Treasury management, though not absolutely free from defects, commands a degree of public confidence which best testifies to its integrity.

These are considerations which tax-payers will appreciate. They are evidence of an intelligent performance of duty on the part of Congress, and of zeal, judgment, and integrity on the part of the administration. The Democrats may invent new issues, if they can. The Republican party, in the discussion of national affairs, may point with wellgrounded satisfaction to what it is doing in the matter of economy, and to the foundations it is laying for the measures of relief which trade and industry unitedly demand. Its strength is in its works, and these will endure

A NEW SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.

From the N. Y. World. The resignation of the feeble Mr. Borie and the appointment of the unknown small New lawyer, Robeson, to the vacated place, s so little of a change that it would hardly be worth public comment, if it did not furnish a new proof that President Grant is incapable of learning anything by experience. Mr. Borie has been a common butt of ridicule by Republicans as well as Democrats, and one might have supposed that even the narrow, stolid mind of General Grant would have made a better use of the opportunity afforded by Borie's resignation than to have appointed another novice and nobody as the head of the Navy Department. The President has as little comprehension of the means of making his administration strong and successful as he had when he first selected a Cabinet which filled his political friends with

When President Grant came into office, he found the executive department of the Government dwarfed and belittled by the encroachments of a usurping Congress, which had virtually absorbed into itself all the powers of the Government, He had no conception of any other method of recovering the just influence of the Executive than by procuring the repeal of the Tenure-of-Office aw, and thereby gaining the means of operating upon the most vulgar and sordid motives by which men can be influenced in public life. Instead of aiming to gain control of a vast and corrupting patronage, as if that were the chief instrument of a statesman' power, General Grant, if he had been equal to his responsibilities, should have made it his first aim to rival Congress in its control over public opinion. He should have brought into his Cabinet the seven ablest men in the Republican party; men not merely of conspicuous ability, but of wide political and personal connections and recognized weight in the party. If he had sought these, and found them, in Congress itself, he would have weakened the influence of that body by the loss of its most commanding intellects, as well as strengthened the Executive by their accession to the Cabinet. General Grant's only chance of forming a vigorous and efficient administration consisted in bringing into it natural leaders of opinion with whom Congress could not quarrel without sinking itself in the estimation of the party, and whom it could not persistently oppose or slight without splitting the party into fragments. What would become of the liberal party in England if it should get at variance with Gladstone and Bright and Lowe and the other leaders whose eloquence, counsels, and weight with the country give them their great ascend-ancy over the public opinion of Great Britain? Or how long could any British Ministry stand against public contempt if it were composed of men as imbecile and unknown as most of the members of the Cabinet of President Grant? If General Grant had formed his Cabinet of seven of the best known and best trusted statesmen of the Republican party, of the men who furnish the party with ideas, and are strongly entrenched in its affections, his administration might have been the master of Congress instead of its slave. There is not in his Cabinet a single individual who is a born leader of men; not one who ever had, or is capable of forming, wide political connections; not one who ever originated, or is capable of originating, a great public measure; not one who ever made a speech or composed a state paper that deeply impressed the public mind. In a free country, where government is merely the agent of public opinion, the political power will be actually wielded by those who have the best natural and acquired gifts for commanding the confidence and influencing the judgments of their fellow-citizens. If all such men are found in Congress, and none of them in the Executive, the Executive will necessarily be without weight or prestige, and Congress will monopolize the control of public affairs. In England, where the Ministry is the creature of the House of Commons, and deposed as often as it is outvoted the Executive is neverthe. less very powerful, because it is always composed of the very strongest men of the ascendant party. In our own country, an administration remains in office four years in spite of Congress; but if it consists of men destitute of political weight, it must be an object of perpetual contempt. Office is not influence, but only a position in which influence is possible when filled by men formed and trained for political leadership. If General Grant had not found the Executive Depar ment of the Government curtailed and weak, he would have quickly made it so by filling it with such a squad of incapables as he has foisted into the highest offices.

MEXICO-WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH IT: From the N. Y. Herald.

We published yesterday a short but crisp letter from the city of Mexico. "The entire foreign population of that decaying republic looks hopefully for annexation, absorption, an American protectorate, or any other change which will insure security to life and capital and progress to the country. The Mexican people are anxious and will which most jealously the behavior of Mr. Nelson and an outcropping of Grant's Mexican policy." This is a graphic and exact picture of the condition of the public mind in Mexico. The growth of the contiguous northern republic is projecting the shadow of a colossal figure over the land, which every man sees and recognizes. Those who have interests at stake in the commercial channels of the country contemplate it hopefully, while those whose welfare is connected with the landed and labor interests look at it doubtfully and suspiciously, because they know not how the impending and inevitable change will affect them.

No sensible man-no, not even a sensible thoughtful Mexican-believes that order can be established permanently in Mexico without the interposition or aid of some other na tion more powerful and more advanced in civilization, and there is no nation that can interpose or give a helping hand but the United States. As to the development of the wonderful natural resources of that country and its progress in wealth and population, the Mexicans can do nothing themselves. Decay is seen everywhere. Though one of the richest and most beautiful countries in the world, a moral, political, and material blight rests upon it, from which there is no recovery but by the infusion of new social, political, and industrial elements. The day of either Spanish or native power has passed. Neither can hold Mexico up to the progressive spirit of the age, or even to her present position. Under purely native Indian rule, or that of the mixed races, she must decline. The spasmodic efforts made under the government of the Indian chief, Juarez, to preserve Mexico are creditable enough, but nothing has been accomplished in the way of harmony or progress, nor could that Government itself have pre served its existence but for the United States. The Mexicans may struggle against their fate. and talk, as they are accustomed to talk, bombastically of their own powers of recuperation and of maintaining their national integrity, but their decay is beyond remedy, and they have to follow the fate of many greater nations in history in this inevitable disso-Intion.

These results are recognized in the recent peech of the retiring United States Minister at Mexico, General Rosecrans, on the occasion of a public dinner in the city of Mexico General Rosecrans admits there is no hope for the future of Mexico but in the infusion of new elements, as those of immigration, railroads, and other means of progress. But he remarks that these new elements must ome soon, or hope will be lost. He speaks however, at the same time of Mexico preserving her own autonomy. That is an error. It is the fatal error that now holds the Mexicans back from progress. The fear of losing their autonomy has prevented immigration, improvements, and progress, and is fast ruin-

prove Mexico, and give her good institutions and liberal aid every way, without sove-reign power over the territory. We cannot undertake a mere protectorate over such a troublesome and belpless people. We must have the country, and then, with possession, population from every part of this country, with capital and enterprise, would pour into Mexico. It would be the history of California over again. The new elements would revolutionize in a peaceful manner old decaying Mexico, and we should have a new state of things, which would be far better than this humbug of a mere sentiment about preserving the autonomy of the nation. The only hope for Mexico is in admission to the American Union, and the sooner her people find that out the better. That is the only autonomy worth taking about, or that is practi-

cable on this North American Continent, What Mexico needs is an insight to the manner in which this is to be attained, and a short view of its practical working after the step is taken. The problem of the manner must be worked out in Washington, and constitutes the great policy which is to succeed the Monroe doctrine on this continent. The resolution of General Banks, offered during the recent session of Congress, for the exten sion of a protectorate over St. Domingo, had a leaning in the right direction, but was in adequate to the great work before us. What is wanted is a clear and distinct enunciation of the fact that any of the republics south of us which desire to come into the American Union on equal terms with the existing members will meet a favorable consideration in Washington, with the assurance that their local and municipal legislation will not be dis-turbed, and that all private rights will be respected. The recent amendments to our Constitution make this step feasible to the republics south of us, and one successful example is all that is required to carry our boundary, without purchase or conquest, to the Isthmus of Darien.

OUR GOVERNMENT AND THE CUBAN STRUGGLE.

The ground which our Government has taken from the start, and still maintains, regarding the Cuban struggle, is simply that of duty under the admitted requirements of international law. As it did not, on the one hand, render any officious, premature aid to the Spanish authorities in ferreting out "Cuban sympathizers," so, on the other hand, it has not fallen short of its full duty in promptly checking any known designs to violate international law. The assertion of a contemporary that the Government "raised false hopes in the Cuban sympathizers, which it now as cruelly crushes," is as unfounded as it is unjust. The chances of success in the Cuban movement never were taken into consideration, as we have been given to understand, in any Cabinet consultation as to what governmental duty required.

For ourselves, we see no inconsistency whatever in the present marked activity of the authorities in preventing violations of the law, as contrasted with any previous conduct of the authorities. What our Government declined to do in the first instance was to proceed to harsh measures on mere suspicion; when, however, direct information, of a sort that could be efficiently acted upon, was furnished to it by the Spanish Minister, of intended criminality, it acted instantly and satisfactorily. And one proof of the good faith which our Government has maintained towards Spain as a friendly power is the satisfaction of its official representatives in this country. Contrast this with the experience of Mr. Adams in London in 1861

and 1869. On the other hand, it is due to our Government to observe that it has a twofold difficulty -a popular and a geographical difficulty-in maintaining its straightforwardness regarding the Cuban question. On the one hand, our people have sympathized heartily with the Cuban cause—and so, doubtless, individually, have the members of the administration, which, unlike its predecessors, agrees cordially with a majority of the people, both in foreign and domestic political questions. On the other hand, the proximity of Cuba to our coast, our enormous sea-board line, the large number of restless and adventurous spirits whom the war left in our large cities, and the great number of our resident Cubans, have made it difficult to discover plots for unlawful expeditions. Nevertheless, as we have said. the Spanish authorities have had no reason to

complain of their information being slighted. Now, of the alleged cases of "neglect of duty" which some papers, for partisan purposes, have set in array against our Government, the greater part will be found to in volve no neglect at all. We have before explained how the selling of arms in open market, and similar procedures, had been misunderstood or misrepresented as infrac tions of law by some of our contemporaries. And as for the very few "hostile expeditions" which have really started from our ports, those that were not checked were not known until they had safely, escaped. It was after their departure that even the papers got wind of them. The truth is that the Government's honesty and rectitude of purpose in the Cuban matter have been made manifest: and the very disagreeableness of its duty should secure it praise. As for the unfair pretense of the World that the late activity of the Government was caused by a decline in Cuban prospects, it is contradicted by facts. Cuban prospects for independence were never brighter than now.

GEN. BURNSIDE AND THE COLORED BROTHER.

"Charity," the apostle tells us, "is not puffed up, and behaveth itself not unseemly. Clearly, Charity is no colored man and brother. The American of African descent is sadly puffed up, and behaveth himself most unseemly.

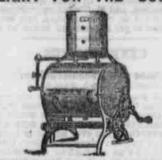
In Washington, the other day, he made horrible attempt to outrage a young white girl of seventeen, the daughter of a clergyman, as it chanced, who has been very conspicuous in exalting the "loyal negro" above the "disloyal white" of the South. The exaltation of the "loyal negro" above the truly loyal white of the North, nowever, strikes him less favorably.

And here in New York the colored man and brother "went back" in the most lamentable manner upon no less eminent a "friend of freedom" than Governor Burnside, In this wise: -C. M. and B. was porter on a sleeping car, and in that capacity, while cleaning the outside of the boots of a dormant passenger, cleaned also the inside thereof. The outside was covered with mud. The inside was replete with greenbacks. The dormant passenger, awakening and finding his boots thus thoroughly "cleaned," caused the arrest of C. M. and B. Governor Burnside, chancing to be on the train, thought it impossible a colored man and brother who had 'saved the life of the nation" could stoop to steal eash out of a white man's boots. So he volunteered to defend C. M. and B., and even to

mortification and his political foes with | ing the country. Nor will the American | become his bail. But, "alas! the missing amazement.

Government and people undertake to immoney was found in the bailwick of C. M. and B., who turned from honest black to disbonest white thereupon and confessed his crime. Had the money not been found, who knows but that Burnside's chivalrous defense of a colored man and brother might have insured him the next radical nomination for the Presidency? Upon such slight events does history turn. A pretty woman's silk stocking, we are told, made Robespierre turn in the street, and, making him turn in the street, sent Louis XVI to the guillotine, and raised a Corsican lieutenant to be the master of the

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