SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

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Editorial Opinions of the Leading Journals Upon Current Topics-Compiled Every Day for the Evening Telegraph.

THE NAMES "REBEL" AND "TRAITOR. From the N. Y. Times.

Shall these appellations be dropped? Really this is becoming one of the questions of the day. Mr. F. F. Blair, in his Long Branch speech, as reported by the secretary, spoke of a people "who were once our enemies, of a people "who were dide our enemies, against whom we contended, and whom we aspersed as Rebels." Mr. A. H. Stephens, in his late work on the *Civil War*, not only carefully avoids the use of the word Rebellion, but takes special pains to dispel all such ideas concerning the war. The Democratic party, universally, ever since the struggle, have continued to be very chary of the term Rebel. It is yet almost as much tabooed by them as it was during the very heat of the strife, when in high convention they simply styled the war an "irregular opposition."

Of course all this expurgation of speech comes from complaisance towards the South. Now, in the interests of pacification we will always be as scropulous as anybody in respect-ing the *just* sensibilities of the South. But we emphatically protest against this way of divorcing vital things from their right names. It involves a sacrifice of constitutional principle, and the Southern favor that requires that is not worth having. "Words are things," said Mirabeau, and it is absolutely true. It is an evil tendency everywhere prevails to gloss over the real nature of every crime by the use of smooth designations, and to this habit is due not a little of the prevailing laxity in respect to all obliga-tions. Crimes will not be hated as they tions. should be hated unless they wear their right stigmas, and their right stigmas over their right names-the names that have always been associated with disgrace. The right name for the late Rebellion was a crime. That thing is as certain as any earthly thing can be. It is a fact which, to alter one iota. would baffle all the sophistry and all the au-dacity of Satan himself. Every law book defines treason to be a crime, and the Constitution of the United States declares in unmistakable terms what constitutes treason. The framers of that instrument, as if foreseeing fully to what desperate equivocations desperate faction might be impelled, took the unusual care to devote an entire, separate, and distinct section to the definition of treason, specifying the crime in these plain words:-"Treason against the United States shall consist in levying war against them, or in adhering to their enemies, giving them aid and comfort." The levying war makes the treason. The war has been levied, and therefore the treason has been committed. All who engaged in the war participated in the treason, and were traitors. That is the plain English and plain truth of it all, in spite of quibble.

If the Southern people desire mitigation of judgment, let them not begin by denying their crime. Even the most brazen felon in our docks don't venture to proceed in that fashion. He admits the offense, and puts in what extenuating circumstances he can.

The loyal men of the republic who made such unheard-of sacrifices of blood and treasure in order to break to pieces this Rebellion, however disposed they may be towards magnanimity and elemency, must insist upon it that the thing which they waged war against was no trifling peccadillo, or mere passing weakness, but the most atrocious and abominable of all crimes. They cannot exculpate the Rebellion without criminating themselves for having fought it. They feel that the only way of justifying themselves, as well as the truest way of guarding against its recur-

Can it be that he has already repented of what he has promised, and is trembling for preroga-tives well-nigh compromised by the pressure of reform on the one hand and a desire for conciliation on the other? In this message he seemed to concede all that was expected or demanded by the opposition; but every one knows that the realization of these concessions depends upon the sincerity which actuated them. The projected reforms are to be submitted to the consideration of the Senate. In the meantime all ventilation of their merits in debate is precluded by the hasty and peremptory adjournment of the sittings of the legislative body, and time is given the Emperor to consider and determine what effect such reforms will have upon the temper of the people, and whether or not his government and dynasty are likely to be endangered

thereby. The Senate, if deemed advisable by their master, can postpone indefinitely or reject altogether these promised reforms. The province of that body, presumed to be true and tried friends of imperialism, is to act as the guardian and interpreter of the Constitution, regulate all questions not specially provided for by that instrument, and refuse sanction to all laws or projects of law in violation thereof or endangering the security of the empire. The Senators, with scarcely an exception, are enemies to liberal government, and have proven ready and willing instruments, under the tutelage of Napoleon, for aiding and forwarding the ideas of imperialism. The plans and projects of the Emperor fail not to meet with their concurrence, and a mere intimation from him that any proposed measure is regarded incompatible with the well-being and dignity of his Government is quite sufficient to insure their disapprobation of it. Jules Favre, the leader and master spirit of liberalism in France, appreciated the situation when he declared his protest against the suspension of the sittings of the Chamber; the members of the left understood it when they vociferously endorsed that protest; the liberal press realize the gravity and danger of delay, and charge the Government with the design of stifling discussion by closing the session, and the people may accept this prorogation as indicative of a duplicity on the part of the Executive favoring the most hostile conclusions.

Napoleon has gone rather too far to recede unless he really means revolution. Judging from his past history, his wisdom and foresight, we cannot believe that he now means determined resistance to popular will at a time when that resistance might compromise all that he holds dear. He may be actuated by an earnest desire to promote the liberties of the people at every reasonable sacrifice of personal government and prerogative. Convinced of the advent of an era of reform, he may even, with a boldness of initiative truly Napoleonic, realize, inforestalling them, the hopes of liberal France. In exercising his right to adjourn the Corps Legislatif, he may have desired nothing more than to prevent those zealous and ofttimes futile discussions which, "on the eve of a great liberal act," serve only to provoke hos-tility among rival parties. All these and other good intentions may have been his; yet, we submit, this sudden prorogation has a smack of authority and independence which savors strongly of a continuation of the oneman power. In submitting contemplated reforms to the consideration of the Senate, we are inclined, under existing circumstances, to recognize a desire to gain time, and who knows but in that time intervening between the prorogation and convocation of the Legislative Assembly changes may take place in the spirit of the opposition and spirit of the people which will convince Napoleon that resistance at every hazard is necessary to prevent the sacrifice of his power and dynasty. Free thought and free discussion are dangerous only to illiberal and oppressive government; but if reform and freedom are intended, if hopes created by a message at once conciliatory and generous are not to be falsified, there can be no danger in discussion, as there is no necessity for delay. Whatever be the immediate result of this initiatory contest in France, no one can be blind to the fact that republican ideas and the system of free representative government are daily growing more popular in Europe, and becoming too firmly implanted in the hearts of the people to be uprooted by revolution. The republicans have boldly launched their bark, and it now remains to be seen whether they are prepared to conduct it safely through the malstrom of political agitation and possible revolution.

desires to gain time, and ascertain, unembar-rassed by the spur of legislative discussion, to what extent he may safely yield to the people? Bourbons; and Isabella II will be glad to promote with all her power the objects of the Council; but her power at present is nought. She may favor Rome with her presence next winter, but Spain is hers no longer; and her successors in authority are necessarily her an tagonists in their attitude towards ecclesiasti cal pretensions. Of the smaller Catholic States, Bavaria has already evinced her apprehensions of the Council; so that "Most Faithful" Portugal alone remains devoted to the present designs of the Papacy.

As to the Bishops from over-sea, but espe cially from this country, we feel confident that their influence will be quietly exerted in favor of letting well alone. They naturally shrink from any new declaration or dogma calculated to widen the gulf between "the Church" and those from whom it has gained many converts, and confidently expects to gain more. They will acquiesce in whatever may be ultimately agreed on; but they will prefer to leave matters much as they find them. We conclude, therefore, that either the council will be, for some reason, post poned, or that it will evince an unmistakable purpose to leave things nearly as they find them.

THE NEW BIRTH OF THE BEND. From the N. Y. World,

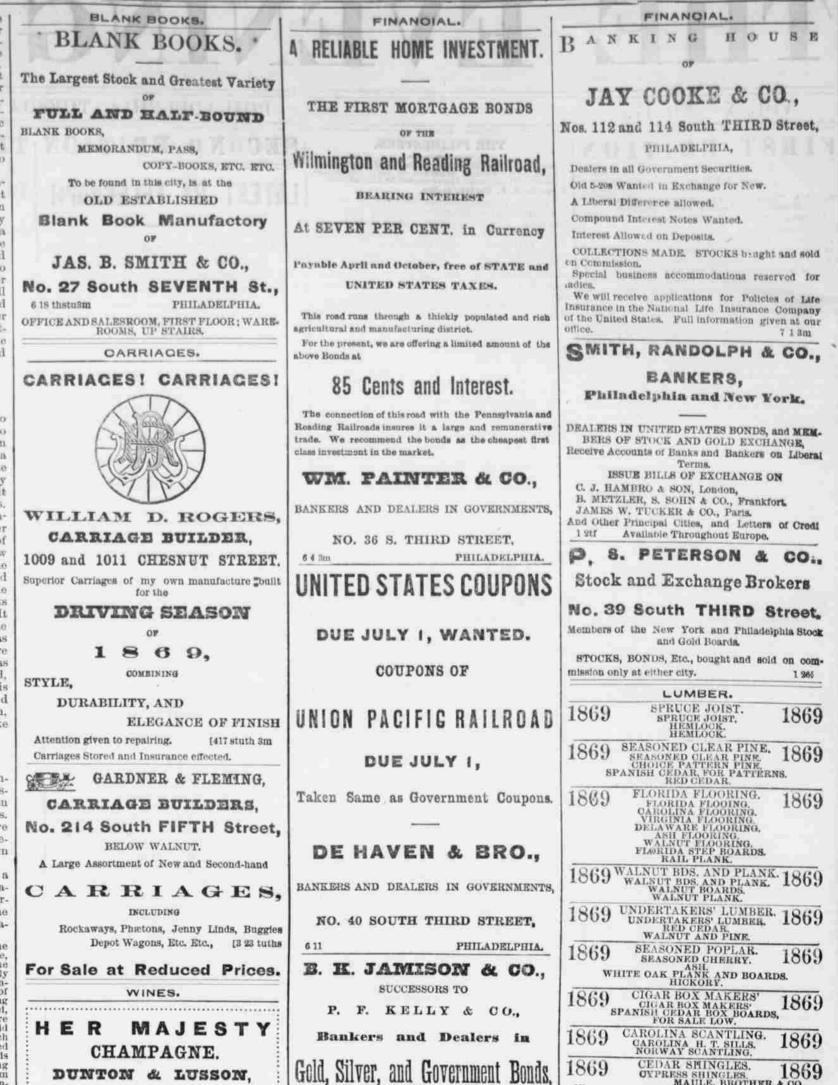
It has come again. Like "curses, home to roost," like a "bad penny," or like anything to which one likes to compare it, the Grecian Bend is upon us; and, whether it be Amanda or Aspasia, whether in the Park or in the surf, or in the shade, or where jocund day stands tiptoe on the misty mountain tops, it has come, and the cry is still it comes, What was last year presumed to be caricatured out of existence, and what last winter dared not curve itself within the smiles of men or before the sneers of women, now expands on the street, appears on the promenade, uprears itself in the parlor, and hies to the hop in all its composite magnitude and wonderful disproportions. Nor has its arrival been heralded; nor was it expected. It has burst upon us with the secrecy and the suddenness of an epidemic. The cholera was dimly foreseen. Of the yellow fever there were premonitions. Casual hydrophobia was to be looked for; because the dog-star raged, and the dog-law was nullified. But this calamity, in its widespread fury, concealed itself as an inner earth-fire, and then, from Key West to the St. Lawrence, broke upon us-

"All at once, and nothing first, Just as bubbles do when they burst."

The offense is not a contagion; it is a conspiracy. No few exclusives renewed the cusom, so that it could be taken up in imitation by others. The event was simultaneous. Every bend erected itself, by what must have been an instinct, at the same time. Skowhe gan was as prompt as Saratoga, and Burgtown vas not behind Brooklyn.

Any one viewing the full result which is a Grecian Bend may wonder, but cannot analyze. To marvel is inevitable. To understand is not permitted. The way in which the 'effect" is produced, however, is authoritatively said to be as follows:--

"High-heeled shoes dispose the wearer to incline forward, and high-heeled galters are, therefore, adopted. She (the belle of the season) is thus the more readily enabled to elevate her hips unnaturally behind, enhancing the aspect of the panier to con-tract the stomach and to form an S-like curvature of the upmer shape by thrusting out the chest drawing tract the stomach and to form an S-nke curvature of the upper shape by thrusting out the chest, drawing back the shoulders, and bending forward the head, the latter crowned by a hideons chignon. To secure this posture, to which nature is unequal, it is said that a belt is fastened about the waist, from which belt down either side descend two straps furnished with buckles, and these are attached to strong bands made fast around the lower thicks. The the then made fast around the lower thighs. The tightening of these buckles draws up the hips and holds them in place. Thus, by the aid of the panier, bustle, contracted stomach, expanded chest, out-thrust head, enormous chignon, and the apparatus just described. the whole superstructure standing upon A 1 galters, we have the Grecian Bend." With the boy who had just learned, after six weeks' study, the alphabet, it is pertinent cree has passed. The bend is ordained. Rather let us hail the effort and the work as indicative of what woman can do when she has a fair chance, nor sneer when Miss Anthony and the whole sisterhood seek, by tightening the straps aforesaid, to lift themselves to a higher sphere.



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rence at any future day, is to fix the impres sion of its unparalleled wickedness, and to perpetuate an undying hatred and horror We search history in vain for any civil

crime which can be compared for a moment in enormity with that which was directed against our nationality. There have indeed been just rebellions-great popular uprisings which have upheaved old Governments and established new. But history fails to show a single instance of that kind which was not caused by some forms of grievous oppression, and these rebellions have uniformly been made in the real or supposed interest of human liberty and progress. But this Southern Rebellion did not come from any genuine popular movement at all. It was hatched in conspiracy, and developed in satantic misrepresentation and fraud. The sole end of its creation was the behoof of an institution which all lovers of humanity and freedom have abhorred. The treason was perpetrated, not as all other treasons of the age have been, against a superannuated monarchy in the last stages of decay, but against a free republic, filled with lusty vigor of youth, already the envy and admiration of the world, and yet, but at the very start, as it were, of a career grand beyond all example or conception. From whatever point of view this treason is regarded, it stands out clearly and unmistakably unparalleled in human history. We are as yet too near to it fully to apprehend its real measurement. As the traveller, when before the Pyramid of Ghizeh, finds it impossible to adapt his senses to its immensity, is half inclined to count it no great affair after all, and only gets just notions of it when he withdraws to the distance, and surveys it as ontlined against the sky, so we near observers of this pre-eminent iniquity fail to estimate its real proportions, and it will not be fully comprehended until viewed in the perspective of history. It will be for the future Macaulays and Hallams to gauge it and depict it in all its infernal monstrosity. But while we wait for another generation to pass its exact judgment, don't ask this one to soften it down or to take it for anything else than

what our every-day senses show it to be. Nothing could be worse calculated to help on the cause of pacification. So far from winning the generous feelings of the heart, it inshes them all to an honest indignation. Any extent of charity and forgiveness, we say, for our brethren who were blinded and misled, with whom we hope to walk hereafter in peace; but when we are asked to belie all truth and justice, to call good that which is evil, to call bloody treason innocent and honorable, every honorable impulse responds No-a thousand times No ! We will be reconciled with our brethren, but not with the hideous object of their recent infatuation. As for that demon-our only language must be that which followed Danton to the scaffold, "Go down to hell, with the curses of all wives and mothers."

WHAT DOES NAPOLEON MEAN ? From the N. Y. Herald.

The unexpected prorogation of the Corps Legislatif on the eve of liberal concessions, which were calculated to appease the ardor of the opposition and, for the present at least, satisfy the aspirations of the people, is an imperial stroke of policy which admits of many interpretations by no means favorable to the friends of liberalism. Can it be that Napoleon | mination from the Vatican. As to Spain, she

THE CCUMENICAL COUNCIL. From the N. Y. Tribune.

We desire to record a prediction that the Ecumenical Council will either be postponed, or that its results will prove signally meagre and disappointing.

Pius IX, by his frequent and pointed allo cutions, leaves no doubt as to his views and purposes. He has called this General Council upon a predetermination that it shall affirm and uphold the most advanced pretensions of the Papal See-those distinguished in Western Europe as Ultramontane. He leaves us no chance to doubt that he looks upon Christendom as marching straight to perdition for want of due docility to the guidance of the Holy See; and he desires by this Council to save it from the fruits of its own devices.

Now, if the points on which his heart is set had relation to the domain of abstract or speculative theology, he might establish them with little difficulty. If, for example, he wished it proclaimed a dogma of the Catholic Church that the Virgin Mary was uncreated, and of the essence of the Deity, it would be so decreed without open opposition, and received without a murmur by the faithful. But it is very plain that the Pope is intent on an affirmation by the Council of what he terms the liberties of the Church-its powers, immunities, and authority to fix and declare the boundaries which define the authority of the Church from that of the State; and here he treads on slippery ground. We have said that he might obtain the assent of the Council to any dogma of speculative theology; but suppose he were to wish the use of the steam engine interdicted to Catholics-what then ?

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Europe has four leading Catholic States or countries-France, Austria, Italy, Spain-and not one of these, as at present constituted, regards the council or its presumed objects with favor. Napoleon is ommously silent: but his is not the silence that implies assent. It is not yet cereain that he will permit the attendance of the French bishops; though he probably will. Austria has of late lost favor at Rome, and is very unlikely soon to regain it. Her relations to the Papacy grow steadily less and less cordial; and the recent imprison. ment of one of her bishops, for acts done by him in obedience to the Papal authority, is morally sure to produce further aliena-tions. Italy is in a state of practical revolt against the Papal authority, and "the Cisalpine Government" rarely fails to receive a liberal share of each successive ful-



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