THE DAILY EVENING TELEGRAPH-PHILADELPHIA, THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 1869.

SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

A RELIC OF THE OLDEN TIME. From the N. Y. Times.

An ancient fire-eater still lives, and his home is Mobile. And the defeat of the Democratic candidate for Congress in that district troubles him. And he vows that that defeat. having been caused by the indifference of white men, shall be atoned for by immediate repentance or blood.

Of this ancient fire-eating sentiment the Mobile Register is the organ. It declares that the election of a Republican member for its district is a calamity for which "the white men who have thought proper to absent them-selves from the polls" are responsible. It propounds the inquiry, "Are we for ever to be the bondsmen and serfs of an invading gang of plunderers?" and responds with a thundering No !

thundering No! "We have, as a people, been patient—oh, how pa-tientl—for years, because we looked to a united people at home, and to a more generous feeling at the North, for relief from our intolerable burdens. I never entered into our plans or purposes to en-dure the present condition of affairs forever. But now that, after four years of endurance, we find our-selves deserted by enough of our own people to se-cure the ascendancy of C. B. rule over us, we are forced to look about for other and new remedial measures. Those of us who mean to be free at all hazards must do one of two things—effher, first, de-sert this C. B. and negro-cursed land, and find a home whose air we can breathe without stifling, or we must resort to the ultima ratio, and drive our tyrants away. Had the white deliaguents at the polls come to the front, there had been no occasion for thoughts like these. The majority of this people mean to have their liberties, and if blood comes of it, its stain will be upon the garments of those who, having before them a peaceful solution of the coun-try's difficulties, and refusing to aid in it, have forced mean to think of sterner remedies." men to think of sterner remedies.

But the Register reckons without its host. The majority of its neighbors are not of the fire-eating fraternity, or the defeat it deplores had not occurred. It was beaten at the polls because the majority are on the other side. They are quite as anxious for the maintenance of their liberty, probably, as are the class for whom the Register speaks; but they interpret liberty in a more rational sense. To the mind of the fire-eater that much-abused term formerly meant liberty to flog negroes and rule the State: and now it means liberty to expel Northern and colored citizens who refuse to vote the Democratic ticket. The majority who are not fire-eaters prefer the liberty which is according to law; tkey can breathe the air of home without stifling, or without wasting words about "the nitima ratio," because they have made up their minds to labor and to wait for the happier time which a little common sense and good feeling will assuredly bring.

The Register, however, will be satisfied with nothing less than another war:---

"These reflections lead us to believe that we have entered upon a new phase of this extraordinary revolution, and that the years to come will not be as quiet as those that have passed. It is not in the nature of men, especially of men of our race, to sit down supinely while they are taxed to a confiscation of their property by a handrul of strangers. Brutes will fight for their lives, their food, and their young, and our homes, our subsistence for wives and chil-dren, are threatened; and when liberty is thrown into the scale with the means of livelihood, and when we are boldly told if we do not like it we can abandon our country, an issue is presented that is not long debatable. When that issue comes to be made up—and it is imminent—it is one that a spark may at any moment kindle into a configgration—our noa-voting white people will disc ver that they had some interest in the late election. They will nave to fight, whereas they only had to vote."

Here is a Southern Rip Van Winkle-one in whose veins courses the blood of the whole race of fire-eaters ! The slight excitement of an election has awakened him from a nineyears' sleep. He rubs his eyes and sees those who were once his slaves his equals at the ballot-box; he sees white men voting for a Republican candidate, and a large crowd of white men content to let the Republican win. The spectacle is too much for his venerable nerves. He swears and raves like a lunatic. He threatens vengeance against white and black alike. He sharpens his bowie-knife and polishes his rifle. And then, rushing to the file of the Register for August, 1859, he paraphrases its vaporings, and dreamily contemplates the sensation they will produce. The multitude who have not been asleep know that the intervening ten years have somewhat materially altered the situation. They have had one war, and think that quite enough. It has changed the relations of the races, and in some degree the theory of the Government; but they have faith in the superior intelligence and capacity of the whites, and are not afraid of the final results. It has left them embarrassed, with rich fields desolate and old homes in ruins; but they are doing their best to reorganize industry and regenerate business, and they feel that their efforts will be rewarded with success. These men don't treasure the files of the Register. They are ready to subscribe a moderate sum with the view of transferring them to the archives of the Southern Historical Society, as a memorial of the madness that once reigned in Mobile. But they have no thought of hearkening to an oracle that is behind the age. They showed their purpose on this subject by going to the polls in friendly compe-tition with the blacks, or by staying away from the polls, and so helping the voters to defeat the Democratic candidate.

It seems that, on the 20th of January last, Mr. Harlan submitted to the Senate a bill which granted the right of way to General Fremont's road, and proposed a United States guarantee of the six per cent, bonds of the company to a specified amount. Whether this guarantee was special or general, we do not know; though we believe it contemplated a Northern as well as a Southern Pacific Rullroad, and perhaps two or three branches. But, whether general or special, we are inflexibly opposed to all such guarantees. The Government has virtually supplied the means wherewith one railroad from the Missouri to the Pacific, over the most difficult and desolate route, has already been constructed. There the subsidy business must stop. To grant lands in mid of a projected railroad through the public domain is another matter. The Government may well afford to give alternate sections for a breadth of twenty miles or so along the track of any trans-continental railroad; for the lands retained will be worth far more than the whole were prior to the construction of the road. If four railroads across the continent were built, and each were to be conceded alternate sections for twenty miles along its track, the public domain, though thereby diminished in area,

would be largely increased in value. Hence we favor land-grants to important railroads But General Fremont's road, since we had any knowledge of it, has asked of Congress merely the right of way across the public lands; and this the House voted (February 22, '69) to grant-yeas, 121; nays, 41. An other resolve to the same effect was adopted by the new House, a month later-yeas, 102: nays, 49. That the Senate would have concurred if it had been allowed to vote on the question, was never doubtful; but the pressure of business and unfair manceuvres in committee precluded any action thereon last spring. We cannot doubt that the right of way will be promptly conceded next winter. A third joint resolve to the same effect with the foregoing was submitted to the Senate (March 9) by Governor Morton, referred to its Committee on Public Lands, favorably reported (April 9) by that committee, and now awaits decisive action.

General Fremont's road commences at the head of navigation on Red river, and pushes thence nearly due west through Northern Texas; Arizona, and Southern California, to San Diego on the Pacific. Following mainly the course of Red river and the Gila, it cannot be nearly so expensive or difficult as the central road already constructed, while it will encounter no obstruction from snows and little from mountains. Its eastern terminus will be promptly connected with railroads to Memphis, Savannah, and other commercial points. It inherited some sixty or eighty miles already graded before the Rebellion, and which only failed to be ironed because the Confederacy took away the rails, chairs, etc., for use elsewhere. It is pushing on the work of grading, has a large quantity of rails bought and paid for, has had three full corps of engineers in the field for months, making the final location of its line through Texas, which State has incorporated it, granted it the right of way, and 10,240 acres of State lands for each mile in its course through the whole northern border of its vast domain. The Memphis and Little Rock Company has voted to unite and consolidate with General Fremont's road, which expects to have 150 miles of its track completed and cars running thereon by the 1st of March next.

-Such, according to the best information we can gather, is the present status of General Fremont's Southern Pacific Railroad. We do not learn that it is asking our people to aid it by subscriptions, loans, or favors of any kind, beyond the right of way through desolate Arizona, which we presume no Congress will ever vote to refuse it. We hope and

| some portions of the people and the disgust of others,

This, however, would not satisfy Andy. He is nothing without something which he can call "my policy;" and by sheer force of will and fertility of invention, he would commit the Democracy to a series of impracticable issues and disastrous measures, from which they could not escape without declining or even resisting his leadership, whereupou he would do his best to circumvent and overwhelm them. If the Democracy of Tennesee can only be induced to send him back to Washington, he may in the future, as he has done in the past, enable the Republicans to win battles which they would otherwise be pretty sure to lose. They owe negro suffrage to him; and their success in the next Presidential contest may possibly depend upon his election to the Senate.

FREE CUBA. From the N. Y. World.

Our information by telegraph from Madrid and from Washington permits no further doubt that the administration has caused to be laid before the Spanish government a proposition for the political independence of Cuba, similar in its outlines to that originally developed in the World, and that the result has been what, our readers will bear us witness, we predicted it would be if the leprous Sickles were permitted to be in any sense an intermediary.

The proposition was made the subject of a Cabinet council at Washington and approved. It was also then determined that it would be prudent, in the existing emergency, not to trust everything, in so important a negotia-tion, to Sickles. Mr. Paul S. Forbes, of this city, was therefore sent to Madrid by the administration as a confidential Government agent in association with the newly-appointed Minister — a place for which his former intimacy with Prim especially qualified him.

Full private directions were given to Mr. Forbes by the State Department, and formal instructions to Sickles. Both were aimed at the single point of endeavoring to persuade Spain to concede political sovereignty to the Cubans, on condition of the latter pledging themselves, in proper form, to pay to Spain a certain sum of money, which payment was to be in some manner guaranteed by the United States.

Before the administration decided to issue such instructions, conference was had with the Cespedes embassy in this country, headed by M. Morales Lemus, and the plan was so heartily approved by him that, in behalf of the Cuban insurgents, he entered into a written agreement-a sort of protocol-with the Government that Cuba would, on its part, carry out the terms to be submitted by the United States (as we have heretofore described) to the government at Madrid.

The proposal, as made by Sickles to Marshal Serrano, while not peremptorily declined. was not received in a manner to indicate that it will at present be accepted. Mr. Forbes, however, is of the opinion that he will yet succeed in carrying out the wishes of the Grant and Cespedes administrations in the matter, provided that for the future Sickles keeps his defiling fingers out of the negotiation.

For ourselves we have little faith. We fear it is to be the old story of a beneficent political arrangement frustrated by the mental incapacity and moral badness of those whose function it is to make it a reality. General Grant has been incapable to see the insult to Spain and the wrong to the United States of commissioning such a wretch as Sickles to exercise the authority or to speak the voice of one government in the dominions of the other. And who dare say that the Senate will not be as kind as he?

We can only hope that President Grant will trust that it will be steadily pushed on to not also go to Mercer street for ambassa-

to believe that Germany was on the fair way to final victory and complete consolidation, specks have appeared on the horizon which compel us to admit that the German question is not yet beyond the regions of the doubtful, and that the life of Count Bismark is becoming more valuable to Prussia and the general German cause as age and growing infirmities induce him to seek retirement. Russia busies herself more and more with questions of internal reform, and manifests a genuine anxiety to develop the races which Providence has entrusted to her care. The emancipation of the serfs was a mighty step in the right direction. The more recent abolition of the privileges of the clergy shows that the governing policy of Russia for the time being is clearly in favor of popular liberty and such development as is compatible with the general inte rests of the empire. One of the most interesting items of our latest news comes from the northwest of Europe, Scandinavia shows signs of growing strength and purpose. Sweden, Norway, and Denmark are inhabited by a people that belong to a common stock. Sweden and Norway have for some generations been one, and to both union has been a benefit. Denmark has been painfully isolated, and of late Denmark has grievously suffered. This suffering and loss the Scandinavian races, one and all, see must continue unless they can come under some common bond of union. They have recently, as our news columns have shown, had a grand meeting, at which such union was strenuously advocated, and the approaching marriage of the Crown Prince of Denmark with the daughter and only

child of the reigning family in Sweden pro-mises to make this desired union a fact. If we look at the situation in Europe from another point of view-from a point of view of more general interest-the situation is even more interesting. We know well that there are many influences which are sufficient to cause war. We know that war is avoided because of its uncertain consequences rather than because war is believed to be intrinsically and essentially bad. There are outstanding questions between France and Prussia of a very serious kind. But Napoleon has not been able to persuade himself that war with Prussia would of a certainty redound to his advantage, and war with that power has in consequence been very wisely avoided. It is scarcely otherwise with Prussia, although Prussia has the advantage in having no special reason to court war. The recent speeches of Von Beust, the Austro-Hungarian Chancellor, one of the ablest men of this age, a man who is not to be named second to either Napoleon or Bismark, show that in the event of difficulty arising between Prussia and France, Austria would be much more likely to take the side of France than the side of Prussia. The latest speech of Von Beust, taken in connection with the sentiments of the Austrian Red Book. is rather alarming than otherwise. It has caused, indeed, a profound sensation, particularly in Paris and Vienna. The French interpretation of the language of the Premier is in effect that the Austrian statesman has informed Prussia in diplomatic terms that the empire does not need the friendship of consolidated Germany, having France in entente

cordiale.

We now know with some degree of certainty how Europe would arrange itself in the event of war. In spite of all the trouble which is now supposed to exist in the East, we must still regard France and Prussia as the two powers most likely to come into contact. A war between them would necessarily divide Europe into two hostile camps. Austria would go with France if it came to pressure. In such a case Russia might deem it necessary to go with Prussia. The Scandinavian kingdoms might remain neutral, but if necessity were laid upon them they would be much more likely to take the side of the Germans than that of the French. Italy would have no choice, but remain neutral, and Spain and Portugal are so helpless that they cannot be taken into How the conflict would end we will account. not take it upon us now to say. Certainly we do not think that the South could beat the North. After all, however, the war clouds are not very alarming. All the nations are too busy with questions of domestic reform to allow themselves easily to be dragged into war. The indications for the present are in favor of nationalities. The nations threaten to become less numerous and more powerful. We are likely soon to have fewer governments and not so many crowned heads. Europe sees and admires the career and prosperity of her greatest offshoot, and the example of the United States is revolutionizing the nations. The revolution is general and goes on apace, but war does not necessarily enter into the programme.

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One thing is certain. If the Register has not sufficient influence to force the Mobile whites to vote, it is not likely to be able to drive them into another fight. Its thunder is too theatrical to frighten anybody.

The misfortune is that the threats of one noisy fire-cater will be turned to account by his noisy counterpart in the North, always on the lookout for utterances of this sort, and we shall be told in next week's Anti-Slavery Standard that the Mobile whites are preparing for bloodshed and violence, and the words of the Register will be cited in proof of it. Passions are thus stimulated which all good men would gladly see extirpated; pretexts for persecution are furnished which those familiar with the facts know to be untenable and unjust. In this way the South suffers from blows inflicted by those who pretend to be its peculiar friends. Mobile will be happier when the last fire-eater passes to another and more enduring slumber.

GEN. FREMONT AND HIS RAILWAY. From the N. Y. Tribune.

The fact that General John C. Fremont, now in Paris on business connected with the projected "Memphis, El Paso, and Pacific Railroad," whereof he is president, has there encountered obstacles and embarrassments growing out of misrepresentations set afloat with regard to our Government's connection with that project, has been set forth in some journals in such a manner as to prejudice unjustly both General Fremont and his rail-We need not assure our readers that rond. General Fremont has made no misstatements, but many will be glad to learn that none have been made on his authority or by the company whereof he is president. Whatever misapprehensions may at any time have existed must have grown out of the statements of persons engaged in selling the bonds of the company, and too eager to make profits to be careful of facts.

completion, and that, while our country will be immensely enriched by it, General Fremont and his associates in its construction will not be losers.

ANDY JOHNSON IN THE SENATE AGAIN. From the N. Y. Sun.

Tennessee is agitated over the choice of a Senator to fill the seat which Mr. Fowler vacates in March, 1871. Outside of the State it seems to be taken almost for granted that Andrew Johnson will be the successful man. The relative strength of the various elements that make up the majority of the Legislature is not yet apparent, but we doubt whether the ex-President will be able to clutch the prize so easily as his admirers imagine.

Any faction that thinks of choosing Johnson will know in advance precisely what they are going to have; and this will make shrewd politicians wary of bestowing upon him for six years the influential position of United States Senator. Unless a change has come over him hardly short of a miracle, he will return to the Senate not to be a follower, but a leader. The history of American politics does not furnish a character whose escutcheon might more appropriately bear the motto:-Rule or ruin. The last four years conclusively show that if the party which he attempts to lead should venture to resist his domination, he will do his best to destroy it. And this eventful period has also demonstrated that he is one of that class of leaders whose friendship is more dangerous than his enmity, and who is more likely to harm his followers than his antagonists.

Should Mr. Johnson, then, be chosen to the Senate, whom will he attempt to lead? Certainly not the Republicans, for he will enter Congress as their implacable foe. The red banners of the bauderilleros, shaken defiantly in the face of the bull in the amphitheatre of Madrid, do not more infuriate the animal and rouse him to fight even unto death than the countenances of Fessenden, Conkling, Howard, Nye, and their Republican colleagues in the Senate Chamber would inflame the anger and invoke the "damnable iterations" of Andy Johnson. To the Democrats, therefore, he must look for his following

Doubtless it would be a speciacle truly gratifying to the Democracy, both within and without the Capitol, to witness Johnson's ondaughts upon the Republicans; and if they could only contrive to have him open his oratorical batteries upon the cohorts of Grant's administration, without being drawn into the melee themselves, their joy would be unalloyed. But Johnson is not the man to go to war at his own charges, nor to get up a fight merely for the benefit or amusement of others: and he will let the Democracy know at the very outset that he either rules or ruins. eaving them to find out in the end, perhaps, that he sometimes does both.

Self-reliant, self-willed, and combative: courageous up to the point which lies a little this side of actual peril; not destitute of valu-able resources in debate; with a rough, robust energy, which makes him not a desirable antagonist to grapple with; and smarting under the terrible excoriations of the men whom he would confront in the north wing of the Capitol, Johnson would infuse into the proceedings of the Senate a good deal of acrimony and turbulence, to the amusement of

dresses to welcome the Empress Eugenie.

WILSON ON PARTON. From the N. Y. World. Senator Wilson, of Massachusetts, eagerly

rushes forward to indorse Mr. Parton's vindication of Congress from the charge of corrup tion. The Senator declares that in his many years' service at Washington he has never known a member of Congress to be bribed or corrupted by money. Without dwelling on the obvious circumstance that exactly in proportion to a Senator's own inaccessibility to such corruptions must be the care which his less scrupulous colleagues would take to keep him in ignorance of their miscouduct. occurs to us that Senator Wilson will it do well to explain one little incident which has notoriously occurred during his "term of service in Washington." A certain Mr. Ashley, a member of Congress from Ohio, a leading man in Senator Wilson's own party, and a close ally of his in the great and holy work of impeaching the late President Johnson, was not only accused, but convicted, and that by his own letters, of cor ruptly offering to procure an office in Colorado for a friend on condition of being thereby pecuniarily benefitted himself. This same Mr. Ashley, after this exposure of his infamy, was nominated by President Grant to the post of Governor of Montana. His nomination was passed upon and confirmed by the Senate in which Mr. Wilson sat. and Mr. Wilson voted for the confirmation thereof. These being simple historical facts. se submit that from them it seems but fair to infer: either that Senator Wilson's definition of corrupt conduct in a legislator does not include the making of bargains with candidates for office whereby preliminary influence is exchanged for subsequent profits-in which case Senator Wilson's endorsement be comes void for his non-agreement with the average moral sense of mankind—or else that Senator Wilson can act with public men for years together, meet them in daily political and confidential intercourse, and give them his vote for positions of public trust without even knowing anything whatever of their loings and their character-in which case his indorsement becomes void for incompetency as a witness.

THE STATE OF AFFAIRS IN EUROPE. From the N. Y. Herald.

The situation in Europe is very interesting at the present moment. France is full of trouble, and it becomes more and more p question whether the third party or the Emperor is to come out of all the present commotion master of the situation. The Austrian Government has published its annual Red Book, and Baron Benst has felt it necessary to make statements which show that there is a great deal more sympathy between Austria and France than there is between Austria and Prussia. Spain has been commanding the attention of the nations for the last ten months or more, and while our opinions have varied as to the success or failure of the revolution in that country, we have been induced to be lieve that it was reasonable to hope well for the Spanish race. Germany, under its new Prussian lead, has been commanding the attention of the nations since the commence ment of the famous Schleswig-Holstein question, and particularly since the battle of Sadowa; but while we have had good reason





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