SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

THE MIDDLE GROUND.

From the Richmond Enquirer and Examiner.

We have sometimes thought that we of the South are too prone, in our estimate of Northern opinion, to make out only two classes of political views—the fierce radical and the uncompromising Democrat. It is likely that we overlook a middle element of Northern society; one which, properly appealed to and considerately regarded, would prove in the end, perhaps, to be the most powerful of all. There is a large class of Northern men, we have every reason to believe, firmly and unalterably devoted to the Union, who, partly by our own mismanagement, and partly from the timidity which is the natural complexion of conservatism, is found in opposition to the South, but which would gladly extend to us the right hand of fellowship, and rejoice to see all the States gathered once more under the ægis of the Constitution, if, consistently with their views of the situation, and in accordance with their estimate of duty to their country, this could be done. These men say, and say truly, we believe, that amid all the heat and excitement of our terrible struggle they never allowed themselves to become estranged in feeling from their brethren of the South, and would rejoice exceedingly if they could bury forever every memory of the fratricidal conflict, except that sad yet priceless experience which alone can prevent a repetition of those fearful scenes.

Meeting lately with an eminent member of this class—a man whom we have known from boyhood, and have ever regarded as the very embodiment of truth and integrity, we desired to have a full expression of his views and of any suggestions he might be able to give for a full and cordial restoration of the Union. It is hardly necessary for us to say that this gentleman is intensely American in every pulse and fibre of his frame. He really loves his country, his whole country. His is not that spurious patriotism which could no more cross the Potomac than a witch could cross a running stream; his affection, like that of Robert C. Winthrop, is for his entire country, "whatever its metes and bounds;" and he would as soon set his signmanual to his death-warrant as to any instrument disposing of one acre or foot of its soil.

A mind constituted as is his cannot possibly give birth to theories other than the truly philosophic, and the honest opinions of the class to which he belongs are certainly entitled to our profound consideration. The force of the objection, it is true, that the present, but we now hope only temporary, chaotic condition of our society is no time for the people of the South to assume position in regard to the problems of Federal politics, and to irrevocably ally themselves with any so-called national party, cannot be withstood by any argument in favor of immediate action. Yet deeply sympathizing as we do in any measure promising to promote the welfare of the common country, of which fate has irrevocably sealed our section as a part, and in the catholic spirit of a searcher after truth for future use and advantage, we propose to condense the statement of the gentleman in question as concisely as is consistent with clearness, and we invite the attention of our people, and especially of our brethren of the press, to a fair and candid consideration of these views, as embodying the only hopeful scheme, in the estimation of a large-hearted and truly patriotic man, for a restoration of peace and prosperity to our distracted country.

In the first place, this gentleman is, we believe, a fair exponent of the middle party of the North when he declares that a grievous wrong and a fatal error is embodied in the fifteenth amendment. He would stave off as long as possible a decisive vote on this point, hoping and believing that it is still possible to preserve the National Constitution from so foul a blot, and that the States may remain the sole, as they are certainly the best, judges as to the limits of the elective franchise. He regards the effort to mingle the two races in social and political economy as only practicable on the basis of miscegenation—a proposition so foul as to be condemned in its very utterance. This, then, being out of the question, he thinks there is no hope for a peaceful settlement of this vexed question until the negro himself and the whole nation is convinced of the necessity of providing a separate home for a race which has been sealed by the Almighty to a separate existence, and is distinct and different from the whites, not more by color than by antagonistic characteristics of mind and temperament. Where this home shall be is a perplexing question, but may find its solution when the United States have become possessed of the whole or the greater part of the West India Islands. In the meantime, whilst we in Virginia are bound in good faith, and as the inexorable condition of our restoration to the Union, to pass the fifteenth amendment, our friend is very hopeful that the North itself has paused, and will ultimately refuse to incorporate into the national compact this fearful and foolish attempt to change human nature by crude legislation.

Passing by this perplexing problem—leaving it largely to time, as the truest and best arbiter, and invoking calmness and kindness in its consideration, our friend lays down the following platform, as the only one broad enough and strong enough to contain and support a truly great national party:—

First. That the national debt shall be regarded as sacred. Whatever the seductive promises, hopes and illusions held out by the advocates of repudiation, this gentleman believes that any party really advocating it will be ignominiously defeated. There is wit and wisdom enough in the popular heart and mind to comprehend that no nation can afford to dishonor itself, and that the South must learn to look at the question as a matter of fact and not of feeling.

Second. That the Democratic party shall be utterly and eternally disbanded. Whatever of true principle it has will, of course, survive, but under its present name and associations it is doomed to perpetual defeat. The radicals will continue to conquer so long as the good and true men are separated by old and obnoxious party names and organizations.

Third. The earnest and most positive prohibition of the introduction of any new race on this continent, unless it be Caucasian. In other words, as our friends of the *Dispatch* would say, "No Chinese." We have one race too many now, and the introduction of another would only make "confusion worse confounded."

Such briefly is the programme, our friend thinks, under which conservatism alone could triumph. He avers that it is his conviction that if the South can embrace it heartily, she may soon be happy and prosperous. If not, she must make up her mind to an indefinite continuance of radical rule.

THE COLONIES AND THE EMPIRE.

From the Pall Mall Gazette.

Who writes for influential colonists should himself be influential, and we will assume that this principle has been kept in view in the selection of Messrs. Youl, Sewell, and Blaine to communicate with the different colonial Governments in reference to the present state of relations between the mother country and her colonies." At all events their circular letter both deserves and is certain to receive full consideration on its own merits. It refers to a question which is likely to become increasingly urgent, but to which it is extremely difficult to give an answer which shall be at once positive and satisfactory. The truth is, our colonial empire is an anomaly. It has been the growth of chance, not of design, and as it cannot be accounted for on any intelligible principle, it does not easily lend itself to any uniform theory of administration. For a long time the colonies have been governed after a hand-to-mouth fashion which has been found to answer tolerably well. The colonists have been left to manage their own affairs in their own way until by their own or other people's mismanagement they have found themselves in difficulties. Then we have come forward and helped them, and as the aid they want has usually been military, we have found it more convenient to maintain permanent colonial garrisons than to send soldiers to the other end of the world at a moment's notice. Englishmen are so patient of inconsistencies, so positively suspicious in many cases of a political theory which runs on all fours, that this state of things has caused them no discomfort. If such an arrangement can escape questioning, it may rub on for many years without much inconvenience, but the course of events both in England and in the colonies no longer allows it to escape questioning. Growing expenditure on the one hand, and growing independence on the other, are forcing us to construct a system of colonial government which can be acted on and defended. In a tentative sort of way the Colonial Office has lately been trying its hand at this work. The immediate occasion has been the outbreak of another Maori war in New Zealand, but the principle which dictated the now famous despatch of the 21st of March, 1869, is plainly applicable to so many cases that it rises to the level of a general law. Lord Granville declined to guarantee a fresh New Zealand loan because, "so far as there is any equitable claim remaining unsettled, it is not a claim on the part of New Zealand against Great Britain, but the reverse;" and in support of this statement he maintains that "the Imperial Government have not transferred to the colony any obligation whatever," that "all the Imperial expenditure on the colony has been for the benefit of the colonists," and that "no part of the colonial expenditure has been in any degree for the benefit of the mother country." As to all our important colonies the Home Government has ceased to interfere in their administration or to dictate their expenditure. In every other case where the State confers benefits it claims an equivalent of some kind, and the Government of the colonies is no longer to constitute the solitary exception to this rule.

We do not wonder that this doctrine has carried dismay to some colonies and given food for reflection to all. The letter which has suggested our remarks says truly enough that "the disclosure of such a policy opens a new view of the relations of the mother country towards them." Strictly speaking, perhaps, it is not a new view, for the word "new" seems to imply that some other and contrary view has been taken previously, whereas we should be inclined to say that this is the first time the Colonial Office has formulated any distinct view at all. It is obvious that a rigid adherence to the policy laid down by Lord Granville will considerably alter the relation of the colonies to Great Britain, and it is very reasonable that some opportunity should be given to those most directly affected by the change of communicating with each other and with the Home Government upon the points on which the Colonial Office and the colonies seem to be at issue. A conference of colonial representatives to meet in London about February is probably as good a scheme as can be devised of supplying this want. Up to this point, therefore, we are quite at one with Messrs. Youl, Sewell, and Blaine. So far as any indications of the doctrines likely to find favor with such a conference can be gathered from their letter, we foresee that it may hereafter be much less easy to agree with them. To begin with, we disclaim their description of the new policy. "It appears," they say, "to be this, that, except to the extent of partial protection in case of foreign war with civilized powers, the mother country recognizes no responsibility for the welfare or safety" of the colonies, "nor any obligation to help them, even in circumstances of great danger and pressing need." We object altogether to this parenthetical reference to a very great gift. The writers of this letter have apparently never asked themselves what would be the position of the colonies of Great Britain, supposing them to be declared independent. It is not too much to say, as regards several of them, that independence would be merely the prelude to subjection. Even with all the strength derivable from confederation, Canada would stand no chance the next time an annexation policy became popular in the United States. A war with England is a serious matter, and the idea of it is so unpalatable to most thinking Americans that the annexation cry is certain to get discouraged whenever there is any attempt to raise it. If once this consequence is dissociated from the seizure of Canada, a very important obstacle would be removed. No other colony stands in quite the same position with respect to its neighbors, but Jamaica might also have attractions for the United States, and it is by no means certain that some European power may not hereafter find it more profitable to conquer a ready-made colony than to found a new one, or to put up with having no outlet for the superfluous energy of its people. At all events, these possibilities would have to be guarded against by the emancipated communities if they had only common prudence. It is their connection with the mother country that guarantees them against the danger, and saves them the expense of the precaution. Besides these tangible advantages, there is another which, though moral rather than material, is still deserving of mention. It is something to the colonist to feel that he is an Englishman, that he has interests and sympathies beyond the range of his own colony, that he has a right at any moment to transport himself to the mother country, and to share in all the privileges which she reserves for her children. It is impossible to reduce a sentiment to any fixed standard of exchange, but there must be men in every British colony who feel that independence would give them no compensation for that sense of incorporation into a great empire which is secured to them by union with England. Now for all these benefits England gets a fair equivalent. The cost and responsibility of defending her colonies against foreign aggression are compensated by the fact that her superabundant population does not all go to swell the strength of alien or indifferent powers. If there had been no Canada and no Australia, there might have been more Fenians in the United States. The sense of dignity which the connection with her gives to the colonist is compensated by the corresponding sense of empire which so often saves English politics from that vulgarity to which they seem naturally prone. The distinction between these cases and those other services which the colonists seem to expect from the mother country is that the latter seem to be all on one side. If the writers of this circular can disprove this apparent difference, they will do a great deal to advance their cause.

MRS. STANTON ON THE BYRON CASE.

From the N. Y. World.

If the illustrious poet-lord who died at Missolonghi half a century ago is permitted still to contemplate the affairs of the world across which he flamed like a meteor and upon which the after-glow of his transit yet rests, he must, even in his spiritual estate, experience some of the earthly emotions of bewilderment and wonder. The sorcery of his name has done what the lever of Archimedes would have attempted if the philosopher could have found a basis for his fulcrum. It has moved the world. Probably no man of the later generations whose ashes have been blown about by the winds of five decades retained a stronger hold upon the hearts of mankind. Although dead in the flesh, his spirit was alive and alight, like the lamp in the urn of Polybius. He ruled us from his grave, like the dead and sceptred sovereigns of whom his song discourses. The rehearsal, true or false, of his misdeeds has awakened a tempest of indignation which blows round the world. All hands are outstretched to shield his memory from contumely. He was not a saint, and contemporary censure was natural enough. But death condoned his errors, and there remained in the minds of men throughout all lands and latitudes only the vision of the singer with his singing robes around him and the memory of his immortal song. It is not strange that the attempt to roll the stone away from his grave, and cast therein a posthumous bill of indictment, should awaken the indignant resentment and animadversion of the world. The unanimity with which Mrs. Stowe's public action is condemned makes any defense of it notable, and, for this reason alone, we gave place to a manifesto of exculpatory sort from Mrs. Elizabeth Cady Stanton, which will be found elsewhere. It will not fatigue the reader by its coherence. He will rise from its perusal with that agreeable sense of incertitude as to the writer's meaning, which is, perhaps, the pleasantest fruit of literary recreation. In a general way, the writer seems to desire to shelter Mrs. Stowe from the censures which her indecent essay have brought upon her. But she takes a roundabout way of exculpation, and involves the question in a whole labyrinth of other questions which have nothing to do with it. Whatever Mrs. Stanton may think, the Byron scandal is not a suitable text upon which to build a discourse touching the relations of the sexes and the necessity of revising them by statute. This latter theme engages, of late, the attention of some of the foremost thinkers in the world. For Mrs. Stanton to invade the council where these deep-browed philosophers sit serenely upon their tripods, endeavoring to disentangle the inextricable and solve the insoluble, is perhaps natural enough in view of her well-known earnestness and energy of character. She would beard the Archangel Michael, or clamor amid the Amphictyons, or contradict the seven wise men of Greece, if her humor seemed to impel her to these courageous exercises. We don't think she helps the question which she tries to advocate very sensibly, and she puts in only a very feeble plea for Mrs. Stowe. Like most women and many men, she is inconsecutive, and when her discourse ceases to be turbid it foams into platitude. She thinks, for example, that the statements of Mrs. Stowe must be true, "because in woman's subject, degraded condition she has no protection in the heart of man." Is this Mrs. Stanton's idea of evidence? She might as well adduce in proof of the chastity of Mary of Scotland the fact that no plums grew in Devonshire in the year of the Armada. The truth or untruth of Mrs. Stowe's revelations is to be determined, like any other question of the sort, upon the specific testimony brought forward in support of the charges. Where testimony fails, each mind will adjudge the probability to suit itself. No general propositions touching the inherent sinfulness of mankind nor the subject attitude of women can help to its solution in the least. The mild, illogical old patriarch who thought that Tenderden steeple was the cause of the Goodwin quicksands, because they never vexed the harbor till after the spire was built, had about as clear a perception of the validity of evidence, or of reasoning from premise to conclusion, as Mrs. Stanton evinces.

There is one sentence in Mrs. Stanton's letter which leads us to believe that she sometimes uses language without any adequate sense of its import. "The true relation of the sexes is the momentous question at this stage of our civilization, and Mrs. Stowe has galvanized the world to its consideration. It is a question, too, on which woman will have a word to say; and verily the world will stand appalled as she reveals the tragedies of home-life, where the Beatrice Cencis struggle to-day in nets set by their own household." This is a very ominous style of writing. Does Mrs. Stanton believe that the dark and mournful story of Beatrice has frequent parallels nowadays? If she has any evidence of the sort, she ought to convey it to the authorities empowered to punish crime; if not, she surpasses the lady she has undertaken to defend in the recklessness and indecency of her averments. Probably the most charitable interpretation of this astounding statement is that the writer did not appreciate its atrocious significance. She doubtless set it down by way of rounding off a paragraph. We cannot compliment her upon her method of literary decoration, and think she owes it to the fathers and daughters of the land whom she has thus wildly and fanatically inculpated, to make a suitable apology. If Mrs. Stanton were an obscure person, giving voice on her individual account, we should not think of making her observations the basis of comment. But she is a sister in Israel of the first stature—the champion and apostle of legions of the discontented of her sex—and we have a right to assume that her followers are content to rest their case upon advocacy of the sort in which she deals. If they are satisfied, we have, perhaps, no right to repine. It is their fight, not ours; and we mean no hostility to them in saying that we think the logical panoply and accoutrement of their champion very defective. She seems to disdain all the Aristotelian requisites of argument and discourse. Perhaps the gender of the wise old Greek repels her from making use of any of the fetters by which he would trammel and impede the free and triumphant exercise of woman's thought. She certainly paddles her controversial and apostolic canoe without the least reference to his inculcations. She has not demonstrated the good sense nor the good taste of Mrs. Stowe's unfortunate publication, nor has she evinced her own capability to deal wisely with obscure and intricate questions of social science. She has made one broad and reckless assertion touching the frequency of unnatural relations between kindred. She owes the public an explanation. If she chooses to make it, our columns, to any reasonable length, are open to her. If she has any proof of what she avers, let her bring it forward. If not, let her confess that she has, in the heat of her zeal, made a most blasting and unjust accusation against society, and duly express her contrition therefor.

THE REWARD OF PUBLIC MEN.

From the N. Y. Times.

It is, in a word, to be abused when living and praised when dead. The eulogies lately pronounced upon Senator Fessenden only serve to give fresh force to the reproach that it is impossible for an eminent man to obtain justice until he is no longer in the world to hear its voice. That a man's merits should so seldom be discussed during his lifetime would pass as one of the mysteries of fate if we did not remember that in party warfare few are disposed to exercise fairness—fewer still, magnanimity. It is but a short time ago that Senator Fessenden was accused of the worst offense a politician can commit. Even the odious charge of corruption was laid at his door. Now comes the tardy acknowledgment that he was a man of high principle and unswerving integrity, although one of his recent censors adds, as if in surprise, that he never rendered those services to his country which his ability justified us in looking for. Is it, then, the way to extract great services from any man to brand him as false to his party and his principles, to proclaim him a political outlaw, to vilify his character, misrepresent his motives, and cover him and all his acts with suspicion? Generosity towards the dead is easily rendered; it costs no sacrifice to praise those who are removed from our path forever. But one act of justice to the living is worth all the grand funeral eulogiums that were ever delivered. A short memory for faults and a long one for good services, this is the treatment which ennobles the strife of politics, but few are so fortunate as to receive it. It is deemed enough to throw flowers on the dead, who, but a few hours before, was the object of a pitiless storm of obloquy. If flattery could "soothe the dull cold ear of death," the hard words once levelled at Senator Fessenden would be amply atoned for. One-half of the commendation lavished upon him now would have brightened many an hour of his life. But in his case, as in many others, sympathy is only conceded when the spirit it could have inspired to fresh exertions has passed away. It is an old story, but its perpetual recurrence is far from demonstrating the unerring wisdom of human judgment.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

PROCLAMATION.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, September 6, 1869.

WHEREAS, James J. Brooks, a detective officer in the service of the United States Government, and a resident of the city, whilst in the discharge of his duty, was this day cowardly shot, with the intent to assassinate him, by two or more wickedly disposed persons, in a store situated in the neighborhood of Front and Arch streets, about 2:30 P. M. The assassins hastened to a chaise with two horses attached, which was in waiting close by the scene of outrage, and which, after the dastardly deed was done, was driven furiously, the driver lashing his horses, up Front street to Callowhill street, thence to St. John street, thence to Buttonwood street, thence to Sixth street, thence to Spring Garden street, thence to Fairmount Park, where the trace so far has been lost—

Now, therefore, by virtue of the authority vested in me, I do hereby offer a reward of

($1000) ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS

for information which will lead to the arrest and conviction of the guilty perpetrators of this dreadful act.

The attention of all good citizens is called to this outrage, and their assistance is most earnestly invoked.

DANIEL M. FOX,
Mayor of Philadelphia.
9 7

REPUBLICAN MASS MEETINGS.—THE UNION REPUBLICAN STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE have made arrangements for MASS MEETINGS as follows, viz.:—

Troy, Bradford county	Sept. 4, 1869.
Towanda, "	Sept. 6, 1869.
Honesdale, Wayne county	Sept. 7, 1869.
Kittanning, Armstrong county	Sept. 7, 1869.
Beaver, Beaver county	Sept. 7, 1869.
Bradford, Bradford county	Sept. 7, 1869.
Somerset, Somerset county	Sept. 14, 1869.

The meetings at Troy, Towanda, and Honesdale will be addressed by Governor J. W. Geary, Hon. John Scott, and Hon. W. D. Kelley.

Governor O. P. Morton of Indiana, Hon. John A. Bingham of Ohio, and Hon. Wayne McVeigh of Pennsylvania, will address the meeting at Pittsburg

JOHN COVODE, Chairman.

GEO. W. HAMERSLEY, M. S. QUAY, W. J. P. WHITE, S. F. GWINNER, Secretaries.
8 30 19t

JOSE POEY,

Medico-Cirujano de la Universidad de la Habana, recibe consultas de 9 a 11 de la mañana y de 3½ a 6 de la tarde en su oficina calle Nueva (sud) No. 735. Residencia en la calle de Green, No. 1817.

DR. JOSEPH POEY,

Graduate of the University of Habana (Cuba), has removed his office to No. 735 S. Ninth street. Residence, No. 1817 Green street.

Office Hours—9 to 11 A. M. 3½ to 6 P. M. 7 23tf

THE PENNSYLVANIA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 6, 1869.

The Directors have this day declared a dividend of SEVEN DOLLARS AND FIFTY CENTS per share on the capital stock of the Company for the last six months, which will be paid to the stockholders or their legal representatives, after the 15th inst.

WILLIAM G. CROWELL, Secretary.
9 6 9t

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$900,000 United States Five Per cent. Loan, 10-40s	$798,500'00
120,000 United States Six Per Cent. Loan, 1861	136,800'00
50,000 United States Six Per Cent. Loan (for Pacific Railroad)	50,000'00
200,000 State of Pennsylvania Six Per Cent. Loan	211,375'06
125,000 City of Philadelphia Six Per Cent. Loan (exempt from tax)	128,594'00
50,000 State of New Jersey Six Per Cent. Loan	51,500'00
20,000 Penn. Rail. First Mortgage Six Per Cent. Bonds	20,200'00
25,000 Penn. Rail. Second Mort. Six Per Cent. Bonds	24,000'00
25,000 Western Penn. Rail. Mortgage Six Per Cent. Bonds (Penn. Railroad guarantee)	20,625'00
30,000 State of Tennessee Five Per Cent. Loan	21,000'00
7,000 State of Tennessee Six Per Cent. Loan	5,051'25
15,000 Germantown Gas Company, principal and Interest guaranteed by City of Philadelphia, 300 shares Stock	15,000'00
10,000 Pennsylvania Railroad Company, 200 shares Stock	11,300'00
5,000 North Pennsylvania Railroad Co., 100 shares Stock	3,500'00
20,000 Philadelphia and Southern Mail Steamship Co., 80 shares Stock	15,000'00
207,900 Loans on Board and Mortgage, first Liens on City Properties	207,900'00
$1,169,900 Par. Market value, $1,130,325'25	
Cost, $1,093,604'26.	
Real Estate	36,000'00
Bills receivable for insurance made	323,486'84
Balances due at agencies, premiums on marine policies, accrued interest, and other debts due the company	40,178'88
Stock and scrip of sundry corporations, $3156. Estimated value	1,813'00
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	$1,647,367'80

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