THE DAILY EVENING TELEGRAPH-PHILADELPHIA, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1869

SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

CUBA-THE EXCITEMENT IN SPAIN. From the N. Y. Herald.

A telegram from Madrid says the Spanish press has been in a complete ferment of excitement and indignation since the presentation of General Sickles' notes to the Government. Sickles himself comes in for a share of abuse as well as the United States Government. It is said by the excited press that he was sent to Madrid because he was known to to be a strong partisan of Cuban annexation. The press of Spain, England, and France is much occupied with this subject also. While there is still some of the old jealousy of the United States apparent in the articles of the London and Paris newspapers, the Cuban question and difficulties are in general fairly discussed. "This change of tone is significant and indicates the drift of public sentiment in Europe on the subject. There seems to be an impression that war between Spain and the United States is possible. One of the London journals says the war enthusiasm is gathering fast in Spain, and that what with Spanish pride and American sympathies the situation is very critical. Then, in connection with this excitement in Spain, we hear of the Government sending vessels of war and additional troops to Cuba.

Governments do very foolish things sometimes as well as individuals, and Spain has been famous for that in her disastrous wars with the South American colonies and republics. The Spaniards are very proud, and in the excess of their pride and chagrin at the prospect of losing Cuba may talk of war; but we have no idea that Spain will venture upon a conflict with the United States, for there would be neither honor nor profit in such a conflict. She would lose all her remaining American possessions and get nothing in return but defeat and an enormous increase of her debt. Indeed, she has not the means to wage such a war. "It is difficult to believe," as one of the European journals says, "that Spain, with a divided people, a bankrupt treasury, one colony in revolt, others to lose, and nothing to win, can seriously contemplate war with one of the greatest powers on earth."

Nor do we see what cause Spain has or can have to declare war against the United States. Our Government has been active for a year during the struggle in Cuba in favoring Spain by suppressing expeditions to aid the Cubans. It has indirectly aided Spain by permitting arms, ammunition and supplies to go from this country for the Spaniards, while it has been vigilant in preventing any leaving for the Cubans. In fact, it has gone in direct opposition to public sentiment here in the desire to show its good feeling and honesty to a friendly nation. And now, when the war in Cuba has been prolonged for a year, when the atrocious conduct of it by Spain has shocked the civilized world, when the Cubans have been gaining ground all the time, and when the insurrection promises to be successful, our Government offers itself as a mediator to settle the difficulty. Is that a cause of war? Is the offer to guarantee a hundred millions of dollars to Spain for the independence of Cuba, when by simply being passive or inactive Cuba would be freed without paying a dollar, an unfriendly act? Can this moderation and liberality of the United States be construed into a cause of war? The Regent Serrano certainly did not so consider it, for he thanked our Government, through Mr. Sickles, for its offer of mediation. He went so far even as to submit a modified prohat of Mr. Sickles for the se ment of the difficulty, having for its end the independence of Cuba. Though the terms of his proposition were extravagant and could not be entertained, the fact that Spain consented to negotiate for the independence of Cuba at all was important, and showed that the action of the United States could not be regarded as offensive. The people of Spain will probably look at the matter in the same light their Government does after the first ebullition of excitement subsides. Indeed, if they act as sensible men they will do so. Our special telegram from Washington, published on yesterday, goes to show that the opinions of the British and French newspapers on the subject of Cuba count as nothing in official circles, and that the Cabinet cannot understand why the Spaniards should become so intensely excited over the offer by General Sickles of a good round sum of money for the island, with the chance of being freed from the care of a people who, it appears, do not want them. Our diplomatic action in Madrid conveyed no threat, but, on the contrary, much excellent advice. It intimated that delay was particularly dangerous in this case—a fact which is confirmed by the enunciated resolve of the Cubans that the growing crops shall be de-stroyed, and the island rendered desert by their own hands, before they shall submit again to Spanish rule. But the excitement spoken of in Spain seems to arise from the apprehension that the American Government will go further and recognize the belligerent rights or independence of Cuba. And there is reason for this, even if our Minister at Madrid has intimated to the Government there that such might be the case. Well, has not the United States a right to do this? Do not all nations act so in the case of civil wars when their interests, humanity, and State policy lead them to such a course? Has not Spain herself done so? We might refer to the hasty recognition of our Southern States as belligerents by the European powers, of which Spain was one, and to many other cases; but no argument is needed. Our Government has been more forbearing and waited longer in the case of Onba-yes, even against the sentiment and feeling of the American people-than is generally the case where national interests and policy are in-volved. We might refer to the unfriendly conduct of Spain in joining the coalition against Mexico, in sending a vast fleet to seize San Domingo, and in making war upon our sister republics of America in defiance of the cherished American policy proclaimed by the Monroe doctrine at the time when our hands were tied by a gigantic civil war; but we are too magnanimous to raise this question for the purpose of retaliation. We wish to remain on friendly terms with Spain; but we cannot support her any longer in a cruel and hopeless war upon Cuba. Whatever course the Spanish government may take, the time is near at hand when the United States will recognize the Cubans as belligerents or independent. That, we have no doubt, is the determined policy of the administration, as it is certainly the wish of the people. This subject will come up probably in Cabinet council soon after General Grant and his Secretaries return to Washington the present week, and we may expect to hear something more decisive. The President is not a man to back down. Sending of more Spanish war vessels and troops to Cuba, or the warlike tone of the Madrid press, or Prim's interviews with Napoleon, or Napoleon's despatches to his Minister in Washington,

their policy or the object they have in view at the threat of war. But there will be no war. The administration has only to be firm, and the Spanish government and people will come to their senses. The present excitoment in Spain is simply a little storm, which has been raised probably for political effect, but which will pass away and leave the horizon clear for a settlement of the Cuban difficulty.

THE DOMINION NORTH OF US. From the N. Y. World.

The situation in the new Dominion north of us is a very peculiar one. When the pact of confederation was entered into by the Canadas, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia, it had the cordial consent of the home government of Great Britain, for the following reason:-The home Government desired to get rid of these American colonies, and believed that the consolidation would so strengthen them in real power and self-esteem as that they would be then ready to assume and maintain an independence which could be yielded to them without dishonor by the crown.

It was a necessity to establish and foster an intercolonial trade which should, partially at least, take the place of the comparatively free trade which the Canadas enjoyed with the United States before the abolition of the Reciprocity treaty. And of the proposed advan-tages of the confederation, Canadian politicians, merchants and financiers hoped to obtain the lion's share. New Brunswick went into the confederation with similar objects, though not without distrust of the result on the part of a good many of her people. Nova Scotia was betrayed into the confederation by the votes of politicians who were elected nearly two years before the question came up.

So, while nothing could have been better devised for the prosperity of all the provinces included (deprived as they were of reciprocal trade with us), no unanimity of energy or sentiment resulted-no confidence and no proud, patriotic feeling were engendered by the fact of the Dominion. The Constitution of the new Government was a hurriedly got up, botched affair, leaving everything at the mercy of the politicians who happened to be in power. The most powerful politicians were those of the Canadas. The representatives of the people of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia in the Government and in Parliament did not have the unmitigated confidence of their own neighbors and constituents.

The chronic discontent, of which we just now hear so much, therefore varies in degree and kind, according to locality. In Canada (the provinces of Quebec and Ontario), the young men are for the independence of the Dominion. The agitation for annexation to the United States is confined to a class of second-rate politicians, scalawags, and nobodies. In New Brunswick, a large and reputable class, but not a majority, and in Nova Scotia, a still larger and more discontented number, hate the Dominion and the Dominion government, and would hail, to-morrow, the opportunity of going over to the United States.

There is in fact no homogeneity, no sym pathy, between the different provinces of the Dominion. Instead of these there is distrust and rancor, and a latent or active indisposition to join hands and make a new nation.

The Governor-General's late tour through the lower provinces rather excited and increased expressions of discontent. Prince Arthur's visit has had no perceptible effect upon the grumblers anywhere. He has been treated with great respect as the son of the Queen; but the grumbling continues all the The politicians are making, and will same. make, the most of him, particularly in Canada. There are plenty of persons who began as peddlers and would like to end as peers: and if a Vice-Royalty can be established in the Dominion-with a colonial court and colonial titles-these persons will set it up on trial. Meanwhile, the United States have the power to virtually decide the fate of these perturbed colonial communities. By wise statesmanship the Government at Washington may foster such a degree of intercourse between the several ports of the Dominion and ourselves as will enhance the prosperity of the whole Dominion, soften the present in-ter-colonial acerbities, and gradually enable the people of the Dominion to obtain and maintain an independence of the mother country which would be alike agreeable and prosperons to the English-speaking people of this entire continent. Just now the Dominion is not, as a whole, in the mood to fall into our lap, and would be, as a whole, an inconve-nient burden. We may turn the Dominion from an ally of Great Britain into a friendly and profitable neighbor, and by-and-by the time will come when by such an intercourse all prejudices and obstacles to a confederation of the Dominion with the United States will be rubbed away.

will not turn him aside from his purpose. Nor | for her terrible freak of lunacy. At a time will the people of this great country give up their policy or the object they have in view at tronly benediction to her colonies should they decide to leave her household and erect establishments of their own, Spain with a bloody mind is bent upon repeating a per-formance of the middle ages, when con-querors because murderers, because they were stupid in the first place, and avaricious in the second. The fierce exclamation which has gone forth from the press of Madrid at a word of our Minister addressed in behalf of common sense, has, no doubt, decided the hesitating and not entirely incorrigi-ble Government of Prim and Serrano upon making the demonstration of vessels and troops which Admiral Topete is to command, and which are now, according to report, to sail for Cuba. The demonstration, if it be not much more, may be rated at its worth in the light of future events. If it mean a crusade as earnest on the part of the Government as the people of Spain are blind and mad upon this subject of Cuba, we doubt not it will be a fair represen tation of a people who, however cruel and however ignorant, can be ferociously patriotic. General Caballero de Rodas may find fault with this highly tempered compliment. as he has with some other not flattering remarks of this journal upon his policy and administration. But we have to refer him to the butchery of Cadiz and to his words favoring the sternest application of what is known as the stamping-out process to the Republicans of Spain.

Foreign opinion is discussing the possibili ties of a war between Spain and the United States-upon what pretext? Not the conduct of America as respects her international obli-gations, for, though at variance with Spain in her torture of Cuba, we have felt bound to maintain our neutrality with a circumspection that nations have seldom used, and which upon the whole, has told rather to the disad vantage of Cuba than of Spain. Not to the note of General Sickles, for he disclaims, and so do the Washington authorities, anything more than an offer of friendly mediation. What then? We presume that the latest temper of the Spanish people is due pri-marily to their ignorance of the spellingbook and the map. By far the most of them know not how to read and write, and it is in obedience to their unlettered passions that the Regency is apparently wreaking itself upon a last effort to retain a province. How can the Catalans and Vascongadas know that the United States is a great country, and that Spain is almost bankrupt, and Cuba almost a ruin? All this we might feel provoked to teach them, but not till after long suffering.

FIRST FRUIT OF ANTI-AMERICAN POLICY.

sale by

From the N. Y. Republic.

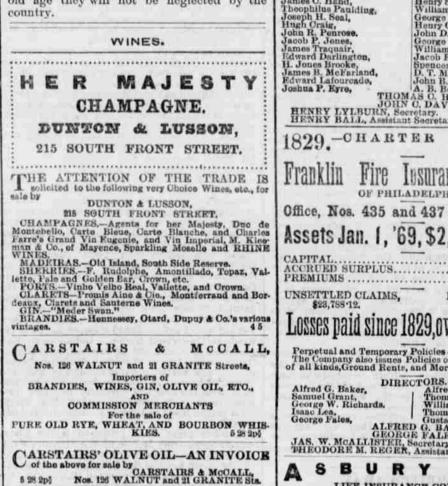
A cable despatch of several months ago, announcing that steps were initiating towards the formation of a tripartite alliance between England, France, and Spain against the United States, was widely scoffed. It looks now as if it was then true. It had contradiction, and to-day almost receives confirmation. The cable recently declared that Spain has solicited and almost secured the assistance of England and France to prevent this Government from seizing Cuba, either directly or indirectly, by requir-ing the Spaniards to sell the island to the insurgents on bonds to be guaranteed by us. Along with this important declaration comes the official assurance from Washington that General Sickles was instructed not to demand the sale of Caba to the insurgents, "but merely to mediate in a friendly way." If this means a limit was laid

PENSIONS FOR OUR CIVIL SERVICE. From the N. Y. Times.

It has long been a deserved reproach to our American political system, that we discharge good and competent officers from the civil service solely on partisan grounds. We presented yesterday, however, some instances of a remarkable exception to this general rule. In these sketches of the personnel of the departments, we find accounts of veterans who have for fifty or sixty years served the Government, and old men of eighty or ninety who have been actually carried to their desks to perform their routine duties.

Such sketches of the inner workings of our civil service will surprise most of our readers, who have looked upon the incoming of a new administration as a pretty "clean sweep" of old incumpents, at least where the latter do not hold the political doctrines of the party in power. But it must be remembered that these instances of a long tenure of office are only exceptions, and their very prominence brings out more vividly the faults of the general system.

From these disclosures, it is very clear that we have a considerable class of officers in the civil service who grow old in the discharge of their duties, and are kept in them simply because it would be ungrateful to turn them out upon the world at so advanced an age to find new careers, and to begin the journey of life afresh. That the retention of faithful public servants purely from this cause makes the civil service efficient, will not be pretended. On the other hand, to give their livelihoods to younger and more active men would be inhuman. What we really need, therefore, is a system of pensions in the civil service, whereby veterans in this, as in the army and navy, can be retired on half pay, or with such other provision as may, on examination, seem fit. This arrangement would secure energy and efficiency in official duties, and yet hold out to those who faithfully served us during many years the assurance that in their old age they will not be neglected by the country.



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DON QUIXOTE.

From the N. Y. Tribune. The man who created the Knight of La Mancha, and that other genius who gave to the world Captain Bobadil, understood Spanish character well. The whirl of mind which is said to have caught up the good people of Madrid on hearing that General Sickles had offered the mediation of the United States. reminds us of what happened to the dear old knight when he charged upon a windmill. Something like a vertigo has turned the head of Mother Spain, and made her believe that Spanish honor is involved in keeping open this maelstrom of the Cuban question, and throwing into it ships and armaments, money and men. The worst of it is that nobody has a good word to say for the land of Prim and the Cid, and that while men are bury propping up a throne and fabricating a king for her, not a soul can venture to assure us of her peace or her integrity. Lamentable is the fate of a country whose

national humor has so much blood in it, and whose serious moods are instanced in the assassinations of Cadiz and Havana. Old and cautions observers of Spain are only enabled to say that if Bourbonism was bad, the Regency is influentially no better; that, as ever, the Madrid ministry is uncertain of its mind, and that Spain, though her best are at her head, is in want of great men. The story is an old one-that of chaos, we fear, with a title-page; anarchy, qualified by the dawning sincerity that followed the September revolution, and by the formidable menace of the loss of Cuba. In short, we have in Spain the elements of a disintegration only half governed and kept together by a Regency built upon the shifting sands of a revolution, and unfortunate enough not to know, until too late, that possessions are not to be preserved by passions, but by principles.

Guba is not to be conquered by a frenzy. If baffled now, she would only plot to rise again. If Spain chooses to make herself warm in such a phœnix's nest as this, she is welcome. It will be her own body that will be burned, her own means that will be consumed, her own lives that will pay the forfeit | mies of seciety.

beyond which our Minister was not to then he has exceeded his instructions. If, on the other hand, no programme was prescribed, then has the General taken his own head. In the first event he is to blame, in the last the Government is to blame. In either case following strange gods of interference and possible aggrandizement has brought up such probable dangers that the State Department repudiates a policy to which it has allowed itself to be committed for months. There will be no war. But there has been humiliation, and there is likely to be further recantation. Any other course than minding our own business and letting other people's business alone will always result in this way. In the game of diplomacy the Spaniards have checkmated the United States, who have probably furnished the motive that will conserve a Provisional Government that was falling to pieces. Our "intervention" sets forward tyranny in Spain and sets back liberty in Cuba. The opposite, the truly American policy, would have given to the Cubans a victory by reason of the dis-sensions at home which would have forced Spain to let the Island go in order to keep the Peninsula intact.

CONSPIRACY TO RAISE THE PRICE OF GOLD.

From the N. Y. Sun. An alliance of the most powerful and in fluential firms in Wall street, including notorious Erie speculators, has been effected with a view of obtaining the exclusive possession of all the gold in the market. When this is of all the gold in the market. When this is accomplished, the conspirators can dictate their own terms, and merchants and others, who are compelled to buy or borrow gold, must necessarily procure it of this auriferous ring. It is also believed that these schemers own all the gold deposited in the banks. Having thus the newer of control, the or

Having thus the power of control, the op erators are gradually raising the price of gold about an eighth per cent. daily. Their agents in the gold room buy all that is offered at their standard bid, and only sell at a quarter per cent higher. At this rate they will elevate the buying and selling price each succeeding week about one-and-a-half per cent. In addition to this method of bleeding those who of necessity have occasion to use gold, we are told that they threaten at no distant day to refuse to lend at any price, and to sell only on their own terms.

This is one of the most immoral and pernicious conspiracies ever concocted in Wall street. It is an effort-and so far a success ful one-to control exclusively the market value of that part of our circulating medium which is employed in foreign commerce and in payment of duties. It has already en-hanced the price of gold from five to six per cent., and has embarrassed our export trade by rendering it almost impessible to negotiate foreign bills of exchange. If the gold ring persist, they will soon see an unnatural flow of gold from Europe to America, although the house the balance in our foreign trade is largely against us. Such an influx of the precious metal would inevitably depress the market price of our exports and the value of our securities abroad, and thus prove highly de-trimental to the commerce of the whole country

Combinations which tamper with the circulating medium of a country are not only demoralizing, but criminal. It is the duty of the Treasury Department to block the game of this unscrupulous ring, composed of men who, although rich, act in this as ene-

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