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

THE CONFEDERATE CONSTITUTION-INTERESTING DISCLOSURES, From the N. Y. Times.

As a piece of historical information, the letter of Mr. B. Barnwell Rheit regarding the construction of the Confederate Constitution is both curious and valuable.

At the ontset the dilemma presented to the Confederate leaders was this whether, on the one hand, to cling as closely as possible to the old forms and the "old flag" of the United States, to the approved Constitution, and to the familiar divisions and prescribed scope of executive, legislative, and judicial authority, or to strike out in some new path, and essay a "more perfect Union." The former method had the advantage of familiarity, tradition, and long experience; the latter that of boldness and independence. However, the former triumphed. The Confederate flag was substantially the old "Stars and Stripes," with some stars blotted out and some stripes obliterated: the national, State, town, and county prorogations were substantially the same as in the old Union; even the phraseology of laws was little altered, and the titles and duties of officers were pretty much the same. Semmes tells us that it was the policy of the Montgomery Government, at the outset, to "confer the same rank" on military and naval officers who should embrace "the new service" that they held in the old-and his own transfer to a "lighthouse board" forthwith was an illustration of this However, despite the protest of Southern statesmen that they were satisfied with "the Constitution as it was," they did in some particulars alter that instrument; and Mr. Rhett, as Chairman of the Montgomery Convention, appointed to frame a permanent Constitution for the Confederate States, is conceded to have been the author of the most important part of these alterations. Hence his present testimony is valuable as a contribution to the history of those troublons

Mr. Rhett declares that it was the determination of the South to make the Confederate Constitution "simply the Constitution of the United States as the South had always interpreted its powers, with only such alterations as would remove ambiguity." The first great question hinged on the Government's power to levy taxes and expend their proceeds. "One party, chiefly at the South," according to Mr. Rhett, held that Congress had power to levy taxes merely for revenue to carry on the Government, while "the other party, chiefly at the North," held that "this power should be exercised for different and antagonistic purposes, to prevent importations on which taxes may be collected, and thereby promote and encourage different branches of industry, by giving them the markets of the United States." We do not think this to be an absolutely correct statement of the geographical status of the free trade and protection parties, respectively: however, it is correct enough for Mr. Rheit's purpose, which is to show why the clause referring to the subject in the Constitution was altered by him. This clause, as we all know, runs as follows:-

"The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts, and excises, to pay the debt and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States."

And what Mr. Rhett did was to substitute for the purpose here stated, namely, "to pay the debt," etc., the words "for revenue necessary to pay the debts and carry on the Government of the Confederacy -which latter appears in the Confederate Con-

This, however, strikes one as being "the difference betwixt tweedledum and tweedledee;" because whatever "misinterpretation could be made of the original clause could certainly be made of the substitute. The latter is quite as general, quite as ambiguous, and quite as pregnant with constructive powers as the former. Mr. Rhett himself was compelled to add, therefore, specifically, a provision that "no bounties shall be granted from the Treasury, nor shall any duties or taxes on importations from foreign nations be laid to promote or foster any branch of in-This, of course, was effectual-the coup de grace to protection. As a matter of fact, however the need of the South for the moment was rather to offer a premium on foreign importations than to levy a tax on them; and the provision in the Constitution never, therefore, became important, the amount of foreign commerce being small. The only duties were laid by the blockading squadron, and these were often so heavy as to kill foreign trade, if they did not foster domestic industry.

Mr. Rhett tells us also the history of the internal improvement provision. To the familiar clause in the powers of Congress, "to regulate commerce with foreign nations and among the several States and with the Indian tribes," under which a constructive power to expend money for internal improvements has been employed, was added a proviso that the Confederate Congress "should not appropriate money for any internal improvement intended to facilitate commerce." And it was provided that even in furnishing lights, beacons, and buoys, and improving rivers and harbors, the cost should be 'laid on the navigation facilitated thereby.

It was Mr. Rhett, also, who proposed making the Presidential term six years instead of four-a really sensible suggestion, though, to be sure, it made little difference, as the case turned out. And it was he, too, that proposed the well-known provisions for removals from office by the President and for making constitutional amendments. Altogether, therefore, this is, as we have said, an interesting piece of history, and the fact that the instrument prepared with so much care was shortlived, does not decrease the interest. It shows, also, that though we hear much complaint against "Constitutional tinkering," neither South nor North was quite satisfied to live under the Constitution as it was.

DIALECTIC DUETS. From the N. Y. World.

Professor Perry, an able advocate of free trade, has met Mr. Greeley, the champion of Chinese economics, upon a common platform, and, as was inevitable, has triumphed over him. It was the combat of David and Goliath over again. Professor Perry had the seven smooth stones of statistics and the sling of logic. The Goliath of protection had a helmet of congenial brass upon his venerable

head, and greaves of brass upon his legs, and a target of brass between his shoulders. And the staff of his spear was a Massachusetts weaver's beam; and his spear's head was six hundred shekels of American pig-iron. Nevertheless, the Professor prevailed over the Philistine, and when the Bostonians saw their champion was dead they

We do not advert to this calamity to embit. ter the feelings of the actually discomfited morial to be presented to the United States

and constructively defunct H. G. in the hour | Congress at its next session. The fact of it of his defeat. But we do wish to deprecate | emanating from one hundred and fifty thoubly flow from the unlimited repetition of such a contest as that in which he has been worsted. Such a multiplication of such a spectacle is prognosticated as inevitable. It is assumed that this sort of thing will infuse fresh vigor into the decrepit "lecture system," by adding to the lyceum the combative charm of the cock-pit without despoiling it of its own; and that the provincial lecture course will henceforth combine the intellectual interest of the discourses of Socrates under the plane trees of Athens with the livelier titillations of the bull-fights of Madrid.

Of course, we accept Milton's pious maxim. that truth is invincible so long as error is left free to combat it. But it does not therefore follow that we are bound to set up a controversial prize ring in every town, where economic champions shall be invited to pommel each other for hire. Are the modern sect of peripatetic philosophers from whose mercenary mouths literary and patriotic platitudes now drool drearily upon the inhabitants of our inland towns, at the rate of fifty cents per auditor, to become Sir Pandaruses of Troy, and by their sides wear steel? Are lecturers to be put upon the footing of prize-fighters, to perambulate in pairs, and set-to oratorically for the behoof of bucolic listeners? When two gladiators of the lyceum come to advertising themselves for joint exhibition, what guarantee can their auditors have that the hits and counters may not have been previously prepared, and the issue of the combat collusive? Any antagonist who might be pitted against Mr. Greeley, for instance, would, of course, be too strong for him; and the only way to impart interest to such a struggle, or to get bets on the sage of Chappaqua at any odds, would be to induce the other man to sell the fight. The suspicion that an orator was not ridden to win would not only be fatal to his future usefulness, but would be highly unfair to his backers and tend to the demoralization of rural audiences.

In every point of view, we are pained at the prospect of assimilating the rostrum to the ring. Of course, exhibitions given confessedly for amusement would ensue, as in the case of the literal arena, upon exhibitions perpetrated ostensibly for instruction. Who can contomplate with equanimity the prospect of placards announcing the "farewell benefit" "Hiram Walbridge, the Vet," giving notice that the well-known sport, Henry Ward Beecher; the ex-champion, Wendell Phillips; George Francis Train, the Omaha Boy, and other talent, had kindly volunteered to assist, and holding out, as an additional lure, that the entertainment would conclude with a set-to between the beneficiary and Prosper M. Wetmore? No lover of his country who reflects upon such possibilities as these will lend his countenance to a proposition that opens the way to them.

Besides, let the tax upon temper be considered. Our own ethereal mildness has sometimes almost given way under the necessity of constant kicking, even in print, against the perversities of H. G. What, then, would be the effect upon mere fallible mortals of encountering him personally upon a platform, and confuting him, not as through a newspaper darkly, but face to face? And if we consider the condition of the audience as well as of the orator, how vast an addition to the sum of human suffering would ensue! Trath is almost invaluable; but, if she can be attained in no other way, is she worth getting at such a dreadful sacrifice as this?

The crowning horror of the horrid future thus foreshown will be the meeting of men and women for mutual conviction or confutation. Obviously, the Equal Rights Association and Sorosis would snatch at such a chance of vindicating the equality of their sex. Breathes there the man with soul so dead that he could survive seeing Dr. Bushnell sustain the onset of Anna Dickinson? What, let us ask, would life be worth if it were made a social duty, as in the rural regions it would surely be, to listen to such an outpouring of viraginian vituperation as that? Just Heavens! How would Lindley Murray be rent in twain, and the reason of the auditors of Anna totter on its throne! What sun of sense could pierce the war clouds rolling down, where Susan B. Anthony and Timothy Titcomb shouted in their sulphurous canopy Perish the thought! Let the lecturer plod on his lonely round, nor dare to afflict us doubly.

MORMONS' APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION AS A STATE. From the N. Y. Herald.

The close proximity of the line of the Pacific Railroad to the centre of Mormonism has tended in a great measure to remove the isolation which the laborious apostle of the Mormons thought necessary for the establishment of his peculiar sect. Far removed from the large and prosperous cities of the United States, Brigham Young flattered himself that he could there establish a colony and found a sect which recognized polygamy not only as law, but as a thing to be cherished and cultivated. With this object in view, the Mormon apostle sought in the far West a wilderness, and, after years of patient toil, through his exertions and the labors of his followers, he has made a barren waste blossom like the rose. In the meantime, however, while Utah was being improved and the industry of its inhabitants was everywhere making itself evident, the vast flow of emigration to the United States, the rapid development of the republic, and the increasing prosperity of the nation, were exercising their influence throughout the land. So long as the tide of progress flowed not towards Utah all went well for the Mormon territory and the prophet: his high priest and faithful followers remained secure in their remoteness. With the laying down of the Pacific Railroad the speck, no bigger than a man's hand at first, commenced to increase, and Brigham Young feared for the Eden which in his mind he had conceived, by his energy brought into existence, and which was made rich by the labor of his followers.

Perceiving in the progress and growth of the States that the institution which has cost him so much labor of thought and action stands in danger, Brigham Young has resolved upon a course of action which must prove a failure. On the 6th instant the semiannual Mormon Conference assembled in Salt Lake City. All parts of the Territory were represented. The period was thought a fitting occasion to lay the subject of application for admission as a State into the Union before the people. With this object in view, a committee was appointed to memorialize Congress on the subject. The document drawn up embodies the substance of the petitions sent to Congress in 1856 and 1862, which were never brought to a vote in the House. The memorial claims precedence for Utah of the other Territories admitted into the Union with far less order of government and general resources, and complains particularly of the practice of the United States in appointing officers from distant States who are unac

quainted with the necessities of the people. The preceding is the substance of the me

the dreadful consequences which will inevita- sand people anxious for self-government entitles it to thoughtful consideration. It cannot, however, be forgotten that the most prominent plank in the platform of the Mormon creed, polygamy, is one which is not only condemned by the whole people of the country, but by the civilized world. The Mormon leaders well understand that if Utah shall be admitted into the family of States, with its system of polygamy, they can regulate matters to suit themselves. The laws relating to marriage at the present time are different in many of the States, and that there is no general law on the subject is to be regretted. That polygamy should be recognized and sanctioned is a little too much of a good thing in this age, notwithstanding that the application comes from a large body of people in a section of the country which they have made fruitful and productive. The position of the Mormons we regard as untenable. They cannot be admitted as long as they possess their present system. The country, however, looks for some action on the subject from Congress. Special legisla-tion should be taken, and the Mormon chief should be given to understand that the sooner he puts his house in order the better, and make his preparations to move. If Mormonism is to flourish, it must do so outside of the American Union. The system is one that cannot be recognized.

NON-RECOGNITION.

From the N. Y. Tribune. The Government view of the Cuban question seems to be fully and semi-officially explained in a despatch from Washington. The reasons of the administration for not concurring in the action of four Spanish-American republics toward Cuba are founded on the condition of the island, the want of full proof that it has a government de facto, and upon the law of nations, which forbids recognition before a rebel has thus attained to the stature of a belligerent. But the American Government has courteously asked of Spain the boon of Cuban independence, though it is false that General Sickles has proffered a mediation as between several belligerents, he having most fittingly tendered only the good offices of the United States action was partly influenced by testimony that very prominent soldiers and statesmen of Spain-are we at liberty to guess who? -were favorably inclined to the Cuban proposal to purchase independence by paying a certain sum for the goodwill and fixtures of Spanish government in the island. But as the Cubans were not willing to run the risk of laying down their arms as preliminary to this bargain, and as the politicians of Spain feared an admission of inability to retain the island, good offices were ineffectual. The note of General Sickles, gratefully received, was amicably withdrawn, in accordance with diplomatic usage-all reports, especially in the English press, to the contrary notwithstanding. Aside from this Washington statement, we have for some days been assured that the course of General Sickles, so far from being rash, has seemed to the department eminently prudent, and has secured the hearty approval of the Government.

Our Washington authority avers that the government of Spain has not sought the assistance and sympathy of foreign powers. Of this we do not feel convinced. In a letter from Spain, which we deem trustworthy, we have been given what purports to be a veritable relation of Marshal Prim's interview with Napoleon. The Emperor not only reminded the Spanish War Minister that Spain had not aided him in his Mexican enterprise, but expressed his conviction that Cuba would be lost to Spain. That conviction may comfort the friends of Cuba, in the absence of any attempt on our part to break the laws of nations, and it may also operate to determine our Government to peace, as the best means of helping the Cubans without injuring ourselves to a greater extent than they can repay.

Foreign Items.

It is stated in one of the French papers that the Hindoos in the environs of Bombay have been much startled by the appearance of their god Vishnu, who has several times been seen at night whirling past them on a celestial wheel like a flash of fire. Directly he approaches them they prostrate them-selves in the dust. Yet all the time it is not really Vishnu; it is only a certain Mr. Kemp, who, ambitious to be the first velocipede rider under an Asiatic sun, has provided himself with one of these vehicles, but finding that the heat rendered it an encumbrance rather than a luxury in the daytime, is compelled to take his exercise upon it at night, by the aid of a lantern.

-The Sultan has just made a very sensible innovation upon a long-established custom in Eastern etiquette. Hitherto, every Mussulman who wished to present a petitien to the Padisha was obliged to wait until a Friday, and to choose a moment when his Highness rode on his weekly visit to the mosque. This often gave rise to great confusion, to hustlings, and to vigorous plying of bamboo canes on the part of Turkish policemen. Henceforth petitions may be deposited every day of the week, and at any hour, in a large letter-box which has recently been placed at the principal entrance of the imperial palace. An aide-de-camp of the Sultan and a teftich of police are entrusted with the care of this box, and with the duty of remitting its contents to headquarters. On the day after they have deposited their petitions the supplicants are to call at the palace and receive a verbal reply from Raouf Pacha, first aid-de-camp and chief equerry to the Sultan, who has been specially appointed to superintend this new branch of the service. Whether this reform will be fitly appreciated by the old Turks of Stamboul is doubtful; but it will be accepted as a boon by the younger Turks who have no taste for bamboo, and will add considerably to the comfort and decorumthough not perhaps to the picturesqueness-

of the Sultan's Friday rides to Saint Sophia. -Some of the peace reformers in Switzerland have been loud in their condemnation, first of armies and then of monarchs, as the chief promoters of armies. Especially have they denounced the expensiveness of monarchies. We need not enter into the discussion; but it may be useful for those who ponder over such questions to know exactly how much monarchs and their families cost. The most expensive of all monarchies seems to be that of Russia, which costs considerably more than that of France, while that of France again may be placed side by side with that of Turkey. In Russia royalty costs £1, 700,000 a year; in France, £1,400,000; and in Turkey, £1,320,000. Other European nations indulge their sovereigns with much more modest figures. Among this less expensive class Austria heads the list, providing for the maintenance of the Hapsburgs £800,000 a year. Italy comes next, with £640,000; then Prussia, with £480,000; while England provides something like £470,000 for its royal family. Among the cheaper sovereignties, the dearest is Bavaria, which sets apart for royalty about £250,000. Porch as

tugal follows with the moderate sum of £133,000. Holland is content with an expenditure of £100,000; Norway and Sweden with £52,000; Denmark with £18,000; Wartemberg with £44,000; and Rome with £40,000. In round figures, the kings and kaisers of Europe cost Europeans something like £8,000,000 a year paid to them for their own private use.

-An English paper says: -At the Hertford borough sessions "an elderly man named Bourchier" has been fined 2s. and 8s. costs, or in default sentenced to imprisonment for seven days, for refusing to attend morning prayers in the Hertford Union Workhouse. It appeared that Bourchier's objections were not to the prayers themselves, but to their being read by Mr. Wheeler, the master of the workhouse, with whom he had had a quarrel arising from the bottom of the copper being burnt. The story recalls to remembrance Leech's picture in Punch of the butler who gives his master warning because morning prayers are read by the governess, and he (the butler) could not bring himself to say "Amen to a gay ness." It seems doubtful whether any good result will be attained by thus forcing Bourchier on to his knees while Mr. Wheeler is reading prayers. We may be quite sure that so long as he considers himself aggrieved he will be thinking more about the bottom of the copper than the words which fall from Mr. Wheeler's lips, and matters will hardly be mended by fining him and sending him to prison. Assuming that his grievance respecting the copper is unfounded, common sense suggests that attempts should be made to reason with him until he is in a better frame of mind; and if these attempts fail, that it will be better for him to be absent from prayers than to attend them without that devotional spirit which will enable him to say "Amen" to Mr.

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