

SPRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

THE DEMOCRACY AND THE PEOPLE.

It is really pitiful to see the quivering of the once "unterrified." Not the fabled Regulus, with his eyelids torn away and his unburied eyes exposed to the noontide glare of the Carthagenian sun, recoiled more sensitively than does now the Democratic party from the fiery eye of the people. Everywhere it is all the same—nothing but shrinking and evasion. Instead of plunging recklessly into the fight as of old, they are all taken up with the thought of avoiding close quarters, and so shifting as to escape further punishment.

They would give all the world to get in a telling blow upon the administration, but can find no point where they direct plant themselves to attempt it. If they try the national debt, and open ever so shyly upon the only alternative, repudiation, they prick the people's honesty and rouse an anger which no flatterer to annihilate them. They are no heroes off if they make a bolt at the President's strict and liberal policy of reconstruction, for there again they wound the people's old-fashioned loyalty and love of order.

THE ELECTIONS.

The contest has been so close in Pennsylvania and Ohio that the result in both States is somewhat doubtful, and nothing is put entirely beyond dispute. If the Republicans have carried one of those States, or both, it is by majorities so slight as to make even their success a source of discouragement and humiliation. Considering how large their majorities in those States were last year, and how very small they must be this year, if they have carried the States at all, they have reason to ask themselves how many such victories they can stand and escape total annihilation?

General Grant's majority in Pennsylvania was 28,898, and in Ohio, 40,617. And now, if his party is to be elected in both States, it has escaped "by the skin of its teeth." The enormous patronage of the Federal Government is a potent influence in all elections, and that influence has been wielded by the Republicans. If neither party had been aided by it, nobody can doubt that Ohio and Pennsylvania would have been carried by the Democrats, on Tuesday, by handsome majorities. But if the Federal patronage had been on the Democratic side, as it was on the Republican side, the Democratic majorities would have been prodigious and triumphant.

It would be preposterous for General Grant to claim these elections as an endorsement of his administration. Last fall, before he had been tried, when the people expressed their hopes and anticipations, his majorities in Pennsylvania and Ohio were such as he could reasonably be proud of. But this year, after a brief trial of his administration, the great flush of confidence has so far abated, that nothing but the patronage he wields has saved him from a heavy rebuke. The great majorities by which he was elected have been very nearly if not quite effaced.

These elections have decided the fate of the fifteenth amendment—the leading measure of the Republican party. Pennsylvania having already ratified the amendment, the result in that State could have no effect on its success. But the election of a Democratic House in Ohio extinguishes any chance of a ratification of the amendment in that State; and so many States are wanting to make up the requisite three-fourths, that the Republicans can no longer entertain any hope of carrying the amendment.

These elections, even if there has been a small majority against us, illustrate the indomitable energy, pluck, and hopefulness of the Democratic party. Though badly beaten in the Presidential election, the party was not demoralized. It "bates no jot of heart or hope." So far from being cowed or discouraged, it entered into the contest this year with unshaken vigor and spirit, and nothing but the Federal patronage prevented its winning a great victory over its opponents. A party which rises after defeat with such irrepressible elasticity, and in the very next contest reduces adverse majorities of thirty or forty thousand to almost nothing, may feel a reasonable pride in its strength, and unflinching confidence in its destiny.

If the comparative strength of the Republicans is as much reduced in New York as it has been in Pennsylvania and Ohio, the Democratic party will carry the State next month by at least a hundred thousand majority. These elections, even if there has been a small majority against us, illustrate the indomitable energy, pluck, and hopefulness of the Democratic party. Though badly beaten in the Presidential election, the party was not demoralized. It "bates no jot of heart or hope." So far from being cowed or discouraged, it entered into the contest this year with unshaken vigor and spirit, and nothing but the Federal patronage prevented its winning a great victory over its opponents.

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THE FIGHTING IN SPAIN.

The stubborn struggle that the revolted Spanish people have made and are still making in several of the provinces indicates that the real revolution—the real movement of the people to cast away a tyrannical domination—has at last broken out. No doubt the fact that this movement was just beneath the surface was of great assistance to the oligarchs of the army and the navy when they drove out the Bourbon dynasty. No doubt, also, a great part of the power of those men before the country was derived from the supposition that they were ready to identify themselves with the will and purpose of the people in their aspiration to be free. But the nation has finally discovered that Prim, Serrano, and the rest only desired to change places with, and now that addresses itself to the labor of driving them out, just as their predecessors in the abuse of power were driven out. It begins well, for we cannot trust the stories of the suppression of revolt that we get every day. Those stories come by way of Madrid or Paris in every case, and in both cities the statement of news is distorted to the disadvantage of the struggling people. Indeed, the very fact that the world has been permitted to hear at all of the uprising indicates that it is well beyond the power of the government to control it.

An important point in regard to it lies in the consideration of what the conduct of the army will be. In the case of a French revolution we might almost calculate the date at which the soldiers would fraternize with the people, for it has always been the case in every French uprising that so soon as its proportions indicated that it was an expression of the general impulse of the nation, the soldiers would not fight against it. But then in France the army is so directly derived from the true body of the people, and in sympathy with the popular mind, that it could not well be otherwise.

In Spain, on the contrary, the army is in position quite apart, and not inspired by any sympathy with the general thought and feeling of the mass. This fact would much retard and may altogether prevent the influence upon the soldiers of the acts of the people; yet we cannot believe but sooner or later the army will feel what it is that it is fighting against, and will refuse obedience to the orders of its ambitious leaders. The moment it does so the republic is secure.

The descendants of Henry Fowle, of Boston, have a set of chessmen presented to him by Louis Philippe, while teaching French in 1776. The set consists of 100 pieces, and is made of wood, and is in the shape of a chess set. The pieces are made of wood, and are in the shape of a chess set. The set is made of wood, and is in the shape of a chess set.

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But we take it that the state of the case

ought to be well known to the Supreme Court, to the Secretary of Justice, and to the general administration of Mexico. The government which keeps an army paid, which can command the election of a majority of partisans, which can put down insurrections and shoot men at will, surely possesses the means of expediting justice in the case of one of its own officers. The late executions make for it a dilemma from the logic of which it can hardly escape; and if it is right to kill three men, who, it is charged, were not fairly tried, and not certainly guilty, surely there is a chance to visit justice upon a manifest murderer, accused of his crime by the Government itself, and for a year and more without trial. The official silence under which the Canto case has been allowed to consume patience is shamefully lamentable; the suspicion to which it tempts, in want of a prompt vindication from the accused Government, is simply horrible. Secrecy in such a case may be a blunder worse than a crime, and postponement a tampering with revolution. If the Mexicans are excitedly suspicious beyond their unhappy wont, we may guess the reason, and on all accounts we hope that the Government and people of Mexico may be able to vindicate themselves.

The same house send us "Heater Strong's Life-work," by Mrs. S. A. Southworth, an entertaining domestic story of New England life. Mr. Sikes may be a very good local reporter, but he is a very bad book-maker, and he is apparently deficient in the common sense with which most reporters are gifted, or he would not imagine that his scribbles could possibly interest any intelligent readers after they had once passed under survey in the columns of a newspaper.

"The Atlantic Almanac" for 1870 presents an excellent list of articles in prose and verse, including contributions by E. E. Hall, W. D. Howells, W. M. Thackeray, Elizabeth S. Phelps, T. W. Higginson, Charles Dickens, Alfred Tennyson, J. R. Lowell, J. T. Trowbridge, William Cullen Bryant, and other first-class writers. The illustrations are generally good, but the frontispiece, after a picture by J. G. Brown, is an atrociously bad specimen of color printing; and "Shad Fishing," from a picture by Samuel Colman, is scarcely better.

From T. Ellwood Zell we have received Nos. 57 and 58 of "Zell's Popular Encyclopedia," which is bound up to the title "Cashmere."

"Turner Brothers & Co. send us Our Boys and Girls for October 23, and Appleton's Journal for the same date, which contains a portrait and sketch of Pere Hyacinthe, a fine steel engraving of Lake George from a picture by J. W. Casilear, and other interesting matter.

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LITERATURE.

REVIEW OF NEW BOOKS.

—From J. B. Lippincott & Co. we have received "Our Poor Girl: The Story of Thousands," by Wirt Sikes. This is an amplification of the story of "Susy Garland" that appeared some time since in the columns of *Health and Home*, combined with other sketches that Mr. Sikes is desirous of having preserved in a more permanent shape than they could be in the columns of a daily or weekly journal. Whether his readers will share his solicitude on this subject is at least open to question. We are informed that the story of "Susy Garland" was written in the railroad cars, or wherever the writer could find opportunity while travelling, and on glancing over it we find no reason to doubt the author's assertion on this point. It is badly imagined, badly constructed, and badly written, and indeed the whole book is about as weak an affair as has recently come under our notice. It is a series of sketches of low life in New York, and as local reprints in the columns of a daily newspaper some of them might pass muster; but when presented to the public in their present shape, we have a right to ask for better workmanship. Mr. Sikes may be a very good local reporter, but he is a very bad book-maker, and he is apparently deficient in the common sense with which most reporters are gifted, or he would not imagine that his scribbles could possibly interest any intelligent readers after they had once passed under survey in the columns of a newspaper.

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—Claxton, Remsen & Haffelfinger send us "The Early History of the Falls of Schuylkill, Manayunk, Schuylkill and Lehigh Navigation Companies, Fairmount Water Works, etc.," by Charles V. Hagner. This work is the substance of two lectures delivered by Mr. Hagner in the year 1856 at Manayunk and the Falls of Schuylkill, and it contains many interesting reminiscences of those localities. It is a valuable contribution to our local history, and it will certainly find a large number of appreciative readers.

—From T. B. Peterson & Brothers we have received "Major Jones' Courtship," a humorous work that has achieved a fair amount of popularity.

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20,000 Penn. Rail Road Mortgage Six Per Cent. Bonds, 20,300

20,000 Western Penn. Rail Road Mortgage Six Per Cent. Bonds, 20,300

50,000 State of Tennessee Five Per Cent. Loan, 51,000

7,000 State of Tennessee Six Per Cent. Loan, 7,100

10,000 Germantown Gas Company, principal and interest guaranteed by City of Philadelphia, 30 shares, 10,000

10,000 Germantown Gas Company, 10,000

5,000 North Pennsylvania Railroad, 5,000

5,000 Philadelphia and Southern Rail Road, 5,000

50,000 Loans on Board and Mortgage, first liens on City Property, 50,000

Real Estate, 223,000

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