

SPiRIT OF THE PRESS.

Editorial Opinions of the Leading Journals (Continued from Page 1) - Conclude Every Day for the Evening Telegraph.

POSITION OF THE ADMINISTRATION ON THE CUBAN QUESTION.

From the N. Y. Herald.

As the time is approaching when the policy of the administration with regard to Cuba will be made public in the President's message to Congress, there is naturally some anxiety to know, particularly among the large class of our citizens who warmly sympathize with the Cubans, what the President will say and what he will recommend. We think the information we have received will enable us to satisfy the anxiety of the people on this subject. The message of the President will be the direct expression of his own sentiments and views, and we shall see none of the red tape style or diplomatic subterfuge of the State Department in it. The President, we believe, will first state the course and action of the Government on the Cuban question. We shall know, probably, the facts relative to the offered mediation of the United States with Spain for the independence of Cuba through General Sickles, and whether any other agencies have been employed. We shall learn, no doubt, what the motive was that inspired this offer, the manner in which the friendly offer was received, the state of the case as it stands at present, and the prospect of any means of negotiation being practicable in the future. Then the President will, we think, vindicate the action of the Government in enforcing the neutrality laws in the seizure of Cuban expeditions and vessels, as well as in the case of the Spanish gunboats. He will also indicate, we believe, his own views as to what the future course of the Government should be, and leave the matter with Congress, either for special legislation or for an expression of opinion for the guidance of the administration.

There can be no question as to the sympathy of General Grant for the Cubans and as to his desire to see the Cuban revolution successful. He has frequently expressed this. It accords with his well known republican sentiments, with his broad views of American policy on all American questions, and with his desire to extend the power and grandeur of this great republic. We saw in the case of the Maximilian empire and French occupation of Mexico, when he would have marched an army across the Rio Grande and driven the intruders out, how broadly national and bold he was on a great American question affecting the stability and progress of republican institutions on this continent. Looking at his whole public history, his character and expressed views, there is every reason to believe he is heartily in favor of Cuban independence. He has strictly enforced the neutrality laws because it was his duty as the Executive of the republic, while he regretted the necessity of this indirectly favoring Spanish despotism and hindering the cause of republican liberty. Nor is he insensible to the sentiment of the American people which calls for the recognition of the Cubans. He has had the hope, too, that the Spanish Government would appreciate the moderation of this country and would listen to the advice and overtures he has offered. We think that had the lamented General Rawlins, or any other high-toned American patriot, been at the head of the State Department, instead of Mr. Fish, belligerent rights would have been accorded to the Cubans or their independence acknowledged before now. Having confidence in the patriotism and wisdom of his Secretary of State, General Grant was not willing to act even upon his own views or wish, though he is firm and bold enough to do so when a crisis comes or any question culminates. The Cuban question has come to a point when we believe the President feels it will be proper for the Government to act decisively in support of the Cuban cause, and that his forthcoming message to Congress will show this.

We understand there is a great pressure made upon the Government, and especially upon the Secretary of State, by a secret service of Spanish agents in Washington, to prevent the President touching the Cuban question in his message. But all this, there is good reason to believe, will prove unavailing. No doubt a great deal of Spanish money is being used in this country, poor as the Spanish Government is. The prize at stake is a valuable one. The Spanish Regency has refused a hundred millions of dollars for Cuba. Spain has drawn forty millions or more of revenue a year from the island. An army of hungry Spanish officials have fed upon the unfortunate Cubans. Of course Spain would willingly spend large sums upon agents in this country—corrupt Americans and others—to prevent the United States recognizing the Cubans and to enable her to hold on to the island. Of course the Secretary of State would not be influenced directly or knowingly by Spanish gold, but may be not indirectly and unwittingly? It has been rumored—and a Boston newspaper gives currency to the rumor—that Mr. Fish's son-in-law receives large fees from the Spanish Government for some service. As large a sum as forty thousand dollars is named. This gentleman, when he was Private Secretary to President Pierce, dabbled in the Nicaragua land and emigration scheme under Colonel Kinney, and, therefore, seems to have a taste for such outside speculations. We do not change Mr. Fish's son-in-law with anything, and he may get forty thousand dollars, or any other sum, for fees from the Spanish Government in his profession as a lawyer; nor do we say the Secretary of State has been indirectly influenced by him. But we state it as a rumor, and only remark that it seems to be a curious circumstance in connection with the persistent opposition of the State Department to the recognition of the Cubans. Mr. Fish is a weak, timid man, and no doubt is easily influenced by those near to him, though he may be highly honorable and patriotic himself. He is unfit to handle questions of great national policy where comprehensive views and boldness of action are required, as in this one concerning Cuba. We hope, and believe, the President and Congress will take the matter out of his hands. The whole civilized world outside of Spain looks to the United States for a solution of the Cuban difficulty. Any other great power with the interests we have in securing the independence of Cuba would have recognized the Cubans long ago. Over a year has passed since that people have struggled successfully against the power of Spain, and they are stronger to-day than ever. They are entitled to recognition, and it would be an everlasting disgrace to the American republic if our Government should not speedily recognize them.

DEMOCRATIC LOGIC.

From the N. Y. Times. Some of the Democratic speakers in the present canvass have discovered certain wonderful marcs' nest. Unable to deny that the present administration reduced the national

debt during the first seven months of its holding office by the enormous sum of \$57,000,000; that it is still continuing to reduce the debt at the rate of nearly or quite \$100,000,000 per annum; that at this rate the whole debt would be extinguished in fifteen years, while with a decrease of taxes by \$50,000,000 per annum, it would be swept off in twenty-three years—unable, we say, to deny these facts, the Democratic orators are finding fault with the pleasant prospects thus opened to the country, and doing their best to cloud them.

We are told, for example, that a considerable part of the surplus revenue comes from the sale of war material by the Government. Well, suppose for a moment that it does. Is that any reason for ceasing to sell the old material? One of the best features of Stanton's administration of the War Bureau was the promptness with which he mired out men and sold off material at the end of the rebellion, thus bringing down the war expenses to a tenth of that sum. General Grant, in succeeding him, pushed the same policy still further, as in turn did Secretaries Scholfield and Rawlins; and the same was true of the navy. At that time there was an outcry that we were going too fast in reclamation—that we might need the material; but we have not needed it yet, and are not likely to for some time to come. Had we held on to the men and material, we should have lost both the expense of their keeping and the interest on the money received from sales of goods. We should have totally lost, besides, many of the goods themselves, which were perishable—such as commissary stores, clothing, medical stores, and the like; while of others we should have lost a great part of their value by better or cheaper articles of the same nature being introduced, in time, into the market.

To represent that this war material has been sold off, simply in order to produce a fictitious idea of economy, is absurd. It was sold, and is now selling, as the proper mode of getting rid of what will not pay the expense of storing on a mere possibility of future use. Moreover, the great bulk of these sales were effected under the last administration, not under the present; and yet, with less current revenue from this source, the gain in general surplus income of Grant's administration has been remarkable.

The only real force in the argument is, that this source of income must one day cease. This is very true; but that day has not yet come, and when it does come, and we have no more war assets to help to defray the war expenses, there will be more than enough to balance the loss from this source in new ways. If we are asked in what ways, we will mention two in illustration.

In the first place, the surplus of last year (which was \$18,000,000) was reduced by a payment of \$18,000,000 on extra bounties, and one of \$7,500,000 gold (or \$9,500,000 currency) for the purchase of Alaska. Here we have an amount of \$27,500,000 in these two items alone, which we shall gain each year hereafter; and hence these must be added to our account of probable receipts and our surplus revenue for each succeeding fiscal year.

In the second place, the careful calculation by Mr. Commissioner Wells shows that the average annual increase of elasticity in the revenue arising from the regular growth of the country is fully \$15,000,000. And, indeed, whoever notes the rapidity with which both North and South have recovered from the prostration of the war, the prospects of the crops, and the growth of population and "power to pay," will not account this an extravagant estimate.

Upon the whole, therefore, we do not feel alarmed at Democratic discoveries of the sources of our surplus revenues, or at their despairing arguments for the future. We weathered the war and arrived at honorable peace, when the Democratic policy was capitulation, and we shall weather the financial storms and come to prosperity, though the Democratic policy be repudiation.

ACCIDENTS ON STEAMERS.

From the Chicago Tribune. The appalling disaster to the Stonewall, on the Mississippi, whereby some two hundred and ten lives have been lost, enforces anew a lesson we ought by this time to have fully learned. Congress has entire charge of matters pertaining to commerce and navigation, and the means whereby such "accidents" as that we chronicled on Saturday can be prevented are well known and easily provided. In the first place, nothing is better settled than that no steamer or other vessel for transporting passengers should be permitted to make up her cargo of combustibles, such as oils, hay, high wines, kerosene, petroleum, tar-pentine, gunpowder, cotton in bales, quick lime, or other extra hazardous substances. A fearful category of such catastrophes occurred during the war from carrying powder in passenger steamers, and this time to have fully learned. Congress has entire charge of matters pertaining to commerce and navigation, and the means whereby such "accidents" as that we chronicled on Saturday can be prevented are well known and easily provided.

Moreover, the Naval Committee, which sat two years ago to consider the means of saving life on board of vessels at sea, or on our lakes and rivers, during such catastrophes, reported in favor of one or two plans, which were fully tried and tested in New York harbor with complete satisfaction. We remember in particular the settee-life-boat, constructed by John Foster, of Sandwith, Massachusetts. Superintendent of Light-houses for the Atlantic coast, which, in its ordinary position, would not be observed to be other than a very substantial, but plain and inexpensive, steamboat sofa. But in one minute it could be turned into a tight life-boat, incapable of sinking, warranted to hold eight persons, with their provisions, and to carry them any reasonable distance in moderately still water. Even in a gale, four persons would be as safe in it as in an ordinary yawl. The committee reported unanimously in favor of this, and one or two other contrivances, and had Congress acted upon their recommendation, by requiring all our inland passenger steamers to be provided with one such settee to every six passengers, the two hundred and ten passengers by the Stonewall would have been wholly, or in great part, saved. The absence of all provision for saving life on such steamers lessens the traffic and profits of the steamers themselves, by compelling travellers to prefer railroads to steamers wherever practicable, though they are less commodious and comfortable. The enforcement of any plan which will insure the safety of passengers, without encumbering a steamer by life-preservers and boats, which are of no use except during an accident, but by requiring their seats to be constructed in such a manner that every seat on the steamer can be metamorphosed into a life-boat at a moment's notice, would add largely to the business and profits of the steamers as well as the safety of the public.

MR. GLADSTONE AND HIS PRISONERS.

From the Pittsburg Commercial.

The foreign telegraph has brought us a synopsis of a letter from Mr. Gladstone, addressed to the Town Council of Dublin, in which he returns thanks in his own name and in that of his colleagues in the Cabinet for the approval given to the course of the Government in respect to Irish affairs. In this letter the Irish question also renders an account of the reasons which induced them to refuse amnesty to the Fenian prisoners.

By the same despatch we learn that the Dublin Amnesty Association are as little satisfied as ever with the refusal of pardon to the patriots, and that agitation on the subject is to be kept up. In order to render it more effective, local associations are to be formed all over the island. One is thus reminded that Daniel O'Connell once lived and that he, being dead, his influence is still operative. Agitation was his secret, and by him and his coadjutors his arts were wonderfully developed and carried to perfection.

Few people in this country feel her side in regard to England, or to take her side in regard to any question in which we are not ourselves concerned. Still fewer are conscious of any temptation to take sides with England in a case in which Ireland happens to be her antagonist. American sympathies almost universally flow out towards the native island of so many of our citizens. The effect is also partly due to the prevalent belief, surely well founded among us, that the Irish have been misgoverned and oppressed by the English.

So strongly indeed do these considerations appeal to us in behalf of the weak against the strong, that we sometimes fall into sins of partiality not very creditable either to our sense or our sensibility. At one time they prevent us from seeking correct information about the matter in dispute; at another time they operate like a cargo of iron upon the ship's compass. In the case of these Fenian prisoners, for instance, we are afraid the sympathies and even the prayers of many good-hearted and rather intelligent people are misdirected. Happily, we see no indications at present that the subject is likely to be a practical one with us—or that anything more tangible than sympathy or prayers is demanded of Americans; and it would be quite gratuitous cruelty in us to remonstrate against such airy co-operation. But, if an attempt were made to convert these ethereal weapons into others likely to be more effective; if our Government were again called upon to assume the character of intercessor in behalf of the men now "pining in British dungeons," it would be well, we think, for the citizens to comprehend the enormity of the crimes of which these miscreants were found guilty.

It might also tend to mitigate anxiety, and to suggest probabilities of justice being done the prisoners, if we recollected the conspicuous facts in the career of the English Premier whose letter we referred to above. A Tory and a High-churchman in the beginning and for several years after he entered public life, he is now a liberal minister. The changes which have brought him into his present position were gradually and slowly made, and it has been manifest to all England, even to his enemies, that he gave up one stronghold of prejudice and bigotry after another in obedience to the constraining power of reason and justice.

Those who can remember a few years back, know that during the troubles in Naples, when all England was agog and indignant about the horrible prisons in which the king kept his enemies, Mr. Gladstone went to the place, and by personal inquiry gathered the facts which warranted his own Government to interfere in behalf of the men confined and tortured.

The drift of all this is, we think, that when such a man says that he would gladly release the incarcerated Fenians if he thought it expedient to do so, we on this side of the Atlantic ought to believe him. We may, without self-reproach, leave him to deal with the question.

PERILS OF THE SEA.

The Marine Losses for October and the Previous Months of the Year.

We give below a table of the marine losses during the month of October just closed, showing an aggregate of twenty-eight vessels. Of this number one was a steamer, two were ships, four were barges, three were brigs, and eighteen were schooners. Of the above two were abandoned, and one is missing, supposed lost. The total value of the property lost, abandoned, and missing is estimated at \$831,500.

Table with columns: Name, From, For, Value. Lists various shipwrecks and their details.

POLITICAL.

VOTE THE PEOPLE'S TICKET

IN CAMDEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY. For State Senator, JAMES M. SOOVEL. For Sheriff, SAMUEL ROCHER. FOR LEGISLATURE, HIRSH MATTLEWS. Second District, JACOB HUTCHINER. EDWARD BREWER. JOHN D. SPYBOLD. ROBERT DREW. 10 21 12\*

HER MAJESTY CHAMPAGNE. DUNTON & LUSSON, 215 SOUTH FRONT STREET.

THE ATTENTION OF THE TRADE IS solicited to the following very Choice Wines, etc., for sale by DUNTON & LUSSON, 215 SOUTH FRONT STREET.

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COUNTRY WORK PROMPTLY ATTENDED TO. LOOK! LOOK! LOOK!!! WALL PAPERS and Linen Window Shades Manufactured, etc.

GROceries AND PROVISIONS. SHOTWELL SWEET CIDER. Our usual supply of this CELEBRATED CIDER just received.

MICHAEL MEAGHER & CO., No. 222 South SIXTEENTH Street, Wholesale and Retail Dealers in PROVISIONS, OYSTERS, AND SAND CLAMS, TERRAPINS \$16 PER DOZEN.

PHILOSOPHY OF MARRIAGE. A New Course of Lectures, as delivered at the New York Museum of Anatomy, embracing the subjects: How to Live, and What to Live for; Youth, Maturity, and Old Age; Menstruation Generally Reviewed; the Causes of Indigestion, Flatulence and Nervous Diseases Accounted for; Marriage Philosophically Considered, etc.

THE PRINCIPAL DEPOT FOR THE SALE OF REVENUE STAMPS, CENTRAL OFFICE, No. 102 N. FIFTH STREET, (Two doors below Chesnut street).

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NOVEMBER COUPONS AND CITY WARRANTS BOUGHT AND SOLD. EASTON & McHARRON, No. 8 COUPLAND STREET, PHILADELPHIA.

JOHN FARNUM & CO., COMMISSION MERCHANTS and Manufacturers of Conestoga Ticket, etc., No. 22 CHESNUT STREET, PHILADELPHIA.

FINANCIAL. A RELIABLE HOME INVESTMENT. THE FIRST MORTGAGE BONDS OF THE Wilmington and Reading Railroad, BEARING INTEREST AT SEVEN PER CENT. in Currency, PAYABLE APRIL AND OCTOBER, FREE OF STATE AND UNITED STATES TAXES.

At SEVEN PER CENT. in Currency, PAYABLE APRIL AND OCTOBER, FREE OF STATE AND UNITED STATES TAXES. This road runs through a thickly populated and rich agricultural and manufacturing district.

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This loan is secured in the most effectual manner. It represents a road in profitable operation, and will open the trade of the Rocky Mountain country and connect it with the great markets of the East. It is considered to be one of the best loans in the market.

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