

OPINION OF THE PRESS.

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

"WOMAN'S RIGHTS," AND HOW TO GET THEM.

From the N. Y. Times.

The Convention just held at Cleveland for the purpose of organizing what is called a "National Woman's Suffrage Association" deserves to be treated in a serious spirit, chiefly for the reason that its own deliberations were free from the extravagance and buffoonery which usually bring ridicule upon meetings of the same kind. The promoters of these associations complain very bitterly of the levity with which their cause is treated by the press. They never seem to be aware that public writers have done no more than answer them "according to their folly."

They constantly deliver addresses which are intended to be laughed at, and which, as a general rule, are both foolish and vulgar. Then they profess to be aggrieved at our "want of respect." The clown, after chalking his face and cutting antics in the ring, might as reasonably complain that the spectators laughed at him. If the leaders in this agitation wish to have their demands seriously discussed, let them first be serious themselves. We admit, indeed, that one advocate of woman's rights, who has recently published a sort of manifesto in a monthly magazine, cannot be accused of trifling with the subject. His statement of the case is brief, and we hope it will prove intelligible to his "fair clients."

It is not the "fair clients" who wish to establish it, but the fact of the true social ellipse are occupied by equal, complementary and reciprocal relations, making it the evenly balanced and exact product of its two constituents." At first sight this may seem to exhaust the subject, but a few words in plain English may, perhaps, be added.

Those who contend that women ought to be admitted to the exercise of political power completely mistake the ground on which their battle has to be fought. They always argue as if men were oppressively depriving women of their just rights. The letter of Mr. George William Curtis to the Cleveland Convention would be a statement of abstract principle, command almost general assent, but it does not in any way touch the practical question of "woman's suffrage." His argument is essentially as irrelevant to the subject as the "Fourth of July" rhodomontade in his concluding sentence; and it is difficult to believe that he would ever have ventured to address either to an assemblage of men. He assumes that the reason why women do not vote is that men are opposed to it. The truth is quite the other way. The vast majority of men are really indifferent to the whole matter, and very willingly stand aside to leave women to settle it among themselves.

DECLINE IN GOLD—GOOD EFFECTS OF GENERAL GRANT'S POLICY.

From the N. Y. Herald.

The remarkable decline in gold—the price on Thursday touching 124½, the lowest since the year 1870—is the fruit of the policy which General Grant inaugurated when he delivered his brief and simple address on the 4th of March last. The promise which he then made of reducing the expenditures and of faithfully gathering the revenues of the Government is being fulfilled in the falling of the price of gold, which is but the financial sign and index of the increasing credit and stability of the Government. The practical effects of his policy are now quite visible, since the smashing of the gold ring and the breaking up of the Wall street combinations that were formed in mid-summer to advance the price of the precious metal. It will be remembered with what delight his enemies then pointed to the rise in gold as a proof of the weakness of his efforts. The gold gamblers were the sole cause of the upward movement, and in pushing it onward abandoned themselves to the belief that they possessed the power to undo all the good work which General Grant set out to perform. His simple order to sell a few millions from the Treasury ruined their fond anticipations and dissipated the gold corner in the most effectual manner.

The results of General Grant's policy are all the more remarkable for the reason that in taking hold of the reins of government he was not only the victor by the sword, but the victor by the sword of the previous administration. Before setting his own plans in operation he was under the necessity of righting what was wrong in the various departments. He had to unearth and put an end to all the various frauds and schemes of corruption clinging to the appointments of the former regime, and make a general clearing out of the public office. The formidable conspiracy which attacked the gold market was an obstacle for a time to the operation of his plans, but he eventually triumphed, as the apparent discredit of the Government finances implied in the rise in gold was the result of artificial influences only, which had in the long run succumbed to natural causes. The good results of his honest determination to faithfully collect the revenues and to retrench the expenses of the Government are at length reflected in the gradual and steady but sure appreciation of the national credit. Under the circumstances of our present political situation gold is a commodity whose price depends, on the one hand, upon the condition of the national credit, and, on the other, upon the relations of our foreign trade. The burden of the public debt is not necessarily an insurmountable obstacle to the resumption of specie payment for the Government currency. Otherwise England would never have returned to her payments. It is only sufficient to assure the national creditors of the honest intentions and ability of the Government to meet its obligations in order to restore perfect confidence. This portion of the plan General Grant has assumed as his special duty. The commercial value of gold is settled by the laws of demand and supply. According as the balance of trade is for or against us will gold be in demand for export. Gold, after all, is not the real currency of the business world. There is not gold enough in the world to suffice for all the transactions of commerce. Signs of more than it did then. He began by requesting the repeal of a law which had stood on the statute book fifty years, in order that his personal friend and pecuniary benefactor might take office under him. It would not be very surprising, therefore, were he now to advise Congress to violate the solemnly pledged faith of the nation.

But should he do this, he will commit an enormous wrong. We have shown that in the internal revenue act which contains the

provisions relating to the income tax, the national Legislature promised the people that the tax should cease to be levied after 1870. "Until and including the year eighteen hundred and seventy, and no longer," are the words. Instead of a recommendation from the President that the law be re-enacted, it would be his duty, in case Congress should vote to continue it, to veto the bill. The Government of the United States, powerful as it is, must not be at liberty to disregard its pledges to the people, just because those pledges were made five or six years ago. No statute of limitations runs against the public, by which the rulers of the land can escape the just performance of their promises. So high is the public estimate of the importance of national honesty, that all our recent elections have pronounced the doom of the policy which had for its basis the repudiation of the national debt. The people insist on the fulfillment of every obligation growing out of the war, although a large proportion of the debt is owing to foreigners. Can they do this, and at the same time permit the Government to break faith with the public here at home? We think not, and President Grant, in advocating the renewal of the income tax, advocates repudiation of the nation's promises just as clearly as do those who ask us not to pay the national debt.

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THE LATEST FASHION IN MUSIC.

From the N. Y. Tribune.

Two years ago, when half the town ran madly after her rollicking Highness of Garolstein, and clapped their hands for joy that in the new French Apollo they had a greater god than any of the old Italians whose lays had charmed us before, a few sober people who had not been caught by the prevailing mania cried out that the musical art had got its death blow, and we were all rushing to moral and aesthetic destruction. And it seemed, indeed, for a while as if they might be right. From the Grand Duchess to the fair Helen was only one step, and from Troy to Brabant was another. While the revels of Offenbach raged fast and furious on one end of Fourteenth street, the faces of musicians grew sad and anxious at the other. Artists raised their voices in vain amid the solitudes of the Academy while shapely women were flouting their skirts and saying naughty things on the boards of the French Theatre. So the doors of the opera house were locked one day, the cotton covers were drawn over the gilded boxes, and dust was left to settle on the great stage until such time as the world should get through with its frolic and recover its senses. Mr. Grant White and others might well believe that art was departing forever from the stage, and that nonsense and frivolity would permanently take its place. At last, however, the frolic became so daring that innocent eyes were opened to its real significance, and ladies found out that the Fair Helen and the unhappy Genevieve were not very good company for them, and then the reaction began. So much money was lost in opera bouffe, and such a marked change took place in the character of its patrons, that after the second season not a vestige of that style of entertainment was to be found in the whole city.

It was a serious question at first, however, whether the frolic and the fad had not both been overthrown. Very few supposed that musical taste would revive without at least a year or two of depression. But fashion is as fickle in music as she is in skirts and bonnets, and goes back as readily to a discarded composer as she does to an abandoned petticoat. We dare say the great Jubilee at Boston has had its effect in turning the public away from their false gods, and convincing them that they can worship with quite as much pleasure and quite as much style at the feet of Rossini as at the calves of Tostee. Be this as it may, fashion has set violently and suddenly towards the legitimate in the art of music. A seat at the Philharmonic Concert is an unobtainable luxury for which a New York belle would sacrifice the best ball of the season. The centenary of Beethoven is to be celebrated here with a grandeur which will make Boston blush with mortification and howl with envy. One English opera company has sung for us and gone away with full pockets, and another follows it with the same success. And finally, Italian opera, thought to be the most hopelessly prostrate of all lyric enterprises, basks in such a sunshine of favor that manager and singers must be amazed at their own prosperity. All these successes are well deserved, but they are not the less remarkable for all that. A good performance of William Tell is a blessing which descends upon America only once in a decade or so; and a performance with such an "Arnoldo" as the new tenor who has now fired the town would mark an epoch in the musical history of any city; yet music is so seldom rewarded as it should be that there is perhaps more reason to be surprised at the fashionable enthusiasm than if it wasted itself upon the dyed locks and stuffed anatomy of the ladies of the ballet. Frankly, we must say that Fashion has shown a degree of sense for which we were quite unprepared. Let us take the good the gods provide and be thankful. Taste will grow from experience. The fair dames and polished cavaliers who go to the opera now because some mysterious, awful, unseen autocrat has decreed that the opera shall be patronized; because the boxes are well arranged for flirtation, and the balconies are unrivaled for the exhibition of silks and pearl powder, will learn to go pretty soon for love of art itself, to keep silence during the soft music, to pat their hands and cry bis! bis! in the right place, and to remember with a sort of shame the barbarous days when an opera season could be made by an accident and ruined by a whim.

THE INCOME TAX—ANOTHER BLUNDER OF GENERAL GRANT'S.

From the N. Y. Sun.

A series of articles on the income tax has lately appeared in the New York Times, which, if not written by Mr. A. R. Corbin, contain strong internal evidence of having been authorized or inspired by President Grant. The Times has always supported the income tax, unjust and unpopular as it is; but this fact, in itself, is of slight account so long as the ideas were only the productions of the various conductors of that sheet. Now, however, that the advocacy of the income tax through its columns comes from high official sources, and from the President's brother-in-law, if not from the President himself, it is worthy of notice. There seems to be no hesitation on the part of the Times in urging the continuance of the tax directly in the face of the law.

We are further informed that the Secretary of the Treasury and the Commissioner of Internal Revenue favor a renewal of the present income tax at the next session of Congress; and it is said also that the President in his message will recommend a continuation of all the present revenue laws. If he does this, he will ask Congress to break a most solemn promise, and one which cannot be violated without dishonor.

The income tax was imposed at a time of the greatest danger this country has ever known. The people did not like it, but they submitted to it for the sake of national safety and success. The law was universally regarded as a war measure, or it never could have been passed; and the 119th section of the act itself contains a most emphatic pledge that the tax on incomes should cease with the war. It says:—

"As the tax on incomes imposed shall be levied on the first day of March, and be due and payable on or before the thirtieth day of April in each year, until and including the year eighteen hundred and seventy, and no longer."

Now, when President Grant began his administration, he appointed Mr. Stewart Secretary of the Treasury, in total ignorance of the law which forbade that gentleman to accept the place. We should hope that a similar want of information might not mislead the President in regard to the income tax. It is by no means certain, however, that knowledge will teach him wisdom in this case any more than it did then. He began by requesting the repeal of a law which had stood on the statute book fifty years, in order that his personal friend and pecuniary benefactor might take office under him. It would not be very surprising, therefore, were he now to advise Congress to violate the solemnly pledged faith of the nation.

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