GOING BACK IN RECONSTRUCTION. From the N. Y. Nation.

There are rumors from Washington and other quarters of a desire or intention on the part of a certain section of zealous Republicans this winter to take severe measures with regard to Georgia-in short, to put her completely back under military rule, by way of punishing her for the crimes, disorders, and general spirit of disobedience to the law by which she is afflicted. Georgia, as our readers may remember, is neither in nor out of the Union. Indeed, her condition is perhaps the most singular in which any community ever found itself. She fulfilled all the conditions of admission which Cengress prescribed by an act passed for the purpose, June 25, 1868; General Meade officially certified the fulfil ment of some of these conditions; the fulfil ment of the remaining one-the ratification of the fifteenth constitutional amendmentwas duly proclaimed by the President, and the Georgia Representatives were therefore duly admitted to the House. It only remained to admit her Senators, but they were refused ad-mission because, in the interval, the Legisla-ture had expelled its colored members, its right to be the sole judge of the qualifications of its members having been formally acknowledged in a telegraphic despatch to General Meade signed by the members both of the Judiciary and Reconstruction Committees of the House. The Senate, therefore, deliberately disregarded the act of June 25, and refused to admit the Georgia Senators on the conditions therein prescribed, and by mere resolution prescribed other and fresh conditions, one of which was that the Legislature should lay aside its claim to judge in all cases of the qualifications of its members. No reasoning in support of this extraordinary performance was ever produced. Mr. Stewart, of Nevada, wrote the majority report of the Judiciary Committee, but nobody but himself would sign it, which was not surprising, as it was simply a piece of wild declamation. Messrs. Conkling and Frelinghuysen, however, adhered to its conclusion, which was that the Georgia Senators ought not to be readmitted, taking their stand apparently on the discretionary power of the Senate in judging of the qualifications of its members, while Mr. Trumbull made a majority report, containing an argument on the other side, which has never been answered, and is, as it seems to ns, unanswerable. Since then matters have remained unchanged. Georgia is in the Union to all intents and purposes, except that she has no representatives in the Senate. Legally, there is not the smallest flaw in her claim to be considered a State in the Union any more than in the claim of Oew York. It is now proposed, however, it is said, to

put her out of the Union in fact as well as in form, by placing her under "military government, the reason being that the people of the State are saucy and turbulent, and that the revenue and police officers find it difficult to discharge their duties properly, and that, in short, life and property are not as secure as they ought to be. It is quite safe to say, however, that the condition of the State in these respects is no worse than either North or South Carolina or Tennessee, and is probably not one-quarter as bad as that of Texas is likely to be for the next fifteen or twenty years. Indeed, the only reason that exists for not dealing with North Carolina and Tennessee as it is proposed to deal with Georgia, is that in these States negroes were not exnded from the Legislature before the State had been formally and completely admitted to the Union. It is, however, hardly necessary to argue against the right of Congress to expel a State from the Union and put it under martial law because a majority for the time being is not satisfied with the local administration of justice. Those who believe Georgiaisin the Union do not need to be convinced that she cannot be put out of it in this way.

But those who do not believe she is in it, and who now propose to put her back under military government, would do well to explain to us what they mean by "military government," and in what respect such a govern-ment would differ from that now in existence. It is all very well to talk of giving General Terry "absolute control" of the State. but what is meant by his "absolute control?" Real military government-that is, a government of military officers, with a force of soldiers and police at their disposal sufficient to make the roads safe, bring robbers and murderers to justice, enforce the collection of the taxes, and drive rogues and vagabonds into honest industry-would, as we have often said, have been, in our opinion, an excellent thing for the South for four or five years after the war. Both blacks and whites would have profited by it enormously. But no such government was ever instituted at the South. The government the Reconstruction acts set up, for all social purposes, differed from civil government only in name. The Governor of the State was called a general, and the State a district, but in all else things went on as before. Sheriffs hunted down malefactors, civil courts tried them under the laws and constitution. Indeed, the only marked way in which the Reconstruction acts affected the machinery of civil government, was by the exclusion of most of the intelligent, educated men in the State from all share in working it. The Union men who took office and went into politics were by no means the best of their class, and they were reinforced by persons from the North, to a large number of whom doubtless injustice was done by Southern and Democratic papers, but who certainly, as a body, were not persons whose advent was any gain to the South. The fact is, that the state of things we established at the South, pending the reconstruction of the States, has probably been one of the worst ever witnessed. To call it a military government would be an insult to the army. No soldier would, if left to himself, tolerate it for a moment; and that its results have not been worse than they have been reflects the highest credit both on whites and blacks, and especially on the blacks. It has consisted, as everybody who has seen it knows perfectly well, in the committal to the most ignorant, the poorest, and least reputable of a great community of the administration of its justice and of its finances, and indeed of the work of legislating for the exigencies of ten millions of people emerging suddenly from a bloody civil war and a social revolution. No such experiment could succeed, or will ever succeed. The Almighty decreed that it should not when He gave man his reason, and provided that it should regulate human affairs. That the disorders of every kind which afflict Southern society should be great is no wonder; the wonder is that they are not greater; and to talk of punishing them, and removing them. by remanding a State back to this state of things, is like remanding a man to the bar-

which has not even that lowest of all governmental claims to respect-brute force at command-instead of putting an end to turbu-

lence, we sow the seeds of it. We do not blame the authors of the Reconstruction policy for the results of their policy.

It was just and expedient that the prime movers in the Rebellion should be excluded from all share in the management of affairs while the basis of society at the South, and the relations of the revolted States to the Union, were undergoing revision But to persist in keeping up this abnormal state of things, and, above all, to thrust back into it any State which has even partially made its way out of it, would be the height of folly and wick edness. Congress may be fairly defied to make society at the South either sober, orderly, industrious, or law-abiding. It may pass what acts it pleases, and things will remain as they are till the individuals of which Southern society is composed are improved; and the work of improving them does not fall either to General Terry or the Reconstruction Committees. Providence has reserved that for laws whose operation began with the creation of man, and will only cease with his

THE "SATURDAY REVIEW" ON INTER VIEWING.

From the N. Y. World. The Saturday Review, in common with the press of New York, has been struck with wonder at the enterprise displayed by this journal, which it mildly calls a "famous' newspaper, in the matter of Father Hyacinthe. As Mr. Weller observed upon his crotic persecutiors, we "don't take no pride out on it. It is by no means a difficult thing to astonish and awe-strike your English journalist with a stroke of newspaper enterprise, nor do we enjoy a monopoly of producing that sensa-tion in his insular and figuratively as well as literally hide-bound bosom. Even the Tri-bune, which prints such very stale news for New York, is a prodigy of enterprise in London, as it is a literary and political prodigy at home. But the Saturday Review, in its won-der over the feats which, we beg to assure it, mere mortal men can attain to do by the use of merely natural means, goes so far as to attribute to us superhuman powers and supernatural agencies. It is not, perhaps, surprising that an unenlightened and superstitious Saturday Review should take this view of an achievement so impossible to the faculties of its compatriotic journals. Even as the credulous German populations were wont to ascribe an intimacy with the infernal powers to the mythical Faust because he was equal to feats of intelligence which baffled them, or as the authorities of Paris prosecuted the historical Faust on a charge of "magic" for inventing that art of printing which the World has only utilized and extended so immeasurably beyond its original scope as to make of it in effect a new creation, do the scoffers of the Saturday Review now charge upon us the sorceries and conjurations which its prototypes charged upon ours. But time has shown how ridienlous the chorge was in their cases, and possibly the British journal of 1969 will have advanced so far beyond the British journal of the present period that Englishmen and Saturday Reviewers of that remote epoch can schemes. appreciate and explain, without resorting to the theory of supernatural interposition, the deeds done in the World of 1869.

The specific allegation of the Saturday Review is that this journal would, if it had an opportunity, "interview the devil." Doubtless it would, and glory in the chance of confuting that potentate out of his own mouth. The only Englishman whom tradition assures e had the favor of an interview with him is St. Dunstan, who, with the same blindness of what possesses human interest that characterizes his successor—the British journalist of to-day-allowed his visitor to return without even taking notes of the conversa-tion for the benefit of his "home organ," the Chronicle of Glastonbury Abbey. The Germans are not reputed lively journalists, but Martin Luther certainly showed more appreciation of the availability of the devil than St. Dunstan. Whereas the canonized Englishman let him go unreported, the excommunicated Protestant, as vulgar persons would put it, "slung ink" at him like a man and a reporter. In this particular, we avow ourselves imitators rather of the German than the English model.

But, though we thus maintain the propriety of interviewing the Devil, by way of making known his views to our great constituency, the members of which are total strangers to him, we do not see that it would result in any practical advantage. We would then have him at first hand, it is true, but we are not without utterances plainly inspired by him, and authentic contemporaneous expositions of his opinions. We read, and occasionally quote, the Saturday Review. We have actually interviewed and reported the incarnate Henry Ward Beecher. And daily we receive and read and refute the messages which the personage in question daily delivers upon the fourth page of the Tribune. Thus it will be seen that we do virtually "interview the Devil," as the Saturday Review justly avers that we stand ready to do. Those little personal details of horns and hoofs and tail, which alone would be supplied by such an interview as that periodical suggests, would be interesting, no doubt, but they would add nothing to our practical knowledge. The natural curiosity which the Saturday Reviewers feel about these, his incidental appendages, must be postponed, we fear, until they do their own personal and posthumous interviewing with him.

To show the absurd misappreciation of "interviewing" in the British mind, we may observe that the Saturday Review proposes to import it into the British realms. This is well enough. But to what end? To let the British public know the opinion of the Queen and the Archbishop of Canterbury upon the World's account of the slums of London, or some such subject of transcendent moment? To give to the British public an easy and coloquial expresssion of the views of their statesmen, philosophers, divines, and tradesmen upon the uppermost questions of policy, religion, and finance? Not at all. Having got this benign and instructive custom naturalized, the Saturday Review would prostitute it to the scurvy purpose of drawing out "Mr. Ayrton." Just Heavens! Who is Ayrton, that public journals should be cumbered with him? Thus does "the eye see in any thing what it has the means of seeing," and thus does the British mind degrade the last best gift of America to man.

CANDIDATES FOR SPEAKER.

From the Lancaster Express. We notice that some of the Democratic newspapers, including those in Harrisburg and Laneaster, are up in arms against the selection by the Democratic members of the lower house of the Legislature of Samuel Josephs, of Philadelphia, as their candidate for Speaker of the House at the opening of room to cure him of drunkenness. As long the session in January. It appears that Jo-as we keep up a government at the South sephs has been sending out circulars soliciting

which men of intelligence and character and I the votes of his fellow Democratic members i wealth at the South despise and detest, and for the place, not that there is any chance for his election, but that he may be recognized as the leader of the party in the House, and his personal influence thus be increased. These papers denounce him as "the prince of those professional legislators who make money by making laws," one who "hires votes and pays his hirelings in open day;" in short, he has been known in the Legislature here-tofore as a corruptionist of the deepest dye, always ready to join the corrupt men among the Republicans in every scheme to plunder the treasury or put money in their own pockets.

It is alleged by the papers in question that B. B. Strang, of Tioga, who is declared to be the head and front of the Republican division of the corrupt ring last winter, will be the candidate of the Republican caucus for Speaker, and will undoubtedly be elected; and it is intimated that the object in making Mr. Josephs the Democratic candidate is to allow the Republicans to escape from the odium that would naturally attach to the choice of such a man as Strang, by showing that the Democratic candidate was equally if not more dishonest and corrupt, and thus deprive the Democratic party of the political capital they would otherwise be able to make out of the bad conduct of the Republicans.

It is no doubt true that the corruptionists in both parties would regard it as a great point gained to have the opposite party, as well as their own, committed and put upon the record as sanctioning the various rascally schemes of plunder which rogues in and out of the Legislature are constantly concocting, and we must acknowledge that the Demo cratic newspapers which protest against the adoption of a course on the part of their members, which would lend countenance to the worst and most assailable acts of their political adversaries, deserve credit, and are pursuing a policy the best calculated of all others to strengthen their party.

In the Republican party also, no less than in the Democratic, its worst enemies, who will surely lead it to destruction if they succeed in their projects, are those of its own household, who would organize the Legislature in such a way as to proclaim by actions, speaking londer than any words, that corruption is triumphant, and plundering the public treasury for private benefit to be the order of the day. Let the Republican press throughout the State show itself no less jealous of the honor and integrity of their party than their political opponents are of theirs-sounding the alarm against all such corrupt schemes as have disgraced the record of recent sessions of the Legislature with their authors and supporters-and their voice will be heeded and the party saved. The Republican party of Pennsylvania has not so great a preponderance of numbers over its Democratic competitor that it can afford to allow itself to be committed in favor of legislative extravagance, corruption, and general disregard of the interests and wishes of the people, especially after the Democratic party, taking warning by and avoiding our errors, shall present itself before the people as the champion of honest legislation, and shall give evidence of its sincerity by refusing to recognize as its condidates men who have heretofore been identified with corrupt measures and

THE COAL QUESTION AND THE DUTY OF CONGRESS.

From the N. Y. Times. Very soon after Congress meets it will be called upon to take into consideration the popular grievance in regard to coal. New England, New York, and New Jersey are at issue with a few mining and railroad corporations who, by keeping the market at an exorbitant rate, are able to obstruct industries, and to add another to the many ills which the poor have to bear. Where the duty of our representatives lies is clear. The question is whether they will allow themselves to be overridden by those corporations, and induced to refuse a measure of justice imperatively demanded. The case is a peculiarly hard one from a double point of view. New England, New Jersey, and this State depend necessarily for their anthracite coal upon the mines of Pennsylvania. But the same capitalized influence controlling both mines and the railroads by which their product is distributed, the price to consumers is kept by its action at a rate which constitutes a severe burden. At the same time the Atlantic coast, which has within reach a supply of bituminous coal, at a reasonable first cost, is deprived of that supply by a tax which is at once impolitic and unjust. The tax is upheld that the mines may charge for the coal an unfair price, and that the railroads may grow richer by carrying it at charges which are beyond all reason.

The producing cost of a ton at the pit's mouth (say at Mauch Chunk) is about \$1.85, to which may be added a few cents more for commission and so forth. The New Jersey Central Railroad charges \$3 a ton for freight to Elizabeth, making the total cost there about \$5. But the cargo price at Elizabeth is, or was a few days ago, \$8.50 a ton for lump, stove, and steamer coal. We see here the enormous profits gained by the mining and railway companies, and the consequent hardship inflicted upon the public. Of course the Atlantic coast, which asks for the use of Nova Scotia coal, but is denied, fares much worse, on account of its greater dis-tance from the mines. And the example given applies to the Reading Railroad also, which charges \$2.58 a ton for the ninety miles between Port Carbon and Port Richmond. On the other hand, the Ohio and Baltimore Road, a much more expensive one as to working, from the steepness of its grades, carries coal from Cumberland to Locust Point, more than double the distance of that between Ports Carbon and Richmond,

The mining corporations have been enabled to produce these results by a system of regulating the market and by producing strikes, suspensions, and every possible means of alarming the public, and the rail-ronds have abetted them. Not only have they done this, but by studious misrepresentations both have created the impression that the supply was unequal to the demand, and that prices must still go higher. The consumers, however, or all of them who could do so, refused to "lay in stocks" in obedience to these alarmist cries, and the truth becomes understood that only is the supply equal to, but largely in excess of popular requirements. It is to be hoped hat this abstinence from purchase will be persisted in. There seems, indeed, no reason why, in a very large number of cases, the system of laying up the winter's supply may not altogether cease. At all events, the time has come when Congress must look the matter square in the face, and see how far it is justified in preserving a tax on Nova Scotia coal, which injures the iron manufactures of the Atlantic scaboard, which operates with unfair preference in favor of the Pennsylva-nia iron manufacturer, and which enables the coal interests to impose upon the poor, and obstructs every industry which depends upon coal for its working. The railroad monopo-

lies and the miners, who sustain each other in opposing the repeal of the duty on foreign bituminous coal, must be brought to reason.

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