

SPRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

LINE AND STAFF IN THE NAVY.

From the N. Y. Times. The true solution of the vexed line and staff question must evidently be sought in a fair compromise between the demands of the extremists of one school of opinion and the other.

Now, it is perfectly evident that if the matter be referred to Congress, as it will be this winter, neither of these extreme views can be maintained. We cannot suppose that either has found favor with the Naval Board, to which Mr. Robeson has lately referred the subject, and before which, as it is composed of the six Chiefs of Bureaus—and therefore includes those of Medicine and Surgery and of Chief Engineering—the case of the Surgeons and Engineers has received, we may suppose, fair consideration.

In the first place, is it true that we can pronounce the staff "non-combatants" in any such invidious sense as extremists of the line adopt? A paymaster is not necessarily a valiant fighter, but he is exposed to the perils of action when on board the ship in battle, and may be called on, we believe, to repel boarders, in which case he becomes more essentially a combatant. A surgeon is not a sailor, but he shares all a sailor's dangers in time of peace, and not a few of them in time of war. An engineer is not a midshipman, and may not know how to sail a pleasure boat; but in these days of steam navigation, when the line-of-battle-ship has given place to the monitor, when stokers outnumber sailors, and when it is even more important to steam a ship than to sail it, will not the staff be called on to do their duty during the late war, their situation is often nearly as exposed, and their dangers from a shot entering the ship are as great as that of others.

But, passing this point for a moment, suppose we admit the accuracy of this distinction between combatant and non-combatant—how does it follow that this distinction should be used for depriving the staff of any rank due to it on other grounds? No such discrimination is made in the army, and none such need be, therefore, it seems to us, in the navy. For example, it would be an extraordinary thing if a general officer's staff in the army had no rank; or, putting the case more accurately, if officers serving in Bureaus—in the Pay Department, in the Medical Department, or in the Engineer Corps—were thereby deprived of the rank otherwise due them.

Nor should we overlook the fallacious consideration sometimes presented, that surgeons and chaplains, in the event of being captured by an enemy, are not usually considered prisoners of war. It is only necessary to say that, as this distinction is not of force, on the present subject, in the army, it need not be in the navy, especially as paymasters and surgeons rarely or never have similar exemption, and are often imprisoned. In the army, paymasters have been brevetted not only for "meritorious services" in their own lines of duty, but for gallantry in special actions, in which, finding an opportunity for being useful under fire, they accepted it.

On the other hand, however, we think the staff have pushed their demands in a way quite as extreme and objectionable as the line have opposed them. No doubt it was the ridiculous pretensions, in good part, already alluded to, on the part of some of the staff, to rank as high as the line, when their own consciousness of the nature of their vocations should have suggested a different standard, that roused the line to extreme hostility.

What we think can be arranged—certainly ought to be arranged—is a fair compromise between these diverse demands. Lately the controversy has been embittered in many ways. The line, on the one hand, having that "possession which is nine points of the law," sometimes treat the dispute a little too cavalierly or derisively. The staff, on the other hand, bent on having rank, do not scruple some times to attack the whole service, in hopes of thereby injuring the confidence of the country in the line. If the Naval Board can handle this question properly, or Congress shall show itself equal to the task, we may perhaps soon see the end of a controversy already greatly injurious to the discipline and efficiency of the service, and likely to be more so in future.

FACTS ABOUT THE CHINESE.

From the Missouri Republican. We have before us the report of the Board of Trustees of the San Francisco Chinese Protection Society, which affords some interesting facts and statistics concerning a people in whom we are now somewhat concerned, and about whom we are eager to gather all accessible information.

The Chinese, it would appear, are a people thoroughly addicted to system in business. Those in California, from the richest to the poorest, from the merchant to the rag-picker, are all directly or indirectly under the surveillance of what are called the "Six Companies," organizations similar to our express companies, which manage the whole business of emigration. These companies are governed by a board of trustees residing in California, but having their chief offices in China, directly under the control of the Chinese Government. They keep a record of every man, woman, and child who arrives in San Francisco, also a list of all who return, die, or leave California. The number of the dead is ascertained by the bones carried back to China—for every Chinaman who dies abroad is religiously transported back to his native land for sepulture. The agents of the "Six Companies" along the Pacific coast carefully gather the dead and send them to San Francisco, for shipment to Hong Kong. Those who die at sea are not committed to the waves, but likewise carried home for interment. The savings of the Chinese are collected and remitted to their native land by the "companies." These savings amount from \$20,000 to \$100,000 by each steamer, the sum being made out by contributions which vary from \$2 to \$100. They are sent to the poor friends and relatives of the donors, as presents, or to aid them to migrate to the United States. The total arrivals of Chinese on the Pacific coast have been 138,536, of whom 37,328 have returned, 10,426 have died, and 90,887 still remain. There are now 41,000 in California, the remainder, 49,887, being thus distributed:—In Montana, 12,000; in Nevada, 7,000; in Idaho, 10,000; in Oregon, 8,000; along the Pacific Railroad, 8,500; and in Colorado, 4,000. In California the proportion

of females to males is one to eight; and there are 3000 children and boys. There are 80 in the California penitentiary, out of a total of 700 convicts there. An estimate gives the proportion of white convicts in the prison as 1 out of every 230 of the male adult population, and the proportion of Chinese as 1 out of every 400. There are 2750 Chinese in San Francisco engaged in the business of making cigars; 4500 employed as domestic servants; 764 as laundrymen, and 17 doctors. Of those in the interior of the State, estimated at 24,000, 6500 are miners, 2500 are wood-choppers, 1500 are domestics, and 1500 are employed in mills and factories. During the year 1869 the arrivals were 12,761, and the departures 13,104. This includes the time from January 1 to November 20, and shows that the immigration has not been as large as has generally been supposed. Of the 15,104 who have left San Francisco during the year, 3461 returned to China, 1876 went to the northern and southern coasts, and 7767 went to the interior. Of those who arrived during the year, about two-thirds came by the Hong Kong and Yokohama regular steamers, and the remainder by sailing vessels. There are about one hundred Japanese of both sexes and all ages in California, but they are distinct from the Chinese in their habits and customs. The trade of 1869 between San Francisco and China shows \$9,377,577 of exports, of which \$6,936,616 was treasure, and \$4,213,819 of imports—showing a balance in our favor of \$5,163,758. The exports consisted, besides treasure, of manufactured goods, flour, quicksilver, lumber, wheat, fish, fruits, and oats; the imports were miscellaneous goods, teas, sugar, rice, and opium. The report, incidentally alluding to the bullion trade of China, mentions that it amounted in 1868 to \$87,397,219, and that the general trade of Hong Kong exceeds \$100,000,000 annually.

On the point of personal habits, the report informs us that they are industrious, remarkably sober, punctual in fulfilling engagements, and religious in their way; and their system of marriage, if not in accord with our notions, is "not much worse than Mormonism or free love." The idea that they live on rice and garbage is scouted; they are as fond of good living as other people, and enjoy it when they can afford to. Nearly all the large American stores have Chinese signs on their windows, and keep Chinese clerks, to solicit Chinese custom. Still, there is a strong opposition to them from certain classes of people, and the society from which this report emanates was organized to afford them protection.

A RIDICULOUS DIPLOMAT. From the N. Y. Sun. Mr. John Jay is Minister of the United States to Austria, and represents our country at the Court of his Catholic and Apostolic Royal-Imperial Majesty Francis Joseph I, in the beautiful city of Vienna.

The petition of our Minister to Austria, where in he asks the civil and criminal court of Baden-Baden to prevent his wife from having the child and fever, shows that Mr. Jay has succeeded in getting into an absurd family quarrel, and has chosen to do this in a way to attract the largest share of public attention.

Since the present administration began, brothers-in-law have gained prominent notoriety. Mr. Jay, like those in more eminent position, has been brought into trouble by his brother-in-law. This gentleman is Hickson W. Field, Jr., of New York. While Mr. Jay's family were at Homburg, this festive youth arrived there. His father having made a will in which he had given the largest share of his property to Mrs. Jay and her children, young Hickson had become irate. He demanded his sister's assent to a change in the will. She refused it. Upon this the terrible young man made remarks of a severe nature, which caused Mrs. Jay to have an attack of chills and fever.

Mr. Jay was at Vienna when he learned of this occurrence. He took the first train for Homburg. There he found what his brother-in-law had said, his remarks being such as "that he would raise—" and "crush them!" Mr. Jay incorporates all this into his appeal to the Baden-Baden tribunal. He says that he is obliged to return to Vienna and cannot take his family with him, as they have been ordered elsewhere by their physician; that he fears Hickson will carry out his threats; and that his son is soon to go home to America, so that he cannot protect the rest. He asks the Court to summon the necessary parties before it, and take measures to guard them against the angry brother-in-law.

Is not this ridiculous? A high official of the United States appears in the role of a petitioner to a court of a petty fifth-rate German principality, all about a family quarrel in which the avarice of both sides is the most prominent feature. Why did not his son, who is set forth in the document as "Lieutenant-Colonel William Jay," have warlike ardor sufficient to raise something on his part, and incidentally kick Field out of his house when he abused his mother? That would have saved all this flourish of trumpets and of titles which a respectable American ought to be ashamed to write out in full, except when he cannot help it. If legal proceedings were necessary, a lieutenant-colonel ought to be man enough to institute them without calling the parent Jay from his gilded cage at the Austrian capital. The whole affair seems to us one of those operations concerning dirty linen which, in the common opinion of mankind, should be confined to the wash-tub at home.

On one account we are glad to hear of Jay's silliness. It will annoy the snobs and trouble those who fancy that an avaricious and foolish individual can make a great country ridiculous. But it is painful to reflect that President Grant chose such a man for the Austrian mission in preference to William Cullen Bryant.

THREE DOLLARS A SECOND! From the St. Louis Democrat. That is the rate at which, under the present administration, we are paying off the debt. Just \$71,903,525 in nine months; \$7,989,280 for each month; \$1,997,320 for each week; \$266,300 for each day; \$11,093 for each hour; \$184 for each minute; and \$3.04 for each second.

Without increase of taxation, remember! The taxes are not a bit higher than they were in the last year of Mr. Johnson's administration, when we did not reduce the debt. The people pay the same sum of money, but seventy-two millions more of that money goes to reduction of the debt, which was then wasted in needless expenditures or stolen by corrupt officials. The new administration, therefore, saves of the people's money three dollars a second. As compared with his predecessor, President Grant has saved of the people's money every day more than his whole salary for the year. That sort of public servant pays!

We do not believe that this rate of taxation ought to continue. It was necessary under Johnson; it is not necessary now. But while it does continue, we believe that the money paid by the people ought to be neither wasted nor stolen, and rejoice that so much

of it has been saved by greater efficiency and honesty of administration. We have about thirty-eight and a half millions of people; there has been saved in nine months \$71,903,525; the new administration has therefore saved for every man, woman, and child in the country \$1.87, or at the rate of \$2.50 per capita in taxes of all kinds, to Government. Out of nine dollars and fifty cents, we are now saving and applying to the reduction of the debt two dollars and fifty cents per capita, which was formerly wasted or stolen.

Now if Government will just do two other things, the people will be very glad. We don't want to pay the debt at present; this generation has borne burdens enough. Reduce the taxation to seven dollars per capita. Let the people have the two dollars and fifty cents per capita to help them in their industry and their living.

And second, we don't want to pay taxes which do not go to the Government. We are paying taxes to monopolists, of which Government gets not one cent, amounting to at least one hundred millions more, or two dollars and sixty cents per capita. Take out of that burden too! Let us pay the seven dollars per capita to Government, which is required to meet expenses and interest on the debt. And then let us not pay the two dollars and sixty cents which the Government does not get, or the two dollars and fifty cents which is now applied to payment of debt. There is our financial creed, briefly stated. The Government needs seven dollars per capita. Let us be taxed to pay that, and nothing else! We are now taxed over twelve dollars and ten cents per capita:—

For expenses of Government.....\$7.00  
Paid by Johnson and saved by Grant.....2.50  
For monopolists.....2.50  
Total.....\$12.00

And we want the two last items taken off altogether! What say you, men of the West, would not a removal of five dollars per capita of the burdens now borne be quite welcome? General Grant's administration is doing well. Will Congress do equally well?

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