## SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

THE TELEGRAPHIC CIRCUIT OF THE GLOBE.

We have had a number of cable despatches within the last few days, from which we may lerive assurance that before a very great while we will be in telegraphic communicahon with China and Japan, as well as the East Indies and other parts of the Oriental world. Our readers are aware that the Great Eastern is at this time engaged in the work of laying a cable along the bed of the Arabian Sea and the Red Sea, between Bombay and Suez, a distance which will require a cable line of the length of 4000 statute miles, or as great a length as the cable between France and this country. This line, in connection with the Alexandria and Malta line, already in existence, will bring India into immediate communication with Europe-while we in this country will also, of course, be able to receive our daily despatches of East India

affairs. Already preparations have been made for the extension of this line to China. We had a London despatch last week announcing the formation of a company there to lay a submarine cable between Bombay and Hong Kong, and we know that this is but the carrying out of a project for which preparations were made some time ago. There is now no difficulty about obtaining capital for cable companies in London; and the English facilities for cable-making and cable-laying have become so great that we may reasonably expect to see the Bombay and Hong Kong line in full operation before the close of the coming year. When, by this means, London is enabled to hold daily communication with the Chinese Empire, New York will of course enjoy the same privilege; and Koopmanschap in San Francisco will be able to telegraph to China for emigrants, not in a westerly direction, as ought to be the case, but by long easterly lines of wires and cables, via New York, London, Malta, Suez, and Bombay to Hong Kong. The English have undoubtedly got the start of us, as well as of the rest of the world, in this matter of telegraphic communication with China and the countries of the Orient; and the English will undoubtedly derive the greater part of the advantages from the connection thus established. But we do not propose to worry over the matter. We ourselves will use the lines as much as we may need them in the meantime; and we are quite sure in time to have our own cables across the Pacific, as the precursors of a commerce certain yet to attain stupendous proportions.

We have, moreover, had the assurance, within the last few days, of the establishment of another cable line in another part of the world, that may also bring us into telegraphic communication with the Chinese Empire. Our St. Petersburg despatch of the 8th announced that the Czar of Russia had granted the authorization to a company to lay a submarine cable connecting some point on the coast of Asiatic Russia with China and Japan-touching the Chinese territory, we suppose, at Shanghai, whence connections with the other Chinese ports will be formed by the lines of the American Company which has already received the necessary concessions from the Pekin Government. The Russo-Chinese cable will connect with St. Petersburg by the great overland Russian lines (not yet completed), and it will be quite possible for us to establish a connection between it and our American telegraph system. We are now engaged in extending our wires in a northerly direction along the Pacific coast, and there is not the slightest doubt hat they will advance till they have stretched cross British Columbia and reached Alaska. from our telegraph stations there, it will ot be a very difficult matter to lay a cable cross the straits which separate our territory rom that of Asiatic Russia, thus forming a connection with the Russo-Chinese line and establishing telegraphic communication round

To observe that this will be the case when the projects now being prosecuted are completed, let us commence at any point of the circle. Say we begin at New York, from which we may move in either direction; but let us pass westwardly to San Francisco, northwardly to Alaska, across Behring's Straits to the Russo-Asiatic cable, which carries us to China; thence to Bombay by the projected English line; from there to Suez, Malta, and London, and onward to our point of departure at New York by the Atlantic cable. Or suppose we take another point at the opposite side of the world—let it be Hong Kong, for example. The merchant or correspondent there can telegraph to New York by two lines running in opposite directions. He can send his despatch to us by way of Bombay, Suez, London, and the Atlantic cable: or he can send it to us by way of the Russo-Asiatic line, Alaska, San Francisco, and the overland wires. We trust that this Russo-Asiatic line, as well as the British Bombay line to China, will be constructed and brought into suc assful operation. Russia has great interests in China and a vast commerce with China. The establishment of this line of telegraphic communication would be of incalculable advantage to Russia. That it would also be of great advantage to us is unques-

SINISTER INFLUENCES AT WASHING-TON-MR. TRUMBULL'S REMEDY. From the N. Y. Times.

If Senator Trumbull really desires to promote the efficiency of the civil service, maintain the dignity of Representatives and Senators in Congress, and restore integrity in legislation, he could, one would suppose, find ample opportunity for the furtherance of his purposes without making it a crime for a Representative to give the Executive correct information touching the fitness of applicants for office. To give such information, whether it is required or not, is not only the right but the duty of every member of Congress; and the fact that we may occasionally have an Executive who does not seek such information, or who disregards it when given, only renders the performance of the duty on the part of the Representative still more imperative. He who gives this information from a sense of public duty is a public benefactor and not a criminal. It is the abuse of the privilege which their position gives to members of Congress that needs to be corrected. Had Senator Trumbull provided against the abuse of the system, and, while preserving the right of recommenda-tion, only sought to regulate the manner of its exercise; had he provided in his bill that all recommendations should be in writing, and be placed on file; that any Representative who should endorse more than one person for the same office, or who should, after having recommended one for an office secretly oppose his appointment without withdrawing his recommendation on file; and had he

further declared that any member of Con- | party, had, in the same number, the followgress who should support an applicant for office for a pecuniary consideration, or in pursuance of any corrupt agreement or understanding-or that any Senator or Representative who should receive any money or other valuable consideration from an office holder whose appointment he had recom-mended, should be guilty of a misdemeanor— he would have struck at a growing evil, convinced the people of the sincerity of his effort to effect a reform in the abuses connected with the administration of the Government, and commended his proposition to the favorable consideration of the people. But when he attempts to convert an act of duty into a misdemeanor, it will be difficult for him to convince the people that his measure is not absurd as well as unjust.

The Senator having undertaken, however, to regulate the abuses arising out of the intercourse between members of Congress and the Executive Department, and to read a lecture on Congressional dignity and departmental independence-all of which we admit was much needed-his attention may be called to one or two additional abuses in this connection which seem to us worthy his at-

First in order, then, is the practice of members mixing in the controversies which arise between the departments and the taxpayer. In 1853 an act of Congress was passed which prohibited any Senator or Representative in Congress from acting, "for any compensation paid or agreed to be paid, as agent or attorney in prosecuting any claim against the United States." The letter of this act, strictly construed, does not, perhaps, prevent members of Congress from acting as claim agents, provided their compensation is political support, given or to be given, rather than 'a compensation paid or to be paid." And possibly it cannot be said to prohibit them from defending claims which the Government may make against the citizen. But it is very clear that the evil which Congress sought to remedy was the exercise of Congressional influence upon clerks and the subordinates of departments before whom these claims were pending. The spirit of this statute, if not its letter, is habitually violated. Go into the Internel Revenue Department any morning between the hours of 9 and 12, and you will see Representatives waiting in the ante-room to obtain an interview with the head of the department respecting some controversy involving money, which has arisen between a constituent and the Government. In important controversies between the department and great whisky or tobacco thieves, you may be sure that in a majority of cases the thief will either directly or indirectly be represented before the department by his member of Congress.

HOLDING BACK ON THE CUBAN QUES-TION-WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

From the N. Y. Herald. Every one asks with some surprise what the apparently pro-Spanish policy of the administration and the seemingly studied reticence of Congress on the Cuban question mean. Even those members of Congress who are most pronounced and advanced in favor of Cuban independence or annexation are holding back. Monster petitions to Congress, with seventy thousand signatures, for the recognition of Cuban belligerency or independence are laid aside for the present, and that upon the motion of members who have been the warm friends of Cuba. Months ago the President did not hesitate to express opinions highly favorable to the Cubans. The Secretary of State was scarcely less sympathetic and hopeful for Cuba than his chief. All this is on record. Our Minister of Madrid was instructed to tell the Spanish Government, nearly nine months ago, that public opinion in the United States was so strongly in favor of the Cubans that the administration and Congress would be compelled at no distant day to recognize them. At the end of the session of Congress last spring, the House of Representatives passed a resolution unanimously expressing sympathy with the Cubans in their struggle for freedom and authorizing the President to recognize them. It is known, too, that our Government made an effort, about the same time, to negotiate with Spain for the independence of Cuba.

Nor should it be forgotten that the seizure and detention of the Spanish gunboats for a time had no real relation to Peru. No one had any idea that these gunboats would or could be used against Peru. The Government knew this, and, therefore, using the Peruvian Minister or the pretended quasi war with Peru in the matter was mere pretext. There is no doubt that the object at the time was to serve the Cubans in an indirect way. Everything tended to show that the Government and people of the United States were steadily advancing to a point when this country would interpose in some way or other in favor of Cuban independence. Everybody expected it, the press anticipated it, and the poor Cubans were inspired with hope by it. That was the state of the question up to two weeks ago, and a great deal was expected from the President and Congress, or from Congress, at least, as soon as the session commenced. General Grant said even to one of the Cuban Junta, in an interview ten days since, that Congress would

take prompt action on the subject of Cuba. But we are not willing to believe the administration is aiming to assist the Spaniards and to crush the Cubans, notwithstanding the language of the President's message and the release of the Spanish gunboats. We are disposed to believe there may be some overtures from Spain—some professed disposition on the part of that power to open negotiations for the sale or cession of Cuba, and that our Government is desirous to conciliate the Spaniards and to save their pride from being wounded, so that the object may be accomplished under the form of friendship. The extraordinary attentions to General Sickles, The our Minister at Madrid, lately, give color to this opinion. We cannot believe that the Government, and least of all that General Grant, would take the back track in the Cuban question for fear of war with Such a bugbear would Spain. not disturb the most nervous old fogy if he had any sense. But if the seeming pro-Spanish and anti-Cuban policy of the administration arises from any new movement on the part of Spain to negotiate for the sale or independence of Cubs, it may be well to warn the Government against any possible Spanish treachery, so that it may not aid the Spaniards in their atrocious system of war on Cuba for the sake of a remote contingency. If our Government be too yielding and tender in its friendship for Spain on such a prospect, it may be cheated and be laughed at by the whole world for its simplicity and folly! The only way to treat Spain and this Cuban question is in the boldest manner and on the principle of a broad American policy, independent of what the rest of the world may think or say.

POPULARITY OF GENERAL GRANT'S MESSAGE IN CONGRESS.

From the N. Y. World. The Times, which devoted a long editorial on Monday to aspersions of the Democratic

ing servile and sycophantic tribute to President Grant, telegraphed from its regular Washington correspondent:

"Washington correspondent:—"
"Washington, Dec. 11.—It is strictly accurate to say that the reception of the President's message by Congress has been marked by a spirit of hearty concurrence and general satisfaction such as has not been exhibited since the last message of Mr. Lincoln. It has brought back the days of happy accord coin. It has brought back the days of happy accord and complete harmony between Congress and the administration, which result must inevitably be fet throughout the country. There are portions of the message, of course, which do not meet with unanimous approval, but these exceptions disappear in the hearty approval of the tone of the message and the general admiration of the terse and perspicuous manner in which the President states his arguments, facts, and suggestions when he gets fairly beyond his introduction. There are even some sencences which are models of condensed thought and compact expression. Directness of Statement was always a characteristic of General Grant's orders, letters, and reports; and that part of the message devoted to direct statements—which is the larger part—fully sustains his reputation in this respect."

This fulsome praise of a weak President betokens as little judgment or discrimination as the Times' tirade against the Democratic party. President Grant has convinced Congress that he is so little formidable, either by his own sagacity or by the talents and influence of his Cabinet, that there is no necessity for making any laborious attempt to thwart him. The ascendancy which Congress has arrogated for the last four or five years is in so little danger from so feeble a President that its members feel that there would be more scandal and damage to their party in a quarrel than gain from openly bridling an officer who is such a cipher in politics.

If, as General Grant's sycophant asserts, his recent message brings him a rich harvest of Congressional popularity, the natural consequence would be the adoption of all his leading recommendations. But there are, as yet, no symptoms that any of them will be successful. In what he said about Cuba he did not propose any action by Congress, but only explained his own position on a subject which is outside the legislative province. There is no unanimous acquiescence by Congress in that part of his message. On Monday, Mr. Carpenter, the popular Republican Senator from Wisconsin, offered a bill to prevent the departure of the Spanish gunboats; and Mr. Davis, the ablest Republican Representative from this State, proposed that the President should be asked if he desired new legislation to enable him to take sides with the Cubans. This topic excites more popular feeling than any other touched in the message; and although the President's position on it is correct, it is certain that it does not meet the general approbation of the Republican members. His past action on this subject, and his sudden change of front, have placed the Republican press, and most of the Republican members, in a false position. His seizure and detention of the gunboats, and the sympathy he has in various ways manifested for the insurgents, gave a cue which his party was too eager to follow; and now, after they have been committing themselves for so many months to the cause of the insurgents, it is very awkward for them to be required to "turn their backs upon themselves," and support the President in frowning down a movement which he and they have so long abetted. On this question, surely, the message is not responded to with unanimous plaudits, and it has brought him no increase of popularity.

LAXITY OF DIVORCE.

From the Chicago Republican. It is a painful fact in the very painful case now so prominently before the public that the more one scrutinizes it the more offensive grow its details. The Indiana divorce of Mrs. McFarland seems indeed to have been one of the cruelest of burlesques on honorable legislation. Induced to leave her husband without a single warning note, Mrs. McFarland appears to have settled in Indianapolis for nothing else than to bridge over, as slightly as possible, the gulf fixed between Richardson and herself. She first files a petition for divorce before Judge Woolen (it is well that we have his name) on the ground of her husband's intemperate habits and ill-treatment of herself. Not a word in it, however, about the crime with which Mr. Beecher did not scruple to charge him. Affidavit is made that the unsuspecting McFarland is not a resident of the State, and then he is notified by "the Morgan County Gazette, a weekly newspaper of general circulation," according to its proprietor, that the suit is pro-ceeding. Probably not being a subscriber and regular reader of this "weekly newspaper of general circulation," McFarland does not reply, and the trial goes forward. The witnesses are Mrs. McFarland's father, and one Mrs. Lucia Gilbert Calhoun, who, by the way, will have to be exonerated by forthcoming testimony of a great deal of present suspicion if she cares to stand well with public opinion. The father's story is so vague that one shivers to think of the dangers that environ the happiest couples in the world. He "specifies abuse and violence" by testifying that his sonin-law used to rave when intoxicated, and break the plates and dishes. Suddenly looms up the Hon. A. G. Porter, who vouches for Mrs. McFarland's respectability, having been introduced to her by the "most respectable people in New York;" and modestly requests the divorce as a personal favor. Then we have Mrs. Lucia Gilbert Calhoun, who gives hearsay evidence that McFarland used to get drunk, and alleges that she once saw him in a state of intoxication. As to the abuse and ill-treatment, she only knows what Mrs. McFarland told her. If Mrs. McFarland had had no interest in the result, this kind of testimony would have been execrable in itself; but as she was intensely concerned, her diluted and distorted assertions were terribly out of place. Yet, on the strength of this flimsy evidence, Judge Woolen fires the train which has exploded so disastrously, by handing over Mrs. McFarland to the arms of Richardson and the sympathy of "the Gilbert girls." Surely this Judge Woolen could never have contemplated such an awful comment on his loose ruling. He could never have reflected on the woes and the misery and the scandal which were latent in his decree of divorce. But the lesson has been read, and the community still rings with its dismal echoes. The scandalous laxity of law and the parody of justice have for once been brought face to face with the fate that should always attend them. Whether the effect will be lasting; whether its solemn protest will be always quick and vital, we do not know, and cannot assume. But we trust the notoriety and inquiry the case has excited may result beneficially to public morals and the means of getus back nearer to the ancient landmarks, when marriage was a sacred bond, entered into for this life and the one beyond, and not to be loosely severed by

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ON THURSDAY EVENING, Dec. 16, WENDELL PHILLIPS, THE MOST FINISHED ORATOR IN AMERICA. will deliver his celebrated oration on "DANIEL O'CONNELL."

Admission, 50 cents; Reserved Seats, 75 cents.
Tickets for sale at GOULD'S, No. 923 CHESNUT
Street, and at the Academy on the evening of the Lecture.
Doors open at 7: Lecture at 8.
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BEF THE ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF THE PENNSYLVANIA POULTRY SOCIETY

Will take place at HORTICULTURAL HALL,

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FARMERS' AND MECHANICS' NA-TIONAL BANK.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 10, 1899.

The Annual Election for Directors of this Bank will be held at the Banking House on WEDNESDAY, the 12th day of January pext, between the hours of 11 o'clock A. M. and 2 o'clock P. M.

W. RUSHTON, JR., Cashier. TIONAL BANK.

BOY" SOUTHWARK NATIONAL BANK. PHILADELPHIA, December 11, 1869.

The Annual Election for Directors will be held at the Banking House, on TUESDAY, January 11, 1870, between the hours of 10 o clock A. M. and 12 o'clock M. 12 13 mwf13t

P. LAMB, Cashier.

FAIR.-A FAIR WILL BE HELD THE 14th, 15th, and 16th instant, at the PENNA. INDUS TRIAL HOME FOR BLIND WOMEN, No. 32D LOCUST Street. West Philadelphia, the proceeds to applied to the payment for the "Home." 12 11

STEREOPTICON AND MAGIC LAN-TERN EXHIBITIONS given to Sunday Schools, Schools, Colleges, and for private entertainments. W. MITCHELL MCALLISTER, No. 728 CHESNUT Street, second story.

OFFICE PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD COMPANY, TREASURER'S DEPARTMENT, PHILADELPHIA, Penna, Nov. 2, 1868.

NOTICE TO STOCKHOLDERS.

The Board of Directors have this day declared a semi-annual dividend of FIVE PER CENT. on the Capital Stock of the Company, clear of Nationai and State taxes, payable in cash on and after November 3., 1869.

Ellank Powers of Attorney for collecting dividends can be had at the office of the Company, No. 288 Bouth THIRD Street. Street.
The office will be opened at 8 A. M., and closed at 3 P.
M., from November 3: to December 4, for the payment of
Dividends, and after that date from 9 A. M. to 3 P. M., as

THOS. T. FIRTH, Treasurer. OFFICE OF THE LEHIGH COAL AND NAVIGATION COMPANY. PHILADELPHIA, December 8, 1869.

Coupons due the lith instant on the Gold Loan of this company will be paid at their office, in gold, on and after that date. Holders of ten or more coupons can obtain receipts therefor prior to that date. S. SHEPHERD,

Treasurer. EAST MAHANOY RAILROAD COMPANY.—Office No. 227 S. FOURTH Street,
PHILAURIPHIA, Dec. 15, 1869.

The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of this Company and an election for Officers to serve for the ensuing year, will be held at the Office of the Company on MONDAY, January 10, 1870, at 2 o'clock P. M.

ALBERT FOSTER,
12 14 23t

Secretary.

THE MAHANOY AND BROAD MOUNTAIN RAILROAD COMPANY, Office No. 227 S. FOURTH Street.

FOURTH Street.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 15, 1969.

The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of this Company and an election for Officers to serve for the onsuing year, will be held at the Office of the Company on MONDAY, January 10, 1870, at 1 o'clock P. M.

ALBERT FOSTER,

Becretary.

DELAWARE AND RARITAN CANAL COMPANY.

COMPANY.

OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER AND SUPERINTENDENT,

THENTON, Dec. 11, 1869.

The water will net be drawn from the level of the Delaware and Raritan Canal until the 25th instant.

J. G. STEVENS,

12 13 mw/st

Engineer and Superintendent.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT AN application will be made at the next meeting of the Legislature of Pennsylvania for the incorporation of a Bank, in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth, to be entitled THE FRANKLIN BANK, to be located at Philadelphia, with a capital stock of five hundred thousand dollars, with a right to increase the same to a million of dollars.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT an application will be made at the next meeting of the Legislature of Pennsylvania for the incorporation of a Bank, in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth to be entitled "THE MARKET BANK," to be located at Philadelphia, with a capital stock of one hundred thousand dollars, with a right to increase the same to five hundred thousand dollars.

6 30 wt.J 10 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT

an application will be made at the next meeting of the Legislature of Pennsylvania for the incorporation of a Bank, in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth to be entitled THE BUTCHERS' AND DROVERS' BANK, to be located at Philadelphia, with a capital of two lundred and fifty thousand dollars, with a right to increase the same to a million of dollars. 6 30 wt J 10 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT AN application will be made at the next meeting of the Legislature of Pennsylvania for the incorporation of a Bank, in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth, to be entitled "THE BANK OF AMERICA," to be located at Philadelphia, with a capital of five hundred thousand dollars, with a right to increase the same to two millions of dollars.

6 30 wtJ 10

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