SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

MAN OR BEAST?

From the N. Y. Tribune. In the multitude of counsellors there may be safety, provided always there is no ethnolygist among them, and the point to be con-modered is not the simple humanity of black people. But given the great facial-angle quesion, with its shin-bone corollaries, and given also disputants learned in the history of races, and the configuration of the human form diwine, and we have at once a muddle of assertion and rejoinder sufficient to disturb the equilibrium of the most accurately poised intellect. We have in our time read forty or fifty treatises—mostly of the pamphlet de-scription—which were intended to demonstrate by copious citations from Rollins' Ancient History and the Book of Genesis that a "nigger" is a "nigger" and that a white man is a white man, although these appear to be a pair of self-evident facts in little or no need either of proposition or of proof. Lately the tedium of the investigation is somewhat alleviated by the new question of "What is an Albino?" What is the proper social and political status of a creature the pupils of whose eyes are pink, the hair of whose head is "preternaturally white," whose skin is of a light color with dark spots or of a dark color with light spots? Is a human being thus variegated to be considered as still under the curse of Canaan? These are matters which might well arrest the attention of Dr. Joseph Jones, of New Orleans, Secretary of the Southern Historical Society, Professor of Chemistry in the University of Louisiana, and late Professor of Physiology and Pathology in the University of Nashville. The Professor has had "brought to his notice some remarkable cases of purely negro parentage, of children whose skins were perfectly white and free from any African tinge, while every feature, except that of the skin, was unmistakably that of the negro." Still a more serious and extraordinary case coming under Dr. Joseph Jones' observation was that of a full-blooded negro, who, not having the fear of the ethnologist before him, "gradually turned white," until he was nearly as white all over as the editor of the Express. Indeed, Albinos are rather common than otherwise; they are found among all races of men; they were well known to the ancients, and may have assisted at the building of the Tower of Babel; and there are Albino animals both wild and domestic. In Africa the Albinos are very numerous, and his Majesty the King of Loango, as well as his Majesty the King of Ashantee, employs them as the ornamental attendants of his person. These are facts which give rise to a variety of conjectures, but we content ourselves with a simple point of casuistry, viz .: - Whether a black man having become by some mysterious process white, thereby escapes the curse pronounced upon his race by the Almighty? But we are forced to admit that this is a problem which we are not learned enough in sacred science to solve; and as the hard-headed race of proslavery divine doctors has pretty much died out, we fear that the matter must remain

unsettled and a collegiate distraction through

all the ages.

The investigations of Dr. Joseph Jones have, however, had one valuable and practical result. "He finds," does the Doctor, "that between the epidermis of the white and colored races there is an identity of structure, and no such organic difference as indicates a diversity of origin and species of the different races." This is a dreadful blow to the writers of the sixpenny pamphlets, with their weighty logic and their polyglot knowledge of cuticular tints before the flood, and after it, and with their fine theory of the general influence of the shinbone upon the moral character. Over and over again, these gentlemen have proved both the justice and the necessity of slavery by arguments drawn from the hair, the eyes, the cuticle, the nose, the teeth, the hands and the feet of the slave. They were anatomical in their politics. They were physiological in their religion. They sought to color legislation by setting up a radical and fundamental difference between Americans and Africans. The gorilla was unto them a god-send. The chimpanzee was installed the ally of the Federal Constitution, as they were eager to understand it; and here comes Dr. Joseph Jones, of Louisiana, and denies "diversity of origin and species of the different races." Cruel Dr. Jones! He even reaches the harrowing conclusion, "from microscopical and physiological investigation, that the hair of the negro possesses all the characteristics of hair, and is not wool." Not wool! Why, this not only demolishes many beautiful theories, but it takes the point out of innumerable jokes. It establishes an identity between the flowing locks of 'a patriarch' and the frizzled capillary arrangements of "Uncle Ned" before his lamentable baldness. This will never do! We can give up "the eboe shin;" we can admit that the chromatic cutiele is indecisive; we can allow that thick lips and flat noses prove nothing; but if we surrender the total, absolute, and all-important difference of hair, we can but feel that even at this late day Canaan is getting rather the better of us, and that our Caucasian pre-eminence is in danger. If the head-covering of the black is not "wool" there is an end of everything-of essays in the Express, of engravings in Mr. Pomeroy's newspaper, of one of the chief attractions of the chief attraction of the chi hoebus, between black men and his Satanic rajesty! If this be the finale of controversy, he Ethiopian and the Anglo-Saxon are indeed men and brethren. Prejudice is palsied; sophistry is silenced; and hard-hearted champions of "caste" will be compelled to abandon one of the most pungent peculiarities of their arrogant and brawling rhetoric. If we had ever supposed that any man con-

scientiously believed the white only to be man, and the black to be a brute and beast, we might have treated this topic more seriously. But these slanderers of their kind did not need the refutations of Dr. Jones half so much as they pretended to. They knew that they were chattering folly and mouthing falsehoods. It is pleasant to feel that the day in which they were for a moment respectfully

listened to has gone by forever. CARPENTER ON NEUTRALITY.

From the N. Y. World. We do not think that the recent speech of Senator Carpenter on the rights and duties of neutrality is calculated to give him reputation as a publicist.

Its main object was to satisfy the Senate and the country that the obligations of the Inited States, growing out of the condition of things in Cuba, required the political department of the Government to put into peration its neutral code, as between Spain and her rebelling subjects in that authorizing captures on the high seas, or the ings made him from his fellow-citizens. It is is is island; or, in other words, that a state of remonstrances of Senor Roberts against the a disgrace to the Government that the widow

Com Harr Hedlind Lee Plate

It is plain to see that Mr. Carpenter ap- intentions to govern Cuba in a liberal way. preciated at the outset the difficulty of maintaining his thesis, growing out of the fact that no department of the Government of the United States had recognized a war in Cuba, and accorded to each of the parties thereto what are popularly known as belligerent

He begins this portion of his speech by a general discussion of what neutrality is, cites Dr. Phillimore for English doctrine in that relation, and gives the two following circumstances, in which, in the opinion of this distinguished English publicist, the relation of neutrality consists:

1. Entire abstinence from any participation in the war.

2. Impartiality of conduct towards both

belligerents. Very ignorantly, or very disingenuously, the Senator seeks to apply this definition of neutrality—which Dr. Phillimore in his treatise discusses only in its relation to two admitted and recognized belligerents-to the condition of things existing in Cuba; and in the application insists that, even if neutrality permits both belligerents to purchase, in the neutral country, contraband of war, under circumstances which do not give one an ad-vantage over the other, still this rule of neutral right must be so modified from time to time, and otherwise administered, that the result will be practically the same to each belligerent; or if, for any reason, one belligerent cannot avail itself of its admitted right to purchase contraband of war of the neutral, then the latter must preclude the other belligerent from purchases. This certainly is new doctrine.

Mr. Carpenter quotes from Mr. Wheaton's account of what took place in the British Parliament in 1819 and 1823, in respect to the Foreign Enlistment act of that country, as evidence that Great Britain acts, or has acted, upon this theory. His effort by the quotation is to create the impression that, when the revolt first broke out in the South American colonies, England prohibited both the insurgents and the parent country from exporting arms from its jurisdiction, and therefore we ought to do the same as to Cuba. The unfairness of the use which he makes of the quotation inheres in the fact that he does not narrate all the surrounding circumstances, as furnished by other portions of the text. The Senator ought to have known, or at least ought to have stated, that the condition of things existing in South America at the time referred to in the quotation bore no possible similitude, in law or fact, to the condition of things now existing in Cuba.

Mr. Wheaton is narrating, in the text from which the quotation is taken, the substance of the debates in Parliament between Sir J. Macintosh and Mr. Canning, the former attacking and the latter upholding the British Foreign Enlistment act. The object of Mr. Canning was to meet the suggestion of his antagonist, that the proposed law operated in favor of one belligerent party; and the former accomplished the result by explaining the circumstances of the treaty between Great Britain and Spain in 1814, by which the former bound herself not to furnish any munitions of war to the revolting colonies of Spain in South America. By and by, he said, those colonies became States de facto, independent of the mother country. It became, therefore, necessary in 1819 to treat these de jure colonies but de facto States according to their true condition. They had come to be belligerent powers, entitled to belligerent rights, and therefore, in order to put the two warring parties of Spain and the provinces on equal footing, the parent country, as well as the colonies, was prohibited from purchasing supplies in England. But when war became probable between France and Spain, the condition of things was complicated by the necessity of treating both these latter powers alike, and this necessity was met by removing the prohibition of exporting arms and ammunition both as to Spain and as to the de facto independent States of

South America. It is therefore inexact to say that, during the time referred to by Wheaton, the pro-vinces of South America bore the same legal and political relation to Spain that the Cespedes revolters in Cuba do, at this time, to that Government; for the South American provinces were then in the domain of international law—as much belligerent powers as were England and Russia respectively during the Crimean war.

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ABOUT CUBA. From the N. Y. Sun.

When the statement is read in the President's message that the contest now pending in Cuba has at no time assumed the conditions which amount to a war in the sense of international law, or which would show the existence of a de facto political organization of the insurgents sufficient to justify a recognition of belligerency, the impression made is that information had been laid before the Government, more or less partial in its nature, more or less incorrect, but still information which our Secretary of State might consider trustworthy. The President has sent to the Senate, in reply to a resolution of that body calling for it, a voluminous document containing the desired information. Looking over the abstract of this document furnished us by the Associated Press, and analyzing and pondering its contents, we can extract out of it scarcely anything tending to show that there is or is not a state of war in Cuba in the sense of international law, or whether there is or is not a political organization among the insurgents.

Setting aside the correspondence between General Sickles and Secretary Fish, and between Secretary Fish and Minister Roberts, no part of which is of the slightest utility towards enlightening us as to what is going on in Cuba, we have a considerable number of letters addressed to the State Department by our Consuls in Cuba, from which we can gather the following items:-

In December, 1868, the insurrection was gaining strength. The insurgents' Assembly passed a decree

in or about March, 1869, abolishing slavery. Count Valmaseda issued his celebrated proclamation, which is inserted. Vice-Consul-General Hall, May 18, gives

an account of military operations near Nue-

Sibanicu, a hamlet, and Guaimaro, a village of 500 inhabitants, are the only places occu-pied by the insurgents, and both these places

have been destroyed. Such, it appears, was the meagre sum of information held by the Government on the Cuban revolution when the President's message was submitted to Congress. The affidavits filed by Messrs. Lowery and Evarts on the 15th of December, to establish the existence of a state of war and an independent government in Cuba, came in too late to be taken into account in the mes-age; and we cannot regard as information the correspondence about the decree of the Captain-General

things existed which required Congress to | public meetings in New York; much less instruct the Executive to maintain therein | Minister Sickles' reports of his conversations with a Spanish Cabinet officer, on professed

> Now, whoever may be in fault for the Government's not being possessed of more facts regarding this very important foreign question, we ask, Is the paltry summary given above a sufficient ground for the statements embodied in the message or for any other statements? And would not a masterly silence, or a candid avowal of ignorance, have been a more dignified position to assume than the bold, unqualified affirmations which fell like a wet blanket on the hopes of the country, and chilled the generous resolves which Congressmen were disposed to bring into their legislative action?

Congress will now be able to judge how much weight is to be attached to the conclusions drawn by the President and the Secretary of State, under the superintendence of Mr. Sidney Webster. They need have no fear of coming into collision with what is called official information, but may boldly proclaim. of their own motion, the existence of what has been made evident to the public for the last fourteen months, and at once grant belligerent rights to the infant Cuban republic, or, better yet, direct the proper recognition of its independence.

THE PEABODY EDUCATION FUND.

From the N. Y. Times. The report of Dr. Sears, of the operations of the Peabody Education Fund, from the beginning down to last July, is a striking comment upon the sterling patriotism and wise benevolence of the dead philanthropist. The original gift by Mr. Peabody amounted to a million dollars, and about eleven hundred thousand dollars more in Planters' Bank bonds, and the object was the promotion of intellectual, moral, and industrial education in the Southern and Southwestern States. In addition to this, Mr. Peabody gave, in June, 1869, \$1,384,000 more in securities of various kinds. The trustees to whom these large sums were consigned were given absolute dis cretion as to the localities and manner of carrying out Mr. Peabody's intentions, which, considering the social position and character of the gentlemen selected, was a perfectly safe course.

The first step after organizing which the trustees took was to survey the field of operations, and with that purpose Dr. Sears visited, in 1867, and afterwards, the seven Atlantic and Gulf States, beginning with the eastern portion of Virginia and ending with Louis-iana. He was received with cordial welcome by all the chief towns through which he passed, and about sixty, selected with reference to their influence in their respective States, already, in July of 1868, had made arrangements at his instance to organize public free schools. It may be remarked that this method of action was from the first decided upon by the trustees. They stated their leading object to be the promotion of com-mon or primary school education by such means as then existed or could be created. It is remarkable that only one town of all those visited refused to co-operate in the establishment of the schools.

The cost of public and private education at the South was illustrated in a curious way by the agencies created by Mr. Peabody's gift. It was found that the whole of the white children of the South could be educated in public schools at no more than the cost of educating half the white children in private schools. In 1868, up to July, there was \$74,000 definitely, and \$78,000 conditionally, appropriated for these schools in eight States, and other grants were subsequently made. But the money thus given was much augmented by the people to whom directly, but stimulated the people to new exertions of their own.

It is unnecessary to go over the whole field embraced by Dr. Sears' report. The aid to the various States seems to have been given with great discrimination and care. plan generally was to induce the establishment of primary schools, by undertaking the chief cost of such, and of helping struggling institutions where free primaries were impracticable. Students at normal schools receive also some of the benefits of the fund. There are now a considerable number of persons included in this category. The whole report, in short, indicates earnest and intelligent work. The trustees do well to publish it, for a good reason. They are not amenable to public interference in any shape, and might, if they chose, have declined to lay themselves open to any criticism whatever. Adopting a contrary course, and inviting all who please to read their statement of accomplished results, the public is not only informed upon a very interesting and important subject, but is able to commend the spirit in which they have interpreted Mr. Peabody's wishes, and the care and faithfulness with which those wishes have, so far, been carried into effect.

THE LATE EDWIN M. STANTON-MR. STEWART'S PROPOSITION.

From the N. Y. Herald. On Saturday evening last, at a special meeting of the Union League Club, Mr. Charles Bull, Senior Vice-President, in the chair, a series of appropriate resolutions, offered by Mr. W. C. Bryant, were adopted, in recognition of the great public services of the late Edwin M. Stanton, after which, on motion of Colonel Le Grand Cannon, it was resolved that a committee of five be appointed to prepare an address, to be given before the club, on the life, character, and services of the late Secretary of War.

Mr. A. T. Stewart, a man who always has an eye to substantial business results, then took the floor, and moved that the same committee be requested to report any way of offering a further testimony of esteem to the deceased they may think fit. And we think we can tell what this means. It means that our late War Minister, who was entrusted with the disposition and who disposed of a thousand millions and more of the public money, died comparatively poor; that he made no money in his great office; that while living he declined the offers from his fellow-citizens which, we think, he might wisely have accepted, and that Mr. Stewart is willing to cooperate in a movement to make comfortable in their circumstances the widow and children

of the deceased. This, we think, is what Mr. Stewart was aiming at in his resolution. The proposition is that of a patriot and a public benefactor; but we hold that something more than this is due in recognition of the public services of Stanton. We hold that Congress, in a generous pension to his family, can best express the respect of the two houses for the memory of the faithful public officer, and that such pension should be voted, with the necessary appropriation. We consider it a disgrace only to the Government that General Grant, in order to make both ends meet at the end of the war, felt it a duty, as it was under the circumstances, to accept the generous offer-

of ex-President Lincoln has been compelled to make her home in Germany for the sake of economy, when a pension of a few thousands a year would have enabled her to live com-fortably in her own country. Congress should avoid a similar disgrace in the case of Stanton; nor should Senator Sumner abandon his bill for a pension to Mrs. Lincoln. Fidelity in office is not rewarded, and that is one great reason why public rogues are so numerous in this country.

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LEGAL NOTICES.

IN THE ORPHANS' COURT FOR THE CITY
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Estate of GEORGE F. RANDOLPH, deceased.
The Anditor appointed by the Court to audit, settle, and adjust the first account of CHARLES S. WOOD and HANNAH F. RANDOLPH, Executors of the last will and testament of George F. Randolph, deceased, and to report distribution of the balance in the hands of the accountant, will meet the parties interested, for the purpose of his appointment, on WEDNESDAY, the 20th day of December, A. D. 1899, at three (3) o'clock P. M., at the office of JOSEPH B. TOWNSEND, Esq., No. 813 AROR Street, in the city of Philadelphia.

12.18 stath Se

been granted to the subscribers upon the Estate of SAMUEL CARR, deceased, all persons indebted to the same will make payment, and those having claims present them to JACOB DINGEE, No. 1234 N. RIGHTH Street. REWIN M. CARR, No. 1236 MARLBOROUGH Street.

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