of THE PRESS.

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

CUBA THE GREAT OPPORTUNITY OF GENERAL GRANT.

From the N. Y. Heraid.

The great opportunity of General Grant to tave his administration from public disfavor, to perpetuate his own popularity, and to seare lasting fame as a statesman is in treating the Cuban question in accordance with popuar sentiment, a broad American policy and the interests of the country. This is really the most important question of the day. It involves vast commercial interests, the sympathies of the American people, the cause of republican liberty in America, the natural growth and progress of this republic and the position we are to occupy hereafter with regard to all questions pertaining to this continent. If the Government should resolve to ignore Cuba and either to permit the Cubans to be crushed or the island devastated, it will absordon the cherished principles upon which our own independence was claimed and secured; it will become the friend and ally of European despotism on American soil; it will do violence to the feelings, sentiments, and love of freedom of the American people it will renounce the Monroe doctrine, it degrade us in the eyes of the world, and will. for the first time in our history, inaugurate a policy inimical to republican institutions and in the interests of monarchical and European Governments. If, on the other hand, the Government should determine to seize the opportunity afforded by the insurrection in Cuba to promote the cause of republican freedom on American soil, to extend our influence, power, and commerce in this hemisphere, and to sever the bonds that hold a part of the American people and territory under European rule, that would be a fresh starting point for a grand and comprehensive policy in accordance with our growth and destiny. It would show Europe that we comprehend our high position as one of the foremost nations of the earth and the law of our existence, and must in the end inspire the respect of the whole world.

Hence we said the Cuban question is the most important one of the day. More than that, it is the only one that presses for immediate solution. Reconstruction of the South, upon which Congress and the public mind have been occupied, is about finished; the various questions pertaining to the national finances require time for consideration and have not become urgent, because neither the revenue nor country will suffer from the necessary delay; the Alabama claims will not, and, perhaps, cannot, be brought to a decision for some time to come, and they are used only as a political hobby by Mr. Sumner and Mr. Secretary Fish: all other questions of domestic or foreign policy are either not pressing or can be solved without difficulty. only live, urgent, and important question at present is that of Cuba,

The initial American policy in the case of Cuba, for such we may call it, reaches far beyond that island or the present time. It is the key of our destiny over the whole of the Antilles, Mexico, and Central America, and, in a measure, over South America also. It will fix in the public mind of both this country and of Europe what is to be the future course or policy of the American republic in this hemisphere, and especially as concerns European domination, influence, or rule here. There never has been a more determined or heroic struggle for republican European despotism in America, than that which the Cubans are making; no, not in any of the South American States; and there never was better ground or as good a reason for this country to recognize the independence of an American people. The course of the Government, therefore, in the case of Cuba will be regarded as the policy that is to be pursued hereafter on all American questions in which European nations are concerned or choose to interfere. It will teach the population and States of the American Continent and its islands either to lean upon this great republic and to look to it for support and guidance, or it will disgust and drive them to seek closer relations, commercial and political, with Europe. Not the brave Cubans only, but all the people of the two continents of America are watching with intense interest the course of our Government with regard to Cuba. Shall we abdicate the high position we have all through our history taken? Shall we, in the day of our might and strength, when no nation has the power or dares to thwart our policy or destiny, abandon the cause of republican freedom in America? To do so will be to dishonor the fathers of the republic and our statesmen of former times, and will bring everlasting disgrace upon the

General Grant in his heart sympathizes with these views, we have no doubt, for they are American, republican, national, and liberal, and throughout his whole public career he has shown the most elevated patriotism and broad American views. But in the case of Cuba he has been trammelled, there is reason to fear, by the weakness and narrow-minded policy of the Secretary of State, and perhaps, also, by the senseless prejudices of other members of his Cabinet. Possibly Mr. Sumner, in the excuss of his vanity about his Alabama claims speech and from his desire to make political capital out of that, may have had some influence over members of the Cabinet, and, indirectly, ever the President. It is lamentable so think that a great question of public policy thich 2 the American people have at seart, and which concerns so intimately he interests of our country and the progress of republican freedom, should be obstructed by a few men to gratify their vanity or prejudice, or for some doubtful political object. Will not the President emancipate himself from these influences? Will he not see, the current of public sentiment, and either dismiss his weak and prejudiced advisers or act independently of them? Let him follow the good advice of his wise friend, the lamented General Rawlins, the impulses of whose noble soul were right in accordance with the sentiments of the American people and who had a proper view of the duty and destiny of his country, and let him ignore the miserable subterfuges of Sumner, Fish, Hoar, and others on this Cuban question, and he will become as popular in the Presidency as he was in the war. We have the best reasons for believing that Mr. Hoar failed to be confirmed in the Senate as Judge of the Supreme Court more on account of his narrow-minded and prejudiced course relative to Cuba than for anything else. This ought to be a warning to the President, for no man, however exalted 'n position, can safely act in defiance of pubic opinion in this country. General Grant as now the opportunity of doing a glorious hing in securing the independence and autexation of Cuba, the most valuable posses. sion in the world, and of establishing a broad

famous statesmen in history. Cuba is the zen in one State, and yet be for years not a great question of his administration Will citizen in another. he understand that? If he follows the dicdo right and reap the glory. If he submits to the shortsighted and weak men around him he will assuredly lose his popularity, and the American people may forget his war services in the failure of his administration.

NILE NOTES OF A DONKEY.

From the N. Y. World. The Herald a few days since invited its

readers to peruse and admire the contributions of its Egyptian correspondent. We have read some of them. They are cortainly very surprising productions, and, if they do not quite justify the exultation with which the editor refers to them, they deserve a wider circulation than the Herald is able to give them. They are a little too sublime for every-day reading; they contain too much eloquence to the square inch; and ought to be printed in brief instalments in order to guard the reader against intellectual rupture. Egypt seems to have rendered to the writer the stimulating conserves of her ancients; he has eaten of the insane munmy that takes the reason prisoner; Cheops hath been measured to him for drugs; he has tasted of Chamnes in electuaries and consumed Amosis in pills, How else can his rampageous rhetoric be accounted for? When Coleridge was unusually gorgeous of speech it was known that he had fired his imagination with opium. As the correspondent steals a grace beyond the reach of art, it is evident that he has been nourishing his faculties upon mummy, the inspiring qualities whereof are certified by Astrampsychus and Radzivil and Junkenius, and even Lord Bacon. But a truce to eulogy and conjecture. Let us usher this eloquent being before the reader, and allow him to unfold his blazonries of speech. "From sudden sunrise to quick sunset," he says, speaking of the Nile, "the tourist goes through many worlds and phases of thought. The silence fast impresses him as he glides along undisturbed in contemplation either of the banks all quivering with living things, or of the stupendous piled rocks and sand-hills, or the desert, or the park and garden green which contrast against hoary old age by patches." How he, whoever he is, could remain undisturbed through such a range of contemplation is a mystery. But if the garden green contrasting against hoary old age by patches failed to move him, the sounds and visions described in the ensuing sentence would, we should think, stir him even if he were as stolid and immovable as the sphinx, "The pelican," he says, "flaps his wings, the juckal whirts above, a huge fish gulps and startles one, a partridge or quait rises, and all along that boundless calm a yearning to know more of the hidden past. This is the finest writing we ever saw or heard of, but it seems "to be in patches" deficient in the element of probability. Herorather indigestible stories about what he saw of a citizen. The opposition, if any there there. But he nowhere mentions the soaring jackal. We have instructed our Moonshee to look up the jackal subject, from Pliny to Professor Owen, and he has done so to Professor Owen, and he has done so those who are always opposed to strict elec-with diligence. But there is nowhere tion laws and in favor of the largest liberty to any account of the flying variety. One, it is true, occasionally hears of a shower of frogs or pilchards, and the Esquimanx have a tradition that it once snowed walruses that bellowed as they fell; and we believe that there is a Siamese legend of a shower of elephants. So that the correspondent's tale of a credulity, does not seem absolutely impossi-ble. Before rejecting it altogether, we shall name for it. Talleyrand used to point out, freedom, and against the most atrocious await further testimony on the subject. The as a philosophical phenomenon, that somewriter descends gracefully from the aerial jackal, and speaks very generously of the river, "When night has succeeded day," he says, "nowhere can moonlight be what it is on the Nile." As a statement of fact this is, of course, not to be disputed, and, as a phrase, it is as much above criticism as the jackals were above the head of the writer. We are embarrassed by the riches to which the Herald has so exultingly drawn our attention. The verbal grace and melody are sufficiently overpowering: but they also unfold romantic tales as sunny as those of Boccaccio. The central figure of these romances is an anonymous maiden of mysterious purposes and character, who seems a cross between a banshee and a lunatic, and who goes through a series of the most marvellous adventures. She takes the correspondent into her confidence, and allows him to look after her baggage. She converses indifferently with camel drivers and kings, is sometimes seen upon the dizzy summit of a donkey, and sometimes observed, in postures of mystery and partial dislocation, at balls and festivals. She flickers through the hurly-burly attendant upon the fetes of De Lesseps like a stage fairy through the turmoil of gnomes and goblins in the pantomime. Through the aid of this extraordinary person, the correspondent is brought into occasional propinquity to royal and sacred persons. He looks upon the whiskers of the Emperor of Austria and upon the boots of the Prince of Prussia, and says that the complexion of the Empress is built upon a basis of rice powder. He scrutinizes the effulgent Viceroy, and that fat potentate returns his gaze of admiration. Finally, the whole romance breaks into a sputter of impossible counts and aide-de-eamps and Arabs, as a comparatively sedate frework, just be fore its extinction, blazes into an inexplicable whirling chaos of flames; and correspondent, anonymous female, flying jackals, and sovereigns waver into a murky mist of

words and disappear, If we had not been allured by urgent editorial solicitation, we should not have looked for any good writing in the Herald. should as soon have thought of looking in the Septuagint for a pun, or in the Apocrypha for a commend the ability and enterprise exhibited by a contemporary, particularly when the opportunities of doing so without sacrificing truth to courtesy are so exceed-ingly infrequent; and we have the deepest satisfaction in felicitating our neighbor upon its Egyptian correspondent.

REFORM IN NATURALIZATION.

From the N. Y. Times. The gross abuses practised chiefly in this city and State in the matter of naturalizing persons of foreign birth are, we trust, about to be stopped. The highest honor and privilege that a nation can confer upon a stranger is the investiture of citizenship. Hitherto, although Congress has had power over naturalization, the business has been practically left to the several States, whose real or apparent needs have guided their action, and produced a mass of coafficting laws that leave the whole matter in chaos. New York, for instance, requires, according to the acts of Congress, a certain term of residence, and the declaration of intention a certain period before taking out final papers. Some of the Western States, anxious to induce immigration, confer all the privileges of citizenship after twelve months' residence, and dispense American policy that will make him the most | with declarations of intention. "Thus a for-

What is most needed is due regard to the tates of his heart and common sense he will (importance of the act of conferring citizenship, and that desirable reformation will probably be secured if the bill just introduced into Congress by Mr. Jenckes becomes a law, Its provisions are, briefly:-Residence without interruption of four years and six months at the time of application; declaration of bona fide intention; renunciation of foreign allegiance; resignation of any title of nobility; date and place of birth, also place of birth of parents; date of leaving his native country and of arrival here, at what port and in what vessel; description of the petitioner, embracing name, age, business, residence, height, complexion, color of eyes and hair, and any other distinguishing outward marks. He must have resided a year in the State where applying, have pre-served a good moral character, be attached to the principles of the Constitution and well disposed toward the Government. The most important section declares that "the Circuit and District Courts of the United States shall have sole and exclusive jurisdiction of all applications of aliens to be admitted to become citizens under this act." Registers in bankruptcy are empowered to take testimony; but no State court, power, or authority can have anything to do with naturalization. The act also provides for careful and proper proof that the applicant has fulfilled the preliminary conditions, and is worthy of the privilege sought. Due provision is made for preserving testimony and recording the names of applicants. Supposing everything to be right, the Court grants the citizenship; but in order to prevent the rush just before election, when party spirit runs high, it is provided that the act of naturalizing shall be of no legal force until after the lapse of six months; at the expiration of that period the proper certificate shall be issued, and thus the work will be finished. This paper, which must be produced before the registrars and inspectors of election, will contain the description of the party, which will do away with the outrage of voting upon dead men's papers. Aliens who have served a year in our army may be naturalized without further residence, if honorable discharged. Children under age become citizens, as now, by the naturalization of the parent. No woman shall lose her citizenship because she is the wife of an alien. Once a month the clerks of the United States courts shall forward to the State Department a list of all persons naturalized.

These are the main provisions of a much needed act. Other sections guard against frand, and specify the manner of administering the law. The great feature is the taking of naturalization into the hands of the Gene ral Government. That will put an end to the New York process of manufacturing citizens, and wipe out one of the worst disgraces of the time. No well-meaning man will object to any reasonable safeguard against the abuse dotus went to Egypt, and has told us some of so high an act of authority as the making may be, to the general purport of Mr. Jenckes' bill, will come from those who care more for party success than for honesty;

FATAL FRIENDSHIPS.

From the N. Y. Tribune. What is the proper word to describe the process of killing one's particular friends? Is it "homicide," or "amicide," or what? So cloud of jackals, though rather trying to the | much of this sort of thing is being done, thing unpleasant always happened to any Government which did not conciliate him. 'Il y a quelque chose inexplicable en moi, qui porte malheur aux gouvernemens qui me negigent." But there is a class of newspapers rising among us with the contrary power. No man can survive their friendship, after it is once fairly brought to bear.

There was Mr. R. H. Dana, Jr., of Boston, for instance, who really seemed to have a political future before him, until an obscure weekly newspaper of this city took him up and killed him off, in the Butler Congres sional campaign. There were all the materials for a strong opposition to General But-ler. He had just avowed financial theories which had displeased his best friends. Then many disliked him for what he had done in the war, and many more for what he had not done. He was not even, it was urged, a citizen of his district, possessing within its limits only the rudiments of a barn, while his opponent's father, at least, had house and lands. So far so good for Mr. Dana, when in an unlucky hour the Nation took up his cause, representing him as a high-toned conservaive and his opponent as a pestilent radical. This was precisely what General Butler's managers wished, and from that time they had it all their own way The special drawbacks of General Butler, on which a shrewder opponent would have made the fight, were at once forgotten. If he was to be thrown overboard as too radical, so would Sumner be ousted, so would Boulwell, whenever the political Bourbons grew strong enough. This settled the question. Mr. Dana was left in a minority so crushing that it will long paralyze his political career, and Mr. Butler in a majority most prejudicial to his humility of spirit. So much for an injudicious and fatal friendship, that assassinates its ownallies.

Precisely the same destructive process has once been tried against Attorney-General Hear, by the same class of journals, to whom The North American Review has also supplied a spare stiletto, in the background. Mr. Hoar went to Washington an advanced Massachu setts radical. He had always been the friend and ally of Mr. Boutwell, and bid fair to stand with him in the confidence of Republicans generally. It was no fault of his that his mistaken friends undertook to make him out all that was respectable and conservative. as compared with this dangerous, revolutionary Boutwell. But their support at once exposed him to suspicion. Mr. Boutwell had won the confidence of the nation and espe cially of the party which had carried it through the war. He had been thoroughly tested Mr. Hoar had a certain claim on the public confidence as being Mr. Boutwell's neighbor and friend. If he was to be set up in opposition to the Secretary of the Treasury, the ase was very different. In vain the shrewder Massachusetts papers, as the Springfield Republican, protested against this false position assigned to Mr. Hoar; declared that The North American Review's description of him was wholly imaginary; that, in the language of Mrs. Belsey Camp, "there warn't no sich a person" as there described. The honored victim would doubtless have protested also, had it been possible; but what could be do? An Attorney-General cannot stand up before the Supreme Court and say, 'May it please your honors, I wish to be protected from my own admirers!" Thence followed the misfortune of his non-confirmation, a thing made all the more galling, for the victim and his friends, by the ready assent

want of personal popularity, and so on—but these were subordinate obstacles. A main anything. It, however, will have one effect, motive was the reluctance to put in the most important post a man who could be indorsed by The Nation and The North American Review. The reason was, of course, absurdly importance to any fourth-rate journalist, when you allow him to take the scalp of his own friend. But we must accept human nature as it is, and the next time we have a good nominee for the Supreme Court, we conservative allies.

THE CALIFORNIA DIPLOMATIC UNHAP-PINESS.

From the N. Y. Tribune.

The San Francisco despatch to the effect that "new translations of the Burlingame credentials show that he (Burlingame) was accredited to the Western nations as losser States, and had no plenipotentiary powers, evidently refers to an old item of news which has apparently reached California after travelling all round the world from Pekin, 'It was in October last that the North China Herald, an English paper printed at Shanghai, published a translation of Mr. Burlingame's credentials which differed very curiously from the official certified translation, and which assuredly furnished the basis for the San Francisco despatch that has now been sent us. We found the document in the Anglo-Chinese paper itself, which was transmitted to us with our regular English mails, and it appears that in course of time a copy of this paper has reached San Francisco, from whence some of Mr. Ross Browne's friends, who are Mr. Burlingame's enemies, have taken the trouble to telegraph the stale

The points on which the China Herald translation of the Burlingame credentials differs from the officially certified translation are of no real significance, though they are curious as showing the diplomatic forms of the Chinese Government. Thus, in the China Herald translation, the Celestial Emperor opens by referring to his "title to universal sway received from Heaven," but in the official translation this is rendered as the "commission his Majesty has received from Heaven." Again, in the China Herald transation, foreign countries are spoken of as the "central and outer nations or lesser States in anaty with us;" but in the official translation this is simply rendered as the "foreign nations at amity with China." Still igain, in the China Herald translation, dr. Burlingame's powers are not prerisely or expressly defined: he and his two assistants are spoken of as "capable and intelligent officers," "who are here to manage satisfactority," and who, "there is reason to expect, will prove a competent exponent of our views in international affairs." In the official translation, on the other hand, Mr. Burlingame is described as an "officer thoroughly conversant with Chinese and foreign relations," in whom "we have full confidence as our representative," and who "will act as our High Minister Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary." As we have said, these differences are less a matter of importance than of curiosity; and, moreover, the fact that the credentials which Mr. Burlingame has displayed abroad are the officially certified translation of the Chinese original is conclusive as to his powers, even if his plenipotentiary authority had not been demonstrated by the subsequent action of the Chinese Government.

ENFORCING THE LAWS. . From the N. Y. Sun.

It is affirmed in the Cincinnati Commercia that the Tenure-of-Office act is regarded as a dead letter by some among the members of General Grant's Cabinet. According to that journal, hundreds of officeholders were suspended during the recent vacation of Congress, but not a single reason for such suspension has been communicated to the Senate by the President, and the Senate has acted opon nominations to fill vacancies caused by such suspension in the same manner it has acted upon vacancies which have occurred from death, resignation, or other like

The law prescribing the qualifications of officers of the Internal Revenue Bureau is likewise disregarded and treated as a dead letter by the President and his subordinates: but no notice is taken of the fact in Congress or elsewhere except in the columns of the independent press. The statute requires that every assessor shall be a resident of the district in which he discharges his functions. When Chief Justice Chase was Secretary of the Treasury, the provisions of this statute were rigorously enforced; but General Grant regards the law with contempt. His old crony Augustus Ford is Assessor of the Eighth District in this city, but has his residence in Brooklyn. His friends have assured us that he thus violates the law by special permission from General Grant, but we cannot think this is so. Such permission would be an act of direct usurpation on the part of the President. If his conscience is dull, he may ignore the law, as in the case of the Tenure of Office act, mentioned by the Cincinnati Commercial; he may even connive at its violation, as in appointing his friend Ford, and in allowing him to act as Assessor of the Eighth district, without changing his residence; but we do not believe he would arrogate to himself the authority to give Ford express dispensation to continue to violate the law when Ford had himself called his attention to the requirements of the statute. Would it not be well for Congress to examine into these transactions? General Grant has not only sworn to execute the laws, but he has repeatedly proclaimed it as his special and peculiar design to see to it that they were thoroughly executed. The last words of his message were to this effect:—"On my part," said he "I promise a rigid adherence to the laws and their strict enforcement." Prefessions are always easier than practice, and General Grant seems to form no exception to the rule.

GENERAL SCHURZ'S BUNCOMBE BILLS.

From the St. Louis Republican. Our German Senator is evidently not so felicitous with his maiden bills as he was with the little short maiden speech he made during the last session of Congress. He then combined a certain fitting modesty with some sound thoughts and statesmanlike views. It seemed particularly meritorious to us then that he escaped the temptations to make anything like a buncombe speech, which might be construed as intended for home consumption among his German countrymen. It is entirely different with the two bills introduced by him at the commencement of the present session of Congress. Of his civil service bill we have already spoken. It has such an outspoken smack of the Prussian that it never can be made palatable to American tastes. It presupposes an organization of society, and espe-cially an educational system, so totally at variance with ours, that if Senator Schurz's bill to Mr. Stanton's appointment. No doubt | should become a law, its enforcement would at

popular man as well as one of the most | eigner may become to a certain extent a citi- | there were other objections to Mr. Hoar-his | once meet with insurmountable difficulties, or non-residence in the Southern Circuit, his at least-prove to be an additional and costly and this will scarcely be imperilled by the re-jection of the bill. It will move certain Teutonic fibres in the hearts of Schurz's countrymen, and they will be forced to admit that insufficient. It is conceding far too much | their Senator has at last attempted to introduce some peculiarly German-not ideasnotions into American legislation. Senator Schurz evidently foresaw the defeat of his bill, and prepared the public for such an event by declaring in one of his late latters must implore him, in advance, to muzzle his that he did not expect any such bill to be accepted, but that, in spite of this unwillingness of Congress to inaugurate such an innovation, a most energetic attempt would be made, which would at least result in directing the attention of the public to this subject. We are aware that it has long been the practice of a certain class of politicians to arouse public attention by buncombe speeches and vaporing newspaper articles; but, that Congressional bills should ever be introduced as such stimulants seems to us incompatible

with the dignity of lawgivers,

kite which Senator Schurz has floated over the heads of his German countrymen. He has introduced another bill which is tinctured with another German element of a taste still less palatable to Americans. It provides that officers and clerks once employed in the United States Treasury Department shall not be permitted afterwards to act as claim agents against the Treasury in any case pending at the time of their employment in the department. This bill is based upon a thought which is still more repugnant to American principles. It presupposes a government which, instead of being established by the people for their own greatest advantage, is pronounced at war with or at least on the defensive against the people. Whilst every American would reject the idea that a private claim against the Government would not be in better hands than in those of an agent who knows the most about it, Senator Schurz seems to be anxious that the Government should be protected from the payment of the just claims of private citizens, by preventing those familiar with the routine in our public administration from assisting in securing their collection. A bill of the character of the one alluded could only spring from the mind of one who, even after a sojourn of upwards of twenty years amid the surroundings of the democratic atmosphere pervading our Union, has found himself unable to eradicate his German notions respecting the separation of the interests of the State from those of its citizens. In this country a citizen who ceases to be an employe of Government is, and should be, free to follow what occupation he pleases, and every one is entitled to secure his services and avail himself of the knowledge acquired by his services as a public officer.

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