

SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

MR. WELLS HIMSELF.

From the N. Y. Tribune.
The loudest opinion of American honesty entered in the various countries of Europe often excites the indignation of American travelers, and many of them, knowing how unjust it is, ascribe it to rancorous hostility to our institutions. But, then, those who are most familiar with the way in which opinions are formed in foreign countries are aware that most of whatever disparages the national character rests under with regard to all that class of virtues included under the term *bona fides*, is the handiwork of a portion of the American press. The bitterest reviler of American and Americans has never ventured on such foul charges and foul insinuations as some of our contemporaries hurl nearly every day against men who are put forward by American society as about as good specimens of the American man as it is capable of producing. We were told the other day by an American of distinction—and his experience has been that of hundreds—of the bitterness of the mortification which he endured when in Germany during the impeachment trial, at finding himself an object of daily condensation on the part of his German friends touching the corruption of Senators Trumbull, and Fessenden, and Grimes, three of the foremost statesmen of the party of virtue. And then, there was no use in his denying it or trying to explain it. It was not in a Southern paper they saw the story, nor yet in the four-mouthed organs of Northern Copperheadism, who make vilification one of their ordinary weapons of party warfare; but in the New York *Tribune*, the mouthpiece of the best element in the Northern population, and which had up to the time of impeachment been holding these very men up to the admiration of mankind.

We bid fair, too, in Mr. Wells' case, to furnish Europe with another reason for believing in our utter rottenness. Mr. Wells has had everything done for him that American society can do. He has been well born, well bred, and furnished with the best education the country affords. He has lived with the best men of his day, and has won and enjoys their esteem. He has displayed very remarkable powers of analysis and induction in a field of social science which until now can hardly be said to have been explored in this country, and has for this reason been selected by the Government to perform the very important duty of preparing the data for, at least, a period of great public difficulty and, indeed, peril. If ever man has given the State guarantees for his good behavior, it is he. And yet what do foreigners learn about him from the organ of the sober, virtuous, religious, reading, writing, and thinking Northern public? Why, that the minute he secured an official position, and through it, influence on public opinion, he sold his services to a foreign government and to foreign traders, and, in consideration of a certain sum in foreign gold, he agreed to prepare material falsified figures, and construct deluding arguments for their benefit, and for the deception and impoverishment of his own countrymen.

Of course, everybody here knows how false these insinuations are; but then, unfortunately, their silliness and absurdity prevent people feeling the downright wickedness of them, and visiting the men who invent and propagate them with the indignation they deserve. These slanders do, however, in one way, recoil on the heads of their authors, inasmuch as they excite, first, distrust, and then hostility towards the cause they intend to help. There is no cause which will bear being lied for. Even the Christian religion, strong as are its claims on the respect of mankind, has suffered, and still suffers terribly, from attempts to spread it by falsehood, and slander, and misrepresentation of opponents; and what it cannot bear we may be sure protection cannot. One marked result of the attacks on Mr. Wells has been the steady growth of his authority, and the steady increase of confidence in the statements he has made, as has appeared on this class of subjects, which has produced such a profound impression on public opinion. His conclusions, it is true, have borne hard on the whole theory and practice of protection; but there was only one way of upsetting them or destroying them, and that was, showing either that his facts were not facts, or that the reasoning based on them was incorrect. This has not been done; and for this, naked assertions that Mr. Wells has been bribed, and that he has been guilty of suppression and distortion, are not proper and sufficient substitutes.

There is talk just now among some of the more rabid high-tariff men about not only suppressing his report as far as Congress is concerned, but "kicking him out" of the Republican party; but then, we presume, wiser counsels will prevail. The suppression of the report by the House would, of course, only increase the number of its readers, and Mr. Wells would be followed out of the Republican party by such large numbers of the present members that we doubt whether enough would be left to carry on the business of the concern afterwards with any degree of success. There is a class of men in the party who have always been a little anxious to get rid of its brains, finding the thinking faculty a nuisance, and, almost as soon as a man gives evidence of reaching his conclusions with his head, get up a movement for his expulsion. Mr. Trumbull and the late Mr. Fessenden had a narrow escape, but they did escape; and their example has had a very encouraging effect. If the protective system will not bear discussion—and from the dislike of the high-tariff men to permit the circulation of Mr. Wells' report, and the refusal of the *Tribune* to print it, it is certainly not—it is not certainly not, and some of the foremost States are gradually abandoning it. Protectionists must, therefore, be reasonable and patient, take off their sacerdotal robes, and lay aside their cursing instruments, and come down into the arena among the rest of us, and give and take in the common secular game of political fiction. Fair play is all they are entitled to, and that they shall certainly have. The

young men, it is true, are mostly on the other side, but for the time there is no help.

A BLACK RECORD.

From the N. Y. Tribune.
The undisguised appeals to party spirit in the addresses of Lieutenant Governor Beach and Speaker Hitchman in taking the chairs respectively of the Senate and Assembly of our State, are novelties in our history, but not necessarily censurable. Truth is always preferable to falsehood; and, since the legislation and government of our State are to be moulded and animated by intense devotion to the interest of a party, it is well that the fact should be so bluntly proclaimed. These addresses are but echoes of the more elaborate and pretentious partisan malignity of the colossal fraud which usurps the Governorship of our State. But one passage in Hitchman's harangue is so grossly untruthful as to render its rebuke and exposure an imperative duty. It is that wherein he says:

"The enfranchisement of an enslaved race, which resulted from that struggle, they [Democrats] not only accept, but they recognize the obligation of elevating and advancing that race to the highest condition of which it is capable."

Thus much for the professions of Speaker Hitchman. Now let us consider them in the light of history. By the original Constitution of our State, framed by our Revolutionary patriots during their desperate struggle for independence, no difference was made or recognized between whites and blacks. Slavery then existed in our State, and slaves were conceded no political rights; but every black freeman was allowed to vote on precisely the same conditions with white freemen. So they did without objection for over forty years, or until the Constitutional Convention of 1821—a body over which Democratic—who at once commenced a war on the rights of the poor and powerless handful of free blacks. A majority of the Democrats would have disfranchised them altogether; but a minority demurred, and, uniting with the twenty or thirty Federalists, secured the rights of suffrage to a fraction of the blacks—to all of them who had lived three years in the State, and owned \$250 worth of real estate, free and clear of incumbrance or debt. And that has ever since been our fundamental law. Thrice—in 1846, in 1869, and in 1869—have decided efforts been made to change it, so that the invitation to discrimination against blacks should be wiped out; but the Democratic party has rallied all its forces to defeat these appeals for justice and equality.

The Democrats of this State have just voted their full strength against negro enfranchisement, after having fought it in our late Constitutional Convention with inhuman pertinacity. Not less than one hundred distinct propositions were made by them in that Convention, and several weeks wasted, with intent to insult, defame, and mutilate the blacks, so as to make all possible progress of the anti-party with which they are regarded by the lowest and basest, most ignorant and prejudiced whites. From the beginning to the end of that Convention, as also in the canvass before the people, no chance of flouting the unhappy African race, or heaping odium on those who stood up for their rights, was left unimproved.

Mr. Hitchman asserts that his fellow partisans "accept" the enfranchisement of the four millions of our countrymen who were formerly slaves. Indeed? When did they begin to accept it? Certainly not while there was a prospect of a shadow of hope, that it might be prevented or defeated. Up to the hour in which the last sack fell from their limbs, the Democratic party denounced emancipation as usurping, outrageous, a measure of disunion, and at least equally unjustifiable with secession. "It has united the South and divided the North," was their stereotyped outcry. Their last two candidates for President—McClellan and Seymour—were its especial antagonists. Their journals stigmatized Lincoln's proclamation of freedom as an incitement to wholesale arson, rape, and murder. If ever a party was unambiguous and vehement in condemning any great public measure, the Democrats were thus hostile to emancipation.

No thanks to that party, slavery is dead. Its resurrection is beyond human power. But the blacks are still hated, despised, vilified, and in every way defamed and degraded; and that is the present business of the Democratic party. The civil rights bill was opposed by this party precisely as emancipation had been. So long as it was possible, blacks were excluded from street cars, if they still are from places in this Democratic city. In States and Kentucky, where Democracy bears undivided sway, they are not allowed to give testimony against whites. Wherever it is still possible to imbrute and trample on them, Democracy is now intent on that achievement.

The fifteenth amendment is simply a barrier to such proscription and degradation, so far as the right to vote and hold office is concerned. Of course, the Democrats oppose it everywhere, and to the bitter end. No Democratic legislature has ratified or will ratify it. No Democrat has voted for or now supports it. Our Democratic Legislature has made haste to use its fraudulently acquired power expressly to rescind, so far as it can do so, its ratification by the preceding Republican body. The Democratic leaders insisted on doing this before a committee was appointed or any provision made for preliminary scrutiny of bills or resolutions. Every Democrat but one voted for the repeal.

It is not seditious effrontery, in view of these well-known facts, for Mr. Hitchman to profess that his party recognizes the obligation to elevate and advance the blacks? The negro has borne up manfully against half a century of Democratic hate, cruelty and oppression. Ought he now to be dished with such barefaced, loathsome hypocrisy?

SHALL WE BUY CUBA?

From the N. Y. Sun.
Two of our contemporaries recently published an erroneous report that negotiations for the sale of Cuba to the United States have for some time past been going on between the rulers of Spain and the President of the United States. The *Herald* makes this announcement in the form of a telegram from Washington. It is alleged that "our Minister in Madrid has intimated both Serrano and Prim as to their willingness to sell Cuba to the United States, and that he has the highest assurances that both those prominent statesmen are favorable to the project, and are only waiting a favorable opportunity to consummate it." The information of the *Times* is conveyed in a letter from Havana. "There is hardly any doubt," says the writer, "that the actual Government in Spain is in treaty with the insurgents and the American Government. To mention this fact openly would be the signal of their downfall, and the immediate entrance of Prince Alfonso as future King of the Spaniards, with Lersundi as Regent during his minority."
That Prim and Serrano are not unwilling to sell Cuba to the United States is probably true. They are cunning knaves, always short of money, and perfectly able to understand that, as Spain is bound to lose the island, any sum they may get for it will be no much clear

gain. It is also true, no doubt, that they have not dared to act upon their own judgment in the matter. The Spanish people cling to the possession of Cuba with unreasoning passion. In their eyes that colony is not only a source of boundless wealth, it is the last important relic of the epoch when Spain was an imperial power, bearing sway in every part of the world. This sentiment of the Spaniards has withheld their rulers from all open attempts to replenish their bankrupt treasury by the sale of the island; and we are able positively to affirm that they have not yet made any overtures of sale to General Sickles or Mr. Fish, and that General Sickles and Mr. Fish have not made any overtures of purchase to them.

And yet it would not be surprising if the Spanish Government should soon find itself in a condition to attempt to sell the island. The tone of discussion upon the Cuban question in the Spanish press has notably varied during the last year, and indicates a radical change in the popular feeling. At first the journals of all parties savagely scouted the idea of allowing Cuba to be separated from the mother country; now most of them admit that separation would be advantageous, but they insist that the Cuban inscription must first be put down. That event, however, is evidently as far off as ever; and we may expect ere long to have an opportunity of saying whether we will buy Cuba, and how much we will pay for it. No matter who holds power in Madrid—whether Prim or Topete, or the Duke of Montpensier, or the Prince of Asturias, or the republic—the conclusion is equally probable.

MORE MONOPOLY—CONSUMMATION OF A GREAT JOB.

From the N. Y. Herald.
The report of the purchase of the so-called French Atlantic cable by the other cable company and the Western Union Company is very likely to be true. The main want of the latter to endeavor to make that purchase. It was in their interest, as purchasers, that has been made all the clamor against the French company; and by their procuring that the State Department assumed an attitude hostile to the new enterprise, and even that was inserted in the President's Message a passage calculated to dishearten the European owners. All this was the job of the would-be buyers. Their purpose was to cheapen the property by showing to the European capitalists that it might eventually prove a dead loss in their hands. Now, therefore, if the report be true, we shall have no more of the movements, to tear up the French cable because France will not permit an American cable to be landed on her shores; we shall hear no more of all the ridiculous and ingenious clamor against this enterprise, for it no longer stands in the way of the gigantic monopoly that controls our telegraphic system to the injury and oppression of the people.

But we shall hear, we trust, a great deal more of Mr. Washburn's bill, for there is more need for it now than ever. Our people, we are afraid, scarcely realize the importance of the telegraph in the concerns of daily life, or there would be no general irresistible pressure upon Congress to pass a law assuming absolute and specific control over this great system of the agencies by which the multifarious operations of society are carried on. Before the telegraphic strike is over, however, it is possible that there may be a change in this regard. Just now the overworked and underpaid agents of this great machinery are in rebellion. Although the capital on which the telegraph company ought to pay a dividend is only fifteen millions they call it forty millions, so as to give an exorbitant percentage to the holders of the stock. They have also taken up a diabolical scheme to tax the property, and as the fictitious excess of twenty-five millions takes up a nice slice of the earnings, they plead poverty and cut down the wages of their subordinates. Thus the operators are sacrificed to a fiction. Against this sacrifice they are in rebellion, and as the employment is a branch of highly skilled labor they may paralyze the company, and thus the country may to a great degree be left without telegraphic facilities.

In that event we are certain that the people will have forced upon them some adequate sense of the vital importance of this means of communication in all commercial transactions; and it is possible that their perception of this may induce a pressure that will force the tardy legislators at Washington to take such steps as will no longer leave the telegraph in hands in which it is subject to such abuses as those from which the people suffer in its present management.

MARINE TELEGRAPH.

For additional Marine News see First Page.

ALMANAC FOR PHILADELPHIA—THIS DAY.
828 RAIN.....734 MOON SET.....11:38
SUN SET.....4:39 TIME WASTED.....6:35
PHILADELPHIA BOARD OF TRADE.
F. A. SODER, GEORGE L. RUBY, GEORGE M. KAYMAN, COMMITTEE OF THE MONTH.
CLEARED YESTERDAY.
Steamship *Wye*, for Philadelphia, and Southern Mail Steamship Co.
Steamship *Franklin*, for Philadelphia, N. O., Philadelphia and Southern Mail Steamship Co.
Steamer *W. Franklin*, for Baltimore, A. Groves, Jr.
WENT TO SEA.
Ship *Ferdinand*, for Philadelphia, for Lagos; and Ellen P. Stewart, for Lagos, went to sea yesterday.
PASSENGEES SAILED.
Per steamship *Wye*, for Savannah, O. D. Wood, Joseph Schaefer, M. B. Priestly, wife, and infant, T. Edgerly, wife, and son, Robert Cameron, B. Cohen, Mrs. M. O. Slicer, and son, R. Moore, D. Ackerman, Miss M. A. Schull.
MEMORANDA.
Ship *Catonia*, Wilson, for Philadelphia, called for Liverpool on 21st ult.
Steamship *Hunter*, Harding, hence, at Providence 24th ult.
Steamship *Aries*, Wiley, for Philadelphia, cleared at Boston 4th ult.
Steamship *Antwerp*, Jones, for Philadelphia, cleared at New York 6th ult.
Ship *Albatross*, Burah, and Grass Boat *Nitjandak*, Knifford, for Philadelphia, entered out at London 24th ult.
Ship *Sir Colin Campbell*, Murray, sailed from Oporto 22d ult.
Ship *Wm. Brewster*, for Philadelphia, cleared at New York 24th ult.
Ship *Sarah Benson*, Dakin, hence, at Haveret 23d ult.
Ship *Samuel Welsh*, Darral, at Oporto 18th ult., from New York.
Ship *Novitas*, Trask, hence for Bath, at Holmes' Hole 13th ult.
Ship *Wm. A. Grif*, hence, at New York 6th ult.
Ship *Sch. Adelia*, Burton, for Philadelphia, cleared at St. John's 1st ult.
Ship *John A. Thurston*, Gilman, hence for Boston, passed Hell Gate 6th ult.
Ship *Wm. S. Kelley*, and T. T. Tasker, Allen, hence, at Boston 6th ult.
Ship *Solid Wm. Bennett*, Penny, hence, at New Bedford 6th inst.
Ship *Emma R. Graham*, Smith, for Philadelphia, sailed from Salem 4th ult.
Ship *Mary E. Hickman*, White, hence, at Richmond 6th inst.
Ship *Argus Key*, Thomas, for Philadelphia, cleared at Pocomoke 5th ult.
Ship *Sch. J. M. Fisher*, Mason, went to sea from Charleston 4th inst. for Georgetown, S. C., and New York.
MISCELLANEOUS.
The Government steamer *Baria*, which accompanied the iron-clad *Miantonomah* from New York for Boston, ran aground near Buzzards Bay, about 12 P. M., on the 4th inst., and was almost instantly sunk. James Burns, officer James Cummings and John Cole, first mate, were on board. The vessel was wrecked at the base of the collision, were drowned. The officers and the remainder of the crew, numbering 11 in all, were saved, and taken to the island of Nantuxet, where they remained for a mile or so, until the *Miantonomah* returned to the rescue of the *Baria*, when they were brought to the mainland and sent to the hospital.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

OFFICE OF THE DIAMOND COAL COMPANY. 30 WALNUT STREET. NOTICE.—The annual election for seven Directors to serve for the ensuing year will be held at the office on WEDNESDAY, January 13, at 10 o'clock P. M. ED. PEACE, President.

OFFICE OF THE CITY TREASURER. PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 31, 1869.—Warrants registered to the No. 15 1/2 at 11 o'clock A. M. ED. PEACE, City Treasurer.

OFFICE OF THE UNITED SECURITY LIFE INSURANCE AND TRUST COMPANY OF PENNSYLVANIA. S. E. CORNER FIFTH AND CHESNUT STREETS. PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 31, 1869.—The Annual Election for Directors of this Company will be held at the office on WEDNESDAY, January 12, 1870, at 10 o'clock A. M. C. F. BETTS, Secretary.

OFFICE OF UNION MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY. N. E. CORNER THIRD AND WALNUT STREETS. PHILADELPHIA, December 30, 1869.—The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders and Directors of the Union Mutual Insurance Company of Philadelphia, an Election for Directors to serve for the ensuing year, will be held at the office of the Company, at 12 M. MONDAY, January 10, 1870. At the same time the Directors will be elected, to serve the ensuing three years. JOHN MOSS, Secretary.

OFFICE OF THE BELVIDERE MANUFACTURING COMPANY. BELVIDERE, N. J., Dec. 26, 1869.—Notice is hereby given to the stockholders of the BELVIDERE MANUFACTURING COMPANY respectively of the meeting to be held on the 10th day of JANUARY, 1870, at 12 o'clock P. M., at the office of the Company, to receive the dividends of the capital stock of said company which have been made and payment of the same called for on or before the eighth day of January, 1870, at 12 o'clock P. M., by a proportion of all sums of money by them subscribed in full and undivided from, on or before the said date. By order of the Board of Directors, S. SHERRER, Secretary.

OFFICE OF THE HESTONVILLE RAILWAY COMPANY. PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 27, 1869.—NOTICE TO STOCKHOLDERS.—The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of this Company will be held at 12 M. MONDAY, January 11, 1870, at 2 o'clock P. M., at the office of the Company, to receive the dividends of the capital stock of said company which have been made and payment of the same called for on or before the eighth day of January, 1870, at 12 o'clock P. M., by a proportion of all sums of money by them subscribed in full and undivided from, on or before the said date. By order of the Board of Directors, S. SHERRER, Secretary.

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SPECIAL NOTICES.

OFFICE OF WELLS, FARGO & COMPANY. No. 84 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, December 28, 1869.—Notice is hereby given, that the Transfer Books of Wells, Fargo & Company will be CLOSED on the 10th day of JANUARY, 1870, at 3 o'clock P. M., to enable the Company to ascertain who are owners of the stock of the old Ten Million Capital. The owners of that stock will be entitled to participate in the distribution of \$2,000,000 new stock to be delivered to the Company on the 10th day of JANUARY, 1870, at 3 o'clock P. M., to enable the Company to ascertain who are owners of the stock of the old Ten Million Capital. The owners of that stock will be entitled to participate in the distribution of assets provided for by the agreement with the Pacific Express Company. The Transfer Books will be opened on the 23d day of JANUARY, at 10 o'clock A. M., after which time the \$2,000,000 new stock will be delivered to the Company on the 10th day of JANUARY, 1870, at 3 o'clock P. M. Notice is also given that the Transfer Books of this Company will be CLOSED on the 25th day of JANUARY, 1870, at 3 o'clock P. M., for the purpose of holding the annual meeting of the Directors of this Company. The books will be RE-OPENED on the 7th day of FEBRUARY, at 10 o'clock A. M. GEORGE K. OTIS, Secretary.

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE AMERICAN MERCHANTS' UNION EXPRESS COMPANY. No. 113 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, November 29, 1869.—The Board of Directors of the American Merchants' Union Express Company has this day declared a dividend of THREE DOLLARS (\$3) per share on the outstanding capital stock of the Company, payable on the 15th day of January, 1870. The Transfer Books will be closed on the 31st day of December next, at 10 o'clock P. M., and reopened at 10 o'clock A. M. on the 16th day of January next. By order of the Board, J. N. KNAPP, Secretary.

OFFICE OF CENTRAL PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY. No. 54 WILLIAM STREET, NEW YORK, Dec. 27, 1869.—THE SIX PER CENT. INTEREST COUPONS OF FIRST MORTGAGE BONDS OF THE CENTRAL PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY, due January 1, 1870, will be paid at the banking house of Fish & Hatch, No. 5 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, on the 25th day of DECEMBER, 1869, at 10 o'clock A. M. G. P. HUNTINGTON, Vice-President.

OFFICE OF THE HOUSTON AND TEXAS CENTRAL RAILWAY COMPANY. No. 23 WALL STREET, NEW YORK, Dec. 27, 1869.—The Coupons of the Mortgage Bonds of this Company, due Jan. 1, 1870, will be paid in gold coin on and after that date, at the National City Bank, New York. D. H. PAIGE, Vice-President.

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