

SPRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

SENTIMENTAL GRIEVANCES.

Prince Arthur promises to appear among us in time to join in the tribute which Americans will pay to the memory of Mr. Peabody. This act would be manifestly a homage which would complete the homage which royalty, as a subject, has rendered to benevolence in its character of sovereign.

We hope our British brethren will not now take us to task on the score of sentimentality. Yet we may err through weakness in thus offering a hand of melancholy friendship to our young visitor. Perhaps we are wrong in exhibiting an indulgent super-sensitiveness in respect to princes and lords, who are but the breath of kings.

Really, if we have to own some "sentimental grievances," it must be admitted that our British friends have taken an equally sentimental way of satisfying them. We have lamented the premature recognition of the South, we have deplored the Alabama damages, it is true; but, on the other hand, what business had the Queen to mourn over Mr. Peabody?

Lord Clarendon has made an exceedingly practical defense of the causes and results of the Alabama wrong. What he says on this point is cogent enough, we doubt not, to make many of his countrymen believe that he has stripped the question of every vestige of sentimentality. Let it be ever so practical, however, it will not escape our notice as one calculating an authority as Richard Cobden, who, in a letter to Mr. Frederick Milnes Eden, wrote:—"But I confess I think the money amount of the capture the smallest part of the future penalty we shall have to pay."

THE NEW ALABAMA CORRESPONDENCE.

Lord Clarendon's conclusive criticism on Mr. Hamilton Fish's violent and declamatory despatch will produce little effect in America. General Grant's message, which expressed in more general terms the same hostility to England, was received in the United States with the general approval which has for many years awaited similar declarations of unfriendly feeling.

first to last, passionate and consistent partisans of the Federal cause. Mr. Bright furnishes Mr. Fish with the paradoxical proposition that England was the treasury and storehouse of the Confederate States; yet neither the English orator nor the American Minister have any meaning except that numerous English vessels succeeded in running the blockade. Lord Clarendon calmly shows that no neutral government is bound to assist a belligerent in blockading the ports of his enemy.

In the despatch of the Secretary of State, as in the passage which he probably contributed to the President's Message, scarcely an attempt is made to answer the cogent arguments by which the pretensions of the United States have already been met; but Mr. Fish devotes a few sentences to an imaginary distinction between the conduct of England and that of the other European States which recognized Confederate belligerency.

Lord Clarendon's reply is a masterpiece of logic and common sense. He shows that the Alabama was not a neutral vessel, but a vessel of war, and that the United States were justified in treating her as such. He also points out the inconsistency of the British position, which is to demand compensation for the Alabama while refusing to do so for other vessels of war.

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before his appointment, he was treated with characteristic insolence by a four-mouthed manager of the impeachment, the entire Senate resented the affront, and approved of Mr. Johnson's dignified rebuke of the offender. Though a Democrat, he had been employed in confidential missions by Mr. Lincoln; he was universally respected by a Senate which contained a large majority of his political opponents, and he was perhaps the first lawyer in the United States.

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY AND THE TELEGRAPHERS' STRIKE.

The great Republican party is very far from being united on important questions of public policy. In fact there are two well-defined parties and several little factions or rings under the same political organization making war upon one another. Even the administration of General Grant, which all combined to bring into power and which has held the reins of government less than a year, fails to unite or control the party.

Then, again, we see one of the most prominent Republicans in Congress, and the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, Mr. Daves, attacking the administration for its extravagance and for breaking its promises to the country in the matter of economy.

Looking at the division in the dominant party on vital questions of public policy, at its violated promises and shortcomings, at its reckless extravagance, at its want of defined principles in the management of public affairs, and at its indifference with regard to supporting the administration it has chosen, we are naturally led to inquire what prospect there is of perpetuating its power, and what chance there may be for the opposition party.

THE BEGINNING AND THE END OF THE TELEGRAPHERS' STRIKE.

The pre-emptory and contemptuously brief notification by R. W. Pope, "G. C. O." of the Telegraphers' League, to the Western Union operators, forms a melancholy comment upon a transaction which will not soon be forgotten by those concerned.

one result, that of injury to a large class of employees, who have lost time and money, and in many cases occupation. It is on their account fortunate that the company, while it was put to temporary inconvenience in transacting its business, has shown good feeling from the beginning, and has recognized the fact that blind confidence and want of judgment led the operators into a step the motives for ordering which they were not permitted to understand, and the consequences of which they might have foreseen, but did not.

And yet a little reflection would have prevented all this. The members of the League might have known that the organization was based upon two principles, which at once gave to it a sinister and dangerous relation towards the company. It was secret and oath-bound, it conferred irresponsible authority upon, as it now appears, one person.

The strikers are "absolved" from their "oath." There is something revolting in the cool ease with which that act is consummated and promulgated. It looks as if the "G. C. O." were invested with attributes scarcely vouchsafed to ordinary human beings.

Meanwhile, the strike being ended, there remains the counting of the cost incurred, and the advantages gained. The first is made up of direct loss of money, and we fear somewhat of the confidence of the employers.

A BUGABOO DISPOSED OF.

There is one looming but unsubstantial difficulty in the way of a reform of the tariff. It is the fear felt by the ignorant and pretended by the protectionists that to lower duties may be to deprive us of necessary revenue.

That this can be done is indisputable. It is done by England, with a smaller population than ours and a larger debt. Her statesmen make an annual budget, spending the strength of their best intellects freely to lift the burden of taxation a little on one place, or wholly off in another.

The attention of the trade is solicited to the following very Choice Wines, etc., for sale by DUNTON & LUSBON, 215 SOUTH FRONT STREET.

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understand, than by a simple experiment in budget-making, such as the Free Trade League have made. They show just how an abundant revenue can be got—on what articles duties may be laid, and how heavily to get all the money we need without throttling innumerable domestic industries, as now.

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 31st day of JANUARY, 1870, at 3 o'clock P. M.

THE ENTERPRISE INSURANCE COMPANY, OF PHILADELPHIA. Office, No. 400 Walnut Street. January 11, 1870. At the annual meeting of the stockholders of the Company, held on the 10th day of January, the following gentlemen were re-elected Directors for the ensuing year:—

OFFICE OF THE FREEDOM IRON AND STEEL COMPANY, No. 280 SOUTH THIRD STREET. PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 17, 1870. The annual meeting of the stockholders of the FREEDOM IRON AND STEEL COMPANY will be held at the Office of the Company, No. 280 South Third Street, Philadelphia, on THURSDAY, February 11, 1870, at 10 o'clock A. M.

OFFICE OF THE BELVIDERE MANUFACTURING COMPANY, BELVIDERE, N. J., Dec. 8, 1869. Notice is hereby given to the stockholders of the BELVIDERE MANUFACTURING COMPANY that the annual meeting of the stockholders of the Company will be held at the Office of the Company, No. 280 South Third Street, Philadelphia, on THURSDAY, February 11, 1870, at 10 o'clock A. M.

OFFICE OF THE CITY TREASURER, PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 23, 1869.—Warrants registered to No. 69,600 will be paid on presentation at this office, interest ceasing from date.

PHILADELPHIA AND READING RAILROAD CO., Office, No. 227 S. FOURTH STREET, PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 22, 1869. DIVIDEND NOTICE.

BACHELOR'S HAIR DYE.—THE best hair dye in the world—does not contain lead—no violent poisons—restores the hair to its natural color—keeps it perfectly healthy—reliable—instantaneous. Avoid the cheap and delusive preparations known as "virtues" that do not possess the true ingredients.

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LEGAL NOTICES.

IN THE ORPHANS' COURT FOR THE CITY AND COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA. Estate of JOHN H. DRAPER, deceased. The Auditor appointed by the Court to audit, settle, and adjust the account of EDWARD DRAPER, executor of the will of JOHN H. DRAPER, deceased, and to report distribution of the balance in the hands of the executor, will meet the parties interested, for the purpose of his appointment, on MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 1870, at 10 o'clock A. M., in the office, southeast corner of WALNUT and SIXTH STREETS (second floor), in the city of Philadelphia.

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