THE SCHEME OF POSTAL TELEGRAPHY.

Mr. Orton's clear, strong, and logical statement to the Senate Committee on Post Offices, ought to give a quietus to the mischievous project which that committee has lately entertained for throwing upon the Government the business of telegraphy.

European powers have always been accustomed to do many things through governmental machinery which our political system has left to private enterprise. The centralization of power in those States, and the custom of their people to look to official authorities for commercial schemes which we here leave to the community, renders all analogies of this sort suspicious at the

When, in addition, the matter inquired about pivots on a question of distance, the folly of comparing what can be done in Bel-gium, Switzerland, or even in Great Britain, with what must be done in the vast area of our Union, is manifest. The countries cited to the committee in order to persuade our Government to embark on a kind of business it has never yet attempted are the most thickly settled in Europe. The amount of telegraphic business possible for every mile of wire set up is exceedingly great; but to compare this with the waste places over which our lines are in great part run—thousands of miles to East, West, North, and South—is preposterous. And then, besides the difference in population and in quantity of trade to the square mile, the difference in actual area between a little country that would hardly make a good-sized American State, and which could be covered with a network of telegraphs at small expense, and our continent washed by two oceans, and stretching from the Lakes to the Gulf, should bar such hostile comparisons.

The lavish outlays of the existing compapies have been disingenuously cited against them. The truth is that for a vast area like our country the only hope of competing in public works with older powers is to stimu-late enterprise with the hope of reward, and make capital prompt to endure unusual expenses. To snatch away the possibility of reward when the work is done is to kill all

Again, in this deceptive and fanciful analogy, the rates in this country are represented as being higher than in Europe. Mr. Orton's statistics absolutely disprove this assertion. "The rates are not higher in the United States, according to distance, than in any European country, and are lower than in several." The average rate between New York and thirty-seven principal cities, is one and one-tenth mills per mile; that between London and thirty-two principal cities in Great Britain is two and one-tenth mills per mile under governmental telegraphy. zween the principal cities in Baden, the rate averages four mills per mile; in Belgium, it is two and five-tenths mills; in Holland, three and nine-tenths. In Paris, they approach nearer our rates, the average being one and two-tenths mills per mile; and the population of France is almost identical with ours, namely, forty millions, though much more concentrated. Besides all this, the night rates in this country are just about one-half the average rates for like distances charged in any European country.

Orton's statement, however, is that referring to the difference of rates depending on the quantity of business in the region. It should seem hardly necessary to show to any merchant who knews how a very large order for any article can be filled at a lower rate than a hall order, why this discrepancy exists. But Orton's reply was that the Post Office melf annually receives \$3,000,000 over its Expenses in the Eastern and Middle States, hile the Southern division shows a deficit of 1,400,000, and the Western a deficit of 1,000,000 more; and he appeals to the Govarnment whether a private corporation could be expected to perform telegraphic service at the same rate there, where even letter service shows a deficit, at the same rates as at the East. The Government, in undertaking it at a lower rate, would have the same

The most cegent and important part of Mr.

In fine, Mr. Orton declares that, if the same privilege be conceded to his company that is to be conceded by the new bill to Mr. Hubbard's company, namely, freedom from Government taxes, he will at once reduce all the present rates by one-seventh, which represents the tax. Again, give the present companies the free right of way along railways in all the States, which Mr. Hubbard's bill proposes for the new company, and one-seventh more will be taken from the rates. And, when this is done, Congress is welcome to arrange for the reduction of rates after paying ten per cent. to the stockholders. Unjust and contrary to the spirit of our Government as it would be to interfere, the sincerity of this proposition will serve to strip some of the sophisms from the scheme of postal telegraphy.

RECEPTION OF SEWARD. From the N. Y. World.

A scurrilous morning sheet in this citywhich, amid its vulgar ribaldry upon good men, deifies Stanton as a political saint, and would have had Fitz John Porter hung, for no other reason than that the Lincoln admin-Istration needed a political victim to divert attention from its crime of removing McClellan from command of the army and

elevating Pope—was touter for a public recep-tion to Mr. Seward by the city authorities. It talked in this style:-

Now, let the people prepare to do their part; and by people we do not mean the wealthy classes alone, out the great mass—the industrious and honest myriads, the genuine democracy of the metropolis.

Mr. Seward comes here crowned with years, ripe in experience, a thorough democrat, and, above all, an American. Let us remember his services to the country and his sufferings in her cause; let us call to our mind his long struggles in favor of freedom and equal rights; let us inspire ourselves with the recol-lection of his noble, philosophic eloquence, and hail his coming among us as that of a man whom men of all parties and creeds gladly combine to honor.

It may suit the purposes of the ring, for whose enlargement so as to take in Republican politicians in Albany and in this city the public is largely indebted to leaders of the Seward wing of the radicals, to laud the politi-cal deeds of the returning traveller from Alaska; but "the genuine democracy" will be likely to reflect a little.

The echoes of the "little bell" have not quite died away.

There are those in this city who have not yet forgotten the rude insolence with which Mr. Seward—with purpose aforethought, as is capable of proof, to thrust in Fort Warren as a political prisoner an ex-President of the United States, lately deceased, whose name and memory are fondly cherished by the Democratic masses-charged Franklin Pierce, on the pretext of an anonymous letter, with being a member of a secret league, the pur- struction of our municipal government was a pose of which was to destroy this Union, and | good starting point. Hence their proposed

of its then congenial chief clerk.

There are Democrats who remember how that Seward endeavored to make Stanton "divine," sanctioned all his deeds of infamy, and endorsed to the utmost all his dogmas in respect to the authority of the Federal Goyernment, under the war power, to strip away from a civilian, troublesome to the administration in a political sense, all the guarantees of the Constitution in respect to individual rights, wrest him from his home, deprive him of his property, and cast him into dun-geons so fetid and tilthy that those of Venice under ground were airy palaces in comparison.

If there be any Democrat who has ceased to be mindful of what Seward and Stanton together did in that hour of woe, let him turn to the Bureau of Military Justice for decisions of that pliant tool of both, Judge Advocate-General Holt, and read how a civil court in a loyal State had no jurisdiction, in time of war, to try a soldier for murder, burglary, or larceny; that persons accused of interference with voting by soldiers could be tried by a military court; that trial by jury in Indiana must give way to the war power; that the authority of the administration to suppress by force a Democratic newspaper in New York rested on as solid foundations as the right to bombard the enemy's fort at Richmond; that a military commission was useful in civil causes, be cause of "the extended reach" and "wide scope" it could cover, and could make "the most complete and reliable disclosure of the inner life" of witnesses. Much of all of this was swept away by the Supreme Court in Milligan's case; but it still lives to show what ideas of civil liberty Seward and Stanton each had. Let those who sanction such doctrines make haste to fall down in adoration before their co-originator, co-administrator, and, for all the public knows, their vindicator ever since the Supreme Court has stamped them out. In respect to Mr. Seward's eminent ser-

vices to his country while Secretary of State, in what great acts do they consist? That his writings in the Department of State were great in quantity we admit. But in what else Certainly not in literary merit. In all the voluminous despatches which he addressed to his diplomatic agents abroad, touching the origin and effect of the great Rebellion, there is not one which, in precision, clearness, directness, earnestness, and elevated patriotism, compares with that from Secrerary Black, dated February 28, 1861, in which he calls the attention of our foreign ministers to the great social and political convul-sion then felt to be imminent, and prescribed their duty. In the early part of Mr. Seward's labers as Secretary of State there were two objects desirable to be attained by this country: one was to prevent the recognition of the seceded States as belligerents, and the other to effect a complete prohibition of privateering, with immunity of private property on the high seas. In both of these Mr. Seward pitiably failed.

For Mr. Seward's conduct in the matter of the Trent, we are at a loss to see how Democrats are to render to him distinguished honor. The seizure of the Rebel commissioners was formally approved at the time by Edward Everett, Lewis Cass, and Caleb Cushing. Moreover, Secretary Welles congratu-lated Captain Wilkes (November 30, 1861), by a public order, for the great public service which he had rendered in "the capture of the Rebel emissaries." This order could not have been issued without advice of the then Attorney-General. But yet Mr. Seward, when the peremptory demand came from England to apologize or adopt the act within seven days, our Secretary of State backed down upon the lawyer's dodge that Wilkes did not bring in the steamer for adjudication.

In the management of the Alabama claims his conduct could not command the approbation of even one of his Republican friends in the Senate. Indeed, but one Senator of any political party undertook to vindicate it. Certainly that affords not much claim to civic

Do our fellow-citizens of Irish extraction find anything to applaud in his treatment of Fenian prisoners in Great Britain? or do law-respecting citizens, of any race, intend to sing plaudits to the kidnapping extradition of Arguelles?

As for the brutal injuries Mr. Seward received in Washington by an assassin's hand, we would hasten to express our denunciation of the crime and sympathy for the victim. But that has been already done in no half-way manner, and is an affair quite different from Democratic approval of Mr. Seward's political acts as Secretary of State and as Senator.

THE STATE OF PARTIES-THE DEMO-CRATIC CHANCE.

From the N. Y. Herald. The Democrats are in power now in this State for the first time in many years. The election of Seymour during the war was a spasmodic declaration of dissatisfaction with the way in which the great contest was carried on, and that single term must be looked upon as an accidental lapse in an exclusion that dates far beyond it. Considering the rapidity with which events follow one another in this age, the experience that is crowded in a little time, and the readiness with which, in our political system, the people can express their appreciation of party conduct by a complete change of administration, it must be conceded, first, that the long exclusion of the Democracy from power indicated a deep dislike of the conduct of that party and distrust of its promises; and second, that the final acceptance of a Democratic administration, despite that deep dislike and distrust, shows the existence of the highest degree of popular disgust with the other party. We find, therefore, that we are, politically, at a state of dead low water. The people have small faith in either party. Utterly disgusted with the Republicans extending productions. the Republicans, extending a very timid confidence to the Democrats, they have trusted the latter in the hope that a long period for penitence and reflection may have shown them the necessity of acting on their good

ebhavior. It is very plain what should be the primary thought with the party that has attained power in such circumstances. It has the future to a great degree in its hands. Party expediency itself must, then, suggest the necessity of governing well; for if it then makes wise use of its opportunity it will regain the popular favor, and may keep it indefi-nitely. This seems to have been perceived by the Tammany leaders in the late entrance to power of the party in this State. They were prepared to do all that the corrupt state of their party would permit toward a healthy reorganization of our city government. They saw that as misrule was most evident hereas the results of bad legislation were most flagrant in the enormous villany with which we were governed-that an honest recon-

in the end, when the accused, defying his partisan malice, dared him to the worst, slunk back like a whipped cur into the recesses of the State Department, under cover and spirit act upon it, looking upon no one point as essential save the great point of Democratic principle that gave the government of the city into the hands of the people of the city. With this laid down as a corner-stone they seemed fairly at the foundation of their structure. But discord came among the builders, and where there is not harmony in such labor there is but little pro-The same marplot that sought to lestroy the Democratic unity for Seymour on the eve of the Presidential election adopted a not dissimilar course with regard to the present efforts of the party leaders, and for private feud or spite sought to distract and prevent the attempts of the recognized leaders to do what they deemed wise for the good of the party. Its efforts in this way have evidently failed and come to naught, and its astonish ing endeavors to make a sensation end in contemptible disaster, since it is pretty clear that the differences between members of the Legislature from which it caught its hint are

It is to be hoped that the Democracy, from such an incident, may see the necessity for circumspection, and will be the more cautious and conciliatory in view of such evidence, that free lances of every sort-the unscrupulous Bohemians of politics generally-will lose no opportunity to make capital out of their little differences. They have no distance to give if they expect to make their success in New York the basis of an attempt to secure the country in 1872. There is, it is true, some sign of division among the Republicans, but it is not to be forgotten that this party has a rallying point in General Grant. It is a great piece of political capital for any party to possess a national man. Grant has not shown himself much of a politician so far; neither did he for a long while much overtop the average of men as a soldier. He has the better part of his term before him. He has his war history, and he may have a magnificent financial story to lay before the country ere his time runs out. With these points in favor of the Republicans, the Democracy must make a wonderfully good use of its control of the Empire State to give its national contest much promise.

WORKINGWOMEN-THEIR WAGES AND HOMES.

From the N. Y. Tribune. The contributor who tells our readers something of workingwomen and their wages, has made so careful a study of her subject and taken such wise means to inform herself upon it, that her statements, much as they differ from the staple assumptions of the newspapers, must be received with respectful consideration. The distress of workingwomen is not to be relieved by taking for granted that they are uniformly underpaid, and demanding that their wages shall be raised. If it is true that while the capable and industrious can earn as much as their labor is worth, and with due care can live decently upon their earnings; if it is true that women are sorely wanted in respectable avocations which a false pride bars them from entering; if it is true that the effort to provide them with cheap and comfortable homes is partially a failure because after the homes are built the women will not live in them, then for the relief of the present distress we must try means far different from those we have been trying. Observe, our contributor does not question that misery enough exists among the workingwomen. There are the feeble, the naturally incapable, the widows burdened with young children, the girls upon whom disabled parents depend for support, and there are finally hundreds of that unfortunate class, found among both sexes, who with all the will and the fitness to work, are invariably pushed to the wall in the scramble for place. How to relieve these poor creatures is always a problem, but it is one which does not belong to the woman question alone, for there are thousands of men in distress through the same or analogous causes. We know moreover that there is a world of misery which lies hidden from the light; there is starvation in dismal hovels which the step of the social economist never approaches, and the Song of the Shirt is droned from weary week to week in garrets which few of us know anything about. For all this it is true, as the writer of our article asserts, that thousands of families are ready to give easy work with good wages to respectable women, and the respectable women will starve on sixpence a day rather than take it. It is true that a great deal of the misery of the female working class is lowing to an absurd feeling that domestic labor is degrading, and that "social position" is one of the first necessities of life. So while some departments of industry are overcrowded others are in absolute

want of workers. Whether anything can be done to disabuse poor American women of these erroneous ideas we are by no means certain. At any rate the evil is likely to be exaggerated by eloquent reformers who decry the drudgery of household labor, and believe that woman is never so much a slave as when she is looking after the kitchen and the nursery. But while they are doing mischief in one way, we can perhaps do some good in another. The problem of cheap homes for workingwomen is not solved yet. The causes which have disturbed the few experiments thus far made can be ascertained, and the difficulties can doubtless be remedied. We can make these homes more home-like; we can hide the features which give them the hated aspect of charitable institutions; we can possibly modify irksome rules and remove a few unnecessary restraints. The rates of wages are pretty certain in the long run to regulate themselves on the tolerably just basis of the law of supply and demand. in spite of anybody's interference. homes for the workers can be provided by benevolent enterprise, and provided in such form that no woman who accepts their benefits need feel that she accepts an alms.

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the 8th of March. For freights, which will be taken as
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