## SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

### GRANT'S FIRST NEGOTIATION FOR FOREIGN SOIL.

*From the N. Y. World.*

Among the West India group of islands is one named Hispaniola by the Spanish discoverers, but called Hayti (which means highland country) by the natives. It is about 390 miles in length from east to west, and 60 to 110 miles in breadth. Discovered by Spain in 1492, adventurers from Europe went thither to work its reputed mines, made slaves of the natives, and the colony increased in wealth; but soon, the mining proving unproductive, the miners went elsewhere, and the colony became a burden. Spain held possession till 1630, when buccaneers, chiefly French, gained a foothold from the neighboring small island of Tortuga, and by the treaty of Ryswick, in 1697, the western portion of the island was ceded to France, and one hundred years later (1795) the eastern portion was, by the treaty of Bale, also ceded to France. Thus France had all the island. The population at this time could be classified into three classes—whites, mulattoes, and blacks—the last being slaves. The French national decree of 1791, giving to the colored people all the rights of French citizens, set on foot a quarrel between the two first-named classes on the island, during which the negro slaves rose up for their own defense against both. In the meantime the French Assembly repealed its first decree, which act of repeal made matters still worse. The negroes either massacred or expelled nearly all the unarmed whites. In 1793, England, with a large force, took possession of the island; but the climate was too deadly, and within five years she retired. France recognized the negro Toussaint L'Ouverture as general-in-chief, who proved himself able and indefatigable, and in 1801 formally proclaimed the independent Republic of San Domingo under him. When the treaty of Amiens had concluded the war in Europe between France and Great Britain, Napoleon sent, to reduce the revolted colony to his sway, twenty-six ships of the line and 25,000 troops, under his brother-in-law, Leclerc, who captured Toussaint, sent him to France, where he died in prison. This struggle for victory between the French and the negroes surpasses description in its deeds of cruelty and revenge; and in 1803 the French forces surrendered to the negro General Dessalines, and agreed to evacuate the island. The next year the negro general was crowned Emperor of the *whole* island, with its name changed to Hayti; he proclaimed a massacre of all whites, and was assassinated in 1806; when another negro, Christophe, and Petion fought for power. It was during the conflicts between these two, and to aid one against the other, that the vessel American Eagle was fitted out in this port, seized by the collector under the neutrality act of 1794, whereon arose the noted case of Gelston vs. Hoyt, in which the Supreme Court said that, as neither Christophe nor Petion were recognized as "princes or states" by the executive department of this Government, the libel was bad. The former ruled in the north and the latter in the south of the island. Petion died in 1818, and Boyer took his place. Christophe committed suicide two years later; when Boyer rushed in, grabbed everything and the island was one again under the Republic of Hayti, and her independence confirmed by France, April, 1825. Boyer held sway over the entire island till 1843, when he was driven out by Riviere, against whom revolt in turn was made, and he fled to Jamaica. In 1846, Soulouque, a slave and boot-black, was elected President of Hayti, or the western part of the island, and in 1852 took the crown from the altar in his own hands, and, like Napoleon I, crowned himself Emperor, and then his wife Adelina. So much for Hayti.

On the fall of Riviere, the Spaniards in the eastern end of the island, whereupon President Grant has fixed his eyes, asserted their independence and proclaimed the Dominican Republic. Santana was elected President. He was followed by Jimenes in 1848. In the meantime Santana, having whipped Soulouque of Hayti (the western end) in battle, compelled Jimenes to resign, and Baez was elected. In 1853 Baez was banished, and Santana raised to the Presidency.

Finally, on the 19th of May, 1861, there appeared in Madrid a royal decree, which concluded thus:—

"The territory which constituted the Dominican Republic is and remains reincorporated into the monarchy."

Horrid to relate, Spain did reoccupy and repossess islands adjacent to this continent. Where was the Monroe doctrine then? Where was Seward? Where were all the Republican babblers now heard in the land against European possession? Lincoln was President. Where was he? Let Banks, Howe, Logan and company straightway introduce resolutions into Congress inquiring for and of everybody how Spain dared thus to retake San Domingo.

Spain endeavored to do what she could in Dominica, which had, in fact, invited her there. She spent many millions of dollars in roads, harbor improvements, and in rectification of its money system; but finally, in 1865, Spain renounced, by decree of May 5, possession of the territory.

How does President Grant expect to govern the country? It will be, if the treaty is forthwith ratified, the first of our acquisitions off the continent. The Supreme Court of the United States, in the case of Dred Scott, said that there is no power of the Government to make or hold new acquisitions as a colony. New territory must be taken to be held only "as an inchoate State," which is in a territorial condition of pupilage to become a co-equal State in due time. Possibly this administration only will respect such decisions of the court as meet its approval, and will endeavor to govern its island purchases as colonies, which Senator Morton assimilates to small boats towed astern the ship, and which, in respect to those towed by Europe, he proposes to cut adrift, to be picked up by ourselves as waifs and strays.

### ONE YEAR OF GENERAL GRANT'S ADMINISTRATION—THE PROSPECT.

*From the N. Y. Herald.*

One year, the first of General Grant's administration, closed at noon yesterday. What have been its fruits and what does it promise? In the inaugural of March last, and in certain outgivings before it, we were promised a policy of economy, retrenchment, and reform; a religious redemption of the obligations involved in the national debt; the maintenance of the national honor and dignity in our foreign relations; a faithful execution of the laws, and that the Executive would have no policy of his own to urge upon Congress in opposition to the will of the people. In his inaugural, too, General Grant cordially endorsed the proposition then pending for the establishment in the national constitution of impartial suffrage, without regard to "race, color or previous condition of servitude."

Such were the promises and foreshadowings of General Grant's administration one year ago. What has followed and how stand the record and the promise of their fulfilment today? The laws of Congress for the reconstruction of the lately Rebel States have been faithfully carried out, and excepting some few remaining formalities in reference to Georgia and Texas, the political work of Southern restoration is finished. In the important matters of economy, retrenchment, and reform the Treasury shows a clear gain of over a hundred millions of money (including ninety-eight millions reduction of the debt) for the first year of Grant over the last year of Johnson; and the premium on gold has been reduced from its fluctuations among the thirties and forties to the narrow gambling margin between thirteen and fourteen cents; the fifteenth amendment has been ratified by the required three-fourths of the States, and its proclamation as a part of the supreme law of the land we are now expecting every day.

In the meantime, so thoroughly has the doctrine of civil and political equality, regardless of race or color, been the ruling idea of General Grant, that he has appointed men of African descent to various responsible offices, including revenue collecting and diplomatic appointments, and has recognized, with the enthusiasm of a missionary devoted to the cause, the fitness under the new order of things of an African representative at Washington of the African Republic of Hayti. To crown this edifice of equal civil and political rights a gentleman of color in 1870 occupies the seat in the United States Senate left vacant by Jeff. Davis in 1861 for the purpose of assisting in the establishment of an independent Southern Confederacy on "the corner-stone of African slavery." It was in 1850 that the barracoon, or slave market, in full view from the National Capitol, was removed with the abolition of the slave trade in the District of Columbia; and now behold in the Senate the consummation of the mighty revolution which has followed that small beginning by Henry Clay!

The first year of General Grant's administration thus becomes memorable in history as marking the complete abolition of the civil and political disabilities of the African race in the United States, and as marking the beginning of the new dispensation of impartial suffrage under the supervision of Congress. On the Fourth of July next the President, it appears, is to assist at a celebration of the fifteenth amendment in a grand mass meeting in Connecticut, which is not a bad idea; but it further appears that he wishes a comparatively short session of Congress for the long term, in order that he may return to the refreshing drives, surf and sea breezes of Long Branch in June; and this wish, it may be said, is suggestive of a growing disposition to drift along quietly in the current of events and trust to luck for a safe landing.

Here we touch the weak point, the vulnerable heel of Grant's administration. With all the work of reconstruction accomplished, nothing has been done in the reconstruction of our foreign relations beyond the policy of peace for the present, leaving the future to provide for itself. The course which this administration has pursued and is pursuing in reference to Cuba is satisfactory only to Spain: the policy of General Grant in reference to Mexico is apparently that of perfect indifference touching the never-ending but still-beginning demoralizations of that beautiful but wretched country. He has shown something of the spirit of "manifest destiny" in certain proceedings looking to the annexation of Dominica; and even those initial proceedings will, most likely, end in smoke. He has despatched an expedition for a survey of the Isthmus of Darien, in view of a ship canal, which is something; but he has consented to an indefinite suspension of the prosecution of those Alabama claims, from which the opinion is beginning to spread that they will end in nothing.

In each and all these things it appears that while the President has no definite policy to suggest to Congress, Congress has no definite policy to urge upon the President. Hence, upon our foreign affairs nothing is done and nothing is promised. The prospect on this side is not encouraging, while upon the great money question it is very good. Upon the whole, the administration is too quiet, too dull and inactive, to satisfy the country, and accordingly the elements of new political factions are in active process of formation. Hence we expect that in this year's elections for the next Congress we shall have some evidences of a disintegration of the Republican party calculated to suggest a doubtful contest, and perhaps even a scrub race, for the Presidential succession.

### THE ADMINISTRATION AND ITS WORK.

*From the N. Y. Times.*

Yesterday the country stepped across the threshold of a new political year, and entered upon the closing scene of a decade destined to be ever memorable in its history. The nine administrative years which have just closed were crowned with marvellous events; and as we look back upon them and note the grand accomplishments which followed in their wake, it seems difficult to realize that we have been such recent actors in scenes which are already permanently engraved on the record of the world's civilization. It is profitless, perhaps, to recall mere incidents which have merged in great results. They can only serve to revive dead animosities, and mar the work of pacification which is so necessary to the perfection of our great political transition. Yet it is profitable, as well as legitimate, to note the more prominent political achievements of the time, and to gather fresh courage, as well as direction for the future.

The Republican party may point to the record since 1860 with a justifiable pride. It may claim its justification through its work, and offer it as a security for the future. It has been made the instrument by which the nation has solved the problem that baffled the fathers of the republic, and which later statesmen were content to avoid or defend as compromises of the Constitution. When the grand opportunity offered by rebellion had been improved, and emancipation was adopted as a military expedient, which had been denied to us as a political policy, the Republican party did not hesitate to embrace it. When peace crowned the glorious act through victory, and logistics gave way to the requiremeuts of legislation, the Republican party accepted its new mission with alacrity, and entered upon the work of adjustment with a firm purpose of making it harmonious with all that had gone before.

As might have been expected, there was a diversity of Republican counsels, and at times a clashing of Republican politics; but they were the result of an honest purpose, based upon principles as to which all were in the main agreed. It would have been strange had there not been. For four years Congress contended as to the fundamental principle upon which the adjustment was to be made, and though many Republicans dissented from the theory upon which it finally was made, yet they accepted the finality, as such, like one who had reached home by an unwonted road, and straightway forgot the way in the arrival.

The election of General Grant, and his inauguration one year ago yesterday, constituted a new departure of the Republican party, but without deviation of course. The people declared that the work of Congress should not be undone, as Frank Blair and the Democracy proposed; that to a firm adherence thereto, should be added a policy of pacification; that a broader and more national policy should be pursued, and that economy and retrenchment should be required in the administration of affairs. A year passed, and it is proper to inquire how far those popular requirements have been answered, and what progress has been made.

The record is a grand one, and easily summed up. The disabled States are all healed, and the last one of them will soon be represented in Congress; the ratification of the fifteenth amendment to the Federal Constitution is assured; a year of retrenchment and economy has resulted in a reduction of the public debt to the extent of over $100,000,000, with a gold balance in the Treasury of over $98,000,000; the gold premium has fallen steadily to 113¼, and there is every prospect that in a reasonable time the financial problem, which looked so difficult a year ago, will solve itself by resumption. In addition to these solid accomplishments, the President has strongly pronounced in favor of a reduction of taxation to the extent of at least $50,000,000 a year, a measure which is most earnestly demanded by the people, and pressed upon Congress. It remains to be seen if the latter will respond to the demand as readily and as gracefully as the President, or whether it will, by refusing, mar the grand record which has thus far been made.

So far as the President is concerned, no better record could have been hoped for, no more successful achievement expected, even by the most sanguine. The people surely have reason to be satisfied with the fruits of the first year of President Grant's administration, and to regard the future with confidence.

### SOME CURIOUS THINGS ABOUT THE GOLD CONSPIRACY.

*From the N. Y. Sun.*

No full report of the evidence taken by the Congressional Committee of Investigation into the September gold conspiracy, as it is commonly called, has yet been published by authority; but those portions of it which have surreptitiously found their way into print give us glimpses of certain curious facts.

The most striking of these facts is that, according to the testimony of Mr. Jay Gould, supposed to be the ringleader of the combination to put up the price of gold, there was no such combination at all. The whole movement was planned and controlled by him alone, and came to an end when his determination to continue it failed him. Even his friend and associate in the management of the Erie Railway, James Fisk, Jr., was not admitted into his counsels, but merely came in, with a number of other unorganized followers, at the eleventh hour, to pick up a portion of the anticipated profits. Corbin, too, was but a silent partner in the business, with a contingent interest in it—secured to his wife, not himself—but no vote in its direction. Mr. Gould, therefore, stands forth as the single colossal genius whose incantations shook the whole fabric of the national credit, and convulsed the entire mercantile community.

Mr. Gould's signal talents for a part of the task he undertook are amply proved by his success in bending the proverbially stubborn will of President Grant to a conformity with his desires. At his first interview with the President, in June, he found him resolved on bringing the price of gold down by selling it for greenbacks, and thus contracting the currency. Mr. Gould's arguments in favor of a contrary course seemed at the time to make no impression; but at a second interview, toward the end of August, he was more successful, and so entirely converted the President to his policy of selling little or no gold till after the crops were moved to the seaboard, that he went on with his speculation for a rise in entire confidence that the Government would do nothing to interfere with it. His weak point was attaching too much weight to an article in a disreputable morning journal, and being frightened by it into selling gold himself, and thus breaking down the market, just when a little pluck would have given him a triumphant victory. If this is so, it is not the least remarkable of the remarkable features of the transaction.

Another point worth noticing is the way in which two women figure in the affair. As we have said, it was Mrs. Corbin, President Grant's sister, not Corbin himself, who was to receive a part of the profits of Gould's operations, in return for Corbin's assistance. When finally the President desired to communicate to his brother-in-law his dissatisfaction at his complicity in the affair, it was Mrs. Grant who was selected to convey the intimation, not to Corbin himself, but to Mrs. Corbin. There was thus a sort of double dummy game played between Grant and Corbin, with their respective wives for dummies.

The pitiable exhibition of cunning, weakness, and rascality made by Mr. Corbin in his own testimony will surprise no one who read the account of his conduct as narrared in the *Sun* during the few days which immediately followed the culmination of the speculation. But it is surprising to find General Butterfield so innocently exposing his want of a sense of honor to the Government under which he held office, and to his friend Mr. Gould. It seems that all the while he was Assistant Treasurer he was buying and selling Government bonds on speculation; and when finally the upward movement in gold, which he knew Mr. Gould was engineering, and from which, if it had proved successful, he was to reap large profits, ended disastrously, he lost no time in secretly selling gold on his own account, thus really benefiting himself at Gould's expense; for the more gold he sold the lower the price went, and the lower the price the greater Mr. Gould's losses.

The evident moral of the whole affair is that the President of the United States should be careful whom he selects for his associates, and how he talks to them about State secrets. President Grant has had a narrow escape from being almost conclusively proved guilty of participating in a speculation against the national credit. Will he be careful to keep out of similar complications in future?

### LITTLE MEN AND WOMEN.

*From the N. Y. Tribune.*

The literary world (which has its range of personal gossip as well as any other) is just now on the tiptoe of expectation, waiting for a tidbit of scandal which has been promised to it in the shape of an attack made by a certain well-known authoress upon an equally well-known publishing firm. It appears that the lady conceives herself greatly wronged by them, and intends to set forth her case allegorically and satirically; and, as she has been known before to "sling ink" which burned like caustic, the public rub their hands with keen enjoyment in anticipation of her coming effort.

Now, we know nothing of the merits of this especial case, and we wish to know nothing. Whether the lady or her publisher made or lost ten per cent. by their bargain is a question with which, we humbly suggest, we or the public have absolutely nothing to do. Scandalous essays, which in old times used to be confined to illiterate neighborhoods, now, in this age of newspapers, stretch their unknown lines over the world. All is fish that comes to their net. The higher the position a man or woman attains by force of genius or virtue, the keener is the zest with which their personal history is seized and dragged to the light. So universal is this prurient taste that the natural consequence has ensued: every man who has gained a local notoriety rushes before the public with his personal affairs; his silly idiosyncracy to display his little grievance to moan over. To measure the time devoted by Congress to personal explanations and to the display of purely personal spleen or individual relations, one is forced to conclude that the machinery of government, instead of being devised for the transaction of national business, was simply meant to give opportunity to third-rate men to perk and parade themselves into public notice. It is time that this matter was adjusted by the simple rule of common sense. The share which the public owns in a man is the highest work which he can give them. The contract honestly filled, the battle gained, the poem, the picture, the book, which embodies the insight into beauty or truth which his individual life has taught him. The world owns a royalty in these general truths, and it must be paid. But when the man obtrudes his own coat or his breakfast or his wife into notice, he simply commits an impertinence which natural vanity explains but does not excuse.

The record has been kept of Dr. Johnson's cups of tea and Swift's dressing-gown. There were giants in the world in those days, and they were but few in number. But is history to carry the weight of all the indigestions and old clothes of the mob of gentlemen who write with ease, once a week, now-a-days? The sooner the chaff is sifted out of those old records, as well as the new, the better. Byron gave us pictures of Italy and glimpses of passion which never have been surpassed; for so much we are his debtor forever; but there we ought to be done with him absolutely. Why? Because of these long ago poems. Should the world sit with aching head to-day, puzzling over the fact whether his sister's daughter had a marriage certificate to show or not? Why should we peep and whisper and nod together over Medora Leigh's disgrace, more than Sally Jones' next door? Is it a whit less vulgar? If Mr. A- writes an essay and Mr. B. prints it for him, the public have a right to demand that the essay be trenchant, and that the type be clear. So far is their business; then they have done with the matter. If Messrs. A. and B. happen to have a petty squabble about their 10 per cent., why should the whole American people be summoned as a jury in the case any more than to decide why John Smith's cow should not invade Johnson's lot?

When the lines are drawn between the work and the person, between the contribution to truth and the scandalous gossip about the contributors, the world will move faster. "When I learned that nobody was looking at me," says Sydney Smith, "I ceased to be diffident." When our public men in and out of Congress learn how exceedingly small a portion of the world's eye they till after they have done the work required of them, they will probably be less presumptuous. A man may comfortably enjoy his quarrels; his opinions of himself and his colleagues may rate himself with pleasurable complacency above newspapers or public opinion. His vanity or ill temper, however amusing, concern only himself; but when he mounts his petty pedestal shouting "I, I!" for the benefit of idle gossip-mongers, he only shows how little he has yet learned of the grave purposes of life, and how like a school-boy he still is in his estimate of himself or his code of good-breeding.


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SPECIAL NOTICES.

OFFICE PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD COMPANY.
PHILADELPHIA, February 16, 1870.
NOTICE TO STOCKHOLDERS.
The Annual Election for Directors will be held on MONDAY, the 7th day of March, 1870, at the Office of the Company, No. 328 South THIRD Street. The polls will be open from 10 o'clock A. M. until 6 o'clock P. M.
No share or shares transferred within sixty days preceding the election will entitle the holder or holders thereof to vote.
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The Board of Directors this day granted to J. W. TORREY, Vice-President of the Bank, a short furlough, on account of ill health, and have appointed DRIJ. NOBLIT, Jr., Esq., acting Vice-President in the interim.
3 3 3t H. P. SOHRTKY, Cashier.

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City of London, Saturday, March 12, 12 Noon.
City of Washington, Saturday, March 19, at 7 A. M.
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