Editorial Opinions of the Leading Journals upon Current Topics-Compiled Every Day for the Evening Telegraph.

SENATOR HENDRICKS AND THE FIF-TEENTH AMENDMENT.

From the N. Y. Sun. It was a misfortune to the Democracy when Thomas A. Hendricks of Indiana left the United States Senate, for he was their ablest Senator. He has recently been making a speech to the Democrats of New Orleans, in which he dwelt at length upon the fifteenth amendment, and the future relations of the whites and blacks in the Southern

Speaking of the amendment, Mr. Hendricks said:

"New relations have come to exist between you and the colored people of the South. How will you place yourself in regard to those new relations? They have not been of your seeking, and they may, perhaps, be very disagreeable to you; but the negro is a voter in Louistana, as he will be in Indians, if the fifteenth amendment is declared adopted, and it is not worth your while, nor is it worth my while, to go back on the fixed fact."

Having reached this sensible conclusion, Mr. Hendricks in the strongest terms advises the Southern Democracy to conciliate the negro vote, and thus take it out of the hands of the carpet-baggers. He urges his political friends to pursue the most liberal course towards the colored population, to treat them as neighbors, and to give them every pos-sible assurance that they intend to recog-nize all their rights, including that of suf-

These sentiments were received by the hearers of Mr. Hendricks with signal marks of approval; and it is a significant sign of the times that the speech is copied into the Phania, a leading Democratic journal of South Carolina, published at Columbia, the capital of the State. In commenting upon the speech, the Phanix says that Mr. Hendricks' views "will be found eminently practical, liberal, and judicious;" and it declares that the sensible men of the South will cordially adopt them.

Some little time ago, when the adoption of the amendment was still an uncertainty, that astute Democratic journal, the Chicago Times, in an elaborate article on the subject, declared that "the probabilities are that the country will unwillingly accept the amendment, and thus put a quietus on the negro question." This, doubtless, hits about the average sentiment of the Democracy of the Northwest; while the bolder and more positive tone of the Columbia Phonix expresses the opinions and purposes of the Democracy of the South.

When Thomas A. Hendricks, one of the foremost Democrats in the Union, speaks thus, and when the organ of the Democracy of South Carolina commends his opinions as eminently practical and judicious, and when the Chicago Times recognizes the acceptance of the fifteenth amendment as a foregone conclusion, of course the subject is settled.

In what an unenviable predicament does this leave the short-sighted but long-eared Democratic leaders of New York, who went through the empty form of repealing the legislative ratification of the amendment; and those of Connecticut, who passed stunning resolutions against it in their recent State Convention; and those of Rip Van Winkle New Jersey, whose Legislature woke up enough to reject the amendment just after its complete ratification was placed beyond contingency.

For a year past the Sun has been trying to beat the ideas now expressed by Mr. Hen-dricks into the heads of the Democratic leaders of this section of the country. They will probably accept them just late enough to arouse the masses of the party to demand that these reactionary leaders shall be sent to the rear of the advancing column, while men of progressive ideas like Senator Hendricks are placed at its head.

PURGING OFFICE OF MALFEASANCE. From the Chicago Republican.

If any evidence was lacking to prove that the Republican party is earnest, downright, manly, sincere and full of integrity and patriotism, that evidence would be forthcoming in its conspicuous zeal and fidelity in dealing out equal and exact justice, without distinct tion of person, to its own members guilty of malfeasance in office. Nowhere do we any attempt to screen any official, however high his station or powerful his influence, from deserved punishment, under a fine spun cloak of excuses and apologies. Despising all fripperies and claptrap, rising far above the mere partisan considerations of the moment, and alive to the importance of proving their faith by their works, the Republicans of the House of Congress have not hesitated, even for an instant, to arraigu, try, convict, expel, and declare unworthy to hold seats upon the floor of that body, any member who is discovered to be a faithless servant of the people, and a disgrace to the high and responsible position he fills in that branch of the councils of the nation. Nor do we believe that the Senate would be less swift than the House, under the like circumstances, to affix the brand of shame upon the guilty forehead of any one of its own members.

But Washington is not the only place where Republican faithfulness refuses to so tamper with the bandage about the eyes of Justice, that she may furtively peer from underneath to discover whether the accused belongs to the majority or the minority, and thus learn whether or not she is to make heavy or light the blow of her avenging sword. All honor to the State of Louisiana! Her Senate, sitting as a court of impeachment, has declared by unanimous vote that a dishonest man, an extortioner, a faithless servant of the people, shall no longer disgrace one of the highest positions in the State than is necessary to prove his guilt. In obedience to that irreversible but just flat, George M. Wickliffe, Auditor of Public Accounts for Louisians, charged with a violation of the Constitution and laws, in being unmindful of the high duties of his office and of his official oath, has been ignominiously ejected from the responsible place to which he had been elected by a confiding constituency, and goes forth into the world not only shorn of his official station, but disqualified ever again to hold any office of honor or trust under the State. The offense for which this punishment was inflicted was for overdrawing a specific appropriation by the Legislature; issuing warrants to parties who had not complied with the express provisions of the law; and trading in these warrants, with fraudulent and self-ag-grandizing intent, to the detriment and disgrace of the State, and to the committing of a high crime and a high misdemeanor. Auditor Wickliffe was defended by an able counsellor, whose six hours' speech in behalf of his client was a signal proof of his skill, ingenuity, and great resources as a criminal advocate; but the frauds and robberies committed upon the State Treasury, in three hundred separate cases, according to the sile- on the instant, faith in the movement yan-

gation of the indictment, were so flagrant ished. With Messrs. Norton, Genet, and and notorious that no talent could avail to Creamer as controlling agents in the crusade screen the culprit from his well-deserved punishment. The evidence was so clear, direct, and abundant, that fidelity to the honor and interests of the State made requisite the conviction and infliction of the utmost penalty

allowed for the offense. This trial is the more remarkable from the fact that it constitutes the first impeachment and conviction of a high State officer in Louisiana since it existed as a State of the Union. While we trust this summary example will prove a lesson to deter and restrain other officials whose transactions have not been altogether free from suspicion of corruption and infidelity to high trusts, we feel justified in adding the above instance of the unwavering administration of justice to other like cases, as cumulative proof that the Republican party, as an organization, will always be found on the side of honesty, and against those who betray trusts and disgrace stations bestowed upon them by the suffrages of the people, even though such offenders may be strong partisan friends, powerful in influence and exalted in position. A party that can thus inexorably be true to the in-terests and rights of official purity and faithfulness may well be trusted to be true to the interests and rights of the voting masses.

HIGH JINKS.

From the N. Y. World. In reading the Southern papers, one comes occasionally across some very remarkable things in the way of legislative discussions, told by the papers with a certain grim quiet-ness, as though they were nothing unusual, which deepens the effect. The report more immediately in question is that describing the closing proceedings of the upper house of the South Carolina Legislature, which adjourned on the 1st inst. The closing hours of the session were devoted to the holding of a species of "experience meeting," in which divers of the piebald brethren discoursed of divers of the piebald brethren discoursed of the effects of the reconstruction gospel upon them; and, after sundry of the sooty statesmen late promoted from the rice-field to the forum had talked in the longest words in the dictionary about the glorious of disting, a Mr. Leslie, a Senator of the now unfavored white blood, takes the floor. Being loil it will not surprise the reader to Being loil, it will not surprise the reader to hear that Mr. Leslie is a carpet-bagger—a rogue ex officio, of course, but, like most of the peripatetic generation of vipers to which he belongs, not ungifted with a species of dirty shrewdness. As the reader must know, the negroes in the South Carolina Legislature number within a fraction of two-thirds of the whole body, have the Secretary of State, and one of the two associate justices of the Su-preme Court of the State of their own hue, and look down with sublime contempt on the poor "plains." The harlotre of Mr. Leslie's politics having not quite debauched out of him the recollection of his white father and mother, he rises to a suggestion that it is, after all, somewhat possible that a white man may be as good as a negro even in South Carolina, and mildly hints his doubts as a Republican whether the reconstruction of the Palmetto State can be deemed an entire success. The intimation of these heresies excites indignation in the breasts of those colored citizens who rule South Carolina, even as their tawny compeer in the Senate at Washington rules us of the North, and their just indignation finds utter-ance in a colored Senator who not so long back rejoiced in being lifted out of the grade of a common nigger by reason of driving his master's coach. This honorable Senator says to Mr. Leslie, these being the words of the verbatim report:—"If you don't like the party get out of it." This kind of thing Mr. Leslie deems an infringement of free speech proceeds still further to expres his apprehension that a spirit is arising throughout the Union which threatens to bundle such bodies as the one headdresses neck and crop out of doors. Here again are what the French parliamentarians term "various movements," accompanied with words more or less unsavory; but, disregarding the same, our honorable Senator continues his peccavi, dwelling especially on the ill opinion he has of the person who now exhibits himself as a living forgery on the name of Gev-ernor of South Carolina, and intimates that in his (Leslie's) mind's eye he sees this per-

First colored Senator-You're a liar. Second colored Senator—You're a thief.
Third colored Senator—Hold your tongue, or you will be in the penitentiary in less than ninety days.
Feurth colored Senator—If you don't dry up we'll knock h—I out of you.

Mr. Leslie—Mr. President, I do not mind these in

son appealing to the worst passions of the black race for his own ends. "Various move-

ments" ensue. What they are, report

But he does mind them. That white blood, which is better than any black, or brown, or red, or yellow blood that ever was spawned, stirs in the veins even of this poor carpet-bag rogue, and in a feeble way nature forces him to strike at his African owners. He tells

"You are trying to run this machine with so many impossibilities and impracticabilities, by mixing up color and corruption, that it is like an old wagon running down bill. It wibbies and wobbles, and you don't know whether you are going to the bottom or to the devil."

What follows is soon told:-

Rainey (colored Senator)-The Senator is speaking Mainey (colored Senator)—The Senator is speaking disparagingly of the party.

Mr. Lesile—Go on with your interruptions, but I propose to speak for and in defense of an honest government.

Swalls (colored Senator)—Is this a political meeting or not? I should like to know.

Mr. Lesile—I'm only bidding farewell to my friends.

friends.
Wimbush (colored Senator)—You have none.
Maxwell (colored Senator)—I am disposed to test
the sense of the Senate as to the right of this man to

Hayne (colored Senator)—I hope the Senator will not make any motion at all. The person on the floor is doing all he can for the support of the Republican party, and his speech will be the best electioneering document we can have for the administration of his

Were we not right in saying that, in reading the Southern papers, one comes at times on some remarkable legislative proceedings?

THE LATEST DEVICE OF THE ENEMY

From the N. Y. Times. The Tammany charter, as introduced some weeks ago, was as mischievous as anything emanating from that quarter might be expected to be. It was intended to destroy the few guarantees of order and the few agencies of passable administration of which the people of this city are enabled to boast. It was designed to make the "Ring," with all its corruption and infamy, absolute master in

every branch of the city government. Even Democrats declared the scheme intolerable, and professed a determination to furnish a substitute. They waged war, fast and furious, upon the ring, and dedicated themselves to its destruction. There was a show of virtue as well as valor on the part of this anti-ring Democracy, and great were the hopes excited by its promises. In due time the new leaders were proclaimed, and then,

against the ring, there could be no rational expectation of improvement. The old ring is bad; a new ring, composed of the Nortons, Genets, and Creamers of the disaffected De-

mocracy, would be no better.
So with the anti-ring charter. Prepared with loud professions of purity and presented with a flourish of trumpets which might well herald a great reform, it turns out to be a sham and a fraud. It abolishes the commis-sions, which alone have made the city endurable, and places all governing power under the influences which have enabled the Tammany ring to become what it is. The police department it makes subject to a popular election—and what that means in New York all of us know. The fire department, the health department, the common schools, the public charities, the Croton management, and even the Central Park, are all to be under the control of functionaries appointed by the Mayor, "with the advice and consent of the Board of Aldermen" The Mayor and aldermen will be the real administrators of the city's affairs, excepting only in respect of the police force, which will be the creature of the constituency to whom the Mayor and aldermen are at present indebted for official existence. In effect, therefore, the real governing force in every department will be the same class of voters, and the same election machinery, by and through which Tammany has acquired its power. And this is the grand result to which the

valorous Democratic reformers have brought us! This is the final manifestation of that ostentatious Democratic virtue which began with threatening revolution in the cause of order, and ends with the exaltation of Norton, Genet, and Creamer as model municipal reformers! What was supposed to be a reform movement proves to be a clumsy, shameless piece of jugglery. The charter from which we were told to expect great things is found to be a contrivance for rendering corruption and rascality easy and safe.

The truth is, there can be no municipal re-

form here until pure elections have been assured. The decent, honest, intelligent elements of our population must be enabled to control the ballot-box. The reputable opinion of the city must have free course, or the plea of governing by the people becomes a pretence for perpetuating the iniquities which now disgrace every election.

A NEW PARTY. From the N. Y. Nation, Not long ago, intimations were heard in no less a place than the Senate Chamber that ideas were affoat which looked to the formation of a new party. Mr. Drake even insinuated that the notion had influenced the course of Senators themselves. "I have heard of such things," said he, "as individuals taking it into their heads that the Republican party was to go to pieces, and looking out to see whether they could plant their anchors to windward in the new party that was to come up. Who knows—who can tell but that this idea may have entered the sacred precincts of this Senate Chamber?" Who indeed! The Senate Chamber would, in fact, be the very first place such an idea might naturally enter, since it is the place where party perplexities are most strongly felt. Scarcely one considerable question has been raised in Congress this winter on which the Republican party has acted with unanimity. There is scarcely an important measure now before eithe house on which party lines are likely to be regarded. Hardly a single recom-mendation made by the President has been warmly supported by his party friends in Congress, and the administration what its friends in Congre

has been responsible for a very small share of do. If the President had chosen it, or if he had understood the power of his situation, he might easily have had two administration parties in the legislature, each swearing its idelity and devotion, instead of, as now, combining to thwart and humiliate him. was no reason why the President should have allowed himself to be treated as he has been treated this winter. The Virginia bill might have been passed as it came from the House. Judge Hoar need not have been rejected. The foreign treaties might have been confirmed. Mr. Dawes' attack might have been avoided. Even Mr. Boutwell's financial policy, if he had had a financial policy, might have been treated with respect, if the administration had been strong enough to take advan-tage of the condition of parties in Congress. But such balancing of political combinations was not in the President's character, and he preferred to endure with patience the steady series of slights inflicted on him by friends

and enemies alike. If the Republican party is in trouble, the Democrats are quite as badly off. Their internal dissensions are more dangerous than anything the Republicans have to suffer. If it were possible to throw aside all party affiliations, many leading Democrats would be glad to do so, and take their chance of a new cast of the dice. Now that reconstruction is passed, there is scarcely a point on which Democrats are agreed, not even that of the tariff; and to purify their organization so as to regain public confidence is a long and difficult task, unless they are aided by their ad-

versaries' mistakes.

These are some of the reasons which have led many persons to consider in grave earnest the possibility of forming a new party-an idea which has led more politicians into political bogs and quagmires than even the opposite notion of blind party devotion. One party has commonly little superiority to another in its modes of corruption; and if Tammany belongs to one side, the carpet-bag gentlemen belong to the other. But at least we can measure present evils, and can work for a gradual cure: the swarm of flies that has now settled on the nation's sores, at all events, serves to keep a hungier swarm at a distance. Old parties, too, have a name to uphold and principles to maintain. If they make mistakes, they can be punished; if they reform, they can be rewarded. Even the old Tammany is not so alarming as a new Tammany would be; and in the upturning of a new party, who can tell what soum would rise to the top? How long was the Republican party pure? and what reason have we for believing that, if the new party is pure, it can be successful, or, if successful, that it will be a shade purer than the present organizations? But there are reasons, much more urgent than these, for questioning the practical utility of such a movement. The reason why both of the existing parties are crumbling to pieces is, that they are unable to agree within themselves on a course to be pursued. There are two great popular issues on which alone a new party could be based. One of these is, free trade; the other is, hard money. Neither the Republicon nor the Democratic party dares honestly face both these issues at once, and the consequence is that there is no longer any established line of opinion between them. A new party, to be worth existing at all, must

plant itself firmly on both these positions, or

it will have no advantage over its prede-

COSSOTS.

CAPTAIN EYRE.

From the N. Y. Tribune. The full accounts of the Oneida disaster which we have published seem to be generally accepted as conclusive proof that the worst representation, of Captain Eyre's inhumanity were no more than the truth. It is said that there must have been gross negligence on board both vessels if they did not see each other in time to avoid a collision; it is also alleged that the Oneida was wrong in putting her helm a starboard, when the rule of the road required her to port. In point of fact Captain Eyre testified that he did see the Oneida when she was more than a mile away, and it is natural to suppose that his vessel was seen at the same time. What took place, however, on board the corvette we do not know, nor is it just now especially important. If our officers were to blame they are beyond the reach of punishment or reproof. The question is not what caused the collision, but what followed it. The base desertion of the sinking ship by the captain of the Bombay is proved almost beyond a doubt. Captain Eyre is responsible for the death of a hundred

It is gratifying to remember that British sailors as a class are distinguished for conduct very different from this man's, and none have been more severe in denouncing him than his own countrymen. Prominent Englishmen in New York declared that it was the duty of Secretary Fish to demand the surrender of Eyre's person to the United States Government, and the duty of the British Ministry to send him here for trial even without a demand. This may not be good law, but it shows a substantial sense of justice. We should be sorry on our part if any American court had to try this case. The crime is so black, the results have been so awful, the penalty should be so severe, that we want the trial to be conducted before a tribunal which cannot be suspected of prejudice against the prisoner. For we take it for granted that the matter is not to end with the Yokohama court of inquiry. It is not a case of damages, or a question of revoking the captain's certificate. Damages may be demanded afterward, if the Bombay proves to be in the wrong. The abandonment of a drowning crew is murder in the sight of heaven, whatever crime it may be in the books of the law. For that crime there must be a strict and impartial trial, and, if it is proved, a swift and heavy

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