

SPRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

A BLUEBEARD IN CONGRESS.

From the Cleveland Leader.

It is greatly to be regretted that Mr. Rogers of Arkansas should so far have mistaken his duties as a member of Congress as to introduce a resolution ordering the discharge of all female clerks in the departments at Washington. Such a measure must require, for its proper justification, some very strong arguments outside of anything which the worst enemies of the female clerks have yet been able to adduce. Prudent and reckless Washington correspondents, hungry for a sensation, have from time to time interlarded their letters with vague and darkly drawn insinuations against the private characters of these working women. It is mainly alleged that appointments have been secured by members of Congress for reasons which will not bear open discussion. To the shame of Congress, it must be admitted that there may be, in a few cases, some truth in this, but should the whole army of hard-working, poorly-paid clerks be made to suffer for the faults of a few? Are there not wicked men and women everywhere, in society, in all public movements, and in the churches? If there is here and there a scoundrel woman among the ranks of the Washington clerks, should her crime be viewed to take the breath from the mouths of the thousands who are fighting singly and bravely the hard, doubtful struggle for bread because the husbands and fathers upon whose strong arms they once leaned are buried on some far-away battle-field? Winning women, with bright faces and cunning words, have sometimes won their way to those Washington clerkships to the exclusion of more needy and deserving ones—a charming woman can do all but the absolutely impossible in this world—but no one will deny that by far the greater proportion of the Government clerks are the widows and sisters and daughters of men who were killed or disabled during the war. Hard-hearted indeed must be the man who could stand up and propose that this legion of pensioners should be turned into the street. To do so must require a certain quality of mind which we find developed only in the purely political man. It is one of the characteristics of politicians that they are capable of sacrificing everything to the expediency of the moment. They can give glowing promises, and keep them or not as may afterwards seem best. Politicians were loudest in promising, eight years ago, that the country would be saved by the pensioners should be the dearest children of the republic. The minor public offices, the post offices, the various small favors of city, county, and State patronage should be given only to those who had risked their lives that the nation might be saved. The battles were fought and won, but the politician has not taken the back seat that he promised he would. He yet maintains his place at the head of things and crowds the soldier from his promised heritage. He even grudges the crippled veteran and the orphan of the dead soldier a home, but talks eloquently in Congress or his State Legislature in favor of aid and harbor subsidies, which still further increase the wealth and greatness of this glorious country. Here and there a policeman's uniform, a pension agency, or a cross-road post office is given to a soldier as one throws a bone to a dog, but the fat and easy places the politician marks for his own. So it happens that there are men in Congress, one man at least, who thinks that women—especially war widows and orphans—are getting on too rapidly in the world, and should be set back a peg. Turn them all out and make room for new and inexperienced corps of men, says the patriot from Arkansas. Fortunately, the movement has not been so favorably received as Mr. Rogers had hoped. It was talked over a few moments and held for future decision. Before that final vote is taken, Congress should be made to know how deep an outrage this wholesale ejectment would be considered. The movement for the broader rights of women already carries difficulties enough, and for this additional reason, the vengeance of Mr. Rogers should be checked.

OUR ARMY AND NAVY SCHOOLS.

From the N. Y. Times.

If the attention now called to our two national schools by the disgraceful traffic in cadetships results in a thorough reorganization of the appointment system, the Whittemores and Golladays of the House will not have invited a severe punishment in vain. The time will come when people will regard the present method of officering our land and sea service as absurd in the extreme. That appointments to the two academies should go, like kissing, by favor, that competitive examinations should be ignored; that political or family influence should be supreme; and that this system of partiality, unworthy in its best estate of a Republic which boasts of furnishing the "career open to talent," has at length resulted in hawking cadetships to the highest bidder—all this will seem to a wiser generation the height of folly. Two necessities are clear in the case; or, rather, one, to which the second atches itself as a corollary. The standard of admission must be raised at West Point and Annapolis; and, in order to effect this, the candidates must be thrown wider open and admitted youth through the country allowed, with certain proper restrictions, to compete. The board appointed to examine the Academy at West Point, last summer, performed their duty with unusual thoroughness. As a result, they found that the corps of instructors was exceedingly well qualified for its duties; that the cadets were in excellent discipline, and were attentive to their studies; and yet that there was room for very great improvement in the institution itself. The cardinal difficulty they found was in the low standard of admission; and they declared that, as a consequence, the cadets were kept employed for the first year or two, mainly in acquiring that rudimentary knowledge which they should have brought with them to the school. It is needless for us to rehearse the particulars which the board cited in proof of its position. Suffice it to say that the position itself was well taken. It is useless to reply that a military institution can afford to "skip" these elementary branches, because they lie at the base of any sound education. The professional education must be added to these, just as final colors are laid upon ground colors, and as the superstructure of the building rises from the foundation. And yet, Inspector-General Schriver vigorously protested against raising the standard of admission, as recommended by the board. His ground was that, as it is, he finds it difficult to get the full number of pupils for the Academy, although a cadetship is so coveted as to be bought on the terms recently exposed in Congress.

In this case, can there be any doubt as to the immediate and imperative duty of Congress? That duty is to withdraw the present "close corporation" system of appointments. Let two, three, or five times the present number of nominations be made; let them be made not only by Congressmen, but also by such authorities as presidents of colleges and certain general officers in the army, or other eminent official personages who would present fit candidates; then, out of the nominees, let those who stand highest in the points of mental, physical, and moral development and promise, and in obvious aptitude for the career of arms, be chosen after a competitive examination severe enough to eliminate all but the best.

We have accommodation for a hundred or two hundred more cadets at West Point and Annapolis than now receive instruction, and that without a serious increase in the corps of instructors. In order to get the full benefit of our established schools, as well as to employ the talents of the academic faculties on the most promising pupils, we must have a wider sphere for appointments, and a new method of selecting the persons upon whom they are conferred.

THE NATURALIZATION BILL.

From the N. Y. Tribune.

A State election is to be held in Connecticut on the first Monday in April, and that State enjoys the unsavory distinction of being alone infected by a journal which can condemn more deliberate, wilful, wicked, villainous lies into a square inch than any other that is or ever was printed. We need not name it, since Connecticut people will know it by the above description, and others will wisely choose to remain unconscious of its existence. This journal, in the hope of thereby swelling the Democratic minority at the pending election, keeps calling on the aliens residing in that State to hurry up their naturalization, because a bill is before Congress, and certain to pass, which will give them the right to vote. The journal, however, who have already declared their intentions to begin fresh and wait five years before they can be admitted to citizenship. The reference is of course to Judge Davis' bill (H. R. 1399), as reported by him (March 2, 1870) from the Judiciary Committee to the House, and, being read twice, recommended by the House to that committee. Now let us, with the bill before us, state exactly what it does propose with regard to the conditions of naturalization:

Section 1. Any alien, who shall, with intent to become a citizen, have resided three years within the United States, and six months within the State, and thirty days within the county or parish, may apply for admission to citizenship to the Federal Circuit or District Court of his district, for naturalization.

Section 2. If no such court be held in his county or parish, then he may apply to "any court of competent jurisdiction in each State, Territory, or District, having a clerk and seal thereof, which holds a stated or regular court for the trial of civil causes in such county or parish."

Section 3. Upon due proof that he is entitled to citizenship as aforesaid, "the said Court shall thereupon adjudge that he is admitted to all the privileges of citizenship at the expiration of six months from the date of such judgment."

—The above are all the provisions of the bill which affect the probation required of each alien before he can be admitted to citizenship, and, instead of extending his term of probation, this bill actually reduces it. Now, a man who first applies for admission to citizenship must wait two years before he can receive it; this bill reduces that probation to six months. Let us suppose that an alien resident declared his intentions last November, he must then have resided three years in this country; yet he cannot, unless the law be changed, be admitted to citizenship till one year from next fall; but if Judge Davis' bill passes, he may perfect his naturalization at the next term of the court, and be a legal voter at the Connecticut State election which is to be held on the first Monday in April, 1871; whereas, if this bill should not pass, he will be denied the privilege of voting for Representative in the next Congress, which its passage will secure to him.

—We might pursue the exposure; but need we? We do not know that Judge Davis' bill will pass; we do not advocate its passage; but the aim and purpose of this bill are evidently just and righteous, being the protection of the rights of American citizens, whether native or naturalized, from the infamous frauds, both wholesale and retail, whereby our State was shingled over, in October, 1868, with bogus naturalization certificates, fabricated by the ream, and dealt out at \$2 singly or \$18 per dozen, to whomsoever gave satisfactory assurances that they should be so used as to help swindle General Grant out of the votes of New York and New Jersey. Is there an honest man of any party who does not consider it high time that such frauds were somehow arrested?

GENERAL GRANT IN THE LOBBY OF THE SENATE.

From the N. Y. Sun.

The Dominican treaty is a mere job, and being prospectively a prolific one, the Washington lobby have taken it in hand. The visit of the President to the ante-room of the Senate, to influence its action in favor of this treaty, establishes a dangerous precedent. If it is tolerated in respect to an objectionable treaty, it will soon be employed to secure the confirmation of unsuitable nominees for office, and by-and-by it will be resorted to to pervert the ordinary legislation of Congress.

Three centuries ago the Kings of England used to take a side seat in the House of Commons to overlook and influence its proceedings by their presence. In process of time that sturdy body recorded a vote to the effect that these royal visits were a violation of its ancient privileges. They were then discontinued for two or three reigns.

Charles I., after protracted quarrels with Parliament, finally resorted to the desperate expedient of going in person to the hall of his refractory Commons, and arresting Pym and four other eminent members of the liberal party. The spirit of the House rose up against this unusual attempt to dominate and obstruct its action in an unwarranted manner. The progressive and independent sentiment of the nation supported the Commons, and within a brief period the head of Charles rolled from the scaffold into the basket of the executioner. Though guilty of many crimes, the turning point in the career of the unfortunate Charles was his visit to the halls of Parliament in order to coerce its action or unduly control its decisions by his royal presence. He was an amiable prince, but he had not carefully studied the times in which he lived.

We repeat, the Dominican treaty is a corrupt, and to the nation an unprofitable and discreditable job. By ratifying it we shall certainly annex to this republic an unconscionable people, incur large pecuniary liabilities, and purchase an unpropitious interest in the civil convulsions now smouldering in that island.

The rulers of the United States carry out their plans, and the people execute their will, by methods different from those employed in England during the rule of the Stuarts. Charles went down to the Commons. Grant went up to the Senate. Charles arrested five Commons with his own hand because they would not yield to his arbitrary will. Grant, with his hands full of favors, only sent for half-a-dozen Senators in order to persuade them to yield to his pleasure by ratifying a treaty reeking with corruption, and which, at that stage of the proceedings, was solely within their jurisdiction. Grant might have sent a message to the Senate, like his predecessors, expressing his views on the pending treaty; but he chose to go to the Capitol in person. Charles might have caused his royal will to be announced in the Commons by one of the retainers of the court; but he preferred to repair to their hall in person.

Of course, there is no danger of the head of General Grant rolling by and from a scaffold. In these days, lobbyists, however distinguished and persistent, are not put to death. The only penalty inflicted upon the President for his unprecedented mode of mixing in this unseemly business will be, that he will be pushed off the platform of the next national convention of the Republican party—not, as was also the case with Charles, for this one act alone, but for his incapacity to catch and keep up with the spirit of the times.

General Grant's fate in respect to a renomination is fixed. But for the honor of the party that elected him, let him keep out of the lobby of Congress.

EMIGRANTS FOR THE WEST.

From the Syracuse Journal.

The one thousand German emigrants who have decided to accompany Governor Solomons to Washington Territory have a prosperous future before them. The curse which rests upon the immigrants who land in this country is their disposition to live in the filthy ways and slums of the city. Some of them come from foul holes in European cities, or we should say foul stopping-places, and are quite ready to drop into the first reeking cellar or tumble-down tenement house which they can find, just as naturally as swine go to wallow in the mire. Consequently they reflect, or rather they continue to live, the same kind of lives which were begun in dregs of European immorality. The almost ineffaceable injury which these people imprint upon American society is startling. It is seen in our criminal calendars, our politics, and our prisons, and stretching upward, it leaves its marks upon higher social grades, and subtly pervades nearly all circles.

One of the most beneficial plans which could be devised, would be that which should scatter the immigrants all over the almost illimitable unsettled territory which the Government has at its disposal. A large work is being conducted now by the Commissioners of Emigration, but it is not adequate to the necessities of the case. The Irish immigrants are the most intent on settling in cities.

One reason for this is traceable to the squalid lives which England's land system forces them to lead before leaving their own country. An antipathy is engendered in their minds against agricultural pursuits by the oppressions of grinding, avaricious landlords, and the moment they are within the jurisdiction of a free government they very naturally seek for a change of employment, disliking to engage in an occupation which they have always regarded nearly as distasteful as serfdom. An Irishman's dislike for the life of a farmer can be definitely traced to the causes which have been enumerated by those who will take the trouble to study the reasons which create a lot for reform in Ireland to-day. This country is reaping many of the evils which Great Britain has been sowing for generation after generation. Shall not the people make an effort to convince men and women who come into our midst, to escape the oppression of their mother countries, and then to assume the responsibilities of naturalized citizens, that there are splendid probabilities of success for every person who wishes to grasp them?

The German immigrants having been born and bred under a different system of government, are now ready to apply our vast agricultural resources to their own uses. Though large numbers remain in our cities, still large numbers pass on to the great West, where they are building up substantial settlements which, by hardy thrift and persistent industry, are daily benefiting the new States and Territories. When the tide of Irish immigration shall have been turned in the same direction, there will be far less cause for the enactment of reformatory laws and for lamenting the demoralization of our society.

OTIUM CUM DIGNITATE.

From the Chicago Post.

Mr. Seward reached Auburn—loveliest village of the plain—a few days ago, after his long and lofty journey, if we may say so, California, Alaska, Mexico, and Havana. It is a noteworthy fact that though the friends and neighbors of the sage desired to meet him with enthusiasm and brass bands, he dextrously avoided the heartiness and noise of such a reception, and in peace and quiet, worthy of the philosopher that he is, betook himself to his beautiful home. And there he is, enjoying his ease and dignity with a more pleasing complacency, we doubt not, than was the case long ago with the illustrious Roman orator, Cicero.

It is true that Mr. Seward said, on declining the attention of the brass bands, that he might, on some future occasion, give his friends and neighbors an account of his travels. But it is not to be doubted that this was one of Mr. Seward's diplomatic and most fascinating ways of putting the brass bands behind him forever. If it were Beelzebub himself who should approach Mr. Seward, he would surely say "Get thee behind me, Satan," but his courtesy would cause him to add, "if you will be so good," or something of that chivalric sort. The Sage of Auburn has retired, we think, for good. Henceforth, to the end of his life, he will be not only a private citizen, but quite retired from all active contact with the scenes of a world in which he has borne a conspicuous, oftentimes a brilliant, and for many years a beneficent part.

It is true that Mr. Seward, for his own bright fame, has lied too long. He failed to comprehend the great times in which he lived. Had he died in 1860, the ideas he had announced; the brave words he had spoken; when to speak brave words required a courage nobler than that which carries a man to the cannon's mouth; the political organization which, on the broad basis of universal freedom, he had done the most prominent work in organizing, would have preserved his memory green in the hearts of his countrymen for countless generations. But political blunders are rarely pardoned. Mr. Seward's blunder was most serious, and led to other blunders, which, had they not speedily been corrected by Mr. Lincoln, imbued with the superior statesmanship of the people, would unquestionably have resulted in the ruin of the republic.

If it were possible to eliminate from Mr. Seward's life the later years of it, and contemplate him, in his retirement at Auburn, as having been there since the fall of 1860, it would be a pleasing thing indeed. In that case there would be no more agreeable, no more noble associations connected with the memory of a great statesman, than the associations which should cluster evermore around the memory of William H. Seward.

WHEN?

From the N. Y. World.

Will the Tribune, Herald, or Sun—three conspicuous tilters for the Republican party—tell us when Congress will do justice to Cuba? Decision in the matter does not now necessarily depend on Grant or his administration, which, in respect to Cuba, our neighbors insist has been controlled by Mr. Fish. The whole subject was handed over to Congress by the President in his annual message, and Grant has told us that he will have no policy in opposition to the will of the people. The Republican party is now supreme in Congress. Responsibility of action or of no action on this important subject belongs, therefore, exclusively to that party. When, we repeat, will it do something?

For many months the Republican organs pointed us to Senator Morton as the outsider and forerunner of the party on the Cuban question. Wonderful deeds by him were predicted. In time he came with a bill, which he sent to the committee of the Senate of which he is a member. It directed the President to declare "an armed insurrection" existing in Cuba; it prohibited Spain from buying or our manufacturers from selling in this country arms or munitions of war to suppress the insurrection, or Spain from procuring vessels here for that purpose. In due time the bill returned from committee; but how changed! Morton was compelled to endure the humiliation of producing before the Senate the shriveled thing permitted to leave the committee-room. All instruction to the President about an armed insurrection was eliminated. Nothing was contained in it prohibiting the purchase here by Spain of munitions of war. Poor Morton! Poor Cuba!

After that the Republican *claqueurs* point us to the lower house. Banks is now the fruit-funnel in respect to Cuba. He and his committee are pregnant with a beauteous progeny. The announcement of so interesting and critical a condition of both was made many weeks ago, and no parturition yet! Why this protracted gestation? General Quesada, the accomplished *accoucheur*, has been, at our suggestion, called in consultation, and so has Mr. Robeson. When did labor pains ever continue so long? Seriously, we ask either of our Republican neighbors who have named to tell us when "any good thing" for Cuba will come out of the present Congress—this Nazareth of the Republican party? Having created hopes in Cuba of aid from the United States, will the House of Representatives now, like Nazareth of old, make effort to destroy its offspring by casting it out down the precipice to die?

OPEN LIBRARIES ON SUNDAY.

From the Boston Traveller.

The passage, by our Representatives, of Mr. Woodcock's bill, to open city and town libraries on Sundays is one of the signs of the times. It is part and parcel of the great conspiracy to de throne God and banish Christianity from the nation. A work in which men of very different, and opposing views even, are engaged; some unwittingly, having themselves only half-measures in view. But the leading spirits, while cunningly enlisting persons of every description to do portions of their work, contemplate nothing less than the utter overthrow of the institutions of Christianity in this country, and the introduction of atheistic opinions which made a hell of France during the first revolution, and which have cursed Continental Europe ever since, though hitherto repressed and kept under by the overwhelming power of public opinion and the hand of strong government.

A few simple souls can be made to believe that it is a kind and liberal thing to open our libraries on Sundays to those who have no homes, no churches, no employments, no enjoyments for that day. But a moment's reflection will show them that this is sheer pretense. This class of people do not ask to have the libraries opened; and they are not the people who would visit them if they were opened; and if they did visit them, they would not find accommodations—not one in a hundred. To provide accommodations for the countless hundreds who lounge in our streets, or waste their Sundays in vain and vicious amusements, would require halls which would hold thousands, instead of a few score, as our largest reading rooms now do. But everybody has given any attention to this subject knows that this is not the true reason why the advocates of Sunday opening urge the measure. It is a dislike to all the restraints of the Lord's day that impels them to urge this measure. This is only a little wedge; but perseveringly driven, it will make room for a larger one, and yet a larger one, until this great foundation-stone of the Christian system—the Christian Sabbath—is split and rent asunder. The Sabbath broken down, and we can have no more "pietistcraft"—no more preaching—no more control of the church-going people by the clergy. And then, no more reading of the Bible in our public schools; no more religious teachings of any kind. Instead of sober Christian men and women to educate our youth, we shall have open scoffers at the divine authority of the Bible, and ribald denunciations of the faith and manners and rites and institutions of Christianity.

This is the end towards which our innovators and "reformers" are tending; not all with equal directness, but all tending nevertheless; and yet some good men can be made to help them in their destructive work, and more is the pity.

THE ROW IN RICHMOND.

From the N. Y. Herald.

The disgraceful conflict of authority in Richmond, Va., has thus far resulted in riot and bloodshed, and in partly depriving the city of civil government. On Thursday night a party of negroes endeavored to break through the line of policemen besieging the station-house, and were resisted. A fight followed, which ended in the negroes stampeding, after one of their number had been killed and two others wounded. Yesterday morning General Canby endeavored to effect a compromise between the rival Mayors; but Mr. Chahoon, the old official, rejected the propositions of Mr. Ellyson, the new appointee. The citizens congregating in large numbers around the station house, greatly excited over the events that were transpiring. This state of affairs lasted till half-past two o'clock in the afternoon, when General Canby summarily raised the siege by taking possession of the station house. As the special policemen of Mayor Ellyson formed in line and moved off, the negroes, whose sympathies appear to be with Mr. Chahoon, assaulted them with clubs and other weapons. A riot ensued, and the police, aided by the white citizens this time,

again routed the negroes, several of whom were wounded. Our latest despatches report the city comparatively tranquil, with the streets patrolled by Mayor Ellyson's police.

It is evident that Mr. Chahoon has acted without judgment in this matter. The law under which his successor was appointed may be unconstitutional, but no private citizen possesses the power of deciding upon the validity or invalidity of a legal enactment. Until the regularly constituted courts, having jurisdiction in the premises, pronounce a law unconstitutional, it is valid, and is binding upon all. Now, the case in Richmond is simply this:—Mr. Chahoon believes that the law enacted by the Virginia Legislature, vacating all offices held under military appointments and empowering the Governor of the State to appoint new officers, is in conflict with the Constitution, and he has resisted its enforcement, not by legal process but by force. There cannot be anything more dangerous to the liberties of this republic than contempt for the laws. We fear that the era of military government in the ex-Rebel States, when force was the only law, has done much towards causing the deplorable disregard of civil authority so manifest throughout the South.

DR. SUSAN SMITH.

From the N. Y. Tribune.

Another Susan has distinguished herself in the cause of "Woman's Rights," to wit, Dr. Susan A. Smith, of Philadelphia, a medical gentlewoman, who insisted upon carrying on the business of her profession, and upon not paying the special tax required by the Internal Revenue laws. Wherefore, this learned lady was persuaded (by a deputy marshal) to visit a commissioner. Unto this functionary declared she that, in her opinion, the law was an unjust one, and that while she was not allowed to vote it was gross despotism to oblige her to pay a special tax as a healer. She announced her intention of refusing to pay while continuing to prescribe, and she should be permitted to vote, and be made oblige by law to office. This was a view of the case which the Commissioner could by no means take. Wherefore, the said Susan was held to bail in the sum of \$500 for her appearance at Court. Whether her conscience permitted her to give bail or not, the account does not state. Possibly she may even now be the inmate of a cold and gloomy dungeon. Possibly, she has made up her mind to stay there until (like "The Prisoner of Chillon") "Her hair is grey, but not with years; Her limbs are bowed, but not with toil."

But, meanwhile, what will become of the patients? Who will minister unto them the cooling salts and the cathartic senna?

Seriously, we wish that Doctor Susan would be a little more logical; for if she were, she would see that paying tax as a physician has nothing whatever to do with voting. A young doctor, some fledgling of Esculapian, and still a minor, might be called upon to pay it, and yet be refused the suffrage. A foreigner not naturalized might be compelled to pay it, and yet he would thereby acquire no right to the ballot. The law simply says:—"If you physic and bleed your fellow-creatures, you must pay \$10 per annum for the privilege"—and so you must. Paying this sum does not make you a voter, although failure to pay it may make you a prisoner—as we hope poor Doctor Susan is not.

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100,000 State of New Jersey Six Per Cent. Loan, 102,000.00

50,000 Pennsylvania Railroad First Mortgage Six Per Cent. Bonds, 19,450.00

25,000 Pennsylvania Railroad Second Mortgage Six Per Cent. Bonds, \$2,925.00

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15,500 Pennsylvania Railroad Company, 250 shares stock, 14,000.00

5,000 North Pennsylvania Railroad Company, 100 shares stock, 5,900.00

10,000 Philadelphia and Southern Mail Steamship Company, 50 shares stock, 7,500.00

246,900 Loans on Bond and Mortgage, 246,900.00

Properties, 246,900.00

\$1,231,400 Par. Market value, \$1,355,270.00

Real Estate, Cost, \$1,215,022.27, 360,000.00

Bills Receivable for Insurance made, 223,700.75

Balances due at Agencies, 22,000.00

Premiums on Marine Policies, Accrued Interest, and other debts due the Company, 65,097.25

Stock, Scrip, etc., of Various Corporations, 2,740.20

Cash in Bank, \$183.91

Cash in Drawer, 873.26

109,291.14