# THE DAILY EVENING TELEGRAPH-PHILADELPHIA, THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 1870.

### SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

### SANTO DOMINGO.

From the N. Y. World. The price can hardly be considered more than a nominal one, and the consent of the Dominicans to annexation has been freely and heartily accorded.

If the bargain has been straightforward and aboveboard, and of the price be not exorbitant, let the Senate act declatively.—N. Y. Times,

To say that the acquisition of a harbor in the bay and peninsula of Samana is sufficient to warrant the Senate in ratifying the Grant-Baez treaty is to talk plausibly, if not wisely, But it is foolishness to urge the price or the consent of the Dominicans as a reason. As to price, we have already paid a lot of military articles, together with some \$150,000 in gold coin, and are to pay \$1,500,000 in addi-tion, and assume all the indebtedness of our acquisition. As to the amount of the indebtedness, there is no evidence upon which a jury could come to an opinion. Whether it be six or eighteen millions the *Times* cannot with certainty say. We have seen as much tostimony that it is the larger as the smaller sum. As to the consent of the Dominicans expressed by votes, we cannot understand how a sensible and upright person, who appreciates the brutal ignorance of that popula-tion, can place any reliance whatever upon it. If we must have a naval depot in Samana, that may be a substantial justification for the formality of a treaty with Baez to get it,

relying upon our ability, when obtained, to hold it against Dominicans and everybody else. But is such a depot, in such a spot worth what we will probably have to pay if this treaty is ratified? Does any one pretend to vindicate the negotiation on that basis?

We have seen statements that President Grant has said to the Senate committee that if we did not now take San Domingo some European nation would. Poor simpleton England, France, and Spain have all "been there," and have no desire to go again. We wish, before the Senate acts in this treaty, it would procure through Sickles in Madrid a history of the experience of Spain in that island from 1861 to 1865. Perhaps Mr. Lopez Roberts, the Spanish Minister in Washington, would enlighten Senators on that topic. The desire on the part of Dominicans for the presence of Spain in 1861 was outwardly quite as marked and sincere as now for the United States, and yet before three years the natives had organized a system of assassination of Spanish officers, and in 1865 Spain abandoned the island in disgust.

As to the straightforwardness of the bargain, we have no more information than as to the character of the influences by which Grant was induced to write his letter of September 4 to Boutwell, in advocacy of Corbin's crop theory, in which he advised to sell no more gold. Grant vindicates the San Domingo treaty just as thoroughly as he did the gold theories of McHenry, Gould, and Corbin. That there was a "big steal" in the latter no one now doubts, and we are just as clear that there is a bigger job of plunder in the pend-ing treaty. As the gold-plot letter of September 4 was inspired by Gould and Corbin, and got up by Grant and his personal entourage, outside the legitimate influences of the Treasury Department, so the San Domingo scheme was hatched by Fabens and O'Sullivan, adopted by Grant, executed by General Babcock and one or two army quartermasters, without the initiation, scrutiny, and complete superintendence of the Department of State and its traditions, as is usual in such affairs. This gives to the whole San Domingo business a flavor of iniquity. Grant may be sincere and honest, but can the country trust his judgment? Has he not blundered too is unwilling to be a party to such a practice. often ? Reflect upon Washburne; the ignorance of law in the A. T. Stewart fiasco; the disgraceful Cuban diplomacy; the gold plot and Corbin's influence, and many other like things. Is it not significant and startling that the country has not had from the Secretary of State either personal, as distinct from official, approval of the treaty, or a statement of what he knows the entire indebtedness of San Domingo to be, together with the character and amount of special monopolies granted by Baez to Fabens and others, which will be perpetual liens upon the property? The men of large capital in this country would be grati-fied to hear from J ... Fish in this matter, before plunging into the unknown sea to which the treaty invites; for, whatever may be his political defects as a statesman, he is known to be sagacious in business, conservative and careful of property interests. And it is the commercial and money aspect of this treaty which most concerns New York.

ticulars of their complaints. Every assessor whose name we published and who might be dismissed in consequence, would feel at liberty to bring an action against us; and although we have submitted to that inconvenience in the performance of our duty to the public on several occasions, there is no necessity for calling upon us to make the sac-rifice now. When we feel called upon to denounce a dishonest "ring" or a corrupt judge, we do it and take the consequences From that exercise of our functions we shall certainly never shrink, but in attacking the mode of assessing the income tax we protest against a system, and that system is in operation in all parts of the country. To ascertain the truth about that system there is no need to drag us into a court of law. It would be to the last degree unreasonable to hold Commissioner Delano responsible for the miscon duct of all the persons employed in the Revenue Department. He probably knows only too well how difficult it is to gain the assistance of discreet and faithful subordinates. We do not blame him for what has happened, but we are quite sure that a hint from him would tend much to prevent the necessity for repeating our complaints. For the rest, we can only advise those who have smarted under the "insolence of office" to write to Commissioner Delano rather than to us.

THE DUTIES OF A REPRESENTATIVE From the N. Y. Tribune.

Judge Kelley is entitled to the public gratitude for a fresh protest against that theory, express or implied, which would make a member of Congress the hewer of Congressional wood and the drawer of Capitoline water for every man, woman, and child in his district. Among these labors, as Mr. Kelley states it, is that "of finding places for all unemployed people of both sexes known to the member, and promotion for all ambitions or discontented employes of the Government." He tells us (what indeed we knew before) that "this practice of sending people to their Congressional representatives for employment has become so common as to be insufferable.

The member has to read and presently consider all the notes which fifty or five hundred "good hearted people" (as Mr. Kelley calls them) see fit to write setting forth the patriotism, the virtue, the fidelity, and the capacity of the office-seeker who brings it. These patrons at home fancy that the patron in Washington has only to ask for others, and others will receive. He is the dispenser of all manner of work, for all degrees of compensation, which the Government may have to do. We can fancy the extreme distraction of his fate. Every morning the mendicants are knocking at his gate. They follow him to the Capitol; they arrest him in the vestibule; they seek him in the committee-room: they send pages to call him from his seat; they disturb his dinner, and they make his evening a season of labor instead of needed rest. If he could do what he is asked to do, and, notably, if he knew the secret of giving the same place to twenty different people, his sorrow would be a mitigated one. But the age of miracles has passed. The poor member cannot feed all these hungry folk upon the limited num-ber of loaves and fishes at his command. Frequently nothing may be left him to distribute, save the stones of disappointment, or, paternal as may be his feeling for his constituents, the serpents of denial. But Mr. Kelley is less severe upon those poor people who bring the notes of recommendation, than upon those who write them, and who should better understand what a Congressman can do, and what is utterly out of his power. He speaks feelingly of the bitter disappointment which this facility of careless indorsement often occasions, and declares that, for one, he If the convention v

that Chahoon shall be Mayor, and he wil keep his oath-if he can. He has, in a word, made himself the tool of the faction of carpet-baggers and scalawags who infest this city, and he so used his troops as to produce that very bloodshed which he professes to be so anxious to avoid. General Canby is the guilty party; we repeat-he man that obstructed the execution of the law. He is the man who said Chahoon would have no remedy if he (Canby) allowed him to be turned out of his office. He is the man to whom all the insurgents-those who waylay and slay policemen-look for assistance. He is the man upon whom Ben Scott relies.

It is useless to argue with anybody who does not know that Mayor Chahoon cannot call upon General Canby for aid or protection. Even the Governor of Virginia cannot do it when the Legislature is in session. Canby had no right to know that there was such an officer as Chahoon in existence. But Canby insults the Governor, insults the Legislature, and flouts his bitter political prejudices in the face of the world, by using the military power of the United States to keep in office a mere pretender, whom he had not only no right to uphold, but whose existence and peril he had no right to know of unless he learned it in the manner specified in the Federal Constitution. He has exactly as much right to recognize a constable or a policeman as among the "civil authorities" who are entitled to call upon him for aid as he had to receive any communication on the subject from Chahoon. He is more guilty than Chahoon, who is nobody but a catspaw. He is, in a word, the author of all the troubles, the fomenter of all the strife, and the shedder of all the blood and no thanks to him that it has been so little), which have been created, fomented, and shed in this goodly city within the last weak

THE PHILOSOPHY OF SUICIDE. From the St. Louis Republican,

If there is one incident of the drama of human life that seems to be utterly lawless, wanton, and capricious, it is that of suicide. Remorse, love, melancholy, and rage are the agents to which we usually attribute acts of self-destruction, and all these human passions are thought to be above and outside laws and controlling authority. But an age noted for its disposition to reduce all phenomena to empirical formulas, and which does not despair of expressing even the vital processes in chemical nomenclature, has laid hold on suicide and sought to subject it to stable laws. The results are curious and interesting, if they are not convincing. If they do nothing else, they prove the value of statistics and comparisons. Professor Von Oettingen in a recent work on ethical statistics, which is admitted to embrace the most complete ellection of facts connected with the subject of suicide ever presented, proves, or seems to prove, not only that suicide is increasing all the civilized nations of Europe, in but that the increase is characterized by a remarkable uniformity. The growfrequency of self-destruction has ing long been generally admitted, and a supposed explanation of it found in the tendency of populations to concentrate in cities where the records of it are more carefully preserved; but the statistics here given show that the increase is as great in rural districts as in cities, and that the ratio of increase everywhere is greater than the ratio of increase of population. Thus from the year 1820 to 1865 the reports of suicides for every five years in Prussia exhibit a steady and uniform increase of cases from 792, in the first named year, to 2219 in the last named-the number of cases nearly trebling in forty-five years, which is two and a half times as rapid as the growth of population. In France the increase is even more marked. In 1830 there were 1739 cases of suicide; in 1840 there were 2574 cases; in 1850, 3446; in 1860, 4002; and in 1865, 4700showing a ratio of increase nine times as great as that of the population. One of the least explicable features of these curious statistics is the fact that the number of cases in any given year increases with the length of the days. There are more suicides in the long days of June and July than in the short days of December and January. Of every thousand cases in Europe it is shown that 64 take place in January, 68 in February, 70 in March, 88 in April, 106 in May, and 119 in June; this is the crisis, for the number decreases to 109 in July, 92 in August, 79 in September, 76 in October, 66 in November, and it reaches its minimum of 60 in December. Whether this difference is the effect of the growing heat of the longer days, or the greater length of daylight, is a question which the compiler does not answer. His object is to furnish the facts, and allow others to speculate upon them as they can. Even the mode of committing suicide appears to be governed by some mysterious and unknown influence, for, year after year, the same proportions of self-des royers choose the same methods of taking their life. In France, for every 100 male suicides, 26 resort to drowning, 42 to hanging, 14 to shooting, 4 to stabbing, 6 to charcoal fumes, 2 to poison, and 6 to jumping from a height. Of the same number of females who kill themselves, 44 choose drowning, 29 hanging, 14 charcoal fumes, 3 poison, and 6 jumping from a height. The only disturbance in the uniformity of what seems to be the rule governing the manner of self-destruction is the gradual growth of drowning and shooting into disfavor within the last thirty years, and the growth of hanging into greater favor. Hanging is the most common method in rural regions, shooting Canby had added the lawfully-constituted with soldiers and nobles, and drowning with servants. It is commonly supposed that the French are more addicted to suicide than any other people, because of the great number of cases that Paris affords, and that the passions and excitements of Paris life, no doubt, The white people of Richmond prompt; but the greatest proportion of suicides in Europe is found amongst the Scandinavians, who furnish annually 126 cases to every million of population; the Germans furnish 112; the French 105; the Latin nations about 80; and the Sclaves of Austria 47. The greatest proportion in the German States is found in Saxony. Large cities go far beyond these figures, Paris alone yielding 646 suicides, annually, to every million of population. In all countries, males are more prone to self-destruc-tion than females, in the proportion of 3 to 1; but the disposition in both sexes increases with age, and is greatest in extreme old age Marriage would appear to be a partial safeguard against self-murder, as the proportion of unmarried persons who kill themselves is decidedly greater than that of married persons; the proportion of widowed persons is greater still, but that of the divorced and separated is far greatest of all. Of the causes of suicide, mental disorder is the most active, one-third of all cases that occur being traceable to it; one-ninth to

doing either, though when they see the Com-missioner's letter, we trust they will think it well to write to him and give him the par-abould rise from the dead." He has sworn very small proportion to disappointed love. very small proportion to disappointed love. We have said that the statistics show a constant and steady increase in all civilized coun

tries of Europe in the ratio of snicides. In Norway this ratio of annual increase is three per cent., and in Saxony, where it is greatest, it is five per cent., while the ratio of increase of population is in no European country more than 1 64 per cent. a year. This suggests the possibility of the ultimate self-extinction of the human race. Indeed, if the statistics are correct, and prove what they seem to prove, there is a time in the remote future when the number of annual suicides on the earth will exceed the number of births; and still beyond that is a time when the process of self destruction, going on at an annually accele-rating ratio, will have left but one human being on the planet, and he, with a rope around his solitary weasand, shall jump from a barn rafter, and leave the unfortunate planet without an inhabitant.

#### GOVERNMENT BY NEGROES. From the Pall Mall Gazette.

\* \* \* Except in the case of the United States, there has been great uniformity in the history of the suppression of rebellions in modern times. First, there has been severe and often sanguinary punishment in flicted on the chiefs of the revolt; then has succeeded a period during which the success. ful empire has enforced strict obedience to itself from its subjugated dependency; and finally has come a strong desire, growing sometimes out of policy, sometimes out of a sense of justice, and sometimes out of mere emotion, to win its affections, or at all events its voluntary acquiescence in accomplished facts. England is just at pre sent feeling an almost passionate wish to be reconciled to Ireland, and to be beloved by the natives of India; Austria has done her best to come to terms with Hungary, and there are signs that the sufferings of Poland are beginning to cause discomfort and compunction even in Russia. The United States seem destined to an experience of a different kind. On the morrow of the conquest their treatment of the Southern leaders was marked by a gentleness which will always be remembered to their honor. But in the next stage of their relations with the South the necessity for combining despotic rule with something like forms of local self-government forced them to adopt a policy which has more than made up for their abstinence from bloodshed. Nobody whose intelligence has not been impaired by the habit of repeating formulas about universal suffrage can doubt that the punishment inflicted on the Southern whites is far the severest which one community has ever inflicted on another. England governed Ireland through a minority, which the mass of the Celtic population, however it might hate, never dreamed of despising; the United States role the South through a majority of negroes, contempt for whom was almost a religion with the planter before the attempt of secession. We are not considering whether the punishment was deserved, or whether the Northern States could possibly help inflicting it; we merely say that, after the capacity of the negro for improvement has been rated as highly as possible, and after all possible deductions had been made from the credibility of the stories published by the Democratic press, the fact remains that government of white men by colored ex-slaves AN is the acutest form of moral torture which has ever been applied to a community. How unfortunate it has been that the punishment of the South has taken this shape Int the United States is not likely to feel until the time comes (and it will certainly come) when the people of the North will be animated with the strongest wish to be reconciled to even the most obstinate zealots of U secession. We should be sorry to lay down that the United States would have done well o have shed blood like water in the first moments of triumph, if only they could have devised some less degrading contrivance for the provisionel government of the South. Yet it is quite certain that bloodshed is easily forgotten; personal outrage with the greatest difficulty. The Hungarian nobles appear to have forgiven the Emperor Francis Joseph for his wholesale executions of their brethren: but nobody can fail to see that the "irreconcilability" of some of the most eminent of French politicians is greatly due to recollections of the personal dishonor to which they were subjected on the memorable morning of the coup d'etat. At the present moment we are well aware that nothing seems less important to the great majority of the Northern people than that the experiment which they are trying in the South causes excessive discomfort to a parcel of conquered Rebels; but they will probably hereafter view this experiment with other eyes when there comes the inevitable waking to sympathy and pity, and when, much about the same time, it appears that the negroes, who are the instruments of punishment, have become not only a Southern but a Northern power, weighing heavily in the scale whenever a national decision has to be taken.

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WILLIAM T. BUTLES.

Secretary

7.235

COLLECTING THE INCOME TAX. From the N. Y. Times.

Commissioner Delano sends us a letter which is very honorable to him, on the sub ject to which we called his attention the other day, and which has taken a great hold upon the public mind, namely, the extremely vexatious manner in which the income tax is assessed and collected. It is manifestly contrary to the interests of the Government to allow any one acting in its name, and wielding its authority, to pursue a course which renders a particular means of raising revenue odious and intolerable to the great majority of the people. Commissioner Delano's letter will serve to convince the public that the administration will not countenance those misdeeds which have almost stirred up a rebellion against the income tax.

We can assure Commissioner Delano that our complaint against the assessors and their assistants was not made without careful inquiry into the facts. It is a matter of such notoriety that the tax is levied in an oppressive manner; that when a man goes before an assessor he is liable to be treated with insolence, and that all his answers are listened to by the crowd of persons who happen to be present; this, we say, is no well known that we are surprised to find that Commissioner Delano hears of it for the first time from us. Does he suppose that the assessors hear appeals, or decide the cases of citizens who come before them, in private ? That unquestionably is what they ought to do. But the very arrangements of the office generally forhid it. Instead of one citizen appearing before the assessor or assistant asse sor at 1 time, a large number are usually waiting in one room, and each man takes his turn. All those who are standing by hear what is going on. It is quite right that a man\_should state his income, but it is not right that he should have to state it in the presence of a curious crowd, or be cross-examined upon it in an offensive manner.

We had specific cases of this ill-usage before us when we published our article upon the subject. But a little reflection will con-vince Mr. Delano that we should not be justified in making these cases public, or even in mentioning them to him privately. We have not the authority of our correspondents for Governor Walker assures General Canby that perty; one-tenth by remorse, shame, or fear

which may nominate hin will pass a resolution approving a proper Civil Service bill, and "instructing the candidate to make it his rule of action, if

elected," he is willing again to be a candidate. We suspect that these are the first notes of a protest of which we shall, sooner or later, hear a good deal more. The evil indicated is rapidly assuming such great proportions that Congressional flesh and blood will not be able to stand it forever, especially as it is an evil which unless cured must of necessity increase. Senators, holding their offices by a different tenure, can afford to be a little independent; but Representatives are comparatively the ephemera of Congress, and are no sooner warm in their seats than they are in danger of losing them. It would be a great relief to them, it would be of great political benefit to the people of the whole country, if it could once for all be understood that, by the terms of the Constitution, Representa tives are elected not to be claim-agents, officebrokers, and attorneys for everybody, but, after due consideration, to enact wholesome and necessary laws, and to repeal those which

are unwholesome and unnecessary.

GENERAL CANBY RESPONSIBLE. From the Richmond Dispatch.

It is for the Governor to execute the laws -not to appeal to the judges to know whether he may execute them. All the blood-not much, we are glad to say-shed in this city within the last week is upon General Canby's skirts. One word from him would have induced Mr. Chahoon to give up his claim to the mayoralty of Richmond. One word of disapprobation of Chahoon's course would have ended the trouble in a moment. The General's professions of a desire to preserve the peace cannot deceive any one who knows that but for himself there would never have been one drop of blood shed. If General anthorities of the State there would have been no trouble. Nay, if he had merely refused to aid the rebels, the insurgents, the man whom Governor Walker and the Legislature tell him is a mere pretender, there would have been no trouble. are united almost to a man in their support of Ellyson, who would have taken possession of all the city property and of his office of Mayor quietly and peaceably, if General Canby had not encouraged Chahoon to resist the law. General Canby's profesions are all Peck-

sniffian. There is no succerity in them. They are made to deceive Congress and the President. He is a Chahoon man. He has been a Chahoon man from the beginning. The Journal, the radical organ of this State has sustained Chahoon from the beginning General Canby's last letter to Governor Walker appeared in that paper yesterday, and the leading editorial in the same number, headed "The Law and the Precedents, was, we verily believe, concocted at General Canby's headquarters.

General Canby has assumed the functions of a judge. He has decided that Mr. Chahoon is the Mayor of Richmond. He tells Chaboon, in an official letter, that he (Chahoon) has "clerks, messengers," etc., which

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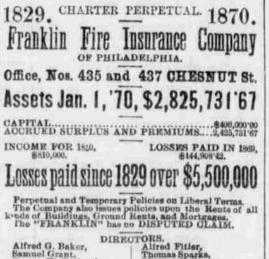
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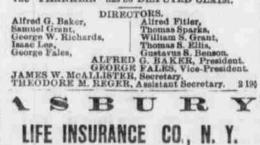
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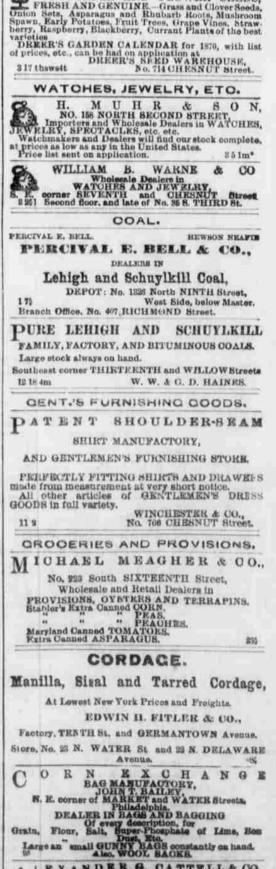
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