SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

THE CAUSES OF DULL TIMES.

From the Chicago Republican. One of the most notorious facts is the stagnation in business throughout a widespread portion of this country. While pobody doubts the fact, thousands differ about the causes. We have our own opinion on

this question, and here are our reasons for the faith that is in us :-

In 1865, McCulloch instituted his policy of contraction. He burned many thousand dollars of currency, and thus very materially reduced the volume of the circulating medium. A cry of remonstrance came from the people, and his restrictions were brought to a close by Congressional enactment. Despite this stoppage, these had accomplished a certain extent of their mission.

This persistent effort to get back to a resumption of specie payments was accompa-nied by a variety of influences leading in the direction of panic. There was not only an enforced but a natural contraction of the currency. While Secretary McCulloch was burning up millions of greenbacks every month, the area over which the currency was spreading was very largely increased. instance, the South had few banks and little of the circulating medium of the country. California contracted payments on a basis of gold. The Pacific Railroads were not yet opened. Greenbacks and national bank

notes were confined within restricted limits With the cessation of hostilities between the sections, came a dispersion of the currency, whose other name is contraction. Regions which never before had contained a dollar of greenbacks, soon absorbed every dollar of national currency of all sorts they could attract. This progressive movement brought about a stringency in the money market. It became difficult to borrow money for reasonable commercial periods. The tendency, more and more, was to loan money on call. This custom, however, made it more and more difficult for business men to carry their burdens. The inevitable consequence was that they curtailed operations, In doing this, various employes went out of situations. These became competitors at once with those who had places. At once ensued a competition for the sale of services. This of course operated to reduce compensation. As each person was crowded out, without resort for subsistence but the sale of his services, the war on salaries and wages accumulated. Moreover, the purchasing power of the community was, at the same time, diminishing. Every one deprived of the power of earning a livelihood was necessarily abridged in his power to make purchases. All this, of course, meant a falling off of trade. There was plenty to sell, but there were constantly fewer and fewer buyers. Such is increasingly the condition of the North. Thousands upon thousands are without employment, and the number is regularly augmenting without the prospect of diminution. There is a competition for the sale of services, and this com-petition grows constantly stronger and stronger. Here we get at the secret of the dullness of the times. Men who have no money cannot buy; men who cannot find employment cannot earn money; men who have no money and cannot earn it are in no condition to be purchasers of commodities, either for speculation or for consumption. Under such circumstances it is impossible

not to have dull times. Meantime, the South, so lately desolated and almost bankrupt, is prosperous. Why? Because there a competition for the employment of service is taking place. The great cry is for laborers. Every person who seeks it can find labor, and reasonable compensation. In various parts of the cotton belt, negroes are able to accumulate from \$500 to \$3000 for one year's work, as their share of the growing crop. It is because labor is scarce and high. These persons, at best, are only skilled farm hands, conversant with the culture of the fleecy staple. While they reap a harvest of returns upon their daily toil thousands in the North stand upon the verge of suffering, perhaps almost of starvation. While there is a plethora of laborers at the North, there is lack at the South-in other words, in one section, there is a competition for the sale; in the other, a competition for the employment of labor.

It may be asked, why do not the excess of laborers in the one section seek employment in the other section, where there is a lack? We reply, because there is no means to exchange localities. The man who has not one cent in his pocket is in poor condition to pay for the warm meal he needs; so the man who has been weeks out of work is in poor condition to seek new scenes of employment.

Here we get at the secret of dull times The purchasing power of the community, compulsorily, has been signally diminished. Wholesalers cannot sell, because retailers cannot sell; retailers cannot sell, because customers have no money with which to purchase. Reverse these conditions. Give employment to the idle; pay wages to those without work, and the purchasing power of the masses will be increased. Then, the man who is now impecunious will have something to spend; from these purchases profits will flow in upon dealers; retailers will patronize whole salers; and so the movement of recuperation

will go on, from the bottom to the top. Dull times, then, are not so much due to over-production, as to inability to consume. Set in motion the influences which increase the circulation of commodities, and immediately we shall have an accession oi prosperity.

CANING AND COWHIDING.

From the N. Y. Tribune. There is an epidemic of personal chastisement in the land. Men and women, mounted upon their injuries, are "making for" other men and women, who are supposed to have injured them, with a ferocity which is truly formidable. In Chicago lately the dramatic Amazons of the Thompson Burlesquers thus unsexed themselves, and, for once in their lives, exhibited the most violent seriousness. In our own city recently one of our own guild was greatly fustigated on account of an unlucky piece of his penmanship. The telegraph brings us daily descriptions of these resorts to the cane as the avenger of wounded honor. Thus, in Chicago again, one Maurice Langloth, who is the city editor of a German newspaper, betrayed perhaps by that yearning for sensational variety which renders feverish almost the whole race of city editors, published some scandal of and concerning the Frau Stielman, a German actress, a woman of great fame and equal virtue. Like a swift but savage Camilia, she at once scoured the streets of Chicago, and skimmed into the office of the the urban snapper-up of trifles, ensued a word combat of the intensest volubility. This, we This profligate bargain had been con-

the city editor (we are loth to write it), maddened by the repartees of Mrs. Stielman, was so ungallant as to stab her with that instrument of his vocation, "a penknife." For this he was conducted to a dungeon; but soon getting out again, he resumed at once the business of speaking evil of Thespians, and especially of a man and maiden at the same theatre. For this he was duly flogged "by two young men"upon the pavement, this time "with a horsewhip;" and so the honor of the young persons at the theatre may be considered as asserted and duly demonstrated.

This business of chastising is getting, it seems to us, a little stale and tedious. It would be quite refreshing to hear of somebody who, having been blown to a great height in the journalistic columns, did stoically determine to regard his involuntary elevation with profound contempt. Speaking for ourselves personally, and as a general thing, we had rather be despised than caned, and anybody who feels disposed is, by these presents, ac-corded full liberty to regard us with the utmost loathing and horror; to consider us as absolutely beneath his notice, and especially to treat us with that form of contempt which is called and known as the silent. In this miscellaneous world we have never dilated with the absurd ambition of trying to please everybody. Spades are spades, and none the less so though we may euphonically designate them as shovels. In the course of human events, of which destiny has designated us as annalists, it sometimes becomes necessary to speak of human obliquities, and to speak of them with a reasonable degree of sharpness. It happens-of course at rare intervals-that newspapers should sometimes speak the truth, not merely of measures, but of men; and sometimes to mitigate an offense against decency is substantially to publish not "a lie" (for that is a word which it is never proper to use), but let us say "an untruth," which is a more comfortable expression. Therefore, we may be obliged to call a man sometimes by a hard name; but should we do so, we hereby permit, allow, and license that man to consider us as caned or cowhided-to post the fact, as if it were a fact, in all bar-rooms, exchanges, and other places where men most do congregate-to boast and brag and swagger up and down the town at our expense; and to publish, if he pleases, in a pamphlet the particulars of our chastisement. He will thus experience all the pleasures without the perils of a heroic action, while it will be our own good luck to escape the pangs. For his consolation, we assure him that he will find fools enough to believe him; to glory greatly in his valor and our own discomfiture; to narrate the tale in all companies to which they may gain admission with a perfect crescendo of circumstances; and to consider us as a thing to be pointed at, ridiculed, and despised. He will thus acquire immense reputation; our own will not be

so beat them is perfectly illimitable. To suppose that a newspaper can be conducted without provoking the extreme wrath of somebody, is the acme of absurdity. Part, and a great part, of the legitimate business of journalism is to give offense to those who are deserving of public censure. When we are all virtuous together this will be different; at present the fact, however mortifying to the pride of human nature, remains fixed. The censor must do his duty, although he may himself be very far from faultiess. To the honest public he is responsible for veracity and fair intention; to those he may offend for the caning-in the abstract!

materially hurt; everything will go on

serenely, without recourse to the low and

vulgar expedient of flogging, which is only fit for the Five Points or for Donnybrook

Fair. Men beaten in the abstract feel no

bruises, while the complacency of men who

THE RING AND THE REPUBLICANS.

From the N. Y. World, The most noteworthy thing in the proceedings at Albany on Wednesday is the fact that the Republicans of the Assembly voted in a body for the Tweed charter. The covert liaison which has long existed between the ring and the Republican party was celebrated yesterday as an open marriage. The nuptials promise a new progeny of corruption. It is a union cemented by "the cohesive power of public plunder." There has long been a partition of the city spoils between the parties to this new arrangement, who have adroily played into each other's hands, and are so accustomed to act together that the Republicans find no difficulty in coming to the rescue of the ring, when the ring is pushed to an extremity. The half-and-half Board of Super-visors, of which Tweed is the head and the master-spirit, and which has long had the bad eminence of being more notoriously, more reekingly corrupt than any other combination on Manhattan Island, was the fruit of a bargain between dishonest Democrats in this city and dishonest Republicans at Albany for mutual gain and advantage. This great head of the city sore, where all the most corrupt humors gather and fester, is left untouched by the Tweed charter; and this is one of the inducements by which the ring has won Republican support. The other corrupt inducements will appear in due time, if this monstrosity of a charter should pass the Senate. Mayor Hall, the creature and tool of the ring, who is to be kept in office to make all the new appointments, is pledged to appoint Republicans to places in all the new commissions; and it is in consideration of this pledge, and of leaving the Ring-Republican Board of Supervisors untouched, that the Republicans of the Legislature have decided to go en masse for the Tweed charter.

This is a Democratic city. The Democratic voters outnumber the Republican voters three to one. If this city enjoyed the same right of self-government which is accorded to all other localities, Republicans could hold no offices here, and would have no part of the city patronage. It has been a standing topic of complaint by the Democracy of the city, and a standing topic of invective by the hypocritical ring, that the Republicans have used their power in the Legislature to foist their partisans into office in a city where no Republicans could be elected by the votes of the people. When the Democratic party got control of the Legislature, it was expected that this wrong would be redressed. But what do we find? We have seen the ring opposing and defeating every wholesome reform which would deprive its members of their dishonest gains: and now, to keep themselves in power, they make a corrupt alliance with the Republicans based on a promise to give them as large a show in the city government as they have possessed under the odious legislative commissions. We are to have as many Republi can officers in the city under the Tweed charter, as there were under the system which is about to be displaced in form, while it is retained in substance. We are to have the same number of Republican Supervisors to share the plunder of new court house and Harlem bridge jobs; we are to have an intermixture of Republican Police Commissioners, Republican Commissioners of the Central Teutonic journal, where, between her and Park under a new name, and so on to the end of the long chapter of city departments.

grieve to say, ended somewhat tragically, for | cluded before the inglorious flight of | demand a hostile meeting, it is scarcely con-Tweed and his skulking adherents on Monday, and it was in pursuance of this understanding that Kennedy's police were poured into and around Tammany Hall on Monday afternoon and evening, to shut out the Tammany Committee from their own building, under a preposterous pretense of keeping the public peace. The double-faced Tweed, who had sanctioned, nay called, the meeting, was manager-in-chief in this ridiculous stratagem to prevent its being held. Kennedy, his Republican confederate, sent well on to a thousand armed policemen to support him in this disgraceful, cowardly mancuivre. Everything had been concocted and arranged between the ring and its Republican allies before the city clock struck twelve on Sunday night. Kennedy had been informed of the alliance be tween Tweed and the Republican members of

the Legislature. This corrupt coalition causes all Republicans who have any remaining sense of decency to hang their heads with shame, and blush from ear to ear. After all the noisy donunciations of the ring which have resounded through their journals, year in and year out, since the ring came into power, it is a pretty speedtacle indeed to see all their members of the Legislature leaping into the water to pull up the drowning ring by the locks, and save its precious, invaluable life! These Republicans are willing to uproot the commissions which are their own work, and have been the theme of their constant eulogy, because they find that, by this means, they can continue their partnership with the Ring, and remain joint sharers with it of the city plunder. The Evening Post remoustrated, Wednesday, against this dis-grace; but it preached to the winds. The coalition had been clinched, and the parties to it are deaf to argument. It is all bargain and sale; all hire and salary. The Post might as well preach to a hungry ass beginning to brouse on the succulent cabbage-plants in a garden, or to a wolf just inserting its fangs in the quivering flesh of a lamb, as to the Republicans who have just completed this scandalous bargain with Tweed.

GENERAL GRANT, THE SENATE, AND THE DOMINICAN TREATY.

From the N. Y. Herald. The United States Senate, since the purchase of Alaska (481,000 square miles on the main land and a string of islands which no man can number stretching clean across the Pacific Ocean, and all for \$7,200,000 in California gold), has become somewhat distrustful of any further investments for the present in real estate. The Conscript Fathers, in fact, look upon Alaska, the home of the white bear, as a white elephant, and not knowing what to do with him they don't want any more elephants, white or black. Hence the failure of the St. Thomas treaty, although certain volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, and tidal waves in that quarter played the mischief with the King of Denmark. Even Cuba appears to have lost its attractions as the key of the Gulf," and the splendid island of St. Domingo, rich beyond comparison in all the riches of the tropics, goes begging in the senate, although offered for a song.

General Grant has concluded a treaty with the Government concerned for the annexation of the republic of Dominica-two-thirds or more of the island of St. Domingo, the republic of Havti holding the remainder. The annexation of Dominica would be speedily followed by that of Hayti, thus securing us the entire island, the possession of which would inevitably soon result in the acquisition of all the surrounding islands, beginning with Cuba. Moreover, Senator Morton has shown that in 1789 (when negro slavery was in full blast there) the productions of St. Domingo reached the enormous figure of one hundred and fifty million dollars per annum, giving employment to seven hundred vessels and twenty-seven thousand seamen - facts which sufficiently attest the amazing riches and capacities of the island. In our posses sion this maximum of one hundred and fifty millions of products would soon be restored In coffee and sugar alone the crops of the island within ten years would reduce the cost of coffee throughout the United States to onethird its present price, and sugar to one-half. How and why, then, is it that the Senate opposes this treaty which provides to secure us his island for a bagatelle?

Mr. Sumner, they say, does not want any more niggers. He has had enough. On his Alabama claims he is looking to the acquisition of Canada and the white folks up there; but he shrinks from Mexico, Cuba, St. Domingo and all those tropical places, because of the niggers and hybrids of all shades and crosses which make up their population. had supposed that the fifteenth amendment, establishing perfect equality of colors and races, would give us scope and verge enough to take in everything down to Brazil. But, then, it appears Mr. Sumner has other objections to Dominica, such as the unknown debts of that republic, and upon these, it is said the Senate is dead against this treaty.

Just here, however, we have a touch of the shrewd common sense and far-reaching sagacity of General Grant. He proposes that the Senate shall suspend action upon the treaty until a competent commission to Dominica shall have inquired into all these objections, and made a straight and specific contract in dollars and cents. And we cannot believe that this fair proposition will be disregarded by the Senate.

The President's reasons for the acquisition of the island we hold to be conclusive. In the article of sugar (of which the United States consume seventy-five million dollars' worth) and in coffee and other tropical products St. Domingo would largely contribute to turn the general balance of trade in our favor. Then the laws of Cuba and Porto Rico being against our commerce, the possession of St. Domingo is necessary to establish our trade on a proper footing in the West Indies, and will do it. Again, our country has become so immense that it needs outposts for military security against hostile European combinations, and nowhere do we need a commanding outpost so much as in the Gulf of Mexico. Such are General Grant's views of the importance of this Dominican treaty of annexation; and though obstructed for the present in the Senate, the proposed acquisition on the general argument indicated must prevail.

A PRINCE IS ALSO A MAN.

From the St. Louis Democrat. The acquittal of Pierre Bonaparte for the slaying of Victor Noir will cause great excitement in France, no doubt, but we cannot say that the trial was an unfair one, or that the verdict was unjust. Had any prominent citizen in this country been so persistently and violently assailed by a newspaper as the royal family in France has been assailed by the Marseillaise; had the character of a wife and the virtue of a sister been publicly dragged into the controversy; had vile personal abuse of each and every member of the family attacked been continued so long as to cause a natural intensity of indignation towards the parties so conducting a paper; had two of these parties then waited upon a member of the family in question, themselves armed, to I

ceivable that hot words and hot deeds would not have followed. Probably there is not a jury in America which would have found a man guilty of murder for a shot fired under such circumstances, and it would make little difference whether the family whose assailed honor prompted him to the deed was popular, wealthy, conspicuous in public affairs, or insignificant. In this country, at least, the kind of assaults which the coadjutors of Rochefort have been making upon the Empress, the Emperor, and the whole Bonaparte family, would be expected to lead to something besides hot words. Without justifying him in the least, then, we are forced to admit that his acquittal is neither strange, nor would it have been unlikely had the slayer been of other than royal family. It appeared that the Prince was neither a cruel nor a brutal man; that he was kind to his dependants and neighbors: that he was fiery and passionate when his feelings were roused by insult or injustice; that in this case he had been goaded to the most intense feeling by such insults as have rarely been suffered to appear in any paper claiming to be decent. Had not Eugenie, Louis Napoleon and Pierre Bonaparte been of the reigning family, not a solitary creature in all France would have listened to such language with any other feeling than indignation and shame. Now public men, and even monarchs, have some private feelings. Beneath the crown there is still a man or a woman, and if the feelings most common to humanity are outraged, perhaps the monarch has the same right to avenge the wrong that any private citizen would have. Those who clamored for the conviction of Pierre Bonaparte wanted to deny to him an excuse which they would have been prompt to claim for themselves, and had he not been of the royal family, men would have felt very differently of a shooting so provoked.

The sober second thought of the French people, if it ever comes, will condemn for the slaying of Victor Noir not so much the man who fired the fatal shot, as the man whose boundless abuse, indecency, and intemperance of language have brought both the press and the revolutionary party of France into a certain disrepute. Rochefort slew not only Noir, but others, when his unreasoning behavior brought about a street riot which had in it neither sense nor object. It is a bad sign for France that men of that sort are accepted in some sense as leaders and representatives of the people, and it will be long before a people who read with avidity blackguardly personal abuse and mistake that for patriotism, will establish any stable and welladjusted free institutions.

"LET THE WAYWARD SISTERS GO IN PEACE.

From the Raleigh (N. C.) Standard. This remark has been attributed to General Winfield Scott, when his advice was solicited in regard to the proposed secession of the Southern States. But it was determined by the loyal men of the nation that they should not go. And after a desperate struggle the territory was reclaimed, the true men of the South advised and assisted to restore republican forms of government. And the aid of all others, with but few exceptions, solicited in the patriotic enterprise. After a long struggle, with varying fortunes, govern-ments were at length erected in the Southern States, and the Constitutions adopted by large majorities, approved by the representatives of the people in Congress assembled. But there was the most bitter hostility evinced against these acts of the Republican party, and here in the South, from the riots at Memphis, New Orleans, Mobile, Richmond, and Savannah, down to the present time, the more desperate portion of those who hate the General Government have signalized that hatred by the perpetration of outrages of a most flagrant character upon the persons and property of loyal citizens for the purposes of revenge as well as of intimidation. The story of their deeds in North Carolina is the story of their deeds in other States. And they have but one end in view, the subjection of true men to their will and a repossession of office, place, and power, whence they can embarrass the General Government, destroy the national credit, glorify the lost cause, reduce the negroes to peonage, and hold their own again with lofty heads despite the results of the war or of

future consequences. It has been only eighteen months since they moved for the utter annihilation of the Southern State Governments. Foiled in this, they now attempt to get centrol of the machinery of those Governments, under the falsest pretenses, and with the coolest effrontery. In their hands the State Governments will be annihilated, destroyed and rebelized. It is the old wolf in the skin of another sheep, which it has just slaughtered.

Shall the wayward sisters go? Will the Congress stand by and see its work pulled to pieces, in violation of the final terms of the settlement? We believe that it will not, but a strange apathy seems to have fallen upon that body-it makes haste to do some things, and leave undone others, while the impending danger thicken, and the whistle of a klau of murderers floats on every breeze under all the night skies of the Southern heavens. We do not wish to use force, but when force is used, it must be met with force. We do not wish to retaliate, but we should certainly do so if attacked and maltreated, and hold to responsibility a life or a limb as worthy as ours, and as dear to others as these precious gifts are to ourself and to our friends

When this Ku-Klux organization is dissolved and exposed to the infamy which it merits, then the moderate men of the other party will be welcomed into power, if it be their fortune, by generous foes, after a fair contest, in which truth shall be left free to combat error. Then the haleyon days of chivalric difference will be restored; but so long as moderate men, as they call themselves, remain in the same ranks with murderers and assassins, they cannot hope for either confidence from us or from the General Government. Time and time again they have been put forward as figure-heads, but when in the fulfilment of settled purposes the hour to strike a blow arrived, they were set aside, and the arm of their most extreme and destructive associates appeared to deal that blow, coming forth as the power from behind the throne, which is more mighty than the throne itself.

Let the wayward sisters go. No, gentle-men, they will never go. And though it may seem that the question of the immortal Webster, who exclaimed, "Who shall restore the shattered columns of constitutional liberty?" yet remains but half answered, still we believe that those columns will be restored by the hands of those who love the temple, whose front it is their place to adorn, and in whose halls the consecrated fires of liberty burn upon the altars of our country.

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