

SPRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

THE NEGRO VOTE AS A POLITICAL BALANCE OF POWER.

From the N. Y. Herald.

Before the adjournment of the present session of Congress a law will doubtless be passed providing for the enforcement of the fifteenth amendment; that is, in order to secure the equal right to the black man to vote in all our political elections in every State and Territory of the Union. Meantime, it is reported from Washington that the Executive Committee of the Union League of America, Governor Geary, of Pennsylvania, and ex-Governor Newell, of New Jersey, are engaged in organizing a plan of voting under the fifteenth amendment, with a view of securing to the Republican party the entire colored vote of the country, and that they have called upon the President and the heads of departments to aid them in their work.

But how is it with the Democracy? Under the present aspect of things, and from the results of numerous local elections in which this new voting element has been admitted since the proclamation of the fifteenth amendment, the bulk of the African vote of the North is good for General Grant and the Republican party. Indeed, we think that the conspicuous part which he has played in behalf of this amendment, and in behalf of political equality, regarded of color, in his official appointments, that he is good as a Presidential candidate against any opposing candidate for the colored vote of the North and South almost en masse. From recent appearances in the autumn elections of this year for the next Congress it is probable that the Republican party (representing Grant as he represents the party) will, with the aid of the negro vote, carry New Jersey, make some important gains in New York (if they do not recover the State), increase their majority in Pennsylvania, and hold their own in all the other States of the North. Among the late border slave States they may perhaps revolutionize Delaware and Maryland, and get a great way even to upset the forty thousand Democratic majority which, on the white basis, is given by Kentucky.

The late Connecticut election has shown that the fifteenth amendment has caused no losses to the Republican party of the white vote. The Republicans, in fact, are rather disposed to count Sambo as an ally than to repel him as an enemy. But the question still remains to be answered, how is it with the Democracy? They proved last summer in Virginia what they can do with the colored balance of power in the South if they try. The Democracy of the South, embracing the farmers, planters, merchants, etc., upon whom the blacks must rely for employment, have the means in their hands for winning over the negro balance of power in every Southern State in their elections for the next Congress. Nor can we imagine that they will throw their advantages away in fighting such old Southern windmills as a war of races or negro domination. We dare say that the Southern whites have heretofore looked upon this thing of negro suffrage as a temporary radical punishment and nuisance, soon to be removed after the restoration of each of the States concerned to the full control of its local affairs. But this fifteenth amendment extinguishes all such calculations, and so, with the fixed fact of negro suffrage before them under the supervision of Congress, we expect that the Southern Democracy will not be long in comprehending the advantages of a political alliance with the blacks.

Throughout the North we have seen, in the colored celebrations of the fifteenth amendment, that all parties and all classes of the whites gracefully accept the situation. This is a very remarkable fact, considering the late widely prevailing and apparently incurable prejudices of even our Northern whites against negro political equality. Among the first acts in January of our present Democratic Legislature at Albany was the resolution rescinding this State's ratification of the fifteenth amendment—a repeal which was passed by a strict party vote. The other day, however, a resolution making the election laws of the State conform to said amendment was passed by the Senate with but one dissenting voice. The amendment had become "the supreme law of the land," and the Democracy in our Legislature, after fighting it to the last ditch, bow to its authority as the law. We have seen, from the recent action of the Democrats in other places, that where a chance is offered for winning an election they are ready not only to cultivate the negro voter, but to vote for a negro candidate. From all these things we may well exclaim, was there ever so great a difficulty so quietly settled as this late difficulty of negro suffrage?

The Northern Democracy, then, are already in a fair way to win a good share of the negro vote, and as a political balance of power they may neutralize it in many districts in the coming elections for the next Congress. But until the party shall have adopted a new platform, in accordance with the new order of things, they will hardly be able to shake the Republican ascendancy North or to gain any advantage South of any practical value in Congress. Tammany Hall, after her late extensive and important victories in the reconstruction of our city government, is in a good position to take the initiative for a national reorganization of the Democratic party, looking to the next Congress and the next Presidency; and it would be a good stroke of policy on the part of Tammany to avail herself of an early opportunity to define her position in abandoning the dead issues of the past and in accepting negro political equality with the new order of things, and in meeting fairly and squarely the living issues of the day.

TOO MANY BUREAUS.

From the St. Louis Democrat.

It seems that Secretary Boutwell is opposed to making St. Louis a port of call, and has written a letter to the Senate Committee on Commerce recommending, instead, that a bureau be established in the New York Custom House especially for collecting the duties on and forwarding Western goods. A bureau forthwith! as if we had not far too many bureaus already. One of our greatest present evils is that we are governed too much. Why cannot Congress give the people of St. Louis and the Mississippi Valley the privilege of regulating their own trade and governing themselves a little? Are we to be kept in leading strings to New York bureaucrats like helpless incompetents who do not know what they want? The trouble with Secretary Boutwell is that his travels having been mainly confined to the route between Groton, Massachusetts, and Washington City, he fails to realize the extent of this country or the temper or wants of the Western people. We don't want a bureau or any trumpery trash of

the sort; we want the privilege of using the Mississippi river and the ocean freely for the advantage of trade, and if Congress will only pass a law removing restrictions and regulating the details, we will conform to the law. We can imagine how this bureau-hatching process went on. The Senate Committee on Commerce referred our memorial to be made a part of entry to the Secretary of the Treasury for examination and report; of course having a "Bureau of Commerce and Navigation" in his department, he must know what we want better than we do ourselves. Mr. Boutwell glances over it, and finding that it does not relate to Massachusetts interests, taps a little bell and sends our memorial to the Assistant Secretary. This official reads it at his leisure, and transmits it without any indorsement to the chief clerk. The chief clerk is out getting luncheon, and the memorial is thrust into a pigeon-hole, where it remains unnoticed for several weeks. One day, when looking for a tooth-pick, the C. C. finds the document, runs his eye over it, writes on it "for examination and report," and rings a bell. Four boys spring to the summons and jointly carry the memorial to the Commissioner of Customs. This aged and very respectable official, who, if he knew anything about navigation, might readily pass for an "Ancient Mariner," receives the paper solemnly. He gives ten minutes to reading the indorsement, two minutes to the contents, and then sends it to the chief clerk of his bureau. In due course of time this individual refers it to the sub-bureau (it is reaching a crisis now) of Commerce and Navigation. He refers it, in turn, to the "clerk in charge," who gives it to one of his subordinates, a twelve hundred dollar clerk from Maine, who sneers at the West and resolves to snub St. Louis for wishing to be the capital. So he spends a week in preparing an unfavorable report, and recommends the establishment of a new bureau in New York to meet the wants of St. Louis. He gives this to the head of division, who sends it to the chief clerk, who hands it to the Commissioner of Customs, who refers it to the chief clerk of the department, who gives it to the Assistant Secretary, who respectfully transmits it to Mr. Boutwell, with a letter written out for him to sign, sending it back to the Senate committee, with the unfavorable report. The Secretary does not know where the report comes from, but sees no occasion to differ with the main clerk, so the memorial is returned to the Senate committee, and they become possessed of Mr. Boutwell's deliberate judgment on the subject.

We trust that Congress will deal with the matter in a more practical and liberal spirit, and give us what we ask for; but for heaven's sake no more bureaus.

JOHN BANCROFT DAVIS BRIBED WITH SIXTY THOUSAND DOLLARS.

From the N. Y. Sun.

Mr. J. C. Bancroft Davis, Assistant Secretary of State of the United States, and long a director in the Erie Railway Company, and law partner of Dorman B. Eaton, has hitherto been generally regarded as a respectable man. Recent developments, however, show that his good reputation has been undeserved, and that, like many other men who for a time have enjoyed public esteem and confidence, he is no better in some respects than the most notorious rogues.

A committee of the Massachusetts Legislature has just been occupied in investigating the affairs of the Boston, Hartford, and Erie Railroad Company, and the investigation has led to startling disclosures of venality and professional treachery on the part of Mr. Davis. Mr. John S. Eldridge, President of this company, testifies that he got himself elected President of the Erie Railway Company, and that bribery was employed for the purpose, the money being paid by the Boston, Hartford, and Erie Company. His object in thus putting himself at the head of the Erie Company was to obtain from it, for the benefit of the Boston, Hartford, and Erie, favorable contracts for freight, as well as pecuniary assistance towards completing the Boston, Hartford, and Erie road. Mr. Eldridge also testifies that in bringing about these results he had the aid of Mr. J. C. Davis, who was then, and long had been one of the directors of the Erie Company; and that he paid Davis \$60,000 as a bribe for his co-operation. "Mr. Davis," he says, "was to draw the contracts and aid us in carrying them through." On a further examination, Eldridge explained that Davis, while a director of the Erie Company was also a trustee of the mortgage of the Boston, Hartford, and Erie. The pecuniary aid which the Boston, Hartford, and Erie obtained from the Erie with the help of Davis was in the shape of a guarantee by the Erie Company of five millions of the bonds for which Davis was a trustee; and of the \$60,000 paid by Eldridge to Davis, one-sixth part of the bribe was put as compensation for his services as such trustee. The remaining \$50,000 of the bribe was paid to Mr. Davis for his services in securing this guarantee, and making other arrangements between the two companies for the benefit of the Boston, Hartford, and Erie Company; that is to say, Mr. Davis, while a director in the Erie Railway Company, took a bribe of \$60,000 to betray their interests by carrying through an arrangement which has already resulted in the loss of millions to the Erie Railway stockholders, and may result in the loss of millions more.

This charge, it will be observed, is not made upon hearsay, but is the sworn testimony of John S. Eldridge, late President of the Erie Company, and the principal manager of the Boston, Hartford, and Erie. It is the evidence, under oath, of one of the principal parties to the transaction, taken in a public examination, and already broadcast abroad through the Massachusetts press.

In view of these facts, established by sworn testimony and uncontradicted, we respectfully ask of the Congress of the United States—and we ask it in the name of the American people—how long this man Davis shall be permitted to remain the Assistant Secretary of State of the United States?

THE DISGRACE OF INDIANA—THE DIVORCE LAW.

From the N. Y. Times.

The trial of McFarland will have one good effect, if no other, in arousing public attention to the disgraceful nature of our State legislation with regard to divorce, and especially of the Indiana divorce laws. The State of Indiana occupies now, in the matter of popular wealth, internal improvements, and the intelligence and refinement of large bodies of its citizens, a front rank among the States of the Central West. Yet, in an evil day, she has admitted into her code a law which has made the fair name of the State a by-word of disgrace, and which offends the enlightened conscience of all Christians. By Indiana law a resident of another State, having taken up a temporary abode in that State and presented a claim for divorce on the most trivial grounds, can, if the judge so decide, be at once freed from the bonds of matrimony. A man in New York becoming

tired of his wife, or a wife preferring some more wealthy or attractive suitor, can, on going out to Indianapolis and spending a pleasant winter, and giving notice in some obscure paper, be henceforth at liberty to follow "elective affinities" and marry again. It is true that our courts have decided that such divorces, unless sufficient notice be served on the other party, or both parties unite in the petition, are not good in law. Still the community do not mind these decisions—clergymen do not regard them, and such divorces are held here as legal and proper.

We venture to say that if the Indiana legislators desire to sap public morality, substitute concubinage for marriage, degrade women, and breed a weak and puny race of children, they could take no more efficient means than by thus making the marriage tie a farce and divorce an amusement. We already know of young couples that enter into marriage here as they might form a partnership for a dance. They know it can be almost as easily broken by a Western court. The high sanctity of that tie which has been an inheritance of our race since the time of Tacitus, and more than anything else has given the leadership of the world to the Germanic peoples, and which has been rendered, if possible, more sacred by the teachings of Christianity, is now trampled in the dust and made a vulgar thing in the eyes of our young men and women by such legislation as this of Indiana.

In this matter, fortunately, the interests of the State and the teachings of physical philosophy agree with the instructions of Christ. Divorces for but one or two strong reasons, and a marriage for "fidelity and wealth," "good and evil" till death separates, is the teaching of both political economy and Christianity.

THE TEARING TRAGEDIAN.

From the Cincinnati Gazette.

Mr. Kelley, of Pennsylvania, performed his great tearing act in the House the other day, in the course of the tariff debate. He held up a piece of heavy coating cloth, which he said was imported from England, in order to show what stuffs she would sell to our people unless they were prohibited to buy. His dramatic voice and manner are well known. He orates the best worn platitudes and the shallowest fallacies in Forrestian tones. He took a tragic attitude, like Kirby, who has upon the American flag about him in his great dying act. He took the E. I. cloth before him, and gestulated at it, as "Macbeth" to the air-drawn dagger. In round tones he called attention to its thickness and seaming strength. Rising with rhetorical fervor, he opprobriously denounced it as a combination of shoddy and cow's hair. Tearing tragic passion to tatters, he suited the action to the word and tore the fabric in twain; and, with veins swelled and utterances thick with dramatic rage, he exclaimed: "It is rotten—rotten as it was when the material was carried from the lazar houses of Smyrna to the shoddy fields of London to be manufactured." And then turning the tempest, the whirlwind of his theatrical passion upon Mr. Cox, he exclaimed, with indicative finger: "The gentlemen from New York ask us to give facilities for the admission of such fabrics."

But there was a method in all this dramatic madness. Anybody could tear Mr. Kelley's shirt, or his trousers, or coat in the same way. Rhetorically he is always tearing his shirt. This cloth costs, Mr. Brooks said, about 72 cents a yard in gold, and weighs 2 1/2 cents a pound and 35 per cent. ad valorem, making \$1 3/4 a yard, equal to 100 per cent. This is meant to be prohibitory. And what then? The American manufacturer will have the whole field for his shoddy and other coarse wool and hair fabrics, at his own price. And there is no manufacturer handier with shoddy than the American. By this duty, which with its commissions and the premium on gold will reach \$2 and upward, he will be enabled to charge \$3 for a worse article. Why should any American manufacturer desire to improve his fabrics, or to make a good article, or to invest any capital in improving his machinery, when by means of legislation he can practise this robbery? It is this system that draws the energies of the favored manufacturers away from their business to the Congressional lobby.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CAPITAL STOCK OF THE "PEOPLES BANK" that a meeting will be held at No. 14 S. SIXTH Street, on THURSDAY, the 6th day of May next, at 10 o'clock A. M., for the purpose of organizing said Bank and electing officers and directors.

CAMDEN AND AMBOY RAILROAD AND TRADING COMPANY. OFFICE, TRENTON, N. J., April 11, 1870. The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the Camden and Amboy Railroad and Trading Company will be held in Trenton, New Jersey, at the Company's Office, on THURSDAY, the 12th day of May, 1870, at 10 o'clock A. M., for the purpose of electing a Board of Directors for the ensuing year.

GOOD SPRING RAILROAD COMPANY. OFFICE, No. 227 S. PHILADELPHIA, April 11, 1870. The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of this Company and an election for President and six Managers will take place at the Office of the Company on MONDAY, the 24th day of May next, at 10 o'clock A. M.

NORTHERN LIBERTIES AND PENN TOWNSHIP R. R. CO. Office No. 227 S. FOURTH Street, PHILADELPHIA, April 11, 1870. The annual meeting of the Stockholders of this Company and an election for officers to serve for the ensuing year, will be held at the office of the Company on MONDAY, the 24th day of May next, at 10 o'clock A. M.

SCHUYLKILL AND SUSQUEHANNA RAILROAD COMPANY. Office, No. 227 S. FOURTH Street, PHILADELPHIA, April 11, 1870. The annual meeting of the Stockholders of this Company and an election for President and six Managers will take place at the office of the Company on MONDAY, the 24th day of May next, at 10 o'clock A. M.

TREGO'S TOBACCO TOOTHWASH. It is the most pleasant, cheapest and best dentifrice extant. Warranted free from injurious ingredients. Cleanses and purifies the Gums! Investigates and Soothes the Gums! Purifies and Perfumes the Breath! Prevents Accumulation of Tartar! Cleanses and Purifies Artificial Teeth! Is a Superior Substitute for Tooth-Powder. Sold by all druggists and dentists.

NO CURE, NO PAY.—FORREST'S JUNIPER TART.—For Coughs, Whooping Cough, Bronchitis, Hoarseness, Sore Throat, Spitting of Blood, and Lung Diseases. Immediate relief and positive cure, or price refunded. Sold by FRENCH, RICHARDS & CO., TENTH and MARKET, and A. M. WILSON, NINTH and FILBERT Streets. 4 Sentists.

WARDALE G. McALLISTER, Attorney and Counselor at Law, No. 212 WALNUT Street, New York.

HEADQUARTERS FOR EXTRACTING TEETH, with fresh Nitrous Oxide Gas. Absolutely safe. Dr. F. E. THOMAS, formerly operating at the Cotton Dental Rooms, devotes his entire practice to the painless extraction of teeth. Office, No. 911 WALNUT Street.

QUEEN FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LONDON AND LIVERPOOL. CAPITAL, \$2,000,000. SINKING, FIFTH and WALNUT Streets.

SHERIFF'S SALE.

SHERIFF'S SALE.

By virtue of a Writ of Levat Facias to me directed will be exposed to PUBLIC SALE, AT THE HOTEL OF JOSEPH YARNALL, In the town of New Castle, New Castle County, Delaware, ON SATURDAY, The 23d day of April, A. D. 1870, at 2 o'clock P. M. the following described

REAL ESTATE, Viz.:

All that certain tract or parcel of land called the Mile House Farm, situate, lying, and being in the hundred and county of New Castle, in the State of Delaware, near the town of New Castle, and which is bounded and described as follows, to wit:—Beginning at a point in the centre of the road leading from New Castle to Hamburg lane, opposite a stone, set on the north side of said road, and at the distance of 17 1/2 acres from the centre of said road, and thence easterly along the line of the ditch hereby to be conveyed from land now held by T. Tasker, formerly a part of Statham farm, thence along the centre of the said road north 73 1/2 degrees, east 17 1/2 miles to a point in the said road opposite the middle of the ditch aforesaid, thence along the middle of the ditch aforesaid, north 34 degrees, west 54 1/2 miles, thence north 48 1/2 degrees, east 4 1/2 miles, thence north 33 1/2 degrees, east 34 1/2 miles to the centre of the New Castle and Frenchtown Railroad, thence along the line of the said road, westerly to the line dividing the land from land of the heirs of Robert Burth, deceased, thence with the said dividing line north, nine degrees, west 73 perches, north 73 1/2 degrees, west 10 1/2 miles, south 33 1/2 degrees, west 12 perches, thence north 33 1/2 degrees, east 1 1/2 miles, south 34 degrees, west 20 1/2 miles, north 34 degrees, east 1 1/2 miles, and continuing the same course 12 1/2 miles to low-water mark on the river Delaware, thence by the line of low-water mark up the said river to a point opposite to the stone on the side of the Hamburg road aforesaid, and thence by a line at right angles to the said road, to the centre of the said road and place of beginning, containing of upland and marsh eight four acres, more or less.

Seized and taken in execution as the property of Charles W. Grant and Isabelle his wife, and William H. Padlock and Laura his wife, and Elmer Clark, terre tenant, and to be sold by

JACOB RICHARDSON, Sheriff.

Sheriff's Office, New Castle, April 4, A. D. 1870. (14 1/2)

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ENGINEERS, MACHINISTS, STEAM

MAKERS, BLACKSMITHS, and FOUNDRIES, having

extensive facilities for repairing and erecting

engines, boilers, and machinery, and also

engaged in building and repairing Marine and

Steam Engines, and also in the manufacture of

Tanks, Propellers, etc., etc., respectively offer their

services to the public as being fully prepared to contract

for the erection of all kinds of Steam Engines, and

sets of patterns of different sizes, are prepared to execute

all kinds of work in the most satisfactory manner, and

Iron and Brass Castings of all descriptions. Roll Turning

and all other work connected with the

above business.

Drawings and specifications for all work done at the

establishment free of charge, and well guaranteed.

The subscribers have ample work-dock-room for repairs

of all kinds of machinery, and where parties in interest

are provided with shears, blocks, falls, etc., for raising, sawing

or light weights.

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TWENTY-THIRD and HILBERT Streets,

OFFICE,

No. 49 North FIFTH Street. 11 1/2

LEGAL NOTICES.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED

STATES FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF

PENNSYLVANIA, in and for the County of Berks, and State of Penn-

sylvania, in the said District, a Bankrupt, who formerly

resided in Philadelphia, Pa., under the firm

name of T. W. Sweeney, Jr., said firm being composed of

himself and H. Holman and Isaac Wells, both of Minne-

sota, Pa., having petitioned for discharge, a meeting of

creditors will be held on the 12th day of April, A. D. 1870

at 12 o'clock P. M. before the Register, H. M. WILKINSON,

at his Office, No. 46 N. SIXTH Street, Reading, Pa., that

the examination of the said bankrupt may be finished, and

any business of meetings referred by sections 27 or 28 of

the act of Congress transmitted. The Register will certify

thereof to the Bankruptcy Court on the 27th day of

April, A. D. 1870, before the Court at Philadelphia,

Pa., at 10 o'clock A. M. JOHN W. CADWALADER,

Judge of the said District Court, and the seal

thereof, at Philadelphia, the 19th day of March,

INSURANCE.

DELAWARE MUTUAL SAFETY INSURANCE

COMPANY, incorporated by the Legislature

of Pennsylvania, 1858.

Office southeast corner of THIRD and WALNUT

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MARINE INSURANCES

On Vessels, Cargo and Freight to all parts of the

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On goods by river, canal, lake and land carriage to

all parts of the Union.

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Houses, etc.

ASSETS OF THE COMPANY

November 1, 1869.

\$500,000 United States Five Per Cent.

Loans—forties..... \$15,000 00

100,000 United States Six Per Cent.

Loans (awful money)..... 107,700 00

60,000 United States Six Per Cent.

Loans..... 60,000 00

300,000 State of Pennsylvania Six Per

Cent. Loans..... \$15,000 00

300,000 City of Philadelphia Six Per

Cent. Loans (exempt from

tax)..... 300,900 00

100,000 State of New Jersey Six Per

Cent. Loans..... 100,000 00

50,000 Pennsylvania Railroad First

Mortgage Six Per Cent.

Bonds..... 450 00

25,000 Western Pennsylvania Rail-  
road Mortgage Six Per

Cent. Bonds (Pennsylvania

Railroad guaranteed)..... 20,000 00

20,000 State of Tennessee Five Per

Cent. Loans..... 15,000 00

7,000 State of Tennessee Six Per

Cent. Bonds..... 4,870 00

15,000 Pennsylvania Railroad Com-  
pany, 200 shares stock..... 14,000 00

5,000 Pennsylvania Railroad Com-  
pany, 100 shares

stock..... 3,900 00

10,000 Philadelphia and Southern

Railroad Company, 80 shares stock..... 7,500 00

\$46,000 Loans on Bonds and Mort-  
gages..... \$46,000 00

Real Estate..... \$1,231,400 00

Market value, \$1,200,000 00

Real Estate..... 20,000 00

Bills Receivable for Insurances made..... 238,700 75

Balance due at Agencies..... 65,000 00