THE DAILY EVENING TELEGRAPH-PHILADELPHIA, FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1870.

SFIRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

STRANGE STATE OF THINGS IN CUBA

-OVERTHROW OF ALL SPANISH AG-THORITY.

From the N. Y. Sun

Cubs, although positively lost to Spain on the day when General Duice was driven out of Havana by the volunteers, has been since then apparently under the partial control of the mother country. That is, for fear the Spanish iron-clads might shell Havana if their insubordination exceeded a certain limit, the volunteers have allowed the successor of the officer thus deposed to rule over parts of the island not under patriot sway, provided such rule did not conflict with theirs.

This farce has lasted some eleven months, and at last the mask has fallen. The rule of Spain, the wishes of Spain, and the representatives of Spain are no longer acceptable to the volunteers, and the orders from General De Rodas, and from the Madrid Government, are openly disregarded by them. At the same time General Valmaseda goes home-the fourteenth superseded General who has failed utterly in suppressing the revolution-and his successor is on his way from Spain.

The forts which command Havana are held, and have been held since the arrival of De Rodas on the island, by the volunteers. He has before now endeavored by stratagem to withdraw from the Cabanas, the Morro, and from "No. 4," the volunteer garrisons he found in them, replacing them by regulars. He has always failed. Now he orders the volunteers to vacate them, and they openly refuse to obey. The Havana volunteers have their compeers in all the ports and principal cities of the island; so that if Spanish rulethe will of the Madrid government-is respected anywhere in Cuba, it can be only in such places as are not occupied either by the patriots or the volunteers; and these points and districts are too insignificant to mention.

The navy, on whose unquestioned loyalty Spain has firmly relied, appears by late advices to be as little inclined to obey her mandates as are the rebellious volunteers. The Lloyd Aspinwall was seized by a Spanish man-of-war in defiance of all treaty obligations, and even of all recognized international law. On the representation of the American Minister at Madrid, orders were sent to Havana that she be at once delivered to our Consul there; but the Spanish Admiral Malcampo flatly refuses to surrender her. He goes even further, and offers to head the volunteers in preventing her delivery. Thus, besides the unquestionable disloyalty of the volunteers, it appears that the loyalty of the navy is more than doubtful.

Now this country has a treaty of alliance with Spain, which, if it has not been rendered rather elastic by our Secretary of State for Spain's benefit, and the temporary dis-comfiture of the Cuban patriots, has at least been religiously fulfilled by our Executive to its very letter. But we have no treaty with Spain's openly confessed enemies, the slavetrading volunteer organizations of Havana, Matanzas, and Santiago. By what line of reasoning, then, can it be argued that we should actively thwart the Cubans who are fighting against Spain for the same principles for which we expended millions of dollars and thousands of lives, and at the same time actively assist the volunteers, as we are doing, who are fighting against Spain for slavery, the renewal of the slave trade, and the establishment of a monarchy at our very doors ? In August last a note was presented to the authorities at Madrid by our Minister, whose object was the independence of Cuba, under the Republican Government of Cespedes. The sixth and last clause of that note stated that "if the terms of this note were not definitely approved by the Spanish Govern-ment, the United States would recognize the independence of Cuba." The terms proposed by this note were not accepted, but neither the belligerency nor the independence of Cuba has yet been recognized. Why not? Because Mr. Roberts, the Spanish Minister at Washington, knowing that Mr. Fish was bragging, in reply bragged a little better, and Mr. Fish laid down his hand. In plain English, Mr. Roberts convinced Mr. Fish of the ability of Spain to suppress the revolution in the past winter campaign; but now not only has the campaign against the Cubans utterly failed, but Spain is obliged to confess her inability to rule the men by whom she declared she could terminate the rebellion. Under these circumstances, is it reasonable to expect that Mr. Fish and General Grant will adopt the course which they threatened to adopt eight months ago? Will they now recognize the independence of the Cuban republic? Alas, we fear not !

wilful, wicked, malicious lie. What says the Evening Post? Does it know any facts which authorize the Times to make such a charge ? If not, does it know any way of dealing with such calumnies more satisfactory than to call them what they are? We cannot circumstantially refute charges so vague and unsupported. To leave them unnoticed is to induce many to take their truth as virtually admitted. The Tribune is very often impelled to con-

trovert the views set forth by one or another of its contemporaries. We are not aware that any of them has had reason to complain either of the spirit or the terms in which this duty has been performed. None of them can truly say that we have chosen to degrade such controversy from a discussion of principles into an exchange of personalities. No journalist can truthfully say that we have dragged him before the public unless in palpable self-de-fense. No decent journal can truly allege that we have levelled against it such a charge as the Times (with other such) has hurled against us. And while we hope ever to meet argument with argument, fact with fact, courtesy with courtesy, we propose hereafter, as heretofore, so to deal with slanderers and traducers as to expose them to the loathing they merit.

THE FENIAN MUDDLE.

From the N. Y. World,

Mr. Hallam, in speaking of the tenure of Irish gavelkind, remarks, with ponderous humor, that "no better method could be devised for a perpetual supply of those quarrels in which the Irish are supposed to place so large a part of their enjoyment." What Mr. Hallam said of gavelkind might be said with equal justice of the Fenian Brotherhood. Instead of concentrating its noble rage in a torrent of armed men upon the Saxon, that body disperses it in rills of objurgation upon its own members. Who does not remember the fierce factions into which it divided when the great O'Mahony was basking in the splendors of the "Moffat Mansion," the noble Roberts was wielding his terrors in the Bowery, and the escaped Stephens was revolving about the continent like the wandering and Hibernian "head-centre" of a comet with a nebulous tail of adherents?

This Celtic Cerberus, thus employing his three heads in loud antiphonal ululation and ineffectual snapping each at the other, was naturally not very successful in his assaults upon the British Hercules. In fact, success was not predicable of him. But at last his heads were amalgamated. Stephens fell into swart eclipse; O'Mahony sank into dim and unrecorded, but, his enemies said, not unremunerative, disgrace; and the blackness of darkness enshrouded Roberts. The six angry jaws no longer bayed each other and the moon, and Fenianism fell out of the newspapers and the general talk of men. Possibly it was this ominous silence, and the further fact that the Fenians were known to be led in council by the only man who had ever led them in war, that alarmed the Canadian mind to the dreadful din of preparation which was so lately chronicled in these columns.

The design of the Fenian commanders, according to the reports of their own familiars. seems at present to be the peculiarly Fenian and feasible one of "co-operating with Riel," and striking Great Britain a lethal blow which shall secure the liberation of Ireland in that vital portion of her organism known as the "Winnipeg region," where now Riel, surrounded by a few score of half-breeds, maintains an unequal war against the rigor of the climate and the tedium of otherwise unbroken and primeval solitude.

But at this juncture interposes the "Senate" to stay the blow, and proclaim the treachery of O'Neill and its own exceeding virtue and wisdom. It issues one of those extraordinary and eloquent manifestoes so dear to the Fenian heart, and, alas, hitherto so fatal to the Fenian cause. This body points out how it, by its "prompt action and un-flinching integrity," "saved the Irish race in America from the infamy of being identified with the Moffat Mansion frauds;" proclaims O'Neill" an insincere, madly ambitious, and otherwise disagreeable person; and accuses him of having "trampled on" various things, 'defied" various other things, and "introduced discord and faction into the brother-

public, after the experiences that they have had of governmental chicanery and interference on election days, to make unfriendly comments on the instrumentalities, the prefects and others, that Napoleon has at his command to influence a favorable result. Judging from his own statements and those of his ministers and all his newspaper organs, we conclude that he wishes the fullest and freest expression of popular opinion; that he desires to get a genuine and trust-worthy verdict of his subjects upon the real merits of the questions; that he is sincerely anxious to know precisely what Frenchmen think of him and his past and prospective course, and how they feel about the succession of the crown to his son. Only an honest election can give him this invaluable information, and demonstrate how far Frenchmen can be trusted to continue his dynasty after his death. It is also highly important for him to know the entire strength of the opposition, whatever it may be. In order to arrive at this useful knowledge, a truly free election is indispensable. All considerations thus inducing him not to make this election a cut-and-dried scheme and a farce, and he trusting most implicitly in the kindly disposition of the French people, there is every reason to believe that the election will be a square and honest one. The approval of the plebiscite by the old Napoleonic majorities, under these circumstances, will be the strongest pledge of security and peace that could be given to imperial France under the present Napoleon and his heir.

THE EXPLORATION OF THE ISTHMUS OF DARIEN.

From the N. Y. Herald.

Our latest intelligence from the exploring expedition on the Isthmus of Darien is not satisfactory. It has been definitely ascertained that there is no practical route for a ship canal directly across the isthmus from Caledonia Bay to the Gulf of San Miguel. We do not, however, attach much value to this information, because previous explorations had demonstrated the impracticability of a direct route. But we must confess to some disappointment in the statement that the exploration of the Sassardi river is likely to result in the decision that there is no possible way by which a ship canal can be cut across the Isthmus of Darien, or, rather, from some point in Caledonia Bay to the Savana river. Thus far the explorations seem to have been carried on principally in a south-castern direction from Caledonia harbor, or Port Escosses, towards the river Chucunaque: but it does not appear as if the range of mountains, of which the Loma Deseada is the junction, has yet been thoroughly examined. The expedition by way of the Sassardi river is that on which we now place most dependence. Up to the time that the letter of our special correspondent left Caledonia Bay the reports from the party on this line were com-paratively favorable; at the same time it was hardly known whether the explorers had encountered the most formidable obstacles. Should this route prove impracticable, that from the Gulf of San Blas to the mouth of the river Bayamo, which empties in the Gulf of Panama, will be next explored, with, we trust, better success than the expedition has met in Caledonia harbor.

While Commander Selfridge is pushing his explorations the Colombian Senate is making itself ridiculous over the pending treaty be-tween our Government and Colombia. The principal fault in the Senators seems to be that which was said to apply to the Duteh-namely, "giving too little and asking too much." Certainly the terms of the treaty are as liberal as the Colombians ought to expect, and any demand for a larger sum of than that agreed upon in the treaty, or for further guarantees, will most assuredly be rejected by the United States. We have offered to sustain the entire expense of constructing the ship canal, and have gone as far as we possibly can towards making the treaty more advantageous to Colombia than to ourselves.

THE PROHIBITION PARTY IN OHIO. From the Cleveland Leader

The circular of the Ohio Prohibition party announces that their State Convention will be held in Columbus on Wednesday, the 1st of June, at which time there will be put in nomination a candidate for Secretary of State, Comptroller of the Treasury, a member of the Board of Public Works, and a Supreme Judge. It is hardly necessary to repeat at this time all that has been so often said concerning the work of the Prohibition party, Though founded upon a sentiment which must command universal respect, the real effect of the prohibition movement in politics has been directly in the interest of its enemies. By weakening the Republican vote, the proh-bitionists have given hundreds of important offices to the party whose opposition to excise and Sunday liquor laws is openly and unblushingly announced. As a political issue, prohibition has been thoroughly tested in Massachusetts, and has failed disastrously. For a time the anti-liquor men had full con trol of the State, but under their rule the evils of intemperance increased rather than diminished. The reform which turns the drunkard from his poison is a moral, not a political nor a legal process, and the attempt to define by law the power of man to decide what he shall eat or drink has been found a difficult and dangerous expedient. In Maine the prohibitionists have given up the fight, and consented to join issue again with the Republicans provided they will nominate sober, temperate men.

In New Hampshire the Temperance party has acted as a sort of political irritant, but it has attained its full strength and is now on the downward path. The prohibitory principle is not one upon which a successful political party can be founded or sustained, and it is unfortunate, for the good of Ohio, that our prohibitionists cannot see this. If. instead of insisting upon organizing a party of their own and going through the motions of nominating candidates who can never be elected, they should rejoin their strength to the party of progress and reform, the ends they seek to accomplish would be much more readily and securely reached. Their numbers and their respectability as well as the inherent justice of their cause would give them power to gradually lead Republicanism towards the results which they so earnestly covet. Their influence would be towards the nomination and election of temperate and progressive men, in whose hands the prohibitory laws already existing could be rigidly and impartially enforced. From all that experience would teach, we believe this to be the true policy of the prohibitionists. If, however, they regard the empty honor of nominating hopeless candidates and polling an insignificant vote at each succeeding election as preferable to a partial but secure success under the banner of Republicanism, it will, of course, be proper for them to proceed in the future as they have done in the past.

HENRY CLAY AND HORACE GREELEY. From the Cincinnati Gazette,

Horace Greeley celebrates the Tribune's thirtieth anniversary in connection with the birthday of Henry Clay, which came next day, by a glowing eulogy on "the Great Commoner whose genius, eloquence, patriotism, and statesmanship form one of the brightest pages in our national history," and, above all, who "was for forty years our leading champion of protection to home industry," and whose "words of wisdom remain to guide the counsels and animate the efforts of his countrymen." By this Mr. Greeley seeks to hitch the present destructive system to the name of Henry Clay. The crowning act of Henry Clay's championship of the cause of protection to American industry was the Tariff act of 1833, which provided for a graduated reduction of duties that exceeded twenty per cent., and for abolishing the free list, with the exception—as Mr. Davis, of Massachu-setts, said—of "an unimportant list of dye-stuffs," and for raising duties that were below twenty per cent., so that in a period of nine or ten years the tariff should be reduced to one universal horizontal duty of twenty per cent. Yet the Tribune tries to hitch to Mr. Clay's name a tariff that runs one hundred per cent. and upwards on articles of the most common necessity, and of the least skill in manufacture; that lays duties of from fifty to seventy-five per cent., meant to be prohibitory, vn articles that are the material of all other industry. And against any that advocate a moderate reduction of these duties that oppress industry, and that create monopolies by prohibition-a reduction that does not go half way to Mr. Clay's tariff, the Tribune raises the cry that they are advocates of British interests, and therefore are bought with British gold. Mr. Clay was the father of the tariff of 1833. The policy of it was the con-clusion of his own mind. He carried it by the force of his own energy. We have reason to conclude that inasmuch as Mr. Clay's doctrine of protection was always that it was a temporary need for our "infant manufac-tures," he believed that the time had come for gradually abandoning the protective system, and for reducing the tariff to a straight revenue duty of twenty per cent. on all inported articles.

Butler, who do not, however, make insolent advertisement of their delinquency, and use it as a means of parading their personal consequence. John Fox, of New York, has been spending much of his time in Albany, giving his assistance to the Young Democracy, when he should be attending to his duties in Congress. Judge Noah Davis is one of the counsel in the McFarland murder trial, and has not been in his seat for weeks. The list could be greatly extended, but these are the most flagrant instances of absenteeism. The evil demands remedy in the election of members who do esteem the business of the country of more importance than their private business, their pleasure, or their intrigues. In England, in the House of Commons, each party has its "whipper in," who sees that on all important questions there is a full attendauce of members. But in Congress, with an administration party having no fixed policy, and with an opposition having no organiza-tion, a whipper in would be of little service. After mustering his forces, he would frequently be dismayed by finding many of hem marching into the camp of the enemy In England there is some excuse for ab senteeism, in the fact that the members receive no pay for their services to the public. But our members of Congress have fixed their salaries at the snug sum of six thousand a year, with mileage, franking privilege, sta-tionery, newspapers, etc., with the additional opportunity of spending the summer vacations in junketing about the country on some rambling committee pretending to make investigations into one thing or another. They intrigue, cog and sweat to get possession o their seats, and having once obtained them, they should keep them long enough to transthe business entrusted to them, and act avoid the disgrace of appearing on the floor under the charge of the Sergeant-at-Arms.

THE CHARGE AGAINST SENATOR KERR. From the Lancaster Express.

The Examiner accepts the story of the Philadelphia Sunday papers about Senator Kerr as an established and undoubted fact, and wants to know what the *Express* has to and wants to know what the *Lapress* has to say about the exposure of one of its "pet lambs." In the first place, before positively making up our minds that the charge of bribery is true, as related, we would like some better proof than a newspaper article which does not furnish any authority for its statement. We would at least wait until there is time for Mr. Kerr to be heard from there is time for Mr. Kerr to be heard from and explain the suspicious circumstances before assuming as an unquestionable fac that he is guilty. We recollect that only if few weeks ago the *Examiner* published an editorial statement to the effect that the Legislature and Governor had been bribed to favor the Border Raid Claim bill, and that i would certainly become a law unless th people rose en masse and drove the whol party into the Susquehanna. Subsequen events seemed to prove that this was not case of bribery but of slander-that the Gov ernor and Legislature were innocent, bu that the Examiner was guilty of a gross an scandalous libel, and which, by the way, i has never yet retracted. How can we know at present whether there is any better groun for the charge of bribery against Mr. Ker than for the similar one against Geary an

the whole Legislature ? In the second place, the insinuation the Senator Kerr is or has been in any sense "pet" of the *Express* is as mean as it : groundless; for the Examiner must know the we have never uttered a word in his favor o given him any special endorsement whatever It is true that he voted against Mackey fo State Treasurer, and he has doubtless give nany other votes w

PROPOSALS.

NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILROAD.

Te Railroad Contractors.

Scaled Proposals will be received at the office of the NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY, No. 120 BROADWAY, corner of Cedar street, New York, until WEDNESDAY, the 1st day of June, 1570, at 12 o'clock Noon, for the Grading, Masonry, Bridging and Ballasting of that portion of the Northern Pacific Railroad in the State of Minnesota, extending from the Dalles of the St Louis River to the Red River, the western boundary of Minnesota (a distance of about 230 miles), including everything requisite to complete the road-bed for a single track, and necessary side tracks, ready to receive the rall superstructure. Proposals may be for the work in detail, or by the mile.

The said Company will also receive Proposals, at the same time and place, for the timber cross-ties. and for the iron ralls, spikes, and fixtures for the road as above. The iron rails to be delivered on the dock at Duluth, Minnesota, or at the crossing of the Mississippi River, and the ties to be received according to blank forms which will be ready for distribution on WEDNESDAY, May 4, 1870, at the office of the Company, as above, where plans of the structures, and maps and profiles of the road, with full specifications, can then be seen, and the time allowed for completion of the contracts made known. The Company reservo the right to reject any or al: bids not deemed to be for the interest of the Company. Printed circulars containing full information will be furnished on application, by mail or otherwise, to EDWIN F. JOHNSON, Chief Engineer, or to the President of the Company, at the office, No. 120 BROADWAY, as above.

J. GREGORY SMITH,

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PANEL PLANK, ALL THICKNESSES.--I COMMON PLANK, ALL THICKNESSES.--I COMMON BOARDS. I and ISIDE FINCE BOARDS. WHITE FINE FLOORING BOARDS. YELLOW AND SAP PINE FLOORINGS. 1% and 0%. SPRUCE JOIST, ALL SIZES. HEMLOCK JOIST, ALL SIZES. PLASTERING LATH A SPECIALTY. Together with a general assortment of Building Lember for sale low for cash. HITEENTH and STILES Streets.

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JOURNALISTIC COURTESY. From the N. Y. Tribune.

A man is on trial for his life in our city, and no considerate person will say anything calculated to prejudice his case. He is entitled to a fair, impartial hearing and a righteous verdict, utterly unaffected by newspaper comment or popular passion. And even the conduct of his counsel, in so far as it mainly affects their client, is to be judged leniently, with a very considerable allowance for the exigencies of their position.

But the victim of the homicide in question was connected with the Tribune, and had repeatedly been its valued correspondent. Though he had written little for our columns since he was captured by the Rebels at Vicksburg, seven years ago, he was still identified with our journal, and might have been recalled into its service at some future day but for his taking off.

With regard to this trial we have never had but one wish-that the whole truth should be developed. Whatever that truth may be, we ask that it be now set forth. Our knowledge of the deceased makes us slow to believe that he ever acted the base part which has been attributed to him; but, when all the facts shall have been elicited, our judgment will be conformed to their dictates. For the present, we rest in a strong conviction that the whole truth has not yet been made known.

The public is fully aware that this case has been made the foundation of a systematic, concerted attack on the Tribune-that the strong interest taken in it by many is mainly impelled by their hope that it may be wielded to our injury. We speak of facts of the widest notoriety—facts which are a part of the public annals of the day. Some of the attacks upon us take the form of innuendo and sly suggestion; others are gross and scandalous: but we do not care to give im-portance to our distant traducers when, just opposite our door, a journal is found reckless and shameless enough to assert that

"The New York Tribune has a decided tendency towards free-loviam, says the Indianapolis Sentinel. Of course it has. The Tribune is the daily organ of the free-love philosophy."-N. Y. Times.

Non this extract is either the truth or a ie-on the part of the New York limes, a littles. It is not for the prople of this Re-

After a brief interval of forcible repression. thus does the Fenian gunpowder fizzle itself in squibs. The time of action has gone by, The time of talking has come. The fierce beaver and the savage muskrat of "the Winnipeg region" may rest in security and the aldermen of Toronto sleep undisturbed; for the house of their Fenian foes is divided against itself.

hood.

NAPOLEON'S APPEAL TO FRANCE. From the N. Y. Journal of Commerce.

Napoleon's address to the French people submitting the plebiscite to their vote, is frank, bold, and confident. Men may criticise the Emperor as they will, but they can not deny that, in his recent liberal policy and in the issuing of this appeal to the nation, he has shown wisdom, candor, and strength. Notwithstanding all the strong points that have been made by his domestic and foreign censors against him, we have seen a vast majority of Frenchmen giving him their beartiest support and aid for the eventful period of eighteen years comprised in the history of the second empire. We are right in taking for granted that his rule is, on the whole, well suited to the temper and tastes of the French people; and, as they are the best judges of what they want, it seems impertinent for English and American writers to be continually abusing them for not dethroning their Emperor and establishing an Orleans monarchy or a republic. The vote to be taken on the 5th of May-should it be as decidedly as the votes of former years in favor of the Napoleonic regime-ought to stop the stream of partial and censorious criticism which has been so long directed against the Emperor and his dynasty. A ratification of his past course, a pledge of continued confi-dence and a vow of fidelity to his son, when he in turn becomes Emperor, are among the issues directly or indirectly at stake in the vote upon the *plebiscite*. Did Napoleon not feel perfectly secure in asking the nation to indorse thus fully himself and his dynasty, he would not have risked his all upon the experiment. It will, therefore, be a great surprise to us if the nation, by a vote hardly less significant than that cast on former occasions, does not reply "yes" to his manly appeal. It is said that the Legitimists will vote "no," and that the radical republicans of the Hugo and Blanc school and members of the secret trade societies will do likewise, or abstain from appearing at the polls; but all these disaffected parties will probably make but a small show com-pared to the other side. The Imperial Government promises that the people shall enjoy the broadest latitude of discussion and action preparatory to the election, consistent with law an? order; and there is nothing to rouse a suspicion that the election will not be as fairly conducted (and that is not saving (on much) as elections now are in the United

THE GEORGIA KNOT.

From the Missouri Republican, Washington telegrams indicate that the people of Georgia, with great unanimity, are expressing a decided preference for the rule of bayonet rather than the rule of Bullock, and are very willing to endure the embarrassments of military government until December, if then they can have a chance to elect a new Legislature, and partially rid themselves of the corrupt ring of speculators and scalawags who now hold power in that State.

The inhabitants of this much reconstructed Commonwealth have learned wisdom by a deal of sharp and painful experience, and understand that, however humiliating the situation may be, their lives, liberties, and property are infinitely safer under the administration of General Terry than they possibly can be if left to the exclusive control of Governor Bullock and his hungry satellites. Therefore it is that they hail the Senate bill, harsh though its provisions are, as a positive blessing, and beg for its adoption. But, according to report, the President is so strongly opposed to the measure as it now stands that, should the House ratify the action of the Senate, he would probably interpose a veto. Nor does any one seem to know exactly what the President does want to do with Georgia, except that it is intimated he favors the Ingersoll bill, which provides for the admission of the Georgia Congressional delegation at once, and permits the people to elect a new Legislature in November. Whether the Terry or Bullock dynasty will dominate until then is not stated, but it cannot surely be contemplated to treat the State as a military province on the one hand and as an integral portion of the Federal Union on the other. Such a burlesque would be too ponderous even for radical consciences to tolerate. We do not blame President Grant for his anxiety to close up the reconstruction business and have done with it forever, and he may rest assured that the country is quite as anxious to witness this consummation as he himself possibly can be But let us, by all means, have some guarantee that the work, when ended, is not to be reopened next week, next month, or next year. Five years have been spent in legislating the seceded States back into the places they ence vacated, and the nation, North and South, has been kept in turmoil, money wasted and business impeded simply to gratify the fanatical prejudices of radical politicians who will not have peace at any price. Whatever may be the errors and shortcomings of President Grant, we know that he has sufficient will and energy to accomplish almost any task, however arduous. We know, too, that he still retains a large share of the confidence and affection of his party, and now, above all other, is the time to combine these potent elements for the good of the country and the perpetuity of his own fame. If, with the Georgia bill as a text, he can offer some plan which will make the present phase of reconstruction a finality, so far as further interference by Congress is concerned, he will not only prove true to the pledge of "Let us have pence," but receive a full measure of popular gratitude.

ABSENTEEISM IN CONGRESS. From the Harrisburg Patriot.

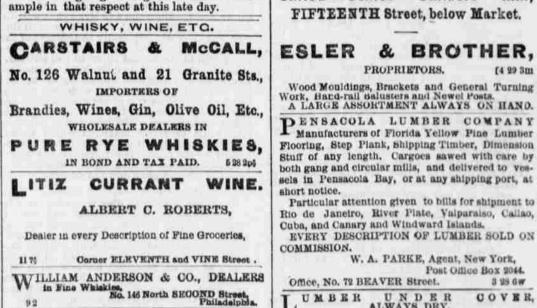
On the most important debates it is becoming frequently impossible to obtain a quorum in Congress, unless the Sergeant-at-Arms arrest a sufficient number of delinquent members. A few days ago, when the tariff was under consideration, that official was compelled to make numerous arrests to secure attendance, and the remainder of the session was consumed in receiving excuses and in imposing ten dollar fines on the absentees. The people are growing disgusted with this trifling with the most important public concerns, and will hereafter be apt to seek representatives in such persons as are willing to sacrifice their private affairs for their public duties.

Pending the Georgia bill, Ben Butler has gone off to Massachusetts, to be absent until the 5th of May. Before starting he obtained a written promise from his colleagues on the Committee on Reconstruction that the question should not be brought before the House until his return. Thus is the most important public business, the admission of a State to representation in Congress, delayed for weeks to accommodate an absentee member. But why should Farnsworth and Payne and other members of the committee enter into such an agreement? Cannot the business of Congress proceed in the absence of the hero of Dutch Gap? The insolence of the man is shown in this. He constantly chooses occasions for dramatic display, and with his reap pearance on the floor of Congress will bring forward the Georgia bill, which the public must know was postponed merely for his personal convenience. He would have the nation understand that legislation in Congress must be suspended during his absence at Lowell.

There are very many absentees besides

the Examiner and all other Republicans can approve, but it will hardly be contended that this makes the *Express*, any more than the Examiner, responsible for any and every dishonest act he may have subsequently committed.

Let it be once established on evidence entitled to credit that this charge of the Sunday papers is true, and our readers will not have to wait long before knowing what opinion the Express has upon the subject. We have not been accustomed to dealing out or withholding censure and condemnation against public officers who prove dishonest and false, according as they profess to belong to our party or otherwise, or to this or that subdivision, and our neighbor may depend upon it that we are not going to begin to follow his ex-



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