SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

WANTED, A REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE FOR THE PRESIDENCY.

From the N. Y. Sun. As long as George H. Thomas was alive, the Republicans had a sure candidate for the election of 1872. No other man could have beaten him. The masses of the people were for him: the radicals honored and trusted him, and the conservatives would have rallied around him with enthusiasm. His nomination would have been equivalent to his election.

Since the death of this great man the bewildered leaders of the Republican party have been vainly scanning the roll of their Presidential aspirants for a name to fill the place made void by the fall of Thomas. The list has become hackneyed and stale, and bears the name of no statesman who has any such hold upon the confidence of the people as the crisis demands. Some shallow politicians believe that Grant will be taken; but no disinterested person with sense in his noddle supposes that Grant can be available. General Grant himself, of course, does not think anything is the matter with his prospects: and what dispenser of patronage, breathing the incense of adulation, ever could be made to see that his role was played out, till the fall of the remorseless curtain that shut out all hope for the future? Franklin Pierce, rather a shrewd politician, and not over sanguine, could not be made to believe that the Democracy were not going to renominate him until the telegraph told him that his vote in the Cincinnati Convention had dwindled down to 41. The flattery of office-holders and office-beggars has addled brains a great deal larger and clearer than Grant's.

In this condition of affairs a singular change is coming over the minds of the more intelligent and prudent members of the Republican party. They are turning their eyes back to their ancient champion, Salmon P. Chase! For a year or two past Chief Justice Chase has been counted as a Democrat. In the impeachment of Andrew Johnson he broke with the extreme radicals, and thereby did the Republican party a service which all sensible men among them will now acknowledge. But this does not constitute the reason why thoughtful Republicans are led to inquire whether it would not be better to make friends with Judge Chase once again, with a view to running him for President in 1872. The fact is that on the essential doctrine of Republicanism, as it stands to-day, there is no man in the country sounder than Judge Chase. He is a Republican, and not a Democrat. We mean, of course, the great principle of universal suffrage as set forth in the fifteenth amendment. Opposition to that principle a considerable body of clamorous, stupid old Bourbons, who have nicknamed themselves Democrats, propose to make the main issue in the next Presidential campaign: and who so fit to lead the Republicans in such a fight as Salmon P. Chase?

But even this does not constitute the most powerful among the motives which are leading so many intelligent Republicans to look to the Chief Justice as a possible candidate for 1872. The great reason is that Judge Chase can certainly be elected. This renders the movement we are speaking of one of the most interesting ever developed in our political history. It may not result in the actual nomination of the Chief Justice by the Republican party, because there are plenty of Bourbons in that organization as well as among the Democracy. But it affords a most impressive illustration of the present rather chaotic state of politics among us, and of the scarcity of commanding talent and popular availability, that any number of Republicans should perceive that they cannot possibly be so safe with any other candidate as with the Chief Justice.

PAREPA-ROSA AND THE CHICAGO ORPHANS.

From the Cleveland Leader.

The Chicago papers seem quite out of humor with Madame Parepa-Rosa because that lady recently declined to sing in opera for the benefit of an orphan asylum in that city. Mr. Hess, her agent, explained, upon conveying the refusal, that Madame Rosa was hoarse and overworked, and that though she felt very kindly toward Chicago, she was at present compelled to decline. At this the papers have very ill-naturedly reminded Parepa of the fine audiences which Chicago has always turned out to listen to her, and suggests that gratitude for such earnest appreciation should have taught the great cantatrice to have yielded to so slight a request. None of these malcontents seem to remember that if Parepa has enjoyed large audiences everywhere, she has given more as an equivalent than any singer Chicago has ever heard. The Garden City is not given to investing its currency lavishly without tolerably certain prospects of a profitable re-turn, and this principle obtains in music as well as bank stock and real estate. While, therefore, it would have been a gracious act for Madame Rosa to have sung for the or-phans, it was a matter in which she was fully entitled to act her own pleasure without being abused for it. Chicago has no better right to blackmail a singer or an actor than Republican election committees have to demand of their local newspapers unlimited free printing and advertising on the ground that Republi cans are the leading subscribers to those papers. Just as every good newspaper gives to its subscriber his money's worth, so Parepa gives a full equivalent to the audiences who buy seats at her entertainment. If the newspaper sees fit to advertise, or the cantatrice to sing, for charitable purposes, that is their own affair. In either case, it is a free gift which no one has a right to abuse them for giving or not giving.

WANTED-A POLICY.

From the Baltimore American. With Andrew Johnson expired the policy That "humble of modern Democracy. That "humble individual" had one, but it failed to secure from loss those who took a lien upon it-but it is hardly generous to revive such recollections. At present our good Democratic brethren are sorely posed. They want something to insure them, and a risk on the life of the party is what no company, not even one of the buckram, curbstone new ones. who will do almost anything for the sake of business, will take. As for one against five, there is a conviction that too much whiskey lies around loose for risk, and an accidental is out of the question. As for a marine policy, none is ever taken on Salt river

craft. Seriously, it is to-day the most woe-begone specimen of a party that has ever stood be-fore the public. It is muddled about finance. Its leaders would like to write "repudiation," but dare not, for they know the temper of the men who must furnish the money for their next campaign will not endure that. speed for all trains, to prevent danger of themselves and their struggling sisters, we

They know also that the taxation of United States bonds involves the same deadly peril. Tax the bonds of Belmont, Tweed, Hoffman & Co., and who will pay for the drinks in November, 1872? And without drinks-but the possible contingency is frightful. It is almost as bad about the tariff. There is absolutely a hesitation about using the old war-cry of

But the saddest muddle is the fifteenth amendment! It is confusing to a degree-indeed, to several degrees. "Negro" cannot be spelled with "2 gs," and how else can they spell it? Is not that the ripe, traditional nethod? Was it not the orthography of good old times, when they sold well and constituted the assets? Was it not the orthography of those conservators of the social status-auctioneers of men, and women, and babies? How give up that good old ripe—not to say

rotten-method? Next to the question of "g" or "gg" is Harris. Never, since the candle of Sairy Gamp went out, was there such a bother over the name Harris as there is this day in Maryland. He is now believed to have been the "husband's brother" of Sairy's devoted friend whom she describes as "marked with a mad bull in Wellington boots on his left arm. And the mad bull is rampant. It is also believed there was a double "g" tattooed at the same time, for Sairy's husband said "Harris had it done afore marriage at ten and six, and wore it faithful next to his heart, until the color run, when the money was declined to be give back, and no agreement could be come to." What shall be done with Harris? If he is not to be sent to Congress, the true, staunch Democracy bolt. With them it is "2 gs and Harris," or nothing. If sent, the Conservatives, once sold and once betrayed, are outraged. For them Harris sings no Swan-like notes. Harris is a representative man, and as Harris is dealt with, so are representative men and representative questions disposed of by the ancient Democracy, which picturesquely stands with its back to the future and its face to the past. The American must come to Harris' aid; and does so, expecting, of course, his gratitude. It would say confidentially to its many Democratic readers:-Better take Harris. He is a thorough "2g" man. His position is clearly defined. Then you owe it to him. You know how and where he stood during the 'late onpleasantness," and it will be ungrateful to cast him overboard. Besides that, it will be more moral. It will be understood that the effort to secure the colored voter by bad whisky is abandoned. Better take Harris. It will be equivalent to giving up the contest, and, though it will savor somewhat of a retreat with colors afloat, will yet leave the ground clear. By all means, Harris. It shows the "dispogician" to be ugly, but will amount to nothing, which will secure consistency and harmlessness.

To come back to "Policy," from which a diversion was made by Harris-who, by the way, is just now the most diverting man in the country—we urge the early adoption of a policy on this subject. We very well know that Democracy is not so blind as to mean armed resistance to the fifteenth amendment. But is it meant to defeat its operation by strategic foils? To prevent registration? Is it meant to set it aside by judicial decisions? Is it meant to carry, for instance, Maryland, by the aid of promises made to colored voters, and then seek the rescinding of the amendment and the remanding of the colored voter to vassalage, if not slavery?

In brief, up to the proclamation of the President, the entire Democratic party stood in avowed hostility to the amendment, and did its utmost to prevent its ratification. Does it occupy the same ground to-day? Colored voters, no more than white ones, can be driven with bandaged eyes.

We are approaching a Congressional election. It is time to learn where the parties agree and where they differ. The attitude of the Republican party is known. It needs no declaration of its purpose to carry out in good faith the intent of the fifteenth amendment. That is as well known as its unfaltering determination to pay off the national debt. How stand our Democratic friends?

The experience of 1864 and 1868 ought to convince them that facing one way and rowing another don't pay at a time when the public conscience is sensitive as to its solemnly incurred obligations and manifest duties. Such a time is now and we serve the best interests of the once great and powerful Democratic party by asking a full and explicit avowal of its policy concerning the fifteenth amendment.

THE FUTURE OF RAILROADS. From the N. Y. World.

Governor Palmer, of Illinois, in a letter to the convention of farmers recently held at Bloomington, in that State, suggests a method by which the carrying business of railroads may be thrown open to the largest competition, without detriment to the company, and to the great benefit of the producer. This letter the Chicago Tribune quotes, with extended and favorable comment. The Governor's plan is not new-in fact it is identical with that advocated by the late Luman Sherwood, who died in this city a little more than a year ago. It may be briefly stated thus: There is no necessary connection between the ownership and management of a railroad and the business of a common carrier, and the same principles may be made to apply in its management which regulate the business of the turnpike and the canal. Railroad tracks may be converted "into common highways upon which all competing parties who choose may put and run their rolling stock, at such prices as they choose," paying the company for the use of the road and the motive power, thus giving rise to competition between the common carriers on the same road, in addition to the competition between the different roads.

Illustrations of this system are not wanting. The various express companies and the proprietors of sleeping and drawing-room cars put on their own stock and maintain it at their own cost, paying the road only for the use of the track and the locomotives. On the street railroads in some cities, and for short distances at various points in this city, two or more companies run their cars on the same track, thus creating competition, greatly conducive to the comfort and convenience of the travelling public. On some of the railroads in Pennsylvania the merchants doing business in the towns along the line have their own freight cars, which are switched off en to side tracks leading into their warehouses. The plan of the Illinois Governor would give to this system the broadest application, by compelling the rail-roads to admit all freight cars and coaches on terms equally favorable—applying strictly the principle of the common law now applicable

to tampikes, ferries, etc.

The general adoption of this suggestion would doubtless create an entire revolution in the freighting business of the country, necessitating many minor changes in the management of railroads. The most obvious requirement would be a uniform rate of

accidents which would arise from the largely | hope they will do so now. There has been increased traffic. This, in time, would lead | an effort made to discourage them on the to the multiplication of tracks, so that rapid express and lumbering freight and cattle trains might go safely and securely over the same road, neither interfering with the business or the safety of the other.

A VERY IMPARTIAL MAN.

From the N. Y. Times. Mr. Oliver Johnson, a writer in that peculiarly "religious" paper, the Independent, testified on Thursday, on oath, that he contributed one or two paragraphs to the Independent on the subject of the McFarland case a few days after the shooting occurred. He swore that those articles were not intended to take any particular side. Now let us test this statement

In the Independent of December 9 there is a long article full of denunciations of McFarland, and apologies for his wife and Richardson. The shooting was spoken of as a murder "perpetrated in cold blood. It bears all the deliberate evidences of malice aforethought. It was the fulfilment of a longharbored revenge," with much more to the same effect. Is this what Mr. Johnson calls 'taking neither side?" To most men it will seem like pronouncing a positive decision on every important issue in the case.

The week following the assassination a long paragraph appeared in the Independent, in which Mr. Richardson was described as a "high-toned, honorable man," while of McFarland the writer said, "he must be regarded simply as a murderer, and should be dealt with accordingly." Is this what Mr. Oliver Johnson means by "taking neither side?" In the same article McFarland was called a "bloody-minded man;" and yet Mr. Oliver Johnson states on his oath that he was a friend of McFarland's, and did not write to prejudice the case. A letter of Mr. Oliver Johnson's was put in evidence, in which he applied to Mrs. McFarland language which, in Holy Writ, is used to describe the Redeemer of mankind. Is this what people expect from a "religious" writer, or from a paper which wears the cloak of religion, and under that disguise endeavors to do a stroke of business by puffing off bubble speculations?

Is it not clear from the above extracts that Mr. Oliver Johnson, or the Independent, or both, strove in every way before the present trial began to prejudge the case of McFar-land, and to hunt him down at all costs? Said the Sun the other day, "If the editor of the Independent is anxious to get at the true and honest sentiment of this community, let him pin the name of his paper on the front of his hat, and be about the court house." That advice will not be taken during the present trial.

SCANDALIZING RELIGION.

From the N. Y. Commercial Advertiser. We submit that it is about time for the New York Independent to throw off the garb surrounding it, and show its true colors. To speak plainly, it has played the "religious dodge" long enough. Here is a journal which, claiming to be a religious guide to point sinners to the straight and narrow road, disseminates the most pernicious doctrines and scandalizes the cause of Christ. Under the disguise of piety, this sheet openly advocates the abrogation of the marriage ties, and the union of "affinities," inserts advertisements which would be refused by a respectable secular paper, indulges in disgusting wood-cuts, encourages "free thinking" in the worst acceptation of the term, and in various other ways seeks to break down the barriers of religion and morality, and to hasten the coming of an era of unbridled license. It is emphatically a "religious paper," with religion left out, grasping the horns of the altar with one hand and stretching forth the other to the temple of the money changers. What kind of men are associated in the conduct of this sheet may be inferred from the following letter, written by one of them to Mrs. McFarland, and read in court last Friday:-

"INDEPENDENT OFFICE, NEW YORK, Aug. 29, 1866.— My Dear Mrs. McFarland:—Pardon me! I have been at home for more than a week, and my promise to send you the hard-shell sermons has not been ful-filled. You will find them, however, in the same envelope with this note, and I trust they will be blessed to your spiritual comfort and edification. They have been the means of converting a great many sinners, of whom you are the chief among ten thousand, and the one altogether lovely, and of such is the kingdom of Heaven!

We here have the managing editor of a self-proclaimed religious paper indulging in the most blasphemous language, and applying to a woman who was heartless, if nothing more, the scriptural term applied to Christ. We having nothing to do with the religious tenets of any one. We protest, however, against men who boldly disavow their belief in the holy writ claiming to edit religious journals, and, under this guise, corrupting the foundations of morality and religion. We protest against men planting themselves upon the watch-towers of Zion to make themselves conspicuous, and not Him whom yeindeed do not worship. We protest against men setting themselves up before the public as teachers and trainers whe privately ridicule religion and amuse infidel social gatherings by delivering mock prayers upon the bended knee.

The Independent can say whatever seemeth best to it, and resort to all manner of claptrap for increasing its revenues. That is its own business. When, however, the Independent claims patronage and support as a religious journal, it obtains money under false pretenses, and deserves public condemnation for so doing.

SHALL WOMEN ATTEND CLINICS?

From the N. Y. Tribune. We are all the more concerned for the result of the election at the Pennsylvania Hospital to-day, in which the right of women students of medicine to be present at the clinical lectures of that institution is to be determined, since there is just reason for serious fear that their banishment from the clinics there will be followed by their exclusion from Bellevue and other hospitals throughout the country. This would be a deplorable result in every aspect in which we may view it. The issue is of importance not merely to the young ladies who demand the right to the most comprehensive instruction in the profession they have chosen, but to society, whose security in large degree de-pends on the thoroughness of the medical education which is sought. There is cause to be glad, for this latter reason, that society and not the medical fraternity will be called upon to decide the question at the Philadelphia election. As we are informed, the contributors to the Pennsylvania Hospital who are to vote on the issue are largely mothers and their children. Any person contributing the sum of thirty dollars to the hospital is entitled to a vote for life in the election of its managers and the decision of questions like the one in issue. Many parents have made contributions in the names of children still minors, but these, we are told, are entitled to vote, and we hope will vote in the interests of society for the admission of women to clinics. The lady contributors have never heretofore voted at all, but for the sake of

foolish ground that for them to vote will give color to the charge that the managers are encouraging "Women's Rights." We are not ourselves ardent admirers of the class of ladies who have been prominent agitators for what are misnamed "women's rights," but we are heartily in favor of giving each and every one of the sex every opportunity for acquiring an education that makes her an independent, useful member of society, and a positive, not mere negative advocate and agent of social reform and advancement. After all that is said, the real issue involved in this election is simply whether or not women shall have a larger liberty to do good, and that they may be so far enfran-chised ought to be the wish of every true man and woman. There is little doubt that the medical practitioners who oppose the admission of women to the clinics will take advantage at the Philadelphia election of the votes of their children, and perhaps their wives. Let the women and children who favor the admission of women students see that their votes are not uncounted on the other side. And since they cannot vote by proxy, let them be sure to attend the election

We have examined with care two pamphlets put forth anonymously in the interest of those who oppose the admission of the women, and have searched them in vain for a plausible argument. There are many misstatements of facts, evident to the most casual reader. Beyond certain weak efforts at satire, in which neither wit nor point is apparent, and a great deal of abuse of the Quaker gentlemen who have long managed and largely supported the Pennsylvania Hospital, we can find nothing that deserves to be stated or is worthy of reply. Very few of the large-minded persons who were wise enough to direct their charity to the noble purpose of supporting such an institution as the Pennsylvania Hespital will be deceived by the specious reasoning of these pamphlets.

We published on Saturday a second communication from "A Mother" on this subject, It is a strong argument in favor of admitting women to clinical lectures that, in time, their presence will redeem those scenes from much that is indecent and disgraceful. The ribaldry and profanity on the part of male students, and the display of heartlessness by the pro-fessors, are often far more degrading than can possibly be the exposure of the human form. It would be a gross slander on our men's nature to believe that the presence of women on such occasions will not after a time curb this wanton and wicked spirit.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

AT THE PILGRIM YOU CAN BUY "Pilgrim's Progress," 10 cents; also, "The Golden Stairs," and "My Bud in Heaven," as sung by Mr. and Mrs. Hayes. OFFICE OF THE LEHIGH COAL AND

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The Stated Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the LEHIGH COAL AND NAVIGATION COMPANY will be held at the Rooms of the Board of Trade, CHESNUT above Fifth street, north side, on TUESDAY, the 3d day of May next, at 10% o'clock A. M; after which an election will be held for President and Board of Managers to serve

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Statement of the Assets. First Mortgages on City Property..... United States Government and other Loan Cash in Bank and Office.

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