

SPRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

THE CASE OF WHITTEMORE.

From the N. Y. World. The re-election of Whittemore by a heavy majority brings up two questions of very unequal interest. The first and minor question relates to his reception by the House which pronounced him unfit for a seat, and would have expelled him if he had not, like the snake in St. Patrick's time, "committed suicide to save himself from slaughter."

The other and more important question has reference to the fitness of a negro constituency to make a creditable use of the elective franchise.

The mere parliamentary question has no great popular interest. We incline to think that Whittemore will be admitted, and that on the whole, he ought to be admitted to his seat. His exclusion would set a bad precedent; a precedent all the more dangerous from the fact that he would be rejected by a Congress controlled by his own political party.

We should be sorry to see it established as a principle of parliamentary law that an expelled member can be a second time excluded if he has been re-elected by the voters of his district. There is no conceivable limit to the abuses which might be perpetrated under color of such a principle. It might easily be pushed to such an extent as to make the will of a party majority of the House supreme over the choice of any Congressional constituency, and enable a political faction to maintain itself in power in defiance of the people.

If an expelled member's constituents condone his offense, it is safer to give him a new trial, and let his place depend upon his subsequent conduct, than to incur the risk of subordinating the will of the people to the caprice of a partisan majority in the House. It is doubtless a bad thing to have a district represented by an unworthy or an infamous member. But it would be a worse thing to deprive the people of their freedom of choice in the election of their representatives.

We do not recollect any previous instance of the re-election of a member who had been expelled (Whittemore's retirement was equivalent to an expulsion) for a scandalous breach of trust. It is only a negro constituency that could be so wanting in self-respect. But after admitting negroes to the suffrage, we must accept the legitimate consequences of the experiment. All the Congressional constituencies must stand on the same level, and are entitled to the same rights. If a white constituency should return an expelled member, their right to choose their representatives ought to be respected, and until he has committed some new offense, he should be received in deference to his constituents. So far as we are aware, this principle has always been recognized.

In the debate on the expulsion of Lyon, one of the speakers remarked, "In order to get rid of these reproaches, he hoped all parties would unite in expelling these members. If their constituents choose to send them back, he hoped no member would associate with or take notice of them." Which clearly implied that the House had no power to exclude them from their seats if they should be re-elected after expulsion. In the debate on the proposed expulsion of Lyon, the next year, Mr. Bayard, of Delaware, one of the ablest members of the body, made remarks which conveyed the same implication. Lyon, whose term had not expired, had been sentenced by a court, and during his imprisonment had been elected for the next Congressional term; and his friends argued that if the people of Vermont chose to have him for their representative nobody had a right to object. Mr. Bayard's reply admitted that his re-election entitled him to his seat for the next term if he should be expelled for the residue of the unexpired term. He said that a member was not re-elected to the present Congress, nor was any return made of his re-election to the next. A line of remark which clearly implies that a re-election for the same term would operate as a condonation of his offense.

selves to be outdone in the arts by which ignorant voters are controlled. In the greater part of the South, the whites are a majority, and in such districts they can be neither outvoted nor outmaneuvered.

THE TAX BILL AND FINANCIAL QUESTIONS BEFORE CONGRESS.

From the N. Y. Herald. At last Congress has begun to work earnestly at the different measures relating to taxation, funding the national debt, the currency, and other money questions. One or the other of these questions is up every day and pretty fully discussed. Still they are in such a state of chaos, there is such a wide difference of opinion about them, and the two houses have for the most part such separate and conflicting bills, that we cannot yet see what shape legislation will ultimately take. A great part of the session has been wasted on these measures. There is not time now for any such comprehensive legislation on them as the country needs, and there does not appear to be the statesmanlike ability in Congress for that. We must be contented, therefore, with the best that we can get.

The Funding bill reported by General Schenck from the Committee of Ways and Means differs from the Senate bill, and has been a good deal modified since it was first introduced and went to the committee. It provides for funding a thousand millions of the debt at the uniform rate of four per cent. interest. The new bonds or consols will have thirty years to run, and it is believed by Mr. Schenck that the holders of the five-twenties and capitalists will be willing to exchange their securities or to purchase the new ones at par. It is thought that the difference in interest between the expiring or short-time issue per cent, and the new four per cent will find a compensation in the increased value of the thirty-year bonds. Then, with a view to bringing them to par value, it is proposed to exempt the new securities from all taxation, and to cease paying interest on the old securities as they become due, unless the holders surrender them to the Government at their par value. It has to be seen how far the holders of the five-twenties will voluntarily change them for the thirty-year bonds. The reduction of one-third the interest makes a great difference. But as the five-twenties fall due the holders of them will be compelled either to take the new four per cent, or payment in money for their bonds at par value. This is perfectly fair on the part of the Government, and, indeed, liberal, considering that the bonds, which did not cost over fifty or sixty per cent, in currency, are to be redeemed in gold. It is questionable, however, as was said before, if the bondholders will take the four per cent, at par, and in that case there is reason to fear the Government will not be able to find the gold to redeem such a vast amount of securities. Would it not have been better, as the Committee of Ways and Means have gone far in proposing to reduce the interest, to have adopted the more simple plan of changing the whole debt into consols bearing 3 3/8 per cent. interest, and to have made them convertible into money and reconventible at the option of the holder?

Some of the other features of the Funding bill are good enough. Authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to use the gold in his vaults to buy up and cancel the six per cent. debt, and providing for the cancellation of the debt already purchased, are proper provisions. It is doubtful, however, if the clause constituting the Treasury a sort of gigantic bank of deposit is either sound in theory or can be practically carried out. This would make the Treasury Department what it was never intended to be, would complicate its business very much, and would be a doubtful and dangerous experiment. Then, how is it that nothing is said about the national banks being required to take the new four per cent. securities in this bill? It was proposed that the banks should be required to take the new bonds to deposit as security for their circulation. This would absorb three hundred millions of them, at least. Why are the banks thus favored? Have the national bank interests and lobby proved more powerful than the Committee of Ways and Means or than Congress? The whole interest on the securities deposited by the banks is clear profit and a clear gift from the Government; for they get the profits from the currency supplied by the Government, and surely they ought to assist in funding the debt at a lower rate of interest.

The bill reducing taxation, which was fought so desperately by the high tariff men, is one of the best measures of the session. But it has yet to run the gauntlet of the Senate. The reduction is on many articles of prime necessity, and to the estimated amount of about fifty millions a year. There might have been a greater reduction of taxes; for the revenue of the country would have borne that, and a large surplus income only leads to extravagance and corruption; but this is a step in the right direction. There is no time now to remodel the present session on tax and revenue system, and we may be thankful for the best we can get. Still the whole system is complicated and far too costly. We ought to raise a sufficient income from a few articles of luxury and general consumption, as England does, and this would reduce the army of office-holders and the cost of collection. One of the best propositions that has been made in Congress on financial and currency matters was that of Mr. Randall on Tuesday to issue legal tender notes in place of the national bank currency. This would save eighteen millions in gold a year to the Treasury and give the country a uniform and perfectly reliable circulating medium. But whatever Congress is going to do with regard to these various measures relative to the taxation, finances, and currency of the country should be done at once. While they are pending business is suspended to a great extent. People are unwilling to do anything while the future is uncertain. Let us have some decision soon, so that trade, commerce, and business generally may follow their usual course, and that the people may know what lies before them.

SOUTHERN LITERATURE.

From the N. Y. Tribune. Can anybody tell us what is "The Poesque"? Of Poe, per se, most of the old habits of newspaper offices in New York have a very distinct remembrance an exceedingly seedy, ill-conditioned individual, who wrote, when sober, some genuine poetry, and when drunk a good deal of labored trash. The few real poems are there to speak for themselves; unhealthy and powerful as some poisonous growth, yet giving evidence of a unique, absolute genius, both tempting and impossible for any more talent to counterfeit. Lately, however, he has gone up among the gods of the South. Every new aspirant for literary honors, below Mason and Dixon's line, is now approved or condemned as Poesque or non-Poesque. The new adjective troubles us. If to be Poesque means that these people are out of money, and out at elbows, trying to make their daily bread or morning bitters by scribbling verses or stanzas upon men who befriended them, the case

is lamentable enough; but if it means that the mob of gentlemen and ladies who write with such alarming ease in the South all design to draw their inspiration from "the scoria rivers that roll their sulphurous currents down Yankee," the state of affairs is appalling and must be looked at once. The Wertherian and Byronian epidemics in our fathers' days were disastrous; but what are we to do if the Southern school girls and boys, instead of going into well-conducted offices or shops, permanently abandon themselves to "the mad pride of intellectuality," or to wandering down ghoul-haunted woodlands with Psyche their soul?

Such a catastrophe really seems imminent. A crop of novelists, poets, and essayists has sprung up in the South since the war thick as an unwholesome dew. There is, too, a constant boastful attempt to parade and thrust them en masse upon our notice. The latest compilation contains two hundred and forty writers, all living, and with the great majority of them Poe's poems seem actually to have constituted the sole literature with which they were acquainted. The compilation is worth attention, as it gives very fairly an insight into the present intellectual condition of the South as developed in literature. The editor indulges, from profane to flimsy, in a perpetual cascade of epithets. He marshals his host, from Mrs. Southworth to the shallow fledgling who has chirped feebly once or twice in the county newspaper, as the immortals at whose coming the ancient masters, Greek as well as English, will hasten to yield their long-held thrones. When we know that this Mrs. Southworth and the author of St. Elmo (as the "De Stael of America") lead this troop, we can have a very fair conception of their rank and quality.

There is something pitiable to us in all this. We cannot weigh the proud display of "keen satires written by young ladies as graduating odes," at the wild confusion of "scintillating gleams—zephyrs freighted with perfume—horror-glazes—magnolia blooms—the tragedies about Greek maidens, Scandian gods, or Aztec prophets," that rash pell-mell out of the brains of this people when the first outlet of pen and ink is given them. If now and then a glimpse of plain natural feeling appears, the editor hastens to apologize for the homeliness, and turns us to some author "intensely Southern;" by which he means, he tells us, "abounding in uncontrolled emotion, clothed in tropical drapery." What can be done with these people? Is it worth while to sit down and reason with them? To tell them that vague gaspings for thought, without definite thought in the brain, and the utterance instead of a weak dribble of flamboyant adjectives, is not literature? Can they understand that "never to have spent more than two hours in writing the longest effort of his muse" does not "speak volumes for the genius of Mr. Flash," but accounts for the effusions of his name, "abounding in Bombast and Gush in their native nature? When, in the language of one of themselves, "the amber-ued Falernian of truth and the aromatic Tokay of passion are set before them," must they always choose the Tokay?

We chose to be more hopeful about our Southern brethren, and to reject this book, and in fact any recent offering they have made to literature, as a fair sign of their intellectual status. Surely the experience of the last ten years has taught them sterner and nobler lessons than this unwieldy sentimentality. During the war their actions proved them to be brave men and resolute, long-enduring women. "They learned in suffering," says our editor, "what they here teach in song." Suffering such as theirs ordinarily teaches very little song, but a large amount of sound common sense; and however much their literature may belie them, we believe they learned the lesson. "It was Ares who led them to Athens," says their eulogist, explaining the sudden appearance of Southern writers after the war. Heaven forbid that the dragon's teeth should yield another such crop! But the truth is, we believe that the books which have inundated us are no exposition of Southern thought or feeling, but so many attempts to make money. The first mode of money-making to which an educated person turns when thrown on his own resources is almost invariably authorship. They would shrink from attempting to make a table or a chair, yet they go to work boldly at novel, essay, or poem, without materials, tools, or knowledge of even the rudiments of art. Our Southern friends, we trust, will not be so slow to open to them, will seek their mistake; and then, when time has made real their new and broader views of life, we may hope for a literature from them that will be as genuine and strong an exponent of their condition as these crude efforts are frothy and worthless.

BROTHERS OF THE MYSTIC TIE.

From the N. Y. Times. The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York commenced its annual session in this city on Tuesday, and will probably adjourn on Saturday. It is composed of several hundreds of delegates from the various lodges throughout the State, among whom are many of the most prominent and influential citizens of the interior. Yesterday was laid the corner-stone of the new Masonic temple to be erected at the corner of Twenty-third street and Sixth avenue. The occasion has called together a large assemblage of Masons from various parts of the country, and the public display promises to exceed anything of the kind witnessed in this city for many years past, several thousand visitors from abroad being in attendance. During the past twenty-five years the Masonic fraternity in the United States has increased in strength and influence very rapidly, and it is now the most powerful and numerous secret order among us. It can boast of at least 500,000 members. After the abduction of Morgan in 1827 the Order fell into disrepute in the Northern States, and most of the lodges were discontinued for nearly ten years until the political excitement caused by that event had died away. It was not till about 1840 that Freemasonry began to revive, but since then it has steadily prospered, until now it extends into every county and into the great majority of towns in the State.

Freemasonry flourishes very extensively in other countries as well as our own. There is no part of the civilized world into which it has not been introduced. In Europe it is patronized by most of the governments, and several ruling sovereigns and many other nobility are members of the order. There was a time when, in some of the States, it was prohibited, from an apprehension that it might be made an agency of political mischief; but we believe that the Pope is now the only ruler who openly denounces it. Several years ago he issued a bull against the order, threatening excommunication of all Catholics who joined it, and the practical result of which is said to have been that the Roman communion lost more than the Freemasons. Quite recently the order in the German States has taken decided action against the Pontiff. We are told that the Grand Lodge "The Sun," at Bayreuth, has sent an open letter to

all the other lodges urging them to keep a watchful eye upon the Vatican, and denouncing the recent Papal Syllabus as an assault upon the moral and spiritual development of the age.

There are various traditions as to the origin of Freemasonry, the one most generally accepted among the Order being that it was founded by King Solomon at the building of the Temple. Some writers trace striking analogies between it and the cabala of the Egyptian priesthood, the Eleusinian mysteries, and the Essenes; but the best authenticated tradition is that the Order was founded by the roving architects and masons who went about Europe during the Middle Ages, building Gothic cathedrals, monasteries, bridges, and other great works. These subsequently merged into guilds, which finally dropped the operative, and took on what is now known as "speculative" masonry. This was the foundation of modern Freemasonry, and upon it the work and traditions of the Order, as they exist to-day, have been constructed.

It is a great fallacy to suppose that there is any political or sectarian purpose sought to be accomplished by the order, or that there is any unlawful bond of protection to criminals who belong to it. It is simply a moral, social, and charitable institution, which has prospered because it responds to the natural brotherhood and benevolence of man. It is the means of accomplishing a vast amount of good in an unpretending manner.

THE WASHINGTON ELECTION AND ITS LESSON.

From the N. Y. Sun. Matthew G. Emery has just been elected Mayor of Washington by about 3000 majority over Saylor. Mr. Emery is a Republican, but opposed to the administration of General Grant; while Mr. Bowen is a Republican and the present Mayor, and a warm personal and political friend of the President.

The canvass has developed many points of a peculiar and instructive character. The Democrats early placed a candidate in the field; but when the division in the Republican ranks had assumed serious proportions, they wisely withdrew their candidate and rallied to the support of Emery and installed him as their accredited leader. The colored voters held the power to determine the result, and a desperate effort was now commenced to secure their support. Under the lead of Emery the Democrats consented to the nomination of a liberal sprinkling of respectable colored men for aldermen and Common Councilmen. They made some very wise faces, but agreed to swallow the Emery concoction.

The administration put forth its utmost exertions to secure the triumph of Bowen. The President took a special interest in his success. Mr. Bowen had figured actively and played a conspicuous part in the matter of the purchase of the famous house which had been given to General Grant by his admirers. The emissaries of the administration and the attaches of the Executive Mansion perambulated the departments, and gave the clerks to understand that they were expected to vote for Bowen, and that any delinquency in this crisis would be visited with sore displeasure by the leaders of the Republican party at the capital.

But all was in vain. The negroes turned the scale. And the result is, Emery, a Republican bolter, in the Mayor's chair, and six colored men in the Common Council chamber. If the Democratic party of the Union are not given over to hardness of heart and blindness of mind, they will discover in this Washington election the sign whereby they are to conquer in the next Presidential contest. They must divide the negro vote of the South, and thereby carry four-fifths of the States below the Potomac and the Ohio. The electoral votes of these States, added to those which the party may reasonably hope to obtain in the North, will give them the victory.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD COMPANY, TREASURER'S DEPARTMENT. PHILADELPHIA, Pa., May 3, 1870. NOTICE TO STOCKHOLDERS. The Board of Directors have this day declared a semi-annual dividend of FIVE PER CENT. on the Capital Stock of the Company, each of National and State Taxes, payable in cash on and after May 20, 1870. Stockholders are notified that dividends can be had at the Office of the Company, No. 235 South Third street. The Office will be open at 9 A. M. and closed at 3 P. M. on May 20 to June 3, for the payment of Dividends, and after that date from 9 A. M. to 3 P. M. THOMAS T. FIRTH, Treasurer.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, IN accordance with the provisions of the existing acts of Assembly, that a Special General Meeting of the Stockholders and Leaseholders of this Company will be held at the office of the Company, No. 417 WALNUT STREET, PHILADELPHIA, on the 13th day of June, A. D. 1870, at 10 o'clock A. M., for the purpose of considering a proposition to lease the works, franchises, and property of the Pennsylvania Navigation Company to the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company. By order of the Managers, F. FRALEY, President.

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NO CURE, NO PAY.—FORREST'S JUNIPER TAR—For Coughs, Croup, Whooping Cough, Asthma, Bronchitis, Sore Throat, Spitting of Blood, and Lung Diseases. Immediate relief and positive cure for Croup, Whooping Cough, Asthma, BRONCHITIS, and all other Affections of the Throat, Lungs, and Chest. Sold by FRENCH, RICHARDS & CO., TENTH and MARKET, and A. M. WILSON, NINTH and FILBERT Streets. 4 Sent.

TREGO'S TEABERRY TOOTHWASH. It is the most pleasant, cheapest and best dentifrice extant. Warranted free from injurious ingredients. It Preserves and Whitens the Teeth! It Relieves the Gums from Inflammation, Purifies and Perfumes the Breath! It Prevents Accumulations of Tartar, Cleanses and Purifies Artificial Teeth! In a Superior Article for Children! Sold by FRENCH, RICHARDS & CO., 235 South Third Street, Philadelphia. A. M. WILSON, Druggist, Proprietor, 82 1/2 Cor. North and Filbert Streets, Philadelphia.

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Acrobolic Liquors Pure. The pungent aroma of the fuel oil and biting glass present in all of them can be avoided by the use of the purest and most palatable of the active poisons in the stomach attacks their existence when the noxious draught has come down. Paralysis, indigestion, and death are the pernicious fruits of such concoctions.

Pure Whisky. Distilled from WHEAT, and being made from the grain, possesses all the Nutritious Qualities. Can be relied upon to be strictly as represented, having been examined thoroughly by the leading analytical chemists of this city, whose certificates of its purity and fitness for medicinal purposes are appended.

Keystone Pure Wheat Whisky. Are enabled to offer a Pure Whisky Distilled from WHEAT, and being made from the grain, possesses all the Nutritious Qualities.

Chemical Laboratory, No. 108 and 112 Arch St., Philadelphia, March 19, 1870. Messrs. T. J. Martin & Co., Philadelphia, Pa. Gentlemen:—I have made a careful examination of the Keystone Pure Wheat Whisky, and found it to be a perfect pure article, and entirely free from fusel oil and other injurious substances. Its purity and its pleasant and agreeable flavor render it particularly valuable for medicinal purposes.

Chemical Laboratory, No. 128 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, March 17, 1870. Messrs. T. J. Martin & Co., Philadelphia, Pa. Gentlemen:—The sample of Keystone Pure Wheat Whisky submitted to me for analysis, and to be used for medicinal purposes, is a perfect pure article, and entirely free from fusel oil and other injurious substances. Its purity and its pleasant and agreeable flavor render it particularly valuable for medicinal purposes.

Chemical Laboratory, No. 417 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa. Gentlemen:—I have made a careful examination of the Keystone Pure Wheat Whisky, and found it to be a perfect pure article, and entirely free from fusel oil and other injurious substances. Its purity and its pleasant and agreeable flavor render it particularly valuable for medicinal purposes.

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WEEKLY LINE TO SAVANNAH, GA. The WYOMING will sail for Savannah on Saturday, June 11, at 8 A. M. The TONAWANDA will sail from Savannah on Saturday, June 12, at 8 A. M.

SEMI-MONTHLY LINE TO WILMINGTON, N. C. The PIONEER will sail for Wilmington on Saturday, June 12, at 8 A. M. The PIONEER will sail from Wilmington, N. C., on Saturday, June 12, at 8 A. M.

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