

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

THE MISSION TO ENGLAND.

From the N. Y. Herald. It is stated that Mr. Frelinghuysen, after long hesitation and delay, refuses the English mission, and that the place has been offered to Senator Trumbull, who also declines. The courtesing of Mr. Frelinghuysen with an office of such dignity, and so much above his reasonable expectations, has an air of feebleness and vacillation which will not raise that gentleman in public estimation. Had he promptly declined, the country would have recognized his modesty and good sense; if he had signified his early acceptance, it would have pardoned his self-confidence in the hope that it proceeded from a conscious, and not a fitful, mood. But his dilatory trifling with that important post shows that he possesses neither a very exact sense of propriety nor much decision of character. Mr. Trumbull, if the position has been offered him and declined, has acted with a promptitude which is both respectful to the appointing power and creditable to his own strength and manliness.

General Grant has a most singular aptitude for lowering the tone of the public service, and choosing its highest offices in general estimation. There ought to be a sort of chastity in such matters, resembling the reserve which adds so much to the dignity and estimation of the gentler sex. A high office, like a virtuous woman, loses something of its lustre if exposed to the mortification of being jilted or rejected. General Grant has subjected almost every great office in the Government to this degradation. His method of making appointments is marked by none of the wise foresight and prudent reserve promised by his predecessors. In this case of Mr. Frelinghuysen, any other person would have sounded him confidentially beforehand, and have ascertained whether he would consent to take the office before sending his name to the Senate. The mission to England is too important to go publicly begging for an incumbent, and the Senate should have been spared the trouble of discussing the merits and deciding on the fitness of a man who might not accept.

Most of our great offices have been degraded in a similar way, until self-respecting statesmen are unwilling to hold them. The Secretaryship of State was tumbled about and rolled in the mire of Presidential favoritism until Mr. Fish felt a sincere reluctance to take it when it was pressed upon him, and only consented to do so temporarily by the urgency of the President. Mr. Wilson, of Iowa, was the first person selected, but he scorned the office and peremptorily declined it, when General Grant wished to prostitute it for the convenience of his friend Washburne. Mr. Fish was asked to take the office after it had been thus refused by Mr. Wilson, and prostituted to Elinh Washburne. It is easy to understand how unwilling a gentleman of Mr. Fish's standing must have been to Washburne's successor. And after Mr. Fish, from motives of personal friendship to the President, had complied with his wishes, even then Washburne was permitted to remain and dictate some of the most important foreign appointments. It was due to Mr. Fish, who was to have charge of our foreign relations, and due to the dignity and efficiency of the great branch of public service, that he should have been consulted and his wishes deferred to in selecting the foreign agents who were to act under his instructions. But in point of fact he had no more influence in filling the great foreign missions than a mechanic in the streets. We had a great controversy with England, which he would naturally wish to settle; but he had so little confidence in Mr. Motley that he would not permit him to open negotiations, and desired to have them transferred to Washington. Our relations with Spain were also important, but the Secretary of State had no confidence in such ministers as Sickles. It is not surprising that Mr. Fish is impatient to be relieved of an office whose dignity is so little respected by the President.

General Grant is treating Mr. Fish's successor with as little consideration as he has shown to Mr. Fish. He has known for some time that Mr. Fish has determined to resign, and there was no reason why he should change the minister to England until after he had made choice of the new Secretary of State. Mr. Motley is competent for the routine duties of his position, and fully equal to its social requirements. As the Alabama negotiations will not be renewed under Secretary Fish, who will soon retire, there was no reason for displacing Mr. Motley until after the new Secretary of State is installed. If the Alabama dispute, it is fair to him that the Minister to England should be a person in whom he could have confidence. The Secretary ought to have been appointed first, and the minister selected afterwards in deference to his wishes. It is no wonder that Mr. Trumbull promptly and peremptorily declines the mission when he knows nothing of the habits and temper of the Secretary to whose directions he would be subject. And it will not be surprising if General Grant finds it equally hard to secure the acceptance of a competent Secretary of State when he pays so little regard to the dignity and just sensibilities of that officer.

SYMPTOMS OF FINANCIAL EMBARRASSMENT IN FRANCE. From the N. Y. Herald. The news came by telegraph a few days ago that the Bank of France had suspended specie payments, and now we learn that there is to be an immediate issue of paper money—of twenty-five franc notes, it is said. The reason given for this is the difficulty of procuring change for notes of a higher denomination and the necessity of affording relief. The hundred franc notes are useless for ordinary purposes, and cannot be easily obtained for the even fifty franc notes. This step of issuing paper money is the first one we think, leading to a flood of such promises to pay. The enormous expenditure of the Government to carry on this gigantic war and the suspension of business will soon force, probably, a large issue of paper money. Should the war continue to be unfavorable to France, or should it even with some successes threaten to be a prolonged one, the Emperor would find it difficult to raise a large loan from foreign capitalists, or from the capitalists at all. And his dynasty has been placed in through his blunders and failures in the war, and at the revolutionary elements that are fermenting in France, it will not be easy to raise such a large loan as his necessities must call for from the French people. Everything indicates a large issue of paper money by the government should the war be prolonged; and this will happen, no doubt, whether Na-

poleon remains at the head of the nation or a revolutionary government takes the control. There are few people who are not acquainted with the history of the financial embarrassment and operations of France during the wars of the great revolution. Though beginning with moderate issues of paper money at first, the revolutionary government soon found that it was necessary to increase these to meet the demands of the stupendous war it had undertaken. In a year or two the country was flooded with assignats and mandats. Although the first were based upon the public lands which had been confiscated from the nobles, the religious establishments and the emigres, and were a sort of land warrant, they nevertheless soon became almost valueless. A bank of this paper money at one time would hardly purchase a loaf of bread. The government resorted to the most extreme measures to force the circulation and to keep up its credit; it made in fact the refusal to receive this money a criminal offense. But though the guillotine was suspended over the heads of those who refused to receive or attempted to throw discredit upon the assignats and mandats, this did not prevent the extraordinary depreciation of them. It is not unlikely that we may witness a similar state of things should the present war continue long, and especially should another revolutionary government be organized in Paris. True, France is richer and has far more resources than at the time of the first revolution, but the cost of war is much greater at present, and the scale on which it is waged now calls for enormous expenditures. Unprepared as we were for war at the time the Southern rebellion broke out, and vast as were our expenditures, some time elapsed before United States notes were much depreciated. Nor was the credit of the Republic at any time seriously endangered. We had no debt worth speaking about before that event, and we had country almost unlimited in its resources. It is different with France. It has already a debt of near twenty-five hundred millions of dollars, and rich as it may be it has nothing like the resources of this virgin and vast country. France has not been at war a month, and still specie payments have been suspended and there is to be a large issue of paper money. This is only the beginning, and should the war continue we may expect fearful financial embarrassments, with a resort, probably, to something like the forced circulation of mandats and assignats during the time of the first revolution.

FAMILY DIFFERENCES.

From the N. Y. Times. Encouraged, perhaps, by the courteous reception extended by the Southern Democratic press to its "earnest word" in favor of moderation and conciliation in the construction of local platforms, the World now administers to the same section some very sensible advice with regard to the selection of candidates. It previously urged the avoidance of the irritating issues which were incident to the reconstruction era; it proposed that the negro question should be quietly discarded, and all "dead issues" abandoned. Now it suggests that only those persons shall be nominated to whom neither the test oath nor the fourteenth amendment will present insurmountable obstacles. There was a time, and that not long ago, when these suggestions would have subjected the World to maledictions loud and deep. Our contemporary then stood almost alone in its moderation—the Chicago Times and the Louisville Courier-Journal being its only conspicuous allies. The change which has occurred in this respect is very significant. The untanned fire-eater of the Mobile Register met the proposition in favor of "accepting the situation" with the declaration that "alliance with the Democracy is a white man's government." Generally, however, the Democratic journals of the South, and such Southern Democratic organizations as have given expression to their opinions, have shown a determination to confine the fall campaign to living questions, and the nominations to candidates whose eligibility is undoubted. An address of the victors in North Carolina breathes the same spirit. It dwells upon the necessity of establishing friendly relations between whites and blacks, and of so treating the latter that they shall be brought into political alliance with the Democracy. In other words, it is proposed to turn negro suffrage to partisan account, instead of assailing it as hitlerism. The lesson is a hard one to teach, as the Louisville Courier-Journal can testify; but the fact that it is being taught in several of the old slave-holding States is a sign of progress which no prudent Republican will ignore. Unfortunately for the World, there are two or three ugly facts whose significance lies in the opposite direction. One of them is that, notwithstanding the address of the Congressional Democratic Committee in favor of dropping "dead issues," the Democratic members of the House refused to join in a declaration that the recent constitutional amendments came within that category. Such a refusal reveals a purpose to retain these amendments, and the policy of reconstruction with which they are identified, as grounds of partisan agitation. Nor has anything occurred to show that the Northern and Western members, who thus falsified the terms of their own address, acted at variance with the views of their constituents. In the Iowa Convention, we believe, common sense triumphed over insanity on the negro question; but, so far as we know, the case is exceptional. The Maine Democracy, who met in convention on Tuesday, do not, indeed, name the negro in their resolutions, but they violently assail the legislation of which negro suffrage is an essential part. Rectifying acts of the national administration, the Maine platform affirms that "in many of the States it has established military despotisms, trying thereby to intimidate the people thereof, and make them subservient to their wicked rule." With the untruthfulness of the statement we have for the moment nothing to do. We adduce it only to prove that when the World and its collaborators had led the Southern wing of their party to adopt moderate platforms, and nominate moderate candidates, they will find among Northern Democrats ample opportunities for the exercise of their persuasive power and their reforming influence. What may happen before the campaign fairly begins, we will not attempt to predict. This, however, we at present know—the contest between the extremists and the moderates is not over. The moderates have perceptibly gained ground, but the party, as a whole, is yet far from accepting the sagacious counsel of the World.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT AN application will be made at the next meeting of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the incorporation of a Bank, in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth, to be entitled THE NATIONAL BANK, to be located at Philadelphia, with a capital of one hundred thousand dollars, with the right to increase the same to one million dollars.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT AN application will be made at the next meeting of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the incorporation of a Bank, in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth, to be entitled THE SCHUYLKILL RIVER BANK, to be located at Philadelphia, with a capital of one hundred thousand dollars, with the right to increase the same to one million dollars.

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Opens June 1. Closes October 1.

Mark and Simon Hassler's Orchestra, and full Military Band, of 120 pieces.

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The new wing is now completed. Address Applications for Rooms, address

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PROPOSALS.

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS.

OFFICE—No. 104 S. FIFTH STREET, PHILADELPHIA, August 17, 1870.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.

SEALED PROPOSALS will be received at the office of the Chief Commissioner of Highways until 11 o'clock A. M., on MONDAY, 22d instant, for the construction of a Sewer on the east side of Ninth Street, from Coates street to the south curb line of Wallace street, with a clear inside diameter of three feet, with man-holes as may be directed by the Chief Engineer and Surveyor. The understanding to be that the Sewers herein advertised are to be completed on or before the 31st day of October, 1870. And the contractor shall take bills prepared against the property fronting on said Sewers to the amount of one dollar and fifty cents for each linear foot of front on each side of the street as so much cash paid; the balance, as limited by ordinance, to be paid by the city; and the contractor will be required to keep the street and sewer in good order for three years after the sewer is finished.

When the street is occupied by a City Passenger Road track, the sewer shall be constructed alongside of said track in such manner as not to obstruct or interfere with the safe passage of the cars thereon; and no claim for remuneration shall be paid the contractor by the company using said track, as specified in Act of Assembly approved May 8, 1866.

Each proposal will be accompanied by a certificate that a bond has been filed in the Law Department as directed by ordinance of May 25, 1869. If the lowest bidder shall not execute a contract within five days after the work is awarded, he will be deemed as declining, and will be held liable on his bond for the difference between his bid and the next lowest bidder.

Specifications may be had at the Department of Surveys, which will be strictly adhered to. The Department of Highways reserves the right to reject all bids not deemed satisfactory.

All bidders may be present at the time and place of opening the said proposals. No allowance will be made for rock excavation, except by special contract.

MAHLON H. DICKINSON, Chief Commissioner of Highways.

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