## SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

WHAT ARE THE CHANCES OF PLACE?

From the N. Y. Herald.

The most reliable news, seemingly, of the efforts made for peace or the chance there might be of peace, comes from what is termed the semi-official statement of the London Observer. From this it appears that Lord Lyons, the British Minister in France, was conducting negotiations between Jules Favre and Bismarck, and that a brief armistice had been arranged pending these efforts. Another telegram from London, which came later, says that a rumor prevails that the negotiations between Jules Favre and Bismarck through the English Legation have resulted unfavorably and that there is now no hope of an armistice. There seems to be little doubt, therefore, that the British government did give the public to understand that it was endeavoring to bring about peace. Was this done to soothe the English people, who were clamoring for a recognition of the French republic? Or did the British government really make a serious effort for an armistice and for peace?

It would be very interesting to know on what grounds England made the proposition, what views she expressed to the belligerents and to what end she is working. If she were really desirous of seeing peace restored through the only existing authorities in France, she would accomplish that much better and sooner by following the example of the United States, Switzerland, and Italy in recognizing the de facto republican government of France, than by any other course. The motive of England in the step she is reported to have taken for an armistice and peace negotiations arises, it is said, from her fear of a republican propaganda, the trouble this would cause the governments of Europe and the ominous rumors afloat concerning the projects of Russia and Austria in the East. The frank and prompt recognition of the French republic by England would have a great effect upon the King of Prussia as well as upon the other governing powers of Europe. It would lead, probably, to an early peace. But the monarchists and aristocrats of England are in this dilemma-they are afraid of sanctioning a republican government in France on the one hand and dread the consequences of a republican propaganda and republican fury on the other should the French nation be driven to desperation.

The truth is, there is no sincerity, no honest and outspoken policy by any of the great powers of Europe except by the French republic. The defacto republican government of France declares boldly its policy and its wish to make peace. Even Prussia is afraid to avew that it is now making war on the French republic, for the people of Germany and the people of Europe generally could not approve of that. King William pretends that the de facto government of France is no government at all and that he cannot treat with it for peace. This is mere pretence, to cover up his hostility to and fear of republicanism. If by any accident a king or emperor had been proclaimed in Paris—some dynasty that he could approve of-we should soon have heard of peace negotiations, though such a ruler might not have anything like the popular support the Provisional Republican Government has. Peace is not made because there is any necessity for carrying the war further, because the French are unwilling to make peace, even with great sacrifices, but because the King and aristocracy of Prussia, secretly backed by the other monarchs and aristocracies of Europe, are hostile to the republic and wish to crush it. It is all false pretense. Prussia and the rest are acting deceitfully because they are afraid to tell the truth.

We hear now, through the European mo-narchical channels of information, that the "reds" are rising in France. Some few extremists may be making a fuss, but this does not amount to much. The republican government and mass of the republican people are disposed to establish and maintain order, and they will do so, we believe, if not prevented by hostile powers outside. Of course King William and the European monarchists and aristocrats generally will make the most of every little demonstration of the "reds" to throw discredit upon the republic. It is quite likely, indeed, that they may foment such difficulties in France through spies and secret agents to serve their own purposes. There is a fair prospect for a permanent republican government being established in France now if the French be left to their own free action.

From the report that the King of Prussia will not treat with the republic and will only negotiate with the Bonapartes being reiterated so often, we conclude that this is the position he has taken and that there lies the difficulty in making peace. He pretends, it is said, that the de facto republican government can give no guarantee of peace, that it may be only short lived, and that it might not be able to carry out the terms of a treaty of peace. This might be said of any other government-of a government under the Bonapartes or Orleans dynasty. If the Bonapartes be forced upon the French again by Prussian bayonets, after the Emperor having been captured and the Regency having run away, and after the humiliation and disgrace they have brought upon France, does King William imagine they would have a better chance of maintaining their power than the republic has its power? Or does he suppose the Orleanists, forced upon France in the same way, could maintain their authority better than the republic can its authority? The French would never submit to any government forced upon them by a foreign conquerer. Instead of obtaining a guarantee of lasting peace Prussia would leave the seeds of revolution and future trouble. It is doubtful, indeed, if Napoleon or the Empress Eugenie and her son would venture to go back to Paris if invited by the Prussians. Every way the King of Prussia is in great difficulty. He has a monstrous elephant on his hands that he knows not what to do with. Unpleasant as it may be to him, the best way is to make peace with the de facto republican government. He needs no other guarantee of peace than the wonderful success his armies have made and the power that Germany has developed. By refusing to make peace with the republic he may intensify the war and raise such a furor in France as might strain his power and resources to the utmost. The taking of Paris would not settle anything and would only be another large elephant on his hands. No, the only solution of his difficulty now is to make peace with the republic.

NEGOTIATIONS AND OPERATIONS AT PARIS.

From the N. Y. Tribune

The isolation of Paris is at length complete. The last railway lines by which non-combatants could escape or the garrison re-

ceive supplies were severed on Monday at Conflans, either by the extension of the Prussian right wing or the operations of its cavalry from the north, and at Versailles, which has been occupied by the Uhlans. The crescent has become a circle about Paris as about Sedan, though it is a broader and weaker one here than there, and Paris is not, like Sedan, wholly at the mercy of its enemies, without the power or the spirit to resist the process of contraction and strangulation

which is to follow. The investment has not been completed without fighting, though this has not been of the severe character which first reports suggested. The southern defenses of the city. extending from the left bank of the Marne at Creteil across the Seine to Versailles, are commanded by a light range of hills, known as the heights of Meudon and Bagneux. When the forts were built rifled cannon were unknown; and since the introduction of these long-range weapons there has been no effort on the part of the Parisians to fortify the commanding points. When the purpose of the Prussians to seize this range was made evident, a large force of French troops marched out of the city and occupied it, driving off the Uhlans who had already seized the woods on its summit. South of this range there is a second line of hills at Villeneuve le Roy and Brunay. This latter range the Germans have occupied in force. There is no positive evidence that they are in great numbers on any other part of the line of investment, but such a conclusion cannot altogether be disregarded. It is not safe, therefore, to deduce from the developments on the southern front that the struggle is to take place there. With the Prussians in possession of the heights of Meudon and Bagneux the forts on the "southern line," as the section of the defenses from the Seine to Versailles is called, would be untenable; but there are also other weak spots in the line on the western side, which is defended by only one fort. Of course all these positions have been strengthened since the siege became a probability, and against the active demonstrations of the Prussians the resistance of the French may for a time prove successful. But it should not be forgotten by those who are doubtful of the issue of the siege now begun that no soldier has yet solved the problem of provisioning a city of two millions of inhabitants for a siege of a

Paris, if German artillery does not. The negotiations which we have hoped would render the siege of Paris unnecessary have not yet ended in success. It is encouraging, however, to know that they have not been abandoned. A secretary of the English Minister has succeeded in reaching Bismarck at Rheims, and has learned that he is more positive than ever in his demands for the occupation of Metz and Strasburg, and the cession of Alsace and Lorraine. It is also encouraging to know that the Prussian Premier is willing to treat with any government in France competent redeem its guarantees; that M. Favre has gone to Meaux to meet Count Bismarck. It is not believed in France that the people will consent to such terms as are insisted upon, until they become more helpless, more humiliated, than they now consider themselves to be. To all appear-ance Prussia is resolved to yield nothing of her just demands. The only hope of im-mediate peace is that M. Jules Favre will take the humane, common-sense view of the situation, and accede to them. Such an act may prove his ruin, but it will be the salvation of France. He may not receive but he will deserve the gratitude of his country; for though he cannot thus save her from humiliation, he can save her from further desolation.

month or two, and time cannot but reduce

ANDREW JOHNSON AND THE DE-MOCRACY.

Mr. Andrew Johnson is happiest when most unhappy. That may seem a paradoxi-cal description of his habit and condition, but it is a true one. As President, be was in his element only when finding fault with Congress, playing Mentor on constitutional questions to the country, and predicting ruin if tions to the country, and predicting ruin if his advice were not accepted. He was the evil prophet of his official day, and took a gloomy pleasure in prognosticating disaster as the result of the Republican policy. Take him at his word, and nobody but Andrew Johnson, and nothing but the Democracy, could save the nation from the dogs. To a patriot, that must have been a painful conviction. And yet the pertinacity, the self-comtion. And yet the pertinacity, the self-com-placency, the tone of mingled exultation and defiance, which marked his Presidential ca-reer, implied enjoyment as near to felicity as is compatible with a combative nature in a

When the ex-President returned to Tennessee, he took his place in the Democratic party. None in this broad land better knew what that party has been and is. With a full knowledge of its traitorous course during the war, he preferred to renew affiliation with it rather than to remain even remotely connected with the party to which he had been indebted for high official position. For him, however, the path of private duty had no charms. He fought hard for a Senatorship and was defeated. Then he announced his purpose to run for the lower branch of Congress. And now we have him once more on the stump, delighted with remem-brances of his own record, but absolutely miserable in the recital of the heresies and blunders of his dear friends, the Democrats of Tennessee.

transitory world.

American Union.

What is the matter? The Tennessee platform embodies a resolution which Mr. Johnson condemns as "favoring a restoration of the Southern States to their rights as sovereign States of the American Union." He declares that this is "secession and revolution in diguise." The precise words of the resolution are these:-

"That the Southern States should be immediately restored to their rights under the Constitution of the United States, as sovereign States of the

We quite agree with Mr. Johnson that this proposition is equivalent to secession and revolution. It means an upsetting of all that the Republican party has accomplished, and the restoration of the South to the status it occupied before the war. But wherein does the doctrine of this resolution differ from the doctrine taught by A. J. in a series of veto messages and speeches from the steps of the White House, or from the view held by the National Democracy, with whom A. J. at this moment recommends close alliance?

Mr. Johnson told his audience on Saturday night that the principles on which the Federal Government was organized 'had been subverted since the war." The irreconcilables who constructed the Tennessee platform affirm neither more nor less than that. He said the same again and again when advocating "my policy" at Washington. He insisted that the States subject to the Reconstruction laws were deprived of their constitutional rights, and he endeavored without ceasing to frustrate those laws, and to sustain the de-

mand for restoration of another kind. With what grace can he now abuse the Tennessee Democrats as secessionists and revolutionists? In this matter they have accepted his own ideas. What he expanded into speech or message, they condense into a resolution; and they will be indignant that the most dangerous adversary reconstruction ever had scolds them fer reaffirming his old opinion. If he still thinks that the Constitution has been subverted in the matter of reconstruction-and his Gallatin address proves that he does-with what consistency can this most constant of grumblers object to the Tennessee Democracy?

The resolution condemned by Mr. Johnson is followed by another which he does not condemn, but the drift of which is quite as clearly towards secession and revolution. It

"Resolved, That we regard the act recently passed by Congress to enforce the differenth amendment as unconstitutional, unjust, and oppressive, an inva-sion of the rights of the States, subversive of the best interests of the people, and therefore urge its unconditional repeal."

Now, as the act referred to is merely the exercise of an authority specially conferred upon Congress, and aims at no more than giving practical effect to the principle established by the amendment, it is clear that the resolution is really directed against the amendment itself. We hazard little in conjecturing that the ex-President concurs with this hostile interpretation of the law, and of the amendment it was intended to carry into operation. Yet in what material respect does the spirit and purport of the resolution passed over silently by Mr. Johnson differ from that which he inconsistently assails?

Besides, how would the Tennessee platform be modified by that "close alliance" with the National Democracy which Mr. Johnson recommends? The last time the National Democracy opened its mouth it endorsed a policy identical with that which is to-day before Tennessee. Indeed, the Tennessee Convention has only returned to the position taken by the National Convention in 1868, and still held by the great body of the party. Mr. Johnson's predicament is not a pleasant one, but it is of his own making.

MAKING BLACK WHITE.

From the N. Y. World. It is, we presume, part of the prerogative of Philadelphia lawyers, who, time out of mind, have refused to be puzzled, in their turn to puzzle other people. We confess ourselves sorely perplexed by some contradictory judicial action recently in our sister There are, as well as we understand it, in Philadelphia two local courts of nearly concurrent jurisdiction—the Common Pleas and the District Court-and to each, being a court of record, the naturalization of foreigners is by act of Congress delegated. Some months ago, after the (so-called) passage of the fifteenth amendment, a negro alien applied for naturalization to the District Court. The judges of this court, three in number, are pronounced Republicans, and probably members of the Union League. They are said to be thorough and accomplished lawyers and independent men. Deriving their whole jurisdiction from an act or acts of Congress, they naturally looked at the statutes and found that their power to naturalize was expressly limited to the free white man. In vain was the amendment brandished in their faces-the letter of their direct commission was too plain, and the Republican judges decided they could not naturalize the negro alien. So matters rested till within a day or judge of it, was appealed to-and he, if we mistake not, a Democrat—and this is his

decision : -The amendment commonly known as the lifteenth is The amendment commonly known as the lifteenth amendment to the Constitution of the United States swept away the distinction of color, and the section of the act approved July 14, 1870, in fact repeals as to aliens of African nativity and persons of African descent so much of the act of 26th May, 1824, as limits the application of that act to "free white persons." An alien of African nativity or of African descent is therefore piaced in the position of an persons." An alien of African nativity or of African descent is therefore placed in the position of an alien being a "free white person;" if, therefore, an African or a person of African descent came into the country before he was 18 years of age, and has resided in the country as is provided by the terms of the act of Congress of May 26, 1824, he is entitled to naturalization. Satisfactory proof having been made in this case, it is my plain duty, under the amendment to the Constitution of the United States and the act of Congress, approved July 14, 1870, to administer to this petitioner the oath of allegiance.

It is not for us laymen to presume to say which is right in the view of the law-the aggregated Republican wisdom of the District Court or the sweeping Democratic audacity of him of the Common Pleas. Technical men naturally incline to that view which is cautious and guarded and guided by the letter of the law. But surely Philadelphia Democracy can no longer be charged with antipathy to the negro race when one of its distinguished jurists so gallantly comes to the rescue, and with a dash of his pen "sweeps away" mere acts of Congress, puts the negro on a footing with the Teuton and the Celt, and literally makes black by the will of Heaven white by a constitutional amendment.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

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COUNTY.

SHERIFF: WILLIAM R. LEEDS.

REGISTER OF WILLS: WILLIAM M. BUNN, Late private 72d Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteer CLERK OF THE ORPHANS' COURT:

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ACTUAL OF THE STREET STREE

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CHEGARAY INSTITUTE, Nos. 1527 AND 1529 SPRUCE Street, Philadelphia, will reopen on TURSDAY, September 10. Erench is the language of the family, and is constantly spoken in the institute. 6 15 wfm 6m MISS JENNIE T. BECK, TEACHER OF THE PIANO-FORTE, No. 746 FLORIDA Street, will resume her duties September 1. 9 15 lm

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