## SPIRIT OF THE PRESS

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

THE PAPER AGE.

From the N. Y. Tribune. There was an iron age once, and an age of bronze, and those who dig deep smid primeval strata tell us also of an age of flint, antedating known epochs, involved in much fog and uncertainty, and not very useful to contemplate. We have heard somewhat of certain golden ages, so called, wherein nature seemed attuned to human needs, and wherein joyous generations lived without hunger and without toil, drinking the wine of life without planting its vineyards or treading its press. We don't believe much in these latter epochs. It is quite likely that they were very much like others of less smiling renown. People strove and wrangled, and got into debt, waxed lean and cursed their luck in those days as in these. But we will let the tradition stand for what it is worth. We are not so much interested in the brazen or the iron or the golden age as that wherein we live, and which unluckily belongs to none of these metallic categories, but is in sad fact merely an age of

What a tremendously rich people we should be if debt were only property! How prosperous if the written or printed promise to pay created the wherewithal to pay! Unhappily debt is not property, but rather its negation or counterfoil; and a premise to pay, instead of being wealth, is a confession and certificate of present poverty. Printing presses may print never so copiously solventlooking documents, decorated with waterfalls and goddesses and fringed with flattering coupons; and a plausible president, a smug secretary, may append signatures with never so much diligence. But we don't get any richer by these procedures. Nay, we even wax poorer; paper is wasted, and so is the time of those who affix its inscriptions. We have been turning out a good deal of this ornamental sort of paper for the last decade; our promises to pay of one sort or another amount, perhaps, to more than we care soberly to contemplate. Some of us may nourish the delusion that these promises to pay of themselves constitute wealth and carry with them an inherent capacity of solution. They don't. They are so many mortgages on the toil of the future—so many liens on the wheat ungrown; the cotton unwoven; the iron unsmelted. We have got to face this not altogether enlivening music some day, and it may be well enough to begin now. Already there are signs that the paper edifice which we have been building, with about as much confusion of tongues and general lack of wisdom as the builders of Babel evinced, has got as high as it can be carried without toppling over, so that it is full time to stand aloof and contemplate the proportions and estimate the solidity of the architecture we have wrought.

If some shrewd cypherer would take pencil and slate and set down in due succession, first what the nation collectively owes; then what the States separately owe; then what the municipalities, greater and lesser, have respectively promised to hand over at stated times and seasons, and add up the same, the sum total would probably astonish him. If he could add to this what the counties owe for court-houses, jails, and the like; and the towns for bridges, and roads, and almshouses; the railroads for their iron, ties, and rollingstock; the school-houses for their shingles and the churches for their steeples and stained glass] archangels, and, carrying the inquiry to its final limit, what proportion of the individuals who comprise the nation eat to-day the meat and wear the raiment which they hope to pay for out of the labor of to-morrow and next day, he would have a glimpse of a bog of debt to which the Slough of Despond was a puddlea bog in which we are all wallowing, and from which we shall find it no holiday task to extricate ourselves. We can't float out of it on paper life-preservers, nor be lifted out of it by paper balloons. Only stern, diligent toil will avail us; sober and useful labor, long endured; the chastisement of that irrational desire to be rich grown of late into a disease among us-only these will lead us out upon the solid ground of prosperity; and to these, whether we like it or not, we have one and

all got to come. There is a proverb, somewhat weatherworn and out at elbows, which declares that it is easy to go to the devil. Time continually attests the truth of this apothegm in the cases not only of individuals, but of peoples. The road thither is quite apt to be paved with debt; a slippery causeway growing ever slipperier and steeper, and whereon the back track is taken with pain and difficulty. Giles borrows a hundred dollars, and goes comfortably in the direction of the devil while a shilling of it remains in his pocket. A railroad issues its bonds for ten millions, and, while that sum lasts, it is surprising how easy it is to open up branch lines and build new depots where they are not wanted. It is surprising how easy the bookkeeping is, and how liberal and sanguine are presidents, boards of direction, and so on. A State gets short of cash. There are river-courses to be improved, canals to be extended, edifices to be built, and other desirable objects to be promoted. The State goes into the market with its promises to pay, gets a part of their nominal value (perhaps), and is as enterprising and progressive as you please while a cent remains in the treasury. But the time comes when individual and railroad and State and out that they have got to settle, and that it is much easier to spend money than to pay it. If the ladividual has spent his money in drunkenness and debauchery. the railroad in building opera-houses, equip-ping fancy regiments, and keeping harems, and the State in corrupt jobs to enrich favorites and oil the itching palms of legislators, pay-day is a bitter period, a veritable dies iree, the wrath whereof falls on innecent and guilty alike. Does anybody think we are going to escape some such day of, settlement as this? If so, we envy him his sanguine temperament, but we can't conscientionsly say that we envy him his brains. We have been dancing for some years, and we have now got the piper to pay. Let us lay it to heart, and, above all, remember that it is faithful and diligent work alone which pays debts, not gambling upon the Exchange, nor speculating in corner lots, nor issuing new paper in place of old. Away, you melancholy groups of curb-stone brokers; clustering, hungry, and idle at the receipt of oustom. Get you to useful employments. The games in which you have borne a part are played out, like yesterday's backgammon; nor will they be revived again for some decades. We shall be none the poorer because of the dispersal of some hundreds or thou-

SYSTEMATIC USE OF THE REGULAR ARMY TO INFLUENCE ELECTIONS.

Pown the N. Y. World. The Republican party has syste natized the employment of our regular army, or, in

European phrase, our standing army, to regulate and influence elections. If there be honor in the act, the honor has been faithfully earned; if there be dishonor, that party must, in like manner, bear the stigma. And it makes no difference in the responsibility whether officers and soldiers, who have made military pursuits a profession or occupation, and thus to that extent isolated themselves from the general mass of citizens, are employed either by virtue of Congressional legislation covering a special state of facts, or of assumed executive prerogative under the Constitution, to control the exercise of political power by the people. In either case it is the Republican party, as a party, which has, in violation of the methods and maxims of civil liberty, organized, developed, matured, and put into practical operation the idea of Federal interference by a standing army in the exercise of the elective franchise by the people of the several States. Now that the emotions stirred by our recent election have measurably subsided, there is not an intelligent and self-respecting citizen in this State, no matter what his political creed, who will deny that the evidence of armed Federal intervention, North, South, East, and West, is sufficient to warrant the assertion which we make of a systematic and digested plan. It will be borne in mind that the use so popular with the Republican party is not of the militia of the respective States -they who are citizens in thought, habit, interest, and daily association—but of the standing army of the nation; a force recruited, organized, paid, and set apart in garrison and camp for the business of war and death-death, not to our own people, but, according to the primitive idea of its formation, of a foreign invader and aggressor. The people of the several States, North as well as South, pay their proportion of Federal taxation to maintain the Military Academy at West Point, for example, not for the purpose of educating officers to control the working of the civil institutions of the different members of the great republic, but chiefly to ward off and keep at bay an outside foe. To that end the rank and file of the regular army are supported by popular taxation. To man, protect, and preserve, to occupy and possess forts, and fortresses is, in time of peace, the primary and main business of a standing army. Our whole system of liberties reposes on the idea that civil affairs are to be administered by civilians, designated and commissioned for that purpose by the proper civil authority of the land. Great emergencies clearly rising to the proportion of insurrection or rebellion, palpably beyond the control of the civil arm, may constitute an exception; but even in such exceptional cases it is the citizen militia of the States which is to be first called upon, and not the standing army. The device of throwing regular troops as distinguished from the militia, mercenaries instead of volunteers, into a locality so as to be at hand to be employed as a part of the posse comitatus, and yet subject to the direction of the military authority, is, in its syste-matic application, a measure born, we repeat, out of the loins of the Republican party. Is this birth a thing of honor, or of dishonor?

Let us look to the great fountain-head of civil liberty, personal liberty, and political liberty-the English revolution of 1688-and see what lessons and maxims we find there to guide us in this crisis! Melitus petere fontes, quam sectari rivulos. Then it was that the English people, and we as their inheritors, obtained the full benefit of those rights and liberties for which good men toiled, suffered, and passed to their great reward. The lineaments of that struggle are impressed upon our Federal Constitution in lines so deep that Washington, Jefferson, Madison, and their co-workers fondly hoped they would endure and control forever, in the framing of our laws, the conduct of our executive and the administration of justice by our judicial tribunals.

The history of England during the last two hundred years is filled with other similar and most convincing examples of the vigilance with which thoughtful and patriotic men in that birth-land of civil and religious liberty have hemmed in the military power and confined it within its legitimate limits. We could quote pages to the same effect from parliamentary enactments, royal orders, judgments of the Privy Council, and opinions of

crown lawvers. Does any student of English constitutional and parliamentary history suppose that either the Duke of Wellington or Lord Palmerston would in their day, upon any pretext, have sanctioned or tolerated such military domination as thete orders disclose over the free exercise of the rights of a British voter? At an election in London for members of Parliament, would the newspaper press of that city have upheld for an hour a ministry employing the standing army as the Republican party has done? Could a British magistrate be found who would consent to administer justice (as did certain commissioners of Judge Woodruff's court) between the crown and the subject in a warehouse loft, surrounded by military officers instructed not to obey implicitly the civil magistrates in preserving the public peace, but to consider the purposes which the crown had in view? France, in the worst days of the Second Empire, might have afforded a spectacle like that presented in this city on the 8th instant, but not Eugland for the last 200 years. Indeed we doubt if Prussia-the most despotic, aristocratic, and military power of civilized Europewould have permitted such military interference with the elective franchise. Count Bismarck could refuse to permit any election at all, as he did in respect to the people of Schleswig-Holstein, in violation of solemn treaty stipulations; but if the electors were once allowed to vote, we dare predict he would have sanctioned no such military domination. In European countries where the separation between civil and military agents is not as distinctly marked as in Great Britain and in the United States, and where police duty is chiefly done by the latter force, such use of the military arm is not so shocking in its effects; but with us, where it is universally understood that to the Sheriff's posse or the municipal police is committed the function of preserving public order, the systematic and frequent use of the regular army in time of profound peace to regulate the conduct of the citizen betokens a mind either profoundly uninstructed in the maxims and traditions of free governments or fatally bent on mischief.

PROSPECTS OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY.

From the N. Y. Times. Nothing could be more absurd than the

of a host of worthless schemes which such a period as we have passed through never fails to generate.

sent local and accidental reverses in the intention of continuing the general movement against Lyons, but suddenly his advance appears at Sens, a city of some imthe Republican party. The disintegration of the party is paraded as an accomplished fact, and dissolution is represented as approaching and inevitable. Two years hence, we are told, a Democratic President will take possession of the White House, and the Republican party will pass into the lumber-room of history. If these imaginative efforts afford any consolation to the opposition, we may expect them to be continued. The Democracy have suffered so long the mortification of defeat that they may, perhaps, be excused for trying to make themselves believe that victory will some day be possible. But they must not suppose that people generally can be so deceived. The truth is too palpable to be blotted out of existence by the inventions of heated brains.

In the first place the elections have not turned upon national issues. The national policy of either party has not been on trial. In this city, politics, in the ordinary sense, were not discussed at all, and everywhere in the State local and personal considerations were paramount. Even here it cannot be said that the Republican policy has been condemned; all that can be truly affirmed, is that a local organization, of which respectable Democrats everywhere are ashamed, has triumphed by the use of means peculiar to itself. Whatever disasters have occurred in Illinois proceeded from strictly local causes; and the Missouri contest, which has transferred to the Democracy divers local advantages, had no reference whatever to the record or aims of the party to which McClurg and Gratz Brown both professedly belong. Further South, as in Alabama and Florida, there has been a slight modification of the political results growing out of reconstruction. Some change in this respect must, however, be looked for sooner or later in these States. The black vote will not always remain a unit; many who once were slaves will vote for former masters who lappen to be endeared to them by remembrances of personal kindness. a few Democratic gains in that section are not a set-off to the substantial strength of which the Republican organization has proved itself possessed. bas carried Arkansas and Louisiana and South Carolina; it has divided Alabama, and has secured nearly half of the Congressional representation in Virginia. It has made advances in Kentucky, and has passed creditably through its first genuine campaign in Maryland and Delaware. Besides, the Democrats in the reconstructed States have been enabled to do what they have done solely because they acquiesce, or pretend to acquiesce, in what reconstruction has effected. They have disclaimed partisau Democracy, and have urged their claims with special reference to material interests. They have, in fact, come partly upon our ground, and have thus avoided a crushing defeat.

Despite all these consideration :- the gene ral apathy on political questions, the presence of local difficulties in several of the States, and the no-party character of some of the successes which the Democrats parade as gains—the supremacy of Republicans in the councils of the country is still complete. The next Congress will as assuredly be Republican as the present one. The figures already accepted on all sides demonstrate that fact beyond cavil. The Democracy, with all their boasting, are yet a defeated party. They can neither embarrass the administration nor mould the policy of Congress. Both are as much beyond their control as they were twelve months ago, or at any period during the war. In New York they may be absolute. In the nation they are powerless.

Not only has the Republican party not suffered in any manner that could justify apprehension as to its future, but in almost all the States it has proved the strength of its hold upon the popular heart. If Republican candidates have not suffered more severely, here and there, it has not been because of the superior excellence of the nominations or the superior wisdom of local management, but because their attachment to the party prompted voters to overlook local or personal drawbacks. The greater part of whatever vitality appeared in the campaign which temporarily closed on the 8th instant was the product of popular devotion to the party that is uppermost in Congress, and has the President for its standard-bearer. To develop this vitality to its full extent it

is only necessary to bring before the country the respective claims of the two parties their records, and the purposes with which they are respectively identified. The apathy which prevailed in recent contests, and the local divisions which were too frequently permitted to paralyze effort, will disappear as soon as the Democratic and Republican parties are brought face to face, and the country is called upon to pronounce judgment between them. This is one of the certainties of politics. Democratic writers may cherish the delusion that there is hope for them in the next Presidential struggle; but no intelligent and candid observer can doubt that public opinion is overwhelmingly in favor of the Republican party and its achievements. While the Democratic party appears loaded down with odium, and with a platform composed of negations, the Republican party retains untarnished the patriotic glories of the war, and tangible evidence of the reforms it has accomplished since the return of peace. The reconstruction measures had faults, but in the main they are vindicated by the result. And the various financial measures, while not perfect in detail, have commended themselves to the country, which realizes the profitableness of an improved public credit, and a reduction of amounting in a single year tion to eighty millions. The introduction of fidelity and efficiency into the revenue service, and of vigorous economy into the expenditures of the Government, are other consequences of Republican administration which tell directly upon the pockets of the people, and command a confidence that neither the fancies nor the falsehoods of the Democracy can overcome. When issues like these are brought up, there will be no hesitation in rendering a verdict; and these belong to the class of issues which will arise when the national campaign is entered upon. What has been done in the past affords the best possible reason for relying upon the patriotism of the Republicans, while it should also encourage us to grapple with the new questions as they arise in a spirit at once firm, moderate, and statesmanlike.

THE WAR SITUATION-A TRAP FOR THE ARMY OF THE LOIRE.

From the N. Y. Herald. General Von Moltke is said to have perfected another trap, by which he proposes this time to capture General Paladines and the army of the Loire. General von Der Tann withdraws cautiously before the army now stationed about Orleans, and Paladines, elated by his successes, follows confidently. In the meantime Prince Frederick Charles, with one hundred thousand men, moves southward sands of fancy operators nor by the collapse | attempts of the Democratic press to repre- | from Chalens to Troyes, apparently with the

portance on the River Yonne, about sixty miles from Orleans. Thence he can march in less than five days to Orleans, and compel a change of front on the part of the Army of the Loire, a retreat or a battle, in which the German troops, thus heavily reinforced, would overwhelm their adversary and drive him back upon Tours. The situation of Paladines, it will thus be seen, is something like that of Lee when Sherman came striding across Georgia to the sea, although it is not nearly so desperate. Palodines can, at least, fall back and fortify without any immediate prospect of a close siege, and he can also move forward rapidly, strike his enemy vigorously and defeat him before Prince Frederick Charles can reach him; but this requires veteran experience on the part of his soldiers and full confidence in them, Even then it is dangerous.

The starvation process is evidently having its effect inside Paris. A deserter states that the poor are suffering dreadfully, and that another outbreak is imminent at any moment. The previous riots were put down by the stern hand of the military, the utmost severity being used, and the people's dread of the soldiery is all that restrains them now from a most bloody uprising.

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BUREAU OF CONSTRUCTION AND REPAIR,

WASHINGTON, D. C., November 5, 1870.)

SEALED PROPOSALS for the delivery of 263,000 cubic feet of Live oak Timber, of the best quality, in each of the Navy-Yards at Charlestown, Mass., and Brooklyn, N. I., will be received at this Bureau until the sixth (6th) day of December next.

These proposals must be endorsed "Proposals for Live Oak," that they may be distinguished from other business letters.

The offers may be for one or both yards, but must be for the whole quantity in each yard, and, as re-

be for the whole quantity in each yard, and, as required by law, must be accompanied by a guarantee.

Sureties in the full estimated amount will be re-

Sureties in the full estimated amount will be required to sign the contract, and as additional and collateral security, twenty-five (25) per centum will be withheld on the amount of each delivery until the contract is satisfactorily completed.

In all the deliveries of the timber there must be a due proportion of the most dimenit and crooked pieces; otherwise there will be withheld such further amount in addition to the 25 per centum as may be judged expedient to secure the public laterest until such difficult portions be delivered. The remaining 75 per centum, or other proportion of each bill, when approved in triplicate by the Commandant of the yard, will be paid by such purchasing paymaster as the contractor may designate within thirty (30) days after its presentation to him.

It will be stipulated in the contract that if default or made by the parties of the first part in delivering all or any of the timber named, of the quality and at the time and place provided, then, and in that case, the contractor, and his sureties, will forfeit and pay to the United States a sum of money not exceed-ing twice the total amount therein agreed upon as the price to be paid in case of the actual delivery thereof, which may be recovered according to the Act of Congress in that case provided, approved March 3, 1843.

The 203,000 cubic feet to be delivered in each yard The 203,000 cubic feet to be delivered in each yard will be in the following proportions:—Say 33,000 cubic feet of pieces suitable for stems, sternposts, deadwoods, aprons, sternpost knees, keelsons, and hooks, all siding from 17 to 20 inches, and the hooks siding 14 and 16 inches. These pieces to be in the proportions in which they enter into the construction of a ship of war; conforming substantially in shape, length, and character with those heretofore received with frames of corresponding siding the received, with frames of corresponding siding, the moulds of which can be seen at any navy yard; 130,000 cubic feet of the siding of 13 and 15 inches, in about equal quantities of each, and 10,000 cubic feet of a siding of 12 inches; all these pieces being in length from 13 to 17 feet, with a natural and fair curve of from 12 to 30 inches or more in that length, and one-half the number of pieces to have from the mean to the greatest crook. Also 30,000 cubic feet of timber siding 43 and 15 inches, in length from 17

All to be sided straight and fair, and rough-hewed the moulding way to show a face of not less than two-thirds the siding, the wane being deducted in the measurement. The timber to be cut from trees growing within 30 miles of the sea, of which satisfactory evidence will be required, and to be delivered in the respective yards at the risk and expense of the contractor,

row yards at the risk and expense of the contractor, subject to the usual inspection, and to the entire approval of the Commandant of the yard.

The whole quantity to be delivered within two years from the date of the contract.

Satisfactory evidence must be presented with each proposal that the parties either have the timber or are acquainted with the subject, and have the feedlift to proque it.

facility to procure it. In addition to the above, separate "Sealed Pro-posals" will be received at the same time, on the same terms and conditions and similarly endorsed from persons having the timber on hand already cut, for the delivery in each of the navy yards at Charlestown and Brooklyn, of from 3 to 50,000 cubic feet of Live-oak, the principal pieces siding 14 to 17 inches, the remaining portion 12 and 13 inches; the principal pieces and crooked timber being in the same proportion to the quantity offered specified in the first case, with the same lengths and crooks.

The whole amount contracted for in this case must be delivered on or before the 1st February. The Department reserves the right to reject any and all bids for any timber under this a lvertisement if considered not to the interest of the Government to accept them, and to require satisfactory evidence that bids are bona side in all respects, and are made

by responsible persons. FORM OF OFFER. (Which, if from a firm, must be signed by all the mem-

bers.) I (or we), of \_\_\_\_\_, in the State of \_\_\_\_\_ hereby agree to furnish and deliver in the United States Navy Yard at thousand cubic feet of Live-oak timber, in conformity with the advertisement of the Bureau of Construction and Repair of the date of November

5, 1870, viz.:— cubic feet, suitable for principal pieces, at \$— per foot.....
cubic feet, curved timber, at
\$— per foot.....
cubic feet timber, at \$— per ft.

...... Total quantity. Total value.. ...... (The total value to be likewise written in full) at Should my (or our) offer be accepted. I (or we) request to be addressed at \_\_\_\_\_, and the contract sent to the Purchasing Paymaster of the Naval Sta-

tion at ---- for signature and certificate. [Signature], A. B. C. D.

FORM OF GUARANTEE. The undersigned ---the State of \_\_\_\_, in the State 

that which may be accepted. [Signatures] C. D. E. F.

Each of the guarantors must be certified by the Assessor of Internal Revenue for the district in which the parties are assessed.

PROPOSALS FOR THE ERECTION OF PUB-OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS FOR THE ERECTION OF THE PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 3, 1870.
Proposals will be received at the Office of

President of the Commission, No. 139 S. SEVENTH Street, until November 30, 1870, for items one, two, and three, and until December 31, 1870, for the balance of the schedule, for the following materials For carefully removing the iron railings and stone base from the four inclosures at Broad and Market streets, and depositing the same in order

upon such portions of the adjacent grounds as the Commissioners may select. Commissioners may select.

2, for removing the trees and clearing the ground.

3. For the lumber and labor for the erection of a board fence twelve (12) feet in height, with gates to inclose the space occupied by Penn Squares, per lines! foot, complete.

4. For excavations for cellars, drains, ducts, foun-

dations, etc., per cubic yard.

5. For concrete foundtions, per cubic foot. 6. For foundation stone, several kinds, laid per perch of twenty-five feet, measured in the walls.

7. For hard bricks per thousand, delivered at Broad and Market street during the year 1871. 8. For undressed granite per cubic foot, specifying the kind.

9. For undressed marble per cubic foot, specify-

ing the kind.

10. For rolled from beams (several sizes), per lineal yard of given weight.

The Commissioners reserve to themselves the right to reject any or all of the proposals.

Further information can be obtained by applying to the President of the Board, or to the Architect, John McArthur, Jr., at als office, No. 205 S. SIXTH

By order of the Commission.

JOHN RICE, President. CHAS. R. ROBERTS, Secretary.

GROCERIES, ETC. NEW BETHLEHEM

BUCKWHEAT.

In small casks.

ALBERT C. ROBERTS,

Dealer in Fine Groceries,

Corner ELEVENTH and VINE Sta.

JOHN FARNUM & CO., COMMISSION MER chants and Manufacturers of Conestons Ticking, etc.