## SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

JOHN BRIGHT IN WASHINGTON.

From the N. Y. Tribune.

There is no doubt that Great Britain is growing nneasy at the spectre of the unsettied Alabama claims. If there should be a general war in Europe—and peace now in any part of the Old World is precarious in the extreme—it would be impossible to affect any longer a contempt for our "sentimental grievance." The precedent established by the English Government in 1861 would become a menace of terrible import, and the misdeeds of Mr. Laird and Earl Russell might bring their own punishment by sweeping British commerce from the ocean. The traditional friendship between Russia and the United States, and the sympathy which has been manifested in this country for the Czar's position on the Black Sea question, are naturally considered with some anxiety in London; and though it is of course well understood that we should take no active part in any European struggle, there are obvious reasons why Great Britain should want to get clear of all her American entanglements before she becomes involved nearer home. The warlike demonstrations of certain hot patriots in this country are rated at their true significance, and therefore cause no alarm; but the European prospects put the Alabama question in a new light. It is not General Butler, but Prince Gortschakoff, who has roused the British conscience.

A good indication of the anxiety of Englishmen to have the dispute settled is the proposition of a writer in the Pall Mall Gazette to send John Bright to Washington to conduct the negotiations. The Pall Mall Gazette has never sympathized with our feelings on this question. It represents that governing class which all through the war was most hostile to us, and ever since the war has pronounced our demands preposterous. Mr. Bright, on the other hand, has been more nearly in accord with us than any other man in England. Whatever ground he might take, as the representative of his Government, in respect to the main question in dispute, he tainly appreciates our view of the case, and estimates properly not only the responsibility of Great Britain for the ravages of the Confederate cruisers, but the gravity of that far more delicate issue, the recognition of belligerency. No American needs to be reminded of Mr. Bright's eloquent denunciations in Parliament and elsewhere of the Birkenhead ship-builders, and the inefficiency or complicity of the Government which allowed its neutrality laws to be violated in the interest of the rebellious slave-holders. None of us have forgotten his scathing rebuke of the sympathy bestowed upon great conspiracy against human nature," the "portentous and monstrous shape" which through the lips of Mason and Slidell "asked to be received into the family of nations. But Mr. Bright went further than this. He admitted that the hasty recognition of the belligerency of the Confederates, and the general attitude of the British Gevernment towards them, was a grievance of which we had good reason to complain. "If we have not done thi ngs that are plainly hostile to the North, said he in a speech at Rochdale in December, 1861, "there has not been that friendly and cordial neutrality which, if I had been a citizen of the United States, I should have expected. Of the proclamation of belligerency he declared in the House of Commons, in March, 1865, that "it was done with unfriendly baste, and it had this effect, that it gave comfort and courage to the conspiracy at Montgomery and at Richmond;" and he went on to imagine what the feelings of the English people would be if, in case of a great revolt in Ireland, the United States, by a similar hasty recognition, should give comfort and support to insurgents against the authority of the British crown.

If Mr. Bright is well disposed to listen to our side of the story, we are equally ready to hear his. The American people have the fullest confidence in his just and kindly disposition, and would pay more regard to reasoning from him than from any other man in England. We do not know that there is any particular ground to believe that the British Government will act upon the suggestion of the London newspaper, but we should rejoice in such an appointment, and we are confident that good would result from it. Still, however the question may be reopened, we trust the English people will understand that we have no disposition to take advantage of their foreign embarrassments to force a settlement. General Grant's policy has the cordial approval of the country, and that policy looks to a settlement of the controversy on such terms and in such a manner that the ties of friendship which ought to unite the two countries will be permanently strengthened.

CAUSES OF THE DECAY OF REPUBLI-CANISM AT THE SOUTH.

From the N. Y. Sun.

The causes of the decline of the Republican party in the South, and particularly in the extreme South, as disclosed in the recent elections, are obvious to those who look below the surface of events. As the term is understood at the North, there is, strictly speaking, no Republican party in the former slaveholding States. In 1860 no Republican electoral tickets were put in nomination in ten of those States. In Missouri the ticket of that party received in that year 17,000 votes. This, however, was an exception to the general rule in those States, for the obvious reason that St. Louis and a few other localities in Missouri had long been imbued with a free-soil sentiment. Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and Kentucky, in all of which great efforts had been made to establish a Republican party, only gave the Lincoln electors in the aggregate about 9000

During the Rebellion, of course, no Republican party existed in the insurgent States. In 1864 electoral tickets favorable to Lincoln were put in nomination in the South. only in Maryland, West Virginia, Missouri, and Kentucky. By means of the presence of the army, and of the issue of preserving the Union and crushing the Rebellion, the three first-named States were barely carried for Lincoln, while in Kentucky he was beaten

about 37,000. During the reconstruction era under Andrew Johnson, politics in the late rebellious States were in a chaotic condition. The former Rebels were disfranchised, the negroes were admitted to the ballot-boxes, there was an occasional rally at the polls by authority of some special act of Congress, but no Re-publican party of the Northern type was yet

organized In 1868, as the Presidential election approached, a party was formed all through the South for the purpose of supporting crushed by every means, foul or fair.

Grant and opposing Seymour. The rank and file of this hastily created organization was made up of negroes who had just emerged from slavery. The leaders were composed of Southern whites who put forth a questionable claim to have been friends of the Union during the Rebellion, and whom the dethroned oligarchs called "scalawags," and of recent emigrants from the North, the debris of the Federal armies, whom the natives of the South stigmatized as "carpet-

baggers. The result of this unprecedented combination of political elements was, that in 1868 Grant received the support of eight of the former slaveholding States, casting 57 electoral votes, and Seymour the support of five of those States, having 30 electoral votes; while Virginia, Mississippi, and Texas were not allowed to vote at all.

The elections of this present year show that the States of Alabama, Florida, Missouri, North Carolina, Tennessee, West Virginia, and perhaps Arkansas, which voted for Grant in 1868, have now gone for the Democrats; while the Democrats have lost no Southern State which then voted for Seymour except Lou-

This significant change is due to the fact that in the strict sense of the term there is not now, and never has been, a Republican party in the old slaveholding States; and that the organization which bears that name is of so recent growth, and is composed of such peculiar materials, as to afford an unstable basis on which to stake the fortunes of a national administration in that section of the

THE "MISSION" OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

From the N. Y. Times.

The World, whose course for along time past bas proved that it has no principles, publishes a long article to prove that the Democratic party ought not to have any either. This is on the plan of the animal which lost its tail, and then delivered a long oration to all the rest of its kind to prove how much better they would look if they cut off their tails also. It protests against the increasing demand of the Democracy throughout the country for what it sceeringly calls "affirmative issues." It appeals to history to show that affirmative issues never built up a cause or a party; and goes back to the beginning of creation and cites Moses (not Moses Taylor) as proof of the fact. "Eight of the ten commandments," gravely remarks the World, begin with 'thou shalt not,' and of the other two one is equally divided between positive and negative. Christianity itself begins in negation-undoing the effects of Adam's fail as the necessary preliminary to the creation of a new heart.'

With this specimen-brick of the World's historical argument against affirmative issues. or, in other words, against parties with principles, we pass to what the same brilliant authority announces as the "mission" of the Democratic party. And what does the reader suppose it is? Listen. "Power," says the World, "is always stealing from the many to the few. It is the mission of the Democratic party to arrest this tendency. The Democratic party is founded on faith in man. It believes in his capacity to walk out of leading-strings, to judge correctly of his own interests, to find his own way to happiness." Very well. Accepting this statement of the creed of Democracy as correct, let us see how the Democratic party has kept its faith and fulfilled its "mission."

For twenty years previous to the rebellion, the Democratic party of this country was the unswerving ally and champion of less than three hundred thousand slave-holders. who wielded supreme power over twelve millions of human beings, four millions of whom were not only not allowed to "find their own way to happiness," but were denied the right even to own themselves. When this unrighteous power, thus "stolen from the many to the few," sought to extend its sway over yet other millions of freemen, the Democratic party supported its claims and advocated its right 30 to do. When, failing in the attempt, it waged war upon the Government, and sought to break up the Union, the Democratic party openly sympathized with it, gave it all the aid and encouragement it could, and uniformly and systematically opposed every measure adopted by the Government to overthrow the Rebellion and maintain its own existence. Then it was that the World shone so conspicuously as the mouth piece of those "negative issues" which, in spite of past defeats, it still recommends the Democratic party to follow. The chief argument of the World at that time was that the war for the Union was a "nigger war," and all engaged in it were "nigger worshippers." President Lincoln was an "ape," Secretary Stanton was a "tyrant," Grant was a "butcher," Butler was a "beast," and so on through the entire catalogue of loyal men who were engaged in putting down a rebellion waged in the interest of the few against the many. The mission of the Democratic party has been the same since as it was before and during the war. It has continued a steadfast ally of the "power which is always stealing from the many to the few." It has opposed every form of reconstruction that tended to secure liberty and equal rights for all men, from the first constitutional amendment, which forbade the restoration of human slavery, to the last which enfranchised the negro.

But it is here in New York that the "mission of the Democratic party" is illustrated in its highest perfection, and it is a significant omission on the part of the World that it failed to cite this city as a model for the atudy of its fellow Democrats in other States. Here is a city (and it is about the only one in the United States) where the Democratic party has been in an overwhelming majority for years, and could fulfil its "mission" unmolested. Let us see how it has "resisted this tendency of power to steal from the many to the few." Commencing with a secret society under the name of "St. Tammany, or the Columbian Order," the political power of the Demo-cratic party in New York has gradually stolen from the many to the few, until it now rests absolutely in the hands of a "ring" of less than half a dozen individuals, chief of whom are Peter B. Sweeny and William M. Tweed. No Democrat can be nominated, elected, or appointed to any office, however small, without first getting the consent of "Peter Brains" or "Boss Tweed." How often during the past three years has the great Democratic party of New York been compelled to witness the humiliating spectacle of a mass meeting of what are called "free and independent voters," assembled in some district or ward, humbly petitioning Mr. Sweeny and Mr. Tweed that they would consent to nominate this or that man for Alderman or Assemblyman? Occasionally some refractory Democrat has the hardihood to run for an office without the consent of these Moguls of the party, but he rarely suc-ceeds in being elected, and, if he does, he is forever after a marked man, stigmatized as a traiter to his party, and singled out to he

or four men rule the Democratic party here with a rod of iron, but it rules the entire city, and administers our municipal government after the same fashion and with the same personal and selfish ends. It acknowledges no responsibility to the people, but is entirely above and beyond the people. It refuses to let the people know how much of their money it spends, or how it spends it. No citizen can ascertain how many employes the city has, what their names are, or how much they get. In a word, our whole municipal government, as now administered, is a secret conspiracy to plunder the public, and tax-payers have as little knowledge of what becomes of their money as though it were disbursed by a band of robbers in a cave in Algiers.

And this grand achievement of the New York Democracy is a practical illustration of what the World calls the "mission of the Democratic party." To fulfill this "mission" it is only necessary, according to the World, for the party to do all over the country what it does here-eschew "affirmative issues," hold no fixed principles, and sell out, as occasion may require, to the highest bidder.

EUROPEAN WAR AND THE BALANCE OF TRADE.

P om the N. Y. World.

The expectation that Russie's attempt to abrogate the treaties of 185°, might lead to a general European war has induced some of the political economists of the day to hunt up the statistics of our foreign trade for the years of the Crimean war, and to demonstrate that during that time the balance of trade was in our favor; that therefore we were as a nation benefitted by that war, and ought now to rejoice should Russia's demand lead to renewed complications, because they would again inure to our benefit. Not to speak of the monstrous doctrine that we can possibly derive a sum total of advantage from a general European war, the argument itself, in so far as based upon the balance of trade theory, is fallacious. No greater absurdities have ever been perpetrated in the bistory of commercial legislation than those based upon this delusive theory, which has not the slightest foundation of reality to

stand upon. In the first place the importance of all foreign trade is constantly and enormously overrated. The domestic production of the United States is now estimated by the best statisticians at \$10,000,000,000 per annum, while our import or export trade has never yet materially exceeded \$400,000,000 in any one year, showing that domestic production exceeds foreign imports twenty-five fold in numerical importance, and that hence a variation of even \$100,000,000 in our exports and imports is no indication whatever of our general prosperity.

In the second place, it has yet to be proved that an excess of exports is a thing to be desired. England, which cannot certainly be quoted as an illustration of an unprofitable commerce, has for the last twenty years imported every year largely in excess of her exports, and has run up during the last ten years alone what callow "balance of trade" economists would call an unfavorable balance of trade to the extent of £530,000,000, or nearly \$2,700,000,000 in coin. If such an enormous excess of imports does not ruin England, why should a much more moderate excess be so injurious to us, or why should we be so anxious to produce the reverse condition? These whole figures. though valuable in their way for stati purposes, are totally valueless as indications of national prosperity. Primarily every nation should export in value as much as it imports. If it carries on both export and import trade on its own account, as England does almost everywhere, and as we do to some extent, it should import an excess sufficient to pay the profits of trade. If it carries on any portion of its trade in its own vessels, it should import an additional excess to pay the freights earned with them. If it owns capital employed abroad, it must bring the interest home in the shape of imports. And if it borrows capital abroad, or foreign capital comes to it for investment, that capital must come in the shape of imports and must swell the apparent balance of trade against a country. It is evident that no statistics can be invented to show to which of these causes the balance of trade is due, and that, therefore, the argument based upon it is quite fallacious.

The period of the Crimean war is the very period which should warn unfledged stastificians not to meddle with the balance of trade. In 1853 we were unusually prosperous, and our excess of imports was unusually large; in fact, one of the three largest unfavorable balances for thirty or forty years. In 1854 the unfavorable balance was smaller, but still heavy. As soon as England felt the strain upon her resources caused by the Crimean war, she sought to collect from all parts of the world all balances due to her, and notably from this country. For the first time in a number of years we in 1855 exported more than we imported, and we did so in order to enable England to use all her resources in fighting Russia. Our merchandise exports were not sufficient to pay what we owed, and we were obliged to drain ourselves of a large amount of specie, losing nearly one hundred and fifty millions in coin in the three years of 1854, 1855, and 1856. It was this loss of coin in those three years which, in spite of a favorable balance of trade in each year, brought about the terrific crash of 1857, when we were totally unable to pay what we owed, and when we were obliged to temporarily defer all foreign payments by a suspension of specie payments. In the year following, 1858, by dint of the bountiful crops of the previous year, we were enabled to again export more than we imported, the balance of trade in our favor (?) that year, which will long be remembered as a year of misery and poverty, being the largest one in

the history of this country. It will not be denied by any one that there is a large amount of foreign capital, especially English and German, now invested in this country, precisely as there was in 1853, with the difference that at present the amount is probably tenfold larger than then. We have failed to experience the results of 1855 from the present Franco-Prussian war because Germany has not yet begun to feel its effects, while England has as yet remained free. But in the former case England did not call upon us for remittances until the second year of the war, while the present contest is scarcely four months old, and we may yet have to experience a very serious German drain upon our resources. England and Russia be drawn into the strife in addition to the present combatants, a repetition of our experience from 1855 to 1858 would be what we ought reasonably to look for-an experience surely not to be anticipated with rejoicing, whatever "balance of trade" statistics may say to the contrary.

THE LESSON OF THE ELECTIONS.

From the Cincinnati Gazette. If such an anomaly as a rational Democrat exists, we may remark that no rational Demo-

And not only does this secret ring of three | crat can extract from the elections of this year a calculation that the Democrats can carry the next Presidential election. They give no signs of a revolution. Nor can they derive any reasonable hope from differences in the Republican party; for the differences upon questions of political economy are but the healthy processes of the Republican party which keep it in progress; and as to any differences about men, if any one thing has been demonstrated by the history of the Republican party, it is the fact that it does not depend on any one man, nor on any set of leaders. It is a Republican organization, having the liberty and sturdy individual independence that belong to republicanism. and deriving vigor from the exercise of these onalities.

> It may be regarded as settled that no Democrat tainted with the unfaithful sourse of that party in the struggle for national preservation can be elected President next time, and that the party which carries this load cannot elect a majority at the next Congressional election. That matter is virtually settled, and the Republican party is left master of its own destinies and the Democratic party to seek out a new character that may bring it accessions or allies The New York World recognizes this situation, and in an article applying the lesson of the recent elections, it tries to impress this fact upon the party at large. It holds up the new Democracy as the progressive Democracy, whose wisdom is proved by their success in carrying elections, and it exhorts the Democracy of the country to follow their lead. It describes the Democracy elsewhere as a stagnated Democracy, whose policy has brought, and will continue to bring, defeat. It states that "the Democratic party has lost three successive elections by gross mismanagement and glaring mistakes, and that 'in every one of these the judgment of the New York Democracy was overruled."

The specifications are that they were overruled by the rejection of Douglas at Charleston; by the damaging (Vallandigham) plat-form in 1864; and by forcing the nomina-tion in 1868 upon Seymour, who 'thought the interests of the party required the nomination of Chief Justice Chase," and by putting bim on a platform of a financial policy against which he had recently delivered powerful arguments. The World says the wish of the New York Democracy was a candidate that would strengthen the party in Pennsylvania and Indiana in the October elections, and it was "an Ohio movement that thrust the nomination on Governor Seymour, and put the party in the incongruous attitude of running an anti-greenback candidate on a greenback platform, and associating an open advocate of Judge Chase on the same ticket with the author of a then recent letter in conflict with all Judge Chase's ideas.'

To this confession of Democratic follies we may add that Vallandigham, who was in the Temmany Convention the spokesman of the Ohio movement for Seymour, bas since declared that the rejection of Judge Chase at that time was a blunder. It is our impression that the Enquirer, whose managing proprietor was the main engineer of the Pendleton greenback movement, has made a similar admission. In some recent comments on a statement of Judge Chase's health, we mentioned that the signs indicated that the Western Democracy were looking to him for a candidate. We have now this statement that the leaders of the New York Democracy wanted Judge Chase, and regard it as gross mismanagement that prevented him; and the aim of all this seems to be to show the necessity for nominating Judge Chase next time.

We perceive the force of these premises and of the conclusion. No man who carries the burden of the character of the Democratic party in the civil war can be elected President during this generation. The World's declaration is wise, "that the party cannot regain its ascendency in national affairs by attempting to extract nutriment from the husks and chaff of defunct controversies of a past era. But to say that the party has been defeated for a whole decade by gross mismanagement seems to us about as encouraging to future success as the explanation of election defeats which attributes them to apathy and to dissensions. This only brings the question, What caused the apathy and the dissensions? And so the question arises, What caused the mismanagement? And is the repetition of it in three Presidential conventions a sign of wisdom next time? May not a devout mind find in this the truth that when the gods desire to destroy folks they wat deprive them of judg-

ment? For our part we have an abiding faith in the Democratic party's lack of political sagacity, and we believe it will continue to repeat itself. It is something more than a mere mistake of strategy in a convention. There is beneath this a more profound blunder, in totally misunderstanding the character of the American people. This was shown by the course of the leaders of the Northern Democracy in the secession war, and by the contrary course of the mass of the people. For Democratic leaders to place a mean estimate on the popular character is a binder that is akin to a crime. It proves total incapacity for popular leadership. The blunder which concluded that the majority of the people of the North would submit to an appeal from ballots to bullets, and to the dissolution of the nation, has been continually repeated in detail by the Democratic waiting for a popular reaction which should undo the work of

national preservation. What signs have they given of the capacity to retrieve this blunder? They have attempted no reformation of character. They are like the traveller who sat down to wait for the river to run by. They are all waiting for the coming reaction. During the four years of war they were looking for the time when the soldiers would quit the army in disgust, when desertion would destroy its ranks, when no more recruits could be had, and when the Democrats at home would be strong enough to rise and welcome the Confederate armies. Since the war they have been continually looking for a popular reaction against the burdens left by the Rebellion. At any local change they sounded their horn of resurrection. And their attempts at election excitation were all by appeals to the instincts of knavery, and proposals to degrade the national honor.

All this is more than a blunder in campaign tactics. It is a total lack of comprehension of the people they assume to lead. It is worse than a blunder or a crime; it is incompetency. They are still waiting for the American people to fall so low that they will follow those who contemn patriotism and national honor.

The Democratic party of the North has had no leaders of capacity since the Southern leaders went into the Rebellion. It has been as prostrate as another organization under absolute personal government, which, as soon as its head was taken away, fell into anarchy and split up into factions led by charlatans, and which is incapable of generating capable leaders, or of organizing for consistent action. And what capable Democratic leader can the New York Democracy offer?

It is confessed that the mismanagement of 1868 was in not taking a candidate from outside the party. This admits that the party

character is the fatal thing. But the character remains the same. And is there any prospect of bringing the Democrata to an agreement upon Mr. Chase in the next convention? And if there were, does the realization that the neglect to nominate him then was a blunder prove that it would be a success now?

We appreciate the confession that the Democratic aspect is hateful to the American people, and the declaration that their greatest blunder was in not taking up a candidate who had not the taint of the Democratic name; but we see no signs of conditions or of sagacity that promise a change, or that the Demoeratic party will not continue to fulfil its destiny by serving as a foil to the Republican.

## SPECIAL NOTICES. FERCH BAZAR, FOR THE RELIEF OF

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on Nevember. THROUGH BILLS OF LADING at as low rates as by any other route given to Mobile, Galveston, INDIAN.
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without charge of commissions.

WEEKLY LINE TO SAVANNAH, GA.
The WYUMING will sail for Savannah on Saturday, November and at S.A.
The TONAWANDA will sail from Savannah on Saturday, November 20

the TONAWANDA will sail from Savannah on Satur-day, November 24.

Thir Cough Bills OF LaDing given to all the prin-cipal towns in Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Missisalppi, Louisinna, Arkaussa, and Tennessee in connection with the Central Railroad of Georgia, Atlantic and Gulf Rail-road, and Florida steamers, at as low rates as by competing lines.

SEMI-MONTHLY LINE TO WILMINGTON, N. O.
The PIONEER will sail for Wilmington on Saturday,
November 26. at 6 A. M. Returning, will leave Wilmington Saturday, December 3.
Connects with the Cape Fear River Stesmboat Company, the Wilmington and Weldon and North Carolina Ratircade, and the Wilmington and Manchester Railroad to all interior points.
Freights for Columbia, S. O., and Augusta, Ga., taken via Wilmington, at as low rates as by any other route.
Insurance effected when requested by shippers. Bills of lading signed at Queen street wharf on or before day of sailing.

sailing. WILLIAM L. JAMES, General Agent.
No. 130 South THIRD Street. FOR LIVERPOOL AND QUEENS.

Steamers are appointed to sail as follows:— City of Brooklyn, Saturday, Nov. 26, at S A. M. City of Limerick, via Hulifax, Tuesday, Nov. 29, at 11 A.M. City of Brussels, Saturday, Dec. 3, at 8 A. M. City of Washington, Saturday, Dec. 3, at S A. M.
and each succeeding Saturday and alternate Tuesday, from pier No. 45 North river.

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Payable in gold. Payable in currency.
First Cabin. \$75 Steerage. \$3
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Passengers also forwarded to Havre, Hamburg, Stemen, etc., at reduced rates.
Tickets can be bought here at moderate rates by persons wishing to send for their friends.

For further information apply at the company's

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INCREASED FACILITIES AND REDUCED RATES
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Steamers leave every WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY,
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No Bills of Lading signed after 12 o'clock on saiting
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FOR NEW YORK, VIA DELAWARL' and Raritan Canal.

SWIFTSURE TRANSPORTATION

COMPANY.

DESPATCH AND SWIFTSURE LINES,

Leaving daily at 12 M. and 5 P. M.

The steam properfers of this company will commence loading on the 8th of March.

Through in twenty-four hours.

Goods forwarded to any point free of commission

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