SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

FRANCE AT THE POLLS.

From the N. Y. Tribune.

If Count Bismarck has not at the last moment interfered to postpone the elections, yesterday witnessed the most important event of the war. Upon the result of the polling hang consequences vastly more mo-mentous than upon any possible battle. If the Republicans stand firmly by their colors and send to the Assembly at Bordeaux a majority of Deputies pleaged to the maintenance of freedom, and prepared to make those sacrifices of national susceptibility which are absolutely required by the circumstances of the hour, they will win for France a victory more glerious and more enduring in its consequences than any won by the great Consul with the invincible armies of the first republic. But if, on the other hand, the apathy or the dissensions of those who love liberty less than their own conceits should throw the nation once more into the dishonoring embrace of the men who have corrupted and destroyed it for a score of years, the disaster of Waterloo and the infamy of Sedan will not be comparable to the disgrace of yesterday's

It would be rash to make any predictions in view of the confusion and hurry of the short week given to preparation for a canvass so important. Everything has worked together against the republic. The unfortunate escapade of Gambetta seemed likely for a moment to make shipwreck of the Liberal cause. The Cabinet at Versailles appeared inclined to make it a cause for interrering with the elections on the ground that, with M. Gambetta's disqualifying provisions, they could not be free. But the mischief has now been remedied so far as was in the power of the Govern-ment of National Defense. MM. Pelletan, Arago, and Garnier-Pages have arrived in Bordeaux, and have issued instructions to the prefects disavowing the disfranchising circular of Gambetta, and ordering the strict observance of the decree of the 31st of January, providing for the free exercise of universal suffrage. The country will therefore be spared the disaster of an actual conflict of authority on election day; but it is not to be hoped that the republican cause can entirely escape the consequences of this useless and ill-advised act of insubordination. The old spirit of violence and intolerance which has before proved so dangerous and difficult to manage is again showing itself in Paris. The Government is arraigned for cowardice by public speakers who have not yet gotten the color back into their faces, bleached by the air of cellars during the siege. One orator is reported as clamoring for a Robespierre and a guillotine as the specific for present troubles. The wise and incorruptible men who have fought a losing fight with admirable courage and discretion are denounced in mass meeting by that cowardly epithet of "traitor"-so easy to launch and so hard to disprove. The radical clubs put forward as their favorite candidates such impracticable dreamers as Hugo and Rollin, such narrow controversialists as Blanc and Brussac, such brilliant madcaps as Pyat and have emboldened them to clamor for continued war.

The old parties are working with less noise but the greatest energy. The leading minds in the select and respectable Orleans party have announced their candidature in favorable quarters, and will doubtless elect members enough to make a fair basis of operations in the Assembly. The adherents of the Empire, feeling this their last opportunity for plunder and power, will make a final effort to restore their fallen chief, and it is probable that the unhappy quarrels of the last week will have been of great assistance to them. Even the devotees of the ancient monarchy, those highborn curiosities who every year left their palaces to go in pilgrimage to Frohsdorf to kiss the hand of Henry of Bourbon, have come out of the twilight of the middle ages to stand as candidates to a democratic Assembly where they hope to plead the cause of feudalism and divine right.

The telegraph brings us one significant piece of news which would be of interest to those insane patriots who are now brawling against Favre and Trochu in Paris. The Prussians have stopped several convoys of provisions which were on their way to the city. This would indicate that if the result of the elections should be the triumph of the extreme war party, Count Bismarck would not wait for the assembling of the convention at Bordeaux, but would shut the gates of the capital and accept at once the war the Parisians offer. It does not need the thought of the long vista of suffering which such a contingency at once opens, to induce all thinking people to pray that the long-tried and harried masses of France have given the votes that will bring to them liberty and peace.

WHY DOES NOT MR. BOUTWELL RETIRE?

From the N. Y. Times.

"I shall on all subjects have a policy to recommend—none to enforce against the will of the people." These were General Grant's words on the 4th of March, 1869. They are words that gave satisfaction to the country, because affording a guarantee against a renewal of that mischievous contest between the Executive and Congress from which the country had just been delivered. They were accepted, too, as a pledge applicable to the administration in all its parts, as well as to the President individually. It was not thought possible that what the President would not do any of his advisers might do with impunity. Yet this is precisely what Mr. Boutwell has done ever since he assumed the management of the Treasury. He set up a policy of his own, and has pushed it, in season and out of season, in defiant opposition to the will of the

In nothing have the people been more po-sitive or persistent than in the demand for a reduction of taxes. They have arged it, not with any vague hostility to taxation, but under a stern sense of the injury which the then existing burdens inflicted upon their interests. The experience of the war time had abundantly proved their readiness to endure sacrifices when the wants of the country made them necessary. When the war ended, and the drain it had created had ceased, the first cry was for relief. Industry and trade struggled as for existence under a load beyond trade beyond their strength. That cry was still, to a large extent, unheeded when Mr. Boutwell passed from Congress to the Treasury Department. An oppressive system of internal taxation had prostrated some branches of

not simply asked for-it was imperatively re- | quired. To have withheld it would have been to consign important interests to a condition little short of ruin. Congress came to the rescue. The benefits it conferred were more limited than they should have been, but they were timely and most valuable. It left some portion of its work for the present session and for the next Congress. The repeal of the income tax was singled out for this session. The popular voice, never in its favor, now asks imperatively for its repeal. The country wants no more of it. And the Ways and Means Committee, following General Grant's maxim, reports that it has no policy to enforce against the will of the people, There is, however, one man to whom the

people's will has no significance. Wrapped in a self-complacency that is almost incomprehensible, Mr. Boutwell not only recommended a policy, but has by all possible methods endeavored to enforce it with a sullen indifference to the wants and wishes of the country. We can imagine a Secretary in whom such conduct, for a brief period, would not be intolerable. A profound master of finance, intimately acquainted with the condition of industry and commerce, with broad and clear views in relation to the course which must be followed to extricate the country from fiscal and political difficulties, might be excused if, for a single session, he pressed his facts and logic upon the attention of Congress. But Mr. Bontwell is not such a Secretary, He has shown himself destitute of knowledge and capacity on financial subjects. He has neither information or resource. One idea, and one only, has possession of his head. He holds that his mission is to fund the debt, and to this end be covets a large and constant surplus, to be applied to the redemption of obligations years in advance of their maturity. The buying of bonds and selling of gold constitute the begin-ning and end of his theory of departmental management. The more bonds he buys the more successful he fancies himself to be. And to buy bonds he needs a large revenue in excess of the legitimate requirements of the Government. A policy so much at variance with the teachings of experience and the welfare of the people would be contemptible, if it were not disastrous. As a financial theory, it is pitiful. As the basis of a policy by which to regulate the nature and amount of the revenues collected, it is mischievous. On all possible occasions, however, he urges it upon Congress. He recommends it in his report. He thrusts it upon committees, by speech and letter. He buttonboles Senators and Representatives, and begs of them to support his one idea. In all conceivable ways, session after session, he has exerted the influence attaching to his position in systematic opposition to the will of the people. A sensitive, high-minded man would retire when he found his recommendations disregarded by Congress and scouted by the people. He would discover that he occupied a false position, and would escape from it as best he could. Mr. Boutwell has taken another course. The more he advocated the retention of taxes the louder the people shouted "Down with the taxes." Congress heeded the people rather than the Secretary. Still he has cluug to his office, his head all the time occupied with the solitary idea. And still he throws his weight, be it much or little, on the side of the income tax. We submit in all frankness that the country has had quite enough of Mr. Boutwell and his policy. He has been tried and found want-Rochefort. The first dawn of peace seems to | ing. He does nothing toward solving financial problems, and does all he can to keep on the taxes. He is like Andrew Johnson in his preference for his own policy over the will of the people. He brings discredit on the administration, and wins no glory for himself. The only atonement he can offer is to retire from the Treasury without more

WHY DON'T BOUTWELL RESIGN?

From the N. Y. World. The two most important officers in the American Cabinet are the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury. There has never been an instance in which other Cabinet officers have exerted a marked influence on the policy of the country. The duties of other officers are merely administrative and ministerial, whereas the heads of the State and the Treasury Departments often centrol, one the foreign, the other the domestic policy of the Government. To go no further back than the administration of President Lincoln, it is in everybody's recollection that the course of the Government on the Trent difficulty, respecting the empire of the ill-fated Maximilian, and on our relations with Great Britain during the trying period of the civil war, were controlled by Mr. Seward; while the finances and funding system of the war, including the establishment of the national banks, was the work of Mr. Chase, just as in Washington's administration the foreign policy was Jefferson's and the financial policy Hamilton's. These are the only Cabinet officers who have any pretensions to be rivals of the President under whom they serve, for the succession, or who ever become objects of his jealousy.

In the present Cabinet, General Grant has no jealousy of the Secretary of State, but he has long been looking askance at the Secre-tary of the Treasury. Mr. Fish is a states-man who is singularly devoid of vulgar ambition. Although he makes an excellent Secretary of State, he never coveted, and has long been anxious to resign, the position. The thought never entered his loyal and candid mind of making this office a stepping-stone to the highest place in the Government. He accepted it from a sense of public duty, and although we have never had a Secretary who filled the social requirements of that position with so much propriety or so tasteful a hospitality, it adds nothing to the eminent social consideration which he previously enjoyed, and he has long been wishing to escape from it as a burdensome bore. There is no trace of demagogism in his composition, and nothing but the urgency of the President has prevented his earlier retirement to the private life which his virtues are so well fitted to adorn. It is generally understood that he will soon give place to Senator Morton.

The Secretary of the Treasury is a man of very different stamp. If Mr. Fish had stood in Boutwell's shoes, he would have peremptorily resigned many months ago. Of late, Boutwell is perpetually snubbed and thwarted by the President. He is poor, and the salary of the office is important to him; he is ambitious, and shrinks from the irretrievable obscurity into which he would sink by a forced or voluntary withdrawal from the Cabinet; he is stiff and opinionated, and is unwilling to see his policy overruled after it has been the sole theme of praise for the present administration in the recent elections. But it is nevertheless evident that he cannot stay in the Cabinet without losing his self-respect by submitting to indignities which no high-spirited man would consent to

manufactures, and crippled all. Relief was | The latest proof that the President has

withdrawn his confidence and is willing to Lumiliate Boutwell, is his support of General Pleasanton in his zealous efforts to procure a repeal of the income tax. It appears, from General Pleasanton's own account of the matter, that he consulted the Pres dent on this subject, but did not consult Boutwell. The President, knowing Boutwell's strenuous opposition to a repeal of the tax, encouraged and abetted Pleasanton in his attempt to override the policy of his official chief. If Boutwell were not sordid and mean-spirited, he would have resigned as soon as this fact came to his knowledge. It is a kind of affront which no man of honor at the head of the Treasury could submit to.

To be sure, the President is entitled to his own views on this or any other public measure; but when he dissented from the Secretary of the Treasury, the courteous thing for him to do was to make a frank explanation of the difference to the Secretary himself, and if he could neither convince Boutwell's judgment nor yield his own, to tell him that he was expected to forbear all active opposition. Instead of this considerate course, the President encourages one of Boutwell's subordinates to make a public demonstration of hostility to his views; and Boutwell's, refusing to take the hint and smarting under the indignity, vehemently appeals to Congress against the policy of the President, All right-thinking minds regard Grant's snub-bing discourtesy and Boutwell's stubborn mutiny as an official scandal, which must impair the public respect for an administration thus divided against itself, and hanging out its dissensions to the gaze of the world.

All men with a reasonable sense of decorum will say that Boutwell ought not to submit to the treatment of Grant, nor Grant to the in-solence of Boutwell. If Boutwell does not resign, and Grant, on his failure to resign, does not turn him out, both will be contemptible. Grant is evidently manceuvring to force a resignation; but Boutwell not only refuses to take the hint, but makes a display of insubordination and resentment. This is the unlikeliest expedient he could adopt for recovering the confidence and consideration of the President. He is only putting off the evil day, and making it certain that if he does not go out of the Cabinet voluntarily he will be forced out. He has been surprisingly slow in taking plain hints. When the President tried to have a new executive department created to be called the Department of Revenue, with a new Cabinet officer at the head of it, Boutwell might have seen that he had lost General Grant's confidence. It was a proposal to strip the Secretary of the Treasury of all his effective patronage and make him a mere disbursing efficer and custodian of the public funds. But this roundabout, strategic method showed that Grant feared Boutwell as well as disliked him; and from this symptom of fear the latter took encouragement. He drew the inference, not unwarranted by the circumstances, that if Grant dared to remove, he would not thus undertake to circumvent, him. He has therefore beld on, in spite of the President's obvious wishes.

Boutwell's strong point with the party, and and the ground both of his confidence and the President's jealousy, is the use that has been made of his debt-paying policy in the elections of the last year. It is the only thing of which the Republicans have ventured to make an electioneering boast. On every other point the supporters of the administration have been on the defensive; and it must have mortified Grant to find that the only topic of eulogy was a matter with which he had nothing to do. Moreover, some of the public journals have talked of Boutwell as a possible candidate for the Presidency, and the last thing that General Grant is disposed to tolerate is a man in the Cabinet with Presidential aspirations. But the general chorus of praise raised by the Republican journals on the publication of each monthly statement of the public debt renders Boutwell's removal difficult, and explains the Persident's attempts to extort a resignation by affronts and humiliation. The income tax demonstrations must have so widened the breach as to render it irreparable, and the alienation of feeling makes it impossible that Boutwell should remain long in the Cabinet. It is essential to Grant's prospects that the enormous patronage of the Treasury Department should be in the hands of a staunch, zealous friend; and unless Boutwell thinks a few months' salary an object, he had better submit at once to his doom by a voluntary resignation.

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WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION, at the MERCHANTS' EXCHANGE, in the city of Philadelphia, by

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MESSRS. THOMAS & SONS, AUCTIONEERS, at 12 o'clock M., on TUESIAY, the fourteenth day of February, A. D. 1811, the property described in and conveyed by the said Mortgage, to wit:—

No. 1. All those two contiguous lots or pieces of ground, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate on the east side of Broad street, in the city of Philadelphia, one of them beginning at the distance of nineteen feet seven inches and five-eights southward from the southeast cor-ner of the said Broad and Coates streets; thence extending eastward at right angles with said Broad street eighty-eight feet one inch and a half to ground now or late of Samuel Miller; thence southward now or late of Samuel Miller; thence southward along said ground, and at right angles win said Coates street, seventy-two feet to the northeast corner of an alley, two feet six inches in width, leading southward into Penn street; thence westward, crossing said alley and along the lot of ground hereins iter described and at right angles with said Broad street, seventy-nine feet to the east side of the said Broad street; and thence northward along the east line of said Broad street seventy-two feet the east line of said Broad street seventy-two feet

to the place of beginning. Subject to a ground-rent of \$280, silver money.

No. 2. The other of them situate at the northeast corner of the said Broad street and Penn street, containing in front or breadth on the said Broad. street eighteen feet, and in length or depth eastwar along the north line of said Penn street seventy-for r feet and two inches, and on the line of said lot paral-lel with said Penn street, seventy-six feet five inches and three-fourths of an, nch to said two feet six inches wide alley. Subject to ground rent of \$72, sil-

ver money.

No. 3. All that certain ot or piece of ground beginning at the southeast corner of Coates street and Broad street, thence extending southward along the said Broad street nineteen feet seven inches and five-eightlis of an inch; thence eastward eighty feet one inch and one-half of an inch; thence northward, at right angles with said Coates street, nine feet to the south side of Coates street, and thence westward along the south side of said Coates street ninety feet to the place of beginning.

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