

SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

A HOUSE DIVIDED AGAINST ITSELF.
From the Lancaster (Pa.) Intelligencer.

A very profound sensation has been caused in the Republican party, by the war which Grant has inaugurated upon Sumner, in causing him to be deposed from the chairmanship of the Committee on Foreign Relations, because of his opposition to the pet scheme of the President, the acquisition of San Domingo. There can be no doubt that this was the real reason for his deposition, although Senator Howe, in the Senate on Friday, in reply to a query from Senator Schurz as to the cause of it, said that it was because "the personal relations existing between the Senator from Massachusetts and the President of the United States and the head of the State Department were such as to preclude all social intercourse between them;" yet in the same debate Senator Howe was proven to have given a false reason, as Senator Tipton said he had taken down yesterday's proceedings in the Republican caucus the words which fell from the lips of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. Howe) as to the reason for his change. The words were, "That the majority of the Senate were in favor of the annexation of Santo Domingo, and a majority of the Committee on Foreign Relations were opposed to it, and that was the reason for making the change."

The Republicans of the country will now have to choose the side upon which they will array themselves in this issue between their President and their leading apostle; and as the difference between them has arisen upon a point which has not yet been adjudicated upon in any Republican platform, the members of the party cannot be influenced in their choice by fealty to party principles. It is evident, moreover, that they cannot be neutral on the question; for the war between the President and Sumner is a war *à outrance*; the President, after having been fairly implored and entreated for days by the most prominent men of his party not to do so, has thrown down the gauntlet of defiance to Sumner and his friends, with the impetuous remark that these men must be taught to behave how they oppose the administration.

The President is manifestly inclined to rule his party as he ruled his army, and to keep up the fight on the line on which he started out, regardless of obstacles and regardless of the sacrifice of his followers. He does not seem to suspect that the policy which was successful in one case will be any less so in the other; and it is left to Senator Sumner to teach him this sad lesson. Sumner is not of a disposition to tamely swallow the insult he has received, and the way in which he will be apt to make sheet lightning play about Grant's head for the next year or two will be very interesting to witness. It is generally conceded that any little chance for a re-nomination which was left to Grant by his previous follies, has been entirely swept away by his last act of silly despotism. In ruining himself he has likewise ruined his party, and has rendered it nearly certain that even the best Republican candidate who could be selected, such as Senator Trumbull, will be beaten in 1872 by the Democratic nominee. The Republican party is ruined beyond redemption.

The insult to Sumner by his removal from the post which he has so long filled with marked ability, is made all the more grievous by the fact that Senator Cameron has been selected as his successor. The total unfitness of Cameron for the post is known to all men, and in choosing him to fill it the administration must needs confess that it has replaced a very competent chairman by one very incompetent; and that, in its opinion, it is far more important that a chairman of a Senate committee, who has in charge the foreign relations of the country, should be on personally friendly terms with the administration than that he should know anything about the duties of his position. In fact, we doubt not that Grant prefers a chairman who does not know too much, and who, being well paid, will do just what he wants him to do. From this standpoint none will deny that he has selected a very excellent chairman for his purposes.

REFORMS IN LIFE INSURANCE.
From the Cleveland Leader.

Among the comparatively little good work done during the past winter by the New York Assembly, must be classed two enactments which it has had under consideration touching the business of life insurance. The first of these is the provision that no company has received three annual payments from a policy holder, it is debarred from afterwards setting up a plea of fraud or misrepresentation in case of death. Under the present system of soliciting agents, this loophole has been used to the extent of a rank injustice. Under the system of high commissions, ranging from ten to forty per cent. of the premiums received, the business of policy canvassing has attracted a great many active, shrewd, smooth-tongued men, whose roseate representations are in many cases found to be sadly at variance with the provisions of the policy when that document arrives. The medical examination is hurried through with the one purpose of finding in the applicant no physical reason for withholding his policy. It is the interest of the world-be policy holder accepted, and accordingly in writing out the request he tones down or omits every statement calculated to render the risk doubtful. The policy is granted, time goes on, the man dies, and then the company begins looking around to find if all the statements made in the application were correct. His exact age may have been misstated, he may have concealed some scrupulous or pulmonary ailment in his lineage. In either case the company can refuse payment. The purpose of the new law is to oblige companies to make these investigations at once, before they take a man's money for a policy which they will afterwards repudiate. It is a reform which should be embodied in the insurance laws of every State. There is also in New York a general wakening up to the fact that the medical examiners of insurance companies should be men of the highest possible character and ability, masters of all modern improvements in vital diagnosis, and, above all, permanent officers of the insurance companies whom they represent, and interested in their profits.

But the most important change in the insurance code of New York attempted during the winter has been the effort on the part of the companies themselves to remove the restriction forbidding them to loan any of their funds outside the State. The general dilemma of business and the decline in specie have glutted New York with money, and the insurance companies have found the competition too strong for their comfort or profit.

The New York code obliges all companies in that State to lend their funds within the State limits, and while Ohio, Illinois, and other States were offering eight per cent. interest and the best of real estate securities, the New York insurance men were obliged to loan their funds at four, five, and six per cent. More than this, the Western States have resented the injustice of allowing New York to swallow up, year after year, the millions paid in premiums by Western policy holders, and have warmly welcomed a new class of companies which, organized under the laws of Connecticut, propose to lend half their premium receipts in the States from which they are received.

The eagerness with which this occasion has been received in Western cities has awakened the agents of New York companies to the necessity of securing a similar advantage, and at their instigation the New York insurance officers are besieging Albany for permission to lend part of their premiums in the States and cities from which they are received. How important a change is hereby contemplated will be understood from the statement that Ohio alone sends East every year more than two millions of dollars in life insurance policies. Either the Eastern companies must return part of this fund to be loaned to our merchants and manufacturers, or Ohio and other Western States will provide arrangements of their own by which the money they pay for insurance can be kept at home. The Albany Assembly has not yet yielded assent on this point, but the strength with which it has been urged shows that the case is correctly understood and must soon be properly adjusted.

WHAT THE ATTACKS ON PRESIDENT GRANT REALLY MEAN.
From the N. Y. Times.

Have Republicans who are devoting their time and energies to the work of discrediting the Republican party, and supplying the Democrats with arguments against Republican leaders, attentively considered the probable consequences of their policy? Every allowance must, of course, be made for individual differences of opinion. There are many Republicans of the most intellectual class who are profoundly dissatisfied with their party because it has done so little to clear the atmosphere of political life—because the Administration has not identified itself sufficiently with that most necessary reform of the age, the reform of the civil service. But do they seriously expect the Democrats of the present day to give them greater purity of administration? There are also many, especially among the younger men, who are estranged from the party on account of its opposition, as an organization, to free trade. There are many, again, who have been offended by the appointments made by General Grant from time to time, and by the little encouragement which, as they believe, the thoughtful and enlightened members of the party sometimes receive from him. Everybody is aware that these causes of discontent exist, and most people who keep fresh in their minds the "record" of the Democratic party would very gladly root out these causes, in order that something like unanimity might be restored to Republican councils, and the great calamity of Democratic ascendancy be averted.

This anxiety is something very different from the inflexible attitude of hostility which many Republicans are assuming toward their own party and the administration. There can be no doubt, for instance, that papers like the *Evening Post* of this city have committed themselves, for some reason or other, to a course which entitles us to regard them as active Democratic journals, and which is in complete opposition to the best interests of the country. They do the work of the Democrats, and are industriously busy with the regular papers of that party. They catch up every idle story which is told against the Government, they exaggerate venial faults into great crimes, they even set to work inventing "news" for the purpose of bringing the administration into disgrace. All this is not calculated to accomplish any beneficial result, but simply to hand the country over to the hands of the Democrats. Now, what we want to know is, how much better off do these "irreconcilables" think they would be if they succeeded in bringing about this result? If General Grant is not quite the man they wish to see in the White House, would John T. Hoffman suit them any better? Is the system under which New York is governed, and with which the *Post* is so enamored, that which the great body of Republicans would like to see introduced into the National Government?

Probably they would answer no; and yet what other results could be expected from the success of the Democrats in 1872? The Democratic "sinews of war" are all in the hands of Tammany, and a Democratic success at the Presidential election simply means Hoffman in the White House, with his well-known backers in New York as his chief advisers. Local mischief would then be expanded into something like national spoliation. Tweed and Sweeney would not be converted into honest men simply because you placed unlimited opportunities before them of embezzling the public money. Think of the state our finances would probably be in at this moment if the Tammany horde had been allowed to "manage" them during the last five or six years. We all know now that debt and taxation have alike been largely reduced, and that the credit of the country stands very high, and we say that these are some of the results which ought to be remembered in favor of President Grant and his advisers when their shortcomings are so eagerly reckoned up, and the weapons of detraction are so freely launched against them. Can there be any comparison whatever, in the mind of any rational man, between the mistakes committed by General Grant and the wanton betrayal of public interests of which John T. Hoffman has repeatedly been guilty? Look at the way in which Hoffman has tampered with the judiciary of this city, lent himself to the conspiracies of the Tammany clique, aided him in his wholesale misappropriation of the public money, and assisted Fields and Gould to steal a railroad. Is this the man for whom you are willing to displace General Grant? What are you going to gain by substituting Hoffman for Grant? Are all your grievances worth a moment's consideration compared with the duty of keeping a tool of Tweed, Sweeney, and Fisk from the chief place of power in the country?

The people are wiser than party leaders, and they may be trusted to sweep away all the cobwebs spun by the "soreheads" when the proper moment arrives for their interference. There were Republican leaders who would have declined to carry on the war if they could have had their own way; but the people scattered them. There were Republicans who were very anxious to prevent the re-election of Mr. Lincoln; but once more the voice of the people made itself heard. And so it will be again, or there will be little hope for many of the political privileges which we now prize the most dearly. The blind

malinity toward the President which actuates the *Post* and a few other journals is not shared by the general public, who recognize in the President a man who was suddenly called to a most trying position, who has had very little fair play extended to him by a large section of the press, who from the first has been exposed to systematic misrepresentation on all hands, but who has in the main striven faithfully to do his duty toward the country. We may fairly look for still better results from his administration as his time of service goes on—but even now, contrast him with the Democratic candidate, Governor Hoffman, and see who is most entitled to the confidence and respect of the country. The Democrats would unsettle the entire domestic policy of the nation, and there is no proof whatever that they would not even revive the repudiation projects of 1868. And yet Republicans are running a race with each other to see which can help the Democrats the most. Papers like the *Post* far surpass the Democratic *World* in pig-headed hostility to the President. We believe that the people look upon these tactics with indignation, and that the time is coming when they will cause their opinions to be felt by the journals which are now conspiring for the overthrow of Republican rule, and the elevation to the chief place of authority of the confederate of James Fisk, Jr., and the Tammany clique.

THE CLERICAL PIPE.
From the N. Y. Tribune.

We thought that there were troubles enough in the Protestant Episcopal, or, as we wish to be civil, we will say the "Catholic" (not Roman or Romish) Church, already—but here is a fresh one. Somebody of the straighter sort writes to a "ritualistic" newspaper in this city to inquire whether it is just the thing for clergymen to smoke pipes in Lent. It does not seem to have occurred to this casualist to ask whether it is just the thing for clergymen to smoke pipes at all. When a controversy upon that point does arise, there will be a good deal to say on both sides of the question. James the First, to whom we owe our present version of the Scriptures, and who was in his time the head of the visible "Church" of England, was of opinion that tobacco was of the devil, and printed his "Counterblast" to prove it; while, on the other hand, many pious clergymen have been great smokers, and there is even a particular kind of implement of fumigation known in England as the "Churchmen's Pipe." Sir Isaac Newton, "childlike sage, sagacious, generous, the works of God, and of his word gracious," was a great smoker. So was Robert Hall—but he was a Dissenter. It may be, therefore, considered as settled that there is no inherent ungodliness in smoking cigars, cigarettes, or pipes, whether the same be of clay, or briarwood, or meerschaum, or hookahs. The question is, whether it be a sin to smoke in Lent, and whether clergymen by that indulgence set a bad example to their parishioners.

Upon the whole, after careful consideration, in which we got no help from the Fathers, because pipes were not invented in their day, we have come to the conclusion that, such as the purpose of Lent is to mortify the carnal man by hunger, and moreover considering that tobacco sensibly tempers the impurities of appetite, therefore, if its use defeats the moral force of fasting, that use should be instantly abandoned. We should have the same opinion in regard to brandy-and-water and bitterns, only it happens that these are appetizers, and might be recommended to increase the rigors of abstinence. But just in proportion to the degree in which taking tobacco in Lent diminishes the consumer's "peckishness," just in that proportion may smoking (and also chewing) be considered. We cannot give a better opinion than that. Nor can anybody else.

It is because we heartily wish the differences of the Protestant Episcopal (or "Catholic") Church well adjusted; it is because we are weary of controversy about minor matters of mere ceremonial, that we deplore the introduction of a new element of debate. We believe that the "Episcopal" Church, especially with the greater attention which it is recently paying to good works, is one of the most useful and beneficent organizations; and it is not, therefore, with much satisfaction that we open from week to week the newspapers calling themselves, or called by others, "Episcopalian," only to find endless disputes about rubrics, and genuflections, and trine immersions, and vestments, *de omnibus rebus*, until we have actually got down to tobacco pipes. If these things go on, there must be schism, and that at no distant day. It would have come already here if the present Bishop of New York had been one of the wisest as well as one of the best of men for it. "Church" here had been under a hot-tempered and litigious prelate, there must have been a rupture. If kindly forbearance, by a tact which never fails him, by the force of his fine personal character, by humoring notions when they seemed to be harmless, the Bishop has thus far prevented an explosion and kept his flock well together. He has had a hard time of it in the past, nor is he likely to have an easy time of it in the future; but he has shown himself at heart a peace-maker, and as such worthy to be a Christian bishop.

THE AGE OF STATUES AND THE AGE OF BRASS.
From the N. Y. Herald.

We have received a nicely printed circular inviting us to contribute our aid towards the construction of a statue representing our well-known fellow-citizen, William M. Tweed, State Senator, Commissioner of the Department of Public Works, etc. The project is endorsed by such distinguished gentlemen as Richard O'Gorman and other Irish patriots. Now, if Mr. Tweed had departed from this to another and a better world, full of years and honors, we do not know but we might consent to the erection of some suitable monument to his memory. Mr. Tweed, however, has relieved us by modestly refusing to be thus honored—at least with his consent. Indeed, he forbids it altogether. Nevertheless, if the worshippers of Mr. Tweed are determined to do him up in marble, iron, or brass, why not go further and give all our prominent local politicians and nabobs a chance for this kind of posthumous glory, so that the statues of our living men may be found, like the old town pumps, at almost every corner? Peter B. Sweeney and Mayor Hall are pre-eminently entitled to the honor. Judge Hiltner, Robert J. Dillon, Thomas C. Fields ought to be "statuosed" for the work they have already accomplished, in conjunction with Mr. Sweeney, in ornamenting our public parks. Who so well deserves the grateful remembrance of their fellow-citizens as these gentlemen? Central Park, City Hall Park, the Battery, Bowling Green, in fact all our public parks and places, might with propriety be adorned with their statues. The Department of Public Works should not be forgotten. It might be represented by a

statue of General McClellan at the head of every newly constructed stone pier. The Financial Department of the city also demands a share of this honor, and a statue of Richard B. Connolly might be constructed of coin without alloy and placed in the Comptroller's office and in those corners where money-lenders most congregate. The "Palaces of Justice" should not be passed over. Judges Bedford and Recorder Hackett deserve some lasting testimonial for the vigorous manner in which the laws are vindicated. A statue of Judge Dowling might grace the rotunda of the Tombs, and similar ones be put up all over the city, or where the "dangerous elements" mostly throng. Justices Shandley and Cox could supply convenient niches. Sheriff Brennan also might be represented as a faithful and conscientious official. The Commissioners of Public Charities and Correction are entitled to remembrance for their arduous labors in behalf of charity. The head of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Mr. Bergh) is certainly a worthy subject for the sculptor's chisel or the ironmoulder's handiwork. A life-size likeness of him might be placed in every city horse car depot and upon every horse fountain in the city. The poor animals themselves would never say nay to this. Then again we might branch off and take a glance at our religious magnates. How much will Plymouth Church subscribe for a statue of Henry Ward Beecher? How much will the Theological friends of the pastor of the "Little Church Around the Corner" give for a statue of the Rev. Mr. Houghton? The friends of Theodore Tilton might get him on a "bust" as a living representative of the Golden Age. The editorial profession might be implanted in the memory of the rising generation by hanging up Greeley's old white coat on a beanie in Printing House Square. And now, to go back a little from the men of the present day, we suggest—the subject of statues being in order—the erection of a colossal but life-like memorial, thirty-six feet high, to one of the most remarkable men of his age—a true Knickerbocker from the first—before whose local renown that of any centurian of the present day pales into nothingness; one whose solid Americanism would make the Joint High Commission come to terms pretty quick. We mean that old sage and silver-haired veteran of the Catskill Mountains—Nip Van Winkle. This colossal statue might occupy the space on the west side of the City Hall Park, hard by the fountain wherein that forlorn female is represented as vainly endeavoring to supply with water some famishing reptiles below. The old Knickerbocker might be represented as Joe Jefferson so admirably portrays him, with this exception: the sensation of amazement at what he beholds might be illustrated by having him with wondering eyes and uplifted hands point to a conspicuous legend displayed on the other side of Broadway, to wit, "Department of Public Works," as if he would remind the present generation of the scriptural declaration, "By their works ye shall know them."

Now, some of the enthusiastic admirers of Boss Tweed may think that we are poking fun at the whole matter of a statue of him, and it would be impossible to carry on the statue business on the scale so magnificently we have suggested. They are wrong. Do they not remember that when the Romans entered Rhodes, the capital of a not very extensive island, they found more than three thousand statues in bronze and marble? (Vassari says thirty thousand, but Pliny says three. Let them fight it out.) That was called the Age of Bronze, while the present might be called the "brassy" age. What are three or thirty thousand statues in this our age? From one model any number of castings might be turned out, just as they turn out ornaments in the way of medals and things, or as Comptroller Connolly can turn out New York city bonds for all sorts of purposes. No, gentlemen, we do not desire to be the Moses who is to smash up any golden image in these modern times. As the Queen of Babylon added to her gorgeous edifices statues of herself and of her husband Ninus, with figures in bronze representing her father-in-law, her mother-in-law, and the mother of the latter, calling them, as Diodorus relates, by the names of Jupiter, Juno, and Ops (they knew a thing or two about ops in those days), so may our city potentates and politicians glorify one another and perpetuate their own memories—but for ourselves we desire first to see whether they will a few years hence have any memories worth preserving. But Mr. Tweed declines the honor in his letter published elsewhere, and rather snubs his friend Shandley for proposing such a foolish thing as "a monument more enduring than brass!"

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PATENTS.
UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.
WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 21, 1871.
On the petition of DANIEL S. NIPPES, of Upper Merion Township, Pennsylvania, administrator of Albert S. Nippes, deceased, praying for the extension of a patent granted to the said Albert S. Nippes, on the 21st day of April, 1867, for an improvement in Closing and Locking Joints, it is ordered that the testimony in the case be taken on the 21st day of March next, and that the time for filing arguments and the Examiner's report be limited to the 21st day of March next, and that said petition be heard on the 21st day of April next. Any person may oppose this extension.
230 2d Acting Commissioner of Patents.

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