SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS—COMPILED EVERY DAY FOR THE EVENING TELEGRAPH.

THE CONNECTICUT ELECTION.

From the N. Y. Herald.

If ever there was a muddle of an election it is the contest that has just been concluded in Connecticut. With a full vote, as far as returned, of between ninety-two and ninety-four thousand, the election of Governor remains in doubt. The latest returns show that Governor English has a plurality of five votes, with a hundred errors yet to be corrected in the official count. The old proverb that one swallow does not make a summer is illustrated in the comparison between the Democratic victory in New Hampshire and the Democratic disappointment in Connecticut. The fact is that the sudden shock which the Republican party got from the reverberation of the Democratic cannon announcing a triumph from the battle-field in New Hampshire, woke them up to the necessity of looking after their interests in Connecticut. They braced themselves up, stiffened their muscles, and put on their dignity for a good square fight, and there is no doubt but they fought it well. The administration, too, was alive to the fact that Connecticut must not be permitted to add another success to the Democratic cause in New England; and hence every effort was made on Monday last by the labors of federal officers, and, it is said, by the influence of Federal money, to a great extent, in helping out the necessary electioneering expenses to defeat Governor English. The colored vote also, which was brought to the polls for the first time at this election, took at least eight hundred votes from the Democratic majority of 1870; for it is fair to conclude that the newly-created colored voters nearly to a man went for ex-Governor Jewell. The majority of Governor English last year, being only eight hundred and forty-three, would thus be easily demolished, compelling the Democrats to build up that majority from other sources, and these sources appear to have been dry.

In many respects the Connecticut election is a curiosity in politics. The machinery was admirably managed on the part of the Republicans. The clever scheme, whereby the voters were made to believe that Tammany Hall had seized upon the State, by means of an imaginary despatch from Governor English to Mr. Tweed, was an admirable contrivance. Tammany itself could not beat the trick in adroitness. The despatch purporting to come from Governor English to Mr. Tweed, which we may safely assume was never written and never worried the telegraph wires, was cunningly circulated in the weekly edition of a Republican paper at Hartford—the *Courant*—throughout the country districts with such appeals to the prejudices of the farmers and others in the rural places as brought the *spectre noir* of Tammany before them in hideous aspects. Shall the honest voters of Connecticut or "the thieves of Tammany" carry this election? was the question presented to the rural voters. Naturally enough they were alarmed at the alternative; they were not going to be sold like cattle, and they came out, consequently, in considerable strength to assert their claims to New England backbone. Hence, in a measure, the full vote polled. It was a cunning trick, well devised and lucky in its operation; but all is fair in politics, as in love and war.

We hardly think, after all, that the St. Domingo question, made hot and irritable by the fierce assaults of Sumner and Schurz upon President Grant, had much to do with the result in Connecticut. We are disposed to think that the Republicans there looked with considerable indifference upon the quarrel. In short, they probably were about equally divided in their views as between President Grant and Sumner, and rather liked the boldness of the Massachusetts Senator than otherwise. At all events that question was skilfully withdrawn from sight in the canvass by the Republican organs and orators. It was not trumpeted in the columns of the radical press, neither was it proclaimed from the radical stump. The only issue supposed to carry any weight with it, which was presented carefully up to the last moment, was this terror that Tammany was controlling the State with its greenbacks, its cohorts of ruffians and its innate and dangerous corruptions. We are told now that Mr. Tweed is *l'homme qui rit*, and that he enjoys a very hearty laugh over the affair of the bogus despatch.

It may not be so difficult after all to discover the reason why this election in Connecticut was so unsatisfactory and indecisive, when we consider that local quarrels existed in almost every district in the State, and split tickets were the common rule almost everywhere. The Second Congressional district, for example, was lost to the Democrats in this way. The bitterness existing against the Democratic candidate (Mr. Kendrick) since, his opposition to Mr. Babcock two years ago, which gave the district to the Republican candidate (Mr. Kellogg), confronted him at the polls on Monday, and resulted in the re-election of Kellogg. The Democrats could not forgive Kendrick, and thus they permitted him to be sacrificed. There seemed to be that kind of feeling among the Democrats all through the State, extending even to the local elections. Those who calculated that family quarrels were going to demoralize the Republicans therefore counted without their host. They appear to have voted "the ticket" fair and square. The negro vote, after the applicants for the franchise had stood the test of the "reading clause," which declares that every voter must be able to read at least one section of the constitution, probably amounted to a little over a thousand. It is fair to conclude that seven-eighths of these negroes voted the Republican ticket, thus throwing seven or eight hundred votes into the Republican majority. In the uncertain state of affairs it is not unlikely that the election of Governor will pass from the hands of the electors into those of the Legislature, in which case, as the Republicans have a majority of twenty on joint ballot, in both houses, Mr. Jewell will, of course, be declared the duly elected Chief Magistrate of the State for the ensuing year. Thus the Connecticut election, instead of being a test of the progress of Democratic sentiment in New England, turns out to be a general disappointment all round. Its political significance, however, is that the recent Democratic victory in New Hampshire is not an absolute test of public opinion in the Northern States.

SINFUL AMUSEMENT.

From the N. Y. Tribune.

We are especially pleased to notice the progress made by our Methodist friends in their views of the amusements hitherto proscribed by that Church. The expression of opinion in the association of clergy held in Newark last week was, for the most part, more liberal and soundly grounded on philosophic principles than we would have hoped from a body of men usually noted for strict adherence to their hereditary and narrow code. The leading members of the conference have evidently had their eyes couched, and enough of the daylight of the nineteenth century has crept in to show them wholesome and pure elements in the theatre, in novel-reading, in modest dancing, and in healthful out-door games. They frankly acknowledged their conversion while they continued to protest against the abuses to be found in each. There were, of course, equally sincere and honest men to oppose them, who detected Satan's hoof and tail in every human employment outside of legitimate work and church-going. "Nine-tenths of our amusements being sinful," said one of these, "it is best to forego the other tenth."

We attach more importance to this discussion than perhaps, at first sight, it seems to warrant. The Methodist fraternity, as we observed the other day, includes a vast and powerful body of our people; being an accretion, for the most part, of the working, intelligent middle class. It is especially desirable that its leading ideas on social morality should be free from bigotry and prejudice; and no subject trenches, at the present time, more deeply on the moral or mental health of the people than their lack of wholesome, liberalizing amusements. Now Church bodies are proverbially slow to apply the divine yet practical truths of Christianity of which they are the keepers to varying every-day popular exigencies. They are led by political and social reforms oftener than they lead them; the reason of which is, we suppose, that each sect, although the bearer of a banner which should place her in the van of every reform in thought or practice, still wears and is hampered by whatever peculiar doctrine or opinion formed once her swaddling-clothes. If a Church had its birth in protesting with bloody testimony against any tenet or practice, she naturally exaggerates it still, after centuries have passed, as the chief evil on earth. To Christians outside of the churches the question of apostolic succession, dipping or sprinkling, elders and bishops, plain language and shad-bellied coats, are feather-weights, mere tithes of mint, anise, and cumin, compared with the eternal tragedy of a debased human nature striving to rise to an almighty, all-loving God; and every year we hope brings this profound conviction home to the churches also. This very matter of amusements is the peculiar *bete noir* of the Methodist Church. Dissipation and wantonness of English society terrified the Church into existence in the first place. It is hardly to be expected, therefore, that it should be able to regard the subject even now with a cool, unprejudiced eye. But our Methodist brethren should be able to perceive the difference between the cancerous luxury of an enervated court and the absolute necessity of relaxation, both physical and mental, for a people nervous, bilious, and over-worked, as are the Americans. Climatic influences are more exhausting in the United States than in Europe. There is in every class the feverish struggle for money or success unknown in any other country. The whole nation, male and female, is possessed by a demon of unrest and anxiety. The higher we ascend in the social scale the more intense is the strain upon body and brain. The ambitious professional and business man rarely takes breath to enjoy the wide life God has opened; one day is but a burden scarcely lifted before another falls upon him. While this is true, it is also true that there is no other people among whom amusement is so little understood or practised. The inevitable consequence follows. You might as well try to choke a burning geyser as to shut down a man or woman's whole nature into money-making or church-going. There is an excess of animal spirits, a heat in the blood which will find vent. The Italian sings; the Frenchman dances; the nun and Methodist, who can neither sing nor dance, fall into trances and see heaven opened by the aid of hysteria and catalepsy. The American so far has found his escape-valve in whisky. "He drinks," said a keen-sighted foreigner lately, "not for social enjoyment, but as a physical necessity, to relieve apparently some actual cerebral overstrain." One of the clergymen in Newark stated that, "in consequence of the love of dancing, every third child born in France is illegitimate." Our friend should be sure of his facts. Paris, it is true, has the vices peculiar to all the great rendezvous for strangers in the world. The French and Irish rural population, who amuse themselves heartily more than any other people, are the chastest in Europe; the least so are the Swedes, whose sole relaxation is our own—whisky.

We trust the time will soon come when our Methodist brethren will be led to follow the common sense of mankind in believing that whatever tends to keep the animal in a man in check and develop his higher nature, whatever makes him better appreciate his brother man, and more thankful for the beautiful, joyful world he lives in, is "for the glory of God," whether it be hymn or sermon, novel, dance, or drama.

A FEW SOBER WORDS TO THE DEMOCRACY.

From the N. Y. World.

For the last three or four years the *World* has been (to borrow an apostolic phrase) "instant (*i. e.*, urgent) in season and out of season" in trying to impress upon the Democratic party the wisdom of hanging its lights on the bow of the ship to disclose the rocks and quicksands to be shunned in its course, instead of hanging them on the stern to cast back a useless glare on the tumultuous waters through which it has passed. Like most givers of unsought advice, we have sometimes been paid with a kind of recognition that was not quite agreeable; but so undoubting is our confidence in the force of truth, and the certainty of its final triumph, that we have not felt disposed to

"Bate a jot
Of heart or hope; but still bear up and steer
Right onward."

We have aimed to discharge our duty as a sentinel of the Democracy. Our opportunities for watching the drift of public sentiment have been as good as those of any Democratic statesman and better than those of any other journal of the party. We weigh our words and speech with deliberation, and therefore claim nothing beyond better opportunities, leaving to others, assisted by the progress of events, to say whether we have used our opportunities with judgment. We are compelled, by the exigencies of our business as journalists, to spend a great deal of money in collecting information, and to keep up wide and diversified relations with public men. A metropolitan journal is a reservoir into which information flows through a thousand channels. It is fed with suggestions, teased with complaints, benefited by judicious and pestered with impertinent advice, in a stream so unremitting that by balancing abuse against commendation it has pretty reliable means of estimating the set of the political tide.

We have no reason to regret the persistent, but we trust not discourteous, urgency with which we have counselled sobriety of judgment and the acceptance of accomplished facts. We have the satisfaction of knowing that the whole Democracy of the State of New York indorses our views without a dissenting voice among its responsible leaders, or in any representative Democratic journal. Governor Hoffman's advice, in his last annual message, to drop dead issues, is cordially responded to by the whole party in New York. What he recommended in general terms, other eminent New York Democrats have enforced by specific statements relating to some of the inflammatory topics of past agitation. One of the most recent utterances in this vein was made by Mr. Fernando Wood in his able speech on the Ku-klux bill. Mr. Wood is as little of a trimmer as any man in the country. His whole public career has been marked by extraordinary nerve, vigor, and political courage. He has never wavered in his intrepid support of Southern rights. But his position in Washington and the opportunities for various intercourse he enjoys by his social talents and liberal hospitality, enable him to take an enlarged view of the political situation and of the state of public sentiment in all parts of the country. With his ripe experience and trained political sagacity, he sees the folly of reviving bygone issues. In reply to some impertinence of Judge Kelley, of Pennsylvania, Mr. Wood made this clear and emphatic statement:—

"Sir, if there is any foundation for the alleged altercations it is because men like the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Kelley) would go among them uttering incendiary speeches and inflaming and agitating them to a war of races! I never felt more indignant in my life, I never felt more like committing a breach of decorum or an infraction of the rules of the House, than I did yesterday when I listened to the harangue of that member. I desire to call the attention of the House to this remarkable statement:—At the close of his speech of yesterday on this bill he assumed that the Democratic party, when it obtained power, would disfranchise the negro. The Democratic party has no desire to interfere with these amendments to the Constitution which give free and equal suffrage to all the people of the United States. The Democratic party would give to the colored race all the political and civil rights which they would give to any other class of the people; but we do object that they shall be made a political engine for the accomplishment of wicked purposes. We do object that inflammatory speeches, such as were made on Wednesday last by the gentleman from Pennsylvania, should be made to them to excite them against the Democracy and their former masters, so as to get up in the Southern States a war of races and perpetuate the political ominancy of the party now in power. That is what we object to. The day is speedily coming, and I hope has already come, when the colored race of the United States will assume their position in the country as free and independent voters; that they may be allowed to judge of men and parties and principles for themselves; that they may find among their own class able and patriotic leaders who will say to them:—'Be no longer the instruments of demagogues.' I believe that among the colored men are found those who are patriotic, honest, and rational."

Nor is it among the New York Democracy alone that this view is entertained. Senator Thurman, who stands in the foremost rank of debaters and statesmen, and commands universal esteem and confidence, is as remarkable for his moderation in counsel as for his skill and vigor in debate. The judicious platform adopted by the Ohio Democracy last year is understood to have been due to his wise advice. Among the Democratic statesmen of New England none stand higher than Governor English and John Quincy Adams; the moderation of both is well known. "But what of Senator Blair?" We conceive that the position of this gallant and chivalrous Democratic leader is not well understood. It is not safe to go to the Republican newspapers to learn the views of any Democratic statesman who is strong enough to be dreaded by political opponents. General Blair, with political courage as unflinching as Mr. Wood's, holds substantially the same views on the question of negro suffrage, as was shown in his recent letter to the editor of a Southern journal which we copied the other day. Now that the negroes are in possession of the suffrage, General Blair wishes the experiment to be fairly tried in a spirit of justice and liberality to the colored race.

"But General Blair professes to stand by his Broadhead letter." True, the Republicans have undertaken to bully him on that subject, and General Blair is about the last man to retreat in the presence of bullies. He shrinks from no responsibility which he has fairly incurred; he will never mortify his friends or elate his enemies by eating his words in consequence of a taunt. If that bygone letter had not been flung in his teeth, he would probably have never made a public allusion to it again. With a magnanimity as signal as his courage, he has accepted the personal consequences to himself, but has been careful of the interests of the party. During the Missouri election, which resulted in so great a triumph, General Blair proclaimed no war against the reconstruction acts or the new amendments; but after the Legislature met and he was an avowed candidate for Senator, and his opinions could interfere only with his own personal prospects, he scorned to compromise his manhood for the sake of an office. When the Broadhead letter was thrust in his face by a Republican, he squarely accepted all the consequences which might result from defiant adherence to it. Even his political enemies were constrained to respect his gallant bearing and manly pride. General Blair is a man of judgment and sagacity, and does not advise the Democratic party to go into the next election on the bygone issue of negro suffrage.

We call attention to the growth of Democratic sentiment in this direction, because, as it is evident that the party will abandon the negro-suffrage issue, it is expedient to do it with decision and unanimity. The time has come when it should be fully understood by the South that the Northern Democracy do not intend to fight that battle over again, and that no Democratic victory in the North will bear such a construction. After the splendid triumph in New Hampshire some of the Southern journals seemed to entertain such hopes, and perhaps our narrow escape from defeat in Connecticut was necessary to sober their judgment and save them from a fatal delusion. On a wise platform constructed of living issues we can, with reasonable effort, elect our candidate for President. But we have no such superfluous strength that we can afford to make mistakes. The party has been so often defeated by an indiscreet plank in its platform as to justify considerable solicitude on the subject. If the Republicans were permitted to make our platform for us they would put into it the very things which a few blind or Quixotic Democrats have been recently advocating in the Southern press. We protest against the folly of doing just what our enemies wish us to do.

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SAMUEL W. JONES,	EDW. H. TROTTER,
JOHN A. BROWN,	EDW. S. CLARKE,
CHARLES TAYLOR,	T. CHARLTON HENRY,
AMBROSE WHITE,	ALFRED D. JESSUP,
WILLIAM WELSH,	LOUIS C. MADEIRA,
JOHN MASON,	CHAS. W. CUSHMAN,
GEORGE L. HARRISON,	CLEMENT A. GRISCOM

WILLIAM BROCKIE.

1829. CHARTER PERPETUAL. 1871.
Franklin Fire Insurance Company
OF PHILADELPHIA.
Office, Nos. 435 and 437 CHESNUT St.
Assets Jan. 1, '71, $3,087,452·35

CAPITAL	$400,000·00
ACCRUED SURPLUS AND PREMIUMS	2,687,452·35

INCOME FOR 1871, $1,200,000. LOSSES PAID IN 1870, $973,881·70.

Losses Paid Since 1829 Nearly
$6,000,000.

The Assets of the "FRANKLIN" are all invested in solid securities (over $2,750,000 in First Bonds and Mortgages), which are all interest bearing and dividend paying. The Company holds no Bills Receivable taken for Insurances effected.

Perpetual and Temporary Policies on Liberal Terms. The Company also issues policies upon the Rents of all kinds of Buildings, Ground Rents and Mortgages.

DIRECTORS.

Alfred G. Baker,	Alfred Fitler,
Samuel Grant,	Thomas Sparks,
George W. Richards,	William S. Grant,
Isaac Lea,	Thomas S. Ellis,
George Fales,	Gustavus S. Benson.

ALFRED G. BAKER, President.
GEORGE FALES, Vice-President.
JAMES W. McALLISTER, Secretary.
THEODORE M. REGER, Assistant Secretary.

THE PENNSYLVANIA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.
Incorporated 1825—Charter Perpetual.
No. 610 WALNUT Street, opposite Independence Square.

This Company, favorably known to the community for over forty years, continues to insure against loss or damage by fire on Public or Private Buildings, either permanently or for a limited time. Also on Furniture, Stocks of Goods, and Merchandise generally, on liberal terms.

Their Capital, together with a large Surplus Fund, is invested in the most careful manner, which enables them to offer to the insured an undoubted security in the case of loss.

DIRECTORS.

Daniel Smith, Jr.,	Thomas Smith,
Isaac Hazlehurst,	Henry Lewis,
Thomas Robins,	J. Gillingham Fell,
John Devereux,	Daniel Haddock,

Franklin A. Comly.
DANIEL SMITH, Jr., President.
WM. G. CROWELL, Secretary.

ANTHRACITE INSURANCE COMPANY.
INCORPORATED 1834.
CHARTER PERPETUAL.
Office, No. 311 WALNUT Street, between Third and Fourth streets, Philadelphia.

This Company will insure against Loss or Damage by Fire, on Buildings, Furniture, and Merchandise generally.

Also, Marine Insurance on Vessels, Cargoes, and Freights. Inland Insurance to all parts of the Union.

DIRECTORS.

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Wm. M. Baird,	John Ketcham,
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PENN STEAM ENGINE AND BOILER WORKS.—NEAFIE & LEVY, PRACTICAL AND THEORETICAL ENGINEERS, MACHINISTS, BOILER-MAKERS, BLACKSMITHS, and FOUNDERS, having for many years been in successful operation, and been exclusively engaged in building and repairing Marine and River Engines, high and low pressure, Iron Boilers, Water Tanks, Propellers, etc. etc., respectfully offer their services to the public as being fully prepared to contract for engines of all sizes, Marine, River, and Stationary; having sets of patterns of different sizes, are prepared to execute orders with quick despatch. Every description of pattern-making made at the shortest notice. High and Low Pressure Pipe Tubular and Cylinder Boilers of the best Pennsylvania Charcoal Iron. Forgings of all size and kinds. Iron and Brass Castings of all descriptions. Roll Turning, screw Cutting, and all other work connected with the above business.

Drawings and specifications for all work done at the establishment free of charge, and work guaranteed.

The subscribers have ample wharf dock-room for repairs of boats, where they can lie in perfect safety, and are provided with shears, blocks, falls, etc. etc., for raising heavy or light weights.

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GIRARD TUBE WORKS AND IRON CO.,
PHILADELPHIA, PA.,
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and Sundries for Gas and Steam Fitters, Plumbers Machinists, Railing Makers, Oil Refiners, etc.
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ALEXANDER G. CATTELL & CO.,
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No. 26 NORTH WHARVES
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ALEXANDER G. CATTELL. ELIJAH CATTELL.