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

The Coming Pennsylvania State Election—A Prospect.

From the N. Y. Herald. The late signal defeat of the Republicans in California, and the heavy cutting down of their majority in the Maine, have inspired the Democracy throughout the North with some faith in the resurrection, and in Pennsylvania and New York with lively hopes of success in their coming State elections. The fight, which will be very apt to determine the result in New York in November, is to come off in Pennsylvania in October. We shall have, therefore, a stirring battle in "the old Keystone," especially as upon the issue will hinge, to a great extent, the prospects of the opposition elements for the grand Presidential contest of next year.

What is the prospect, then, for Pennsylvania in this coming October election? There is nothing more important than a Judge of the State Supreme Court to be chosen by the general vote of all the counties in this election; but this will do as a test of the popular voice on the great national issues of the day. If the Democrats do as well as they have done in Maine, they will gain a decisive victory; for last year, upon the largest vote ever cast in the Commonwealth, running hard upon six hundred thousand, General Geary, a favorite soldier, upon the popular platform of the Constitutional amendment submitted from the Thirty-ninth Congress, carried the State against an unpopular candidate by only seven thousand majority. Looking, therefore, at the recent results in California and Maine, there is a very fair prospect for a Republican defeat on their new radical and revolutionary platform of universal negro suffrage and negro supremacy.

From 1840 down to last October the political fluctuations of Pennsylvania have been very remarkable. In 1836 the overwhelming Democratic Keystone majorities rolled up in the name of Andrew Jackson had been cut down to less than five thousand for Van Buren, Old Hickory's anointed successor. In 1840 Van Buren's financial disasters turned even Pennsylvania against him, although it was by the tight fit of three hundred and forty-nine majority for Harrison. But that sufficed to break the charm of Democratic invincibility. In 1844, against Henry Clay, however, the State was regained for "Polk, Dallas, and the tariff of 1842" by six thousand majority. In 1848 the scale was turned again by Van Buren's defeat, and General Taylor carried it by two thousand votes over the combined vote of Cass and Van Buren. In 1852, on Clay's great compromise measures, poor Pierce carried the State against General Scott by twenty thousand, and had poor Pierce and the Democracy held fast to that adjustment, they would, perhaps, have had unbroken reign in Washington to this day.

From 1852, however, in consequence of the violation of their pledges to the country on the slavery question, the Democracy began to go down hill rapidly. In 1856, even "with Pennsylvania's favorite son" as their candidate, and with the opposition elements clashing and distracted between Fremont and Fillmore, the State was saved to Buchanan by only a thousand majority on the total vote. In 1860, from the grand smash-up of the Democracy at Charleston and Baltimore, the Republicans, with their popular champion, Abraham Lincoln, carried Pennsylvania (no more extensions of slavery) by the astounding majority of sixty-seven thousand over all the broken Democratic fragments counted together. That was the practical beginning of the political revolution which culminated in the total abolition of slavery.

In 1862, on account of the misfortunes and blunders of Mr. Lincoln's administration, in the war for the suppression of the Southern Rebellion, New York and Pennsylvania went by default for the Democracy—the latter State, on a deficient vote of one hundred and fifty thousand, being carried by three thousand Democratic majority. But in 1863 the Republicans, on a pretty full vote, regained the State by fifteen thousand. In 1864 Mr. Lincoln held it by twenty thousand; and last year, as we have said, on the largest popular vote ever cast in the State, and with a favorite soldier and a platform which left the issue of negro suffrage to the several States, where it properly belongs, the Republicans held their ground by seventeen thousand majority.

The Tobacco Trade and Public Revenue.

From the N. Y. Times. The feeling in the tobacco trade against the taxes now laid upon it is widespread and very strong. It found vent in a late meeting in this city, called to consider the order regarding bonded warehouses, issued Sept. 10, and more recently in the Tobacco Manufacturers' Convention at Cleveland.

In 1860 the crop of tobacco was the largest ever raised in the United States. It was upwards of 429,000,000 pounds. In 1864 it amounted to only 197,000,000 pounds, and the returns have fallen still lower since then. According to the last report of Commissioner Rollins, the production of taxable tobacco in 1863 was, in round numbers, twenty-three and a half million pounds; in 1864 it was sixty-three millions; in 1865 it was thirty-six and a half millions; and in 1866 it was only thirty-five and a half millions.

With the great decline in the trade indicated by these figures, there has been a falling off in the profits of all engaged in it who attempt to deal honestly with Government and the public. Tobacco frauds, almost as gigantic in every respect as the notorious whiskey frauds, have operated to the serious detriment of the honest manufacturer. By the more extensive use of the leaf in its natural state, and by illegal manufacture and sale, the Government loses about one-half of the whole amount it might raise on this article. The Select Committee on Internal Revenue Frauds, which reported to the last Congress, stated that there is much evasion of the tax in New York, Brooklyn, and Philadelphia, and they recommended a reorganization of the revenue force in the three cities. Commissioner Rollins was equally urgent in recommending reform in this matter. Evidences of the failure of the present system may be seen in the numerous seizures for tobacco frauds which have recently been made in this neighborhood, and in the numerous failures to convict or punish any of the guilty parties. About the beginning of June last, seven tobacco manufacturers near this city were seized. It was said that two of these places had defrauded the Government of about \$50,000. Another of them was reported to be the property of a man recently appointed United States Revenue Inspector. So far as the public have been informed, nothing has been done to punish these alleged wrongdoers. Perhaps the Committee on Retrenchment,

now sitting in this city, will throw some light upon these cases.

Under a good system of taxation, and with proper management, the Government ought to raise about ten per cent. of our whole revenue from tobacco alone. In Great Britain eleven per cent. of the revenue is raised from tobacco, and the article is neither grown in that country nor used to nearly the same extent as here. At present only about five per cent. of our internal revenue is obtained from tobacco, snuff, cigars, &c. Instead of raising \$17,000,000 upon this article, we might, if the tax were collected as fully as in Great Britain, raise between \$30,000,000 and \$40,000,000. In France the taxes on tobacco yield an annual revenue of over \$45,000,000. It is true that there are greater facilities for evading taxes here, especially in this article, than in either of the countries named. The chief difficulty with us seems to arise from the fact that tobacco is grown here and is an article of export. To overcome this difficulty and to obtain the largest possible revenue from tobacco, its manufacturers urge the plan of laying the whole tax upon the leaf. To this there are many weighty objections. Perhaps the further discussion of the subject may bring forward some scheme better adapted to prevent frauds and enrich the Treasury without detriment to one of the most important branches of our agriculture.

The People.

From the N. Y. Tribune. Beneath all the political excitement, the dangers which we fear, and the evils which we know, there is a profound element of permanent unity upon which the country rests. The President's threats shake the surface, but the depths are undisturbed. The lawful method of reconstruction is met by proclamations intended to restore plans repeatedly repudiated by the country; gold rises to 144. Sheridan and Sickles are removed, and the act is answered by the indignation of the people. But no panic follows; no doubt of the result is felt. Our bonds are not depreciated, and in Europe the demand for them is as steady as the demand for breadstuffs. The farmer pauses in the furrow to hear of new Presidential usurpations, and then lays his hand again to the plough. The mills and factories do not pause; every where is the hum of industry; new railroads are projected, commerce ebbs and flows with the tides; the crops are garnered, and the fields tilled anew. The business of the country is affected by its political dangers, but the injury is slight in comparison. The blow is heavy, but it falls lightly. Yet this general peace and serenity of the people exist while the country is threatened with a new revolution. The politics of the United States are to-day in a more dangerous state than those of any other nation in the world. If in any South American State, or even in France, the executive officer should dare to do what Mr. Johnson has done, and the elements of disorder should be as strong and active as they are here, two weeks would not pass before a dozen armies, headed each by a self-proclaimed dictator, would be marching upon the capital. But Mr. Johnson's example arouses no arms; opposition; half a million of soldiers have melted into the population, but no power but that of the Government can make them soldiers again. This absolute peace is not the result of indifference or ignorance; the people know the dangers of the country, but also know how they are to be met.

That Mr. Johnson opposes their will and seeks to overthrow their principles, the people perfectly understand, and they feel all the evils that his course produces; but they have learned that their principles are indestructible, and that their will is irresistible. They are calm because they are strong. They never dream of resorting to an arbitrary exercise of power, because they know that by constitutional and peaceful methods everything can be accomplished. General Grant has recently been praised for his moderation in not making himself Dictator, but doubtless no one knows better than he that that is the one office which it is impossible to reach in our republic. It exists only in the visions of a lunatic. We all understand that any usurpation of the President, or any conspiracy, can be subdued by the civil or military powers lodged in the Government by the Constitution. We have put down the Rebellion, and can deal with its results. The people have earned their faith in themselves, and never had a better right to believe in the strength of the republic. Democracy has been tested, and needs no other test for centuries. It has been prosperous in a peace of seventy years, and has triumphed over its greatest danger—the war of brothers against brothers. Our victory was gained by terrible sacrifices; it is used with unexampled moderation; we believe that under no other form of government could four millions of slaves have been liberated by force, the rebellion of five hundred thousand citizens subdued without resulting in despotism on the one side.

The quiet and confidence of the people is the best proof of the security of the country. It may suit some men to predict panic and financial ruin, but there is no fear that the future will be worse than the past, and every reason to believe that in ridding ourselves of slavery we have established the Republic upon foundations which nothing but the slow changes of centuries can affect. The people will proceed to ultimate victory through peaceful means; the laws of Congress will be enforced; if any officer, military or civil, disobeys them, he will be punished. We have only to continue to be firm and moderate to obtain the full triumph of our principles, and the defeat of every man or measure that opposes them.

Chase and Johnson.

From the N. Y. Herald. What are the exact political relations between Andrew Johnson and Salmon P. Chase? As one is the idol of violent radicals and the other the bugbear of radicalism, they ought to be, politically, as far as pole from pole—types, indeed, of the extremes of difference in public sentiment. But are they? On the contrary, some facts indicate that these two understand each other very well. Who, indeed, was it but the Chief Justice that furnished Mr. Johnson with the only respectable weapon he has yet employed against the Reconstruction law? The country will remember that Mr. Chase persistently refused to hold a court in Virginia, for the good and sufficient reason that the State was subject to military authority; yet Mr. Chase did not wait for military to give place to civil authority before he held a court in North Carolina. Why the difference? If the reason was good for one State, was it not good for the other? It is a significant circumstance that the judgments given by Mr. Chase in North Carolina are what Mr. Johnson stands upon in the new opening of the dispute against the military laws and in the removal of Sickles. What is Chase's position in this matter? Was he holding the courts and making a case for

Johnson only a great piece of stupidity? or was it a political move—a thing done for a consideration not apparent to the public, but which they may guess at who know Mr. Chase's interest in keeping up the present revenue system, and know also that if Mr. Johnson were inclined he could so easily sweep that system away? Again, we inquire, what are the relations between these two men? Who will answer?

Who Hinders Reconstruction?

From the N. Y. Tribune. Congress has prescribed the terms and method of reconstruction; the generals commanding the several Southern districts have obeyed the laws prescribing the registration of the legal voters in the several revolted States; and elections might and doubtless would have been held in most of them ere this, but for the intervention of Andrew Johnson and his Cabinet. They have ordered the elections postponed and the registries reopened, under conditions which General Sheridan so justly condemned as opening a macadamized highway for perjury. And those elections still await the signal from Washington.

If, then, military governments, such as Congress has established, are despotic and in every way objectionable, the President is responsible for their continuance. These "sastrapes," as our adversaries stigmatize them, are designed for gateways through which the Southern States shall return to that position in the Union which they deliberately abandoned. Not by Congress nor by the laws, but by the President's arbitrary will, are these States kept under military rule.

If these States shall not return to their normal condition in season to vote for President next fall, let the blame rest where it should—on the shoulders of Andrew Johnson.

Reaction and Returns.

From the N. Y. World. We are prone in these days of steam and the telegraph to boast of our extraordinary facilities in the speedy reception and transmission of important news; but from the silence of the Tribune and other radical journals hereabouts, we are inclined to think that, even with their boasted "enterprise," they have not heard from Maine, or Vermont, or California, or any other State in which elections have been held of late. To be sure, the Tribune, which has lately received "letters" in four days' time from San Francisco, expects some time in the course of the autumn to receive "actual figures from the Golden State" which will materially abate the Democratic disposition to shout over the returns already given. It should be remembered, however, that the telegraph agencies are nearly everywhere in radical hands; that the most favorable show for that side has been sent over the wires first; and it is a fact that in every recent instance, in Maine and California particularly, the additional returns from day to day have been in favor of the Democrats. The gains have been greater even than were at first reluctantly reported by the telegraphic agents. While the Tribune is waiting for the "actual figures" from California, we will refresh its memory by repeating the returns received already:—In California the Democrats have gained 26,000 votes; they have gained 6000 votes in Vermont; 14,000 in Maine; and within a few months, they have also gained 11,000 votes in Connecticut; 20,000 in Kentucky; 2000 in Rhode Island; 5000 in New Hampshire; and 1000 in Montana—in seven States and one Territory, 84,000 votes. The gains in single States—for instance, in Maine, in Connecticut, and in California—are relatively far greater than will be necessary to carry Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York for the Democracy. In the last election for Governor in Ohio, in 1855, the radical majority was only 29,928, and the negro suffrage issue presented in this fall's canvass, the Tribune predicts, will cost the radical party "many thousand" votes; a change of 15,000 votes will enable the Democrats to carry Ohio; a change of less than 7000 votes in New York will secure the same result, while in Pennsylvania a change of less than 9000 is necessary. With only these gains the reaction will be less manifest in these three States than it is in Maine, Connecticut, or California.

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