

2 SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

General Grant and the New Tenure-of-Office Law.

From the N. Y. Herald.

The repealers have been cheated. The bill agreed upon by the joint committee of conference on the Tenure-of-Office law, and accepted by the late out-and-out Republican repealers...

But this compromise was Hobson's choice to the President; for it was either this or the old Andy Johnson law, which not only tied him fast in regard to removals and suspensions...

But what does this signify if the President shall conclude to stick to Jones? In this emergency the Senate, on reassembling, will be waited upon by Smith and informed of his continued exclusion from his whisky inspections...

In the case of Jones the only alternative to the Senate will be the same thing—a law explanatory of this new Tenure-of-Office act—but if they attempt it they will be swamped in the House and the President will have the victory.

The Quality of Mercy.

From the N. Y. Tribune.

The opinions of Mr. Senator Cameron on most questions are entitled to great respect. He is the oldest Senator in Congress, and, as the War Secretary who first saw the necessity of accepting the aid of the negro in crushing the Rebellion...

We echo all that Senator Cameron may say about the sins of the Rebellion. There is no course so severe to be passed upon men who look up arms against the Government; but of all those who deserved the least were the men who commanded its armies.

These men went into the Rebellion as soldiers. They fought us with the bravery of gallant men; they risked their lives for the struggle, and stood by it until the last mo-

ment, while the real conspirators hurried to Europe or shrank into ambush-proofs. When the cause of the Rebellion was really a lost cause, they were the first to acknowledge that fact, and since the war they have, as a class, been better citizens, more thoroughly reconciled to the Government, more anxious for peace and union.

Now, what shall we do with such a man? Senator Cameron thinks we owe him punishment, isolation, vengeance. President Grant believes that by appointing him to an office in New Orleans he gives the best pledge to the true men of the South that he means to deal generously with them, and welcome them back into the Union.

This is a small office. We presume, so far as the mere gathering of the customs is concerned, General Longstreet is a better man than nine-tenths of the people of New Orleans who will be acceptable to Governor Brownlow and General Cameron. He will do his duty; he will serve the country, and no public interest will be injured by his holding this office.

The Regular Army.

From the N. Y. Times.

The "Plea for the Regulars," which a correspondent sends to the Times, is, if somewhat bitter in spirit and personal in allusion, a proper answer to the disgraceful army debates of the last month in the House.

General Butler's charge that "the regular officers had all found soft places at the end of the war," was as brazen as it was prejudiced. It is not for any man, however great his services, to sneer at such of the living as Grant, Sherman, Sheridan, Thomas, Meade, Schofield, Hancock, and the hundreds of their famous associates; or at such of the dead as Sedgwick, McPherson, Reno, Reynolds, Russell, and their gallant coadjutors.

Such were the troops of whom General Butler declared they had found "soft places somewhere." But we leave the "Plea for the Regulars" to tell the rest of the story.

Mr. Wells' Confutation of Judge Kelley.

From the N. Y. World.

If any of our readers happened to overlook or neglect the reply of Commissioner Wells to Judge Kelley, printed in the World of Thursday, they owe it to themselves to look up the paper and peruse that effective document with more than ordinary attention.

His facts are so fresh; they are collected from so large a circumference of investigation, are arranged in such lucid order, are so pertinent to pending questions, that, interpret them as we will, we are behind the intelligence of the age if we do not study them.

The copious array of facts and statistics in Mr. Wells' recent letter bears chiefly upon the opinion which he expressed in his annual report (and which Judge Kelley had the hardihood to dispute) that the rich are growing richer and the poor poorer; that the wages of labor bear a smaller proportion to the cost of living than previous to the war.

In a production of which every part is so thorough and able, it may be difficult to say which branch of the evidence is most conclusive; but it strikes us that we have seldom seen anything more skillfully done than the refutation of Mr. Kelley's argument founded on the deposits in savings banks.

This alone would explode Kelley's reasoning, and will do so easily. He shows that the motives for making such deposits are much greater, where the laboring classes have been able to make any savings, than it was previous to the war. Mechanics and other thrifty people naturally buy houses and lots as soon as they have accumulated enough to make their first payment.

Hands Off.

From the N. Y. Times.

The postponement until December of the Reconstruction Committee's bill providing a provisional government for Mississippi is a good sign. The bill is irretrievably bad. It provided for the reassembling of the Convention, whose members were to be invested with the power of appointing a provisional government for the State; and its operation would certainly have been anarchical and ruinous.

As it is with Mississippi so should it be with Georgia, Virginia, and Texas. The colloquy between Messrs. Sumner, Anthony, and Conkling, the other day, showed that the feeling in favor of leaving things as they are in all the unreconstructed States, and also in Georgia, gains ground in the Senate; and the vote of 103 to 62 on the Mississippi bill indicates the growing strength of moderate opinions in the House.

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