

OPINION OF THE PRESS.

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

"WOMAN'S RIGHTS," AND HOW TO GET THEM.

From the N. Y. Times.

The Convention just held at Cleveland for the purpose of organizing what is called a "National Woman's Suffrage Association" deserves to be treated in a serious spirit, chiefly for the reason that its own deliberations were free from the extravagance and buffoonery which usually bring ridicule upon meetings of the same kind. The promoters of these associations complain very bitterly of the levity with which their cause is treated by the press. They never seem to be aware that public writers have done no more than answer them "according to their folly."

They constantly deliver addresses which are intended to be laughed at, and which, as a general rule, are both foolish and vulgar. Then they profess to be aggrieved at our "want of respect." The clown, after chalking his face and cutting antics in the ring, might as reasonably complain that the spectators laughed at him. If the leaders in this agitation wish to have their demands seriously discussed, let them first be serious themselves. We admit, indeed, that one advocate of woman's rights, who has recently published a sort of manifesto in a monthly magazine, cannot be accused of trifling with the subject. His statement of the case is brief, and we hope it will prove intelligible to his "fair clients."

It is not the "fair clients" who wish to establish it, but the fact of the true social ellipse are occupied by equal, complementary and reciprocal relations, making it the evenly balanced and exact product of its two constituents." At first sight this may seem to exhaust the subject, but a few words in plain English may, perhaps, be added.

Those who contend that women ought to be admitted to the exercise of political power completely mistake the ground on which their battle has to be fought. They always argue as if men were oppressively depriving women of their just rights. The letter of Mr. George William Curtis to the Cleveland Convention would be a statement of abstract principle, command almost general assent, but it does not in any way touch the practical question of "woman's suffrage." His argument is essentially as irrelevant to the subject as the "Fourth of July" rhodomontade in his concluding sentence; and it is difficult to believe that he would ever have ventured to address either to an assemblage of men. He assumes that the reason why women do not vote is that men are opposed to it. The truth is quite the other way. The vast majority of men are really indifferent to the whole matter, and very willingly stand aside to leave women to settle it among themselves.

DECLINE IN GOLD—GOOD EFFECTS OF GENERAL GRANT'S POLICY.

From the N. Y. Herald.

The remarkable decline in gold—the price on Thursday touching 124½, the lowest since the year 1870—is the fruit of the policy which General Grant inaugurated when he delivered his brief and simple address on the 4th of March last. The promise which he then made of reducing the expenditures and of faithfully gathering the revenues of the Government is being fulfilled in the falling of the price of gold, which is but the financial sign and index of the increasing credit and stability of the Government. The practical effects of his policy are now quite visible, since the smashing of the gold ring and the breaking up of the Wall street combinations that were formed in mid-summer to advance the price of the precious metal. It will be remembered with what delight his enemies then pointed to the rise in gold as a proof of the weakness of his efforts. The gold gamblers were the sole cause of the upward movement, and in pushing it onward abandoned themselves to the belief that they possessed the power to undo all the good work which General Grant set out to perform. His simple order to sell a few millions from the Treasury ruined their fond anticipations and dissipated the gold corner in the most effectual manner.

THE INCOME TAX—WHY IT OUGHT TO BE DISCONTINUED.

From the N. Y. World.

This unpopular tax will expire by its own limitation at the end of the present fiscal year, on the 30th of June next. Whether Congress will renew the law imposing it is a question which has been of late pretty widely discussed by the press of the country, the general drift of sentiment being thoroughly adverse to its renewal. In these discussions, however, so far as we have looked into them, the objections to the income tax have been rather feebly stated, and some of the most important have been overlooked altogether. The arguments against it which are chiefly dwelt upon are its inquisitorial character, and its evasion by so large a part of the community as to make it a tax on honesty rather than a tax on incomes. These grounds of objection are so trite and familiar that we merely allude to them in passing; it being our purpose to present some of the neglected considerations which weigh against the tax.

By a large proportion of our wealthy classes. Hundreds of millions of dollars are so invested in property which at present yields no income, and yet is rapidly enriching its owners. The consequence is, that great numbers of men reputed in their own communities to be wealthy—some of them supposed to be worth millions—return scarcely any income at all. Neighbors of theirs, receiving small and precarious incomes whose continuance depends on the uncertainties of life and health or the caprice of employers, pay a burdensome tax, while these shrewd, rich men who are rising to be nabobs and all whose heirs will be millionaires, pay none. If the industrious earners of small incomes, who are dependent on salaries or professional fees, die, their families are left in affluence. The present income tax does not reach, and it is impossible to devise an income tax which would reach, this constant growth in the value of property. In old and densely-peopled countries there are few such opportunities of making great fortunes by buying up unimproved real estate, and in such countries an income tax is not attended with such gross and flagrant injustice. Its effect here is to relieve a very large proportion of the accumulations of our richest men, and lay the whole burden on those whose growth in wealth comes in the shape of tangible money incomes, and, still worse, upon those who make no accumulations at all, but are barely able to live upon their salaries or their professional fees.

Another reason why an income tax is not suited to the circumstances of this country, and necessarily works injustice, lies in our system of agriculture. In England proprietors of the land are not, for the most part, its actual cultivators. The land is owned in large estates by the nobility and other wealthy men, who give long leases at a fixed rent, rendering the income from farming lands as tangible, and as easily ascertained, as income from any other source. But in this country, where nearly all the land is cultivated by its owners, there is no means of ascertaining agricultural incomes, and hardly any income tax is paid by our farmers. Thus our largest interest and greatest source of accumulation almost entirely escapes a burden which weighs heavily upon some other classes of the community. A farmer returns as income (when he makes an income return at all) only the proceeds of the crops he sells, making no account of the consumption of his family. Other people spend a great part of their taxed incomes in purchasing the subsistence of their households. Good farming constantly increases the value of the lands cultivated; but such enhancement of value is never returned as income, although it is as real an addition to the wealth of the owner as the money which he receives for his surplus crops. Thus a thriving farmer, who is every year improving his circumstances and adding to the value of his property, pays no income tax; while multitudes, whose yearly earnings are consumed in their yearly expenses, and whose death, sickness, or other misfortune, or loss of professional reputation, would plunge their families into destitution and distress, have their scanty means diminished by this unequal and unjust imposition.

THE LATEST FASHION IN MUSIC.

From the N. Y. Tribune.

Two years ago, when half the town ran madly after her rollicking Highness of Garolstein, and clapped their hands for joy that in the new French Apollo they had a greater god than any of the old Italians whose lays had charmed us before, a few sober people who had not been caught by the prevailing mania cried out that the musical art had got its death blow, and we were all rushing to moral and aesthetic destruction. And it seemed, indeed, for a while as if they might be right. From the Grand Duchess to the fair Helen was only one step, and from Troy to Brabant was another. While the revels of Offenbach raged fast and furious on one end of Fourteenth street, the faces of musicians grew sad and anxious at the other. Artists raised their voices in vain amid the solitudes of the Academy while shapely women were flouting their skirts and saying naughty things on the boards of the French Theatre. So the doors of the opera house were locked one day, the cotton covers were drawn over the gilded boxes, and dust was left to settle on the great stage until such time as the world should get through with its frolic and recover its senses. Mr. Grant White and others might well believe that art was departing forever from the stage, and that nonsense and frivolity would permanently take its place. At last, however, the frolic became so daring that innocent eyes were opened to its real significance, and ladies found out that the Fair Helen and the unhappy Genevieve were not very good company for them, and then the reaction began. So much money was lost in opera bouffe, and such a marked change took place in the character of its patrons, that after the second season not a vestige of that style of entertainment was to be found in the whole city.

THE INCOME TAX—ANOTHER BLUNDER OF GENERAL GRANT'S.

From the N. Y. Sun.

A series of articles on the income tax has lately appeared in the New York Times, which, if not written by Mr. A. R. Corbin, contain strong internal evidence of having been authorized or inspired by President Grant. The Times has always supported the income tax, unjust and unpopular as it is; but this fact, in itself, is of slight account, so long as the ideas were only the productions of the various conductors of that sheet. Now, however, that the advocacy of the income tax through its columns comes from high official sources, and from the President's brother-in-law, if not from the President himself, it is worthy of notice. There seems to be no hesitation on the part of the Times in urging the continuance of the tax directly in the face of the law.

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FINANCIAL.

provisions relating to the income tax, the national Legislature promised the people that the tax should cease to be levied after 1870. "Until and including the year eighteen hundred and seventy, and no longer," are the words. Instead of a recommendation from the President that the law be re-enacted, it would be his duty, in case Congress should vote to continue it, to veto the bill. The Government of the United States, powerful as it is, must not be at liberty to disregard its pledges to the people, just because those pledges were made five or six years ago. No statute of limitations runs against the public, by which the rulers of the land can escape the just performance of their promises.

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