SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

IN BEHALF OF JENKINS.

From the N. Y. World.

If ingratitude can properly be predicated of republics, with still greater propriety can it be attributed to the public. Those who serve the public faithfully and well, who minister to its prosperity and its pleasures, are repaid with suspicion and scorn. Of this the hard and thankless lot of Jenkins furnishes a familiar illustration. Jenkins exists but to satisfy the curious craving of the public. He fulfils the mission of his life with a laborious and self-abnegating thoroughness; and he wins the sneers and sarcasms of those for whom he toils. Since the ingratitude of the vegetables to H. G., and their refusal to make remunerative the farm of the philosopher who for years had been the prophet of vegetarianism and a purely vegetable person in his private diet, there has been no instance of ingratitude so gross and inexcusable as that of the public to its fond and faithful Jenkins.

The eminently prosaic Jenkins, like a sort of reversed poet, was made, not born. The public demanded him, and he sprang into being full armed with pencil and note-book. Or he may be said to have been developed from the ordinary reporter of a former period by the changed conditions of the modern press. At all events he is not responsible for his existence. The public, whose tastes are totally different to-day from what they were fifty years ago, has compelled the journalism of the period to deal with social topics, instead of questions of political philosophy or abstract morals. It has thus made Jenkins a necessity. Why, then, should it deride the patient investigator who collects the specimens which the editor must use in his frequent lectures upon the social strata, their origin, their upheaval, their convolutions, and their suggestive dip?

The press during the last half century has undergone a change strictly analogous to that which has modified the whole character of English fiction. Once the novel-writers—of whom Mrs. Radcliffe may be taken as an example—refused to deal with anything purely natural or approximately probable, but peopled the world of their creation with preposterous ghosts and intolerable phantoms. To the unearthly novel succeeded the tale in which heroes of impossible perfection went through an inconceivable courtship with heroines of irritating excellence. Sir Walter Scott, though his creations were actual men and women, still insisted upon showing them to us only when surrounded by a halo of romance that perceptibly removed them from the prosaic people of everyday life. It has been left for the modern novelist—of whom Anthony Trollope is the most perfect type—to present us with novels in which the commonplace people whom everyone knows rehearse their commonplace lives, without the slightest tint of romantic heroism or of sentimental poetry. And Trollope is the most popular novelist in the language!

In like manner, the press has gradually ceased to discuss the lofty theories of political philosophy, or to teach the public morality solely by sermons of churchly length and solemnity, and has become a mirror of social life. People now read a newspaper in order to learn what other people are doing. The progress of Russia towards the Himalayas interests them less than the progress of Prince Arthur towards Washington. The probable effect of the Suez Canal does not concern them as closely as the actual occurrences at the Charity ball. We are emphatically in the age of sociology, and we demand that the press shall tell us of the things which concern us in our relations to our neighbors rather than of the affairs of Thibet and Lapland.

Wherefore Jenkins lives and moves and has his inquisitive being. He satisfies the curiosity of the public—a curiosity which may sometimes be carried to excess, but which is in the main strictly innocent, and is moreover a characteristic of the age in which we live. The public insists upon knowing how Mr. James Fisk looks when in the act of thanking Corbin for his share in the success of the gold corner, and in what priestly robes Mr. Horace Cooke arrays himself when he repeats the comminated service with especial reference to the editorial fraternity. The masculine public is interested in the tricks and the manners of the women who conspire to wrest the sceptre of power from the men, and those of the fair sex who are yet loyal to the lords of creation are devoured by a curiosity to know how the female champion of feminine rights really look. It is Jenkins who supplies this thirst for information. It is Jenkins who "interviews" the financier in his opera house, the clerical transgressor in his cell, and the woman who talks in the stronghold where she harangues her followers. The wondrous tales which the benevolent Jenkins unfolds are eagerly read, and then the self-sacrificing unfolder is denounced and vilified. Surely Jenkins is the most ill-used of men. He is created, used, and scornfully maligned by a public which would be inconsolable at his loss. How much more creditable would the conduct of the public be were it to form societies for the prevention of cruelty to Jenkins, and to exert itself to ameliorate the physical and moral condition of its most indispensable servant!

THE NEW SOUTHERN BALANCE OF POWER AND THE NEXT PRESIDENCY.

From the N. Y. Herald.

The bill passed for the restoration of Virginia determined the final conditions to Mississippi and Texas, the two remaining outside States. Within a few weeks on the same terms, we expect they will be reinstated in Congress and restored to the control of their local affairs, when the transition epoch of Congressional edicts and Southern military district commanders will be ended, and the new Union, under the thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth amendments of the National Constitution will be in full operation.

We have in these amendments a greater revolution in the structure of the Government than that which transferred the American people from the crown of England to their own institutions under the original Constitution of the United States. The framers of that Constitution founded it upon the sovereignty of the people; but in its details the Government was shaped upon the English model. The system of African slavery planted by England, and even the African slave trade, were engrafted upon our original Constitution and protected in various special provisions, while the shame involved in these concessions was confessed in the careful exclusion of all such words as slave, slavery, or slaveholder from the instrument. Its framers, however, while driven to these shameful concessions for the sake of union, consolved themselves with the hope that negro slavery would, sooner or later, die out; and that the Constitution, therefore, might so be shaped, meantime, as to disguise its recognitions of a ruling caste and a servile race.

But the Yankee invention of the cotton gin, with the wonderful development which it gave to the cotton culture, soon made negro slavery an invaluable Southern gold mine and the league of cotton planters the balance of power in the Government. The political power of this Southern oligarchy was first made manifest on slavery in the Missouri Compromise of 1820, and next in the annexation of Texas as a concession to slavery; next in the Fugitive Slave law, as a sop to Cerberus, in the compromise measures of 1850; next in the repeal of the Missouri Compromise (1854) whereby Kansas and Nebraska, as Territories, were opened to slavery, and lastly in the Dred Scott decision from the Supreme Court of the United States (1856), declaring that under our Constitution a negro had "no rights which a white man was bound to respect."

These suicidal pro-slavery decrees of 1854 and 1856, in a general and deeply set Northern political reaction, finished the Southern slaveholding oligarchy; for in 1860 Lincoln was elected President on the decisive platform of "no further extensions of slavery." For sixty years this Southern oligarchy, with remarkable skill, boldness, and tenacity, had, more or less, dictated the course of every department of the Government and every administration. So imperious and exacting, too, had these Southern believers in King Cotton and slavery become that, defeated at the ballot box, they plunged headlong into an armed Rebellion for an independent Confederacy upon the corner stone of negro slavery.

Hence the tremendous revolution which has followed—a revolution which has made the Constitution of the United States of 1870 as widely different from that of 1860 as that one differed from the colonial system of England. Negro slavery, which was the ruling element, is extinct, and all its appendages, including the slaveholding oligarchy, State sovereignty, and the legally degraded caste of color, are swept away. By the thirteenth amendment of the Constitution slavery is abolished and interdicted; by the fourteenth equal civil rights to all colors are established; and by the fifteenth, neither the United States nor any State can abridge the right of suffrage on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude. To make sure these provisions, Congress is invested with the power to enforce them.

Such is the condition of things under which all parties will have to fight the Presidential battle of 1872. But the issues of the battle will be new issues growing out of the money question in all its branches, and out of our foreign relations and our foreign policy. General Grant will doubtless be the Republican candidate, and upon the old issues of 1868 and 1864 he would probably walk over the course. But they are settled, and he will have to stand upon the measures of his administration. So far he has not exhibited that decision of character and tenacity of purpose in the Cabinet which he displayed so effectively in the field. He appears, indeed, singularly changed to the policy of taking things quietly, trusting to luck and risking nothing. The chances are that this "easy-go-happy" policy will result in such a fusion of dissatisfied popular elements in 1872 as will need only a popular Union candidate to turn the tide of victory.

Here we anticipate a new Southern balance of power. How it is to take shape we have seen in the new departure of the old line Democrats and ex-Rebels of Virginia. They accept the new order of things, they fraternize with and cultivate the negro vote; and the same policy generally adopted by the Southern planters and landowners will give them, as opponents of the dominant party, the balance of power, even in the elections for the next Congress, the balance of power in every Southern State from Virginia to Texas. This foothold gained, this new Southern party will be able, as the new Southern balance of power, to dictate its candidate and its policy to the National Democratic Convention.

The right candidate will be a Southern man in high favor in the North as one of the shining Union lights of the war. Such a candidate will still be needed to confront the military glory of General Grant; and such a candidate is at hand in that great and sterling Southern Union soldier, General George H. Thomas. Virginia may well be proud of him, and it may be truly said of him that his merits are only equalled by his modesty. Such a candidate, we say, is the man for the opposition elements South and North. We do not mean, however, that he should be prematurely brought into the field; nor that we stand committed to any party or any candidate. We mean that Virginia and the South, in being farther advanced under the new constitution than Tammany Hall, can more effectively take the lead for the organization of a new opposition party for the succession. We mean that the anti-radical elements of the South, by conciliating the negro, can secure his vote; that this, we expect, will be done; and that so we may look for a new Southern balance of power in 1872 competent to shape the Democratic Convention to its policy and competent to decide the election.

THE SPANISH SITUATION.

From the N. Y. Times.

A traveller once asking his way in the West was told that there were two roads, a very detailed account of the bad qualities of which ended with the information that one was three or four miles longer than the other. "Why did you not tell me that at first," said the traveller, "as it settles the choice?" "Why," replied the Hoosier, "I reckon the shorter or longer makes little odds, for no matter which of the two roads you take, you will heartily wish you had taken t'other." Such has been the experience of poor Spain ever since her last revolution. Her whole course since she upset her detestable throne, has been a distracting choice between different paths, and a quick repentance amid overpowering mud and rocks. She is sick to the death of all revolutions, and yet is in a perpetual quandary between alternatives the practical experience of which she shrinks from as worse yet. Every reflecting Spanish mind has been insufferably perplexed between no less than four makeshifts—a republic, an indefinite regency, a military dictatorship, and a monarchical restoration, which last itself forked off into three uncertainties, whether it shall be a recall of the elder Bourbon branch or of the younger; or whether, repudiating both alike, an entirely new and fresh royal stock should be established. It is the worst of all possible situations, with neither rest nor movement; condemned to immobility, and yet to incessant struggle; stalled and floundering amid problems which can neither be solved nor got rid of.

There was a time when it really seemed as if General Prim was to settle the whole difficulty by taking the track of General Monk when England was in like manner beset, after the disappearance of her Stuart monarchy. When everybody else was plunged in doubt and hesitation, Monk's course of action for a royal restoration was determined; yet he knew how to wait for success while he pursued it. Though a soldier, and acting through his army, he was firmly set against renewing violent measures and civil war, perfectly realizing that the monarchy, to be effectually restored, should come by pacific means, naturally, as by a national necessity, as the last and only resource for the country. In spite of the impatience and distrust of the majority, Prim, in like manner, apparently, has practised reserve, dissimulated, procrastinated, and temporized until a path should be opened for him, in some sort spontaneously, and by the mere force of circumstances. He would have succeeded thus in getting back a monarchy but for something quite beyond his control—the impracticable timidity of the guardians of his candidate, the Duke of Genoa.

Prim was fatally checkmated in this, and now it is perfectly plain that whoever is to be the deliverer and regenerator of distracted Spain, he is not the man. It is still as impossible as ever to forecast the upshot of the turmoil. Yet we don't consider that the case of Spain is to be despaired of. It has been almost invariably true that whenever nations have been stirred by great aims, they have, sooner or later, found a man in whom such aims were fitly concentrated, and who became their great instrument, prompter, guide, and accomplisher. We believe that he will yet be found in Spain, though the people may have yet to grope a long time for him. How many despaired of France under the Directory? The adventures, the disasters, the perils, the sudden and unexpected righting of causes and of countries almost foundering, are quite as startling in history as the turns of fortune in the life of an individual. Contemporaneous history is indeed a novel where we may read, with the self-same confidence as in the last product of the circulating library, that tyrants and bad causes will be nonplused and brought to grief, and liberty and virtue rewarded—in the last chapter. Let us revive this old lesson, and wait hopefully until we see the end of all.

A CROP OF REVENGES.

From the N. Y. Tribune.

Journals over the water marvel that Americans have shown so much feeling on the Alabama Claims; but, for our part, we are surprised at their wonder. Sir Charles Dilke represented our cause correctly when he told his countrymen that the Americans were conscious that they could afford to wait. If Britons are puzzled to know whether there is more of sentiment than of calculation in this policy of patience, we cannot help them. Great Britain may continue to plant grievances, or may allow troubles to spring up by neglect—it is for us only to wait and see them grow. Observe the way in which Nova Scotia clamors against Confederation; think of the New Zealanders; consider the Columbians; look at the fighting Winnipegs; behold the Fenians! Each of these may be a portion of that general crop of revenges which is naturally springing up to remind our British brethren that once upon a time a Rebel hacked at the tree of liberty, and an Englishman sharpened his ax for him. Our grievances, be they sentimental or otherwise, have struck root outside of our own boundaries, and time is likely to bring us a crop of revenges. Though we have not sown we shall reap, and England will have to thank her own folly for our harvest.

Lord Clarendon may have convinced Englishmen that he has gloriously exculpated his Government; but the Alabama damages with their prelude of precipitate recognition are still an unshaken case; and beyond them are Canada and Winnipeg, Columbia and Ireland. The London *Echo*, one of the few papers which are candid in respect to our claims, holds that their settlement would relieve the Irish question of some doubt. But might not their non-settlement make dubious more questions than the Irish one? The *Echo* asks whether, in the event of a revolution in France, the English Government would be as hasty to recognize French Republicans as it was to recognize American slaveholders. Even if the French rebels were formidable enough to put in jeopardy the French capital, and to hold Lyons, would an English Cabinet at once declare a state of belligerency? The world in general can give but one answer to this question, and it is the answer of the *Echo*. Lord Clarendon, who so lately went to Paris to tender the good offices of England to keep France in order in the event of the Emperor's death, would not be, of course, as willing to aid French Liberals as he was to help American slave-owners. Now, suppose the United States were called upon to recognize a number of Canadian rebels who had set up a government within a hundred miles of Ottawa? According to Lord Clarendon's imaginable French policy, we should be obliged to ignore them; but if we respected his American precedent, we should be bound to recognize them at sight. Indeed, we should have to give notice of our intention to declare their belligerency without waiting for a Queen's proclamation, or paying respect to an English Minister, or considering anything but the matter of bare fact exaggerated by hard self-interest.

Questions like the one suggested might happen to crop out in a phenomenal state of politics. Mr. Cobden thought that if a war should happen between Great Britain and Brazil, for instance, the great British skipper and shipper would suffer in proportion to the Alabama damages. Her adversity might prove to be commensurate with her prosperity, in a marine sense. It is impossible to reckon up the future; it would be unwise to idly count upon the decadence of so energetic and enterprising a nation as England. Her ships dispute our own continent with us, and her trade is a mighty guarantee of her influence. But we, too, have guarantees, and those of the most solid and growing character.

DOWNFALL OF THE DOMINION.

From the N. Y. Sun.

Judging from present appearances, affairs are in a confused, if not actually disorganized state in the new Dominion. Our Canadian correspondent informs us that honorable Cabinet Ministers there are all by the ears; and we ourselves observe that leading Canadian journals are floundering about, and even turning complete somersaults at a furious rate. Even prominent private citizens talk wildly of independence, annexation, anything but remaining as they are—neither one thing nor the other, neither citizens nor colonists. And so far as the Dominion Cabinet is concerned, it is a very pretty little quarrel as it now stands.

We have already referred to the religious side of the question, and its immediate connection with the ancient French element of Canada. But now a new element of discord has made its appearance. It seems that when Mr. Howe, of Nova Scotia, was bought over, and old Acadia stood bewildered at his course, it was distinctly understood at Ottawa that he should have his choice between the Presidency of the Executive Council and the Governorship of Red River. But Mr. McDougall had previously been promised the latter place, and he held the Premier and his colleagues to their promise. Accordingly, Mr. Howe visited Red River on his own account, and it is now stoutly asserted by the chief journal of Canada West that while there he secretly tampered with the half-breed inhabitants, and was successful, although he was a Cabinet Minister at the time, in actually shaking their loyalty to the Dominion Government. Moreover, Mr. McDougall now charges the Dominion Government with having been the cause of his rebuff by the Winnipegers; while the Government, in turn, attributes his failure to his own unwise acts, not only in the past, but while at Pembina. It is, in fact, a lucky thing for the Canadian people that the Dominion Parliament is soon to be convened, when the truth of the whole matter is sure to be brought out. At present, however, the part played by the various tricksters now misruling the Canadian people appears anything but creditable, and their rule ought to be speedily terminated.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

OFFICE OF WELLS, FARGO & COMPANY, No. 84 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, December 28, 1869.—Notice is hereby given, that the Transfer Books of Wells, Fargo & Company will be CLOSED on the 19th day of JANUARY, 1870, at 3 o'clock P. M., to enable the Company to ascertain who are owners of the stock of the old Ten Million Capital. The owners of that stock will be entitled to participate in the distribution of assets provided for by the agreement with the Pacific Express Company.

The Transfer Books will be opened on the 22d day of JANUARY, at 10 o'clock A. M., after which time the $5,000,000 new stock will be delivered.

Notice is also given that the Transfer Books of this Company will be CLOSED on the 25th day of JANUARY, 1870, at 3 o'clock P. M., for the purpose of holding the annual ELECTION OF DIRECTORS of this Company. The books will be RE-OPENED on the 7th day of FEBRUARY, at 10 o'clock A. M.

12 31 tF7 GEORGE K. OTIS, Secretary.

OFFICE OF THE FREEDOM IRON AND STEEL COMPANY, No. 230 South THIRD Street.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 17, 1870.

The annual meeting of the Stockholders of the FREEDOM IRON AND STEEL COMPANY will be held at the Office of the Company, No. 230 South THIRD Street, Philadelphia, on THURSDAY, February 3, 1870, at 12 o'clock M., when an Election will be held for Thirteen Directors to serve for the ensuing year.

The Transfer Books will be closed for fifteen days prior to the day of said election.

1 18 14t CHARLES WESTON, Jr., Secretary.

OFFICE OF THE BELVIDERE MANUFACTURING COMPANY.

BELVIDERE, N. J., Dec. 8, 1869.

Notice is hereby given to the stockholders of the BELVIDERE MANUFACTURING COMPANY respectively, that assessments amounting to SIXTY PER CENTUM of the capital stock of said company have been made and payment of the same called for on or before the eighth day of February, A. D. 1870, and that payment of such a proportion of all sums of money by them subscribed is called for and demanded from them on or before the said time.

By order of the Board of Directors.

12 28 6w S. SHERRERD, Secretary.

OFFICE OF THE CITY TREASURER, PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 25, 1869.—Warrants registered to No. 59,000 will be paid on presentation at this office, interest ceasing from date.

1223 JOS. F. MARCER, City Treasurer.

PHILADELPHIA AND READING RAILROAD CO., Office, No. 227 S. FOURTH Street.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 22, 1869.

DIVIDEND NOTICE.

The Transfer Books of the Company will be closed on FRIDAY, the 31st instant, and reopened on TUESDAY January 11, 1870.

A dividend of FIVE PER CENT. has been declared on the Preferred and Common Stock, clear of National and State taxes, payable in CASH, on and after January 17, 1870, to the holders thereof as they shall stand registered on the books of the Company on the 31st instant. All payable at this office. All orders for dividend must be witnessed and stamped.

S. BRADFORD, Treasurer.

12 22 6t

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