

SPiRiT OF THE PRESS.

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

THE GRANT-SUMNER QUARREL.

From the N. Y. World. The feeling which has been excited in Washington, and extends to all places in telegraphic communication with the national capital, in consequence of President Grant's attempt to degrade and disgrace one of the most important members of the party by which he was elected, is a noteworthy sign of the times. In this heated Republican quarrel Democrats take no part. They are mere spectators. But in such an unseasonably frigid present case, the coolest judges, and in the present case, Democrats are more likely to do justice to both factions than they are to do justice to each other.

As between the comparative qualifications of Mr. Sumner and Mr. Cameron for the chairmanship of the Committee on Foreign Relations, the question is ridiculous. In domestic politics Mr. Sumner is, to be sure, a fanatic; but a sincere fanatic is a more respectable character than a notorious corruptionist. On foreign questions, Mr. Sumner is extremely well informed, whereas Mr. Cameron has no more knowledge of foreign politics than every man catches up from the newspapers. Mr. Sumner has a personal acquaintance with many of the leading statesmen of Europe; he has always taken a keen interest in European affairs; and being thoroughly conversant with recent European history, and with the motives and secret springs of modern diplomacy, his qualifications for the position which he has held for the last ten years cannot be disputed by any of his servile supporters of the President. If his place could be given to another Senator equally intelligent and accomplished, the change would not provoke much comment, but an exchange of Cameron for Sumner is so preposterous in point of fitness that the country would look on with amazement, if it could be amazed at any absurdity perpetrated by General Grant.

What is the excuse offered by General Grant's sycophants for supplanting a thoroughly equipped publicist like Sumner with an ignoramus in foreign affairs like Simon Cameron? The excuse is that Mr. Sumner differs on some points of foreign policy, from President Grant and Secretary Fish. Such an excuse is a gross insult to the Senate. It is an arrogant attack on its independence. It assumes that the Senate has no right to differ from the President on questions of foreign policy; whereas, by the Constitution, the Senate is entitled to sit in judgment and review upon the action of the Executive, and ratify or reject its measures according as Senators may or may not think the Executive has acted wisely. The Constitution makes the Senate a restraint on the foreign policy of the President, and authorizes its own independent judgment in approving or rejecting his measures. But General Grant insists that the revising Senators shall be his servile tools. He denies their right to any judgment which differs from his. He requires that the Senators shall be, not his judges, as the Constitution makes them, in questions of foreign policy, but his echoes. In other words, he is engaged in an attempt to break down the restraints imposed upon the foreign policy of the President by the Constitution, and to make his own will supreme in questions of that kind. His demand that the Senate shall not dissent from his views, and that its Committee on Foreign Relations shall tamely accept whatever he chooses to dictate, is a claim to be emancipated from constitutional restraints and to exercise an absolute control over the foreign policy of the Government. By the Constitution the Senate has a right to differ from and control him; has a right to reject his treaties and overrule his foreign policy; and is as free and independent in its own sphere of action as the President is in his. It is a piece of insufferable interference and meddling arrogance for him to dictate whom the Senate shall appoint on its committees, and to demand that the Committee on Foreign Relations shall be packed in subservience to his personal views. He has no more right to say who shall be chairman of that committee than the Senate has to say who shall be Secretary of State. Nay, he has less right; for the Senate can refuse to confirm a Secretary of State whom the President appoints, but he has no shadow of a title to interfere in the organization of the Senate committee. Yet this is what General Grant has been doing; and it is no wonder that his intrusion, intermeddling arrogance provokes warm opposition.

One pretty certain consequence of this quarrel will be the defeat of the President's Santo Domingo job. There was only five majority against Sumner in the Senate caucus, and those Senators who opposed the wishes of the President in caucus will have as little hesitation in voting against his scheme in the Senate. A treaty of annexation, which requires two-thirds of the Senate to ratify it, would be defeated by superfluous votes; and if an attempt should be made to carry the project by a joint resolution, the Republican votes may turn the scale against it. But a defeat of General Grant now will be personal and political humiliation, whereas, if he had not provoked this quarrel, the failure of the Santo Domingo project would have little significance.

Another consequence of this quarrel will be an organized opposition to the re-nomination of General Grant as the Republican candidate for President. The contempt in which he has long been held by intelligent Republicans who are best acquainted with him, has now found a good excuse for utterance, and from this time forth the Republican party is divided into a Grant faction and an anti-Grant faction. With the enormous patronage he wields he will probably secure a re-nomination; but if he does, there will either be an open bolt by his bitter Republican enemies or secret conspiracies to defeat his election. This quarrel will become so venomous that there can be no reconciliation; and as Grant is destitute of political talents, his Republican enemies are pretty sure to get the better of him. In view of the hatred and animosity which have grown up against him in his own party, Democrats have every reason to wish that he may be the Republican candidate.

A SUGGESTION TO THE HIGH COMMISSIONER.

From the N. Y. Sun. Since it is declared, with some show of probability, that the question of compensation to our Dominion neighbors for the right of our fishermen to ply their vocation without restriction, either within or without the imaginary three-mile line from the colonial shores, is now under consideration before the High Commission, we beg to offer a suggestion. Our colonial friends have some valuable blimious coal mines in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, only partially worked, owing to want of a market. We think well of admitting their coal free of duty. But there is so much objection to a repeal of the existing tariff on this commodity, that the duty still stands and is likely to stand. Suppose now the High Commission, while it is on this branch of its business, should make the proposition to offset the duties we now collect, against the right of fishing everywhere. Let us fish wherever we like and we will admit Nova Scotia coal free of duty. This is a fair bargain; and if anything is to be paid for a privilege that really belongs to us now, we insist it shall be no more than this. And we cannot help believing such an arrangement would be satisfactory on the British side. The right to fish on the ocean is a right belonging to everybody, and it is sheer impudence to undertake to restrict it. In former times, when it was the fashion to keep convenient pretexts for war always on hand to be used as occasion required, this fishing question held a prominent place. If England and France, during the long years when they were contending for mastery on this continent, were ever at a quarrel, this question, in some one of its Protean forms, could always be counted upon to furnish the desired provocation. The present agitation of the subject is but a relic of a past tradition. It is an absurdity from beginning to end. Why should not any man and every man traversing the open sea be at liberty to cast a line and catch a fish when and where he will? The sea is the highway of nations, and whatever swims therein is the special property of not one of them, but of all. The ocean is but one vast common, where all have equal rights and all should roam at will. The idea of there being any private or national property in its hidden fenny tribes is simple presumption. It was only when England claimed to own and rule the seas that such a pretension could be endured for an instant. But that day has forever gone, and now let all the rubbish of such a claim perish with it.

DOES THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY ACCEPT THE CONSTITUTION AS IT IS?

From the N. Y. Tribune. Another Presidential election is in sight. It rests with the party now in opposition to determine the issues to be therein decided. If that party shall see fit to say, "We accept and will obey and enforce the Federal Constitution as modified by the thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth amendments," the country may safely regard the issues raised by secession and the consequent civil war as closed, and proceed thereupon to the paramount consideration of economic and financial questions. This is the shape which (we judge) most intelligent and patriotic citizens prefer that the next canvass should take. We have been mainly quarrelling about slavery and negroes for the last twenty years. If only for variety's sake, it is high time for a change of topic. Slavery was a weighty theme in its day, but slavery is dead, and its death involves logically the clearing away of all the wreck and debris of the late arduous struggle. The negro is no longer a slave; what can he be henceforth but a man? And, if a man, why should he not be accorded the rights, privileges, franchises, responsibilities, and obligations of manhood—no less, no more? The Kilkenny cats having demoralized and devoured each other, it is necessary that their tails should keep up the scratching, spitting, and esterwauling?

As a Republican, we have no right and no wish to direct the future course of the party to which we shall at any rate stand opposed. If that party shall see fit to challenge us to fight over again the battle of 1868, we shall of course take up the gage with great and well-grounded confidence of success. We have no fear that the American people will reverse in '72 the verdict they recorded in the election of Grant and Colfax. In a purely partisan aspect, we should consider this our "best hold."

What we are other considerations of grave moment by which that of party advantage is counteracted and overborne. It seems at least probable that, whenever the late Rebels shall have been thoroughly convinced that the negroes are to be henceforth their fellow-citizens, sharing fully and equally every franchise and immunity of citizenship, they will stop killing them. It is the hope of paralyzing with terror large portions of the Republicans, white and black, of the South, as those of Georgia and Louisiana were paralyzed in 1868, that inspires the Ku-Klux societies now rife in several Southern States. These cannot be incited by any rational expectation; the calculation evidently is that killing some will awe the rest into a surrender of their rights as essential to the saving of their lives.

In short, the present Ku-Klux demonstrations at the South are simply a more cowardly phase of the Rebellion. They are a fulfilment of the Rebel menace that the civil war could and should be prosecuted for twenty years after the overthrow and dispersion of the Rebel armies. Its object is to "let the nigger know his place"—which, now as ever, is the Rebel conception, is under the heel of the white man.

Until this skulking warfare, with masks instead of banners and torches in place of grenades, shall have been somehow terminated, the Republican party cannot change its attitude, nor can it give that attention and emphasis to questions of political economy and finance which the public good imperatively requires. Pledged by all its glorious past to indefeasible and paramount fidelity to the rights of man, it cannot, while these are assailed and imperilled, devote much attention to the policy of raising or lowering the imposts now payable on the importation of iron, or fabrics, or sugar. And, in the absence of such attention, there is great danger that unwise and injurious changes in the tariff may be made, which, if their nature and bearings were fully understood, would be condemned and defeated.

What we would ask of the Democratic managers is, trust, without presumption—is simple frankness; and if anything is to be chosen their point of assault. They may take the ground pioneered by Frank Blair in 1868, and proclaim the anti-slavery amendments of the Constitution frauds and nullities, and negro suffrage a Federal usurpation, to be crushed out by "the Southern people"—that is, the late Rebels—so soon as they shall have resumed control of the Government. Or they may (as some of them do) say, "All this is bygone. The three Republican amendments are a part of the Constitution; the negro is a citizen and voter; we cannot undo this if we would; so we accept and will try to make the best of it." We only require of them that they eschew concealment or equivocation, and tell the country exactly what they mean.

If the wishes of the majority were to prevail, we know that the next Democratic platform would reiterate the party's approval of the sentiments of Frank Blair. Negro-hate and sympathy with the late Rebellion are the animating impulses of at least two-thirds of those who voted for Seymour in '68 and will vote for his lineal successor in '72. But the leaders of a party do not always allow the mass of their followers to dictate platform, even when their own real sentiments are embodied therein. Doubtless, the Democratic National Convention of 1864 proclaimed what the Democratic masses believed and felt when it pronounced the war for the Union a failure and demanded an immediate cessation of hostilities; yet McClellan's chances of election were thereby blighted. So the great body of the Democrats of 1868 were delighted with the idea of paying the national debt in greenbacks; but that plank in their platform cost Seymour (who did not believe in it) a great many votes. A party under the weather cannot always embody all that it would like to do in its platform; it must consider how others will regard a proposition, and whether it is or is not calculated to repel many whose support is essential. This was not done at Chicago in 1864 nor at New York in 1868, and the consequences were disastrous.

"Give me but light!" said Ajax. Only let the Democratic platform be outspoken and candid, and the next Presidential canvass must prove a long stride towards the final settlement of questions whose early solution is essential to the nation's well-being.

REPUBLICAN PROSPECTS IN FRANCE.

From the N. Y. Times. Paris is possessed with its old frenzy again. The overshadowing danger, in presence of which party clamor was stilled, has passed, and a vague unrest, born of a despairing consciousness how impotent has been their resistance to a relentless enemy, seems to have taken hold of the populace. In default of the Prussians, the "Reds" want somebody to wreak their vengeance on. France, and, above all, Paris, has suffered a great defeat and a great humiliation, and yet nobody can be found on whom to lay the blame. At Bordeaux the people have been calmly voting away provinces and huge identities that will absorb the spare earnings of a generation, but there is no talk of impeaching anybody, unless, perhaps, the Emperor, who is already as good as dead; there is no new oath of the tennis-court, by which the popular deputies should, this time, bind themselves to remain in session till means were devised for taking revenge upon the foe—who seems to the mind's eye much less formidable now that his field artillery and his intrenchments are no longer contracting the circle of fate round the city. The suppressed fury of the proletariat of the capital has, therefore, begun the familiar series of fitful outbursts which, unrestrained by a strong hand and a vigorous will, may lead to revolution and chaos again.

Fortunately for France, the patriots of Montmartre and Belleville cannot just yet work any serious mischief. The Government is strong in resting upon the deliberate choice of the people, and in being backed by a large majority of the representatives of the provinces, who are tired of the dictation of Paris, and many of whom are prepared to support the proposal of removing the political capital somewhere else. They are also strong from the fact that a sincere desire to maintain republican institutions is visible in all their measures. Could Thiers as his colleagues be convicted of plotting for a monarchy, a revolutionary protest would be intelligible, and might be exceedingly difficult to deal with. But all their acts, of which we have any record, show a punctilious desire to maintain republican forms, and an honest determination to give popular government a fair trial. M. Thiers insisted upon the insertion of the word "republic" in the resolution of the deputies which forms the warrant of his office. He retains three republicans in his ministry, who would not hold office for a single day were they to be required to assist in an Orleans restoration.

By some reasons as these, emphasized no doubt by a reference to the readiness of his cannon, General Palladines managed on Thursday to bring the mutinous officers of the National Guards of Belleville to reason. France has shown her willingness to reason by moderate counsels, and the sooner Paris reaches a similar resolution, the more rapidly will proceed the peaceful reconstruction which the country so urgently needs. It is time that Frenchmen recognized the fact that, grievously betrayed as they have been, they have suffered chiefly because they were untrue to themselves. For two generations, neither Conservatives nor Radicals have been capable of compromise or of gradual reform. The political life of the nation has thus alternated between repression and license, and has been devoted to the worship of every possible idea—Legitimist, Orleanist, Republican, and Imperialist—to the exclusion of the idea of true liberty. Evidences are not wanting that France has probed by sad experience, and that the Thiers Ministry embodies her attachment to practical results in preference to vague aspirations, to republicanism that respects the rights of all in preference to a regime that gives either a man or a mob an irresponsible and absolute power.

Michigan is to have a new State Capital which is expected to cost a million dollars. A gigantic steam scoop, called "Reuben's Spoon," is dredging in Devil's Lake, Baraboo, Wis.

Why will folks pay so much for rent when they can get a house-maid for three or four dollars?

Special Notices. POSTPONEMENT OF THE NEXT STATE CONVENTION. The following resolutions were passed yesterday by the State Central Committee: HEADQUARTERS REPUBLICAN STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 24, 1871. Resolved, That the time for the meeting of the Republican State Convention be and the same is hereby postponed until WEDNESDAY, the 17th day of May next, and that the delegates who may be elected thereto be and they are hereby requested to assemble at the Hall of the House of Representatives, Harrisburg, at 12 o'clock noon on said day.

Resolved, That the time for the meeting of the Republican State Convention be and the same is hereby postponed until WEDNESDAY, the 17th day of May next, and that the delegates who may be elected thereto be and they are hereby requested to assemble at the Hall of the House of Representatives, Harrisburg, at 12 o'clock noon on said day. Resolved, That the time for the meeting of the Republican State Convention be and the same is hereby postponed until WEDNESDAY, the 17th day of May next, and that the delegates who may be elected thereto be and they are hereby requested to assemble at the Hall of the House of Representatives, Harrisburg, at 12 o'clock noon on said day.

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL RAILWAY COMPANY, No. 218, FIFTH STREET, PHILADELPHIA, March 8, 1871. An instalment of Five Dollars per share on the subscriptions to the preferred stock of the National Railway Company will be due and payable at the office of the Company, No. 218 S. FIFTH STREET, Philadelphia, on or before the 24th of March, 1871. By order of the Board of Directors, JACOB RIEGEL, Treasurer.

OFFICE OF THE PHILADELPHIA GERMAN TOWN AND NORRISTOWN RAILROAD COMPANY. PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 18, 1871. The Board of Managers have declared a dividend of THREE PER CENT. on the Capital Stock, payable, clear of tax, at the Office of this Company, No. 13 Philadelphia Exchange, on and after the 15th of March next. The transfer books will be closed on the 20th inst., and remain closed until the 14th of March, 1871. A. E. DOUGHERTY, Treasurer.

MERCANTILE LIBRARY—DUPLICATION. It has been decided to duplicate the stock of the Mercantile Library Company, between July 1 and December 31 of the present year, on the plan proposed in 1864. For every share of stock held prior to July 1 another share will be issued, without cost, if applied for by the owner before the end of the year. All shares to be duplicated before July 1 will have the benefit of the duplication. 3 1/2th mat T. MORRIS PEROT, President.

BATCHELOR'S HAIR DYE—THIS SPLENDID Hair Dye is the best in the world, the only true and perfect Dye. Harmless—Reliable—Instantaneous—no disappointment—no ridiculous tints. "Does not contain Lead nor any Vitale Poison to injure the Hair or System." Invigorates the Hair and leaves it soft and beautiful: Black or Brown. Sold by all Druggists and Dealers. Applied at the Factory, No. 16 BOND STREET, New York. (4 1/2 m w f)

THE UNION FIRE EXTINGUISHER COMPANY OF PHILADELPHIA Manufacture and sell the Improved, Portable Fire Extinguisher. Always Reliable.

D. T. GAGE, 8 1/2th No. 118 MARKET ST., General Agent.

THE PENNSYLVANIA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY. The Directors have this day declared a dividend of SEVEN DOLLARS AND FIFTY CENTS per Share on the Stock of the Company for the last six months, which will be paid to the Stockholders or their legal representatives after the 16th inst. 3 1/2th mat W. M. CROWELL, Secretary.

JOUVIN'S KID GLOVE CLEANER restores soiled gloves equal to new. For sale by all druggists and fancy goods dealers. Price 25 cents per bottle. 11 25m w f

THURSTON'S IVORY PEARL TOOTH POWDER is the best article for cleaning and preserving the teeth. For sale by all Druggists. Price 25 and 50 cents per bottle. 11 25m w f

DR. P. R. THOMAS, No. 411 WALNUT ST., PHILADELPHIA, has removed to the Cotton Dental Rooms, devotes his entire practice to extracting teeth without pain, with fresh nitrous oxide gas. 11 1/2th

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WHISKY, WINE, ETC. CARSTAIRS & McCALL. No. 128 Walnut and 21 Granite Sts IMPORTERS OF Brandies, Wines, Gin, Olive Oil, Etc. WHOLESALE DEALERS IN PURE RYE WHISKIES. IN BOND AND TAX PAID. 5 1/2th

MARBLE WORKS. H. S. TARR & SON'S MANUFACTORY OF Carved and Ornamental Marble Work. GREEN Street, above Seventh, 1 30th PHILADELPHIA.

CORDAGE, ETC. Cordage. Manila, Sisal and Tarrad Cordage At Lowest New York Prices and Freight. EDWIN H. FRYLER & CO., Factory, TENTH St. and GREENWAT Avenues, Store, No. 23 N. WATER St. and 23 N. DELAWARE Avenues. PHILADELPHIA 6 1/2th

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INCOME COLLECTED and remitted for one per cent.

The Company act as EXECUTORS, ADMINISTRATORS, and GUARDIANS, and RECEIVE and EXECUTE TRUSTS of every description, from the Courts, Corporations, and Individuals.

N. B. BROWN, President. C. H. CLARK, Vice-President. ROBERT PATTERSON, Secretary and Treasurer. DIRECTORS: N. B. Brown, Alexander Henry, Clarence H. Clark, Stephen A. Caldwell, John Welsh, George F. Fisher, Charles Macmaster, Henry C. Gibson, Edward W. Clark, J. Gillingham Fell, Henry Pratt McKean. (6 1/2 m w f)

THE PHILADELPHIA TRUST, SAFE DEPOSIT AND INSURANCE COMPANY. OFFICE AND BURGLAR-PROOF VAULTS IN THE PHILADELPHIA BANK BUILDING, No. 421 CHESTNUT STREET. CAPITAL, \$200,000.

FOR SAFE-KEEPING OF GOVERNMENT BONDS and other SECURITIES, FAMILY PLATS, JEWELRY, and other VALUABLES, under special guarantee, at the lowest rates.

The Company also offer for Rent, at rates varying from \$10 to \$15 a year, the ten-story building, key, SMALL SAFES IN THE BURGLAR-PROOF VAULTS, affording absolute SECURITY against FIRE, THEFT, BURGLARY, AND ACCIDENT.

All fiduciary obligations, such as TRUSTS, GUARDIANSHIP, EXECUTORSHIP, etc., will be undertaken and faithfully discharged.

All trust investments are kept separate and apart from the Company's assets. Circulars, giving full details, forwarded on application.

DIRECTORS: Benjamin B. Comgys, Augustus Heaton, J. Livingston Ethington, F. Hatchford Starr, Daniel Haddock, Edward Y. Townsend, James L. Claghorn, John D. Taylor, Hon. William A. Porter.

OFFICERS: President—LEWIS R. ASHURST. Vice-President—J. LIVINGSTON ETHINGTON. Secretary—R. P. MCCULLOUGH. Treasurer—W. M. L. DUBOIS. 2 1/2m w f

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ELEGANT STORE FIXTURES, With Marble Counters, Large Fire-proof, Desk Letter Press, etc., will be sold cheap for cash good trade. No. 586 CHESTNUT STREET, UNDER THE OON TINTNANT. 19 1/2th

FOR SALE—A CHOICE MEDIUM SIZED House, WALNUT Street, above Broad. In perfect order. 3 2 1/2th No. 429 WALNUT Street.

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