SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE.

From the N. Y. Tribune.

Our new civil service commission, if it ever gets into working order, may find something worth reading in the recent report of the committee of the House of Commons which was appointed last February "to inquire into the constitution of the diplomatic and consular services, and their maintenance on the efficient footing required by the political and commercial interests of the country.'" The committee express their dissent from the prevailing tone of unfavorable comment upon the service. They regard it as by no means useless or retrograde. They find that it is, on the whole, carried on with economy and efficiency, and that from time to time valuable reforms have been intreduced by the Department of Foreign Affairs. The custom adopted of late years of requiring from the Legations full accounts, not only of the political, but of the commercial and social condition of the countries in which they are situated, is one which greatly enhances the practical value of the service.

The recommendations made by the committee are in accordance with this view of the case. Recognizing the practical usefulness of the diplomatic body and the rise in the prices of living which has taken place of late years in every capital of Europe and America, they recommend a general increase of salaries in the subordinate grades, so that first secretaries shall receive a minimum pay of £500 and second secretaries a minimum of £350, these salaries being subject to a yearly increase after a stated time, and to additional allowances for the acquisition of Russian or Oriental languages. They also recommend that appointments of heads of missions shall not be made for a longer period than five years, and that at the expiration of this period it shall be for the Foreign Office to decide whether the public exigencies make a reappointment desirable. On the other hand, it is recommended that a longer period than two years be assigned as the duration of the younger diplomatists' term of service at each court. They recommend the establishment of missions at the capitals of the South American republics. They are decidedly of the opinion that it is undesirable, in the interests of the public, that the promotion in the diplomatic service, especially in the higher and more responsible posts, should be by way of seniority, and recommend that the Secretary of State should be allowed, under his own responsibility, to fill all vacancies by selection and not by seniority, and that for all positions of importance he should not be even restricted to members of the service, when in his judgment he can find more capable persons outside of it.

It is a fact worth noting at this moment, when there appears to be a somewhat indefinite tendency towards reforming the civil service, and changing everything which now exists in favor of something new, that all these judicious recommendations of the English committeemen are steps in the direction of the system upon which our own service is constructed. The increase in the salaries of subordinates which makes it possible for young men to live with frugality upon their pay immediately upon their entry into the service, the shortening of the terms of Ministers and the lengthening of those of Secretaries, the creation of missions in South America, and the abolition of the claim of mere seniority to promotion, all bring the English system nearer to our own. They still retain those excellent features which we would do well to adopt from them, if it is possible to redeem this shred of patronage from the bad uses to which it is usually put in Washington. They insist as a *sine qua non* upon a thorough knowledge of French, written and spoken, upon a good hand-writing and a capacity for *precis* writing, before entrance into the service. But these being given, the Secretary of State is to exercise his discretion as to other claims and qualifications, all of which are to have their due weight. The system of competitive examination is not considered well adapted for securing the best class of public servants in this department.

It would require very little change to make our service as efficient and capable as any in the world. The system is even now very nearly unobjectionable. The salaries are large enough for a decent living, and not enough to make them the object of pecuniary ambition. The theory of appointment is that the President is free to select from the whole mass of cultivated and capable citizens precisely those who are best qualified to represent the country with distinction and success. It is not a profession for a life-time, but there is never the slightest difficulty found in obtaining for the important posts the very best talent and culture the country affords, and for the subordinate places educated gentlemen who are willing to devote a few years to the agreeable task of gaining a knowledge of the world under the most favorable auspices; in both cases, with no hope of permanence or of pecuniary gain. The only thing in the way is the ignorant greed of the Yahoo politicians, who threaten and bully these coveted places out of the hands of President and Secretary, and find them apples of Sodom as soon as they have grasped them. If Congressmen would release their hold on these positions, and if the Secretary of State, always supposing him a capable and honest man, should be left free to make the best selections in his reach for all vacancies, no further legislation would be required to make our diplomatic service all that it need be.

THE PATH TO VICTORY.

From the N. Y. World.

The object of a political party is to secure good government. Absolute perfection in the administration of public affairs is not attainable, nor is it always possible for a party to obtain popular approval for all the measures which it may deem desirable. Without popular approval it cannot gain the power to carry any measure—the very object of its existence as a party is defeated if, by demanding changes which public opinion does not sustain, it fails of the power to carry any. Hence, in practical working, men can not reasonably insist that a party shall demand every change which they deem theoretically or even practically desirable; it is the duty of a party, where suffrage is universal, to move as far and as rapidly in the direction of good government as it can with popular support.

Rules as simple as these will be readily accepted in general terms, but when they are applied to determine what policy a party should adopt in a given emergency men are not always ready to abide the result. Thus it was apparent to intelligent men in 1868 that public opinion would not sustain the course which some Democrats desired; but notwithstanding the counsel earnestly given by this and other journals that course was chosen. Four years more of Radical misrule, Grant's administration with steadily increasing concentration of power, and a continuance of burdensome and unjust taxation, are consequences which every Democrat can now trace to the mistaken policy of 1868. The taunt of our adversaries that they had once more won power through Democratic blunders was not needed to impress upon the minds of sensible men the truth that a party has no right to throw away the good which can be achieved in a vain attempt at the impracticable.

The Democracy has ere long to prepare for the next Presidential contest. It is the duty of the party, therefore, to ask, not whether this or that declaration may be abstractly truthful, nor whether this or that measure may be theoretically desirable, but what changes in the direction of good government public opinion will sustain. To accomplish anything of practical good there are needed the votes of some citizens who supported the Republican tickets in 1866 and 1868. Upon what terms, consistent with Democratic principles, can the support of such citizens be obtained?

It is never easy for men to acknowledge that what they have done was wrong. Acting from honest impulses, let us suppose Smith voted for reconstruction in 1866, for Grant in 1868, and for negro suffrage in 1869. He sees that reconstruction has not borne the desired fruit; that "let us have peace," in the mouth of Grant, really meant continuance of the war spirit and war measures; and that negro ballots by no means bring the millennium. But if asked to condemn these acts, to denounce them as wicked, unconstitutional, or unpatriotic, he recalls the honest impulses under which he acted, and responds:—"Things have not turned out as I expected, but I meant it for good. I am willing to undo whatever can be or ought to be undone, but I will not vote to brand myself with dishonor." Thereupon Smith, who wants every practical reform which Democrats desire, might nevertheless feel obliged to vote the Republican ticket.

Nor is it the sole practical duty of a party to denounce the misdeeds of yesterday. The business of practical men is with the present and the future, not alone with the past. No party can hope to succeed which has no other ground for appeal to public confidence than zeal in denouncing the errors of others. Promises go nearer to the hearts of men than criticisms. Place before the people two parties, of which one pledges reforms in the future while the other condemns wrongs of the past, and the former will have the advantage. What men want when they vote is not to lecture somebody for what has been done, but to secure for the future such changes as their interests demand.

A large element in the Republican party stands ready to demand the instant arrest of those extreme measures which the war spirit prompted, but which, it is now perceived, only keep alive ill-feeling at the South, while they lead to dangerous concentration of power and departure from constitutional limits. From this day on, that element desires just what Democrats desire—amnesty, peace, respect for local State governments, return to strict constitutional limitations. Yet that same element, if asked to denounce reconstruction or enforcement acts, would refuse. In the minds of such men the circumstances and feelings of the past are sufficient excuse for acts then adopted. A like element stands ready to vote and work for a reduction of the tariff to a revenue basis. As to the future, it desires just what Democrats have long demanded. Yet many of these very men, if called upon to denounce the adoption of extreme tariffs during the last decade, under the mistaken plea that necessities of war or of public credit required such duties, might refuse. They desire reform. They do not desire to confess any sins or blunders of the past. This may be weak, illogical, unreasonable, but it is human nature. That party wins which estimates human nature most correctly.

The Democratic party may hope to command such support as to insure its triumph if, contented that its criticism of the past has been by events abundantly vindicated in the minds of most honest citizens, and having openly discarded the dead issues upon which Senator Morton (Grant *imminente*) sought to force it to fight the battle of 1872, it shall now assert and maintain those living issues, that wise and practical policy for the present and the future, which the people have a right to expect from a party rising to assume control of the Government.

And the Democratic doctrines of the fathers, of Jefferson and Madison and Jackson, concerning the supremacy of the Constitution of the Union, the indefeasible rights of States, the vigilant guardianship of civil liberty, the narrowing of the area of government, freedom of industry, and a denial of the power of all to the few monopolists who with protective tariffs and partial taxes "take from the mouth of labor the bread it has earned"—these doctrines will never have had so shining an illustration of their truth and wisdom as when lighting the future pathway of the great republic stumbling headlong as it has been on the high road to imperialism, fettered with monstrous debt, oppressive taxation, and discord-breeding laws.

THE PARTY OF BLUNDERS.

From the N. Y. Times.

It is a great mistake for anybody to suppose that the faults of one party are justified by the faults of its opponents. The bad faith and blundering of Democracy are direct evils to the Republican party. They have made victory too easy, and have enabled the Republican party to dispense with much of that progressive and self-watchful spirit that is necessary in the presence of a powerful and sincere rival. Our enemy has not been worthy of our steel, and we have consequently not been duly careful to keep our steel worthy of a good foe. We regret, therefore, that the Democracy are preparing to enter the great campaign for the Presidency with no real improvement in their policy—nothing that is likely to compel Congress at its next session to pay more attention to the interests of the people than to the gabble of the Ben Butlers. The Democracy have contented themselves so far with shams and quibbles, and the leading journals of the party are divided between those which are quite satisfied with the worthless pretensions of the Ohio platform, and those which grumble that even a pretended and hypocritical assent has been given to the demand for progress. The only positive act of the party for ten years finds its representatives, one half angry that any step has been taken, the other half busily explaining that the step means nothing.

And it certainly does mean nothing. The Ohio resolutions are simply a declaration that, since the amendments to the Constitution cannot be repealed, and since the people will not allow them to be violated by force, the Democracy will accept them as facts, and devote all their energies to find an opportunity of defeating their ends by legislation. These amendments declare the existence of certain rights, and bestow upon Congress the power to protect those rights by legislation. The Democracy have the coolness to seek control of Congress, solely in order that legislation intended to vindicate the rights recognized by the amendments may be repealed, and any further legislation in the same direction refused. They do not deny that they regard the purpose of the amendments as wrong, nor that they think that purpose ought to be defeated. They only acknowledge that it is impracticable to defeat it by either repeal or revolution, and declare their intention to defeat it by paralyzing the agency through which alone it can be carried out.

There can be no doubt that the Democracy utterly misinterpret the spirit and feeling of the people. The recent amendments to the Constitution embody objects which the nation has deliberately determined to obtain once for all. They are not accidental or experimental. They are the most solemn guarantees that the nation could afford that the results of the war should not be lost by the tricks or changes of political parties during peace. During the time that they have been under consideration, the people of this country have sternly refused to allow any issue, however important, to divert their minds from their completion. Certainly very grave subjects of discussion have intervened—subjects on which ordinarily there would have been wide differences of opinion, and which would have shattered both the political parties, had it not been that their substantial unity was necessary to the permanent settlement of these prime points. The Democracy has insisted on fighting the people, and the people have insisted on not dividing among themselves so long as the Democracy maintained that hostile attitude. In supposing that they are now to be put off their guard because the foe has gone into a transparent ambush, or hoisted colors which he is obliged to acknowledge are false, the Democracy are only adding one more to their long list of blunders. With Jeff Davis on the stump, and Leslie and Carlisle canvassing Kentucky, and a hundred Bourbon editors shouting the old war-cry, negligence on the part of the Republicans would be a crime. "New departures" are easy enough for the agile officers, but unless they want to be left alone in the field, they will have to obey their followers, and then their defeat will be assured beforehand.

TO LAURA.

From the Citizen and Round Table.

It would be a pity to hang Mrs. Fair, she is such a handsome and attractive woman, and has such killing ways. Petrarch immortalized his Laura in exquisite Italian verse; shall we immortalize ours with an ugly modern gibbet? Unless all gallantry is dead in California lovely Laura will not die. Her name is too pretty, too historical, to be entered on the roll of executed felons. Forgive her if she did err rather more than is given to less ravishing women to err; tell her to go and sin no more; or if somebody must expiate her crimes, hang some homelier female in her place. Beauty is so rare it has its rights and privileges, and to its occasional eccentricities an admiring world ought to be passing kind. She loved much and therefore she ought to be forgiven much. She has only killed three men, and an ordinary beauty would do that without the aid of a deadly weapon, if we are to credit poets' fantasies.

In her occasional breaches of the law she only followed the fashion of the times, and what is a woman if not in the fashion? They say she might as well be out of the world, but probably she would not care to go out by means of the gallows. All women are privileged to shoot their lovers and their husbands; it is the right of the sex laid down in the American Magna Charta of public sentiment; the privilege is established on early and unbroken precedent. Hundreds of women offended in thought or deed have thus settled their accounts, and no one of them has ever yet been punished; none of them except the unfortunate Mrs. Fair but was acquitted amid the plaudits of an admiring audience. California ought not to be the first to depart from this wise and beneficent rule. The gentle sex, as is well known, cannot protect itself against the wiles of artful man. Laws to keep the sweet creatures in the straight path are of no avail; and unless they could use the pistol, where would be their security?

The lady Fair has such a round white neck it would be a shame to crush it with a horrible noose; she has such bewitching eyes it would be a sin to quench their brightness before the allotted time; she has such delicate little hands and such graceful feet, such a perfect form, such enticing arms, so many allurements of person and of mind, that no gallant man would willingly see them lost to the world and sacrificed to the cruel demands of law. It is true these very attractions caused some trouble to others. Mr. Fair became jealous and Mrs. Crittenden unhappy, and even Snyder—poor, foolish Snyder—did not like the turn that things took when he was turned out to sleep on the sofa. Her little hands managed to grasp a loaded revolver, her flashing eyes were able to point it well, and those taper fingers pulled the trigger at the right moment. But after all she only slew three objectionable persons—only three; so the Governor of California ought to pardon her; he ought to preserve all those endearing young charms for a pleasanter sleeping place than the cold, cold ground, and not give to the grave what was meant for mankind.

Remember all the happiness that Mrs. Fair has conferred. The most joyous moment of man's life is when he whispers with beating heart and bated breath into the ears of the loved one the momentous question and receives a favorable response. Observe how many must have whispered those words to this beauty and been blessed by her reply. She began when she was little more than a child, and kept on blessing all sorts of men till the day of her trial. She blessed three or four husbands of her own and several of other people's, not to mention quite a crowd of outsiders. Even Crittenden himself would probably have accepted the delights of her love although he were forewarned how it would end. The joy surpassed the misery in his opinion we have no doubt, and it would be no more than just to balance the account and set the poor thing free.

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BUREAU OF CONSTRUCTION AND REPAIR,
WASHINGTON, D. C., June 6, 1871.

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The proposals must be addressed to the Chief of the Bureau of Construction and Repair, Navy Department, Washington, and must be endorsed "Proposals for Timber, etc., for the Navy," that they may be distinguished from ordinary business letters.

To prevent confusion, and facilitate the opening of the bids, parties bidding for supplies at several yards will enclose their bids in separate envelopes, each indorsed with the name of the yard for which the bid is made.

Printed schedules for such classes as parties deal in and intend to bid for, together with instructions to bidders, giving the forms of proposal, of guarantee, and of certificate of guarantors, with printed forms of offer, will be furnished to such persons as desire to bid, on application to the Commandants of the respective Navy Yards, and those of all the yards on application to the Bureau.

The Commandant of each Navy Yard, and the purchasing Paymaster for each station, will have a copy of the schedules of the other yards, for examination only, in order that persons who intend to bid may judge whether it is desirable to make application for any of the classes of those yards.

The proposals must be for the whole of a class, but the Department reserves the right to reduce the whole class, should the interest of the Government require it, before the execution of the contract. All applications for information, or for the examination of samples, must be made to the Commandants of the respective yards.

The proposal must be accompanied by a certificate from the Collector of Internal Revenue for the district in which the bidder resides, that he has a license to deal in the articles for which he proposes; *and, by direction of the Department, bids or offers will be received only from parties who are bona fide dealers in, or manufacturers of, the articles they offer to furnish.* The guarantors must becertified by the Assessor of Internal Revenue for the district in which they reside.

The contract will be awarded to the person who makes the lowest bid and gives the guarantee required by law, the Navy Department, however, reserving the right to reject the lowest bid, or any which it may deem exorbitant.

Sureties in the full amount will be required to sign the contract, and their responsibility must be certified to the satisfaction of the Navy Department.

As additional security twenty per centum will be withheld from the amount of the bills until the contracts shall have been completed, and eighty per centum of the amount of each bill, approved in triplicate by the Commandants of the respective yards, will be paid by the Paymaster of the station designated in the contract, or, if none is specified, by the Paymaster of the station nearest the yard where the goods are delivered, within ten days after the warrant for the same shall have been passed by the Secretary of the Treasury.

The classes of this Bureau are numbered and designated as follows:—

No. 1, White Oak Logs; No. 2, White Oak Keel Pieces; No. 3, White Oak Curved Timber; No. 7, Yellow Pine Logs; No. 8, Yellow Pine Beams—Oregon Pine Beams at Mare Island Yard; No. 9, Yellow Pine Mast Timber—Oregon Pine Mast Timber at Mare Island Yard; No. 11, White Pine Logs; No. 12, White Pine Mast Timber; No. 13, White Pine Plank Boards—Sugar Pine Boards at Mare Island Yard; No. 15, White Ash, Elm, Beech—White Ash, Redwood at Mare Island Yard; No. 16, White Ash Oars; No. 18, Black Walnut, Mahogany, Maple, Cherry; No. 22, Cypress, Cedar; No. 23, Black Spruce; No. 24, White Oak Staves and Headings; No. 25, Lignumvitæ; No. 30, Ingot Copper; No. 32, Wrought Iron, round and square; No. 33, Wrought Iron, flat; No. 34, Iron, plate; No. 35, Steel; No. 37, Iron Spikes; No. 38, Iron Wrought Nails; No. 39, Iron Cut Nails; No. 42, Lead, pipe, sheet; No. 43, Zinc; No. 44, Tin; No. 45, Solder; No. 48, Locks, Hinges, Bolts, of brass and iron; No. 49, Screws, of brass and iron; No. 50, Files; No. 51, Augers; No. 52, Tools for ship stores; No. 53, Tools for use in yard and shops; No. 54, Hardware; No. 56, White Lead; No. 57, Zinc Paints; No. 58, Colored Paints, Dryers; No. 59, Linseed Oil; No. 60, Varnish, Spirits Turpentine; No. 63, Sperm and Lard Oil; No. 64, Tallow, Soap; No. 65, Fish Oil; No. 68, Glass; No. 69, Brushes; No. 70, Dry Goods for upholstering; No. 71, Stationery; No. 72, Crucibles; No. 73, Ship Chandlery; No. 74, Acids; No. 75, Resin, Pitch, Crude Turpentine; No. 77, Belting, Packing; No. 78, Leather, pump rigging, lacing; No. 80, Junk; No. 85, Anthracite Coal; No. 86, Semi-bituminous Coal; No. 87, Bituminous Coal; No. 88, Charcoal; No. 89, Wood.

The following are the classes, by the numbers, required at the respective navy yards:—

KITTERY.

Nos. 13, 15, 18, 22, 32, 33, 39, 44, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 56, 58, 59, 60, 63, 68, 69, 70, 71, 73, 74, 78, 85, 87, 88.

CHARLESTOWN.

Nos. 1, 7, 13, 15, 16, 18, 22, 24, 25, 32, 33, 34, 35, 37, 38, 39, 42, 43, 44, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 56, 58, 60, 63, 64, 65, 68, 69, 70, 71, 73, 74, 77, 78, 82, 85, 87, 88.

BROOKLYN.

Nos. 1, 7, 11, 13, 15, 16, 18, 22, 23, 24, 25, 32, 33, 37, 42, 51, 53, 54, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 63, 68, 69, 70, 71, 73, 74, 80, 85, 86, 88.

PHILADELPHIA.

Nos. 1, 7, 9, 32, 33, 63, 71, 85, 87.

WASHINGTON.

Nos. 1, 3, 7, 11, 12, 13, 15, 18, 23, 30, 32, 33, 34, 35, 37, 38, 39, 42, 43, 44, 45, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 56, 58, 59, 60, 63, 64, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 77, 78, 85, 87, 88, 89.

NORFOLK.

Nos. 1, 7, 9, 13, 15, 18, 22, 23, 24, 32, 39, 48, 50, 53, 58, 59, 60, 63, 70, 71, 73, 77, 85, 87.

MARE ISLAND.

Nos. 2, 8, 9, 13, 15, 18, 22, 33, 33, 34, 35, 37, 38, 39, 43, 44, 48, 49, 50, 51, 53, 54, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 63, 64, 65, 68, 69, 70, 71, 73, 74, 77, 87, 88, 89. 6 6 1aw4t

NOTICE.—SEALED PROPOSALS, INDORSED "Proposals for furnishing the Public Schools with Lehigh or Schuylkill Coal," will be received by the undersigned at the office of the Board of Public Education, S. E. corner SIXTH and ADELPHI Streets, from shippers and miners only (pursuant to an ordinance of Councils), until SATURDAY, June 24, 1871, till 12 o'clock M.

The proposals, which will include the storage of the coal, must be for separate districts, as follows:—

First dist., comprising	1, 2, 3, 4, and 26th	wards.		
Second " "	5, 7, 8, and 9th	"		
Third " "	6, 11, 12, and 13th	"		
Fourth " "	10, 14, 15, 20, and 29th	"		
Fifth " "	16, 17, 18, 19, and 23th	"		
Sixth " "	21st	"		
Seventh " "	22d	"		
Eighth " "	23d	"		
Ninth " "	24 and 27th	"		
Tenth " "	25th	"		

There will be two sizes required, egg and stove, and the ton 2240 pounds. Each and every ton of said coal shall be weighed at the place of delivery, in the presence of a proper person to be deputed by each sectional board as weigher (subject to the approval of the Committee on Supplies), who shall keep an accurate account of each load of coal delivered, its exact weight as ascertained by correct scales; and no bill shall be approved for such coal unless an affidavit of the weigher shall accompany such bill, setting forth by what contractor the coal was delivered, the date of delivery of each load, the number of tons and the quality of coal delivered, and whether weighed at the place of delivery.

Proposals will be received at the same time for Kindling Wood and Charcoal that may be required.

By order Committee on Supplies.

H. W. HALLIWELL,

6 12eod t6 24 Secretary.

WARBURTON'S IMPROVED VENTILATED and easy-fitting DRESS HATS (patented), in all the improved fashions of the season. CHESNUT Street, next door to the Post Office. rp6