KENTUCKY REPUBLICANS.

Bristow and Morton as Favorites in the Corn Cracker State.

POPULARITY OF THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

The Sentiment of the Colored People.

INTERVIEWS WITH PROMINENT STATE POLITICIANS.

LOUISVILLE, May 5, 1876.

A rumor has gone abroad that in Kentucky, the home of Bristow, a great many republicans favor Morton for the Presidency; but, like all the late yarns concerning the Secretary of the Treasury, there is no truth in it. Of late I have been busily engaged in seeking the views of the prominent republicans of Louisville in regard to their choice for the Presidency. I have yet to find a Morton man of any prominence. Among those with whom I conversed I found all for Bristow, even men whom I had understood were for Morton. Of this latter class were Colonel Horace Scott and Mr. Thomas Bradley, about whom more shall presently be said.

GENERAL HARLAN'S VIEWS.

The most prominent republican of Kentucky is General John M. Harlan. He was twice a candidate for Governor and each time received over 90,000 votes in this great stronghold of democracy. Many democrats forgot their party and voted for the man. General Harlan obtained a vast amount of information in his two canvasses, and I think that no man to-day is as well posted about Kentucky and Kentuckians as he is. The other day your reporter called on General Harlan and interviewed him in reference to political matters in Kentucky so far as they relate to the approaching Presidential contest. General Harlan was reluctant to be interviewed, but your reporter managed to get him talking, as can be seen from the following:—

Q. I see it stated in some of the papers that the republicans of this county have held a meeting and declared for Morton for President?

A. It is not true that any such meeting has been held. I have heard of a little squad, not exceeding a dozen, meeting in the county and passing resolutions for Senator Morton, and that is the meeting telegraphed over the country as having been held at Bristow's home. The republicans of this city and county will not hold their primary meetings until May 4. That is the time regularly appointed, and it is certain that no republican will be sent to the State Convention from this city or county who is not enthusiastic for Bristow's nomination at Cincinnati. The State Convention will be held on the 18th of May, and it will be found that the republicans of Kentucky will present Bristow's name with as much unanimity as the old whigs of Kentucky presented that of Henry Clay in 1844. The republicans of Kentucky are proud of Bristow and look with confidence to his nomination and election to the Presidency.

Q. Is there any movement in this State being made for Morton?

A. In one or two localities an effort is being made to rally the colored republican vote in his favor, but it will result in nothing. The Kentucky delegation at Cincinnati will be a unit for Bristow. However much the republicans of Kentucky esteem Governor Morton for his services in the republican cause, they are for Bristow above all others. They have not forgotten his clear, record as a stanch Unionist and consistent republican.

Q. But they are urging it in the North that, being a Southern man, he cannot be trusted. How about that?

A. I do not fear any such point against him. Bristow should be trusted by the republicans of the North as implicitly as they would any public man born and raised on the other side of Mason and Dixon's line. The men who urge this objection forget that Abraham Lincoln, Dick Oglesby and James R. Birney were born in Kentucky and passed some portions of their lives in this State. The men in the North who say that a Southern republican is not to be trusted are like those in the South who distrust Northern men because they were raised under anti-slavery principles. Bristow was reared a whig, promptly sided with the Union cause in 1861, fought gallantly in our army, never faltered in his opposition to the rebellion, was for all the men and money necessary to put down rebellion. As a member of the Kentucky Senate, before the war closed, he voted squarely for the ratification of the Thirteenth amendment abolishing slavery; he defended the employment of colored troops; he approved and defended the Civil Rights bill; as District Attorney prosecuted the murderous gangs of outlaws who maltreated the colored men; has uniformly defended the public school system, and maintained the duty of the State to afford equal facilities for education to all its children without regard to color; approved and defended both the necessity and policy of the Fourteenth and Fifteenth amendments to the federal constitution; has maintained the right of the colored man to hold office—in brief, he has stood by the republican party ever since it had an organized existence in Kentucky. The Northern man who cannot trust Bristow with such a record, maintained as it has been under circumstances when it cost a great deal to be a republican, must be very hard to please.

General Harlan said he had heard of a distinguished Northern republican's saying that it would not be safe to trust a Southern republican; but when he came to think of that gentleman's record he recalled the fact that, although he had himself been educated under anti-slavery influences, he stood by and defended the policy of the democratic party when it made war with Mexico for the purpose of extending the area of slavery.

The reporter continued:—"What is Bristow doing to bring about his nomination?"

A. Nothing—absolutely nothing. So far as I know he has never uttered a word or written a line which suggested that any effort be made by his friends in that direction. On the contrary, he has discouraged his friends from pressing his name. If those who think favorably of his nomination at Cincinnati should succeed it will not be by reason of any assistance or encouragement they have received from him.

Q. If Bristow should be nominated can he carry Kentucky?

A. My deliberate judgment is that he can. There are a very large number of old line whigs who were Union men during the war, but differed with the republican party about the policy of reconstruction, who will come to us if Bristow should be nominated at Cincinnati. They are being drawn largely to our party by the manner in which Bristow has administered the affairs of the Treasury Department. Between that class of men and the republicans there is nothing left to divide them. They agree in the main as to questions of constitutional construction, and as to the relations which the States bear to the federal government. There is an impression abroad that Kentucky sent more soldiers to the Confederate army than to the Union army. But this is a mistake. Not less than 70,000 white men went from Kentucky into the Union army, and at no period during the war did a majority of the white people in it favor the success of the rebellion and the dissolution of the Union. With Bristow as our candidate hosts will flock to our standard who, since the war, have drifted into the democratic organization. Besides these there are many democrats who say they will vote for him. But these outside votes will not come to Bristow because of any agreement as to the slavery question, or with any expectation that Bristow will abate one jot or tittle from his principles as a republican, tried in the fire, but solely because they have faith that it will have an honest, pure administration of public affairs, and give the country steady, safe government. His nomination will arouse such enthusiasm in this State as has not been seen since the days of Harry Clay.

Q. Do you think the republicans will elect their candidate for President?

A. You can tell that as well as I can; but I do not doubt our success. If the republican party, by its action at Cincinnati, will satisfy the country that it is in earnest in the great work of reform its nominees will sweep the country. The great mass of the people desire genuine, thorough reform in all departments of the public service. They have no desire to restore the democratic organization to the control of the national government, and nothing but the folly of our party can bring about such a deplorable result.

Such are the opinions of General Harlan, and there is no republican in Kentucky better qualified to answer the interrogatories put to him.

MORTON AND THE NEGROES.

Much has been said elsewhere of Morton's strength among Kentucky negroes. I have found a few for him, but they number 1 in 10 one for Bristow. Indiana negro electioneers have been operating among their Kentucky brothers concerning Morton, but not very successfully. To illustrate the kind of men the Indiana negroes are I will give an example.

I had an interview with an old centennial, plantation, dyed-in-the-wool "sculled gen'man."

"Madagascar," said I, "who is the best man for the Presidency?"

"Does ye mean for Massa Grant's place, sah?" asked old Seventy-six.

"Yes, Madagascar, that is what I mean."

"Well, sah, since ye's seen fit to ask de old man's 'pinion, I don't mind telling what I thinks 'bout dat 'cry matter. It's de 'pinion o' de old man dat Gubner Morton am de man for de place."

"Why so?"

"Kase, sah, he is de only man as has stood by old Pinch (Pinchback); he am de man as passed de three 'mendments, and he am de only man as has de spunk to suck by his culled brudder."

"Who told you this about Morton?"

"Told me? gwine 'way fro' heah, chile; I know it; de cunjurers done tole me so long 'go; dey know what dey're talking 'bout, I 'spects; I'se bound to vote for de man as would vote for me in de same sahcumstances; Massa Morton am a pahfect gen'men; he likes de culled people like himself; he 'spects dem as dey ought be 'spected, and if his wife was to die to-day I believes Massa Morton would jes' as lief marry a culled lady as a poor white one. Dat am de kind of a man I likes."

"Then you are opposed to Bristow?" I mildly put in.

"Yes, sah; I'se no use for dat man. He am gone clean back on de party. I done gib him up when he 'spose Babcock."

"But suppose Babcock was guilty?" interrupted I.

"De Lord hab mercy, young massa!" exclaimed the astonished African, "Does ye 'spose Massa Grant would hab a man 'round him as wasn't tust class?"

I laughed and said, "Why, Madagascar, Bristow or somebody else may yet expose the President!"

The old negro's eyes rolled, he clutched his cane, looked at me, and as he hobbled away exclaimed:—

"'Spose de Pres'dent! What does ye take de ole man for? I kinder guesses massa Grant and I is members of de same church. I knows him well, and lubs him, but when you talks about 'sposing him den de ole man's got nuffin mouh to say, kase I sees you'se poking fun at him. Yah! yah!"

MR. THOMAS BRADLEY'S OPINION.

It is men like old Madagascar who are for Morton. The more intelligent of the race are for Bristow. I know many negroes of Louisville, and not one-fiftieth are of old Madagascar's opinion.

I have been told that three white republicans of Louisville favor Morton. They are said to be Colonel Horace Scott, Mr. Thomas Bradley and Colonel J. P. Luse. The first is Superintendent of the Louisville and Indianapolis Railroad, the second a prominent politician, and the third an Indianian holding a Kentucky office. I met Mr. Bradley gazing with a longing eye toward the Custom House a day or two ago.

"Well," said I, "how goes the Presidential move?"

"All right, all right, so far as I can tell; the republicans are bound to win."

"Who will be their choice?"

"There is a wide breach between Conkling and Blaine. If either cannot elect himself he will strive to kill the other, and the consequence will be the death of both."

"This being the case, does the Great Unknown have much show?"

"I think not. Morton and Bristow remain; the former is very strong and the latter has been growing greatly in favor with the people by his excellent administration of public affairs."

"I see you are for Morton."

"No, sir, not at all."

"It is generally understood in Louisville that you and Colonel Scott are the only republicans of the city who are for Morton. How about that, sir?"

"I am for Bristow first and Morton second, and my opinion is that Colonel Scott is for Bristow."

"Then there are no republicans who favor Morton?"

"I am sure that I am for Bristow and believe all Louisville is."

Government officials as a general thing don't interview well. They may think, but are in the main afraid to talk. There has been so much said about the Louisville Custom House that I lately resolved to enter it and attack one of the officials who stay there. The man I selected was L. S. Hawlett, Appraiser of Merchandise. He is a representative man and very outspoken in his views. I met him by chance at his room in the Custom House and engaged in conversation about the coming campaign. Said I:—

Q. Do you feel a particular interest in the politics of the day?

A. The same interest, I suppose, as is felt by the average citizen of the United States who intends to live in this country and leave his children to live in it.

Q. I find office-holders given to vagueness in their answers. Can't you tell me something about the situation here?

A. What do you wish to know? If I have any information in your line you are welcome to it.

Q. Well, to begin with, what do you think of the so-called Morton movement?

A. I think it a movement which everybody expected and which needs no apologists. Morton is certainly one of the first men in the republican party, and I think a movement on the part of his friends—or even on his own part—to give him the management of a nation he has labored so well for, to give him a chance to carry out the principles for which every republican must accord him praise, is perfectly natural and honorable.

Q. I know; but do you regard it as important enough here in Kentucky to affect the delegation to Cincinnati?

A. Most surely I do not. I would as soon think of an Indiana delegation for Blaine.

Q. Are there any government officials here who favor Morton's nomination?

A. Quite likely.

Q. Who are they?

A. I don't know, and I wouldn't tell you if I did. I have been told that there were such; but their preferences are as much their own as their wives and babies.

Q. Who are Morton's supporters in Louisville?

A. I tell you, young man, I have not the specific information you seek. I have been informed by some men, whose only pleasurable sensation is that of alarm, that Morton men were stirring about among the unthinking voters—the blacks—who must be told all they can know of candidates, and trying to work up a sentiment for Morton and against Bristow; but for all the real effect their operations will have they might as well spend their time selling Sankey's songs in Patagonia.

Q. How is Colonel Horace Scott interested?

A. If at all, in dead earnest. Horace Scott is not one of the half-hearted kind.

Q. Is it true that he has spoken for Bristow?

A. He told me he was as good a Bristow man as there was in Kentucky; that if anybody said he was trying to create sentiment against Bristow, or told that he wanted to go as a delegate to operate for Morton against Bristow, such a man told a damned lie. Several have indulged in the remark that Scott is a Morton man, but since no one has told me that he is specifically against Bristow I can't give you the names of any considerable number of damned liars; I suppose nothing would suit you better than such a specified list, since you have such strong dislike for things vague and general.

Q. No, I only want to know if Colonel Scott is really working for Morton, as I have understood?

A. Well, I can only say that such is the general opinion; I have told you what Scott said to me; I know him to be a good republican; he was a member of Governor Andrew's Council in Massachusetts—another "War Governor," but one who died before these times of picking and choosing, or he would have been head and shoulders over all the others, short though he was in stature. I tell you, young man, John A. Andrew would have been the Centennial President if he had lived.

Q. Excuse me, sir, but I have hardly time to talk of dead statesmen. Don't you think the mass of people in Louisville—democrats and republicans alike—seem to favor Bristow?

A. Yes, and that fact speaks well for him; but that won't nominate him. The Kentucky republicans hope for his nomination and will work to effect it, as the Indiana republicans will work to effect the nomination of Morton; but the success of either depends upon a much wider field of operation than is bounded by the State lines of Kentucky or Indiana. The democrats talk Bristow, and perhaps many of them would vote for him; but their opinions will not nominate nor their votes elect him.

Q. Mr. Thomas Bradley says he is for Bristow, but thinks Morton the best man, because he has done more for his party than any other of its members.

A. Well, Bradley knows more about politicians than I do, but it strikes me that party conventions generally nominate the man that the party will do the most to elect. What the party will do for the man is just now of more importance to the republicans than what the man has done for the party. If you were to choose a horse to run against one I had put up to beat any you could bring would you take the old horse that had pulled you through many years of hard travel simply for the reason that he had drove so, or would you take a fresh one whose abilities to beat mine you knew to be better than your old standbys? That question is one with which I will reply to yours.

BRISTOW THE FAVORITE.

Colonel Horace Scott denies being a Morton man and says if he goes to Cincinnati it will be to support Kentucky's choice. Mr. Bradley says he is for Bristow, and Mr. Luse is for Morton on purely personal grounds, I understand. These three are the only Louisville republicans suspected of being for Morton, and two of them deny it. Having heard that Major Keeler, United States Army, was a Conkling man, I paid my respects to him and told him what I had heard. The Major was rather reticent, expressed a high opinion of Conkling and likewise Bristow, thought that Blaine and Conkling will kill each other, and do much for either Bristow or Wheeler, of New York. Spoke highly of Wheeler. I failed to find a single soul for Blaine, and he seems to be truly the great unknown out here. Bristow towers above all. Morton has some few friends, but neither Conkling nor Blaine has much show for Kentucky's vote.

HON. JAMES SPEED.

It was the Hon. James Speed, ex-Attorney General of the United States, who made Bristow United States District Attorney, from which position he has gradually ridden into fame. The ex-Attorney General is now quietly attending to his large law practice, but he takes an interest in republican politics and has probably been more thoroughly identified with the republican party than any other man in Kentucky. He says he always refused to be interviewed by correspondents when at Washington, but nevertheless the HERALD representative found an audience with him and the result is given here.

"Mr. Speed, what is the condition of the republican party in Kentucky at this time?" asked the reporter.

"It is more compact than ever."

"What is the standing of the various republican candidates in this State?"

"Bristow is the first choice and Morton follows. Conkling has no chance in Kentucky. Blaine is a better candidate than Conkling. The republicans of this State would not support the latter; he has no hold on them whatever."

"Could Bristow carry Kentucky?"

"He could unless the democrats would be able to put up a very strong man. The democrats would vote for him. He is, beyond all doubt, the strongest man in the republican party."

"Upon what do you base his strength?"

"Upon the purity of his character and the courage exhibited lately in the honest discharge of the harassing duties he has had to perform."

"Do you consider Bristow a man of great ability?"

"In all the public positions occupied by him it has been noticeable that he has always filled the measure of his place, even though not exhibiting any extraordinary genius."

"Are Bristow's chances for the nomination at all good?"

"If the people are heard at Cincinnati he will be nominated; but what the politicians may do I can't say."

"What are the prospects of the republican party at the coming election?"

"The chances of the party without Bristow as the nominee for the Presidency are fair; with him they are certain."

"What will be the leading questions of the canvass?"

"The reform and money issues; the tariff may possibly also become an issue."

"How does Bristow stand on these questions?"

"He represents the idea of reform better than any other candidate, and is pronounced on the question of currency."

"What is likely to be the action of the republican Convention on the currency question?"

"The republican party ought to declare for hard money, and probably will; if it does not and the other party does, many votes will be changed in favor of the democracy."

"Will not the character of the candidates for the Presidential nomination be considered?"

"The personal character of the candidates, the platform of reform and the money issue will have more influence in this election than I have ever known like questions to have in a Presidential election."

"Do you think the section from which a candidate hails will influence the republican Convention?"

"I don't imagine it will have any effect upon the selection of candidates. The time has gone by when that could be raised as an objection to any candidate. Shortly after the rebellion it would have had its impression, but not now. The fact that Bristow resides in Kentucky cannot be urged against him as likely to injure his chances."

"Who is making the movement in this State against Bristow?"

"The extreme soft money republicans, who do not regard Morton as pronounced as Bristow on the currency issue. It don't, however, amount to much."

"In your opinion what is the strongest ticket that could be put forth by the republican party?"

"Bristow and Adams. Against the latter nothing can be urged, either as a man, as a republican or as a statesman."

JUDGE BALLARD.

Hon. Bland Ballard has been Judge of the United States Court for this district for many years past, and is recognized as one of the most eminent district judges in the country. His decisions in the celebrated Ku Klux cases have been extensively quoted. Judge Ballard is not a politician, he does not mingle in political meetings, but his views upon the Presidential question will be read with great interest. The HERALD correspondent, having found him at his residence, proceeded to interview him as follows:—

"From the events of the past few months do you consider the prospects of the republican party flattering?"

"Irrespective of the character of the candidates I do not think the prospects of the party good, but by the nomination of a pure man, well known to the country for intelligence and uprightness of character and for his sound views on the currency, I think the party ought to and will succeed."

"Of the four republican candidates most prominently spoken of for the Presidency—Blaine, Morton, Conkling and Bristow—which do you consider the most available?"

"I consider Bristow the most available."

"Upon what grounds do you base the Secretary's availability?"

"Because he is distinguished by his detestation of corruption, and has shown a willingness to expose and punish it. He is also recognized by the thinking and business men of the country as possessing sound views upon the currency. I think I have a high opinion of Mr. Morton. I appreciate the great services he rendered the country during the war of the rebellion; but he holds extreme views which are objectionable to many republicans in the country, and his opinions upon the currency question are not regarded as sound. Mr. Blaine is a man of intellect, but I think he lives too far down East. He would make a strong candidate, but not so strong as Bristow. Conkling is the weakest of the four candidates mentioned. It is difficult to assign the reason for this, but it is quite apparent that he is not acceptable to the best republicans in his own State. I regard Bristow as the representative of that idea of the purity of administration with which the republicans must triumph if they triumph at all."

"Do you think that he is really the only one who can carry the republican party victoriously through the coming canvass?"

"I am inclined to think he is, though I am personally willing to support others."

"Would not the nomination of Secretary Bristow, he being a Kentuckian, injure the republican party in the North?"

"I suppose not. The republicans of the North will not soon forget the mistake they made by the election of Johnson; they will not be willing to support any Southern republican until fully assured of his antecedents and his present sound republican views; but the more they inquire the more they will be satisfied with Bristow. He has been throughout life an opponent of slavery, and there is not a republican in the land who is a truer friend to the principles of universal freedom and to all the principles for which the republican party has struggled for fifteen years."

"Would his nomination not injure the chances of the party if the democratic party should nominate a Northern man?"

"I think not, for it is quite certain the democrats will nominate a Northern man. Their only chance lies there."

"Do you consider Secretary Bristow a man of strong individual force and possessed of great ability?"

"I consider him a man of fine ability, of independent thought and of the strictest integrity. The more he is assailed the purer will his public life appear."

"Would not his pronounced views upon the currency question injure him in the estimation of the soft money republicans?"

"It would undoubtedly, but I think it quite certain that the democratic party will nominate a candidate who will be equally objectionable to such republicans."

"Is the republican party likely to force the currency question prominently into the canvass, and make it one of the issues by declaring for hard money?"

"The question of currency is obliged to be one of the great issues of the next campaign."

"Do you really suppose that Bristow would be able to carry Kentucky?"

"I think it very improbable. I have been fighting the hard-headedness and pig-headedness of Kentuckians for so long a time and with so little success that I have very little hope from them; but I think his nomination would reduce considerably the usual democratic majority of the State."

"Will the attempt of Morton's friends to create a diversion in this State in his favor injure his chances with the Kentucky republican delegation should Bristow not stand any show for the nomination?"

"I know nothing about the effort Morton has made, but if there has been one it has been so intellectual as not seriously to affect Morton's position. The fact is Kentucky republicans remember with much gratitude the zeal and executive ability displayed by him during the war."

"Are not the politicians throughout the country decidedly averse to the nomination of Bristow?"

"I hope not; but, judging from the slanders that are daily published against him, I fear there is some systematic and unscrupulous effort to defame him. I am very unwilling to believe that this is prompted by any of the prominent republicans of the party. I strongly suspect it has been instigated by the miserable rascals connected with the Whiskey Ring whom Bristow has been endeavoring to bring to justice."

"Do you think he will have much support outside of the Kentucky delegation when the Convention assembles at Cincinnati?"

"I have no means of forming an opinion upon the subject. I am satisfied that there is a great deal of quiet sentiment among the republicans of the country which demands his nomination, and if he shall not exhibit in the Convention great strength in its early stages, I think it very probable and quite certain that his strength will increase every hour the Convention sits, because that element of the republican party—without which it cannot succeed—will insist upon his nomination or the nomination of some man like him."

"Do you think the South would favor his nomination?"

"I am very little acquainted with the sentiment of the South. I never read a newspaper from the South, but I am sure, if it is true to its own interests, and especially if the blacks, who constitute a large majority of the republicans of the South, understand their interests, he will receive the republican support."

"Does not Conkling, backed by the New York, New Jersey and other Eastern delegations, stand a fair show for the nomination?"

"I think he has no chance."

"What is your opinion of his ability and fitness for the position of President?"

"Conkling is a man of ability, but in some way he does not satisfy the thoughtful republicans of the country."

"Who will the Kentucky delegation be apt to support if Bristow should fail to receive a large support?"

"I have no idea. I suppose they will be divided between Morton and Blaine and endeavor to select some candidate who can be successful."

POLITICAL NOTES.

The Syracuse *Courier* says that ex-Governor Seymour's pretty refusal of the crown only strengthens his chances.

Rochester *Democrat:*—If Sam Tilden is not the great democratic unknown, he certainly will be next November, and probably some time before that.

The Hartford *Courant* hears a rumor that Senator English, despairing of an election for the new Senatorial term, will withdraw in favor of Governor Ingersoll, to head off Mr. Barnum.

Augusta (Ga.) *Chronicle:*—Nominating a candidate for President who was in sympathy with the South would be like shaking a red flag in the face of an enraged bull. A loyal man—though in sympathy with the corruptionists—would find no difficulty in defeating Senator Eaton, who is one of the purest as he is one of the ablest public men in the United States. The South would support Senator Eaton with unanimity, but the South alone could not elect him.

Troy *Whig:*—If, as Horatio Seymour said at Utica, the country is suffering from a low state of morals, we do not know any man who is more to blame for it than he. In 1854 Mr. Seymour bargained with the liquor dealers for the nomination of Governor, hoping by their money to be elected over Myron H. Clark, the temperance candidate.

Montgomery (Ala.) *Bulletin:*—The presumption is palpable, from the present indications, that Spencer is only working to get a delegation admitted to the Cincinnati Convention from Alabama in the interest of Morton or some other Presidential aspirant who will assist in carrying out his scheme for controlling the federal patronage here for three years to come. No sane man here claims that Spencer's influence in the State will be sufficient to obtain a single electoral vote for the Cincinnati nominee, whoever that may be.

Norwich (Conn.) *Bulletin:*—The principal argument employed by the friends of the rival democratic candidates for the office of United States Senator is as startling as it is novel. It is the first time in the history of Connecticut politics that a man has dared to ask for an office on the ground of money expended for purely party purposes, and we sincerely trust that it may be the last. It marks a stage in the degradation of the politics of the times never reached before, a level too low to be lasting if the State is to survive.

The Wilmington (N. C.) *Morning Star:*—There is no disposition in the South to make the choice of a standard bearer for the democratic party. Most of our people are indifferent as to the particular man, so he is one of the several able and upright gentlemen whose chances have been discussed, or some one of equal claims for the position. The true policy of the Southern conservatives is the policy of standing off and letting our Northern allies name the candidate. All we want is the nomination of the strongest man. Whether he is Hendricks, Tilden, Davis, Bayard or some entirely new man we care not.

Buffalo *Express:*—The whiskey and revenue thieves are still busy trying to make a break in Mr. Bristow's armor, and will not cease their efforts until the Cincinnati Convention shall have been held; but their enmity will undoubtedly strengthen rather than mar that gentleman's reputation.

Elmira (N. Y.) *Advertiser:*—The letter of Governor Seymour explains itself, to be sure, but not to Tilden's satisfaction.

Philadelphia *Evening Telegraph:*—Democratic inquisitiveness has at last received a decided and deserved set-back. What with the sale of post traderships and real estate pools and whiskey rings and Indian rings and a thousand and one other scandals, the democratic majority at Washington surely have enough legitimate matter for investigation.

THE ARMY AND THE NAVY.

RELATIVE RANK AND PAY OF THE OFFICERS OF THE TWO BRANCHES OF THE SERVICE—AN EFFORT TO INJURE ONE AT THE EXPENSE OF THE OTHER—THE REAL STATE OF THE CASE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

The following circular, entitled "Extravagance in the Navy" (see A and B), has been laid upon the table of every member of Congress, and naval officers have waited for some little time for respectable officers of the army to disown any connection with its publication. A little examination of the paper will show a good deal of *suppressio veri* and more of the *suggestio falsi*, and its animus is evident, though short sighted, for injuring the navy does not benefit the army. This army circular names only the sea pay of naval officers, the highest they can under any circumstances receive, and which can only be received less than half the time of actual service in the navy, while it gives the lowest possible pay proper of army officers, making no mention of the longevity increase, which the navy does not enjoy at all; or the allowances for forage, quarters, fuel, &c., which makes the pay, say of a lieutenant colonel, $5,500 per annum, while under no circumstances can a commander (the same rank in the navy) receive more than $3,000 sea pay, $3,000 shore pay or $2,300 leave pay, and is usually enjoying one of the two latter rather than the former.

There is one case actually in existence where a commodore on shore duty (ranking with a brigadier general) is associated on duty with a major in the United States Army, and the latter, who entered the army in 1861, receives more pay than the veteran sailor of three wars who entered the navy before the Major was born.

The following is the circular referred to:—

THE CIRCULAR.

While the army is constantly subjected to legislation, in order to reduce the cost of its maintenance to the most economical point, the navy remains untouched, and presents the anomaly of a country maintaining a larger number of officers of high rank in time of peace than during a great war. To the almost unbounded influence of a powerful body of officers of high rank and high pay, numbers of whom are stationed in Washington, and to the general ignorance as regards the internal workings of the navy, may be ascribed the reasons why this extraordinary absorption of the public money has been permitted to continue.

The following table will show to what extent it exists:—

Number of officers of high rank on the active list of the navy during the years 1864 and 1876, compiled from official registers.

Rank.	1864. With over 450 vessels in commission.		1876. With 50 vessels in commission.	
	No.	Pay.	No.	Pay.
Admirals	—	Grade not established.	1	$13,000
Vice Admirals	—	Grade not established.	1	9,000
Rear Admirals	6	$5,000	12	6,000
Commodores	18	4,000	25	5,000
Captains	36	3,500	50	4,500
Commanders	72	2,800	90	3,500

Number of officers at present on the active list of the army with whom these naval officers equally rank.

Rank.	Pay under present law.		Proposed pay under Mr. Banning's bill.
	No.	Amount.	Amount.
Generals	1	$13,500	$10,000
Lieutenant Generals	1	11,000	8,000
Major Generals	3	7,500	6,000
Brigadier Generals	12	5,500	5,000
Colonels	66	3,500	3,500
Lieutenant Colonels	80	3,000	3,000

Present legal force of the navy, 8,000 men.
Present legal force of the army, 25,000 men.

Here is presented the extraordinary anomaly of 25,000 men requiring less officers of corresponding rank than a force of 8,000 men. A large number of the 450 vessels in commission during the war were commanded by volunteer offices of lower grades, with salaries of $1,200 and $1,800. There was not one volunteer officer of the navy of as high rank as the lowest of those in the above table.

This attempt to injure the navy on the part of certain army officers is, to say the least of it, a very small and contemptible business.

THE TRUE STATE OF THE CASE

in regard to the relative pay of army and navy will be found in the following table. The relative rank is as follows:—

Admiral ranks with general; vice admiral ranks with lieutenant general; rear admirals rank with major generals; commodores rank with brigadier generals; captains rank with colonels; commanders rank with lieutenant colonels; lieutenant commanders rank with majors; lieutenants rank with captains; masters rank with first lieutenants; ensigns rank with second lieutenants.

TABLE OF GREATEST PAY OF OFFICERS OF THE ARMY AND NAVY.

Navy.

Rank.	At Sea.	On Shore.	Waiting Orders.
Admiral	$13,000	$13,000	$13,000
Vice Admiral	9,000	8,000	6,000
Rear Admiral	6,000	5,000	4,000
Commodore	5,000	4,000	3,000
Captain	4,500	3,500	2,800
Commander	3,500	3,000	2,300
Lieut. Com'd'r	3,000	First 4 yrs. 2,400; After 4 yrs. 2,600	2,000; 2,200
Lieutenant	2,600	First 5 yrs. 2,000; After 5 yrs. 2,200	1,600; 1,800
Master	2,000	First 5 yrs. 1,500; After 5 yrs. 1,700	1,200; 1,400
Ensign	1,500	First 5 yrs. 1,000; After 5 yrs. 1,200	800; 1,000
Midshipman	1,000	800	600

Army.

Rank.	Pay and Allowances.
General	$17,100 and forage for three horses
Lieutenant General	12,571 and forage for three horses
Major General	9,071 and forage for three horses
Brigadier General	6,811 and forage for three horses
Colonel	5,811 and forage for two horses
Lieutenant Colonel	5,070 and forage for two horses
Major	4,570 and forage for two horses
Captain	3,621 and forage for one horse
First Lieutenant	2,787 and forage for one horse
Second Lieutenant	2,192 and forage for one horse
Brev. Second Lieut.	2,000 and forage for one horse

Note—A ration in the navy is thirty cents per diem per man. Forage in the army averages thirty cents per diem.

The allowances of officers of the army are computed at the rate of $18 per room for quarters (Washington rate), and fuel at $7 per cord of wood.

An equalization of pay for officers of the army and navy seems but an act of justice.

The army circular takes no account of the fact that the command of a fleet or squadron is virtually equal to the command of an army in the field, while the duties and responsibilities of the command of frigates and corvettes are more than equal to the responsibilities attending the command of a regiment. No fair comparison can ever be made between the number of officers required for armies as opposed to navies, the duties being so utterly dissimilar. To attempt it argues ignorance.

That both army and navy need certain reforms is conceded, but let us be fair and just, and let it also be established that, grade for grade, the pay of the two services shall be exactly the same. That is all the naval officers ask—justice, mere justice. NAVY.

JACQUES OFFENBACH.

His Impressions of American Institutions.

PERPLEXING JOURNALISTIC AMENITIES.

What He Thinks of Music and the Drama.

It is not often that this side of the Atlantic is favored with the presence of a composer enjoying such a world-wide reputation as Offenbach. It might safely be assumed that one standing, as he does, at the very head of his own special branch of musical art, and, as a consequence, enjoying the acquaintance and intimacy of most of the artistic celebrities of Europe, would have much to say upon music and the kindred arts that was entertaining and instructive, more especially as far as his adopted country, France, is concerned.

With a view of eliciting such opinions and observations on these subjects as the great composer might see fit to communicate a HERALD representative called upon him yesterday. It would be difficult to exaggerate the easy but refined geniality, the wit, grace, polish and acumen of the man whom the outside world knows only as the greatest living composer of *opéra bouffe*. He cordially welcomed the HERALD man, and, after an interchange of the ordinary civilities, said that he had noticed with great pleasure in the various representatives of the press whom he had met, and with whom he had conversed, a complete absence of those jealousies and bickerings which were the bane of journalism in France to-day.

"And yet," said the HERALD man, "they have very decided views, both political, religious and otherwise."

"That may be, but I doubt whether you have among you the same acerbity of opinion as our journalists have in France. You have, it is true, democrats and republicans among you; but what are such shades of opinion when compared with the strong party lines which divide our legitimists, Orleanists, republicans and Bonapartists? They actually disappear. (To a gentleman in the room)—Do you think it possible to get four representatives of different journals to fraternize or harmonize in Paris?"

"Certainly not," said the gentleman appealed to, with a significant shrug of the shoulders.

A HAPPY FAMILY.

"By the way," said M. Offenbach, "I must tell you that I was down at the HERALD office to-day and was greatly pleased and surprised at all I saw."

"The best time to see it," said the HERALD man, "is just as the presses begin running off the first edition of the paper."

"That I should imagine, and I shall certainly take an early opportunity of doing so. (To the gentleman above mentioned)—My dear fellow, we in Paris have really no idea of what a newspaper office means. Villemessant thinks the office of the *Figaro* a considerable thing; but in comparison with the HERALD office it is like a cottage to a palace. There is no use attempting to describe these things; you must see them for yourself."

"My purpose in calling upon you, M. Offenbach, was, if you will kindly allow me, to get your opinion with reference to the present condition of France in regard to ——"

"Well, I think it may be safely said that France has fairly recovered from the mere material prostration from which she suffered after her struggle with Germany. But there are other deep-seated results from which, I think, it would be bold to say we have thoroughly recovered. These are partly what I should call political results, and of these I should prefer not speaking at present."

THE DRAMA AND LITERATURE.

"On these heads, sir, it was not my intention to trouble you, but the HERALD thinks that the people of the United States could learn much with regard to the present state of the arts, music, the drama and literature from so eminently qualified an authority as yourself."

"Ah, I see what you wish. Well, to answer your indirect question in general terms, I am inclined to think that, outside what is merely material, France is passing through a period of decline (*décadence*)."

"Do you think that opinion holds good of music?"

WANTED—MUSICAL INDIVIDUALITIES.

"Certainly. I would not be understood to say that the general level of musical culture has not risen in France during the last fifteen years. It has. But it has been unaccompanied by the appearance of any corresponding number of great musical individualities. If in the latter regard we compare our present condition with what we were thirty years ago we shall see how far we have retrograded. It is true we have a Gounod, a Thomas and one or two minor musical lights, but what are these in number compared to the constellation in which shone such men as Boileldieu, Adam, Meyerbeer, Halévy and twenty others that I could mention?"

"Is there any reason which you can ascribe for this falling off in the number of great musical personalities?"

"I cannot say there is, except that men seem to follow nature, which at times is overproductive and again rather niggardly in her gifts. It is true Gounod has given us 'Faust' and 'Romeo;' but he has been almost mute ever since."

"Do you think that the attempt to copy Wagner's style of music has had anything to do with bringing about this result?"

WAGNER'S MUSIC.

"I think it has. Wagner's music, in the first place, is totally unsuited to the French temperament. We cannot enjoy it and we cannot write it. That deep, constructive music, which seems to taboo melody, can never live in France, and no Frenchman can ever hope to succeed in it. Verdi tried his hand at it and failed signally. His 'Aïda' is his opera which will first die. The French character and temperament require melody in music. Such success as I have had with my various works I attribute largely to the facility, such as it may be, which I have for writing melody. This no amount of study can give a man; it is a gift. To-day we have hardly any writers of melody in France. I might, with the exception of Gounod and Thomas, say none. If we find we cannot produce fine original melodies that is no reason why we should endeavor to copy the German style of music so unsuited to our musical temperament. Better copy good models of melody, of which there are plenty—Mozart, Rossini, &c., or even Beethoven."

"Then you are of opinion, too, that the present decline in the number of great musical composers is due, in a large measure, to the affectation of the trans-Rhenane style of music."

"Certainly. But there is another source of mischief. It is that men will insist upon writing music to subjects and themes which do not square either with their natural musical bias or gifts. Men who could write good ballads attempt sacred cantatas; some who could write creditable light opera will insist upon writing masses, and so on, all round the compass. It may surprise you to hear that I have written masses myself; but I was, and am, well aware that my forte did not lie in that direction. I should write a thousand years and never produce anything to compare with Mozart's 'Requiem.' This mistaking of powers and gifts is a prolific source of the musical mauvition under which we are laboring. To turn to another subject," said the great composer, "how is it that with the enormous resources of this country you have nothing here to correspond to the great conservatories of Europe?"

"I think," said the HERALD man, "that the reasons for such a *lacuse* are complex; they would seem to be partly political, partly social, in character."

"Let me anticipate your explanation. You were going to say, were you not, that republican institutions were hardly so favorable to such growths as monarchies, where the whole power of a country for founding and supporting such things was in the hands of a king or an emperor, who could use it for the creation of one or two great centres of musical education, instead of being scattered through thirty different States and Territories?"

"That was my idea."

"There is undoubtedly something in it, but America is fully as capable as any monarchy of founding such a great institution right here in the city of New York. Here the monarch is the people. They can will and do anything. The only thing required is to select a man of the very highest musical ability and administrative capacity, in whose integrity the people have implicit confidence. Place such a man at the head of it, have it firmly