

EDITORIALS.

MERIT AND DEMERIT.

It has been very strongly charged, as one of the bad points of President Grant's administration, that merit was not the one determining particular in appointments to office, but that partisan purposes were everything. Grant went into the presidency with a handsome majority in his favor, but the policy of serving the party with office evidently was not a very winning game, for when Hayes came to take the presidential chair, it was by the skin of his teeth that he secured it. There is no evidence given that it was by a real majority of the electoral vote, and the popular majority stands against him. Grant's intensely partisan policy, therefore, may be set down as a losing rather than a winning policy, for it nearly lost the administration to the republican party—it had to be saved by what is generally considered sharp practice, not so honorable as it might have been.

What more natural, then, seeing how things had gone and were going, than that President Hayes should early repudiate the partisan policy of the late President, and set himself for a new departure, a return to old landmarks, to the policy of making merit and capability the criterion, the condition precedent, for office, instead of party services, in the hope of recovering influence to the party? This evidently is the tack which the new President has taken, and whether done in party or public interest it is, in many ways, a step in the right direction.

The various announcements of the guiding principles of the new administration are of a sound nature. They are of a character to inspire confidence and to induce a condition of prosperity in public affairs and in the nation at large which has been wanting of late years.

Removals from office are not to be hasty, are not to be without cause, which the public generally understands to mean demerit, and appointments are to be for merit, that is, fit and deserving men only shall be appointed. In the post office department one term of faithful service is to be held as a recommendation for a second, and two terms are to be considered enough. Washington had no more, and Caesarism is not to be encouraged in this republic, unless the people say so.

The civil service circular of Secretary McCrary does him honor. Promotion and appointment are to be solely for merit, which is to include moral character and ability, and efficient and faithful servants are to be particularly looked after when vacancies occur.

These are all so many good qualities that one can hardly wish anything but success to the administration that adopts them, whatever may be the name of the party by which it is known. If the reforms are adopted for their own sake, good; if for the sake of redeeming the party, good so far as the excellence of the reforms goes, for they will tend equally, if not more, to the benefit of the republic also.

PEACE OR WAR?

Now you see it, and now you don't, says the conjuror. That is about how it is with political matters, both in this country and across the Atlantic. One dispatch says all is peace, or good prospects thereof, and another says that a fierce and warlike outbreak is imminent. One sensation, quiet or turbulent, follows another with great persistency, and one hardly knows what to make of the news, it is often so mixed up and contradictory.

In the far east, the report comes of the almost certainty of peace, of demobilization, and of a happy patching up of things by conciliation. Another report comes immediately of a grave impending crisis and an apparent immediate angry outburst, indeed of actual warlike and bloody conflict. Which is to prevail? That is the question. Who knows?

The same in America. The report comes of the calming down of the

boiling elements of political rancor, and immediately comes another report that Louisiana is up to the furious boiling point and just ready to slop over into the fire. Which is to prevail? The peace policy or the war policy? Conciliation or belligerence? Who knows? It is a perplexing question, and one upon the factual answering of which much depends. Meantime, transpiring events are watched and coming events waited for with a high degree of interest.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SEED TIME.

Now verily the spring time is come in good earnest, and it behoves the husbandman to be up and doing while the favorable weather lasts. With the small grains and with much other seeding and planting, in this dry climate, an early start is half the battle. Consequently, with much of the farm and garden work there is no time to be lost. Advantage should be taken of the present auspicious days and hours, for they may not last long, and generally, whenever falling weather comes, somebody is heard wishing he had a little more plowing, digging, seeding or planting done, that the full benefit of the rains might have been obtained.

The present season is much earlier than usual, and, unless it is different to other early seasons, there will be, by and by, a most wet time, and perhaps another touch of winter, before permanent fine weather sets in. Therefore the necessity of doing all that needs to be done while the present dry weather lasts.

Shall we sow and plant extensively? Certainly. As extensively as you reasonably can, sow and plant as much as you can take care of, and rather more than less, because abundance of produce is always better than scarcity. As ye sow, ye shall reap, "in a measure."

But it may be said that the grasshoppers will devastate the crops. What of that? Sow and plant enough for yourselves and the grasshoppers. If you only put in sparingly, maybe the grasshoppers will conclude that there is not enough for them and the people also, and the first law of nature, self-preservation, will impel the insects to take what they need. If there is little, they may take all. If there is much, they hardly will. Of late years, they never have taken all—they have left enough for the people, for greater breadths than ever have been sown and planted. If there is much grain sown, and the grasshoppers take their share of it, they will not be so likely to kill your fruit and shade trees, and your fruit shrubs and plants, as they would if there were no grain crops to bear a part of the burden. The Territory could better afford to lose half its grain crop than lose its fruit trees and shrubs. Grain can be replaced in one year, but it takes many years to replace fruit trees and shrubs. Therefore the manifest wisdom of sowing largely, more largely in a probable grasshopper year than in a year free from those pests. Besides, the grasshoppers are the Lord's army, and they come here for the purpose of feeding and breeding, before they take themselves off to other parts of their vast mission field. Better sow a large crop and save half of it, than a small crop and lose it all.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

—It is said that Mrs. Hayes "My Dears" him in public.

—The shoe business at Lynn, Massachusetts, is in full activity.

—France is said to be seeking for cavalry horses from the pampas of the Argentine Republic.

—A Washington paper suggests to Simon Cameron to keep cool and not teach his innocent son profanity.

—Moncure D. Conway is of the opinion that the Jews are making a movement towards Palestine. Some of them are, no doubt.

—A Yankee girl tells the Springfield (Mass.) Republican that President Hayes "has twice the captivating ease of Gen. Grant, and twice the dogged resistance to personal encroachment."

—The Jewish Messenger does not like women preachers, and says

of the Newark case, "This is an innovation that the entire people will rise as one man to condemn and will advise the persons who entertain such revolutionary ideas to turn their cogitations to better uses—rapid transit, chemileons, or some other more congenial subject. Women may talk elsewhere without restriction, but in synagogue and temple they are emphatically to be seen, not heard." The fact is, women will talk pretty much where they please when they set their minds on it.

—The Lewiston (Pa.) Gazette gives the following of a similar kind—"A young girl left alone in a farmhouse in Wayne, had the presence of mind to tell an impudent tramp that there were men about, and after eating he quietly left. It would not be amiss when women are left alone in out-of-the-way residences, to leave a shot gun loaded with mustard seed or No. 6 in a convenient place."

—The Newburg Journal talks of a plain-speaking preacher at Milton, Ulster County, N. Y., a Rev. Mr. Palmer, of the M. E. Church. He remarked to a restive young lady of his congregation one evening, in the middle of his sermon, that if she wanted to "spark" she had better rise up and go home. Another evening he said one member of the church was going to hell straight. A Mr. G. immediately rose up, picked up his hat, buttoned his coat, said he was the member alluded to, and further said, to the preacher, "You have driven several of the best members of this church away, and now you have added another to the number." Mr. G. then walked out with a number of his friends.

—Baxter Springs, Kansas, owes a bonded debt of \$200,000, payment of coupons is behind, a United States court says they must be paid, but the inhabitants would rather run than pay, and, as the right of emigration cannot be denied, the people, in large numbers, bag and baggage, taking their houses with them, are proposing to found a new city elsewhere. "Baxter Springs may take its place among the lost cities of antiquity. Sodom and Gomorrah were burned by fire from heaven; Herculaneum and Pompeii were buried under volcanic ashes; Babylon and Carthage have not left a vestige behind them, and now Baxter Springs is about to disappear from the visions of men."

—Some of the Ohio women are on their high heels again on the liquor question. Recently, about ten o'clock one evening, the women of New Lexington, assembled en masse, that is, twenty-five or thirty of them, armed with axes, marched to a bar room, reduced the door to splinters, knocked off the weatherboarding, made a general demolition of the fixtures, glasses, jars, bottles, jugs, demijohns and kegs, deluged the floor with the contents, and then shouldered their axes and marched off in good order. Says the Herald of that place, "While this work was going on, the little band was surrounded by about fifty men—our best citizens—who had followed their wives, sweethearts, and sisters, to within about fifty feet of the scene of action, and there they stood as a wall of protection around them."

—The appointment of Fred Douglass to the United States marshalship of the District of Columbia was opposed by both white and colored men. The latter considered him too high toned to affiliate with the masses of the negroes.

The white men generally opposed him for the alleged reason that, though "honest and guileless as a child, he has at the same time the incapacity of a child for a position requiring tact, executive ability, and a large knowledge of men, like the marshalship." A Washington paper thinks that unless he finds some subordinate competent to perform the really onerous and important duties of deputy marshal, Fred, with his own inexperience, will find his office anything but a bed of roses. If Fred is so inexperienced and so unfitted for such a position, why was not a more fit and competent man appointed? Real civil service reform requires the best and most fitting man available for any designated position. It seems a poor policy to put a useless man in a responsible position, and then have to choose an able and competent man to act as a subordinate, to save his superior's credit and the official business reputation generally.

—Rhododendrons are in bloom in England.

—The Japanese government is said to have the prettiest building in Washington.

—A southern paper asks, "Who is the Great Unknown?" Echo answers, "Who?"

—Why should the man with the least mind have the greatest trouble in making it up?

—Strawberries a dollar a plate in New York hotels, or from \$3.50 to \$5.00 a quart in the market.

—A new oil region has lately been opened up at Warren, Pa., and considerable excitement reigns.

—The New York Herald says, "The average congressman looks like a country schoolmaster in his worst clothes."

—The Norristown Herald has ascertained that "blue glass, mashed up fine and administered internally, will cure a dog—of sheep killing."

—The Petaluma (Cal.) Courier says, "Chandler is the first instance in our history of a cabinet officer being chairman of a national party during the presidential campaign."

—The Oakland (Cal.) Transcript thinks the only real good effects arising from the use of "blue glass" lies wholly in the sun-baths which the person takes who resorts to this new panacea for the ills to which flesh is heir.

—The Austin (Texas) Statesman records the marriage of a lady, said to be Sam Houston's daughter, thus—"Major W. L. Bringham and Miss Nettie Power Houston were married on Wednesday evening, in the Governor's mansion, by the Rev. Dr. Chaplin."

—An eastern payer says of a reverend notoriety—"Parson Newman preached on Sunday to an empty presidential pew. If anything were wanting to embitter his disappointment, and to render humiliating the destruction of his fondest hopes, it was afforded in the exasperating coolness with which the President snubbed him and his church, and went and said his prayers with a less obtrusive congregation."

—The Portland (Oregon) Standard says the use of opium in that city is alarmingly on the increase, there being five or six places patronized almost exclusively by young men and boys between the ages of fifteen and twenty-five years, who have an uncontrollable appetite for that drug, and some of whom are borne home in a state of stupefaction.

—The New York Sun says Mrs. Oates, of comic opera notoriety, was recently deeply fallen in love with by a younger son of Hon. Henry T. Blow, ex-M.C. of Missouri. The young man makes her presents of diamonds and costly jewelry, escorts her everywhere she wishes to go, and is her most devoted follower. He recently offered her horses worth \$3,500, but she refused the gift.

—A German professor figures that every man is worth eight women in a commercial point of view. The old prophet said one man would be worth at least seven women in another point of view. But in many other points of view women, as Patrick would say, can neither be equaled nor excelled. They simply stand unrivalled. As sisters, sweethearts, wives, mothers, grand-mothers, and mother-in-laws, men are nowhere. One woman in any one of these invaluable points is worth a whole world full of men.

—An industrious colporteur is the Rev. Kenelm Vaughan, an English Roman Catholic priest, who since 1873 has traveled through the greater part of South America distributing copies of a Spanish translation of the New Testament. In the prosecution of this work he traveled over 50,000 miles and had many narrow escapes from death. His distribution amounted to 52,000 copies of the Testament. Father Vaughan is now in England, but expects shortly to return to South America with 44,000 more copies of the Spanish Testament.

—California expects good crops in Santa Clara, Livermore, and parts of San Joaquin valleys, and in the northern portion of the State. The State papers say that, south, the prospects are not good, and the crop will be below the average, unless more promising weather intervenes. Rust has attacked the wheat in Yolo and Colusa counties. In Kern, Fresno, and Merced counties sheep are suffering

for feed, thousands have been abandoned and must perish. They are valued at only fifty cents a head. Lambs are being killed, and sheep sold for the try kettle.

—The New York World says, "Considerable interest has been expressed as to how largely the late Oliver Ames was interested in the stock of the Union Pacific Railroad. The Tribune, on June 21st, 1875, for some reason not apparent, published a full list of the stockholders of the Union Pacific. Among these Oliver Ames stands credited with 22,577 shares, and there are a few hundreds for other members of his family. The other large holders then were Mills & Co., 33,330; C. J. Osborn & Co., 23,100; Sidney Dillon, 26,520; and Jay Gould, 109,100. The stock brokers estimate that Gould's ownership in these shares has now reached 160,000. Oliver Ames is said to have died possessed of 40,000 shares."

Local and Other Matters.

FROM TUESDAY'S DAILY, MARCH 10.

Musical.—Prof. Careless is progressing nicely with his singing class. Between thirty and forty pupils are taking lessons.

To be Enlarged.—The city watermaster is about taking steps to have what is known as the Twentieth Ward water ditch enlarged to double its present capacity. The reason for this step is that complaints have been made that sufficient water is not conveyed in the ditch for the use of the people obtaining their supplies from that source, and no more can be let down from City Creek without overflowing the banks. By the enlargement it is thought that, even in times of scarcity of water, enough can be run into the ditch for all necessary purposes up to July 1st of each year, and in times when it is plentiful all the year round.

We understand the watermaster will consult with the people in relation to the proposed improvement, as they, if they desire it to be made, will probably have to do the work.

Lamentable Accident.—About eight o'clock last night Joseph Reich, a sixteen year old son of Mr. Frederick Reich, proprietor of the Pacific House, lower part of East Temple Street, was shot through the aorta, in the region of the heart, by the accidental discharge of a pistol in his own hands, and died in a few minutes. According to the testimony of a younger brother the unfortunate lad had got the pistol and said, in a frolic, that he was going to scare the girls. He was at the rear of the hotel when the weapon accidentally discharged, with the result aforementioned.

Dr. Taggart was called in immediately after the accident occurred, but of course the lad was beyond the power of human skill.

An inquest was held over the remains this morning, by Coroner George J. Taylor. The jury were S. P. McCurdy, J. H. Parsons and George Romney, who returned a verdict in accordance with the foregoing facts.

The lad, according to the testimony of witnesses, bore an excellent character.

District Court.—Tuesday morning, March 27th.

John W. Lowell vs. James Parkin et al; continued by consent.

David Cooper vs. Humphrey Rogers et al; Robertson and McBride, attorneys for the plaintiff, move the court for a judgment on the pleadings; motion allowed by the court.

Hans N. Chlarson, vs. Samuel Edgerly; continued for the term.

David Cooper vs. Alexander Tarbet; on motion of Robertson and McBride, attorneys for plaintiff, it is ordered that judgment be entered herein for the plaintiff, for \$500, for the surrendering of outstanding note held by the plaintiff.

D. Cooper vs. H. B. Clawson, continued for the term by consent.

Alfred D. Owens vs. Flagstaff S. Mining Co.; Woods & Gee, attorneys for the plaintiff, move the Court in this action for a judgment on the pleadings; argued and overruled by the Court, for the reason that no pleadings are on file. Baskin and DeWolf, attorneys for defendants, move the Court that this cause be dismissed; agreed and taken under advisement.

The following cases were continued by consent—

Charles Thompson vs. Wm. Derr.