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BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT, PROPRIETOR.

Volume XXXVII, No. 338

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

- NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway, between Prince and Houston streets.—LEO AND LOROS.
THEION SQUARE THEATRE, Broadway, between Third and Fourth streets.—AGNES.
FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE, Twenty-fourth street.—MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR.
WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway and Thirteenth street.—OUR AMERICAN COUSIN.
THEATRE COMIQUE, 514 Broadway.—AFRICA; OR, LITIGATIONS AND STANLEY.
RODIN'S THEATRE, Twenty-third street, corner Sixth avenue.—RODIN AND JELLY.
OLYMPIC THEATRE, Broadway, between Houston and Bleecker sts.—KILLWORTH.
BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—LORETTA OF LIPS.—THE LITTLE DAISY.
WOOD'S MUSEUM, Broadway, corner Thirtieth st.—ON HAND. Afternoon and Evening.
GRAND OPERA HOUSE, Twenty-third st. and Eighth av.—RODIN THE GLOUCE.
ACADEMY OF MUSIC, Fourteenth street.—ITALIAN OPERA.—MIGNON.
GERMANIA THEATRE, Fourteenth street, near Third st.—DAS BIERER KATZE.—BESCHERUNG BASTARD.
MR. F. R. CONWAY'S BROOKLYN THEATRE.—SON OF THE NIGHT.
STREYWAY HALL, Fourteenth st.—LUCRETIA OF LIPS BY CENTRAL AFRICA AND HONORS OF THE SLAVE TRADE.
BRYANT'S OPERA HOUSE, Twenty-third st. corner 6th av.—NAGS MURDERLY, ROBERTS, & CO.
WHITE'S THEATRE, No. 88 Broadway.—SPLENDID VARIETY OF NOVELTIES.
CANTERBURY VARIETY THEATRE, Broadway, between Bleecker and Houston.—VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT.
TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE, No. 201 Bowery.—GRAND VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT, &c. Matinee at 2 o'clock.
SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS, corner 26th st. and Broadway.—ENTERTAINING MINSTRELS, &c.
BARNUM'S MUSEUM, MENAGERIE AND CIRCUS, Fourteenth street, near Broadway.—Day and Evening.
NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 62 Broadway.—CORSE AND A&C.

TRIPLE SHEET.

New York, Tuesday, Dec. 3, 1872.

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PRESIDENT GRANT'S MESSAGE is silent on the subject of St. Domingo. So this ghost, which so terribly disturbed the peace of the liberal and democratic household, is laid at last.

GENERAL BANKS yesterday offered his resignation as chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives. The House, by a handsome majority, refused to accept it. The resignation was due to General Banks; the refusal was creditable to the House.

THE LOUISVILLE Courier-Journal thinks the best way for the democrats to defeat Grant, if he should run for a third term, would be to nominate him themselves. The democratic electors have an opportunity to set the ball in motion, in the absence of any candidate of their own, by voting for him in the Electoral Colleges to-morrow.

THE COMMISSIONERS TO REVISE THE CONSTITUTION of the State meet in Albany this week. One of their recommendations should be an increase in the pay of Senators and Assemblymen of ten dollars a day for the Senate and eight dollars a day for the Assembly, with power to the Governor to prorogue the Legislature at his will after the expiration of the regular session. By these amendments we might secure a better class of representatives at Albany, and hold a wholesome check upon corrupt legislation at the close of the session.

PRESIDENT GRANT'S MESSAGE is silent on the subject of amnesty. Probably he believes that pardoning has gone far enough and that any ex-rebels now disfranchised may be restored to their civil rights for the asking. But the President expresses his regret that any necessity should have existed for the execution of the Enforcement act and his hope that the necessity of applying it may never again arise. At the same time he signifies his determination to put down all attempts to interfere with the rights of citizens to vote, wherever they may be made. Let the South stop the Ku Klux and the President will stop the Enforcement act. A fair bargain for both sides.

The President's Message—His Report for the Year and His Recommendations to Congress.

General Grant is evidently a sincere believer in a superintending Providence over the affairs of men and of nations; and that this abiding faith, with its ever-present sense of responsibility, has had and has much to do with the discharge of his public duties we cannot doubt. We accord him, therefore, the full weight of his words when, in the opening of his fourth annual message to Congress (which closes up his regular accounts for his first Presidential term), he says that "it is with thankfulness to the Giver of all good that as a nation we have been blessed for the past year with peace at home, peace abroad, and a general prosperity vouchsafed to but few peoples." Such official recognitions of the Supreme Power above us touch gratefully the hearts of a believing people. Gratefully, too, will they appreciate the President's flattering testimony to that spirit of energy and perseverance exhibited by the people of Boston and Chicago in rising above their overshadowing calamities; and gratefully will they accept the opinion that "as far as human judgment can penetrate its future no cause seems to exist to threaten our present peace."

Proceeding, then, to business the President informs us that when Congress adjourned in June last a question had been raised by Great Britain—that ominous question of indirect or consequential damages—"which, for a time, seriously imperilled the settlement by friendly arbitration of the grave differences" between the two governments; but that the arbitrators disposed of the difficulty in a manner perfectly satisfactory to our government. Next, the award of the Geneva Tribunal of the sum in gross of fifteen million five hundred thousand dollars upon those Alabama claims is accepted as a happy settlement of a long-standing difference; and this decision, in connection with the award of the Emperor of Germany on the San Juan boundary question, leaves England and the United States "without a shadow upon their friendly relations." But if this business were still open for argument we might here resume the old discussion. As it is settled we can only say with honest Sancho, "Let us bid God bless the giver, nor look the gift horse in the mouth." The thanks and congratulations returned to the respective States and to the arbitrators (especially to Mr. Adams) and to all concerned in the arbitration are, of course, eminently just and proper. But the parties directly interested will be particularly pleased with the recommendation that a board be created at once to examine the claims of individuals in the premises, with a view to the distribution among the sufferers from England's peculiar neutrality of the British gold awarded as our indemnity. We sincerely hope that these men will not share the fate of those unfortunates involved in the claims arising from old French spoliation upon our commerce "prior to the year 1800."

From his long and intimate official connection with and services in the matter of our San Juan boundary claim at Washington, London and Berlin, Mr. Bancroft, with its perfectly satisfactory settlement, is fairly entitled to the President's thankful acknowledgments. We are pleased, too, to hear of "the prompt, spontaneous action of Her Majesty's government in giving effect to the award," in the removal of her troops from the joint occupation of San Juan Island. And it is something to say that this is the first time in our history that we have been without a boundary dispute with England. But still a joint commission is necessary to determine the line of the Haro Channel and another to fix the boundary between Alaska and British Columbia, and these are recommended. The President seems to be of the opinion that a few hundred miles or so to the right or the left in our Alaska boundary will be a matter of no consequence to either party, and in this opinion we concur.

Upon the question of the Northeastern fisheries and the reciprocities agreed upon in the Treaty of Washington as between the United States and the New Dominion, in view of the action of the imperial and provincial governments on the other side, the President recommends to Congress the useful legislation in the same direction in order to establish the treaty stipulations. All right. And so in regard to our northern boundary between the Lake of the Woods and the Rocky Mountains; and so with regard to our amicable relations with all the States of Europe. The peace picture of the message is here all that could be desired. Nor can we suppose that its recommendations touching the Vienna Exposition, the Statistical Congress, our approaching national centennial celebration and other incidental subjects will be neglected by the two Houses, in view of the great objects of universal peace and brotherhood among the nations.

Our border relations with Mexico have been anything but agreeable; they are still unsettled; but General Grant is hopeful of better things from the present Mexican government, and recommends an appropriation which will enable the Border Commission on our part to resume its labors. This is all that we have in the message on Mexico, and perhaps it is enough. We dare say that between President Grant and President Lerdo de Tejada there is a harmonious understanding; and yet we think that a word of encouragement from the one for the other in his efforts to establish law and order and industry and enterprise in Mexico would not have been out of place in this Message. Upon Cuba the Message touches the vulnerable heel of Achilles in touching the system of Spanish slavery which still prevails in that island. The opinions submitted on this subject, however, will avail nothing, unless hardened into some action on the part of Congress which will compel Spain to remove this crying evil—one of the few remaining vestiges of slavery on this Continent and its islands. General Banks, Chairman on Foreign Affairs of the House, has always been a liberal in regard to Cuba, and now, with these broad hints from the administration, he may surely venture upon a joint resolution which will ring the death knell of Cuban slavery and open the way for Cuban independence. And why not, when England is moving to expel the last vestiges of slavery and the slave trade, even from Africa?

The Treasury receipts and expenditures for

the fiscal year ending the 30th of June last are given in the aggregates as follows:—

Table with 2 columns: Item, Amount. Total net receipts: \$374,106,867. Total disbursements: \$371,438,215. Treasury balance, June 30: 484,042,753.

For further details of these Treasury operations we refer the reader to the Message. It gives us a fair exhibit of the condition of the Treasury; but we are sorry to hear that it is doubtful whether any further reductions in our national taxations will be practicable for the present. Dismissing the exhibits of the other departments, which we have already published, and numerous incidental recommendations, which are generally well considered, we come to a catalogue of internal improvements suggested for the action of Congress and to a list of recommended steamship subsidies sufficient to make the bones of "Old Hickory" rattle in their coffin. These jobs would be enough, perhaps, to occupy the exclusive attention of the two Houses for a session of twelve months' duration; and yet they furnish such grand opportunities for Congressional log-rolling that we may expect to find some of these projects, with their canal and steamship subsidies, dovetailed into the appropriation bills. Here we think the President is launching into a sea of expenditures, the shores of which can never be reached, although he puts in the saving clause that he is not prepared for these inland adventures until it is clearly shown that they are of national interest and will pay. But on the steamship subsidies he says that "an expenditure of five millions of dollars per annum for the next five years, if it would restore to us our proportion of the carrying trade of the world, would be profitably expended." Yes; but would the end in view be gained by this subsidy system? We fear that this money would be wasted, and we hold that this is not the way to build up our carrying trade.

On the question of amnesty the Executive is inclined to be generous, and hopes for the restoration in the South of order and security to life and property; but, meantime, he has no further recommendations of amnesty to make. He holds to his Indian policy, and recommends territorial rights to the Indian reservations; he gives a good report on the Public Lands, the Census, the Agricultural Bureau, the Signal Service, Pensions, Patents, and the Bureau on Education. To bring the intractable Mormons of Utah to terms a revision of their Territorial law is recommended; liberal appropriations for Washington city are supported, and the Message closes with the adherence of the President to his policy of civil service reform. It is a valuable State paper, brimming over with all the vast and multifarious concerns of the country at home and abroad. Unpretending in style and practical in its aims, it may be pronounced a good Message. But upon his steamship subsidies and inland canal schemes General Grant is entering upon a field of costly experiments, compared with which our enormous Pacific railway grants and bonds are mere trifles and the seven millions paid for Alaska were a bagatelle. But if the grants of money suggested as the beginning of these commercial subsidies are appalling, what will they be in their full development? If we could boast the full redemption of our national debt there would still be something alarming in these stupendous propositions of trans-Alleghany canals made and steamship lines supported by the Treasury; but as it is, in our judgment, we have but the alternative of abandoning these costly schemes or the ultimate repudiation of our national debt.

The Late Crisis in France—The President and the Ministers Reconciled.

Our news this morning regarding the situation in France encourages the belief that, for the present, the crisis is ended. On Sunday two Cabinet Councils were held, and the sittings were protracted. After full deliberation upon the situation the President agreed to continue at the helm of affairs if the Ministers would withdraw their resignations. This, considering the difficulties which might arise in the event of the resignation of the President, the Ministers consented to do; and so, for the moment, at least, the calamity which seemed impending has been averted. The general prospect is somewhat clouded by the report that General Ducrot has been summoned to Versailles to reply to certain charges which have been made against him. The General is known to be an imperialist; and it is charged against him that he had his troops in readiness to act against the government in the event of a crisis, and that he had issued circulars to the gendarmes in his district instructing them to make inquiry into the political opinions of the inhabitants. In the present state of affairs in France there is great temptation to a man like Ducrot to undertake the rôle of Monk and to attempt a restoration. According to the Debats the important command which General Ducrot holds is not resigning to those who fear a coup d'état. If President Thiers is strong enough he ought to take his command from Ducrot at once. If he is not strong enough or daring enough to do so it is because he believes that the army is with the Empire. It is dangerous to dismiss a man like Ducrot and it is dangerous to retain him in power. One great difficulty has been got over; but it is impossible that such a nondescript government as that of M. Thiers can long control a great nation like France. A government which exists by sufferance had better be moved out of the way at once.

Who Shall the Electors Vote For?

The Democratic National Committee held a meeting yesterday in this city, and announce through their Chairman, Mr. Augustus Schell, that they do not regard it as within the scope of their delegated authority to advise the electors of the States which favored the election of the Baltimore candidates as to the course they should pursue in view of the death of Horace Greeley. The situation is a novel one, and it is not deemed advisable to establish a precedent in a case for which future national conventions will probably provide. Meanwhile, the suggestions of outside parties are numerous. One paper advises the electors to vote for O'Connor and Adams, dropping Grant Brown, while the use of the name of Charles Francis Adams, Senator Hendricks, Judge Davis or Lyman Trumbull is proposed by others. The majority approve a unanimous vote for President Grant or the casting of a blank for the first office.

The Meeting of Congress.

Yesterday at noon the last session of the Forty-second Congress convened in the Capitol of the country. There is very little sentiment now attaching to these gatherings, in whose results so much of the fate of the nation lies. It is, therefore, worthy of note that the first step taken by the House of Representatives was a joint resolution of regret for the death of the great journalist and statesman whose mortal remains are lying for the last few hours above earth in this city. In unanimously honoring Horace Greeley Congress performs a worthy action, and one which, while showing that the bitterness of a Presidential campaign do not lie very deep in the national character, will, we hope, tend to soften the asperities of such contests in future. Mr. Cox, in making restitution to the deceased, made some very feeling remarks, creditable to his culture and sensibilities.

In the Senate a piece of sentiment, too, opened the proceedings, in the presentation by Mr. Wilson, Vice-President elect, of a bill for the relief of the sufferers by the Boston fire. Having sent this to committee, the work of the session commenced with Senator Sumner laying before that body his plan of civil service reform and the battle-flag resolution. Speaker Blaine, in the House, resigned the chair to Mr. Cox, in order to present a resolution asking for a committee of inquiry into the Crédit Mobilier scandal with which he and other grave legislators were charged in the heat of the canvass. A sensitiveness to personal reputation is no doubt at the bottom of this resolution, and for the satisfaction of knowing whether our most trusted and honored legislators are honest or otherwise it may be vaguely profitable; but the question may well be asked, now that the heat of the fight is over, and the battle won into which this and other scandals were vainly introduced as engines of war, whether it is worth while spending the money of the people and the time of Congress in deciding Mr. Blaine's pecuniary approachability or the contrary. In refusing to accept the resignation of General Banks the House paid a marked compliment to that gentleman, which is and may be variously interpreted, but which preserves its complimentary character nevertheless. Notwithstanding the "era of good feeling," indications are plentiful that party lines are about to be closely drawn by the majority, and this will, of course, lead to a solidification of the heterogeneous opposition. With the great legislative machine thus pleasantly in working order, and a national campaign four years off, let it be hoped that our representatives will settle to the nation's business without more ado.

The Exhibit of the Secretary of the Treasury.

It appears from the report of the Secretary of the Treasury that the resources of the government remain overwhelmingly abundant, though Congress has abolished many taxes. The gross receipts have exceeded the estimates and have kept the Treasury gorged with surplus, unnecessary and unprofitable capital. The total net receipts for the year ending June 30, 1872, amounted to \$374,106,867. Out of this \$216,370,286 was from customs and \$130,642,177 was from internal revenue. The net ordinary expenditures, including \$117,357,839 for interest on the public debt, were \$270,559,695. This leaves for current expenses, exclusive of the interest on the debt, \$153,191,854. There has been raised, then, a hundred millions by taxation over the amount necessary to carry on the government, including the interest on the debt and the enormous expenditure of more than a hundred and fifty-three millions for the several departments. The balance went for the redemption of the principal of the national debt. We are told that a fraction less than a hundred millions, or, in figures, \$99,960,253, was applied to that purpose. But notwithstanding that, as we have said, the Treasury remains gorged with surplus money. The sum of a hundred and fifty-three millions for current and ordinary expenditures, exclusive of interest on the public debt, is far too large for times of peace. It is double the amount expended before the war. But admitting this enormous expenditure, why should the people be taxed now a hundred millions a year in addition to paying the principal of the debt? A fourth of that amount would be ample. The credit of the government would stand as high by paying twenty-five millions a year as by paying a hundred millions. It is unjust and unreasonable to ask the present generation, which has borne the brunt and cost of the war, to pay more. Succeeding generations, when the country will be more populous and much richer, ought to bear a portion of the burden and would be better able to bear it. The Secretary of the Treasury seems to be intent on keeping up burdensome taxation for the purpose of liquidating the debt rapidly and for the gratification of having a pléthoric treasury. He does not consider that such a vast revenue and surplus amount in his hands are the greatest temptation to extravagance. Taxes might be reduced seventy-five millions, at least, and then leave an ample fund for the redemption of the debt besides a liberal provision for the necessary expenditure of the government. There are other matters in the report of the Secretary of the Treasury which we shall consider at another time. The principal feature is that relating to the revenue and expenditure and the policy indicated with regard to them.

A Noble Proposition from Mr. Sumner.

Senator Sumner struck a chord of generous and lofty patriotism yesterday that will vibrate throughout the whole country and give additional lustre to his fame. Immediately after the Senate had convened, and while waiting for the President's Message, Mr. Sumner introduced a bill to strike from the United States flags and the Army Register all records of battles fought with fellow citizens. The Romans in the most glorious period of their history did not celebrate victories in civil war where Romans fought against Romans, and were desirous to efface the memory of such fratricidal conflicts. This is a noble sentiment, and was both characteristic and worthy of that great people. Why should American citizens wish to perpetuate the emblems and records of our national misfortune? Why keep alive the hatred that was engendered by the civil war when the combatants are and must continue to be one people? To do so would be unchristian-like, ungenerous and highly impolitic. It would serve no good purpose

whatsoever, and would only gratify sectional and personal vanity at the sacrifice of nobler and better sentiments. Every celebration of victories in our civil war, by emblems on the flags, by combinations or associations of the victors, by parades, gatherings or public dinners or in any other way, is wrong. Mr. Sumner's bill ought to be passed unanimously by Congress, and at once. In fact, everything possible should be done to obliterate the memory of the sad event and to restore harmony and fraternal feeling among all the citizens of our common country.

The President on Cuba—The Outlook for the Republic.

President Grant, in his fourth annual Message, as in his first, sets graphically before the world the unhappy condition of the Island of Cuba. For more than four years the rebellion against Spanish rule has held its own, and during that period the rich soil of the island has been deluged with blood in the futile effort to suppress the insurrection. Acts scandalous to the civilization of the present century have been committed by the volunteers and probably by the insurgents; the war has been made almost a war of extermination; yet, in the words of President Grant, Spain has been unable to subdue the revolution, while the revolution, on the other hand, has made no headway towards ultimate success. After four years of slaughter the situation is unchanged; the people are still in arms against the authority of Spain; the Spanish government is still powerless to crush out the revolt; the "insurrection has gained no advantages and exhibits no more of the elements of power" than were exhibited a year ago. During the whole of President Grant's first term of office, while the United States have been prosperous and happy, blest with peace and growing stronger and richer with every succeeding year, the island "at our door" has been torn by this terrible conflict, whose termination seems at this moment as far off as on the day when General Grant first took the oath of office as Chief Magistrate of the Republic.

The President attributes the long continuance of the strife to the existence of slavery on the island. "A terrible wrong is the natural cause of a terrible evil," and he hopes that the present liberal government of Spain will do something to hasten emancipation. President Grant could not say less than this; probably he could not consistently say more. But the matter is now in the hands of Congress. We know how much reliance we can place on the promises of the Spanish government to free the Cuban slaves. For four years we have labored with Spain to wring from her this concession to the sentiment of all civilized people. For two or three years we have reasoned, protested, almost threatened at Madrid; but our efforts have ended in words, and in words alone the response has been made. We have already urged upon our government, upon Congress, and especially upon the republican party the duty of adopting some decisive measures by which we can at least free ourselves from the scandal of aiding Cuban slavery if we cannot accomplish its immediate destruction. The President very properly denounces those American capitalists who hold property in Cuban slaves; but we must not forget that our government, by affording a rich and ready market for the slave products of the island, keeps alive the institution and renders Cuba a valuable possession to Spain. Shut out the sugars of the slave drivers from the American markets by a prohibitory tariff—because they are the product of slavery—and freedom will soon be proclaimed in Cuba.

There is probably a speedier way to ensure freedom to the Cuban slave. The constitution of the Republic of Cuba proclaims the abolition of slavery for ever. Let the revolution succeed and the island is as free as our own government. The failure of the Spanish authorities to repress the rebellion in four years, and the fact that they are as far from victory to-day as they were when President Grant was inaugurated in 1869, warrant the recognition of Cuban belligerency by all nations, however friendly may be their relations with Spain. The revolutionists may not have made headway in the meantime, but the fact that they have held their own, that they still successfully resist the authority of the Spaniards, is of itself a victory to their cause. The recognition of their belligerent rights would, it is claimed, render the Republic a success. The contest is, as President Grant says, "at our door." Why should Congress hesitate to do justice to a struggling, suffering people? By what right could Spain complain of such an act as one unfriendly to herself? The continuance of the Cuban war can work nothing but mischief and misery to Spain. The establishment of the Republic of the West Indian Islands would be a gain to civilization and a credit to the world. England is prepared to cast off her colonies; she finds it to her profit to do so. Spain will do well to follow her example, and to give freedom to the Cuban slaves and to the Island of Cuba at the same time.

Abolition of the Electoral College.

In view of the annoying complications that might have occurred had Horace Greeley been elected by the people and died before the Presidential electors had cast their votes, the Cincinnati Enquirer asserts that "this whole Electoral College machinery should be abolished and the people vote directly through the several States for President and Vice President. Then, if the popular choice should happen to die before his inauguration, the office would fall where it constitutionally devolves—upon the Vice President, who is elected with a view to such a result." We are certain to make this change sooner or later, and Congress at its present session should take the initiative steps necessary to alter the provisions of the constitution regulating the mode of electing the President and Vice President.

Judge Fancher Promises to Be an Acquisitor to New York.

He yesterday denied the motion for a stay of proceedings in the case of Henry Rogers, the Kings county murderer, who is sentenced to be executed in Brooklyn on Friday next. If the gallows once escapes being cheated of its just dues we may hope that there may be a revival of justice, and that our long string of murderers, rich and poor, may be worked off at last. In that event peaceable citizens may again walk the streets without deadly risk of assassination.

The President on Civil Service Reform—Foreboding of Opposition.

The President avows his determination to adhere to the policy of civil service reform. Hitherto, he says, federal offices have been regarded too much as the reward of political services, and no one will question the truth of the assertion. The doctrine that to the victors belong the spoils has assuredly been proved in Presidential elections, and has potent one of the most trying penalties of victory. What living man ever heard of a valuable and influential federal office being bestowed upon any person but an active politician, or of any other test than political influence being applied to candidates for subordinate positions? This pernicious practice the President is bent upon discouraging, and he looks to civil service rules regulating the tenure of office and the mode of appointments to aid him in the work, or at least to secure a continuance of the principle after his retirement from office. "While I am in office," says President Grant, "I will by my appointments secure the greatest possible civil service reform; but it will require the direct action of Congress to render the enforcement of the system binding upon my successors."

We wish the President every success in his endeavors to reform the public offices, and we have no doubt of his honest determination to study character and capacity in his appointments. But opposition is already foreshadowed to his proposed civil service rules. An administration organ announces that Western Congressmen are in arms against the reform and boldly declare that they carried the election on the issue of opposition to the system. If we had not avowed ourselves in favor of bestowing office in reward for political services, and favored the civil reform humbug on the liberals, say these representatives, we should not have been successful at the polls. We may therefore anticipate a contest between the Executive and Congress on this question; for it will, no doubt, be pushed forward by the opposition if neglected by the republicans, and brought to the test of a vote. The case of the Philadelphia Postmaster has alarmed the politicians, and, unless it can be privately explained away as a harmonious arrangement all round, it is likely to induce them to take very bold and open ground against a principle that may turn all their office-seeking supporters adrift.

After all, of what real value are civil service rules, and are they not over-estimated by the President and other reformers? The best protection against the appointment of incompetent and improper men to office is to be found in the honesty and firmness of the appointing power. If a President, with resolution and spirit to back him, desires to apply to applicants the Jeffersonian test—"Is he honest? is he capable? is he faithful to the constitution?" instead of the political test—"How many votes can he control?" he will do so without civil service rules or any other restrictions to bind him. His own conscience is his guide in the matter. President Grant intends to follow a civil service rule of his own, and the people are willing to trust him to do so. As to the necessity of Congressional action to compel his successor to be equally honest, we would suggest to the President—first, that civil service rules, however stringent, can readily be evaded and made a farce; and next, that when an opposition Executive is elected he will probably carry with him an opposition Congress, and in that event civil service rules would be swept away much easier than they can be enacted.

The President and the Postmaster General on the Postal Telegraph.

President Grant, in his Message, recommends the appointment of a committee or commission to take into consideration the best method of acquiring the title to all telegraph lines now in operation for the purpose of connecting the postal and telegraph services on a basis just to the people and equitable to those who have invested time and capital in the establishment of such lines. The argument of the Postmaster General in favor of the government system is a forcible one and puts the case before the people in a plain, practical manner which they will readily understand. He shows many of the evils of a private monopoly in a strong light, and expresses the belief that the press would be especially benefited by the change. The experience of European governments is cited to prove the advantages to the people of the postal telegraph both in lowness of rates and increase of facilities, and the views heretofore advanced by the Herald as to the success of the system in this country are thoroughly endorsed.

The Postmaster General's report sets forth an elaborate display of figures in support of his proposition that the investment will be a remunerative one for the government. His estimates are based on the right of the government to purchase existing lines at cost, without regard to the good will of their business whether profitable or unprofitable. While it is abstractly held by lawyers in Congress that cost price is all that the companies would be entitled to even on a compulsory purchase, the general feeling has been that such a course would be inequitable were the property to be arbitrarily condemned for public use. It appears, however, that by voluntarily accepting the act of 1866 the companies have obviated this difficulty, and there can be no injustice now in the government taking their lines for such an amount as it would have to expend in the erection of similar ones were it to go into the business independently, as, of course, it has a perfect right to do. The basis of purchase, to be equitable, must be capable of application to all the companies. It would certainly be unjust to pay for the lines of one company in accordance with the profits which monopoly and high rates have enabled it to realize and to compel another, barely meeting expenses, to yield up its property at less than cost.

After all, it must be remembered that the charters of the companies are granted solely in view of the public benefit which it is supposed they will confer. The inventor of the telegraph was given a franchise in the shape of a patent, from which he realized large profits, as has the telegraph company from his charter; but at the end of a certain time he was obliged to yield up the franchise entirely, without compensation. True, the inventor had a legal monopoly; but that is no reason why the franchise of the one should be freely surrendered and the government be obliged to pay for the surrender of the other a perpetual tax.