

**THE CONFEDERATE CABINET.**

Who Composed It and How Many of Them Survive.

Baltimore American.

The serious illness of Congressman Reagan, of Texas, who was postmaster general of the confederate government, suggests some inquiries regarding the whereabouts of other members of that organization. Although the confederate government was but five years in existence it had numerous cabinets. There were no less than three secretaries of state, five secretaries of war, two secretaries of the treasury, and a third, who was acting secretary, and three attorneys general. Of the secretaries of state Judah P. Benjamin was, of course, the most celebrated. He has made his fortune in the practice of law in London. He has closed up his law business now, however, having made money enough, and news comes that he has gone to Paris to live permanently. Bob Toombs, who was another secretary of state, lives in Georgia, his old home. He is a wealthy old man, as full of eccentricities as years ago. He has retired from the active pursuits of life, having an ample fortune, and has, as recently announced, been baptised and become a member of the Methodist church, of which his wife, now deceased, was for years an honored member. His beautiful southern home is surrounded by every comfort and luxury which wealth and a long and varied experience can supply. R. M. T. Hunter, of Virginia, was another sec-

democrats to the wall, and the election of Mr. Clay was thought to be certain. But in an evil hour Mr. Clay was tempted to write the famous "Alabama letter," in which he said "the slavery question was only a temporary one," and "personally I have no objections and should be glad to see Texas annexed," etc. These words defeated Mr. Henry Clay as the whig candidate for president in 1844. It was not the late Archbishop Hughes and the Catholic vote in New York, it was the unfortunate, ill-timed and unwise letter of Mr. Clay, that, from the time of its publication, put his party on the defensive in that canvass.

You will remember the feeling of the Whigs in Cleveland on the morning of the day when the Alabama letter of Clay was received in Cleveland, in an extra of the Ohio Statesman. It was on the 20th of May, when a mass meeting of the whigs of the "Reserve" had been called in Cleveland. Mr. Corwin, Mr. Liddeys, Mr. Caskin, Mr. Clay, Mr. Sesbury Ford, Judge Reuben Hitchcock and others were in room No. 20 at the old American House, where Mr. Burknell White came in and handed Mr. Corwin the Alabama letter of Mr. Clay. Mr. Corwin read it, and said: "Gentlemen, I may as well take my hat and go home. We are defeated, as from this hour we must fight on the retreat, and up to this hour we have been driving our foe." He was right.

The late Mr. Thomas Ewing told me "that after Mr. Clay's nomination, in company with a few of Mr. Clay's most trusted and intimate friends, he visited him at his home in Ashland, and there the whole question of the canvass was discussed. Mr. Clay said he must write one more letter in reference to the charge that had been made against him that he had made a bargain with Mr. John Quincy Adams, as to his election to the presidency in 1825. Mr. Ewing told him such a letter was wholly unnecessary, as he could add nothing to the force of the disclaimer in that matter made by Mr. Adams, in his letter to the New Jersey committee, in which letter he said: 'Before you, my countrymen, and before high heaven I pronounce that charge to be absolutely false; and if I could meet it at the throne of the Eternal, I would pronounce it false there.' All agreed that a letter from Mr. Clay was unnecessary. Mr. Clay in his own parlors, with the gentlemen then present, agreed that he would not write any more letters. On all the great questions of public policy, for long years, he had declared his opinions on the floor of congress, and on the Texas question his 'Raleigh letter' was satisfactory to his party." Mr. Ewing said "he returned home, and in a few weeks entered upon the canvass in southeastern Ohio, and was speaking for Clay and Frelinghuysen until the Alabama letter was published. Then he took his carpet-bag and returned home, and did not make another speech, as Mr. Clay had not kept his promise." Defeat came. Mr. Ewing said "he never mentioned the canvass of the presidency to Mr. Clay after that, and if Mr. Clay had been nominated in 1848, or in 1852, he would not have voted for him."

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Mr. Clay defeated himself and ruined his party. He was the great compromiser, and his compromises were always in the interest of slavery.

And now, as to 1848. You say "Gen. Taylor, the whig candidate carried New York against his democratic competitor by a majority of 104,285." You do not say that Gen. Taylor had two competitors in 1848, in New York, Gen. Cass the regular nominee of his party and Mr. Van Buren, the nominee of the new free soil party. Mr. Van Buren was nominated at Buffalo in August, 1848, for the purpose of defeating Gen. Cass, and his nomination elected Gen. Taylor, and gained California and New Mexico from the maw of slavery.

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**Henry Clay's Mistake.**

J. A. Briggs in the Cleveland Herald.

Your editorial in the Leader of the 23d, commenting on the paragraph copied from the Boston Advertiser, is only a part of the truth of the history. It is true that Mr. Clay, who had been for years the idol of the old whig party, was nominated by acclamation at Baltimore, and his election was regarded as a sure thing. The Texas question, involving the question of slavery, was the question of the canvass. The Raleigh letter of Mr. Clay on that question was satisfactory to the whigs of the north. They were opposed to the annexation of Texas. So was Mr. Clay. The canvass was opened against "Polk, Dallas and Texas," and the whigs were everywhere driving the

democrats to the wall, and the election of Mr. Clay was thought to be certain. But in an evil hour Mr. Clay was tempted to write the famous "Alabama letter," in which he said "the slavery question was only a temporary one," and "personally I have no objections and should be glad to see Texas annexed," etc. These words defeated Mr. Henry Clay as the whig candidate for president in 1844. It was not the late Archbishop Hughes and the Catholic vote in New York, it was the unfortunate, ill-timed and unwise letter of Mr. Clay, that, from the time of its publication, put his party on the defensive in that canvass.

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**OLD BIBLE TEXT.**

A Description of the Recent Discovery by Dr. Harkavy.

I paid a visit to-day to Dr. Harkavy of the Imperial Library, whose recent discovery of a supposed ancient text of the Old Testament is exciting much interest in scientific and even general circles, says a St. Petersburg dispatch to the London Standard. The learned professor informed me that the manuscripts in question had been in his possession for some months, but that he had refrained from bringing them to public notice on account of the recent exposure of the Shapira frauds, and the scepticism with which a new announcement in the same field of discovery would necessarily be received. His scruples were overcome, however, by the persuasions of his friend, Mr. Neubauer, the assistant librarian at the Bodleian Library at Oxford, and he has prepared a short statement for publication pending the production of a memoir upon which he will set to work after Easter.

Assuming that the manuscripts are genuine (and as to this the doctor has no doubt), he has already deciphered enough to prove that they are of very considerable interest and antiquity, but he is unable to fix even an approximate date for them as yet, nor has he met with any important variations from the textus receptus. The manuscripts are the property of persons whom the professor is not at liberty to name, the manuscripts having been intrusted to him merely to decipher. Their present owners bought them at one of the Black sea ports from a Greek sailor sailing from the island of Rhodes. They consist of some thirty rolls of vellum, which were probably once bound together. Some, however, are much better preserved than others. The "Lamentations" of Jeremiah, for instance, are comparatively fresh and easily read, while some of the parchment is so wrinkled and discolored that nothing can be made out, though the professor hopes by means of reagents to render the writing legible. The "Book of Lamentations" is followed by an original poem on the same subject, "The Fall of Jerusalem," signed, "Jacob, the son of Isaac." The other books which Prof. Harkavy has made out so far are the prophecies of Hosea, Joel, Obadiah, Haggai, and Zachariah, and the books of Ruth, Esther, Daniel and Zepaniah.

The most puzzling feature is that the characters employed differ materially from all hitherto known, so much so that those who read with facility the square writing of other Hebrew texts are at a loss to understand it. Dr. Harkavy pointed out instances in which the letter Lamed is nearly the same as the Yemen character; whilst the letter Ain is quite original, being like the Greek Epsilon written backward.

Judging from what he has made up to the present time, the professor thinks the manuscript must have originated with a colony of Jews long isolated from their fellow-countrymen, probably in some island or out of the way spot on the coast of Arabia.

**The American Girl Abroad.**

Society has long been assisting certain American writers of parlor fiction to create the American girl, and the most eminent of them, Mr. Henry James, has settled among us to enjoy his success. The time, therefore, would seem to have arrived for the independent critic to examine the popular belief that the American girl is the final and most finished product of civilization, destined to whip anything else in petticoats. According to Mr. Henry James, she is a combination of nervous force, vivacity, and feminine insight, while delicate and subtle are epithets, which convey only the feeblest idea of the operations of her mental being. Indeed, so exquisite is this piece of machinery that when the novelist attempts to pick it to pieces for our edification, he rarely fails to puzzle himself and his readers. A great deal of her effect still depends upon her novelty. English society is naively slow to take the measure of social novelties; and though London has been flooded by our nasal cousins, the American girl herself is still imperfectly understood. If she is distinguished by one quality more than another among womankind, it is by that attribute which is common to all her countrymen, and generated by their restless life. She is 'cute; quite 'cute enough to take every advantage of the momentary confusion she has produced. Now is her critical time; the eager competition of her ever-increasing sisters will destroy her favorable position; she is resolved to take her fortune at the flood, and society hears whispers of a determined invasion in the course of the season at whose eve we have arrived. The fashionable world of London is in a state of chronic boredom, and is always ready to welcome a new sensation. Together with her novelty the American girl exercises something of the charm which a half-educated visitor always exercises on a conventional society. Pocahontas might have had the town at her feet; her successor is less simple and more schooled than Pocahontas; but compared with the smart people of Europe she is uneducated. She has not, that is to say, lived in an atmosphere the creation of centuries, charged to an extent impossible to realize with social opinions, conventionalities and traditions. They are born and bred in the European child. The American girl has more or less to assume them; and the assumption can be made very fresh and naive. She brings a quick and new susceptibility to things on which we are the slaves of preconceived impressions. It is the same with her countrymen. They give you half-educated impressions of art and literature, whereas the European is clogged with traditional judgments assimilated from the hour of his birth. All of which is very piquant and amusing both in the men and women—for a time.

Put an American girl by the side of her English sister, and the contrast is as instructive as the jealousy of the English matron is edifying. Our conventionalities have not sunk into her being, and she is shrewd enough to discriminate what part of them has a real and what a pretended worth. There-

fore she can transgress them without the transgression being imputed upon her for sin, and she does. Her transgressions and her criticism give her half her piquancy, but what is amusing in her would be embarrassing in her English sister. Her natural quickness of perception has, moreover, been sharpened by more travelling than falls to the lot of the ordinary English girl. Tables d'hote and second-rate foreign society, if they have not added to her refinement, have taught her a precocious self-possession. Again, though a run in the states is getting to be the usual autumn holiday, and knowledge of American ways is becoming diffused, yet society across the water does not present the same stable and obvious gradations as in the old country. Therefore, the fair adventuress, with a little manoeuvring, may shroud her exact antecedents in mystery, and find herself credited with a fabulous dowry founded on Chicago lard or Denver beetle-poison. Indeed, the popular belief that American women bring their English husbands large fortunes dies very hard, in spite of all demonstrations to the contrary. The English girl, though temporarily eclipsed by her rival, need not despair. Her qualities will tell in the long run. The apparent distinction and tact of the American girl is as showy, and as smart, and as little part of her, as her Parisian dresses. Real refinement is the attribute of a leisured class. This does not exist in the states, except in the narrow Puritan circle at Boston. The feverish pushing and striving, and barbarous ostentation of the men must react upon their sisters. And, indeed, American women are the most showy, restless, and unquiet in the world. Repose and dignity are alien to them; smartness is their ideal. Nor are they physically equal to the overshadowed English girl. Far from evolving a superior, American civilization seems destined to evolve an inferior type of woman. The American girl is as different from her English sister as the women of the insipid American parlor fiction are different from the women with hearts and brains of the robust literature of Felding and Scott.

**Modern Causes of Insanity.**

New York Tribune.

In the current number of The Sanitarian Professor Hitchcock has an interesting paper on "A Perverted Will as a Factor in Insanity." He is of opinion that the marked increase of insanity of late years is largely, if not altogether due to the rapid progress of democratic ideas, the development of strong individualism, and the weakening of respect for authority. It is not to be inferred that he considers democratic ideas mischievous, but he holds it to be often dangerous to put new wine into old bottles. The general effect of modern influences he regards as tending to destroy self-control, whether in the pursuit of wealth or the gratification of appetite. Luxury offers constant temptations to the present generation, and where there is no training to furnish a basis of self-restraint, excess in many directions is to be apprehended. Again, "self-control is weakened, especially in our American public, by a disregard or disesteem of law and authority. The democratic idea, the intense individualism that permeates the body politic as does our blood the body, is a demoralizer to a sound mental condition. The disrespect for civil law, as manifested by many who only seem to see in it red tape and needless formality, is a good seed of insanity."

Professor Hitchcock might have gone further back in tracing the developments of the insane neurosis. It is highly probable that those parents who, through mistaken notions of education, permit their children to grow up ignorant of self-restraint, discipline and restraint, are encouraging in them the tendencies to excess which in later life may issue in insanity. It is indeed a patent fact that the power of self-control is less cultivated at present than formerly. Our forefathers held many hard and barbarous beliefs, but there was one belief of theirs which we should have done well to retain, namely, the conviction that serious and prolonged discipline is necessary to the building up of a sound and self-sustaining manhood. In these days the last lesson imparted is that of obedience, yet it is certain that they who cannot obey will never know how to rule, and without self-control the finest natural abilities may be worse than wasted. The diseases of to-day are largely the products of profuse expenditure of vitality. Extravagance in physical outlay is one of the most serious vices of the time. Nervous and cerebral exhaustion follow these courses, and at short intervals our most active and energetic men drop out of the race, and are consigned to the asylum or the grave.

When the tendency to insanity is the effect of new ideas upon sluggish mentalities, which are confused rather than enlightened by the impact, it is probable that nothing can be done. In such cases nature's law of the survival of the fittest must operate, and such as are incapable of improvement must perish. But with regard to the stronger natures that go to excess because of defective training and the force of external stimulants, it is not useless to speak words of warning. Nature will be avenged for violation of her laws, and those who exhaust their limited stock of vitality in youth and middle life will be denied the restful old age to which they vainly looked forward. They will die in harness. They will drop even before they have reached Mount Pisgah. The parents who think it philosophical to withhold all discipline and training in self-control from their children, will do well to reflect that, far from fitting them for an ampler manhood and womanhood by these means, they are preparing them for disaster, misfortune and failure, depriving them of the most indispensable defence and protection against the distracting influences of our fast and feverish modern life.

An exchange asks: "Who is the best man?" John L. Sullivan has that reputation.—[New York Graphic.]

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**STOCK DIRECTORY**

**DENNIS M'KILLIP.**  
Ranch on Red Willow, Thornburg, Hayes County, Neb. Cattle branded "J. M." on left side. Young cattle branded same as above, also "J." on left jaw. Under-slope right ear. Horses branded "E" on left shoulder.

**C. D. PHELPS.**  
Range: Republican Valley, four miles west of Culbertson, south side of Republican. Stock branded "181" and "7-L." P. O. Address, Culbertson, Neb.

**W. J. WILSON.**  
Stock brand—circle on left shoulder; also dewlap and a crop and under half crop on left ear, and a crop and under bit in the right. Ranch on the Republican. Post-office, Max, Dundy county, Nebraska.

**HENRY T. CHURCH.**  
Osborn, Neb. Range: Red Willow creek, in southwest corner of Frontier county, cattle branded "O L O" on right side. Also, an over crop on right ear and under crop on left. Horses branded "3" on right shoulder.

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Indianola, Neb. Range: Republican Valley, east of Dry Creek, and near head of Spring Creek, in Chase county.

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McCook, Neb., range: Red Willow creek, in southwest corner of Frontier county. Also E. P. brand on right hip and side and swallow-fork in right ear. Horses branded E. P. on right hip. A few branded "A" on right hip.

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Stock brand—circle on left shoulder; also dewlap and a crop and under half crop on left ear, and a crop and under bit in the right. Ranch on the Republican. Post-office, Max, Dundy county, Nebraska.

**HENRY T. CHURCH.**  
Osborn, Neb. Range: Red Willow creek, in southwest corner of Frontier county, cattle branded "O L O" on right side. Also, an over crop on right ear and under crop on left. Horses branded "3" on right shoulder.

**SPRING CREEK CATTLE CO.**  
Indianola, Neb. Range: Republican Valley, east of Dry Creek, and near head of Spring Creek, in Chase county.

**W. N. PROCTOR.**  
McCook, Neb., range: Red Willow creek, in southwest corner of Frontier county. Also E. P. brand on right hip and side and swallow-fork in right ear. Horses branded E. P. on right hip. A few branded "A" on right hip.

**ALL LIVE DRUGGISTS SELL**  
**SPRING BLOSSOM**  
THE GREAT  
Anti-Bilious and Dyspeptic Cure.