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thorough and become a candidate for the United States Senate, and he would doubtless be elected. His residence in this District is merely accidental. He came here as a Senator from Mississippi, and on the expiration of his term of six years he was appointed Register of the Treasury. This office he held for four years, and had the Democrats not come into power he would probably be holding that office still, with the appointment charged up to Mississippi. During his ten years at the public crib he saved up money enough to buy a home in the District, and when he was out of office he made this city his headquarters from which to adventure upon lecturing tours throughout the country. He was never engaged in any business enterprise or venture in the District, but was to all intents and purposes a citizen of Mississippi temporarily sojourning here.

MR. REED'S POWER.

What a tyrant this man Tom Reed of Maine has suddenly become! The monarch of precedent and the Caesar of Congress, one would think from the dreadful exclamations of the partisans and their papers that he had put in peril the very Constitution under which we are suffered to earn our daily bread. Surely such a spectacle was never before presented by such a justice-loving democracy. Surely, the lovely spirit of equality which pervades our life and works as the first of modern nations was never so humbled by wicked citizenship.

Reed is neither better nor worse than any strong, obstinate partisan in power. Might may not be right, but it makes right. It is the privilege of the minority to play the martyr in politics; it is the instinct of the majority to put its opponent to the knife. Reason, tolerance and fair play are compromises and not virtues with those who control the affairs of State as party leaders. They justify themselves before man as the Jesuits of the Middle Ages did before their Maker.

Their conductances Mr. Reed so far as he has gone. He is no more despotic now than when he took advantage of precedent to harass his adversaries as the strategist of a partisan minority. He is certainly more efficient, because his despotism is intended now to pave the way to action. It is in the line of work, and is not the tyranny of nothing. Those who pray for the day when the majesty of reason shall prevail over deliberating democratic assemblies can afford to wish him well for the present.

The Republican majority has any number of anti-Treasury, protection schemes to get through to a favoring President. The lobbies of Congress plume and hope to many patient plunderers. The big vaults next door to the White House await the "open Sesame" of the hand which filled them. Let us wait and see to what end Mr. Reed's supremacy may come at last.

AN AMERICAN WORD.

It is said that a pair of pants, exhibited at the Tailors' Convention in Chicago, had only one seam.—*Chicago Herald.*

Why should the tailors put questions to a man whose pants are so short as Dr. Hancock's?—*London Convention.*

Hear, O Uten, and give, O Louisville. What he, or is "pants"? Explain the cryptogram. Unveil the Isis. Speak up.—*New York Sun.*

The word "pants" is a contraction of "pantalons." Busy people hadn't time to say "pantalons" or "trousers," so they said "pants." And they are going to keep on saying it. The word necessarily is plural, unless applied to the garment worn by a man with one leg.

"Pants" may not be an English word, but it is an American word, and it means exactly what it says. Judges in this country wear "trousers," but men wear pants.

This thing of objecting to a word merely because it does not happen to be in the dictionary is unworthy an enterprising paper like the New York Sun. A vocabulary is not immutable. The only correct standard is that of an approximate universal popularity. Dictionaries don't make words. The people make words and the dictionaries record them. People create words, and the dictionary follows.

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with the fame of his son-in-law. At how he takes rank with Quay and Tully and others, as a preserver of the Constitution, for none has given with more lavish hand to the needs of war.

While some choose to sneer at him as a Star-Spangled Scotchman, Tim Crittice is bound to always speak warmly of the distinction of Mr. Carnegie.

HEAD OFF THAT BILL.

The District Appropriation bill, as it passed the House, contains a clause conferring on the Commissioners the power to authorize telegraph, telephone or electric light companies to lay underground wires throughout the District. The Commissioners did not ask for this power, and it is opposed by the local companies. This provision, of course, hides a scheme, and even if it did not it would be of doubtful utility. While all electric wires in the city should be conducted in underground conduits, there is no particular occasion for any new companies, nor should the streets and pavements be torn up just to further somebody's scheme to wreck existing companies. Even if the Commissioners should refuse to grant any privileges under this provision, they would be in great danger of being talked to down by a faction from which Tim Crittice would probably abstain.

Even the clause limiting the provision to the life of the Fifty-first Congress is suspicious. If it is a good thing, why limit it? The Senate should kill the provision and require it, if its authors want to urge it, to come up as a separate bill in a way that will cause it to be discussed and its true inwardness to be known.

THE CHAPLAIN'S PRAYER.

In the Congressional Record day after day at the beginning of the report of the proceedings of Congress we read these words: "Prayer by the Chaplain." That is all. Simply, "Prayer by the Chaplain." No record of the prayer, no description of its character, just this hurried, careless, irreverent, business-like reference—a mere memorandum.

Tim Crittice thinks that the prayer of the Chaplain should be made a part of the reported proceedings of the Senate and the House of Representatives. The Chaplain is an officer of the Congressional body, employed legally and paid for his labors. It cannot be contended that he is such an officer as the Doorkeeper, for instance, whose duties are taken altogether as a matter of course, because the Congressional Record never mentions the fact that "the doors were opened by the Doorkeeper," whereas it always informs us that the proceedings of Congress were opened by the Chaplain's prayer. If it is necessary—and the necessity is recognized—to refer to the fact that the Chaplain uttered a prayer, it is assuredly a duty to present the Chaplain's exact words. Moreover, the prayer is in no sense a preface. It occurs after the Speaker or the President has called the Congressional body to order. It is essentially a portion of the proceedings.

There is, of course, a higher argument than the technical one to warrant the printing of the Chaplain's prayer in the Congressional Record. This is a Christian nation in theory and is becoming every year more nearly so in fact. That the good time may be hastened wherein all men will believe and act according to religious doctrines, everything possible should be done to promote the spread of the true faith. The prayer of the Chaplain is received by those who hear it with bowed heads, and doubtless its influence is felt by them throughout the business of the day. How instrumental in the propagation of Christianity would be the printing of this prayer in the Record. The thousands of readers of that useful publication would thus secure not only the beneficial effect of the words themselves, but the almost equally beneficial influence of a knowledge of the manner in which the words have been controlled and strengthened and blessed by the greatest legislative body of the greatest nation of the earth.

The treatment of the Chaplain's prayer to-day by the Congressional Record is a personal insult to him and a general insult to Christianity. The inference necessarily drawn from this treatment is that the custom of Congressional prayer is the reluctant admission of an infidel nation that there are still people within its borders foolish enough to believe in God and in the efficacy of communion with Him. For all the attention that the Chaplain receives from the Record, Congress might as well be opened by the barking of a dog. This system of indifference is logically wrong, morally bad and religiously impious, and Christian prayer throughout the nation should immediately resent it with sufficient earnestness to produce the necessary reformation.

Persons who were unable to obtain entrance to the House gallery yesterday missed a very entertaining spectacle. They can, however, get a similar general effect by using a number of tomatoes together by the tails and slinging them over a clothesline.

FOR THREE DOLLARS—so says the Minneapolis Tribune—you can purchase six little cucumbers and a truncated quart of strawberries in that market. That seems ridiculously cheap, but they make up for it by holding the price of coffee high.

A CALIFORNIA scientist claims to have discovered that the rocks of the earth possess vital energy and that they not only have sex but are ruled by the mating instinct. The earthquake is then, we presume, a sort of divorce proceeding.

THE NEW YORK Journal says there are 3,000 professional gamblers in that city. This is another struggling industry. The Journal further sets upon its feet by the location of the World's Fair in Gotham.

A CHICAGO man has invented a whistling stopper for bottles containing poison. Even since they had that long season of Patti opera out there everybody in Chicago has been going in for music.

THE WORLD'S Fair is held in Washington we don't need any special zoological display, unless by some unforeseen accident the House should happen to adopt a set of rules before that time.

ONE OF THE Supreme Court Judges of Rhode Island has always accepted free railroad passes and does not believe that any railroad ever gave a pass to a judge with any idea of receiving any return benefit. The

THE NORTH CAROLINA preachers who are declaring that the world will come to an end this year will all be in Washington just the same in 1892 at the fair.

THE HARMONY that does not exist between Senator Farwell and the Administration would fill a tin cup with the bottom knocked out.

THE GERMAN papers denounce the Samson treaty in words that reach across the column and hang over the edge.

CORPORAL TANNER's famous utterance, "God help the surplus now," has not yet begun to lose its usefulness.

LET US HOPE the Republican end of the better-bird will not go up so high as to make Speaker Reed dizzy.

GENTLEMEN, if you want a world's fair, come to Washington—if you want a circus, go to Chicago!

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SOCIETY.

The social honors of the fashionable world were divided last evening between the official and reception by Vice President and Mrs. Morton and the Charity Ball, given at the National Rifles' Arms Store, the benefit of the "Children's" Hospital.

The residence of the Vice President was taxed to its utmost capacity to accommodate the vast concourse of distinguished guests which thronged the brilliantly lighted, flower-bedecked rooms. The spacious hall, decorated with a few potted plants, the mantel on the west side banked with ferns overtopped by palms, with a cluster of St. Joseph lilies filling the fireplace, the mantel in the red parlor was similar, pink anemones taking the place of lilies. Vice President and Mrs. Morton were in the apartment to receive the guests in front of the deep alcove, which was transformed into a temporary conservatory. The gown worn by the hostess was an elegant one of ivory-white satin, low neck and short sleeves, with draperies of Venetian gold and diamant ornaments on the waist and corsage and in the hair. The attendants included Mrs. McKee and the guests of the host and hostess. Mrs. McKee wore a gown of black tulle, the neck and shoulders were transformed into a temporary conservatory. 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