

WASHINGTON CRITIC

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THE WASHINGTON CRITIC, Washington, D. C.

RICHARD H. SYLVESTER, - Editor. WASHINGTON, D. C., DEC. 9, 1885

MR. VANDERBILT'S DEATH.

The death of the richest man in the world naturally creates a more profound sensation than would the death of one man, or otherwise. The individual whose accumulations amount in value to two hundred millions of dollars, or more exercises an immediate power, which the wealthiest intellect is never conscious of possessing, and occupies an exalted position on the exchanges to which only his successful money-getting rivals and his heirs may aspire.

Mr. William H. Vanderbilt was a man of extraordinary business capacity. The start of a hundred millions, which his father left him, would have been glutted in a day, but this Mr. Vanderbilt strenuously denied. He was not of an aristocratic nature; whatever sympathies he had, were in the opposite direction.

The effect of his death may create a temporary uncertainty and depression in the stock market, but nothing more serious.

That portion of the President's message concerning the necessity for tariff revision ought to be satisfactory to all who favor a reduction of duties and the correction of existing inequalities in the tariff schedules. It is possibly too conservative to meet the approbation of those who urge sweeping and immediate reforms, but the ideas advanced have the advantage of being practicable and business-like.

"Like our currency laws," says Secretary Manning in his report, "our tariff laws are a legacy of the war." All changes have left unchanged, or changed for the worse by new schemes of classification and otherwise, a complicated, cumbersome, intricate group of laws, which are not capable of being administered with impartiality.

Reform, therefore, means something more than an indiscriminate razing of rates. Any reform, to be effective, must begin with simplifying and properly codifying the present system, in order that the superstructure which Congress shall deem expedient to erect, may have a solid foundation to rest on. The reforms that are needed, and they are many, both in the interest of importers and consumers, must be made gradually and with careful discrimination in favor of home interests. Any violent or abrupt legislation would be much worse than no act at all. Says Mr. Cleveland:

"The proposition with which we have to deal in the reduction of the revenue needs to be a government and industry paid by the people in proportion to the value of the goods they produce. It is not a question of revenue, but of a fair and equitable distribution of the burden of taxation. I think the reduction should be made in the revenue derived from the import duties, and not in the revenue derived from the excise duties, which are necessary to the support of the Government."

Mr. Caldwell, the distinguished English diplomatist, is coming to this country to make sketches of American life and character for the London "Graphic."

ANSELMO NELSON, who left a series of albums containing a copy of every photograph of her which had been published, "The Mothers" is sold to Mr. Stokes for \$10,000. Another Boucconneau, costing \$10,000, was bought recently by George H. Blanchard of the Erie Railway.

CONGRESSMAN STEPHENSON of Wisconsin made a fight for Senator Sawyer's seat. As both are millionaires the Legislature will be in a dilemma. (St. Louis Republican.)

Says the Baltimore American: "Senator Bowen of Colorado is evidently preparing for a gay winter in Washington. He has sold an interest in his famous Colorado mine for \$1,000,000."

HELP FOR YOUNG WOMEN. They do many practical and philanthropic things in New York after all. There has just been laid in that city the cornerstone of a new building which will be occupied by the Young Women's Christian Association.

The building will be five stories high and contain a large library and reading room, a parlor, an employment office and educational and industrial class rooms. With such facilities and proper management to provide for the building is a guarantee that this business-like sort of management will continue.

Practical work in helping young women to help themselves is not only the most important undertaking, but one of the most urgent necessities of the day. When, like the Stewart Hotel for young women, such enterprises fall into sentimental and transcendental ways they are sure to fail; but if conducted on a common-sense basis they are equally sure to succeed.

It appears that the New York Young Women's Christian Association has a record of twelve years of good work. Its objects—the moral, social and physical improvement of the poor and lowly young women of the metropolis—have been most successfully gained. It not only provides a temporary home safe from the contact of evil

associations or the reach of designing individuals, but it secures places for the deserving and instructs all who may wish to attend in rudimentary branches of education, one of the privileges which it extends, and by no means the least important, being free access to its excellent library.

All of the work of the Association has been done for \$91,000, and as Dr. Taylor, who delivered the address at the laying of the corner-stone of the new building, very truly said, it is difficult to comprehend how so much good has been accomplished with an expenditure so little money. It is also a gratifying fact that over one half the \$91,000 which the new building will cost has already been raised. And what has been done in New York through this noble benefaction is capable of being done elsewhere. The field is large and constantly growing larger. There should be a similar institution in every city of the land. If the conditions which necessitate the work cannot be entirely overcome, the enormous suffering they entail can at least be more and more mitigated.

MR. CHARLES P. BURTON of New York and General James B. Colt of Connecticut are good looking and estimable gentlemen and would no doubt fill the respective positions of Sergeant-at-Arms and doorkeeper of the House of Representatives with entire acceptability and rather more than average dignity. But their melancholy experience in the quest of votes for these positions must have convinced them by this time that the ins and outs—the wheels within wheels, as it were—of political life in Washington, like the heathen Chinese, are peculiar and full of perplexities to the uninitiated. Republiques are seldom ungrateful to men who know what wires to pull and how to pull them. Our friends, Burton and Colt, will see the point as their initiation proceeds.

The meetings of the American Public Health Association, now in progress in this city, are of universal interest. There is no subject in which the people are so greatly interested as that of sanitary science, and the country is to be congratulated upon the evident fact that the cause has fallen into such zealous and able hands.

IT WOULD BE DELIGHTFUL Mr. Pendleton to have been back in his old seat in the Senate yesterday and heard that portion of the President's message relating to Civil Service Reform. No wonder the ex-Senator from Ohio is homesick.

SENATOR CAMERON has introduced a resolution in the Senate to the effect that it is inexpedient to pass any tariff legislation of the present session. Congress, the Pennsylvania Idea seems to be that what is well enough for pig iron should be let alone.

TO OUR BROTHERS OF THE PRESS we extend condoleances. Mr. Vanderbilt, the richest man in the world, is dead. So go we.

NOTES AND GOSSIP. EDWIN BOOTH has never seen any one play Hamlet since, as a mere boy, he saw his father play.

THERE ARE REPORTS that Miss Ellen Terry's illness is really serious, and not a mere advertisement for her latest dramatic work. Her illness is really serious, and not a mere advertisement for her latest dramatic work.

HON. CARL SCHURZ will address the Boston Civil-Service Reform Association at its annual meeting on Friday evening next.

TERMINAL oysters and ducks were shipped last Saturday to Henry Irving and Mrs. Langtry by an admirer of both in New York.

REVEREND B. HAYES' Dakota farm was recently sold for \$23,000. He bought it in 1877 for \$9,000 in Northern Pacific Railroad bonds.

GENERAL THOMAS EWING, formerly of Ohio and Kansas, lives near Yorkville, all opposite Graystone, Mr. Tilden's residence.

THE MARY WALKER has been snow-balled by some little boys in Ontario, she plans for revenge, but the boys are runners.—(N. Y. Star.)

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