

ST. MARY'S BEACON

LEONARDTOWN, MD.

THURSDAY MORNING, December 11th, 1873.

Parliament's Message.—The message opens by a reference to the past year, especially the latter part of it as an eventful one—the financial crisis, the ceasing of political partisanship, especially in the agricultural sections, and the capture of the Virginia, in a curious jumble, in the same paragraph, and referred to as the cause of the eventful condition of things.

Our relations with foreign nations are said to be of a most cordial character. The Vienna Exposition is mentioned, and the fact that American exhibitors received a gratifying number of the awards made.

A commission to distribute the fifteen millions of the General award is recommended to be made, for direct losses suffered by Confederate cruisers, upon the basis adopted by that arbitration.

The northwest boundary between the United States and the British possessions is mentioned, with the exception of some 600 miles.

The mixed commission, under the treaty of Washington, has awarded British subjects the sum of \$1,929,819 in gold, and disallows some sixty-three millions. Congress is recommended to pay the award.

The difficulties in the way of American citizens expatriating themselves is referred to and the subject recommended to the consideration of Congress.

The recognition of the Spanish republic is referred to, and the acts of the new government in relieving many thousands of persons illegally held in bondage in Cuba, in depriving the Captain-General of that island of the power to set aside the orders of his superiors at Madrid, and the release from sequestration of American estates there, are mentioned as some of the beneficent effects of its existence.

The existence of slavery in Cuba, the President thinks, is the cause of all the trouble there. This has been upheld by a powerful party on the island which, though maintaining a political connection with the home government, is in factious opposition to it.

This is said by way of preface to the mention of the capture of the Virginia. By a protocol signed by the two governments this vessel is to be restored and satisfactory reparations made.

The San Domingo question is lightly touched upon, that republic having requested a protectorate to be established over it by the United States. The maturation of the idea is not very lucid. The panic, he thinks, is a step toward a specie basis, which is the only way to render the currency elastic, which is what is needed.

The message deals with other and minor matters, reference to which would scarcely interest our readers.

We learn that in the Commissioners Court on Tuesday last application was made on the part of the Southern Maryland railroad through its counsel, Hon. B. G. Harris, for the balance of the internal improvement fund coming to our county. The Court, however, adjourned action until Tuesday, the 23rd of December, instant, at which time it is understood the application will be renewed.

It is said that in the consistory to be held at Rome on the 22nd, eleven cardinals will be created.

In the Bassine Court-martial on Saturday M. Lechaud began the closing address for the defence.

The election of the Democratic candidate for Governor of Texas is claimed by nearly 30,000 majority.

Stables has resigned his post at Madrid.

REMOVAL.—Messrs. Frank X. Simms & Co., heretofore doing business at No. 7, Wood St., have removed to S. W. corner of Pratt and Light St., up stairs.

Why suffer with a bad cold if one bottle of Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup will cure a cough of the worst kind. Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup is sold for 25 cents per bottle, or five bottles for \$1.00, in every respectable drug store in the United States.

Peterson's Magazine for January is already out, and a magnificent number it is! The principal steel engraving, "Good Morning, Mama," is one of the most beautiful ever seen. It and its companion, "The Trailing Arbutus," which illustrates a story by Frank Lee Benedict, are alone worth the price of the number. The double size, colored, steel fashion plate is unrivaled, and will fascinate all the ladies. Then there is a large colored Berlin pattern, a really superb affair, and such as would suit, at a retail store, fifty cents. We do not exaggerate in saying that the January number is a perfect gem of love-liness. The stories are all unusually good, and the illustrations are all unusually good. The terms are two dollars a year, with great reductions to clubs, viz: 5 copies for \$8.00, or 2 copies for \$12.00, with both an extra copy and a superb premium engraving to the person getting up the club. Specimens are sent gratis to those wishing to get up clubs. Address Chas. J. Peterson, 506 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.

(Correspondence of the Beacon.)

Washington, Dec. 9, 1873.

The first Monday in December is to Washingtonians a real Thanksgiving day. To the politicians generally and to the lobbyist particularly it is the commencement of harvest. The fashionable world hails it as the opening of the season, and the merchant, baker and chandler makers eagerly anticipate their share of the spoils.

For days preceding the meeting of Congress the streets begin to wear a brighter look, the Avenue is more crowded; gaily dressed dames and maidens wander along, passing now and then to admire the display of rare gems in the windows of Gall's or Semkins jewelry store, or to admire some new dress just imported by William or Lockwood and Haffy for the wife or daughter of a new member, who to be obliging allows it to serve as an advertisement for that dear obliging Mr. William, while he all the while is laughing at their simplicity.

On Monday the forty-third Congress met, and of course the "White Palace on the Hill" was the point towards which the crowd tended. Having some expectations of the new Congress, we went to the ladies gallery shortly after ten, and watched the law-makers, old and new, as they entered. First on the floor was Dawes, called the watch dog of the Treasury. Then Garfield's familiar face and head presented themselves. Poland in a blue coat away with brass buttons. Wilson with his scrubbing brush head. Butler, Ben, rolled in and took his old seat, as did most of the old members. Farnsworth, Yerkens, Banks, Biggs, the mighty Du Bois and many other familiar faces are among the missing—killed by Credit Mobilier and too much salary allowance. Du Bois who retired to give place to the now mightiest subject of the House, the Vice-President of the Confederacy, Alexander Stephens. Soon the floor of the House is crowded, and among the sea of faces I recognize Speaker Blaine, S. S. Cox, Fernando Wood, Gov. Swann, Randall, of Penn., and a host of lesser lights. A few minutes after eleven there is a hush, a silence falls on that dense crowd. The occupants of the galleries bend forward to see—what? A poor, weak, emaciated old man enters the room by the help of crutches and the arm of his secretary, by whom he is conducted to a lounge, around which soon crowd the Southern and Democratic members to welcome their leader, the Hon. Alex. Stephens, of Georgia. After resting a few minutes Mr. Stephens left the House for the Speaker's room, there to await the opening of the session at twelve o'clock. A few minutes before noon he re-entered the House, and in the presence of youth and old age, and a noble picture of a statesman, who had slighted with devotion to his bride or bent more proudly over the chair and obeyed the slightest wish of the statesman, who had selected a seat in the front row directly in front of the Speaker. Precisely at noon the Clerk called the 43rd Congress to order and read a list of its members, excepting some whose elections are contested. After a few preliminaries the House proceeded to elect a Speaker. Maynard re-nominated Blaine, and Niblack Wood. Of course Blaine was elected, and having been conducted to his seat by Wood and Maynard was sworn in by Dawes. The Speakers "thanksgiving" speech was a perfect gem of its kind, and a step to a still higher office I hope. The Speaker then proceeded to swear in the members by sections, the New Englanders swearing first. When he got further South he asked those who wished to take the modified oath to retain their seats, and come forward after the iron clad oath had been administered to all those who wished to take it. Among those who retained their seats was Mr. Stephens and some twenty or thirty more ex "Rebs." There was no hesitation on their part, however, for they bore themselves quite proudly and looked as well as Stewart the recalcitrant did when he defied the House. Gen's Young and Waddell supported their ex-Vice President, whose voice is still strong and clear. When the territorial delegates were to be sworn in some good soul from New York objected to Elder Cannon, of Utah, on account of his manners, morals and customs, but his objections were over ruled and the man with seven wives took the oath to his own and to his friends satisfaction.

The next thing on the programme was drawing for seats, but before they commenced Mr. Stephens retired, not, however, until he had been warmly welcomed back to the Hall of Congress by all the leading men of the Republican party. As soon as the order for drawing seats was made some one proposed that Mr. Dawes as the member of longest standing be allowed to retain his seat. This was done, and Platt, from Virginia, though a Republican, proposed that "on account of past services to his country and present ill-health the Hon. Alexander Stephens, of Georgia, be allowed to retain the seat he had selected and a page be put in it until the seats were drawn." To this there was not one dissenting voice, though when some one proposed the Sergeant at Arms drawing for absent members it was refused. The names of the members were

then placed in a box and a pair of little paper balls were made to draw them. The members had the best selection in their names and that, and as the present Congress were called they clustered as near as possible to the chair reserved for Mr. Stephens. Not until all the best seats on the Republican side were occupied were the names of Maynard and Butler called, and great and loud was the merriment when they took front seats on the Democratic side of the House. As the drawing was not over before three the House adjourned without receiving the President's message. This and the fact that the members will give you another letter from "SCRIBITTELE."

The American Farmer for Decr. closes the year with a number of great value and interest. This old journal while maintaining its old character keeps abreast of the age in everything connected with the improvement of our agriculture. Its contents are varied and accessible, and deserve the attention of our farmer. The publishers promise some additional attractions for the new year, and offer the subscribers whose names are received this month.

Published by Saml. Sands & Son, Baltimore, Md., at \$1.50 a year, or at \$1 in clubs of five or more. Specimen not sent free.

POMEROY'S DEMOCRAT.—Among the many journals that are now published, we know of none more acceptable to the household and fireside than Pomero's Democrat. As a vehicle of news, it is always filled. During the eventful year of 1874, the Democrat will be the best paper in the country for the farmer and the laboring man. It will be the wisest, boldest, newest, and most complete in every department. While the price of the subscription has been reduced to \$2, the excellent features of the paper have not only been fully maintained, but in many respects greatly improved, and its promise for the future was never better.

Tax Times.—The circumstances of the times, which prudent, foreseeing men have been anticipating would sooner or later come to pass, from the wanton extravagance in which we have all been engaged, call for a "new departure," which need now for force, be adopted. The Wise Man says, "A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself; but the simple pass on and are punished." A contemporary speaks the sober truth, upon the subject, in the following few words: "The man of fortune, who is known as our well-to-do people are, in nine out of ten cases, living in great extravagance, that is, far more in houses, furniture, equipage, travel, etc., than their incomes warrant, and so steadily exhausting their resources and crippling their business. What is true of the merchant, is true of the man of moderate means, the small store-keeper, the clerk, the teacher, the artisan—all are living in comparative extravagance, and nearly all spending everything they make—and so they are on the strain and rack all the while, and all the while in danger of disaster. It is impossible for such a state of things to remain permanent. The time is not far distant when the fruit of all this must come, and the merchant and the man of moderate means, and the man of limited means, the small store-keeper, the clerk, the teacher, the artisan—all are living in comparative extravagance, and nearly all spending everything they make—and so they are on the strain and rack all the while, and all the while in danger of disaster. It is impossible for such a state of things to remain permanent. 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