

Watauga Democrat.

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WASHINGTON LETTER.

From our Regular Correspondent.

There is no denying that the present policy of the administration is aggravating and galling to the average American, regardless of his political affiliation. It is difficult to understand, when Spain is moving heaven and earth to borrow money and to buy warships to fight us, why we should not be openly preparing for war by having Congress appropriate the money needed to buy additional warships and to put us on a war footing generally, instead of pretending that the preparations for war which the administration is making, not only to the extent of available appropriations but in anticipation of appropriations, are merely routine proceedings. We are not fooling Spain, and it seems nonsensical trying to fool ourselves. Mr. McKinley knows just as everybody else knows, that there isn't one chance in ten that war will be avoided. He knows that the acceptance of blood money from Spain will not be countenanced, and that a peace at any price policy would have no supporters outside of Wall street and its connections. Knowing these things it is his duty to ask Congress to make the necessary appropriations to put the country in a proper condition of defense and to enable it to give Spain the thrashing it has been itching for during the last year or two. It is no valid excuse to claim that doing so would be a reflection upon the Naval Court of Inquiry. If so, Spain has been casting reflections upon that Court quite numerously during the last few days. But, as a matter of fact, would it be any more reflection to openly ask for the money from Congress to make proper and needed preparation for war, than it is to be secretly making conditional contracts for the same thing, in anticipation of appropriations that Congress has not even yet been asked to make? There is probably not a man in Congress who would ask that a gun be fired in advance of the verdict of the Court of Inquiry, but inasmuch as everybody now thinks that that verdict will show that the destruction of the Maine was not an accident, that there is little doubt that a majority of Congress would like to see the administration openly making ready to fight after that verdict is rendered.

Few men in Congress are willing to believe the rumors connecting Mr. McKinley's name with the scheme to buy Cuba from Spain. Some of his advisers may be in the scheme, but Mr. McKinley ought to know the people of this country well enough to know that they would bury every man out of sight, politically speaking, who dare to support the necessary legislation to make this country guarantee the payment of

Cuban bonds which would go to the present holders of Spanish bonds. If this scheme is seriously pushed, it will soon be discovered that the universal sentiment of our people is, millions for the preservation of our national honor, but not one cent for Spanish bond-holders.

It appears that the friends of Hawaiian annexation are afraid to try to secure annexation by a joint resolution, owing to threats of the opposition to keep Congress in session all summer, if they do. At a secret meeting of the Senate committee on foreign relations it was decided to make another attempt to ratify the treaty. If that fails, as it is expected to do, the whole matter may be dropped until the next session of Congress.

Czar Reed's latest ruling, that democrats shall not when the House is sitting as a Committee of the Whole criticize the administration, the republican party, or any individual republican, is another step towards the absolute throttling of free speech in the House, and is just as outrageous as any of those in the same direction which have preceded it. From the birth of Congress the custom has been to allow the very widest latitude to members who made speeches while the House was sitting as the committee of the whole, but this new autocratic mumbo jambo says that no democrat will be allowed to make a political speech, except when the bill under consideration is purely political. This muzzling rule would be outrageous even if it were made to apply impartially to all members of the House, but when applied, as it has been, closely to anti-republican members it is more than outrageous, it is depriving the representatives of the people of their constitutional right to be heard at all times.

The United States reward has been increased to \$1,500 for the arrest of any person or persons who were connected with the killing of the negro postmaster at Lake City, S. C., and his child, and a number of Government detectives have been put on the case. The members of the South Carolina delegation in Congress all say that the State authorities are also trying hard to run down and punish the perpetrators of this barbarous crime.

Marion Messenger: C. M. Corpening left for the Klondike region on Tuesday. He goes to southwestern Alaska and thence up to the Copper river some three or four hundred miles. Mr. Corpening is well prepared for such a trip, having taken a three years' cruise to the South Seas while in the navy. He was educated at the Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md., and is an expert electrical, mechanical and mining engineer.

Educate Your Bowels With Cascarets. Candy Cathartic, cure constipation forever. 50c, 25c. If C. C. C. fail, druggists refund money.

The Mothers of the President.

Dr. Talcott Williams, of Philadelphia, has made an interesting summary of the lives of the mothers of our Presidents.

Eleven of them, or nearly half the number, were in easy circumstances, belonging to families of education and gentle breeding; the other half of the number struggled with poverty and hardships more or less severe. The lives barest of comfort or softness were probably those of Jackson's and Lincoln's mothers, who were pioneers in the West, and literally struggled for the necessities of life.

Some of these women were unlettered, and perhaps narrow and bigoted. Some were of the fairest fruit of civilization. But Dr. Williams calls attention to the momentous fact that all, without exception, were godly and devout women.

"No American," he says "has become President without the memory of the prayer he lisped at his mother's knee. Not a President but has left somewhere on record his testimony to the training and religious influence of a Christian mother."

He notes also the significant fact that all the Presidents of the United States have avowedly owed more to the influence of their mothers upon their lives than to that of their fathers. More than half, indeed, were left fatherless in boyhood.

The conclusion to be drawn from these significant resemblances in the lives of the Presidents is that the qualities given to a man by the love and daily training of a sincere, God-fearing mother are those which command the trust of other men. The nation has not, perhaps, chosen its most brilliant or possibly its most able men to be its chief rulers. But it has never chosen a man, from Washington to McKinley, whom the majority of the people did not believe to be honest in character.

The "higher education" which the mothers of our Presidents are receiving today will enable them to give their children a broad culture along lines of mental acquirement, of which Mary Washington and Nancy Lincoln never heard or dreamed. But let them not ignore the honesty and simple religious faith which these women gave to their sons, and by which they were made steadfast in principle, and held the confidence of the country in its hours of dire need.—Youth's Companion.

The State penitentiary will be made a federal prison and all the convicts from the Southern States sentenced by United States courts will be confined here. New cells will be put in for the accommodation of the Federal prisoners. One half of the building is unoccupied at present and the new cells will be put in that division for the use of the government convicts.—Caucasian.

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"One Shall be Taken the Other Left."

Communicated. Ministers of the gospel who are laboring for the up-building of the church of God, and carrying the glad tidings of salvation to lost souls should by all means, receive kind treatment and the approbation of all. But sometimes the wild, deceptive influence of bad women allures the preacher and he falls from Zion's height with a resounding crash of shame and woe.

A Baptist minister some time ago went to Stony Fork N. C., to visit his son, and, no doubt, he received kind attention. When he went to leave he only offered free salvation to his daughter-in-law and left his son to "work out his own salvation with fear and trembling," and they eloped to some other country.

I wonder if this preacher will claim to be an evangelist and this woman a co-worker in the act of evangelization? When they return to Watauga again will the people go to church again and hear the blind bat lecture on optics, or the buzzard coming up from the carcass denouncing carrion?

Can fornication and holiness enter the same gate? Does this preacher believe he can embrace the gospel, or reject it; practice religion or despise it; walk with God or blaspheme His name—it will be equally well with him in the future world. If he does, let him read Ezekiel, 5—11: "Woe before as I live sayeth the Lord God; surely because thou hast defiled my sanctuary with all thy detestable things, and with all thine abominations, therefore will I also diminish thee; neither shall mine eye spare, neither will I have any pity." See Proverbs, 1—26: "I also will laugh at your calamity, I will mock when your fear cometh."

I presume That Preacher Blumb! Has given the people room To call this his final doom. —Z. T. WATSON. Rutherford, N. C.

The dead Indian doctor and the poor little Red Riding Hood that accompanied him in his wanderings under Table Rock have reached the yellow journals, and there is no telling the mischief done this county in the minds of ignorant people, who devour the garbage dished out daily by those miscalled newspapers. There was just enough truth in the tale to hang a lie to that would stick. Well informed men from that section tell us that the hope of the originators was to make some political capital at the expense of certain sturdy young democrats of the township.—Farmers' Friend.

Recorder: The leading negro organ in North Carolina, the Gazette, is extinct, having suspended. Let its successor strive less to play the demagogue, to misguide the people and get office for the editor, and it may succeed. The Gazette did the negroes more harm than good.

McKinley's Plan to Free Cuba.

A Washington Special dated the 1st inst. says:

Now that the administration has apparently accepted the view that the Maine was blown up by accident, McKinley has taken up the Cuban question and will press his plan for a settlement with vigor, if the board of inquiry reports that the Maine blew up from the inside. The plan is now for springing McKinley's scheme for the freedom of Cuba almost immediately following the report of the board. Direct intervention is scarcely to be thought of, but the proposition will be to purchase Cuban freedom by having the United States guarantee bonds that will be issued in payment of the purchase price.

John J. McCook, the New York financier, is now here, looking after the financial end of the scheme. He declares that it would be no trouble worth speaking of to put the bonds on the market.

There is every reason to believe that the Sagasta ministry has been approached on the subject. The president is said to have unofficial information that the proposition is not without the possibility of acceptance.—Mercury.

The following statistics relate to public school education in North Carolina for 1897: Total assessed value of white property, \$211,301,837, colored, \$7,350,064; white polls, 197,477, colored 66,674; insolvent white polls 14,430, colored 11,752; amount paid white teachers \$451,474, colored \$227,321; paid for white school sites \$30,363, colored \$16,534; total disbursements for school purposes \$831,380, balance on hand \$187,269; State and county poll tax \$305,647; general property tax \$416,183; special property tax under local acts \$13,167; fines and forfeitures \$13,722; liquor licenses \$65,998.

The Chronicle says Lewis Johnson, colored, who was charged with the larceny of some wheat from Col. W. H. H. Cowles, escaped Sunday from Wilkes county jail by prizing off a window sill, removing some brick and then jumping to the ground—a distance of 25 feet. The Chronicle says he struck on his head when he jumped and consequently unhurt.

Numerous witnesses have been summoned from North Carolina to testify before the Senate judiciary committee with reference to the charges against Judge Ewart and the hearing is not yet ended. Governor Russell is one of the witnesses against Ewart and there are numerous other prominent men. Senator Butler is examining the witnesses before the committee and prosecuting the charges against Ewart, while Senator Pritchard appears in the latter's behalf.—Landmark.

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