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THE LITTLE HORN MASSACRE

TERRY'S REPORT RECEIVED.

FORMER ACCOUNTS CONFIRMED—TROOPS MOVING TO THE FRONTIER—THE RAISING OF VOLUNTEERS.

Gen. Terry, in command of the Department of Dakota, has made a report to Gen. Sheridan of the late engagement of Gen. Custer with Sioux Indians. He places the number of the killed, including the officers, at 250, with 51 wounded. The report, however, goes little further than to confirm former details of the fight. The Secretary of War has written a letter to the President, in which a history of the Sioux tribe is given with some facts, respecting their probable number and suggestions that have been made as to the best mode of dealing with them. Gen. Sheridan has telegraphed Gen. Sherman that he thinks it unnecessary to ask for volunteer cavalry. Meanwhile Government troops have been sent to the frontier, and efforts are making in Washington to secure the passage of the bill relative to the raising of volunteers. Gen. Joseph H. Shelby, late of the Confederate army, has telegraphed to the President his desire to raise a regiment in Missouri to "avenge" the death of Gen. Custer.

TERRY'S OFFICIAL REPORT.

CUSTER'S TRAIL AND THE EVIDENCE OF A BRAVE FIGHT.

CHICAGO, July 9.—The following is Gen. Terry's official report of Gen. Custer's engagement with the Indians, received at the headquarters of Gen. Sheridan:

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF DAKOTA, CAMP ON LITTLE BIG HORN RIVER, June 27.

To the Adjutant-General of the Military Division of the Missouri at Chicago, Ill.:

It is my painful duty to report that day before yesterday, the 25th inst., a great disaster overtook Gen. Custer and the troops under his command. At 12 o'clock on the 22d he started with his whole regiment and a strong detachment of scouts and guards from the mouth of the Rosebud. Proceeding up that river about twenty miles he struck a very heavy Indian trail which had previously been discovered, and pursuing found that it led as was supposed to the Little Big Horn River. Here he found a village of almost unexampled extent, and at once attacked it with that portion of his force which was immediately at hand. Major Reno, with three companies, A, G, and M, of the regiment was sent into the valley of the stream at the point where the trail struck it. Gen. Custer, with five companies, C, E, F, I, and L, attempted to enter it about three miles lower down. Reno forded the river, charged down its left bank, and dismounted and fought on foot until finally, completely overwhelmed by numbers, he was compelled to mount, recross the river, and seek a refuge on the high bluffs which overlooked its right bank. Just as he recrossed, Capt. Benteen—who, with three companies, D, H, and K, was some two miles to the left of Reno when the action commenced, but who had been ordered by Gen. Custer to return—came to the river, and rightly concluding that it would be useless for his force to attempt to renew the fight in the valley, he joined Reno on the Bluffs. Capt. McDougall, with his company (B) was at first at some distance in the rear with a train of pack-mules. He also came to Reno soon. This united force was nearly surrounded by Indians, many of whom, armed with rifles, occupied positions which commanded the ground held by the cavalry—ground from which there was no escape. Rifle-pits were dug and the fight was maintained, though with heavy loss, from about half-past 2 o'clock of the 25th till 6 o'clock of the 26th, when the Indians withdrew from the valley, taking with them their village.

Of the movements of Gen. Custer and the five companies under his immediate command scarcely anything is known from those who witnessed them, for no soldier or officer who accompanied him has yet been found alive. His trail from the point where Reno crossed the stream passes along and in the rear of the crest of the bluffs on the right bank for nearly or quite three miles; then it comes down to the bank of the river, but at once diverges from it, as if he had unsuccessfully attempted to cross; then turns upon itself, almost completes a circle, and closes. It is marked by the remains of his officers and men, the bodies of his horses, some of them dropped along the path, others heaped where halts appear to have been made. There is abundant evidence that a gallant resistance was offered by the troops, but they were beset on all sides by overpowering numbers.

The officers known to be killed are: Gen. Custer, Capts. Keogh, Yates and Custer; Lieuts. Cooke, Smith, McIntosh, Calhoun, Porter, Hodgson, Sturgis, and Reilley of the cavalry; Lieut. Crittenden of the 20th Infantry, and Acting Assistant Surgeon DeWolf. Lieut. Harrington of the cavalry, and Assistant Surgeon Lord are missing. Capt. Benteen and Lieut. Varnum of the cavalry are slightly wounded. Mr. Boston Custer, a brother, and Mr. Reed, a nephew of Gen. Custer, were with him and were killed. No other officers than those whom I have named are among the killed, wounded, and missing. It is impossible yet to obtain a reliable list of the enlisted men who were killed and wounded, but the number of killed, including officers, must reach 250. The number of wounded is 51.

At the mouth of the Rosebud I informed Gen. Custer that I should take supply steamer Far West up the Yellowstone to ferry Gen. Gibbon's column over the river; that I should personally accompany that column, and that I would in all probability reach the mouth of the Little Big Horn on the 26th inst. The steamer reached Gen. Gibbon's troops, near the mouth of the Big Horn, early in the morning of the 24th, and at 4 o'clock in the afternoon all his men and animals were across the Yellowstone. At 5 o'clock the column, consisting of five companies of the 7th Infantry, four companies of the 2d Cavalry, and a battery of Gatling guns, marched out to and across Tullock's Creek, starting soon after 5 o'clock on the morning of the 25th. The infantry made a march of 22 miles over the most difficult country which I have ever seen, in order that scouts might be sent into the valley of the Little Big Horn. The cavalry with the battery was then pushed on 13 or 14 miles further, reaching camp at midnight. The scouts were sent out at 4:30 on the morning of the 26th. The scouts discovered the Indians, who were at first supposed to be Sioux, but whenever taken they proved to be Crows, who had been with Gen. Custer. They brought the first intelligence of the battle. Their story was not credited. It was supposed that some fighting, perhaps severe fighting, had taken place, but it was not believed that disaster could have overtaken so large a force as 12 companies of cavalry. The infantry which had broken camp very early soon came up, and the whole column entered and moved up the valley of the Little Big Horn. During the afternoon efforts were made to send scouts through to what was supposed to be Gen. Custer's position, and to obtain information of the condition of affairs, but those who were sent out were driven back by parties of Indians, who, in increasing numbers, were seen hovering in Gen. Gibbon's front.

At 20 minutes before 9 o'clock in the evening the infantry had marched between 29 and 30 miles. The men were very weary and daylight was fading. The column was therefore halted for the night at a point about 11 miles in a straight line above the stream. This morning the movement was resumed, and after a march of nine miles, Major Reno's intrenched position was reached. The withdrawal of the Indians from around Reno's command and from the valley was undoubtedly caused by the appearance of Gen. Gibbon's troops. Major Reno and Capt. Benteen, both of whom are officers of great experience, accustomed to see large masses of mounted men, estimate the number of Indians engaged at not less than 2,500. Other officers think that the number was greater than this. The village in the valley was about three miles in length and about a mile in width. Beside the lodges proper, a great number of temporary brushwood shelters were found in it, indicating that many men beside its proper inhabitants had gathered together there. Major Reno is very confident that there were a number of white men fighting with the Indians. It is believed that the loss of the Indians was large. I have yet received no official reports in regard to the battle, but what is here stated is gathered from the officers who were on the ground then, and from those who have been over it since.

ALFRED H. TERRY, Brig.-Gen.

THE RE-ENFORCEMETS.

ADVANCE OF THE FIFTH CAVALRY TO THE RELIEF OF GEN. CROOK.

[FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

CAMP ON THE CHEYENNE RIVER, W. T., June 25.—The column of troops under Lieut.-Col. E. A. Carr, 5th Cavalry, consisting of eight companies of that regiment, which left Fort Laramie on June 22, reached this camp to-day. Here it is ordered to await the arrival of Col. Wesley Merritt, who has been promoted to the command of this regiment, vice Emory, retired by special act of Congress. Col. Merritt's war record is closely connected with the most brilliant operations of Gen. Sheridan, for whom he has acted as chief of cavalry during the past two years. He will arrive here probably to-morrow, and assume command of the regiment and of the operations of this column against the hostile Sioux. In the mean time the troops have not been idly marching to this rendezvous.

Capt. Wilson was sent forward from Fort Laramie to report upon the practicability for trains of the road down Old Woman's Fork. From the head of this stream Major Stanton was sent with one company under Lieuts. Keyes and King, to reconnoiter the valleys of the Cheyenne and Mini Pusa, and report anything that might be of interest in that region. From the mouth of Old Woman's Fork, Capts. Kellogg, Hayes, Mason and Leib were sent down the Cheyenne River toward the Black Hills and Custer City road, and all the companies have been actively engaged in reconnoitering this gap, through which it was thought the Northern Indians, if they undertook to escape from Gen. Crook and Gen. Terry, might pass toward Red Cloud Agency. Nothing has been discovered so far except numerous trails from that Agency of war parties going out to join the northern hostiles, fully corroborating the prediction of Gen. Crook before he started upon his present expedition, that Sitting Bull would be re-enforced from the agencies.

One company under Capt. Wilson leaves here to-day with Major Stanton and Lieut. Charles King to reconnoiter the country as far as the north fork of the Mini Pusa, and report upon the practicability of that route for the column in case it is ordered to proceed northward to join Gen. Crook. Water is extremely scarce in these streams, and of execrable quality. Wherever the command halts long enough, holes are dug in the beds of the streams to obtain water fit to drink, but even this is strongly impregnated with alkali, possessing only greater coolness to recommend it above surface water. The grass at this season is good, but interminable beds of cactus seem to swallow up the pasture lands, rendering a large tract of country necessary for grazing a herd of cattle of any size. The command is anxiously awaiting orders to push forward and cooperate with Gen. Crook, or to make any other movement that will give it an opportunity to take part in the campaign.

HISTORY OF THE SIOUX NATION.

LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT FROM THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

WASHINGTON, July 9.—The Secretary of War to-day addressed the following letter to the President:

WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C., July 8, 1876.

To the President: To enable you to answer the inclosed resolution of the Senate of July 7, I have the honor to submit the following brief statement of facts as exhibited by the records of this Department. The Sioux or Dakota nation of Indians (embracing various tribes, Yanktons, Yanktonais, Brules, Ogalalas, Minneconjous, Sans-Arcs, Two Kettles, &c.) have long been known as the most brave and warlike savages of this continent. They have for centuries been pushed westward by the advancing tide of civilization, till in 1868 an arrangement or treaty was made with them by a special commission named by Congress whereby for certain payment or stipulations they agreed to surrender their claims to all that vast region which lays west of the Missouri River and north of the Platte, to live at peace with their neighbors, to restrict themselves to a territory bounded east by the Missouri River, south by Nebraska, west by the 104th meridian, and north by the 46th parallel of latitude, a territory as large as the State of Michigan. The terms of this treaty have been liberally performed on the part of the United States, and has also been complied with by the great mass of the Sioux Indians. Some of these Indians, however, have never recognized the binding force of this treaty, but have always treated it with contempt, have continued to rove at pleasure, attacking scattered settlements in Nebraska, Wyoming, Montana, and Dakota, stealing horses and cattle, and murdering peaceful inhabitants and travelers.

On the 9th of November, 1875, United States Indian Inspector E. C. Watkins made an elaborate report to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, in which he uses this language:

I have the honor to address you in relation to the attitude and condition of certain wild and hostile bands of Sioux Indians in Dakota and Montana, that came under my observation during my recent tour through their country, and what I think should be the policy of the Government toward them. I refer to Sitting Bill's band and other bands of the Sioux nation under chiefs or head men of less note, but no less untamable and hostile. These Indians occupy the center, so to speak, and roam over Western Dakota and Eastern Montana, including the rich valleys of the Yellowstone and Powder Rivers, and make war on the Mandans, Gros Ventres, Arikaras, Assiniboines, Blackfeet, Piegans, Crows, and other friendly tribes on the circumference. From their central position they strike to the east, north, and west, steal horses and plunder from all the surrounding tribes, as well as frontier settlers and reckless white hunters or emigrants who are not in sufficient force to resist them.

After describing at great length their character and supposed number, given at a few hundred, he says:

The true policy in my judgment is to send troops against them in Winter, the sooner the better, and whip them into subjection. They richly merit punishment for their incessant warfare and their numerous murders of white settlers and their families, or white men whenever found unarmed.

The force estimated as necessary to whip them was 1,000 men. This communication was submitted by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, the Hon. Edward P. Smith, to the honorable Secretary of the Interior, B. Chandler, who in turn submitted it to the Secretary of War, Gen. Belknap, for his consideration and action. In a subsequent communication of the Secretary of the Interior of Dec. 3, 1875, to the Secretary of War, occurs this language:

I have the honor to inform you that I have this day directed the Commissioner of Indian Affairs to notify said Indians (Sitting Bull and others outside their reservations) that they must remove to the reservation before Jan. 31, 1876; that if they neglected or refused so to move, that they will be reported to the War Department as hostile Indians, and that a military force will be sent to compel them to obey the order of the Indian officer. On the first day of February the Secretary of the Interior further notified the Secretary of War: The time given him (Sitting Bull) in which to return to an agency having expired, and advices received at the Indian Office being to the effect that Sitting Bull still refuses to comply with the directions of the Commissioner, the said Indians are hereby turned over to the War Department for such action on the part of the army as you may deem proper under the circumstances.

During all the stages of this correspondence, the General of the Army and his subordinate commanders were duly notified, and were making preparations for striking a blow at these hostile savages, an enterprise of almost unsurmountable difficulty in a country where in Winter the thermometer often falls to forty degrees below zero, and when it is impossible to procure food for man or beast. An expedition was fitted out under the personal command of Brig.-Gen. George Crook, an officer of great merit and experience, which, in March last, marched from Forts Fetterman and Laramie to Powder River and Yellowstone Valleys, and struck and destroyed the village of Crazy Horse, one of the hostile bands referred to by Indian Inspector Watkins; but the weather was found so bitter cold, and other difficulties so great arose that Gen. Crook returned to Fort Laramie in a measure unsuccessful, so far as his main purpose was concerned.

These Indians occupy parts of the Departments of Dakota and Platte, commanded by Gens. Terry and Crook respectively, but the whole is immediately commanded by Lieut.-Gen. Sheridan, who has given this matter his special attention. Preparations were then made on a larger scale, and the columns were put in motion as early in May as possible from Fort Abraham Lincoln, on the Missouri River, under Gen. Terry; from Fort Ellis, in Montana, under Gen. Gibbon, and from Fort Fetterman, under Gen. Crook. These columns were as strong as could be maintained in that inhospitable region, or that could be spared from other pressing necessities, and these operations are not yet concluded, nor is a more detailed report deemed necessary to explain the subject matter of this inquiry. The present military operations are not against the Sioux nation at all, but against certain hostile parts of it which defy the Government, and are undertaken at the special request of the Bureau of the Government charged with their supervision, and wholly to make the civilization of the remainder possible. No part of these operations are on or near the Sioux reservation.

The accidental discovery of gold on the western border of the Sioux reservation, and the intrusion of our people thereon, have not caused this war, and have only complicated it by the uncertainty of numbers to be encountered. The young warriors love war, and frequently escape their agents and go to the hunt or war-path—their only idea of the object of life. The object of these military expeditions was in the interest of the peaceful parts of the Sioux nation supposed to embrace at least nine-tenths of the whole, and not one of these peaceful treaty Indians has been molested by the military authorities. The recent reports touching the disaster which befell a part of the 7th Regular Cavalry, led by Gen. Custer in person, are believed to be true. For some reason, as yet unexplained, Gen. Custer, who commanded the 7th Cavalry, and had been detached by his commander, Gen. Terry, at the mouth of the Rosebud, to make a wide detour up the Rosebud, a tributary to the Yellowstone, across to the Little Horn, and down it to the mouth of the Big Horn, the place agreed on for meeting, attacked, en route, a large Indian village with only a part of his force, having himself detached the rest with a view to intercept the expected retreat of the Indians, and experienced an utter annihilation of his immediate command. The forces of Gens. Terry and Gibbon reached the field of battle the next day; rescued 52 wounded men and buried 261 dead, including Lieut. Col. George A. Custer, Capts. Custer, Keogh, and Yates, and Lieuts. Cook, Smith, McIntosh, Calhoun, Hodgson, Reilly, Porter, and Sturgis, all of the 7th Cavalry, and Lieut. Crittenden of the 20th Infantry. Lieut. Harrington, Assistant Surgeon Lord, and Acting Assistant Surgeon De Wolf are missing. The wounded were carried back to the mouth of the Big Horn in the Yellowstone, which is navigable, and where there were two steamboats, one of which was sent down the river to Fort Abraham Lincoln, with the wounded, and to communicate the sad facts. Gen. Terry is, therefore, at the mouth of the Big Horn, refitting, and will promptly receive reinforcements and supplies, and resume his operations immediately.

In the mean time Gen. Crook had also advanced from Fort Fetterman, and on the 17th of June, eight days before Gen. Custer's attack, had encountered this same force of warriors on the head of the Rosebud, with whom he fought several hours, driving the Indians from the field, losing nine men killed, one officer and twenty men wounded. Gen. Crook reports his camp as on Tongue River, Wyoming. Reinforcements and supplies are also en route to him, and every possible means has been adopted to accomplish a concert of action between these two forces, which are necessarily separated, and are only able to communicate by immense distances around by their rear. The task committed to the military authorities is one of unusual difficulty, has been anticipated for years, and must be met and accomplished. It can no longer be delayed, and everything will be done by the department to insure success, which is necessary to give even an assurance of comparative safety to the important but scattered interests which have grown up in the remote and almost inaccessible portion of our national domains. It is again earnestly recommended that the appropriation asked for repeatedly by Gen. Sheridan of $200,000 be made to build two posts on the Yellowstone at or near the mouth of the Big Horn and Tongue Rivers. Inclosed herewith please find copies of Gen. Terry's report, just received by telegraph since the preparation of this letter. Your obedient servant,

J. D. CAMERON, Secretary of War.

REMINISCENCES OF GEN. CUSTER.

A BORN CAVALRYMAN—COURAGE AND ENDURANCE—LOVE OF DISPLAY—HIS WEDDING.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: I accompanied Gen. Custer on the Yellowstone and Black Hills expedition. He was a born cavalryman. He was never more in his element than when mounted on Dandy, his favorite horse, and riding at the head of his regiment. He once said to me, "I would rather be a private in the cavalry than a line officer in the infantry." He was the personification of bravery and dash. His most bitter enemies never accused him of cowardice. If he had only added discretion to his valor he would have been a perfect soldier. His impetuosity very often ran away with his judgment. He was impatient of control. He liked to act independently of others and take all the risk and all the glory to himself. He frequently got himself into trouble by assuming more authority than really belonged to his rank. It was so on the Yellowstone expedition, where he came into collision with Gen. Stanley, his superior officer, and was placed under arrest and compelled to ride at the rear of his column for two or three days, until Gen. Rosser, who fought against Custer in the Shenandoah Valley during the war, but was then acting as engineer of the Northern Pacific Railroad, succeeded in effecting a reconciliation. Custer and Stanley afterward got on very well, and perhaps the quarrel would never have occurred if the two generals had been left alone to themselves without the intervention of camp gossips, who sought to foster the traditional jealousy between infantry and cavalry. For Stanley was the soul of generosity, and Custer did not really mean to be arrogant; but from the time when he entered West Point to the day when he fell on the Big Horn, he was accustomed to take just as much liberty as he was entitled to.

For this reason, Custer worked most easily and effectively when under general orders, when not hampered by special restrictions, or his success made dependent on anybody else. Gen. Terry understood his man when, in the order directing him to march up the Rosebud, he very liberally said: "The Department Commander places too much confidence in your zeal, energy, and ability to wish to impose upon you precise orders which might hamper your action when nearly in contact with the enemy." But Gen. Terry did not understand Custer if he thought he would wait for Gibbon's support before attacking an Indian camp. Undoubtedly he ought to have done this; but with his native impetuosity, his reckless daring, his confidence in his own regiment, which had never failed him, and his love of public approval, Custer could no more help charging this Indian camp than he could help charging just so many buffaloes. He had never learned to spell the word "defeat;" he knew nothing but success, and if he had met the Indians on the open plain, success would undoubtedly have been his; for no body of Indians could stand the charge of the 7th Cavalry when it swept over the plains like a whirlwind. But in the Mauvaises Terres and the Narrow Valley of the Big Horn he did it at a fearful risk.

With all his bravery and self-reliance, his love of independent action, Custer was more dependent than most men on the kind approval of his fellows. He was even vain; he loved display in dress and in action. He would pay $40 for a pair of troop boots to wear on parade, and have everything else in keeping. On the Yellowstone expedition he wore a bright red shirt, which made him the best mark for a rifle of any man in the regiment. I remonstrated with him for this reckless exposure, but found an appeal to his wife more effectual, and on the next campaign he wore a buckskin suit. He formerly wore his hair very long, letting it fall in a heavy mass upon his shoulders, but cut it off before going out on the Black Hills, producing quite a change in his appearance. But if vain and ambitious, Custer had none of those great vices which are so common and so distressing in the army. He never touched liquor in any form; he did not smoke or chew or gamble. In early life he had been addicted to some of these habits, but was entirely won from them by the loving, purifying influence of his devoted wife. He was a man of great energy and remarkable endurance. He could outride almost any man in his regiment, I believe, if it were put to a test. His men had many nicknames

See Fifth Page.

GOV. HAYES'S LETTER.

NOMINATION FORMALLY ACCEPTED.

HARD MONEY—NON-SECTARIAN SCHOOLS—REFORM IN THE CIVIL SERVICE—ONE TERM OF OFFICE.

Gov. Rutherford B. Hayes of Ohio has written his letter accepting the nomination for the Presidency which was lately tendered him by the Cincinnati Republican Convention. He approves the declaration of principles set forth in the party platform, and further promises, if he is elected, to conduct the administration upon reform principles; to support measures designed to preserve non-sectarian schools; to aim for the restoration of peace and prosperity in the South; to encourage all efforts looking to the preservation of the public credit in the payment of its obligations as promised; and to accept no nomination for a second Presidential term.

THE LETTER.

COLUMBUS, O., July 8, 1876.

To the Hons. EDWARD MCPHERSON, WM. A. HOWARD, JOS. H. RAINEY, *and others, Committee of the National Republican Convention.*

GENTLEMEN: In reply to your official communication of June 17, by which I am informed of my nomination for the office of President of the United States by the Republican National Convention at Cincinnati, I accept the nomination with gratitude, hoping that, under Providence, I shall be able, if elected, to execute the duties of the high office as a trust for the benefit of all the people. I do not deem it necessary to enter upon any extended examination of the declaration of principles made by the Convention. The resolutions are in accord with my views, and I heartily concur in the principles they announce. In several of the resolutions, however, questions are considered which are of such importance that I deem it proper to briefly express my convictions in regard to them. The fifth resolution adopted by the Convention is of paramount interest. More than forty years ago a system of making appointments to office grew up, based upon the maxim "to the victors belong the spoils." The old rule, the true rule, that honesty, capacity, and fidelity constitute the only real qualifications for office, and that there is no other claim, gave place to the idea that party services were to be chiefly considered. All parties in practice have adopted this system. It has been essentially modified since its first introduction. It has not, however, been improved. At first the President, either directly or through the heads of department, made all the appointments, but gradually the appointing power, in many cases, passed into the control of members of Congress. The offices in these cases have become not merely rewards for party services, but rewards for services to party leaders. This system destroys the independence of the separate departments of the Government. "It tends directly to extravagance and official incapacity." It is a temptation to dishonesty; it hinders and impairs that careful supervision and strict accountability by which alone faithful and efficient public service can be secured; it obstructs the prompt removal and sure punishment of the unworthy; in every way it degrades the civil service and the character of the Government. It is felt, I am confident, by a large majority of the members of Congress, to be an intolerable burden and an unwarrantable hinderance to the proper discharge of their legitimate duties. It ought to be abolished. The reform should be thorough, radical, and complete. We should return to the principles and practice of the founders of the Government—supplying by legislation, when needed, that which was formerly the established custom. They neither expected nor desired from the public officers any partisan service. They meant that public officers should give their whole service to the Government and to the people. They meant that the officer should be secure in his tenure as long as his personal character remained untarnished and the performance of his duties satisfactory. If elected, I shall conduct the administration of the Government upon these principles, and all constitutional powers vested in the Executive will be employed to establish this reform. The declaration of principles by the Cincinnati Convention makes no announcement in favor of a single Presidential term. I do not assume to add to that declaration, but believing that the restoration of the civil service to the system established by Washington and followed by the early Presidents can be best accomplished by an Executive who is under no temptation to use the patronage of his office to promote his own reélection, I desire to perform what I regard as a duty in stating now my inflexible purpose, if elected, not to be a candidate for election to a second term.

On the currency question I have frequently expressed my views in public, and I stand by my record on this subject. I regard all the laws of the United States relating to the payment of the public indebtedness, the legal-tender notes included, as constituting a pledge and moral obligation of the Government, which must in good faith be kept. It is my conviction that the feeling of uncertainty inseparable from an irredeemable paper currency, with its fluctuations of value, is one of the great obstacles to a revival of confidence and business, and to a return of prosperity. That uncertainty can be ended in but one way—the resumption of specie payments. But the longer the instability of our money system is permitted to continue, the greater will be the injury inflicted upon our economical interests and all classes of society. If elected, I shall approve every appropriate measure to accomplish the desired end; and shall oppose any step backward. The resolution with respect to the public school system is one which should receive the hearty support of the American people. Agitation upon this subject is to be apprehended, until, by constitutional amendment the schools are placed beyond all danger of sectarian control or interference. The Republican party is pledged to secure such an amendment.

The resolution of the Convention on the subject of the permanent pacification of the country, and the complete protection of all its citizens in the free enjoyment of all of their constitutional rights, is timely and of great importance. The condition of the Southern States attracts the attention and commands the sympathy of the people of the whole Union. In their progressive recovery from the effects of the war, their first necessity is an intelligent and honest administration of government which will protect all classes of citizens in their political and private rights. What the South most needs is "peace," and peace depends upon the supremacy of the law. There can be no enduring peace if the constitutional rights of any portion of the people are habitually disregarded. A division of political parties resting merely upon sectional lines is always unfortunate and may be disastrous. The welfare of the South, alike with that of every other part of this country, depends upon the attractions it can offer to labor and immigration, and to capital. But laborers will not go, and capital will not be ventured where the Constitution and the laws are set at defiance, and distraction, apprehension, and alarm take the place of peace, loving, and law-abiding social life. All parts of the Constitution are sacred and must be sacredly observed—, the parts that are new no less than the parts that are old. The moral and national prosperity of the Southern States can be most effectually advanced by a hearty and generous recognition of the rights of all, by all—a recognition without reserve or exception. With such a recognition fully accorded it will be practicable to promote, by the influence of all legitimate agencies of the General Government, the efforts of the people of those States to obtain for themselves the blessings of honest and capable local government. If elected, I shall consider it not only my duty, but it will be my ardent desire to labor for the attainment of this end.

Let me assure my countrymen of the Southern States that if I shall be charged with the duty of organizing an administration, it will be one which will regard and cherish their truest interests—the interests of the white and of the colored people both, and equally; and which will put forth its best efforts in behalf of a civil policy which will wipe out forever the distinction between North and South in our common country. With a civil service organized upon a system which will secure purity, experience, efficiency, and economy, a strict regard for the public welfare solely in appointments, and the speedy, thorough, and unsparing prosecution and punishment of all public officers who betray official trusts; with a sound currency; with education unsectarian and free to all; with simplicity and frugality in public and private affairs, and with a fraternal spirit of harmony pervading the people of all sections and classes, we may reasonably hope that the second century of our existence as a nation will, by the blessing of God, be preëminent as an era of good feeling and a period of progress, prosperity, and happiness. Very respectfully, your fellow-citizen,

R. B. HAYES.

FOREIGN NEWS.

THE TURCO-SERVIAN WAR.

A TURKISH VICTORY CLAIMED AT NOVI-BAZAR—PAPER CURRENCY ISSUED BY THE SERVIANS—HEAVY FIGHTING AT BELJINA.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Saturday, July 8, 1876.

The Turkish Gen. Mehemet Ali Pasha has gained an important victory over the Servians near Novi-Bazar. The Servians lost 3,000 in killed and wounded.

Subscriptions are being raised among the Mussulmans for the prosecution of the war. Fifteen hundred Softas have been enrolled for service.

LONDON, Saturday, July 8, 1876.

Belgrade telegrams state that the second reserves left that city on Friday. Belgrade is almost deserted; the streets are desolate and there is nobody at the cafes except the old and decrepit. The Servians seem very confident. The authorities confidently assert that Gen. Tchernayeff holds the road between Nisch and Sophia.

The Fourth Servian Division has crossed the River Drina from Schabalz. The Turks from Belnia attacked it in its flank, but were repulsed, losing 80 killed and 240 wounded. Gen. Zach passed the frontier opposite Tcenitza and fought the Turks five hours, both sides losing heavily. Gen. Zach intends to renew the attack. Gen. Olimpics lost 700 men opposite Beljina.

A Berlin telegram says the Servians are suffering from a scarcity of funds for prosecuting the war, and have issued a forced paper currency.

A special dispatch to *The Echo* from Belgrade says: "Gen. Zach's division of Servian troops was repulsed at Tchebinatz on the 6th inst., and has moved to Novi-Bazar. Gen. Zach's position is believed to be critical."

The Liverpool Courier's London letter says the coming debate in the House of Commons on the foreign policy of the Government will be the most stirring episode of the session. A constitutional difference between the two sides of the House of Commons on the Eastern question becomes daily more marked. Mr. Gladstone is expected to make a great speech. *The Courier* is a Ministerial journal.

PARIS, Saturday, July 8, 1876.

The *Journal des Debats* publishes a telegram dated yesterday from Zimony (Semlin), a town three miles from Belgrade, which says the Servian army of the Drina has been completely beaten by 12,000 Turks at Beljina. Ranco-Olimpics, the Servian commander, intrenched himself, having the river in his rear. The Turks have captured two intrenchments and six guns.

ROME, Saturday, July 8, 1876.

It is stated that Russia has addressed a circular note to her representatives abroad announcing that she will not support Servia, but remain a simple spectator of the struggle.

BELGRADE, Saturday, July 8, 1876.

The Servians invaded Turkish territory near Bregowatz, on the Bulgarian frontier yesterday.

The Turks have made another attack on Saitschar, and were repulsed for the fourth time.

Official telegrams admit the Servian loss is 200 killed and many wounded at Beljina.

TURKISH OFFICIAL REPORT.

WASHINGTON, July 8.—M. Aristarchi Bey, the Turkish Minister, has received the following dispatch from the Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs:

CONSTANTINOPLE, July 8, 1876.

A severe engagement took place on the 6th of July, near Semliza, in the Sandjak of Yenibazar, with the Servian forces, amounting to 15,000 men. The General of Division, Mehemet Ali Pacha, opposed them with eight battalions of regular troops. The Servians were defeated and pursued by our troops into their intrenchments, leaving on the battle-field 1,500 dead, an equal number of wounded, and a large quantity of rifles and ammunition.

PARIS, July 9, 1876.

The *Journal des Debats* has a special telegram from Semlin, a frontier town of Austria, in which it is said the defeat of the Servians under Gen. Olimpics is officially admitted.

The Turkish forces have crossed the River Drina, and all the troops encamped at Belgrade consequently started immediately for the frontier and the last reserves have been called out. Prince Milan has retired to Tjuprija.

The *Journal des Debats* also has a special dispatch from Vienna in which it is stated that the dispatches recently published from Slavonic sources are unfounded. Except one success of only relative importance, gained by Gen. Tchernayeff, the Servians have everywhere been defeated. It is no longer believed here that the war can result favorably to the Servians.

Other advices received at Paris are equally unfavorable to the Servians.

A DECISIVE BATTLE AT HAND.

A decisive engagement is imminent near Nisch between Gen. Tchernayeff and the principal Turkish army under Osman Pasha. If the Servians are again defeated in an important battle it is thought probable they will organize a guerrilla warfare in order to exhaust the Turks and procure favorable intervention by demonstrating the impotence of Turkey.

THE BRITISH LABOR QUESTION.

LONDON, Saturday, July 8, 1876.

A large and influential meeting of representatives of the North and North-East Lancashire Cotton Spinners and Manufacturers' Association was held at Manchester yesterday. It was unanimously resolved that the time had arrived when a reduction of 10 per cent should be made in the wages of operatives in the cotton trade of the district. Meetings of the various local associations will be held on Wednesday next. The resolution will affect from 50,000 to 60,000 operatives.

The notices issued by the masters in the Wigan and Tyldesley districts for a reduction of 15 per cent in miners' wages having expired Wednesday evening, the men came out on a strike, but it is expected they will yield in a few days, on account of the trade being much depressed. Yesterday several large and enthusiastic meetings were held in the West Bromwich and Oldbury districts to consider the masters' notices for an increase in the number of working hours, and resolutions were unanimously adopted to resist to the utmost any attempt at encroachment on the present working hours. Both masters and men are very resolute.

The amalgamated masters in North and North-East Lancashire have not only resolved to adopt short time, but most likely the rule will be four days per week instead of six, as now. They have also resolved upon a reduction of wages, and, should a regular resistance be attempted, a lockout will be the result.

FOREIGN NOTES.

PARIS, July 8.—The question of postponing the International Exhibition, fixed for 1878, is seriously considered.

TORONTO, July 8.—To-day was the hottest of the season. At 4 p. m., the thermometer at the Observatory stood 93° in the shade.

TORONTO, July 8.—A cable dispatch to *The Globe* says the Merchants' Shipping bill passed through committee in the House of Lords. Lord Carlingford expressed gratification that the Government had adopted the Canadian deck-load rule, thus avoiding any clashing with the Canadian law.

WASHINGTON.

A LAST EFFORT FOR A REPEAL.

DEMOCRATS HARD AT WORK WITH OBSTINATE MEMBERS OF THE BANKING COMMITTEE.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, July 9.—The Democratic inflationists of the House had arranged for a caucus to be held last evening for the purpose of devising means to secure the repeal of the Resumption act of 1875, but for some reason—probably the sudden death of Representative E. Y. Parsons—it was postponed. A final attempt will be made to-morrow to secure such a report from the Committee on Banking and Currency as will enable the House to carry out the instructions of the St. Louis Convention in regard to this law. As the Committee now stands, five are in favor of the repeal of the Resumption act, viz., S. S. Cox, N. Y.; Henry B. Payne, Ohio; John Goode, jr., Virginia; Wm. S. Haymond, Indiana; and Samuel D. Burchard, Wisconsin, all Democrats; and six are opposed to it, as follows: Randall L. Gibson, Louisiana, and Scott Wike, Illinois, Democrats; and Washington Townsend, Pennsylvania; John A. Kasson, Iowa; Benjamin T. Eames, Rhode Island, and Jay A. Hubbell, Michigan, Republicans. Some doubts have been expressed about Mr. Hubbell's vote. His latest public record on this subject, made May 1, is against the repeal. On that day Mr. Holman introduced a proposition to repeal the Resumption act, and moved a suspension of the rules for a vote on its passage. It failed to be agreed to by a vote of 115 in the affirmative to 111 in the negative, two-thirds being required, and Mr. Hubbell is one of those who voted Nay.

The very strongest pressure has been brought to bear upon Mr. Gibson and Mr. Wike since the last meeting of the Committee, to induce them to vote with the other representatives of their party on the Committee, but thus far wholly without success. Neither of them believes that the Resumption act, as it stands, is of the least value, and, like other Democrats, hold the Republican party responsible for not perfecting their law when they had the power to do so, instead of placing on the statute books an act which is a fraud and a cheat. At the same time, they believe in the principle of an early return to specie payments, of which the resumption is at present the only representative in the recent legislation of Congress, and oppose its unconditional repeal, because that would in effect be a declaration on the part of Congress that it proposed to abandon the policy of resumption altogether. Mr. Gibson and Mr. Wike would probably agree to a repeal of the Resumption act, if at the same time there was substituted for it a bill which would be more effective in bringing the country to specie payments. The effect of the St. Louis resolutions has been to cause all but about a dozen of the Democrats, who came to Washington last December uncompromising hard-money men, to surrender to the inflationists.

IMPEACHMENT PROGRESS.

EVIDENCE FATAL TO GEN. BELKNAP—FACTS THAT HAVE BEEN PROVED—CONFIDENCE OF THE PRESIDENT IN THE EX-SECRETARY'S INNOCENCE.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, July 9.—The impeachment trial goes forward with unexpected vigor, a fact due entirely to the managers and the superior management of Mr. McMahon of Ohio, who leads the case on behalf of the House. The trial as it stands is unmistakably fatal to Gen. Belknap. The appointment of Mr. Marsh, the transfer of the appointment to Evans, the receipt of regular installments of money from Mr. Marsh, beginning soon after the appointment was made, the indorsements of drafts with full knowledge of the rascality, charges for goods made by Evans, the trader at Fort Sill, the disregard of complaints, all these have been fully proved already against the ex-Secretary.

But the telling testimony is not yet in, and when it comes, if reports direct from the Managers are to be believed, there will not be a plank for the defense to stand upon. The Managers hope to be able to examine Mr. Marsh and Mr. Evans to-morrow, in which case a direct examination on the part of the prosecution will close not later than the day after. The counsel for Mr. Belknap have thus far succeeded in breaking down or confusing none of the witnesses, and the case as presented by the Managers has been a direct, consecutive, well-knit recital of the facts as far as they are developed. The course of the defense has not yet been demonstrated, but the ex-Secretary has said within a short time that he had no fear of conviction. The President a few days ago expressed confidence in Belknap's innocence.

CURRENT TOPICS AT THE CAPITAL.

IMMIGRATION INTO NEW-YORK.

WASHINGTON, July 9, 1876.

Official returns made to the Bureau of Statistics show that during the month ending June 30, 1876, there arrived at the port of New-York 14,030 passengers from foreign countries. Of this number 10,558 were immig