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D. B. HILL'S BITTER WORDS.

THE SENATOR FIERCELY ATTACKS CROKER, M'LAUGHLIN AND SHEEHAN.

HE HOLDS THEM AND THEIR "PERSONAL MACHINES" MAINLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEMOCRATIC SHIPWRECK IN THIS STATE—CLEVELAND DEMOCRATS, TOO, COME IN FOR A GOOD SHARE OF THE TONGUE-LASHING.

Senator Hill's visit in New-York this time was a short one, but if what certain machine men who have been in his confidence are saying about it is true, it will be memorable in State politics. When the Senator stepped out of the Hotel New Netherland at 5 p. m. yesterday with his gripsack in his hand and went to take the train for Washington he left behind him tingling ears, which belong to Democrats in this city and other parts of the State. Senator Murphy also started for Washington yesterday, leaving his hotel in time for the 3:20 p. m. train. Lieutenant-Governor Sheehan remained in town to attend to important law business, he said, which would keep him here until to-morrow.

Assertions were made and repeated yesterday that Senator Hill was not present at any of the Democratic conferences which were held on Saturday, at which Senator Murphy, Lieutenant-Governor Sheehan, Mr. Croker, ex-Mayor Grant, Mayor Gilroy, Anthony N. Brady, of Albany; State Senators McCarty and McCarren, and District-Attorney Ridgway, of Brooklyn, were named as participants, but there are pretty well-authenticated reports that Mr. Hill saw and talked with a number of Democrats while in this city, and that he spoke his mind with great freedom. When he came to review the causes of the Democratic defeat in the State he does not seem to have minced matters in the least. As he spoke of the "bogus Democrats" who, he said, had "betrayed the party every time they had a chance in the last nine years," his manner is described as the acme of bitterness.

THREE CAUSES OF DEFEAT.

"Three things," the Senator was quoted as saying, "brought the disaster we have just suffered in the State—the Cleveland Democrats, the liquor element, and the personal machines conducted by Croker, McLaughlin and Sheehan in the cities of New-York, Brooklyn and Buffalo." The Cleveland Democrats Mr. Hill characterized as a body of mugwumps and political freebooters, who had never been loyal to the Democratic party, and whose leaders had determined to oppose and if possible defeat the Democratic State ticket this year no matter who the candidates upon it should be. He was glad that this "mob of malcontents" which had trained under the leadership of such men as Grace, Fairchild, Peckham and Coudert were organized as a permanent body. He hoped that hereafter they might be found under their own "dishonorable standard," and thus would be unable to deceive the people by prating about being Democrats.

Mr. Hill admitted his responsibility for the nomination of Maynard, and said that he did not shrink from it in the least. It was a natural and logical nomination, and could not, in honor, be avoided. But he insisted that the spectacle of the Cleveland opposition to Maynard was pitiable after the President's adherents had accepted all the political advantages which grew out of Maynard's acts without protest in last year's election. The Senator believed that the Anti-Snapper attack upon Maynard was only the mask to cover the determination to defeat the State ticket this year, and that the Mugwump opposition would have been as bitter against the ticket, though perhaps less open, if Maynard had not been nominated.

As to the liquor men who cut the ticket, the Senator was more guarded. They had been dissatisfied and politically discontented ever since they failed to get all they demanded from a Democratic Legislature and Executive. Added to this, their old antipathy toward Maynard, whom they had defeated twelve years before for being a Prohibitionist, came up again, and they took the opportunity which was offered them of "squaring accounts" with the leaders of the State Democracy.

"PERSONAL MACHINES" THE MAIN CAUSE.

To the disgust with which voters throughout the State had come to regard the "personal machines," as he called the Democratic organizations in this city, Brooklyn and Buffalo, Mr. Hill attributed one of the main causes which had shipwrecked the party. The complete smash-up which Election Day had brought to the machines of McLaughlin and Sheehan the Senator seemed to think was not at all surprising, and was the direct result of the utter disregard which these leaders had shown for the wishes of the people. Mr. Croker he regarded as an extremely lucky man to have escaped the flood this year. Next year, he feared, he might not be so fortunate. The people, he said, were always suspicious of men in political life who became suddenly rich, but, most of all, they disliked a display of riches acquired during a period of political success. It was difficult to convince them that wealth obtained in such times did not come in some way out of their pockets.

While talking about the "personal machines," Mr. Hill took occasion to revert to his urgent admonition at the Democratic State Convention of 1891, that Mr. Sheehan should not take the nomination for Lieutenant-Governor. "Blue-eyed Billy's" vaulting ambition, the methods which he had felt forced to adopt to attain his ends and the way his fondest hopes had been eliminated by the sturdy voters of Erie County, were pointed out to show that the disregard of the Senator's advice had brought bitter consequences. Those to whom Mr. Hill talked expected him to say something, also, about Senator Murphy and his Trojan machine, but the senior Senator was silent as to his colleague.

The downfall of Hugh McLaughlin furnished Mr. Hill with a theme on which, it is said, he dilated at length. That he regarded Mr. McLaughlin as safely in his political coffin may be inferred from a stinging reference, which the Senator is quoted as making to Senator John McCarty, speaking of him as the "legatee of McLaughlin's political estate."

The rumor was revived yesterday that Mr. Croker had finally decided to retire from the Tammany Hall leadership and all political management in the future. It was said that his resignation would take effect at the beginning of the year, if in the mean time a satisfactory successor could be discovered.

The Steckler-McCrea independent Democrats are preparing to hold a mass-meeting at the Cooper Union on the evening of December 14, at which the "New-York City Democracy" is to be formally proclaimed and its war against Tammany Hall officially declared.

GULF AND INTERSTATE RAILROAD SCHEME.

Topeka, Kan., Dec. 3.—The movers in the Gulf and Interstate Railroad scheme, the most gigantic enterprise of the character ever conceived in the United States, will meet December 5, in Representative Hall, Topeka, to formulate plans by which two great lines of railroad may be constructed between the Gulf of Mexico and the British possessions.

June 28 the first Gulf and Interstate Railroad Convention was held at Lincoln, Neb. After two days' deliberation that convention adjourned to meet at Topeka December 5, when it is expected that the movement will be given a new impetus. The Topeka convention will formulate a plan for securing such legislation by the ten States interested as will start this gigantic venture at an early day. In connection with it Governor Lewelling will present his Gulf ship canal scheme, the consummation of which he says is now an assured fact.

"With a line of steamers," he says, "plying between the Gulf ports and European markets to carry our products across the Atlantic, when we shall have laid them down at Galveston, at a saving of millions of dollars annually to the people interested, it seems to me that the problem of cheap transportation will be solved, and Western farmers will be the beneficiaries."

WINTER ON SCHEDULE TIME.

TWO FEET OF SNOW AT NIAGARA FALLS.

THE STORM PREVAILS THROUGHOUT NEW-YORK STATE—RAILROAD TRAINS DELAYED.

Niagara Falls, Dec. 3 (Special).—A snowstorm has prevailed here for the last twenty-four hours. Snow is two feet deep and drifting badly. The railroads are having a hard time of it, and all trains are from two to six, and even eight, hours late. The through trains from the West are in bad shape. Michigan Central trains are three hours late. The New-York Central, Erie and West Shore vary from an hour to four hours late. The Lehigh Valley and Rome, Watertown and Ogdensburg roads feel the force of the storm the most. The cold is quite severe to-night, and there are few passengers on the trains. The electric companies on both sides of the river are having difficulty in keeping their lines open.

Kingston, N. Y., Dec. 3 (Special).—An extremely heavy fall of snow for the season began here soon after midnight, closing with hail and rain, which have continued all day. There is about a foot of snow on a level. Trains have been considerably delayed on the various railways here. No more permits are granted on the Delaware and Hudson Canal, and over 100 boats are awaiting loads at Honesdale, but should cold, freezing weather follow the present heavy snow, few of them could get through.

Plattsburg, N. Y., Dec. 3.—Fully two feet of snow fell here to-day, and it is still snowing hard.

Fort Plain, N. Y., Dec. 3.—A foot of snow fell in the Mohawk Valley between 12 o'clock last night and 10 o'clock to-day. Sleighing is good. Snow flangers were in use to-day on the West Shore and the New-York Central. To-night it is raining and freezing.

Whitehall, N. Y., Dec. 3.—A severe snowstorm prevailed here early this morning, and is still raging. Rouse's Point and Port Henry report eight inches already fallen. Twelve inches fell here.

TRAINS IN COLLISION IN THE FOG.

PASSENGERS BRUISED ON THE JERSEY CENTRAL AND AN ENGINE DISABLED ON THE LEHIGH VALLEY.

The 1:05 o'clock train on the Central Railroad, from Elizabeth, was lying near the switch at Brill's Station yesterday afternoon, when the 1:35 o'clock train, from Newark, which was running slowly, crashed into it. Several persons in the rear car were slightly bruised, and the locomotive was wrecked.

There was a dense fog at the time, and it was responsible for the collision. Train No. 403, on the Lehigh Valley road, ran into a coal train on the same road near Brill's yesterday afternoon, and the locomotive was disabled and had to be replaced by another. The wreck caused some delay.

ONE DAY'S WEATHER MIXTURE.

SNOW, FOG AND RAIN COMBINE TO MAKE WALKING DISAGREEABLE AND NAVIGATION DANGEROUS.

The first snow of the season began to fall early yesterday morning, but after falling for a half hour or so the half-hearted attempt of the elements to cover the city with a blanket of snow was given up, and rain and a falling temperature made fog of the true London variety.

At a few minutes after 2 a. m. the snow began to fall, the storm being from the northwest; the temperature at about that time was 28 degrees. Between that hour and 7 o'clock the thermometer jumped up to 45, and to this sudden rise the fog was due. The storm late last night, when the rain was coming down steadily with a little fog, was central in Northern New-York. The total rainfall, for such it must be called, was only about .70 of an inch for the day.

The weather prophet said that it would rain all night, and that to-day a moderate clear, cold snap might be expected. The snow, such as it was, was rather behind the season, if the winter of 1892 is any standard; snow fell on November 7 of that year.

The heavy fog in the harbor made navigation difficult and dangerous. The ferryboats all ran behind their schedule time. The Staten Island ferry changed its time-table entirely, and the Shackamaxon, of the Ellis Island Ferry, did not run more than once during the day.

The Morgan Line steamer El Norte was fast on Robbins' Reef for four hours yesterday. At about 10:30 a. m., when the fog was thickest, the vessel ran aground on the reef, but sustained little or no damage, beyond losing her anchor and twenty fathoms of chain. She floated off with the rising tide, and was taken to her pier by the tug El Toro.

The steamer Bourgogne, of the French Line, got out of her course while steaming up the Upper Bay yesterday morning. The tug B. J. Barrett made her out as she was getting close to Governor's Island, and led the steamer to her pier.

WHEAT FIELDS COVERED BY SNOW.

Kansas City, Dec. 3.—Missouri, Kansas and Oklahoma were visited by a heavy snowstorm yesterday. The snow is of great benefit to fall wheat. Secretary Mohler, of the Kansas Agricultural Board, says its value in that State is scarcely calculable. Reports from the western railroad lines indicate that traffic was not seriously interfered with. Nearly all trains from the West reached this city on time, and officials of the Santa Fe at Topeka say they have had little trouble even in the far West. Reports from Oklahoma, however, tell of much suffering among the Strip settlers, for intense cold accompanied the snow there. A dispatch from Enid says a terrific blizzard is raging in that section, and that many settlers have been driven into town for shelter.

WINDS AND RAIN IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

Charleston, S. C., Dec. 3.—A dispatch from Yorkville, S. C., to "The News and Courier" says:

A terrific rain and wind storm passed over this place this afternoon at 3:30 o'clock, unroofing buildings and damage to the amount of $10,000. The heaviest damage done was with the Carolina Buggy Company, whose losses will reach $3,000. The roof of George H. O'Leary's furniture warehouse was blown off and $5,000 worth of furniture exposed to the mercy of the rain for two hours. The spoke and handle factory and the graded school buildings were also unroofed. The damage seemed to be general in the storm's track across the country. No loss of life has been reported.

A BRIG ASHORE AT CORNFIELD LIGHT.

New-London, Conn., Dec. 3.—The brig W. R. Hutchins, of New-York, is ashore at Cornfield Light, with seven feet of water in her. She is laden with an assorted cargo and is bound from New-York to Demarara. Coming through the Sound last night the officer in charge mistook Cornfield Light for the light at Harton's Point, and went on so hard that she stuck. Her deckload of lumber was thrown over. The wrecker T. A. Scott, with the tug Alert and barge Diver, went to the brig's assistance and has been at work on her all day. The brig lies badly, but Scott thinks there is a chance to save her.

WRECK OF A CEMENT-LADEN SCHOONER.

Delaware Breakwater, Del., Dec. 3.—Schooner M. E. Bayard, from New-York for Norfolk, with cement, struck the gapway at 4 a. m. Her crew were saved. The vessel will probably be a total loss. She is full of water. Wreckers are stripping her.

HEAVY RAINFALL AT NEW-BEDFORD.

New-Bedford, Mass., Dec. 3.—A southerly storm has raged in this city all day, and this afternoon torrents of water fell. South Water-st. was flooded and flat-bottomed boats were used in transferring residents from and to their homes. Cellars were flooded and considerable damage was done. Water leaked into the stores of Sisson & Ring, on Pleasant-st., and damaged stock to the amount of several hundred dollars. The sewer being built on William-st. began to cave in, and a large gang of workmen was kept busy all day in bracing the sides of the excavation. No damage is reported along shore.

SNOW, RAIN AND HAIL IN NEW-JERSEY.

Hillsdale, N. J., Dec. 3.—The first fall of snow in Northern New-Jersey began about 12 o'clock last night. The snow continued until daylight, at which time three inches had fallen. At sunrise the snow turned to rain. About 10 o'clock this morning hail fell and continued for an hour. The country roads were rendered almost impassable.

YAQUI INDIANS TO JOIN THE REBELS.

Hermosillo, Mexico, Dec. 3.—A courier arrived here to-day from Casinipi, a small settlement northwest of here, in the Sierra Madre Mountains, with information that the Yaqui Indians are congregating in bands of several hundreds near that place, and are preparing to join the Mexican revolutionists, who have their rendezvous in the mountains over the border line in the State of Chihuahua. It is reported that agents of the insurgents have been quietly working among the Indians for some time. The Yaquis are abundantly supplied with rifles and pistols of the latest improved pattern and are well mounted.

The proclamation of General Comito Neri, issued at Sierra Colorado, to the people of Guerrero, has reached this city. The late insurgent leader begs his supporters to return to peaceable life and its ordinary pursuits. The cause, he says, of the late insurrection being removed, he is willing that the election for the new Executive proceed in a quiet and orderly way as son as the proper authority shall be given. As a citizen and soldier he is now content to abide under the rule of the Federal Government of Mexico, whose authority he never intended to oppose.

ORDERS TO THE CORWIN.

SHE IS EXPECTED TO PROCEED TO HAWAII WITHOUT DELAY.

THE ADMINISTRATION MAKING ANOTHER SECRET MOVE—SPECULATION IN SAN FRANCISCO OVER THE CUTTER'S MISSION.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

San Francisco, Dec. 3.—That some striking change has been made in the Administration's Hawaiian policy is evident from the secret orders which have been received here to get ready for sea at the earliest moment the revenue cutter Thomas Corwin. The orders specify that she is to be outfitted for a 2,000-mile voyage, which fixes her destination as Honolulu, just as a similar clew in the orders to the cutter Richard Rush last winter showed that she was destined for that port. These orders came by wire yesterday, and at once preparations were made to put the Corwin in trim for her long ocean trip. She has just been thoroughly overhauled at Sausalito, across the bay from this city, and she is now lying at the Green-st. wharf. She is a smaller boat than the Rush, being only of 213 tons, but she is seaworthy, and can average ten knots, so that she ought to cover the 2,085 miles between here and Honolulu in ten days. She has cabin accommodation for several passengers, but a lot of coal will have to be piled on deck.

The Government asked for the Rush, which, it will be remembered, carried Mr. Blount down to the islands; but, as the boilers were out of the Rush, she could not be used. The Corwin is eighteen years old and is a stanch boat, having done good service along the Alaska coast for many years. She is under command of Captain A. F. Munger, and carries eight officers and about thirty seamen. She will probably be ready for sea to-morrow.

The few officials who know of these secret orders were greatly mystified over their purport. The majority, however, are inclined to believe that Mr. Cleveland has at last become convinced that the American people will not submit to his plan of restoring the Queen, and that he has devised some new scheme to satisfy her claims. One theory, which found expression in a Chicago newspaper to-day, is that this Government will pension her, as the price of her abdication. Another is that Mr. Cleveland has so thoroughly "hedged" that he has decided to rush orders to Minister Willis not to take any steps till Congress can decide the matter. Still another is that a certain date has been set for restoring the Queen, and then Mr. Cleveland wishes to prevent action by Willis which might lead to bloodshed.

It is probable that official dispatches will come over the wires to-night to be carried by the Corwin, or that some special messenger may now be speeding west on the Overland Flyer to take passage on the Corwin, as Blount did on the Rush. This secrecy seems to be favored by the Administration.

To-night orders were received transferring the Corwin from the Treasury to the State Department. This is regarded as conclusive evidence that she is bound for Honolulu, as similar procedure was adopted when the Rush carried Mr. Blount. It is also reported to-night that quarters in the ward-room have been reserved by telegraph for one person. Whether this person is on the way here with dispatches, or whether it is some San Francisco official who will be the bearer of State Department orders, is not known.

A FLATBUSH POLICEMAN KILLS HIMSELF

THE THIRD SUICIDE IN THE TOWN WITHIN A WEEK—NO CAUSE KNOWN FOR THE ACT.

The third suicide within a week at Flatbush, L. I., occurred yesterday afternoon, when William Leutzbach, a policeman, either purposely or in a fit of insanity sent a bullet into his head, and almost instantly died. The shooting occurred at his home, in Vanderbilt-st., Windsor Terrace. Leutzbach had been on duty all night at Parkville, and at 4 a. m. reported at the station, in the Town Hall, for roll call. After joking and laughing with his comrades he went to his home, where his wife, Mary, was awaiting him. After supper, as was his custom, he retired. It was his intention to rise at 1 o'clock and take his usual Sunday stroll before reporting for duty in the evening.

His wife called him at 1 o'clock, and he dressed himself in citizen's clothes. Then the shot rang out, and his wife rushed in, to find him stretched upon the floor, dying. He had used his five-chambered revolver, from which one cartridge had been fired, and shot himself in the head.

Mrs. Leutzbach fainted away, and the children, crying, aroused the neighbors. The police were hastily summoned, and Captain Keiser, with Policeman Doherty, went to the house.

Mrs. Leutzbach was unable to give any reason why her husband killed himself. He had come home in a happy frame of mind, she said, and to her it was all a mystery. The Coroner was informed, and an inquest will be held.

Policeman Leutzbach was thirty-eight years old, and was appointed nearly four years ago. Among his comrades and fellow-townsmen he was known as a steady, sober and dutiful officer. He was known to be a determined officer, and had taken part in many creditable arrests. He was a German by birth.

AN INCENDIARY AT WORK IN CHICAGO.

C. L. HUTCHINSON SAYS AN ARMORY AND TWO CLUBHOUSES WERE SET ON FIRE.

Chicago, Dec. 3.—At a meeting on Thanksgiving night of the Board of Directors of the 1st Regiment Armory, Charles L. Hutchinson, in the course of a discussion over the rebuilding of the armory, made a statement to the effect that the trustees and the insurance companies were as certain as they could be, without having absolute proof, that the destruction of the edifice was the work of incendiaries. He went on to say that the fires in the Calumet Club and the Chicago Athletic Club were also incendiary, and that they were due to the same motive, and that the same persons were the incendiaries in all three fires.

There seems to be considerable reticence among all concerned about telling exactly what was actually said, or in what relation the authorities now stand to the men suspected. It is understood that they hope to make arrests, and that the whole conspiracy will be unearthed.

CLOSED BY THE WILSON BILL.

Cleveland, Dec. 3 (Special).—The works of the Britton Iron and Steel Company, employing 200 men, have been shut up tight on account of the proposed tariff measures on iron. Frank Rockefeller, the president, spoke freely on the subject and did not hesitate to give the reasons for the shut-down. He attributed it solely to the tinkering with the tariff and the uncertainty regarding the measures while they are pending. "We haven't made a dollar," he said, "since Grover Cleveland stepped into the Presidential chair, but we have kept our works going in hope that times would change for the better. Now comes this proposed tariff measure, which gives an absolute black eye to the men in the business, who have been struggling along hoping for better times. We have decided to shut down indefinitely. There is no date set for the opening of our mills. To-day the miners are working for less money than they ever did in the history of the country, and are earning hardly enought to eke out an existence. It stands to reason that if the tariff is taken off iron ore, any further depreciation must come from labor."

Mr. Rockefeller denied the story of a $1,000,000 steel plant to be started in Ashtabula by the Rockefellers, the Standard Oil Company, Carnegie and

SUCCESSFUL JAIL DELIVERY IN ARKANSAS.

Memphis, Tenn., Dec. 3.—All the prisoners confined in the county jail at Camden, Ark. escaped this morning about 4 o'clock. They had by some means secured tools with which they cut the bars to the cells so as to allow them to pass out. Seven negroes and four white men escaped. Two of the negroes, Henry Howard and Will Phillips, were to be hanged in January for murder.

WOMEN TO VOTE IN COLORADO.

Denver, Dec. 3.—The State Canvassing Board completed its work yesterday. The count shows that woman suffrage was carried by 6,347 majority. Governor Waite, in accordance with the above, issued a proclamtion giving women the right to vote at all elections in this State.

VAN ALEN RESIGNS HIS POST.

HE DECLINES TO GO TO ROME.

NOT WILLING TO BE PLACED IN A FALSE POSITION.

HE DID, HE SAYS, CONTRIBUTE TO THE CLEVELAND CAMPAIGN FUND, BUT NOT FOR THE PURPOSE OF PURCHASING AN OFFICE—THE PRESIDENT URGES HIM TO WITHDRAW HIS RESIGNATION AND CALLS THE CRITICISM MALIGNANT.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Washington, Dec. 3.—The news received here from New-York this evening that James J. Van Alen had sent to the President his resignation as Ambassador of the United States to Italy excited lively political and personal interest, and was naturally looked on as a fittingly sensational closing of a rather unusual diplomatic incident. No appointment made by President Cleveland in his present term had been received with such a storm of protest and criticism, and the circumstances under which Mr. Van Alen entered diplomatic life had been freely denounced by political moralists as little short of scandalous. As will be readily recalled, Mr. Van Alen contributed a large sum—popularly fixed at $50,000—to the Democratic campaign fund in 1892 at an auspicious moment when funds were low and friends were exceedingly few, and immediately after Mr. Cleveland's election it was announced that he would be ready to go as Minister to Italy as soon after March 4 as his credentials could be made out. The appointment did not come, however, until late this summer, owing to the persistent protests of some of Mr. Cleveland's personal and political friends against what they considered the consummation of a piece of corrupt political brokerage.

Mr. Whitney, who was thought to have arranged the "exchange" in which Mr. Van Alen staked his contribution against future diplomatic honors, was involved in a public controversy over the details of the transaction soon after the appointment was sent to the Senate, and through his communications and those of Richard Watson Gilder and Horace White the circumstances of Mr. Van Alen's entry into diplomatic life became widely known. Mr. Van Alen had profited by the delay in the supposed "delivery of the goods," for the rank of the representative of this country in Rome had meanwhile been raised from that of Minister to that of Ambassador. In spite of the public impression that the new envoy had been chosen solely as a return for "value received," the Senate voted, after a few weeks of deliberation, to confirm him, and early in October his four-year title to the Roman Embassy and its appurtenances was approved.

Strangely enough Mr. Van Alen has since that time failed to set foot in Washington, and for the greater part of the last seven weeks absolutely nothing has been known here of his plans or intentions. Shortly after his confirmation he was coaching about Tuxedo. Some weeks ago it was announced that he had gone to Vermont to purchase horses to take to Rome with him, and it was also said that he had leased a house in the Italian capital and sent his servants there. He reappeared in New-York City at the Horse Show, and was reported then as ready to come here to qualify and receive instruction before sailing. Since the Horse Show nothing had been heard at the State Department of his purposed trip here, and a few days ago it was said that no one there knew when he was to qualify or to sail.

The news received to-night was promptly admitted to be true by Secretary Gresham. No one else, however, seemed to have been in the secret of Mr. Van Alen's purpose to give a quit claim on his "bargain" and renounce the satisfaction and ambitions of a diplomatic career. His sudden decision to abandon the post in which he had already achieved wholesale conspicuity was not understood in political circles here, and in the absence of the text of his letters of resignation to the President no definite expression of opinion on the termination of this interesting episode could be ventured by public men here.

THE LETTER OF RESIGNATION.

MR. VAN ALEN EXPLAINS HIS CONTRIBUTION—ANXIOUS TO AVOID FURTHER MISREPRESENTATION.

Mr. Van Alen's letter, resigning the Ambassadorship to Italy, and the correspondence which followed between himself and President Cleveland explain themselves. They are as follows:

I.

REASONS FOR HIS ACTION.

Newport, R. I., Nov. 20, 1893.

The Hon. Walter Q. Gresham, Secretary of State:

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 28th of October, in which you officially notify me that the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, has appointed me Ambassador to Italy.

Since the receipt of your letter I have given the matter my most serious and careful attention, and, as the result of my reflections, have concluded to ask you to express to the President my decision not to accept the office tendered me.

I must beg that you will not infer from this action any lack of appreciation on my part of the honor conferred. On the contrary, I fully comprehend the dignity, importance and responsibility of the position, and, having this realization, I may frankly add that the nomination was extremely gratifying to me—not in a personal sense merely, but more particularly because of the opportunity afforded me of representing my country in such a manner as I hoped might be satisfactory to the American people and creditable to the Administration.

THAT BIG CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION.

Among the comments upon my nomination which appeared in the public press one charge only merits attention; not because it was true, but because it was and, I suppose, still is believed by many persons unfamiliar with the individuals concerned and the facts essential to the formation of an accurate judgment. The charge was that I received the appointment in return for a contribution of $50,000 to the Democratic National campaign fund. While my nomination was pending in the Senate, it did not seem fitting and proper for me to offer more than an explicit denial. I was aware that, as an interested party, my statement would have little effect beyond the limits of my personal acquaintance. Now, however, when my action cannot be fairly attributed to purely selfish motives, it seems to me that a repetition of that denial, which I make without qualification, should be sufficient for any honorable man.

I have never denied, and do not now deny, that I contributed to the campaign fund, not $50,000, but yet a considerable sum of money. Sincerely believing, as I did, that a continuation of Republican supremacy would be not only a hinderance to National progress, but in time a positive menace to the success of popular government, and having large interests at stake, I was impelled by both patriotic and selfish reasons to aid the Democratic cause.

I did not do so until I had made myself familiar with the methods of the campaign as conducted by the National Democratic Committee. I visited the Democratic Headquarters, and was astonished at the great work being done. An expenditure, vast in proportion, was being made to bring home to the American people the truths upon which I believed the welfare of the country depended. Hundreds of speakers, too poor to pay their own expenses, were being helped to do a patriotic duty by the National Committee, and a vast amount of literature was being distributed free to awaken the public mind on the questions pending in the campaign. The Democratic party had no favored interests to assess and was obliged to rely upon individuals for necessary financial assistance. Hence my contribution. It was by no means the first time I had assisted the party since Mr. Cleveland's aggressive leadership aroused my admiration, and I do not hesitate to say that, if it shall again seem to be my duty as a citizen desirous of the best government, it will not be the last.

CONSIDERED SOLELY ON HIS MERITS.

So far from attaching undue importance to it, I was fully aware that the contribution meant far less to me than the time and effort devoted by thousands of unselfish citizens to the same campaign. Nor did I believe that it should entitle me to any more consideration. On the contrary, I have not only admitted, but have positively insisted at all times that it created no obligation to me whatever, and I feel confident that the President, who, in fact, was kind enough to say to the Democrats of Rhode Island that his personal acquaintance with me enabled him to consider my candidacy solely upon its merits, will bear me out in this assertion.

On the other hand, I frankly admit that, until after the appointment had been made, it never once occurred to my mind that my contribution could be used to my injury. I may add that, although I have endeavored to study without bias the arguments which have been advanced, I cannot even now perceive that it is any less creditable or patriotic for one to aid with his means a cause in which he believes than with his voice or pen.

But, whatever may be the correct conclusion regarding the ethics of the case, the fact remains that a large number of my fellow-citizens have been led, either by coincidence of circumstance or by false report, to look upon my appointment as in some way inconsistent with the professions of the Democratic party and the President's high ideals of public service. By these critics generally my fitness for the position has been generously conceded, but the fact of my contribution to the campaign fund has been considered as making it improper for me to receive this appointment. I do not think that I could now remove this impression from the minds of many right-minded and thoughtful people, whose judgment I frankly admit may possibly be correct.

IN A FALSE POSITION.

At all events it is clear that I find myself in a false position with reference to this office and appointment. Acceptance of the office would make me appear willing, for the sake of personal gratification, to discredit in the minds of many the political party to which I am attached, and to bring undeserved rebuke upon the Administration which has honored me and whose success I earnestly desire.

It therefore seems to me sufficient to add that self-respect compels me to adopt the only other alternative, and to decline the high office to which I have been appointed. I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant, J. J. VAN ALEN.

II.

THE PRESIDENT BEGS HIM TO RECONSIDER.

Executive Mansion, Washington, Nov. 22, 1893.

Hon. J. J. Van Alen.

My Dear Sir: The Secretary of State has submitted to me your letter of the 20th inst., in which you tender your resignation as Ambassador to Italy.

I hasten to express my earnest wish that you will reconsider this conclusion. The sentiments contained in your letter do credit to your conscience and Americanism, but you must allow me to dissent from their application in this case.

I did not select you for nomination to the Italian mission without satisfying myself of your entire fitness for the place. I am now better convinced of your fitness than ever. You know and I know that all the malignant criticism that has been indulged in regarding this appointment has no justification, and that the decent people who have doubted its propriety have been misled, or have missed the actual considerations upon which it rests. We should not yield to the noise and clamor which have arisen from those conditions.

My personal preference should enter very slightly into your final determination; but so far as I have such preference, it is emphatically that you accept the honorable office conferred upon you, and vindicate by the discharge of its duties the wisdom and propriety of your selection. Awaiting your early reply, I am, yours sincerely,

GROVER CLEVELAND.

III.

FIRM IN HIS DETERMINATION.

Newport, R. I., Nov. 25, 1893.

To the President.

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22d inst. In reply, allow me to thank you most sincerely and heartily for the very kind and flattering sentiments you express. For the reasons I have already stated in my letter to the Secretary of State, and which were reached only after long and serious consideration of the subject, I feel that I cannot accept the high office to which I have been appointed. My only regret in this decision, which I must beg you to consider as final, is that it is contrary to the personal preference which you so kindly express. But I cannot think it would be advisable for me to invite further misrepresentation by taking advantage of your generosity.

Again thanking you for your most gracious words, and with an earnest hope for the continuance of the successes which have already marked your second administration, I beg to remain, sir, with much respect, your obedient servant,

J. J. VAN ALEN.

WILLIAM C. WHITNEY NOT SURPRISED.

William C. Whitney was seen last night at his home, Fifty-seventh-st. and Fifth-ave., by a Tribune reporter and was asked what he thought of J. J. Van Alen's resignation. Mr. Whitney did not care to express an opinion, nor would he say what he thought of Mr. Van Alen's actions. He was not surprised, he said, to hear that the resignation had been sent to Mr. Cleveland, and he supposed that Mr. Van Alen had become so disgusted with adverse criticism that he had decided to resign. Mr. Whitney thought, from reading Mr. Van Alen's letters, that they would be final, and that he could not be prevailed upon to reconsider his action.

TELEGRAPHIC NOTES.

Omaha, Neb., Dec. 3.—The condition of the bank of the Missouri River, from a point above Florence to the stretch below East Omaha, is such that a mass-meeting was held yesterday, at which it was decided to call upon the Government to take immediate precautions in order to prevent the river from cutting a new channel.

Kalamazoo, Mich., Dec. 3.—The examination of L. J. De France, charged with forgery, was resumed yesterday. Recorder Peck bound De France over to the December term of the Circuit Court, and fixed bail at $15,000, which was not offered. The defence filed an exception on the ground of excessive bail.

Lima, Ohio, Dec. 3.—At Ravenna, a small town near this city, last night a tramp entered the home of D. J. Sherman and assaulted Miss Sherman, who was alone. Her brother came in before the assailant could escape and killed him with a stiletto.

Little Falls, Minn., Dec. 3.—Albert K. Kosanke, a harness-maker, was found in his store yesterday lying on the floor dead. His mouth was gagged, there was a rope around his neck, and a heavy oak cordwood stick indicated the instrument with which his head had literally been battered in. The pockets of the murdered man were turned inside out, and his watch was gone.

Amsterdam, N. Y., Dec. 3.—William Golusha, aged twenty-three, was drowned in the Mohawk River yesterday at Akin. He was making for the shore in a boat, when it sank. His body has not been recovered.

Pacific, Mo., Dec. 3.—Yesterday a tramp saw a railroad tricycle belonging to a lineman beside the Missouri Pacific depot, and under cover of a fog managed to sneak it on to the track, and soon started away at full speed. When he neared Labadie, a station seven miles further west, a headlight loomed up in front of him. Before he could even slacken speed the fast express had struck the tricycle, dashing it from the track. The tramp fell between the rails, and was ground to pieces.

Troy, N. Y., Dec. 3.—"The Troy Budget" has investigated the report that the Erie Mills at Cohoes, operated by M. E. Moore & Co., had closed down until March, throwing 300 hands out of employment. Peter Moore, junior partner of the firm, said that the mills have merely closed to take an inventory, and will start up as soon as sufficient orders warrant so doing.

Stockton, N. J., Dec. 3.—Jackson Phillips, tender of the Delaware bridge here, was lighting the bridge lamps last night when one exploded, seriously burning him and setting fire to the long bridge. But for immediate assistance the bridge would have been burned. The bridge is half a mile long and is a frame structure.

Meadville, Penn., Dec. 3.—G. D. Bailey and Ernest Winans were out rabbit-hunting yesterday. While Bailey, who wore a fur cap, was crouched behind a huge pile of logs, Winans saw his friend's cap, and, mistaking it for a rabbit, fired his gun. Bailey's head was blown off.

Alliance, Ohio, Dec. 3.—Last midnight four ruffians entered the telegraph tower at Little Beaver and commanded the operator, Hudson, to stop the first train going either direction. When the tramps saw Hudson was not signalling an approaching freight train they beat and kicked him, taking $20, his overcoat and other valuables with them. As they were leaving Hudson shot at them. The tramps returned the fire without result.

Washington, Penn., Dec. 3.—David S. Cratty, a wealthy resident of Mt. Pleasant Township, was killed yesterday by a runaway horse. Cratty was thrown; his foot caught in the harness, dragging him a long distance, with head and shoulders striking the frozen earth. When the horse was caught Mr. Cratty was dead. He was forty-five years old and unmarried.

TO FIX DATES FOR BROOKLYN PRIMARIES.

The Republican Executive Committee in Brooklyn will meet to-morrow evening at No. 151 Lawrence-st., and the dates will be decided on for the primaries to be held in the election district associations between December 10 and 20. Other routine business will be transacted.

The Kings County Democratic General Committee will meet this evening in Jefferson Hall, Brooklyn, and an address to voters will be presented by the Executive Committee. No plan for party reorganization has yet been prepared.

DUTY OF THE GRAND JURY.

ELECTION FRAUDS SHOULD BE THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATED.

EXAMPLES SHOULD BE MADE OF THE MEN WHO HAVE OPENLY BROKEN THE BALLOT LAWS—GOOD CITIZENS OF BOTH PARTIES DEMAND THIS.

"The Grand Jury, which will be impannelled to-morrow," said a well-known lawyer yesterday, "has a delicate duty to perform. The index to that duty has been provided for them by gentlemen of high position and esteem in the community who took upon themselves the labor of preparing evidence of the outrageous election crimes committed in this city last month. Grand Juries can accomplish much in a short time provided they are made up of the proper men. The October inquest was effective, they having investigated 600 cases and indicted about 300 persons within a period of twelve days. But they had a good foreman and an excellent secretary.

"It is important," continued this lawyer, "that the present Grand Jury should examine the election cases on the lines laid down by the committee of lawyers. It is hardly necessary for them to go outside of the list of those whose names appear as witnesses in the cases already prepared. There is always danger in making up evidence bearing on frauds upon the ballot in calling upon policemen to testify. Unfortunately these officers have a way of turning their backs at critical moments, in order to avoid witnessing acts of fraud and violence, and therefore when they come before a Grand Jury they are able to give a technically truthful answer to the effect that they saw nothing wrong when questioned on that point.

DETECTIVES KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT.

"A belief exists that detectives at Police Headquarters understand from experience the penalty of being too truthful on such occasions, for instances have occurred when the officer who manifested a commendable degree of conscience has been promptly transferred from his more general work to ordinary duty on the street. At this particular time the influence of Tammany Hall is possessed of much venom, and few officials in this city, with the exception of District-Attorney Nicoll and some of his assistants, are possessed of courage enough to do their work as it should be done, or can be depended upon to expose the details of such political crimes as have been perpetrated within the last thirty days. Witness the co-operation of the police force with the Tammany thieves in the IId Assembly District. They apparently did not revise the registration. The Grand Jury indicted floaters chiefly in the IIId Assembly District; but in the IId many fraudulent votes were cast, because the Grand Jury could not investigate that district."

OPEN BOATS OF DIVER'S MEN.

"There is no doubt that repeating was carried on shamefully by Tammany leaders this year," said a Republican politician. "The members of Pat Divver's organization are boasting in barrooms even to this day that they cast many votes—in some instances, that one man voted a dozen times. In one district