



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1886.

Advertisements for THE WEEKLY SUN, issued to-morrow morning, must be handed in this evening before six o'clock.

The President's Message.

In method and spirit, and especially in its careful study of the department reports, on which it is largely based, Mr. Cleveland's second general message resembles the one sent to Congress a year ago.

It opens, according to custom, with a review of international affairs. Here two great subjects of importance are the fishery dispute and the Curtiss case. The former is still unsettled, and the President, while desiring friendly relations with the Dominion, finds such relations threatened by the action of its officials toward our fishermen.

As to the Curtiss case, the President contents himself with protesting against the doctrine that although Mr. Curtiss's offense was committed on land, yet he became subject to punishment by Mexican laws, when found in that country, as the offense had been committed against a Mexican citizen.

With Hawaii, as an outpost of American commerce, our relations, says the President, ought to be strengthened. The treaty, now terminable on a year's notice, ought to be extended for a further term of seven years, while the autonomy of the islands should be maintained and telegraph communication established between them and us.

The President regrets the ill treatment of the Chinese on the Pacific coast, and says that China will meet us half way in limiting the emigration of her subjects, while protecting those who are now here. Good results are hoped from the recent changes in organic law bringing Panama directly under the administration of Bogotá.

The occasion of Premier Freycinet's resignation was comparatively trivial, but the difficulty of forming a Cabinet cannot be unrelated to the agitated and expectant state of public feeling across the Rhine.

The Chamber of Deputies insisted, notwithstanding the remonstrance of the Ministry, upon the abolition of sub-prefectures. The adverse majority, however, was so small that, as in the case of previous defeats experienced by the Government on items of the budget, the Chamber might have reconsidered its action, or by a vote of confidence declared that the matter need not be treated as a Cabinet question.

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Turning to financial affairs, the President says the ordinary receipts of the last fiscal year were \$12,740,000 above those of the year preceding; the ordinary expenses, \$17,788,797 less; the surplus left in the Treasury, \$98,956,585.56, as against \$63,463,771.27 the previous year, being an increase of \$30,492,814.27. The estimated surplus at the end of the current expenses is about \$90,000,000.

Of Secretary Whitney's recommendations he specially sanctions those relating to coast defense, and for requiring examinations, like those in the navy, upon the promotion of army officers. A short summary of Secretary Whitney's report is given, with a somewhat guarded approval of its project for securing American armor and gun steel. The President favors an extension of the free delivery service, and an appropriation for increased postal services to the Argentine Republic and Brazil, though not as a grant or subsidy.

Senators Hall and Frazz appeared at the White House as supplicants to prevent Morton's appointment.

The recognition of Morton by today's appointment is the basis of a pleasing romance to the effect that Senator Hall and Frazz were to be President-elect. It is not known, the President appointed another man.

This may be, or may not be. The main thing is the fact that a Republican, holding an important office under a Democratic Administration, is going out, and a Democrat is going in to take his place.

The last week witnessed the most momentous debate which has taken place in the Reichstag since the creation of that body, for it revealed the conviction of the best-informed persons in civil and military office that Germany may soon be forced to fight for the retention of Alsace-Lorraine.

The speech of Marshal Von Moltke seems to have made a deeper impression on European opinion than upon the votes of the opposition in the Reichstag. It was Bismarck's wish that the measure providing for an increase of the army should be carried through without the customary deliberation and delay.

Something was done last Sunday in the way of enforcing the Sunday closing law, but the weather did more than the police to induce a suspension of trade, for it is not much of a hardship to shut up shop on a day when comparatively few possible customers were abroad.

Yet the labor unions were more successful than the Sabbatarians have been in stirring up the authorities to efforts to compel obedience to the law. It is true that Dr. Howard Crosby's society has occasionally interfered with liquor selling on the first day of the week, but after two or three Sundays the bars have resumed business as of old.

The Buffalo Courier ought to stick to the facts, and not wander into the misty region of fiction. With regard to Mr. Cleveland's Strokes the SUN has done nothing but commend it heartily, and it has received a hostile interpretation at our hands. Would that Mr. Cleveland would write more such letters, and enforce sound old Democratic principles in every direction!

Great is Kentucky, the gem of the States. The blue grass waves above her, and now it seems that diamonds are beneath. Whiskey, diamonds, WATSON—but the greatest of these is WATSON. Kentucky is a great State, and it is a pity she drinks.

We notice with some surprise that that brilliant young New Jersey Democrat, Congressman McAdoo, is reported to have said that "the Democrats in New York are in a peculiar position. They are cowed by the Mugwump press."

A walking school for young women has been established in Philadelphia by an English "Professor," who asserts that "the larger the bustle the lady wears, the easier it is to assume the English motion."

Warm the cars, Brother HAIN! Postmaster HARRY D. PHILADELPHIA continues to be all right, although the civil service commissions imagine a vain thing. Mugwump handkerchiefs, winter style, have a wide mourning border.

Indiana pines, like this town, is enjoying what may be called the close Sunday. Food and coffee were the only articles which could be bought there last Sunday. Few men are in such a hurry that they can't afford to wait over Sunday before buying themselves a coffin.

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