

FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 1891.

London Office of THE SUN, 10, Abchurch Lane, E.C. 4. All communications should be addressed to FRANK W. WHITE, 30 Broad Street, New York.

The Proposed Tax Bill.

Hills are pending, both in the Assembly and in the Senate, for the introduction into this State of what is known as the Hastings system of taxation. It is proposed that every owner of property, real or personal, shall annually prepare an inventory of his possessions, swear to it, and deliver it to the tax assessors for their guidance in fixing the amount of his taxes.

Perfect or imperfect in its details, the scheme is objectionable on principle, as involving an inquisitorial prying into private affairs. It would violate the citizen's natural privilege not to be compelled to furnish evidence against himself.

It would bring out more plainly than our existing law does the folly of trying to tax personal property at all, and it would help on the needed reform of putting all taxation upon real property.

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he is expected to do, a majority of the whole Irish delegation, he would be the accredited official mouthpiece of the Irish people, and he would, beyond question, be consulted with the utmost deference with regard to all the details of the contemplated measure.

Only by beating the Gladstonians at the ballot box will the Unionists be able to evade or postpone the concession of self-rule to the Irish people. Whatever may happen in Ireland, all the indications are that in Great Britain alone Mr. Gladstone will obtain a substantial majority of the next House of Commons.

The Evening Post is strangely deceived by an editorial article which appeared in the New York Herald of Wednesday, purporting to give the gist of the opinions of earlier Attorneys-General on the question now before Gen. Harrison.

We have neither the time nor the disposition to expose in detail the process by which the writer in the Herald has twisted the real significance of the opinions he has consulted, so as to make them appear what they are not.

A single instance will show the Post how this wonderfully stupid or intentionally misleading garble and perversion of the record has been effected. The Herald says:

In the fourth volume (Opinions of the Attorneys-General, there is an opinion of 1843 that the President could during a recess call an officer of Justice of the Peace created during the previous session, and one of 1845 that during a recess he can appoint Territorial Justices.

Speaking only from memory, we venture to say that if the Post looks up the Herald's alleged precedent of 1843 it will find that it refers to the case of a Justice of the Peace in the District of Columbia, an inferior office, where the power to appoint was expressly vested in the President; and that this is the very case referred to in Mr. Logan's opinion of April 18, 1845, as cited already by THE SUN, whereon that eminent lawyer remarked:

The case does not involve the vested question whether, in the exercise of a recess, an appointment to a newly created office can be made by the Executive without the consent of the Senate.

Congress has power to waive the appointment of inferior officers, and to give to the Executive the power to appoint them, as it may deem expedient. In the case of a Justice of the Peace, the power to appoint was expressly vested in the President; and that this is the very case referred to in Mr. Logan's opinion of April 18, 1845, as cited already by THE SUN, whereon that eminent lawyer remarked:

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no one, of however limited sympathy with art or habit of observation, ever passes the reservoir without a sense of pleasure at the contrast its uninterrupted and impressive simplicity presents with the ordinary buildings of modern use that stand about it. As it stands, it is an ornament to the town, better worth paying a million and a half to preserve than a million to disfigure by the incoherent and makeshift establishment proposed by Mr. FARQUHAR.

Women and the Church. The ministers of the Baltimore and the Philadelphia conferences have voted on the question of admitting women to the General Conference of the Methodists, and in both cases they have decided against the proposition by a large majority.

It must be remembered, however, that the lay majority for woman representation was not a majority of the whole laity, but only of the one-fifth who took the trouble to express themselves on the question at all. The vote did not even represent the sentiment of the Methodist women. They make up 90 per cent of the entire body voted. Counting in those who refrained from voting as against the measure, the vast majority therefore are on that side.

Under such circumstances the preachers do not look on the vote cast as an expression of Methodist conviction to which they are obliged to pay heed. Probably they know that in their own parishes the sisters of the Church are generally uninterested in the subject, having no desire whatever to take part in ecclesiastical legislation.

The safety of the State, for the time being, depends upon the fact that the many discordant factions are unable to form any combination by which they can concentrate their efforts against the Government. Each party is too busy with its own quarrels to be able to do so.

This decision will also be influenced very powerfully by the conviction among a large part of the Methodists that women cannot be admitted to a share in Church legislation without violating an express Biblical command. To advocate woman representation, say these old-fashioned believers in the Bible, is to advocate and adopt a method of Scriptural interpretation which undermines and destroys utterly the authority of Revelation as it has been held by the Church.

When Congressmen JERRY SIMPSON comes here to make a speech on the 30th, he must not fail to bring along the other two rhetoricians who recently appeared with him on a platform in Washington—Senator PERZER the longbeard, and Senator KYLE the indocent. It is safe to say that such a trio would make a head and ears of any audience.

These Methodist are afraid of the teachings of Prof. Briggs. Their Church is founded on the belief that the Bible, not in its concept merely, but in its very form and letter, is the Word of God, the absolute truth and the absolute law.

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MR. TILDEN IN MINIATURE.

Death of a Clerk in Washington Who Wonderfully Resembled the Great Democrat.

WASHINGTON, March 12.—Joseph T. Hall, a clerk in the Treasury Department, died on Wednesday night at his residence in the country near here. Mr. Hall was only 31 years of age, and was 51 years old. He came here in 1863 from Columbus, Ind., to accept the place in the Treasury under Secretary Chase, which he occupied until the time of his death.

An curious circumstance in connection with Mr. Hall was that his bones were not of sufficient weight to sustain his weight, and they snapped and broke from slight causes. The bones of his limbs were fractured in various places twenty-seven times. It was to this infirmity that his death was due.

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This decision will also be influenced very powerfully by the conviction among a large part of the Methodists that women cannot be admitted to a share in Church legislation without violating an express Biblical command.

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HOW THE ARMY FARED IN CONGRESS.

A Great Number of Important Military Measures Became Law.

Not since the close of the civil war has any other Congress done as much for the army as the Fifty-first. Indeed it was ready to go still further and add two artillery regiments to the military establishment, with the resulting increase of pay, had not the House of Representatives been overruled and sunk at the close of the session by other projects, fastened upon it at the urgency of other officers.

As it stands, the record of legislation is remarkable. To begin with, we find the act for the transfer of retired officers, on reaching the age of 60, from the limited disability list to the unlimited active list. Already thirty such transfers have been followed by an equal number of retirements to fill the vacancies thus created.

Next, the Fifty-first Congress has greatly increased the number of details allowed for the military service of the academy and military tactics. Army officers usually find this duty very agreeable, and some of them carry it out with great credit.

There are always many applications for assignment, and the law allows many of them to be filled. A special provision has been made for the promotion of officers who have served in the military service of the academy and military tactics.

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ARCHBISHOP WILLIAMS'S JUBILEE.

A Stately Occasion in Which a Large Number of the Clergy Joined.

BOSTON, March 12.—The celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the elevation to the Episcopacy of the Roman Catholic Church of Archbishop John J. Williams began to-day at 10:15 o'clock, by the celebration in the cathedral of the jubilee mass before an immense audience. In the procession the cross bearers came first, and then the choir bearers and acolytes, and the sanctuary choir, composed of 100 boys dressed in purple cassocks.

When the procession reached the altar the officiating priest, the Rev. John J. Williams, Archbishop, while the other Bishops and clergy arranged themselves, as many as could be accommodated, in the choir.

After the Gospel the sermon was preached by the Rev. James A. Healy, D. D., Bishop of the Diocese of Hartford, Conn.

At the conclusion of the service the Archbishop attended a banquet given by the clergy of the Diocese of Hartford, Conn.

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WHAT WE ARE ALL TALKING ABOUT.

Again the pretty young women of the town crowded to see pictures, this time at the Nationalist's exhibition of black and whites in their new rooms in West Twenty-second street. It is a safe rule to follow now that if one wants to see New York's prettiest girls on a post card, one should go to the Nationalist's exhibition.

One of the most important places to be filled by Mayor Grant in May is the post of Commissioner of Jurors. The term is six years, the salary \$3,000, and the Commissioner has the appointment of a deputy at \$2,000 a year.

Police Judge Daniel O'Reilly and Civil Judge Charles M. Cliney are old friends, old neighbors, and old acquaintances. Judge Cliney lives in Prince street. They have known each other since they were boys.

There was free gossip at the Braxton Lee book sale that Mr. Lee had not offered all his precious works, and even that he bought in some of what he did offer.

Whoever shops up town on the east side will notice that the houses in the East Village are not so numerous as they were a few years ago.

The fashionable fancy stores deal with a phase of town life which, happily, few of us know much about. They encounter the women who are endeavoring to live by creating novelties in the way of dresses and hats.

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