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HIS STORY BEGUN

Mr. Breckinridge Goes on the Stand This Afternoon.

SOME EVIDENCE IN REBUTTAL

Contradicting Statements About Lena Singleton's House.

SCENES IN THE COURT

The expectation that the defendant would go on the stand increased the public interest in the proceedings in the Pollard-Breckinridge trial today. At least that was what the increased demand for admission indicated. However, those who gained admittance sat through the morning session without the satisfaction of hearing the defendant's story from his own lips. The case dragged slowly on, fact being pieced to fact by the attorneys in building up the fabric which the jury is to judge. The wide range the case has taken is remarkable. Facts have been gathered from every plane of social life—from the slums of Lexington to the homes of fashion in Washington. Today there was an interruption in the course of proceedings to permit the introduction of the testimony of two witnesses called by the plaintiff in rebuttal. The witnesses were from Kentucky and anxious to return to their homes.

The remainder of the testimony taken during the morning was in the form of depositions submitted by the defendant and having reference to the plaintiff's early life in Kentucky and her reputation. The audience, as on other days, was noticeable today for the number of old men among them. Every day there are some visitors of note, Congressmen or men of distinction in other fields. Today Stuart Robson, the actor, was an interested spectator.

The testimony offered in rebuttal by the plaintiff this morning was that of two witnesses living in Lexington in the neighborhood where witnesses for the defendant located a disreputable house kept by Lena Singleton, where, it was asserted, Madeline Pollard had been seen in 1883. The two witnesses for the plaintiff today swore that no such woman had kept a house in that neighborhood during the time in question. The defendant continued putting in testimony today respecting the career of Miss Pollard.

The deposition was read of a woman, Mrs. William Muller, who had met Miss Pollard at her aunt's house in 1877, and believed she was then sixteen or seventeen years old. This woman testified also that Miss Pollard was rather fond of male society, and was considered somewhat fast as a girl. The witness herself admitted having lived a life of shame for years. The array of counsel for the defense had an addition today in the person of Dr. O'Mahoney of Lexington, who has assisted in the preparation of the case there, and prompted Mr. Stoll in his cross-examination of the Lexington witnesses.

At 1:40 this afternoon Mr. Breckinridge went upon the stand and began his story. Everyone in the room craned his head to catch a better view of the famous defendant in a famous suit.

Mr. Breckinridge stood while giving his

testimony. He did not wear his glasses. He told his story in a clear voice. Looking for the most part directly toward Mr. Butterworth, who was conducting the examination, the defendant leaned slightly forward and rested his hand upon the table before him. His face was even more pink than usual and showed up his snow-white hair and beard in striking contrast.

Miss Pollard was not in the court room this morning, but was waiting for a summons in Mr. Carlisle's office across the street. As soon as Mr. Breckinridge was placed upon the stand, a young man, who is studying law in Mr. Carlisle's office, was dispatched in post-haste and returned in a few minutes accompanied by Miss Pollard and her devoted friend, Mrs. Ellis.

Miss Pollard took her usual seat beside Mr. Carlisle. She was almost directly in front of the man she claims has done her such grievous wrong, and only about twenty feet from him.

She kept her eyes firmly fixed upon him, and listened with the closest attention to every word he said. It was in some respects one of the most remarkable, if not one of the most dramatic, scenes ever witnessed in this historic old court room. Mr. Breckinridge denies that he ever characterized this whole episode as "one of life's tragedies," but to many of those in the audience it really seemed as though that was about what it was.

As Mr. Breckinridge continued his story Miss Pollard's eyes seemed glued to him, and when he reached the part bearing upon the matter of the alleged forged letter they might well be said to have flashed fire. The afternoon was brimming full of sensational incidents.

Two Witnesses for the Plaintiff.

Immediately after the formal opening of the court this morning and the calling over of the names of the jurors, Mr. Carlisle, for the plaintiff, stated that he must make application in a matter which, even if it were agreed to by the other side, would yet need the approbation of the court. Two witnesses for the plaintiff were in town and anxious to get back to Lexington today, and he requested that they be allowed to give their testimony this morning, as it was rebuttal of a point in his testimony already reached and past by the defense.

Mr. Wilson and himself did not know of the urgent necessity for their return to Kentucky until after the adjournment of court yesterday.

Mr. Butterworth took exception to what he termed the irregularity of the proceeding and he with Messrs. Shelby and Stoll left the room to consult with Messrs. Wilson and Carlisle over the matter. Upon their return, Mr. Butterworth announced that the defense acceded to the request of the lawyers on the other side.

John E. Benckart.

John E. Benckart was then placed upon the stand, a youngish man with a smooth-shaven face, who said he had lived in Lexington since October, 1881. He had relatives there, a brother Mat, a brother Joe and a sister, Mrs. Potts. He lives now at 216 North 2d street, but in 1882 lived at the corner of 3d and Upper streets with his brother Mat, who kept a grocery store with a saloon attached. His brother got the property in 1882 from a one-armed man named John M. Heedly, through Maj. Thomas.

The witness described this property, which his brother owned. There was the big brick house he used, and a little detached frame cottage on Upper street, separated by a vacant space. Next to this cottage was a double frame, next to that a brick, both owned by Mr. McNamara, and next to that a house occupied by a colored man named Steven Dunn.

Witness stated that he kept books for his brother and did other work, so that he was well acquainted in the neighborhood. In 1882 there was no other grocery in the immediate neighborhood. The witness was shown a diagram, or map of the vicinity of 3d and Upper streets, and stated that it was a correct representation of the property as owned by his brother at present. In April, 1882, the adjoining cottage was occupied by John M. Heedly. The one side of the double cottage was occupied by Julia Grinsted and the other by a woman named Fannie Arnold. The next house to that was run by Belle Greason as a questionable house. On the vacant space in his lot his brother, in 1886, erected a double frame cottage, but the space was vacant until that time. From May, 1882, to October, 1883, Hester Norton occupied one of the houses. In this way the witness went on to describe all the houses around the corner and the occupants during a period from the spring of 1882 to 1885.

No Lena Singleton Lived There.

Witness was asked if he had ever heard of a woman named Lena Singleton. He said that he had heard the name, but that no such woman ever occupied one of these houses in this neighborhood. Exclusive of the one corner, there was no house on Upper street south of 3d occupied by a white person.

Mr. Stoll wanted to know what was the bearing of this question, and Mr. Farrell, who was conducting the examination,

stated that it was because the witness for the defense, Brand, had stated that Lena Singleton, a white woman, had kept a house here. Continuing, the witness said that none of the houses he had indicated had been occupied by any woman named Singleton since 1882.

Benckart was cross-examined by Mr. Stoll, who tried to show that his brother's place was a disorderly one, but this the witness denied. He said that he kept bar for his brother and was a sort of man-of-all-work about the place. He knew the character of the various places around his corner, and was asked whether Fannie Arnold's house was not one of bad repute. Mr. Wilson said that the defense had tried to prove that Lena Singleton kept a house in this neighborhood and they were proving that such was not the case. It made no difference what sort of a house the Arnold woman kept. The question was finally allowed, and the witness answered that he did not know.

Mr. Stoll tried to show on cross-examination that Lena Singleton might have been an occupant of one of these houses without his knowing it, but he thought this was hardly possible. Mr. Stoll said that all they had proved was that Lena had been in one of these houses, but he was reminded by the lawyers for the plaintiff that his deponent, John Brand, had testified that she kept a house near 3d and Upper streets.

The witness was asked whether he had ever been indicted in Fayette county, but he was not compelled to answer the question. As to Lena Singleton, he had never seen her, and would not know her if he should see her. Near this corner there was a big lawn, known as the college lawn, on which was located the University of Kentucky.

How He Came to Washington.

Benckart stated that he had been in Washington for a week.

"First time you've ever been here?"

"Yes, sir."

"How did you happen to come?"

"We sent for him," remarked Mr. Wilson.

"Let the witness answer, please," said Mr. Stoll.

"It's just like the case of Mr. Rozell," said Mr. Farrell, sotto voce.

"I was sent for," said the witness.

"How?"

"Mr. Farrell telegraphed for me, and sent it to Mr. Ernest Ellis."

Mr. Stoll tried to show that this man Ellis was a bad character, and kept a "nigger grocery." He also wanted to prove that the witness had been in consultation with the lawyers for the plaintiff since he had been here, but Mr. Wilson objected to this as inconsequential, at least. The witness said that he had conversed several times with Mr. Farrell.

"I don't see that that is relevant to this case," was Judge Bradley's comment. "It seems to me that a lawyer who places a witness on the stand without having talked with him as to his testimony is guilty of neglect of duty."

On redirect examination by Mr. Farrell the witness said that Mr. Ellis, who had been referred to by Mr. Stoll as keeping a "nigger grocery," had been appointed, and was now, a police commissioner of Lexington.

"Appointed since I left?" asked Mr. Stoll.

"Yes," said Mr. Farrell; "they actually had the temerity to make an appointment while you were away," said Mr. Farrell.

The witness was also examined further as to the location of the college buildings.

Steven Dunn.

Steven Dunn of Lexington, colored, referred to in the testimony of the preceding witness, was next called to the stand and examined by Mr. Farrell. He said he had lived in Lexington since 1875. He was in the furniture business on Vine street, but had resided at 162 North Upper street ever since 1875. The diagram shown to Benckart representing the neighborhood of 3d and Upper streets was shown to the witness and he testified to the various persons occupying houses there. Matt Benckart, who owned the northeast corner, he

(Continued on Second Page.)

COXEY MEN PROTEST

Officers Fed Better Than the Rank and File.

PLODDING ALONG IN A SNOW STORM

The Army Being Clothed by the Farmers.

EAGER TO HURRY THEM ON

SALEM, Ohio, March 29.—After snowing all night, the roads between Salem and Columbiana were very heavy and the Coxey army did not make an early start with a bright prospect before them. The men passed a pleasant night in the two halls set aside for their accommodation. Dan Allen, a Chicago barber, who is with the army, shaved ninety of the men. In consequence the brigade presented a very respectable appearance. "Unknown" Smith made an appeal for clothing to the citizens last night, and such men as required them obtained pants and coats. The sick men were reported all right.

Several citizens have complained here on account of the army men going around at night begging.

When Mr. Coxey did not arrive on the morning train, orders were given to get under way, and a start made at 10 o'clock. Fourteen recruits joined at breakfast. The men got coffee, bread and jelly, and made a big grumble again. Pies and meat were given the officers and teamsters, and the rank and file thought this was discriminating. Smith quieted them with promises.

As the movement begins to look like a permanency, depots are being established along the route, and Browne is having surplus supplies shipped ahead. It was snowing all morning, and Camp Anna L. Diggs had a most forlorn aspect, the men shivering in groups. Two of the soldiers were dismissed last night by Smith for giving information about the camp. Smith says they were crooks.

Sad Condition of Frye's Army.

NEW ORLEANS, March 29.—A special to the Times-Democrat from San Antonio, Texas, says: A dispatch was received here last night from Sierra Blanca, describing the condition of the industrial army which left that place last night at 9:30 o'clock on a special train, provided by the people of El Paso, for San Antonio. This dispatch states that when the army arrived at Sierra Blanca some of the men were so faint from hunger and exposure that they dropped in their tracks and were picked up and carried to camp by their comrades. A beef and 400 pounds of flour were at once purchased by the citizens of Sierra Blanca, which made one good meal. The men were so famished that their stomachs would not retain the food. Yesterday morning the beef was slaughtered and the men had another meal.

Gen. Frye endeavored to get the men to leave on foot last evening, but his followers could not walk owing to weakness.

The dispatch further says that the men are gentlemanly and that there are ministers, lawyers, merchants and mechanics among them.

To Start From Denver Saturday.

DENVER, Col., March 29.—The Denver contingent for Coxey's army met last night and decided to take up the march for Washington Saturday morning. They number about fifty men, and expect to be reinforced at Colorado Springs and Pueblo. They will not walk, but expect to capture an eastbound freight train. Many of them have no idea of going to the national capital, but will desert the first time they have an opportunity to secure work.

LAID IN THE POTTER'S FIELD.

An Austrian Nobleman Expatiated by His Crime.

ST. LOUIS, March 29—An Austrian nobleman will be buried in the potter's field today. Descended from illustrious family, and with the secret of a strange crime locked in his breast, Hugo, Baron Von Laudon, died without the commonest necessaries of life in this city yesterday.

Gen. Laudon, the renowned Austrian warrior, who fought against Frederick the Great, was one of the ancestors of the unfortunate man, and a number of other famous Austrians belong to the genealogical tree.

Hugo Von Laudon has been in America a little more than two years. According to the story of the deceased, he fled from Russia to this country to escape the consequences of a murder he was supposed to have committed there. He owned vast estates in that country, but was afraid to return and claim them.

COLUMBIA AND MARYLAND R.R.

The Bill to Charter It Passed by the Maryland House.

Special Dispatch to The Evening Star:

ANNAPOLIS, Md., March 29.—The house of delegates today passed the bill to charter the Columbia and Maryland Railroad Company. The bill has been amended so that the capital stock is limited to $4,000,000, and the company is authorized to construct an electric or other railway from Washington through Prince George's, Howard, Baltimore, Harford and Cecil counties to Baltimore or elsewhere within those limits. The bill is supposed to be backed by Senator Gorman and a syndicate of Washington people, and is in opposition to the boulevard scheme, the bill for which is still held up on the files.

ST. ANTHONY OUTDONE.

A Hearing Refused the New England Working Women.

The handsome delegation which represents the wage-earning women of the New England mills and factories visited the Capitol this morning in furtherance of their desire to get the finance committee of the Senate to listen to their arguments against the passage of the Wilson bill. The attractive bevy was under the marshalship of Mrs. J. Ellen Foster, and surrounded Senator Voorhees shortly after their arrival. Sixteen pairs of eyes of the most expressive and lovely character were leveled upon him, and sixteen inviting mouths pouted in pantomimic pleading as Mrs. Foster begged the chairman of the finance committee to grant the visitors a hearing.

Senator Voorhees made an excellent understudy for St. Anthony in proving obdurate to so much charming supplication. He said that the finance committee had already reported the Wilson bill, and even if it had been the policy of the body to grant hearings upon the measure when it was under consideration the time had already gone by. He remarked, also, that even if one hearing was accorded to a delegation, even so attractive as that before him, there would be no just grounds for refusing the same privileges to others, and the result would be that the committee would have no time to consider the bill, which the interests of the country demanded should be disposed of without delay.

The republican members of the finance committee were much more gracious, however, and a meeting was held in the republican conference room of the Senate, at which the members of the delegation and Mrs. Foster presented their views on the proposed bill with characteristic feminine emphasis.

By the explosion of a gasoline stove at the house of D. Hannan, 2702 K street northwest, last evening, a fire was started, but it was extinguished with a loss of $10.

THE BELT LINE BILL

Commissioners Give Their Views on the Proposed Route.

The Streets That Meet Their Views for Railroad Purposes—Danger at Thomas Circle Feared.

The Commissioners this morning reported the bill changing the name of the Capitol, North O Street and South Washington Railway Company to the Belt Railway Company and granting the company additional powers.

The route of extension is amended so as to read:

Beginning at Florida avenue and M street, thence west along M street to New York avenue, thence westerly on New York avenue to L street, thence west along L street, 11th street and L street to 20th street, thence north on 20th street to M street, thence west on M street to 22d street, north to the end of 22d street as now existing, or as may be extended, to S street, west on S street to 24th, north on 24th to U street, east to 23d street, south to S street; and from L street and 5th street northwest, east to L to 8th street; thence north on 8th street to Florida avenue; thence along Florida avenue to the starting point; provided that unless the construction of said extensions hereby authorized shall be commenced within six months and completed within two years after the date of the approval of this act the authority hereby granted shall cease.

The Report.

In the letter transmitting the report the Commissioners say:

The bill proposes an abandonment of certain portions of the Belt Railway Company's tracks and the addition of certain tracks in the southwest, and of tracks on M street northwest, from 4th to 26th streets. The latter named addition is the most important change proposed by the bill. The change would furnish an east and west line in the northwest section.

The Commissioners are of the opinion that such a line, especially if extended through Northeast Washington and made to include a north and south line in the extreme northwest Kalorama Heights, is desirable for public convenience. The new territory named is at present without street railroad facilities.

A crossing of 14th street at Thomas circle, which the M street line of the bill would necessitate, is regarded as sufficiently objectionable to render this part of M street unavailable. The north and south cable tracks and the converging traffic at this point already makes it at times crowded and dangerous.

Best Route.

The different streets from Q to K, inclusive, have been carefully considered for selecting the east and west route freest from objection, and for giving accommodation to the greater number. The route recommended as on the whole nearest fulfilling these conditions is from Florida avenue and M street; thence west along M street to New York avenue; thence westerly on New York avenue to L street; thence west along L street, 11th street and L street to 20th street; thence north on 20th street to M street; thence west on M street to 22d street; north to the end of 22d, as now existing, or as may be extended, to S street; west on S to 24th; north on 24th to U street; east to 23d street; south to S street; and from L and 5th streets northwest, east on L to 8th street; thence north on 8th street to Florida avenue; thence along Florida avenue to the starting point.

The route contemplates a single track on each of these streets east of 5th and west of 23d, and double tracks between 5th and 23d. It would pass the entrance to the grounds of the Deaf and Dumb Institution, Convention Hall and K street market, and connect with the Eckington and Soldiers' Home railroad, operated by the same company as the Belt line.

The Commissioners are not able to recommend the abandonment of operation of cars and removal of tracks as proposed in the bill, except on E street between 11th and 9th, and from 9th street and Louisiana avenue westerly to 12th street and south to B street south.

The Commissioners do not recommend the South Washington addition of tracks as proposed in the bill.

The above-named recommendations would require so many amendments to the bill that a new draft embodying the latter is inclosed. Some new sections have been added to the draft for covering requirements not in the present charter of the Belt line, but which have been incorporated in all street railway reports from this office to the present Congress and whose adoption is recommended.

Upon request of some of the holders of bonds secured by an existing deed of trust a prior lien has been added to section 4.

PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATIONS.

A Number of Offices in the Customs Service and Elsewhere Filled.

The President today sent the following nominations to the Senate:

To be surveyors of customs—J. N. Harris of Tennessee, for the port of Memphis, Tenn.; Clay C. McDonald of Missouri, for the port of St. Joseph, Mo.

Interior—Henry B. Lovering of Massachusetts, to be pension agent at Boston; Thomas Cogswell of New Hampshire, to be pension agent at Concord, N.H.

To be collectors of customs—J. L. Cottrell of Florida, for the district of St. Mark's, Fla.; George H. Houck of New York, for the district of Genesee, N.Y.; W. A. Fitch of Texas, for the district of Saluria, Tex.; Daniel G. Brent of Florida, for the district of Pensacola, Fla.

Treasury.—J. W. Adams of Nevada, to be superintendent of the mint at Carson, Nev.; Hirsch Harris of Nevada, to be melter and refiner at the mint of the United States at Carson, Nev.

To be registers of land offices.—Irving H. Mulholland of California, at Independence, Cal.; Willard C. Hall of Wyoming, at Sundance, Wyo.; Edward H. French of Wyoming, at Douglass, Wyo.

To be receivers of public moneys.—Edward W. Madison of Wyoming, at Douglas, Wyo.; Thomas A. Dunn of Wyoming, at Sundance, Wyo.

War.—Col. George H. Mendell, corps of engineers; Lieut. Col. Wm. H. H. Benyaurd, corps of engineers; Maj. William H. Heuer, corps of engineers, to be members of the California debris commission. Second Lieut. Alfred M. Hunter, fourth artillery, to be first lieutenant.

A number of postmasters were also nominated.

A HALL OF RECORDS.

A House Substitute for the Senate Bill Decided on.

The House committee on public buildings and grounds today decided to report a substitute for the Senate bill providing for a hall of records for the government in this city. The substitute provides for the acquirement of the property corner 1st and B streets southwest, adjoining the southwest edge of the Capitol grounds. This property is now occupied by the abandoned street car barns, and is rented for a storage room for documents.

The House committee proposes to make this a document room for Congress, as well as a hall of records. The bill provides an appropriation of $300,000.

THE DEATH OF KOSSUTH.

Surprise That the President Did Not Send a Message of Condolence.

Some surprise is expressed in diplomatic circles that President Cleveland has failed to take cognizance of the death of Kossuth, the Hungarian apostle of liberty. Both houses of Congress adopted resolutions of respect to his memory, but the executive branch of the government has omitted the message of condolence usual in such cases.

REDUCING FORCES

The Dockery Commission's Plan for Treasury Department Work.

REORGANIZING SEVERAL BUREAUS

The Bill Prepared and Reported by the Commission.

THE FINANCIAL SIDE

The department joint commission which has been engaged in preparing a plan for a rearrangement of the work in the offices of the auditors and controller of the treasury today, through Mr. Dockery, submitted a report to the House on a bill designed to carry the proposed changes into effect.

The changes proposed by the bill are as follows:

Transfer the personal ledgers now kept in the offices of the auditors and the register to the division of bookkeeping and warrants, in the office of the Secretary of the Treasury.

Abolish the office of second controller.

Dispense with the detailed examination of accounts in the office of the first controller, except upon appeal.

Transfer to the auditor for Department of the Interior the audit now performed on land accounts in the office of the first controller.

Transfer the audit of accounts to the respective auditors having jurisdiction over the accounts of the several departments under which the accounts originate.

Dispense with the registering, countersigning of warrants, and the keeping of appropriation ledgers in the office of the register of the treasury.

Transfer to the respective auditors the jurisdiction of the files now under the register.

In doing this it is proposed to make a rearrangement of the clerical force. The present arrangement of clerks is as follows:

	Clerks.	Amount.
Secretary's office (division of warrants, estimates and appropriations)	22	$33,980
First controller	65	92,480
Second controller	67	97,820
Register	108	139,750
First auditor	63	88,810
Second auditor	219	294,490
Second auditor (repairing and restoring rolls)	....	21,000
Third auditor	144	191,850
Fourth auditor	54	74,230
Fifth auditor	33	47,610
	775	1,082,020
Add, allowed auditor for treasury on acc't of report No. 2	10	16,000
	785	1,098,020
Less, including in report No. 4 relating to property returns 13 clerks, $15,000		
This report, relating to transfers from the register's office 13 clerks, $17,260	26	32,260
Total	759	1,065,760

The proposed rearrangement is as follows:

	Clerks.	Amt.
Secretary's office (division of bookkeeping and warrants)	37	$60,080
Controller	24	47,900
Register	58	70,770
Auditor for Treasury Department	75	108,030
Auditor for War Department (repairing and restoring rolls, $21,000)	198	289,650
Auditor for Interior Department	139	182,030
Auditor for Navy Department	51	69,030
Auditor for State and other departments	42	58,530
Total	624	$886,020

The Saving.

The report says: "The proposed arrangement is thus less than the present arrangement by 135 clerks at an annual cost of $179,740. This, added to the previous saving on account of the transfer from the register's office, referred to herein, makes a saving for clerical services of 148 clerks, $197,000 per annum. This estimate does not make any allowance for clerk hire in the office of the Attorney General, nor for any force that may possibly be required for concluding the work under the present system in the controller's office or in bringing up to date the work in the various auditors' offices.

"The preceding table shows a direct saving, and this sum would be considerably augmented by the discontinuance of many books and the saving of much stationery, making the direct aggregate saving by this report considerably over $200,000. The considerable saving of money by the carrying out of the recommendations of this report is a small consideration compared with the advantages which will be gained by a proper check, expeditious and efficient, of the disbursing officer's accounts and the facility afforded by the more systematic arrangement of the accounting offices. The present system of accounting is practically but one check, as the audit of the controller is final and independent of any examinations or audits previously made, and the government is protected by the accounting branch only so far as the audit of the controller is efficient.

Prompt Work.

"The proposed change will cause a prompt settlement of all officers' acounts, with an appeal from the decision of the auditor, whereby a review or revision of the account can be had by the controller. This will do much toward removing the irritation and friction that is known to exist between the officers connected with the administrative departments of the government and the government's accounting officers; and this prompt settlement will be a greater protection to the government in all respects than can possibly be had under the present arrangement.

"The proposed system, besides providing for a prompt and efficient check upon disbursing officers' accounts and advances to them, will also expedite the settlement of claims without in any way destroying the efficiency of the check now had. The dispensing with the countersignature of warrants by the register will facilitate the business and take away no necessary check, as the countersignature of the first controller upon warrants of the Secretary of the Treasury, which countersignature is based upon information as to appropriations kept in the ledgers in his office, upon information contained in the settlements of accounts made by the auditors, or upon information contained in the requisition asking for an advance, affords as much protection as is now afforded by the countersignature of the register, and the delay and circumlocution made necessary by the present law in the office of the latter will be avoided. The recommendations as to the government's books of account will afford the Secretary of the Treasury the opportunity of rendering correct and authentic reports as to the financial operations and condition of the government. Such reports can be based upon information taken from books of account which are up to date and which can be balanced and proved. This improvement alone will be of incalculable advantage to Congress, the executive departments and to the people."

Decreasing Agents.

The report in explanation of the bill also says:

"It is clear that the present mode of settling accounts does not answer the demands of public justice or economy; and it is also clear that the divided responsibility does not protect the government. The aim of the present bill is to place greater responsibility upon the auditors who are now engaged in auditing accounts; to hold them responsible not only for the settlement of accounts and claims that come to them, but also make them responsible for the advancing of money to disbursing officers, their responsibility in the latter case being that they shall disapprove such requisitions for said officers if they have not complied with the law in the rendering of their accounts. It is the intention of this bill to lessen the number of agents who now share the responsibility for the auditing of accounts, and to concentrate it where it will be felt, and where abuses can be at once detected. In view of the fact that 90 per cent of the expenditures of government now pass through disbursing officers who are under bond, and take especial care to pay out money only for purposes clearly authorized by law—who, indeed, are authorized to obtain the decisions of the controller as to the construction of statutes before making payments—and who, therefore, primarily satisfy themselves of the correctness of the accounts; and in further view of the fact that the administrative officers also examine and approve these accounts coming under their control before they go to the auditor, which examination was unknown when the original system of settlement of accounts by an auditor and revision by a controller was established, it would seem to be entirely unnecessary to have these accounts pass through any further revision as to mere mathematical computations under well-settled laws after the proper auditor has examined them and ascertained and stated the balances.

This bill, therefore, makes this audit final, except as to decisions involving new constructions of statutes, subject to appeal by the claimant or by the controller, head of a department or the Secretary of the Treasury on behalf of the government. Thus all the time now required in the controller's office to repeat useless revision of mere mathematical computations is saved. * * *

Above the six auditors is placed one controller, with his assistant, to revise the few settlements appealed from the auditor, but mainly to determine finally the construction of statutes either by revision on the auditor's report of decisions or on appeal. The advantage of having one controller to stand in the same relation to the auditors as an appellate court to inferior courts, instead of two or (with the commissioner of customs) three, as now, to make final decisions as to construction of statutes, is so clear that it requires no argument. As it is now statutes sometimes receive contradictory constructions by the different controllers. Under the system proposed there will be uniform constructions of statutes in the accounting branch of the government, and the fact that one officer is charged with this judicial duty, and relieved from mere mathematical computations, will be likely to lead to more satisfactory results.

The Bill's Provisions.

A synopsis of the principal features of the bill shows that "section 1 provides a new nomenclature for the auditors. The present numbers indicate nothing, and the names as given them in section 1 will indicate the accounts which they audit, and should be a great advantage to any one having any business with accounts or claims. Section 2 abolishes the offices of second controller, deputy second controller and deputy first controller of the treasury, and constitutes the first controller as controller of the treasury, with all the duties and responsibilities and powers that are now appertaining to the first and second controllers of the treasury. This will concentrate in one head all the legal direction in the settlement of accounts and will prevent the conflict and confusion which arises from the fact of having two controllers with the same powers. Much advantage will be gained by having one head to the accounting branch. This section also provides for an assistant controller and a chief clerk, who shall perform such duties as may be prescribed by the controller of the treasury. Section 3 provides that the controller of the treasury shall, under the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury, prescribe the forms of keeping and rendering accounts. Section 5 defines the accounts which the various auditors of the treasury shall receive and examine. This section is intended to cover all accounts which are now rendered, or any which shall hereafter arise, it being intended that the accounts from the various executive departments shall go to the auditor designated for that department.

Five of these auditors have each of them a department over whose accounts they shall have supervision. The remaining auditor is called the auditor for the state and other departments, whose duty is to receive and examine all accounts of salaries and incidental expenses of the offices of the Secretary of State, the Attorney General and the Secretary of Agriculture, and all accounts relating to independent commissions and boards not under an executive department. The jurisdiction of the auditor for the Post Office Department is not changed, except that he shall hereafter audit, in addition to what he now audits, the accounts of salaries and incidental expenses of the office of Postmaster General, which are now audited by the fifth auditor through an accidental omission in the law establishing this office.

Section 8 provides that all the books of the government shall be kept in one office and that office under the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury. The division which is given direction of these books is now the division of warrants, estimates and appropriations. They have now the ledger accounts of all appropriations and also the accounts of the public debt, and bonded railroad companies. This section provides that the books of account, or personal ledgers, now kept in the register's office, and those kept in the offices of the second, third and fourth auditors shall be removed to this division.

There are seventeen sections of the bill, but the others provide minor details for accomplishing the general purposes of the bill.

JUDGE BRAWLEY'S RESIGNATION.

Statement That Difference With Secretary Carlisle on Civil Service Was the Cause.

Judge John B. Brawley, sixth auditor of the treasury, whose resignation was announced yesterday in The Star, was seen by a reporter today. He stated that his resignation was voluntary, and that his personal relations with the President and the Secretary of the Treasury were very pleasant. The work of the office was in a satisfactory condition; better condition than it had been in for several years. His resignation had not been accepted; he did not know when it would be, and had no idea on whom his mantle was to fall. This is all that he would say.

The gossip of the department is that it cannot be true that the resignation was because the business conduct of the office was not satisfactory to the administration, because the records of the office and the statements of the other officials are against this theory. Much of the work which was largely in arrears when Judge Brawley assumed the helm is now up to date. He is said to be popular personally with the employes, and because of this has been able to get a great deal of work out of them which otherwise they would not perform.

One of the most plausible reasons assigned for the resignation is that the civil service ideas of Judge Brawley and of Secretary Carlisle have clashed. The sixth auditor is said to be a stickler for reform in the line of civil service, and, according to the recent report of the civil service commission, Secretary Carlisle is not rated too high as a true reformer. There is a good deal of gossip as to who will be the successor of the retiring auditor. The place has usually gone to an Ohio man, and it is said at the department that one from the buckeye state is after the position, but who it is they say they do not know. There is a likelihood that Deputy Auditor Crawford of Louisiana will be called on to serve. This act would be in the line of promotion, and, although Mr. Crawford has done nothing to advance his interests, he is looked on as a strong probability.

THE PRESIDENT'S HEALTH

So Improved as to Resume the White House Receptions.

The President's recent attack of rheumatic gout, following his outing in Dismal Swamp, has so far yielded to medical treatment and careful dieting that the distinguished patient was able to resume his tri-weekly afternoon receptions to the public yesterday. There was a small attendance, owing to the fact that the President was not expected to come down stairs. He uses the elevator altogether and walks as little as possible. It is rumored that he will go away on another fishing or hunting expedition as soon as his health and the state of public business will permit.

A VETO MESSAGE

President Cleveland Returns the Bland Seigniorage Bill.

HIS OBJECTIONS TO THE MEASURE

Uncertainty as to the Meaning of Both Sections.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE

The President today sent to the House of Representatives the following message vetoing the Bland silver seigniorage bill:

To the House of Representatives:

I return without my approval House bill numbered 4956, entitled "An act directing the coinage of the silver bullion held in the treasury and for other purposes."

My strong desire to avoid disagreement with those in both houses of Congress who have supported this bill would lead me to approve it if I could believe that the public good would not be thereby endangered and that such action on my part would be a proper discharge of official duty. Inasmuch, however, as I am unable to satisfy myself that the proposed legislation is either wise or opportune, my conception of the obligations and responsibilities attached to the great office I hold forbids the indulgence of my personal desire and inexorably confines me to that course which is dictated by my reason and judgment and pointed out by a sincere purpose to protect and promote the general interests of our people.

The financial disturbance which swept over the country during the last year was unparalleled in its severity and disastrous consequences. There seemed to be almost an entire displacement of faith in our financial ability and loss of confidence in our fiscal policy. Among those who attempted to assign causes for our distress it was very generally conceded that the operation of a provision of law then in force which required the government to purchase monthly a large amount of silver bullion and issue its notes in payment therefor was either entirely or to a large extent responsible for our condition. This led to the repeal, on the 1st day of November, 1893, of this statutory provision. We had, however, fallen so low in the depths of depression and timidity and apprehension had so completely gained control in financial circles that our rapid recuperation could not be reasonably expected. Our recovery has, nevertheless, steadily progressed, and, though less than five months have elapsed since the repeal of the mischievous silver-purchase requirement, a wholesome improvement is unmistakably apparent. Confidence in our absolute solvency is to such an extent reinstated and faith in our disposition to adhere to sound financial methods is so far restored as to produce the most encouraging results both at home and abroad. The wheels of domestic industry have been slowly set in motion and the tide of foreign investment has again started in our direction.

Our recovery being so well under way, nothing should be done to check our convalescence; nor should we forget that a relapse at this time would almost surely reduce us to a lower stage of financial distress than that from which we are just emerging.

Would Weaken Returning Faith.

I believe that if the bill under consideration should become a law, it would be regarded as a retrogression from the financial intentions indicated by our recent repeal of the provision forcing silver bullion purchases, that it would weaken if it did not destroy returning faith and confidence in our sound financial tendencies, and that as a consequence our progress to renewed business health would be unfortunately checked and a return to our recent distressing plight seriously threatened.

This proposed legislation is so related to the currency conditions growing out of the law compelling the purchase of silver by the government that a glance at such conditions and a partial review of the law referred to may not be unprofitable.

Between the 14th day of August, 1890, when the law became operative, and the 1st day of November, 1893, when the clause it contained directing the purchase of silver was repealed, there were purchased by the Secretary of the Treasury more than one hundred and sixty-eight millions of ounces of silver bullion. In payment for this bullion the government issued its treasury notes of various denominations, amounting to nearly one hundred and fifty-six millions of dollars, which notes were immediately added to the currency in circulation among our people. Such notes were by the law made legal tender in payment of all debts, public and private, except when otherwise expressly stipulated, and were made receivable for customs, taxes and all public dues, and when so received might be reissued. They were also permitted to be held by banking associations as a part of their lawful reserves. On the demand of the holders these treasury notes were to be redeemed in gold or silver coin in the discretion of the Secretary of the Treasury, but it was declared as a part of this redemption provision that it was "the established policy of the United States to maintain the two metals on a parity with each other upon the present legal ratio or such ratio as may be provided by law." The money coined from such bullion was to be standard silver dollars, and after directing the immediate coinage of a little less than twenty-eight million ounces, the law provided that as much of the remaining bullion should be thereafter coined as might be necessary to provide for the redemption of the treasury notes issued on its purchase and that "any gain or seigniorage arising from such coinage shall be accounted for and paid into the treasury." This gain or seigniorage evidently indicates so much of the bullion owned by the government as should remain after using a sufficient amount to coin as many standard silver dollars as should equal in number the dollars represented by the treasury notes issued in payment of the entire quantity of bullion. These treasury notes now outstanding and in circulation amount to $152,951,280, and although there has been thus far but a comparatively small amount of this bullion coined yet the so-called gain or seigniorage, as above defined, which would arise from the coinage of the entire mass, has been easily ascertained to be a quantity of bullion sufficient to make when coined fifty five millions, one hundred and fifty-six thousand, six hundred and eighty-one standard silver dollars.

The Parity Between the Two Metals.

Considering the present intrinsic relation between gold and silver the maintenance of the parity between the two metals, as mentioned in this law, can mean nothing less than the maintenance of such a parity in the estimation and confidence of the people who use our money in their daily transactions. Manifestly the maintenance of this parity can only be accomplished, so