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The Evening Star.

No. 13,246. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 1895—TWENTY PAGES. TWO CENTS.

The proof of the pudding is in the eating. Yesterday's Star contained 29 columns of advertisements, made up of 487 separate announcements. These advertisers bought publicity—not merely space.

MINISTER RANSOM

He Will Promptly Be Reappointed by the President.

HIS ACCOUNTS SETTLED TO JULY 1ST

Attorney General Harmon Said to Indorse the Opinion.

MR. BUTLER AS CHARGE

It is understood that aside from the inconvenience which will be occasioned to Minister Ransom by the failure to receive his salary promptly, and the necessity for his reappointment, there will be no other complications attached to a decision which has been rendered by the solicitor general that, under the Constitution, Mr. Ransom's appointment was irregular, because made during his term as Senator.

Mr. Ransom has understood for six weeks that the solicitor general's decision would be against him, and, while he was forewarned to this effect, he was notified at the same time that as soon as practicable after the decision should be rendered he would be reappointed. It was this knowledge of the effect of the decision which has caused Mr. Ransom to remain in this country as long as he had, but the assurance of his reappointment has been made so plain that he has made all preparations to return to Mexico toward the close of the present month. The provision of the Constitution under which the treasury refused to audit and allow his account will not apply to a reappointment, and there will be no further difficulty in the matter.

Settled With to July 1.

The minister's accounts were regularly allowed up to the 1st of July, so that at present the government is indebted to him only for his salary from July 1 to the present time. It is not doubted in any quarter that Congress will afford him relief in this respect through an appropriation in the first urgent deficiency bill which becomes a law after the beginning of the next session. At the time of Mr. Ransom's appointment a question was raised, and fully exploited in the press, as to whether or not his appointment was regular, and then the opinion was expressed at the White House that his case did not come within the legal prohibition, and that even if it should be so held, the President's right to reappoint him after Congress adjourned was clear and indisputable.

A Recess Appointment.

It is expected that the President will in a few days issue a commission for Mr. Ransom to serve as minister to Mexico during the recess of Congress, which commission will run until the Senate shall have acted on Mr. Ransom's nomination, which will be sent in early in December. Until Mr. Ransom receives this recess appointment, the United States will be represented at the captial of Mexico by Mr. Butler, who was regularly designated and recognized as charge d'affaires at the time of Mr. Ransom's departure for home a few months ago. The new complication over the legality of Mr. Ransom's appointment will have no effect whatever on the diplomatic relations between the United States and Mexico, as Mr. Butler is fully authorized to represent this country in a diplomatic capacity in any business with the republic of Mexico.

Mr. Ransom had an interview with Acting Secretary McAdoo last Saturday, and left for his home in North Carolina with the full understanding that he would be unable to return to Mexico in his former official capacity until after all doubt as to his legal status had been removed by his reappointment by the President.

The Department of Justice's Opinion.

Although the opinion of the Department of Justice in regard to Mr. Ransom's case bears the signature of Solicitor General Conrad, it is understood that the opinion was approved as sound by Attorney General Harmon and Secretary Olney before it was officially rendered. Attorney General Harmon's recent visit to the President at Gray Gables is believed to have relation to this case, and that it was then concluded that the best way out of the legal entanglement was the issue of an entirely new commission to Mr. Ransom.

How the Question Was Raised.

The decision of the acting attorney general was based on a question raised by Auditor Holcombe as to the legality of Mr. Ransom's appointment to the Mexican mission in view of section 2, article 6, of the Constitution, which declares that "no Senator or Representative shall, during the time for which he was elected, be appointed to any civil office under the authority of the United States which shall have been created or the emoluments whereof shall have been increased during such time."

This provision fitted the case of Mr. Ransom, for he was nominated by President Cleveland and confirmed by the Senate before his term of office as Senator from North Carolina had expired, and during that term the salary of the Mexican mission had been increased $5,000 a year.

THOSE OVERHEAD WIRES.

Costly Illustration of Their Dangerous and Destructive Character.

One of the dangerous overhead electric light wires crossed one of the fire alarm wires near the Baltimore and Potomac depot last evening about 7 o'clock and did considerable damage. The affair happened about the time the electrical storm passed near the city, and Operator Simpson, who was on duty at headquarters, by his prompt action, saved some of the valuable instruments in the office from destruction.

The extent of the damage could not be ascertained last night, but early this morning Superintendent Miles had his linemen at work to discover just what damage had been done.

It required some little time to complete the work and locate the place where the wires crossed. When this was accomplished it was ascertained that thirteen of the twenty boxes on that particular circuit had been completely burned out and ruined.

These boxes were scattered in the southeast and southwest sections of the city and had a fire occurred in either section last night, some difficulty would have been experienced in calling out the fire department. The boxes cost $125 each, making a total loss to the District of more than $1,600.

Superintendent Miles said this afternoon he did not know whether the electric light company would have to pay the damage or not, as the responsibility for the affair will have to be ascertained before anything in this direction is done.

It is more than probable that the burned boxes will have to be sent away to be repaired and just what will be done in the meantime for the people in the sections mentioned is not known. It is likely that they will have to depend on the few remaining boxes and telephones as a means of calling out the fire department.

Rain in the West.

MARSHALLTOWN, Iowa, August 17.—A terrific electric storm and heavy rain last night broke the long seige of hot, dry weather. Lightning did some damage in this city. The rain will be of immense benefit.

PRINTERS' AGE LIMIT

It Will Certainly Not Hold Against Disabled Soldiers.

District Men Are Specially Favored in the Matter of Appointments on the Ground of Emergency Needs.

The results of the recent examination of applicants for positions in the government printing office were today summarized. Of those who were examined for compositors, 63 per cent passed. Of those who tried for pressmen, 10 0per cent passed. Of the bookbinders, 67 passed, and of the skilled laborers, 79 per cent passed. This the commissioners regard as a very good showing, and one that ought to establish, if anything can, the fact that these examinations are not so difficult as to bar any really deserving workman.

District Eligibles.

The prospect of modifying the rules in some particulars draws out a great number of criticisms of the system, some of which have reason and merit, and some are frivolous. Among other things it is said that the commission is trying to shut out District printers. This is not at all the case. On the contrary, as the work in the government printing office is largely emergency, employment requiring at some parts of the year a much larger force than at other seasons, particular favor is shown District printers, pressmen and bookbinders. There is not a word in the rules or in the blanks barring District people from the examinations.

When it comes to appointments the law must be observed in regard to state quotas if there is no pressing emergency. If there is, District eligibles on the ground will have their chance promptly. A waiting list, or emergency list, is kept of District eligibles, and they have the benefit of an entire absence, if there is such, of eligibles from any state.

Age Limit.

The action in regard to the forty-five-year age limit is largely the result of a careful consideration of section 1754 of the Revised Statutes, which gives preference to soldiers disabled in service. The section is as follows: "Persons honorably discharged from the military or naval service by reason of disability resulting from wounds or sickness incurred in the line of duty shall be preferred for appointments to civil offices, provided they are found to possess capacity necessary for the proper discharge of the duties of such offices." August 3 a letter was received from an old printer in Pennsylvania which in a very able and convincing manner called the attention of the commission to the age limit in connection with this section. After careful study of the matter the commission took the view that it had no right to prevent an old soldier disabled in service from showing in an examination whether he had the capacity necessary for the place for which he desired to be an applicant. The age limit will beyond all doubt be suspended for a time, although the commission has not formulated its action.

A District Printer's View of It.

To the Editor of The Evening Star:

Much has been said in your valuable sheet in regard to the injustice of the civil service laws now in effect in the government printing office, and no doubt such an injustice will be talked down for a long time to come. In this connection permit me to call attention to the clause, "No District printer need apply." There is now in the city a number of printers who were born in the District of Columbia who have, at various times, worked in the government printing office, some of these serving their apprenticeship in the office. Now, think of the unjust discrimination against these men.

Take the man that served his apprenticeship in the government printing office. Does any one have the slightest doubt that after serving four years' apprenticeship, under the training of some of the finest printers that were ever employed or will be employed in the G. P. O., that he is not competent to fill a position in the office? But, according to the blanks, furnished by the civil service commission, he is barred.

There are today some of the finest printers in the country walking the streets of this city, and may continue to walk if this clause is permitted to remain, just on account of the injustice of said clause.

As a District man, an ex-employe, serving my appreticeship in the G. P. O., I cannot let go by unnoticed this injustice.

EX-EMPLOYE.

EFFECT ON THE PARTY.

One Significant Thing About the Recent Silver Conference.

As far as its effect upon the democratic party is concerned the silver conference held here this week will probably prove much more significant and important than the attendance and public interest in it would indicate. As a spectacular performance, it was extremely insignificant. The fact worthy of consideration is that six influential democrats, three of them United States Senators and one the President pro tem. of the Senate, have been given the form of an official authority to select a national committee of silver men to work upon and endeavor to shape the policy of the democratic party. Eliminating everything else connected with the conference, this is a matter of consequence to the party concerned.

Standing of the Committee.

The members of this committee are men of such standing in the democratic party that their suggestions will be received by the average run of their own party in democratic sections of the country, with respectful, if not acquiescent, consideration. They have the naming of the "silver national committeemen" for all the states. In these positions they will naturally place those men who are the recognized leaders of democracy. By this alone they will almost dominate their party. At all events they put their "cause" into a society of political respectability far superior to that it finds in the populist or the independent silver party.

In the south and west the strongest men of the democratic party are available for service on this national committee. Thus by a very clever political plan the least appearing of all the silver demonstrations, the meeting of smallest proportions, is liable to prove the fatal one to "sound money" in the democratic party.

Senator Harris' Shrewdness.

Senator Harris of Tennessee is as shrewd as he is old. No one knows how old he is, except that he is very old. No one knows how shrewd he is, except that there is no one in the Senate more so. He and Turpie and Jones of Arkansas have no idea of joining the populist party. They have simply got a well-laid plan for committing the democratic party to silver. If it defeats the party at the polls, that's another story. If they succeed in their plan it is likely to drive all the "sound money" democrats of the Cleveland school to the support of the republican candidate, and the old democratic leaders do not object to that.

Post Office Allowances.

Acting First Assistant Postmaster General Lamar today fixed the allowance for rent and office expenses in the Alexandria post office for the present fiscal year at $2,748. The allowance for Portsmouth, Va., was fixed at $2,100.

CRUISER COLUMBIA

Report of the Board as to Damage Sustained.

INJURIES STATED IN DETAIL

Caused by Generally Careless and Unskillful Docking.

REPAIRS RECOMMENDED

Commodore Selfridge, Naval Constructor Bowles and Chief Engineer Farmer, the special board appointed to examine the hull of the cruiser Columbia at the New York navy yard to determine the extent of the damages she sustained by being docked at Southampton, has reported to the Navy Department.

"In general," the board says, "the actual damage is slight, it being confined to loose and leaky rivets and a few leaky butts and seams in the flat keel plates and to dents in the flat keel plates and garboards. These dents occur evidently where the ship rested on the keel blocks at Southampton, and are all located at the outer edges of it on the flat keel plate and in the seam of the keel plates and garboard, or at an average of seventeen inches from the vertical keel. The starboard side has suffered markedly more than the port. The damage to the keel and garboard is greatest at the fore end, just abaft the buckle, where the keel begins to cut up, and noticeably decrease aft, until all damage, even to the cement, disappears forward of the engine room. Forward of the knuckle nothing has been injured. Five of the seven long stanchions in the fire room, reaching from the protected deck to the inner bottom, are buckled, the worst having a permanent set of 1½ inches. No plates or angles are cracked. Four rivets are sheared sharp off, which secure a floor bracket to the frame bar within the double bottom.

"Two brackets, two floor plates, two water-tight floors and the vertical keel are buckled, none of them seriously. We find no damage to the machinery has been sustained.

Cause of the Damage.

We find that the cause of the damage and injury sustained by the hull of the Columbia by the docking at Southampton was generally careless and unskillful docking, as shown by apparent neglect of most elementary proportions to secure the uniform support of the keel of the ship. The immediate cause of the dents and bruises to the bottom plating of the Columbia was that the keel blocks in Southampton were not properly aligned, and did not bear equally, and that each block was not squared off to give support to the flat and level surface of the flat keel. On the contrary, the keel blocks had been repeatedly used, and by bar keel vessels, so that they were crushed down in the center to such an extent, that, when examined, as soon as the water was out of the dock at Southampton, a considerable number showed no bearing whatever on the flat part of the keel, and only bore on the outer edges on the bottom plating. Wedges were driven between the keel and the center of these blocks at the request of the officers of the Columbia. A vessel was floated out of the Southampton dock just before the Columbia was taken in.

A serious contributory cause to the damage was that the keel blocks were not built up forward, where the forefoot is cut away from a point 107 feet abaft the forward perpendicular. This very considerable proportion of the length of the ship was left entirely unsupported, and was only shored up some time after the dock was pumped out, at the request of the officers of the ship, an ineffectual method of taking the weight, if promptly and properly done. No bilge blocks were used, and the bilge shores were only put in when requested.

Repairs Recommended.

The following repairs are recommended:

Loose rivets to be cut out and re-driven, leaky butts and seams to be caulked and re-riveted where necessary, bent bracket frames to be straightened and re-riveted, broken and cracked cement to be replaced. The estimated cost for this labor is $475, and the material, $50; a total of $525, and the total time required, twelve days.

It will be noted that the fire-room stanchions showed slight increase in buckling after the ship was docked on the 12th instant, although the ship rested equally on fair true blocks, built up forward to a point forty-six feet from the forward perpendicular, therefore we recommend that these stanchions be renewed when opportunity occurs after the ship is afloat. Estimated cost of six new stanchions is: Labor, $275; material, $200; time required, eight days.

Acting Secretary McAdoo has ordered the repairs recommended by the board. The report is believed to exonerate Capt. Sumner from blame for the docking, and no further action is probable.

MR. TINGLE'S SUIT.

The Answer of the District Read to the Commissioners.

The attorney for the District appeared before the Commissioners this morning and read over the answer of the District to the suit of Mr. Tingle for an injunction to prevent the Commissioners from placing on record the first section of the street extension plans. At the present time the map is in the hands of the highway commission for their official approval. After the map was returned to the Commissioners the changes recommended by the highway commission were embodied in a new map and sent back for approval. As soon as the map is returned it will be forthwith filed with the surveyor of the District, as required by law.

MARY LANCASTER MISSING.

A Faithful Servant Disappears From Her Home in Maryland.

Mary Lancaster, a colored woman who had been in the employ of Mr. Jas. G. Cashell, near Redland, in Montgomery county, Md., for over twenty years, left her home on July 26, since which time nothing has been heard from her. She purchased a ticket at Derwood for Forest Glen, and when she left took no clothing with her. She also left some money to her credit in the Sandy Spring Savings Bank. Clothing and other articles to the amount of over $80 were also left at home. She was a very faithful and devoted servant to Mrs. Cashell, and that lady is very anxious to learn her whereabouts.

Must Enter Her Appearance.

In the petition for divorce filed July 27 last by Stewart E. Shepperd against Mamie C. Shepperd, on the ground of desertion, Judge Cole today ordered the defendant to enter her appearance within forty days from date, otherwise the cause will be proceeded with as in a case of default.

One Woman Severely Injures Another.

Lottie Coates was arrested this afternoon and locked up at the Anacostia substation by Officer Marr on the charge of assaulting and severely injuring Sarah Johnston by striking her in the side with two large stones. The difficulty occourred last night near Douglass Hall.

NO LICENSES TO BE GRANTED

Determination of the Excise Board in Regard to the Division.

In Several Other Localities Will Applications Also Be Refused—The Placard Order Construed.

There will be no licensed liquor saloons in the "Division" next year.

This has been absolutely determined by the excise board. For many years that section of the city has been made worse by the presence of a number of low dives, which dispensed the vilest liquor to the most depraved class. Many of the crimes which have been committed down there have been traced to these saloons. It has been argued time and time again when applications for liquor licenses in this locality have been refused that the saloons were necessary for the class that patronized them. But the excise board thinks differently, and after mature deliberation, and a personal inspection of the places when no one knew it, each member is satisfied that not only are the saloons not needed in that vicinity, but their presence is a positive menace. So when the new license year rolls around, they will be closed for good.

A Transfer Refused.

The board showed its hand today when it refused to issue a transfer license to a man who desired to conduct a liquor business on D street. The applicant was worthy and there was nothing against him. The lieutenant of police made a favorable report, but the application was refused. Then it developed that the board had decided to issue no more licenses in that section, and to wipe out all of those that remained. Nor is this all. The board proposes to refuse licenses to places on 21st street, and to close every saloon in Willow-tree alley.

This will be followed by closing several of the places on 10th street south of Pennsylvania avenue. It was stated today that many of the saloons south of the avenue, and located between 10th and 13th streets, had alley entrances, and allowed men and women to congregate in the back rooms and drink, making night hideous with their orgies. All of these facts have been reported to the excise board by the inspectors, and as stated above the members of the excise board have looked into the matter themselves that they might better be able to understand the situation. This action on the part of the excise board will throw out of business between 25 and 30 places.

The Placard Order.

Following the statement made to the committee from the Federation of Liquor Dealers, regarding the posting of placards, the excise board has issued the following order:

"The order of July 27, 1895, respecting the placing of cards notifying the public of aplications for liquor licenses, is hereby construed as to apply to applications for new places and transfer of ownership of bar rooms."

The excise board met this morning and disposed of the following cases: Application for transfer of bar-room license to Moore & Presleau, 1220 D street northwest, refused. Application of Jas. E. Roche, 1009 11th street southeast (transfer), approved.

THE GARBAGE CONTRACTOR.

He Will Be Continually Fined for Doing Poor Work.

The authorities are pressing the contractor for removing garbage, and if continual fining for poor work will bring him to time, there is every reason to hope for good garbage service. The garbage inspectors are investigating every complaint that comes to the health office, and if it is found that the contractor is responsible, he is immediately fined according to the terms of his contract. This morning the fines imposed amounted to $132. It was authoritatively stated today that there would be no cessation in the fines, and every day they would be inflicted, until the service was as it should be. This fining has had a wholesome effect upon the contractor, and he is doing some hustling. He said today that after he had succeeded in systematizing the collections there would be no complaints.

Several complaints have been recently filed against the use of horns by the collectors, who make sleep impossible in the early morning by their hideous toot, toot, toot. Before the new contract was entered into, the Commissioners stated there would be no need for horns under the new arrangement, but they are waking the tired citizens up every morning just the same.

MR. DABNEY WILL RESIGN.

His Connection With the State Department to Cease September 15.

Mr. Walter D. Dabney of Virginia will resign his office as solicitor of the State Department, to take effect September 15, in order to accept the position of professor of law at the University of Virginia, to which he was elected Thursday. He received formal notice of his appointment this morning and forwarded his letter of acceptance during the afternoon. He has not yet resigned his federal office, but will do so in a few days.

Personal Mention.

Mr. R. E. Claughton, receiving teller of the West End National Bank, has gone with a party on a bicycle trip through the valley of Virginia, after which he will go to Atlantic City for a week.

Major W. P. Hall, assistant adjutant general, has gone to Cape May with his family for a two weeks' visit.

Assistant Naval Constructor H. G. Smith is in the city on leave.

Chief Engineer Canaga, stationed at Baltimore, was at the Navy Department today on business connected with the construction of the new torpedo boats.

Major Jno. W. Collins of the Treasury Department, has recovered from his recent severe illness, and has gone to his home in Brooklyn, N. Y., for a short rest before resuming his official duties.

Captain Harry Douglas King and Mr. Victor Henry Esch of this city are enjoying a week's vacation at Colonial Beach. Mr. Esch has just returned from a two months' journey to Germany.

Mr. William A. Case, son of Rev. Watson Case, pastor of Grace M. E. Church, has been appointed professor of mathematics in the Williamsport Dickinson Seminary, Williamsport, Pa. Mr. Case is an alumnus of St. John's College, Annapolis, Md., and a '95 graduate of the Graduate School of Columbian University.

Dr. H. M. Neuman has returred after an extended stay in Europe.

Pensions Allowed.

Virginia—Renewal and reissue, Thomas Vann, Hickory, Norfolk.

Maryland—Original, Owen Ward, deceased, Baltimore; original, Jacob Green, Mechanicstown, Frederick; increase, Michael Noland, Sharpsburg, Washington; reissue, Watson B. Nichols, Baltimore; reissue, Wm. F. Cherry, Calvert, Cecil; reissue, Wm. Hempton, Baltimore; reissue, George W. Gill, Baltimore.

Consul Recognized.

The President has recognized William R. Tucker as Russian vice consul for the port of Philadelphia.

EXECUTIVE DUTY

A Party Leader's Responsibility According to Silver Democrats.

RESPECTS PAID TO MR. CLEVELAND

The Kind of Candidates Wanted for Next Year.

HOW TO WIN SUCCESS

The democratic silver leaders at their meeting here this week paid their respects with much freedom to President Cleveland, and out of the many things said was to be evolved a pretty clear idea of their opinion of party duty and a party leader's responsibility. They agreed, to a man, in ascribing the whole of the democracy's present embarrassing plight to Mr. Cleveland's independent action on questions respecting which, if they are right, he should have been in a very large measure controlled by the party's well-accepted promises and undeniable record. And then, as was further charged, not content with antagonizing his party on several important questions, he went further and made an open alliance with the common enemy, and on the silver question overthrew his party in Congress with the aid of the enemy.

The Lesson Drawn.

Of course there was a lesson drawn from all this—a lesson to be applied in choosing the national leader next year. The party must never again, these gentlemen contended, follow any man whose democracy is not thoroughpaced. It must insist on future on candidates who will feel themselves committed to and bound by a plain reading of the party's platforms and professions.

The next triumph, if another triumph is to be achieved at the polls, must be genuine in every way. Better not another triumph than one involving the party in such bickerings and the country in such doubt as have existed for the past two years. Better wait, if for some years, until perfect agreement has been reached on all vital questions, and a leader secured who will in the fullest sense be the party's representative in office. Never again, it was most emphatically asserted, should the democracy give its support to any man for the presidency capable, if installed in that office, of using a minority majority—a coalition of a few democrats and the vanquished republicans—to substitute his own views, although well known in advance, for the views of a large majority of his own party, equally well known in advance.

How to Win Success.

But the silver democrats do not believe there need be any delay at all. They insist that another triumph awaits the party next year, and that nothing will contribute more to making that triumph absolutely certain than for the party to prepare to make it absolutely genuine.

The prescription is simple. The party must nominate a man of whom nobody will declare or believe that he is better than his party. He should, of course, be a man of experience in public affairs, in the thorough confidence of all his party associates and willing to surround himself with the best of party men. He should in no sense be a party hack, but he should have served the party long and faithfully, and in this way have grown to respect and always to obey his party's history and traditions. He should, in a word, be a firm believer in the party, proud of the party, and as a democrat willing to promote at all times and above all things the rule of the majority. Then when this man has been decided upon put him on a platform whose meaning will be as clear as his own character is consistent, and, as the silver democrats believe, the country will ratify the action at the polls.

What Next Year's Candidate Must Be.

As severely as they arraigned him, some of these silver men were willing to concede that Mr. Cleveland ought not to be tried by a rule as strict as would justly apply to a democrat who had come to the presidency under circumstances they define for next year's race. The party, both in 1884 and in 1892, accepted him with a full knowledge of his environment and obligations. His personality was permitted both times to supersede and overshadow the party's platform. He was permitted to appeal definitely to an independent element for support, and upon that appeal he received that support. His success, therefore, was not distinctly a democratic success, but a success carrying a first mortgage to the mugwumps, who compose the bulk of his democratic support on the financial question. But what the silver democrats now urge is that the party's next presidential candidate shall not incur any obligations outside of the party, but shall, on every question, be the party's loyal and accepted representative, and in office the party's servant to command.

OUT OF POLITICS.

The Force of the Agricultural Department Under Civil Service.

The extension of the classified civil service to practically the entire force of the Agricultural Department is formally announced in a circular issued by Secretary Morton. In a communication to Dr. D. E. Salmon, chief of the bureau of animal industry, Secretary Morton says the classification affords protection from removal for purely political or personal cause, adds to the responsibility of every employe, and should secure from each additional fidelity, vigilance and attention to work. Discussing the effect of the extension, Secretary Morton adds: "A classified service means an improved service in all that contributes to thoroughness and efficiency. No person need expect to be held in place or promoted because of any political or other extraneous influence which may be wielded on his or her behalf; meritorious service will be the sole ground of promotion, and reductions in grade or salary will be made only as the result of inefficiency. Removals will quickly follow insubordination, inattention to duty, intemperance, or incapacity from whatever cause. The service must be conducted in a business manner and according to business methods."

MIXED IN GEORGIA.

Senator Gordon Thinks the Administration Will Win.

Senator Gordon of Georgia, who is in Washington today, expressed the opinion to a Star reporter that the attitude of Georgia on the financial question was extremely uncertain. "The situation in the state," he said, "is greatly mixed. I do not think any one can say at this time what the outcome will be. Six months ago Georgia was largely in favor of the free coinage of silver. Indeed, I think probably the state is still for silver, but not as strongly so as before. Secretary Smith's speeches, which were very able, have had a great influence in the state, and the administration has greatly increased in strength. So much so that I think there is a very fair prospect of the administration forces finally getting into control."

Assistant Paymaster Appointed.

The President has appointed H. E. Biscoe and John Irwin, jr., son of Admiral Irwin, to be assistant paymasters in the navy.

THE WHITNEY BOOM

One Obstacle It May Meet With at the Democratic Convention.

The Ex-Secretary Held Responsible for Unfulfilled Promises Made for Mr. Cleveland.

There is one obstacle the Whitney boom is liable to meet with at the democratic national convention which those desiring his nomination may not have thought of. He may not be as popular there as they expect. Democrats who were at the last convention hold him responsible for Cleveland's nomination. This might not be so bad, but he is held responsible for a great deal more. A great many pledges were made at that convention which have not been redeemed. Mr. Whitney, it is said, made these pledges as the representative of Mr. Cleveland. It has been a matter of common gossip that the relations between the President and his ex-Secretary of Navy have been rendered less intimate on account of the failure of the former to honor obligations contracted in his name.

A Fair Promiser.

Whatever the truth of this may be, Whitney is held by many to be a "fair promiser," and if he happened to have many of the same set of men to deal with in '96 they would be apt to make inquiries as to his ability to carry out his promises. One of his strongest pleas for Cleveland in his visits to the various delegations in that candidate's interest was that Mr. Cleveland had had about enough of civil service reform, which kept his friends out of office; that he had learned something since his first term, etc. While it cannot be said that he was misinformed as to the fact, the construction which his hearers put upon the declaration led them into error. It was not the disregard of civil service reform in the abstract they were so much interested in. They wanted the offices, and they hold that they were as much deceived as if the reform had not been abandoned.

But this is only a general proposition. Some more definite and distinct promises are claimed to have been made and not kept, and it is all charged up against Whitney. This is liable to render him less popular in a convention than he would be otherwise.

Perhaps this will not matter to him.

A Friend's Statement.

One of his most intimate friends has declared to a Star reporter that he is honestly not a candidate and would probably not permit his name to be used even with a certainty of the nomination. The reason given for his attitude is a sentimental one, and one which must be respected if, indeed, so strong. It is that since the death of his wife he cannot bear to be in Washington for any length of time, and that the idea of taking up a residence here, and particularly of participating in official life, is repugnant to him. This was given as his reason for refusing to go into Mr. Cleveland's cabinet this last term. When he was Secretary of the Navy his house was the gayest and most hospitable in Washington. Mrs. Whitney was a woman of very attractive qualities, great force of character, tact and amiability. Her social career here was brilliant, and her husband's devotion and pride in her excited the admiration of official society. To renew official life here without her, his friend said, would be so different that the suggestion is painful to him, and no ambition could tempt him to it.

THE CHINESE RIOTS.

Members of the Legation Here Don't Hold the Vegetarians Responsible.

The better class of Chinamen in this city, notably those connected with the Chinese legation, discredit the report that the recent riots in China have been committed by the vegetarians. Said one of these gentlemen in discussing this report: "It is incredible. The vegetarians in all eastern countries are persons who abstain from the use of all flesh as an article of diet because of conscientious scruples against the taking of any form of life. They are of Buddhist faith, and do not believe in killing animals, much less human beings, and it is not to be believed that they would have let their antagonism to the Christian religion betray them into any violence that would cause the loss of life. They are more or less fanatical, to be sure, but they are regarded as of a submissive disposition."

Strong Prejudices Against Missionaries.

Discussing the matter further, the gentleman said it was true that strong prejudice existed among the vegetarians against the missionaries because of the former's abhorrence of meat as an article of diet, and because they believe that the practice of meat eating is a part of the Christian faith. Many of them think that if they should become Christians they would be compelled to adopt a meat diet, and some of the native converts to Christianity, between whom and the followers of the other faith there is always a sharply defined antagonism, have done much to intensify the feeling by performing acts especially calculated to shake the sensibilities of the anti-flesh eaters. But intense as is the feeling on the part of the Buddhists on this account, the gentleman quoted does not believe that it would have led them to commit an act in direct contravention of their primary doctrine. He thinks it more likely that advantage has been taken of the knowledge of this antagonism between the vegetarians and the Christians to lay the blame for the killing of the missionaries at the doors of the anti-meat eating sect, when, in fact, they are in no way responsible for it.

SUFFICIENT FLOORING.

Workmen on the Post Office Building Now Protected.

"Workmen on the new city post office are now enjoying the safeguard of sufficient scaffolding," said Superintendent Kinsey to a Star reporter today.

"The ironworkers are now finishing the work on the seventh and eighth floors on the southeast corner of the building. They are all in a contracted space, and plank flooring has been placed under them so that in case of a fall a man would be caught and would not make the terrible leap among the rafters to sure death.

"The protection now provided is superior to any precautions that have been taken for the safety of the ironworkers. No new plank has yet been delivered here for this purpose, but the men being gathered in a small space there is enough plank to cover the beams directly under them. The work on the seventh and eighth floors is now nearly completed, and it is not likely that there will be any extensive laying of flooring until it is placed on the eighth floor to protect the men when the ninth story goes up.

"The foreman representing Thorp & Bond has ordered additional flooring, which will be delivered in time to be used when the ninth floor work is commenced. I have not been informed of the amount of this flooring that has been ordered, but understand that it is ample to protect the men."

Application Denied.

Judge Cole today denied a motion for alimony and counsel fees in the proceedings for divorce brought December 11 last by Olga Palmer Bagaley against Walterman Palmer Bagaley.

THE FIGHT ON BRICE

Will Lose the Delegation From Cleveland.

EX-CONGRESSMAN JOHNSON AT WORK

Ohio Democrats Divided as to Means to Be Employed.

CURRENT POLITICAL GOSSIP

CLEVELAND, Ohio, August 17.—The democratic county convention to select delegates to the state convention, to be held next Tuesday and Wednesday at Springfield, was called to order at 10 o'clock this morning. After a hot fight Alfred Whittaker was elected chairman over James Lawrence by a vote of 227½ to 180½. The selection of Whittaker as chairman was a decided victory for the free silver and anti-Brice faction.

A motion by a free silver delegate to appoint a committee of seven to select delegates to the state convention caused a row that for a time threatened to result in more than a war of words.

The fight resulted in a number of the gold and Brice men, headed by James Lawrence, retiring from the hall with the announcement that they would at once hold a "rump" convention. After their withdrawal the motion to select a committee of seven to choose delegates to the state convention prevailed. This committee, as selected, was composed entirely of free silver and anti-Brice men.

This county has long been the fortress of the anti-Brice sentiment. Six years ago the democrats held an indignation meeting, in which Mr. Brice, who wanted to be Senator, was roundly denounced by the leading members of his party. That same sentiment prevails today.

Six years ago ex-Congressman Tom L. Johnson spoke at the anti-Brice meeting, and he is working tooth and nail against the Senator now. This is true, in spite of the fact that Johnson stands shoulder to shoulder to the Senator on the financial question.

Johnson hates Brice more than he does silver, and it is believed that, although he will not vote for a silver plank, he will combine with the silver men in any other plan to humiliate the Senator. Johnson advocates the election of Senators by the people and the nomination by the Springfield convention of a candidate for Senator. If Mr. Brice should find himself in control of the convention he might embarrass Mr. Johnson by accepting his proposition.

The democrats here are suffering from the same disease that pervades the party through the state. L. A. Russell, one of the leading democrats in the city, has stated the position of his colleagues very accurately. He says: "All democrats are agreed that equal justice to all, special privileges to none, is the object of government, but we are badly divided in our method of attaining this end. I, for one, am in favor of free trade, single tax and the precious metals for our primary money, at the ratio of 16 to 1. In each of these views I am at disagreement with most democrats, and so is Mr. Tom L. Johnson, and so is Senator Brice. I love Brice and I love Johnson. But Brice, while in the Senate, played into the hands of the protectionists. He did this because he was a practical politician. Then the democrats, at the suggestion of such leaders as Mr. Johnson, declare protection to be a fraud, and the party then proceeds to give us more protection. This makes me unhappy, and I am waiting for my party to get right on the issues of the day. I want to go to Springfield next week to do what I can to steer the old ship back into proper channels."

The seceders to the number of about seventy-five at once went to another hall, organized and elected fifty-nine delegates to the state convention.

Resolutions were adopted condemning the methods pursued by the so-called regular convention, and after giving three rousing cheers for Senator Brice adjourned.

A Third Term Impossible.

NEW YORK, August 17.—Gov. William J. Stone of Missouri, in an interview here, said: "You ask about Mr. Cleveland and a third term. I have no idea that Mr. Cleveland will be a candidate. He could not be nominated if he were to be, nor elected if nominated."

McKinley the Favorite in Kansas.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., August 17.—Gov. Morrill of Kansas has been interviewed here. He was asked who is his favorite for the republican nomination in Kansas, and replied: "Wm. McKinley is decidedly the choice of the Kansas republicans. He is a level-headed man and a safe man. He has the personal popularity with the people of the west.

"Reed, however, is an intellectual giant. He has many admirers in Kansas and throughout the west and he is generally regarded as one of the most brilliant men in public life.

"Allison is highly respected, and his nomination would be very acceptable to Kansas; but I do not expect to see it. I met Allison a short time ago, and he told me frankly that he did not intend to make any special push for the nomination this year as he had made in previous years."

Senator Davis for President.

ST. PAUL, Minn., August 17.—The Dispatch this evening will contain an interview with Captain H. A. Castle, a lifelong friend of Senator C. K. Davis. Capt. Castle states that friends of the Senator are convinced that there is a strong sentiment in favor of Mr. Davis as candidate for the Presidency, and that from now on they should boldly urge and work for his nomination.

TRACK LABORERS SUFFOCATED.

Peculiar Manner of the Death of Five Italians.

CLEARFIELD, Pa., August 17.—Five Italian laborers employed in grading the roadbed for the new Pittsburg and Eastern railroad lost their lives in a peculiar manner last night. A number of men were at work near McGee's, this county, and a heavy blast of dynamite and powder opened up an abandoned coal bank nearby. The escaping gases from the bank uniting with the powder smoke overtook the workmen before they could reach a place of safety and suffocated five of them. Six others were overcome by the vapors, but after working all night the physicians pronounce them out of danger today.

All of the killed and injured were Italians and known only by numbers. Their names, therefore, cannot be given.

FIST FIGHT IN COURT.

Tennessee Lawyers Come to Blows Without Doing Much Damage.

Col. T. M. Burkett and Attorney Kinser of Athens, Tenn., had a fight in the court room at that place Thursday afternoon. Both of the gentlemen were engaged as attorneys in a case on trial, during which Attorney Burkett referred to Attorney Kinser's wife in an uncomplimentary manner.

Kinser resented the same and a fist fight followed, without serious injury to either party, Col. Burkett getting the worst of the fight.

It is feared that the two men may do each other more injury before the affair is settled.