



ALEXANDRIA. THURSDAY EVENING, MARCH 10.

THERE EXISTS a popular delusion, which no amount of reiterated explanation and proof seems possible to dissipate, and which affects some otherwise very intelligent people, to the effect that the President, in the execution of his undemocratic, nay, even un-American civil service policy, is bound by both the civil service law and by the platform of the national democratic convention upon which he was nominated. Nothing could be more erroneous than this idea. In all the civil service law there is not a single word, or any context, which, by the most strained construction, can be made to warrant the age restriction imposed by the President upon applicants for admission into the civil service. But the law, and this the President has evidently lost sight of, does make it a misdemeanor to "obstruct" any person in respect of the right to be examined. The only reference to civil service in the platform upon which the President was nominated is in the following six words: "We favor honest civil service reform." Certainly in these words there is no warrant for an age restriction. And yet rule 12 of the civil service rules, made and executed by the President, excludes all persons over thirty-five years of age from examination for the postal service, and all over forty-five from examination for any other service subject to the civil service law. Of course this restriction excludes all Confederates from the postal service, and most all from any other governmental service under an administration generally supposed to be national and not sectional. Why the President, who can, by a single stroke of his pen, strike out this objectionable, sectional, unwise and unjust rule, doesn't make that stroke, passes the comprehension of the vast majority of the people by whose votes he was nominated and elected.

As THE fiscals have not been turned out, as no reduction has been made in the duty on the necessities of life, as the tax on tobacco has not been removed, as the coinage of silver dollars still continues, and as various other beneficial objects that it was hoped would have been effected by the success of the democrats at the last Presidential election have failed it strikes many wise Southern democrats that it would have been as well for the South if that success had been postponed, until 1888, as it has not only failed to accomplish the hoped for objects, but has apparently produced an unfortunate revolution in the character of Southern democratic leaders, who, while in the minority, were bold and outspoken defenders of the right, but who now, from those who are members of the Cabinet, down to the most insignificant members of Congress, either speak with bated breath of, or else openly approve, the words and acts of the administration, which they must know and feel are injurious, nay utterly disastrous to the party. Before 1884 their constituents, in whom no such remarkable revolution has taken place, loved and admired them. But it is vastly different now.

IN THE interview with General Mahone recently published in the GAZETTE, the General is reported as expressing regret at the failure of the bills for a bridge at Arlington and for an ice boat on the Potomac. If the General be sincere, why on earth didn't he report the first of the bills referred to earlier in the session, so that it might have had time to be considered and acted upon? and why, when the House conferees were willing to agree to a proposition to keep the river open during the winter by contract, didn't he use his influence with the Senate conferees to induce them to accept that proposition, which was perfectly satisfactory to the river people, and not to insist, as they did, that there should either be a junking boat or no appropriation at all?

WHEN THE Virginia legislature shall meet next week, it will do well, in considering any more plans and schemes for the vain purpose of circumventing the decisions of the United States Supreme Court in the matter of the Virginia debt, to read another decision rendered in that court last Monday, in which the following words occur: "It seems to be forgotten that the people of this country are citizens of the United States as well as of the individual States, and that they have some rights under the Constitution and laws of the former, independent of the latter, and free from any interference or restraint from them."

TIME WAS when the people who subscribed for the stock of railroads and who lived at the terminal points and along the lines of the roads, in short, the people who built the roads and were interested in their prosperity, had something to do with their management. But that time has gone, and the roads are now owned and controlled by rings of capitalists who live in New York. The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad was one of the few roads that until recently were managed according to the old and better plan, but it also has now adopted the new one.

THE WASHINGTON Republican says it is authorized to state that while General Mahone has positive convictions as to what should be done to settle the Virginia debt, he has not given utterance upon the subject. The GAZETTE is authorized to state that in this the Republican is mistaken.

Mrs. Matthew P. Lee, the venerable mother of David J. Lee, of Loudoun county, died at her home near A. die, on Friday night last, in the 83d year of her age.

FROM WASHINGTON. (Special Correspondence of the Alex. Gazette.) WASHINGTON, D. C., March 10, 1887. It is currently reported and generally believed here that the President is so bent upon what he calls "recognizing" his colored fellow citizens, not at their respective homes, but here in Washington, that he intends to appoint Matthews, whom the Senate would not confirm for recorder of deeds, to another lucrative position and one in which he will be the overseer of a large number of white people of both sexes, his object being to win the colored vote in the Northern States, in several of which that vote is decisive. It is needless to say that intelligent colored men from the North say that such an object can never be attained by such means.

The President yesterday removed Mr. Bowie, collector of customs at Petersburg, and John Meushaw, supervising inspector of steam vessels for Charles City, Va., to Florida. Both of them had been suspended previously, but they have now been removed, the right to do so having been restored to the executive by the repeal of the tenure of the office act.

People from West Virginia here to-day say that not only will an attempt be made to elect a U. S. Senator at the called meeting of the legislature of that State, but that Mr. Camden will be re-elected. The Texas investigating committee has adjourned until next winter. It could have been continued during the summer, but as it was a veritable boomerang, Mr. Hoar deemed it best to suspend operations.

A dispatch was sent from here yesterday to some of the newspapers to the effect that Governor Donaldson of the House was dead. It was incorrect. Mr. Donaldson has been indisposed, but is now doing very well. Senator Cockrell, of Missouri, has been appointed a sub-committee of one to investigate and report to the next Congress the cause of the delay in the reception of departmental information asked for by Congress.

A member of the Virginia legislature here to-day, in talking about the dispatch in yesterday's GAZETTE to the effect that the creditors of that State would agree to take in settlement of their claims only what they could get out of the State's revenue surplus, surprised all his hearers by saying that he did not believe the legislature would accept those terms unless the creditors would also agree to surrender their coupons, and thus deprive themselves of any security for their claims.

It was supposed that the redemption of the trade dollars would have added to the amount of standard dollars in circulation. But that supposition was vain, for as fast as the standard dollars are paid out in exchange for the trade dollars, they are turned back into the treasury in exchange for silver certificates. The rumor that Judge Goolrick, of Fredericksburg, the present chief of the postoffice inspection division, will be made second assistant Postmaster General, vice Mr. Knott, to be appointed to a judgeship is not credited by the Judge.

A well posted Pennsylvania republican politician, here to-day, says that according to the new congressional apportionment to be now before the legislature of his State, Mr. Randall will be cast in a district having two thousand republican majority, but that if it were twice that much he would still be elected, as the republicans can not afford to have him defeated, he being of more use to them than any ten republican members of Congress would be. In order, however, to avoid any trouble about the matter, Messrs. Simon and Don Cameron, he says, are now at Harrisburg, trying to have the bill referred to defeated, and that if they can not succeed in that, they will see that nothing shall be wanting even then to secure Mr. Randall's election.

A gentleman who called upon Mr. Manning yesterday to bid him good bye, says he was grieved to observe the change that had taken place in him since he saw him before. He says he talks rationally, consecutively and logically, and expressed a fervent hope that he would be benefited by his proposed trip abroad, as he was extremely anxious to be well by the next national convention, adding significantly that he wanted to have something to do with that convention. But for all this, the gentleman referred to says he is afraid Mr. Manning's hope will not be realized, as his lately developed emotional sensibilities indicate too plainly that his paralysis has done its work.

All the messenger boys in the service of the B. & O. telegraph company here have been supplied with Australian ponies, and are now seen galloping about the streets in all directions.

At the public reception at the White House yesterday an old lady whom the President had complimented upon her Jeffersonian simplicity, replied that she was a republican, but that, nevertheless, she believed in him. The President then whispered something in her ear which evidently didn't increase her faith in his democracy, for she passed on smiling.

The report that ex-Congressman Trigg, of Virginia, will be a candidate for the clerkship of the next House, is entirely incorrect. Mr. Trigg, when asked about it, said he had no such intention. It is highly probable that not only Mr. Clark, the present clerk, but all the other old officers of the House will be re-elected.

CONFERENCE M. E. Church South. The Baltimore Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church South commenced its one hundred and third session in Leesburg yesterday. Seventy-five years have elapsed since a Methodist conference met there. The conference was opened with prayer by Bishop John Christian Keener, who is presiding.

Rev. Dr. John S. Martin, secretary of the last conference, called the roll and was re-elected. Among the lay delegates reported present are Geo. R. Hill and John A. Marshall, of this city.

A report from the publishing house was read giving an encouraging statement of the work.

On motion of Rev. Samuel Rodgers, the secretary read the original minutes of the Baltimore Annual Conference, held in the old stone church at Leesburg March 20, 1812. The two bishops present at that conference were Bishops Asbury and McKendree, and the membership present was 57 persons. The conference then included all of Maryland, parts of Pennsylvania and Virginia, and extended into Ohio. The membership of the church in the Baltimore Conference was 21,300 white, 7,886 colored.

The question, "Are all the preachers blameless in life and official administration?" was called and the characters of a number of ministers passed, and their cases referred to the Committee on Conference Relations for continuance in superannuated relations.

The following local preachers were elected: Isaac Christopher, of the East Baltimore district; Frederick A. Sifer, of Washington district; and D. W. Piles, of Moorefield district. Rev. Frank A. Strother was appointed to canvass the conference for the publication of the minutes.

Marriage licenses were issued in Washington yesterday to George H. Baker, of South Amby, N. J., and Gertrude L. Clark, of Fauquier county, and to B. E. Eaves and Mary B. Vial, both of Richmond.

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A bust of John C. Calhoun has been placed in position in the United States Senate chamber. The President has signed the commission of James M. Trotter as Recorder of Deeds for the District of Columbia. Hon. Patrick H. Cowen, of Saratoga, N. Y., died of pneumonia yesterday. He was a prominent democratic politician. Secretary Manning virtually severed his connection with the Treasury Department yesterday, although his resignation does not take effect until April 1.

The reappointment agreed upon by the republican legislative caucus, of Pennsylvania, if ratified, will deprive Mr. Randall of his Philadelphia district. Lucy B. Parsons, the lecturing anarchist, called on the Mayor of Columbus, Ohio, yesterday to protest against the refusal to allow her a hall to speak in, and became so abusive and demonstrative that she was locked up.

Wm. C. Hickman, originally of Philadelphia, but lately of Boston, has joined the American colony in Canada, after having, it is alleged, swindled a number of Boston capitalists out of between \$30,000 and \$50,000. Hickman claimed to have a formula for manufacturing an article that he called "sugarine" out of common starch.

Deputy Sheriff Hayden, of Charles county, Md., took from Washington yesterday William Gordon, the colored assassin of Mrs. Norris. He took the boat and went to Glymont, and from there he went to Port Tobacco by buggy. Gordon trembled like a leaf on leaving the station house with the sheriff. Mr. Hayden did not think that he would meet with any trouble in conveying his prisoner to the jail.

Letter from Fauquier. (Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.) ORLEAN, March 7th, 1887.—Rev. A. M. Grimsly, who has been pastor of the Baptist Church near this village for nearly twenty-eight years, preached an eloquent and thrilling discourse from the following words: "Lord to whom shall we go, Thou hast the words of eternal life," on last Sabbath. He is a brother of Elder Barnett Grimsly, who richly earned the encomium given him, "the old man eloquent." At times Rev. A. M. Grimsly remind one very forcibly of his brother, not so much in delivery as in the matter of his sermons. It makes very little difference as to the weather or condition of the roads, Mr. Grimsly has a full house. He is certainly one of the most popular preachers of the Piedmont section of the State. Though living twenty miles distant from his church he did not miss but one appointment during the year of 1886.

Mr. Channing Smith was appointed by James Turner, to fill the unexpired term as Clerk of the School Board of Trustees, which place Mr. Smith accepted and would have filled with credit to himself, and satisfactorily with the people. However, at the first meeting of the board the legality of the appointment was raised by the present clerk, and Mr. Smith, resigned the place, and the present clerk was elected to fill the place by his own vote and that of Doctor Stephenson. The law in regard to trustees is certainly defective. Trustees ought to be paid for their work, and then it would not be a difficult matter to secure good men for the position.

Mr. J. M. Daniel, candidate for the county clerkship, was in our village on Saturday and attended a social party at Mr. G. L. Holland's, and discoursed sweet music from his harp. Mr. Daniel has a superb voice, and his "plantation" songs were well received and highly enjoyed by all who had the pleasure of hearing him.

Owing to the long continued wet weather a great deal of sickness prevails in this community, and our physicians are kept correspondingly busy. Our roads are well nigh impassable. Messrs. Franklin Rector's and Thomas Thorpe's flocks of sheep were raided by dogs a few nights since. The curs succeeded in killing several old sheep and lambs, and the dogs were tracked or rather chased, to the house of their owners. One was killed after reaching its house, and the other two, belonging to another man were followed right up to the house, but the owner refused to let them be killed. A few nights later the same dogs again raided the flock of sheep belonging to Mr. Thomas Thorpe, and killed all of his flock with one exception. Mr. Thorpe will make an effort to make the owner of the dogs pay for the last lot of sheep killed as the man knowingly harbored sheep killing dogs.

We noticed a statement in the GAZETTE of March fifth that the belted buzzard that had been seen in Virginia several times had been killed in Maryland. The Virginia belted buzzard is still in the land of the living and was seen by your correspondent, and several others last week. We saw it on Friday, the fourth of March. It has been in this section since last fall.

THE Baltimore Annual Conference. (Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.) LEESBURG, Va., March 9.—The 103d session of the Baltimore Annual Conference, M. E. Church South, met here to-day, Bishop Keener presiding. About 200 delegates are present, and more are expected to-night and to-morrow. The minutes of the conference of 1812, which met in this town, were read and discussed. No business of importance was transacted, the time being principally occupied in the appointment of committees, etc. Leesburg is closely allied to Methodism in this country. The first conference ever held in the State convened in this town on the 12th of May, 1778. Bishop Asbury, now in Delaware, and the oldest American preacher, William Watters, presided. There were only 29 preachers in attendance, 18 of whom were put to work in the State. Since then Methodism has made rapid strides. At that day Asbury was the one great light of the church in this country, and he made several visits to Leesburg. Now the body that is in session here has about 250 delegates, and many of them are big men. The weather and roads are as disagreeable as they can well be, but the citizens, without regard to sect, are vying with each other in their efforts to make their stay with us pleasant.

When the body gets to business I will try and give you a few notes of interest as they occur. J. A. BEK.

All those suffering from hoarseness, colds, or coughs should try Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup, 25 cts.

Mr. Charles Raith, Watchmaker and Jeweler, Baltimore and Mount Sts., Baltimore, Md., indorses Salvation Oil for rheumatic troubles.

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ASSOCIATED PRESS DISPATCHES. B. & O. R. R. (Special dispatch to the Alexandria Gazette.) WASHINGTON, March 10.—Up to 4 p. m. to-day nothing definite can be learned of the reported sale of the B. & O. R. R. to the Terminal Company, all the officials of the former company being reticent upon the subject. It is generally believed, however, that the sale has been completed.

Death of Captain Eads. (Special Dispatch to the Alexandria Gazette.) WASHINGTON, March 9.—Capt. James B. Eads died here on the 8th inst.

Mr. Beecher's Obsequies. NEW YORK, March 10.—In spite of the rain the streets in the vicinity of Rev. H. W. Beecher's house were crowded with people this morning. A large number of floral emblems were received before the private services commenced. The coffin rested in the centre of the front parlor and was surrounded with a bank of fragrant flowers. The remains were dressed in a suit of black broadcloth, with the frock coat buttoned up and the right hand laid across the breast. The features were natural and there was a smile upon the face. The long gray hair was brushed back over the ears, the same as Mr. Beecher wore it while alive. Early in the morning before the services Mrs. Beecher went into the parlor and stood by the coffin for some time. She bent over the remains and after implanting a kiss upon the cold lips was led into the back room. Promptly at 9:30 o'clock Rev. Charles H. Hall of the Church of the Holy Trinity entered the front parlor and commenced to read the burial service from the ritual of the Episcopal church. A quartette sang "Jesus lover of my soul," "Beyond the sighing and the weeping," and "Come, Holy Spirit." Only the members of the family and a few intimate friends were present during the services at the house. The family were seated in the back parlor. None of the family were dressed in black. Mrs. Beecher sat near the remains during the reading of the service, and by her side were her sons and daughters and the members of the family. She bore up wonderfully during the whole of the ceremony and was quite calm. A few moments before the remains were carried out of the house to the hearse the rain ceased, the clouds passed away, and the sun-shine burst out bright and clear. A ray shone through the front window of the parlor, and before the lid of the casket was screwed down rested upon the face of the great divine, lighting up and forming a halo around the head. At the conclusion of the services at the house the Rev. Dr. Hall spoke for 15 minutes, after which the remains were taken to Plymouth Church by the Thirteenth Regiment, of Brooklyn, where they will lie in state. They will be interred in Greenwood on Saturday. The body has been embalmed. The cortege was one of the largest ever formed in this city.

Move Against Strikers. YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio, March 10.—The Pennsylvania Railroad Co. made a decisive move this morning, General Manager Baldwin filing a petition in Court against Frank Vassall, James Kerr, Patrick O'Brien and eight others, charging that they were interfering with the operation of the road, terrorizing new men that the company had employed to operate their trains and threatening violence to employes and officials. An injunction was issued by Judge Johnston restraining the men mentioned from going upon the property of the Pennsylvania Company, or in any manner interfering with trains. The restraining writs were served upon the men this morning, who at once called a meeting and are now in secret session. It is expected the company will send a force of men here to-day to operate yard trains and a conflict is feared. This morning train master Donaldson and yardmaster Randall of the New York Penna. and Ohio Railroad came out with an engine and are attempting to move freight.

The Stranded Steamer. BALTIMORE, Mar. 10.—No further intelligence of the steamship Rhein has been received by the agents in this city. The nearest telegraph point is seventeen miles from Hog Island, of which fifteen is by water, and communication is difficult. The agents apprehend no serious consequences. They suppose in the thick weather the light on the island was mistaken for the Cape Henry light. Abundant assistance has been sent for her relief.

LATER. BALTIMORE, Md., Mar. 10.—A dispatch from Norfolk, (dated 10:30) says that the steamship Rhein, which was reported ashore on Hog Island, has gotten off and is now passing in the Capes.

NORFOLK, Va., March 10.—The steamship Rhein passed in the capes at 11:40 this morning under her own steam. The decks were crowded with passengers. Everything appeared to be moving satisfactorily.

Panic in a Theatre. DUBUQUE, March 10.—A panic occurred last evening in a theatre where over 700 school children were gathered to witness a ventriloquist entertainment. Shortly after the performance commenced some person raised the cry of "fire," and a terrible scene at once ensued. The frightened children rushed for the doors, blocking up the passage ways and rushing madly one over the other. Professor Irish, of the third ward school, and a number of others near the door tore down the partition, opened the outside doors and broke the windows. They seized the children throwing them right and left as they drew them out and by extraordinary efforts succeeded in clearing the passages. A number of the children were injured but none seriously.

Arrested. ABELENE, Kansas, March 10.—Another chapter in the Coronado (Wichita county)

shooting was opened at Leoti yesterday, Adjutant General Campbell having effected the arrest of fourteen of the Coronado men charged with the killing of Coulter, Rains and others. Warrants were issued for about forty, but only fourteen could be found. Both towns threw up forts and were prepared for a war. Those arrested were all taken to Garden City for trial.

Death of a Baltimorean. BALTIMORE, March 10.—Mr. Robert Lehr, of the firm of Boninger Bros., tobacco exporters, and consul for Belgium and Portugal, died at his residence, in this city, to-day. Mr. Lehr has for a long time been a resident of Baltimore, and was highly respected in business circles. He had been in poor health for some time.

Murder Hanged. PLYMOUTH, Mass., March 10.—Satan's Bessie was hanged here this morning at 8 o'clock and was cut down at 9:03 o'clock. On Wednesday morning, December 23, 1886, Bessie murdered Richard N. Lawton, a resident of Westport, and a collector of eggs. The murder was committed for the purpose of robbery.

The Fisheries Question. HALIFAX, March 10.—The Halifax Chamber of Commerce devotes a portion of its annual report to the fishery question. It holds that the position of Canada thereon is correct and says that free trade is the only way out of the difficulties existing between Canada and the United States.

The Anarchists. CHICAGO, March 10.—The Daily News (Ottawa, Ill.) special states that the Illinois Supreme Court has decided to hear the arguments on the motion for a new trial for the Haymarket anarchists next Thursday. The motion will be argued orally, two hours being allowed to each of the six attorneys.

Strike of Laborers. MARQUETTE, Mich., Mar. 10.—It is reported that 700 laborers, employed in construction work on the Saul Division of the Duluth, South Shore and Atlantic railway, struck work at noon yesterday, demanding an increase of 50 cents a day.

Explosion of Melinite. PARIS, March 10.—An explosion of melinite, the new explosive, occurred to-day in the arsenal at Belfort. Many men were killed or injured.

Nilsen Married. PARIS, March 10.—Christine Nilsen has been married to Count Miranda, and it is reported that she will retire from the lyric stage.

The Debt and Slavery. To the editor of the Alexandria Gazette: Apropos of the Virginia debt question, which has repeatedly and emphatically been declared to be "eliminated from politics," it appears to resemble the famous ghost which would not down; or, perhaps, more closely, a certain question which troubled the country for many years; and although it is said, "Politicians fondly dreamed they had, in current phraseology, reached a finality in this vexed quarrel, grave doubts found expression in newspaper epigrams, describing

FINALITY. "To kill twice dead a rattlesnake, And of his scaly skin to take, And through his head to drive a stake, And every bone within him break, And of his flesh mince meat to make, To burn, to tear, to boil and bake, Then in a heap the whole to rake, And over it the bones to stoke, And sink it fathom in the lake— Whence, after all, quite wide awake, Comes back that very same old snake!"

When the State debt shall be settled as decidedly as the old question of slavery has been, may it not be as difficult to find any one who had not thought all along that the debt should be honestly paid, as it now is to discover a man who does not confess that he is glad slavery no longer exists.

COURT OF APPEALS YESTERDAY.—For year vs. the Commonwealth. Argued by R. T. Wilson, esq., for plaintiff in error and submitted. Amistead vs. Bailey. Submitted. Seay vs. Shue's administrator. Argued by W. B. Pettit for appellant and A. A. Gray, esq., for appellee and continued until to-day.

The case of the Commonwealth vs. Brown Allen was called and continued March 24th. The continuance was made at the request of the representative of the Commonwealth.

THE WESTERN DISTRICT MARSHALSHIP.—Gen. James C. Hill, Sergeant at Arms of the House of Delegates of Virginia, was in Washington yesterday. His friends are urging his claims for appointment as United States Marshal for the western district of Virginia, vice Col. Graham, resigned.

It is said that Col. Graham was so disgusted with the failure of the 49th Congress to re-elect the pledges made by the democrats to the people that he resigned, and others say that in the future he will act with the republicans. General Wm. Terry, ex-member of Congress from the Ninth district, was also in Washington, and is an applicant for the United States Marshalship of the western district. He is indorsed by many prominent men of his party. Mr. J. H. Jordan, of Pulaski county, is also an applicant.

John Ryan & Co., type foundry, Baltimore, have ready for delivery a new specimen book of cuts. It is said to contain over one thousand more specimens than have ever been shown before, and many new and original designs suited to all classes of printers work. It will be found a valuable book in every job printing office.

"Delays are Dangerous." If you are pale, emaciated, have a hacking cough, with night-sweats, spitting of blood and shortness of breath, you have no time to lose. Do not hesitate too long—till you are past cure; for, taken in its early stages, consumption can be cured by the use of Dr. Pierce's "Golden Medical Discovery," as thousands can testify. By druggists.

POTED MEATS.—Ham, Beef, Tongue, Turkey, Chicken, Duro and Game. Agents G. E. McBURNEY & SON.

10,000 SIX-OUNCE CASES FINE TOILET SOAP for sale at 5c each by J. C. MILBURN.

A FULL LINE OF THE 50-C. SLAYMAKER CORSETS at A. B. SLAYMAKER'S.

COFFEES.—Although Coffees have advanced considerably, I am offering them at low prices. J. C. MILBURN.

SOME very cheap and good BLANKETS, white and colored, at A. B. SLAYMAKER'S.

GIRL'S QUADRIGYCLE, a superior article, at less than wholesale price, at A. B. SLAYMAKER'S.