

THE MORRISTOWN GAZETTE

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 25, 1878.

THE PUBLIC DOMAIN.

The report of the Commissioner of Lands as presented to Congress through the Secretary of the Interior, shows that during the past year nearly eight and three quarter millions of acres of the public domain have been disposed of, more than half of which has been taken up under the provisions of the "Homestead Law." Of the remainder 878,555 acres have been sold for cash, and the rest, absorbed under the provisions of special acts of Congress for particular purposes, nearly 2,000,000 acres having been entered under the law of Congress which provides that any person who shall plant and cultivate acreage of timber, shall be entitled to enter a quarter section thereof at the expiration of a specified time, in return for so doing. Some idea of our vast area of public lands may be formed from the statement, derived from the same source, that although nearly 730,000,000 acres of the public lands have heretofore been surveyed and placed upon the market, there yet remains to be surveyed over 1,000,000,000 acres. By far, the larger portion of this amount is of comparatively little value for agricultural purposes, but there is still a vast area of well timbered and fertile lands, which will in time be peopled by prosperous settlers, whose productions will add largely to the national wealth.

THE CIRCULATING MEDIUM.

We publish below a carefully prepared table from the New York World, which indicates the possible amount of circulating medium after Jan. 1, 1879. We think these tables will be found accurate. It is not possible, perhaps, to predict the exact effect, but the last table seems to indicate an easier money market. Our currency was at its maximum of volume in 1865, when President Lincoln died. The quantity and description at that moment have been declared at the Treasury in this wise:

State bank circulation.....	\$142,919,638
National bank circulation.....	146,137,860
Demand notes.....	472,008
Legal tender notes.....	43,387,966
One and two year notes.....	43,387,966
Compound interest notes.....	193,756,080
Fractional currency.....	25,005,828
Total.....	\$983,318,685
Gold value of above.....	692,356,354

Then was the perfect triumph of inflation. If we take the same description of circulation for subsequent years, the total sum of it and the increase or reduction of it can be seen at a glance:

1865 (Lincoln).....	\$983,318,685
1869 (Johnson).....	693,946,057
1872 (Grant).....	738,570,948
1874 (Grant).....	751,490,916
1878 (Hayes).....	688,597,375

We have not met with a statement of the possibilities of our circulation which will be in the hands of the Treasury by Mr. Sherman's plan of paper money. But the following is, we think, a fair exhibition of it:

State bank circulation.....	\$426,504
National bank notes, including gold notes.....	332,460,715
Demand notes.....	62,000
One and two year notes, 1869.....	90,485
Compound interest notes.....	274,920
Fractional currency.....	16,130,342
Legal tender notes.....	340,681,010
Gold coin and bullion in the country Oct. 1, 1878, as estimated by the Bullion Dept.....	259,339,390
Silver coin and bullion in the country aforesaid.....	99,090,557
Total.....	\$1,044,889,994

The World further explains these figures: If it be said that State bank notes, demand notes, one and two year notes and compound interest notes ought not to be counted as "circulating," that no one can tell accurately how much of coins are in the country and that bullion should not be included, then this will be the statement:

National bank notes, etc.....	\$332,460,715
Fractional currency.....	16,130,342
Greenbacks.....	340,681,010
Coin actually in the treasury Dec. 1, 1878.....	259,339,390
Total.....	\$968,589,829

This still shows a large quantity of possible circulation not far short of that of 1865.

But, in considering this element, it must be remembered that the World always gives a rose color to national bank circulation and to the amount of the present circulating medium.

THE AFGHAN WAR.

General Roberts' telegraphs from Peiwar-Khotai as follows: During the night of December 1 the Afghan position was turned by a flank march, over the Spengwai Pass. We surprised the enemy at daybreak on the 2d inst., when the 72d Highlanders and the 6th Goorkhas gallantly drove the Afghans from several positions. They afterwards endeavored to reach Peiwar-Khotai, but the assault could not be delayed on that side. The enemy then threatened the enemy in the rear, and attacked and carried Peiwar-Khotai at about 4 o'clock in the afternoon. The enemy had, on the previous evening, received reinforcements of four regiments. Their artillery was well served; their defeat, however, was complete. We captured 18 guns and a large quantity of ammunition. Our loss was moderate, considering the number of our opponents, and the difficult nature of the country. Major Anderson, of the 72d Highlanders, was wounded. Our men behaved admirably. We shall move toward the Shutar-garden Pass on Thursday the 5th inst. The enemy's loss is heavy. The British loss is 80 killed and wounded.

Detailed reports of the fighting in the Peiwar Pass show that the Afghans, who were posted in some pine woods, resisted General Roberts' second movement on Peiwar-Khotai most obstinately. Sometimes they even assumed the offensive, but pressing the most advanced troops until reinforcements came up. Not a single body of the Afghans remained unbroken at the end of the day. The English lost ten killed and eight wounded.

It is rumored that an advance on Jellalabad has been ordered, and that the Ameer of Afghanistan has fled to Turkistan. The reply of the Ameer of Afghanistan to the Viceroy of India's ultimatum has been received by the Indian Government. The Ameer, in acknowledging the receipt of the ultimatum, criticizes the professions of friendly intentions of the British Government, and alludes to its action in the past, especially its interference in the affairs of Afghanistan, as contradictory of such intentions. The Ameer explains that his refusal to receive General Sir Neville Chamberlain's mission was not intended to be hostile, but arose from a fear of the loss of his independence, and apprehension which was confirmed by the allusion in the ultimatum to protection being given to the Khlyber forces who had been engaged in escorting the mission. The Ameer declares that no enmity exists between Afghanistan and the British government; that he desires to resume the former friendly relations, and, finally, that he will not resist the visit of a small temporary mission.

CHRISTMAS CHIMES.

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light;
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die,
Ring out the old, ring in the new;
Ring, happy bells, across the snow;
The year is going, let him go,
Ring out the false, ring in the true.
Ring out the grief that saps the mind,
For those that here we see no more;
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,
Ring in redress to all mankind.
Ring out a slow-dying cause,
And ancient forms of party strife;
Ring in the nobler motives of life,
With sweeter manners, purer laws.
Ring out the want, the care, the sin,
The self-illusions, the foolish times,
Ring out, ring out, my mournful rhymes,
But ring the true, ring in the minstrel's time.
Ring out false pride in place and blood,
The civic and the social spite;
Ring in the love of truth and right,
Ring in the common love of good.
Ring out old shapes of foul disease,
Ring out the narrow lust of gold;
Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace.
Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger hearted, the kinder hand;
Ring in the love of truth and right,
Ring in the Christ that is to be.

A German farmer disputed his tax bill. He said, "I pay the State tax, the county tax and the school tax; but by tam I pay no total, and never had any."

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