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WEDNESDAY.....DECEMBER 3, 1884.

Civil-Service Reform.

At the request of a clergyman of this city we reproduce this morning what Mr. JOSEPH COOK had to say recently on the subject of civil-service reform. Mr. COOK talks as much about matters that he knows nothing about as he does on subjects with which he is familiar. Boston has petted him till she has spoiled him.

There are two sides to this question of so-called civil-service reform. The English system carries pensions along with it. If we adopt it, we must take it, as the lawyers say, *cum onere*. We shall, in that event, have to pension a hundred thousand superannuated and disabled officials. In advocating tenure of office during good behavior, Mr. GEORGE WILLIAM CURTIS and others tell us that no person in business turns off his clerks and takes new ones once in four years. He keeps them as long as he can. Nor do such persons pension their disabled and superannuated employés.

Another consideration: The incumbents of office are now known to be Republicans—not simply Republicans, but bitter partisans. Ought a Democratic Administration to keep its enemies in office? Are they not honestly and heartily opposed to Democratic men and measures? Would it not be fairer, and seem more like real reform, to start the work of civil-service reform by dividing the offices equally between the Democrats and the Republicans? It is a little too much of a good thing to let all the officers be Republicans under a Republican Administration, and continue in office under a Democratic Administration.

Again: Mr. ARTHUR advocates civil-service reform and claims to have executed the law in that behalf. And yet we know that almost every Government office in Virginia is filled by a man selected by WILLIAM MAHONE. There are hundreds upon hundreds of Federal officials in this State who were put into office upon his recommendation. Are these men to remain in office? We shall be told that the law on the subject does not apply to these officials. But the reason of it does. If the law is a good one, these officials of General MAHONE's selection ought to be allowed to continue in office.

Once more: There is nothing to prevent the Republicans from repealing when they get into power again any law that the Democrats might now pass or that is already upon the statute-book.

We repeat it, there are two sides to this question. It is a difficult problem to solve, that of securing the most efficient service from public officers. What the Virginia Bill of Rights says as to "frequent elections" would seem to be equally sound doctrine if applied to appointive officers. Besides, it is well to get a look at the books once in a while. A new broom sweeps clean. We shall have to receive more light before we can see the subject as it presents itself to so many of the best men in the United States. We close by saying that no one knows better than we the real worth and sincerity and high character of the men who advocate civil-service reform.

The Democrats and the Offices.

During the presidential canvass the Republican organs and leaders made desperate attempts to show that the shibboleth of the Democratic party was, "To the victor belong the spoils," and that the southern Democrats particularly constituted a party of spoils. The Philadelphia *Evening Telegraph*, in answering the charge as to the whole party (which had no foundation), makes this good point: "The Republicans for twenty-four years had given practical demonstration of their faith in that barbarous creed, and therefore they were not in position to protest against its application by the enemy, who were the victors." The New York *Times*, in commenting on the charge as it affects the southern Democrats, says:

"So far as the South is concerned, the leaders there will expect only that the fact of southern birth or southern popularity shall not be an obstacle to the selection of appointees to the Federal service where fitness is conceded. Unfortunately, this is an innovation on the practice in vogue in Democratic party management for some years back. The South has not only given a heavy vote to the Democracy, but it has given to the councils of the party and of the nation more than its fair share of men of ability and character. That they have been systematically kept in the background in the party has been unfortunate, because if they had been given a fair chance they would have dispelled much of the prejudice which political timidity has fostered. Under Mr. Cleveland's administration we have no doubt that the real leaders of the southern States will be enlisted."

The *Times* comes in with a clear and just statement of the southern situation just where the *Telegraph's* stinging sarcasm leaves off, and these two journals pretty effectually dispose of the thunder of the organs. As Mr. MOSBY puts it, the South is more interested in good government than in anything else. She asks only that recognition to which she is entitled as a part of the Union, and which will be accorded to any other section. She seeks nothing that she does not merit; nothing that is not her right under the theory of our Government. Give her this, and there can be no doubt of the fact that she will dispel "much of the prejudice which political timidity has fostered."

The Tax on Tobacco.

It would seem that there ought to be no difficulty in getting Congress to repeal the law taxing tobacco, now that not only the President of the United States but the Secretary of the Treasury has recommended its repeal. We have frequently had occasion to express our views on this subject. So certainly is tobacco the only cheap luxury which a poor man can enjoy that we are surprised that Congress has been able so long to refuse to do away with the tax upon it.

Mr. MCCULLOCH, the Secretary of the Treasury, like Mr. ARTHUR, the President of the United States, is a Republican who does not go as far as most of the leaders of the Republican party in advocating the policy of protecting American industries. Mr. MCCULLOCH has resided a long time in England. He is imbued with British ideas. We are surprised that he is even a bimetallist, as he is though he objects to *compulsory* silver coinage. His appointment to the office he holds afforded abundant evidence that Mr. ARTHUR agreed with him in his general notions on politico-economical questions.

But to the tobacco-tax. The Secretary says of it:

"In regard to our internal-revenue taxes, I have to say that, as these taxes, with the exception of the tax upon whiskey, ought not to be and will not be needed for revenue if appropriations are kept within reasonable bounds and rigid economy is established in all branches of the public service, I see no good reason for their continuance. Taxes upon agricultural productions, although indirectly levied, are inconsistent with our general policy, and tobacco is the only one of these productions which has been taxed. An article which is so generally used, and which adds so much to the comfort of the large numbers of our population who earn their living by manual labor, cannot properly be considered a luxury, and as the collection of the tax is expensive and troublesome to the Government, and is especially obnoxious and irritative to small manufacturers, the tax upon tobacco should, in my judgment, be removed."

That paragraph gives reasons enough why tobacco should no longer be taxed.

Frequent Elections.

The fathers of the republic of the United States were great statesmen. It is a matter of surprise that in a country of only three millions of people, separated by an ocean from all the civilizations of the Old World, and with few colleges and only a little accumulated wealth, there should have been found so many men entitled to be classed with statesmen, and with statesmen of the first order. We do well to study the writings of these statesmen of a generation which long since passed away; for "there were giants in those days."

Some of our exchanges, in Virginia and in other States, declare that there are too many elections in this country. What say the fathers? Read the Bill of Rights of Virginia and see. It says on the subject we are now discussing:

"The legislative, executive, and judicial powers should be separate and distinct; and that the members thereof may be restrained from oppression, by feeling and participating the burthens of the people, they should at fixed periods be reduced to a private station, return into that body from which they were originally taken, and the vacancies supplied by *frequent*, certain, and regular elections."

The most intelligent people in the world, taken as a whole, are the people of the United States. Even a mob in this country has been declared by a British writer to be a mob in broadcloth. Our schools, public and private, have done their part of this work of enlightening the masses; but they have not done it all, by a great deal. The fact that we have "frequent" elections has had an educating influence that cannot be over-estimated. The documents that are sent out to the people; the speeches that are made upon the stump; the proceedings of ward and county political meetings; the information scattered far and wide by excited conversations occurring in every hamlet, and in every imaginable manner,—are all a part of the educational system of this country. Think of how much the people have learned during the last few months concerning our plan of electing Presidents of the United States.

Why, the elections for constables, justices of the peace, and other such offices, are beneficial to the community. These officials all learn much about matters in general, as well as about the duties of their particular offices, as a natural consequence of the humble honors conferred upon them; and as one set of them after another comes into and goes out of office, the leaven of intelligence does its work throughout the body politic.

In 1881, in the United States Senate, whilst the subject of electing a President of the United States was up for discussion, Mr. BLAINE made the striking suggestion that if in 1876 the election of President had been for ten years instead of four we might not have reached as peaceful an adjustment of the question as we did. He added that annual elections for Governors and Legislatures have conduced to the peace and harmony of the country. The reason is upon the surface. It is that if you are defeated this year you may be successful next. And a further suggestion of Mr. BLAINE's is worthy of notice—namely, that in proportion to the length of the term of an officer—say, a President of the United States—would be the trouble and turmoil in the case of a closely-contested and doubtful election.

Personally, we would that there were fewer elections. Our own comfort would be enhanced by their reduction to the smallest number possible. Yet we cannot but believe that frequent elections educate the people in many ways, and therefore that they are not an unmixed evil, if an evil at all.

The Warrenton *True Index* pays the following richly-earned tribute to Captain HAM. SHEPPERD. We do not say that he ought to have any particular office—for the President must decide upon that point—but we do say that he has the strongest of claims upon the Democratic party for an office if he wants one or needs one:

CAPTAIN HAM. SHEPPERD.—No man in our ranks has done more unrequited party service than the intelligent and laborious secretary of the Democratic Executive Committee of Virginia. He was an efficient and valued local worker, and has disappointed no one who knew him after he was called to a sphere of exertion as broad as the State. Captain Shepperd's name is intimately associated with the victories achieved over the Coalition in this State the past two eventful years, and he ought not to be driven to make a canvass for position carrying with it some honor and emolument. It is understood that the collectorship of internal revenue for this district would be acceptable to him. He should have it for the asking and without antagonism, for no one has more richly merited reward. In its bestowal, the appointment should not be charged to any district, for there is not a district in Virginia which has not been aided by his labors. 'Civil service will be promoted by such a selection. Public trust will be perfectly safe in Captain Shepperd's keeping.

Everybody must have remarked how very little gold there is in circulation—how rarely it is paid out for wages or in trade. The retail merchant gets almost no gold, and the customer who spends a dollar out of a ten-dollar bill will not receive so much as one dollar in gold in one transaction out of a hundred. It is obvious that silver, being the baser coin, is driving the better out of circulation and out of the country. *Wheeling Intelligencer.*

Let us test the argument. Everybody must have remarked how very little silver there is in circulation compared with the quantity of paper currency—how rarely it is paid out for wages or in trade. The banks receive and pay out daily a hundred dollars in paper for every dollar they pay out in silver. It is obvious that paper, being the baser currency, is driving out silver.

So, according to that reasoning, silver is certainly better than greenbacks or bank notes.

The Norfolk *Landmark* tells the following inimitable story:

When the "scare" or "craze" was at its height a negro on the Eastern Shore went to his employer, the son of his old master, and said:

"Well, Marse Jack, I'm mighty sorry; but I has to leave you."

"Leave me?" exclaimed Marse Jack; "and why must you go, Tom?"

"Well, sir," was the answer, "I has bin free so long dat I can't stan' slavery agin, and me and my ole woman is a-gwine to Canady."

"Very good," said Marse Jack, "you look into this thing well, Tom, and if slavery is to be reestablished let me know, and I'll go with you, for I'll be — shot if I'm going to support the big gang of idle negroes my father had hanging on him during his lifetime!"

The Richmond (Va.) *Dispatch* is very considerate. It says with its own beautiful candor:

"Mr. Blaine is no longer a possible nominee for President.

"Who so likely as Mr. Conkling to succeed Mr. Blaine in the capacity of the acknowledged leader of the Republican party? Who so likely as the great New York or to be the Republican nominee for President in 1888?"

We clip the above from the Cincinnati *Commercial-Gazette*. Mr. HALSTEAD seems just now to be at daggers' points with Mr. CONKLING, and no doubt thinks that we are wofully mistaken. But we are familiar with his record. We recollect that he said as hard things of BLAINE years ago as he says of CONKLING now; that in 1876 he ridiculed the idea of nominating Ohio's "favorite son," HAYES, &c., &c., &c.

Mr. Lincoln was elected by a plurality of 500,000 over one competitor and of 1,000,000 over another.—*New York Tribune.*

Mr. LINCOLN was a minority President. His vote was the smallest, relatively, by which any President was elected. He received only 1,866,352, as against 2,810,501 cast for BRECKINRIDGE, DOUGLAS, and BELL—945,763 for the first, 1,375,157 for the second, and 589,581 for the third.

Messrs. JOHN MURPHY & Co., of Baltimore and New York, the publishers, have sent us a little book entitled, "Stops; or How to Punctuate." By PAUL ALLARDYCE. It contains more than eighty pages, and seems to be quite exhaustive of the subject. It is, too, generally correct in its teachings.

It was a "whale," not a "whole," that we tried to speak of yesterday as "sizable."

BRIEF COMMENT.

We are not surprised at the existence of brigandage in Pennsylvania. The State gave about 80,000 Republican plurality in the presidential election.

The Philadelphia *Press* says: "A hot wave is predicted for the latitude of Washington." Well, yes; it is going to be pretty hot for the rascals.

The Philadelphia *Times* says: "There is no use talking, the Democratic rose has a spoils thorn." But out of this nettle spoils we will pluck the rose, safety.

The New Orleans *Picayune* says: "The Republicans refuse to drink with the Prohibitionists." The Republicans don't want any more bitters "in them."

"The BLAINE and LOGAN Clubs of Ohio propose to form a permanent organization." A dead-head brigade, we suppose.

The Philadelphia *Times* says: "Turn the rascally buzzards out, is the war-cry in the county of Lancaster, Pa." Yet Pennsylvania gave a tremendous vote in favor of keeping them in.

President ARTHUR says: "The revolution in Hayti against the established Government has terminated." The President should have informed the country which is the established Government of Hayti.

The Philadelphia *Press* exclaims: "The great Democratic problem—What will President CLEVELAND do?" Oh, no! Judging from the perturbation among the office-holders, it is the great Republican problem.

The Philadelphia *Bulletin* says: "That most notorious though dusky gentleman, the Mudir of Dongola, has been invested with the Imperial Order of the Medjidie, second class." If the order was given the Mudir for that for which he is best known, REUTER should have one of the first class.

The Pittsburgh *Dispatch* says: "The success of Mlle. NEVADA in opera should encourage other States to let themselves be heard from. Mlle. Pennsylvania might make a strong contralto." Judging from the last election, Pennsylvania's voice is rather base. Certainly it is not educated up to "the music of the future."

A Philadelphia contemporary says: "Some kind friend should call on MURAT HALSTEAD, at the Cincinnati *Commercial-Gazette* office, and tell him in plain terms that the presidential election is over." Nota bit of it. He (MURAT) is doing no harm by waving the bloody shirt, but were he to realize that the election is over he might start another riot.

Personal.

Eugene Schuyler has arrived at New York from Athens. The lime-pit story was a canard.

Commander Schley, the Greely rescuer, was given a reception at Hagerstown, Md., on Saturday.

Governor-elect Scales, of North Carolina, is to be escorted, at his inauguration, by the "Hornets'-Nest Rifles."

Herr Spittover, a German publisher, living in Rome, bought Sallust's house and grounds some fifteen years ago for 60,000 francs. Now the property is valued at 7,000,000 francs.

By confining his diet for twenty-seven weeks strictly to stale bread and skimmed milk, Major Ben. Perley Poore has reduced his weight by sixty-one pounds, and now enjoys better health than for fifteen years before.

The late Duke of Buccleuch spent money on his estates with a liberal hand, and also gave freely to general charities. During a long life he had an annual income of about $1,250,000, and yet he left less than $4,500,000 in personalty.

Senator Conger denies "briefly, compactly, explicitly, and emphatically" that he intends to resign and go on the bench, and he authorizes any one to say "simply, sharply, strongly, and vigorously" that there is no truth in the rumor.

Hon. S. A. Smith has donated $50,000 to McGill University, Montreal, to be employed in holding separate classes for the higher education of ladies. This makes the total amount contributed by Mr. Smith $100,000 for what has long been felt as a want at Montreal.

Here and There.

A fiddler who has recently died had two remarkable circumstances connected with his life and death. In the former, although ninety years old, he was still called "Willie," and in the latter, he is to have a monument. He fiddled for Queen Victoria. It even makes a difference in this world who one fiddles for.

On the Boulevard Malesherbes the other day a policeman stopped a runaway horse. Immediately afterwards a well-dressed man came up out of breath, and after thanking him, jumped on the horse and rode away at a gallop. The real owner soon made his appearance, and was rather crest-fallen to learn that a clever thief had forestalled him.

The total number of families evicted in Ireland during the quarter ending September 30th was 1,215, representing 6,139 persons. Of these only 47 families were readmitted as tenants, and 569 as care-takers, embracing altogether 3,118 persons, which, therefore, left 599 families or 3,021 persons to face the work-house or the charity of their neighbors.

Dr. Boynton recently related that, wishing to explain to a little girl the manner in which a lobster casts his shell when he has outgrown it, he said: "What do you do when you have outgrown your clothes? You throw them aside, don't you?" "Oh, no!" replied the little one, "we let out the tucks!" The Doctor confessed she had the advantage of him there.

The saying that love affairs delight in being topsy-turvey is well illustrated in the case of Miss Lizzie Annandale, the contralto, and Signor Don Pietro del Piazza, under secretary of the Spanish Legation. The latter's parents had fixed upon a reigning belle of Madrid as their future daughter-in-law, and are not disposed to accept the American contralto instead. Miss Annandale is not disposed to force herself into a family where her entrance will be a cause of a fend, the more so as she happens to be independently rich, partly through her own efforts and partly through being the fortunate heir to large holdings in the north of Scotland. But young Pietro is also rich, having succeeded to a competence by the will of his grandmother. On the whole, the young people seem in a better way to realize their hopes than do the indignant parents and the reigning belle of Madrid.

A MATTER OF CHOICE—Whether to suffer uninterruptedly with a cough or to invest 25 cents for Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup and cure it.

Mr. Lybrook on Mr. Royall.

To the Editor of the Dispatch:

There seems to be in the city a facetious gentleman, W. L. Royall by name, who has delivered a lecture to the Legislature as to what they should do with my resolution.

I wish I was acquainted with him. I wonder if anybody is really acquainted with him.

Now, if there were two of them there would be no puzzle in the matter.

I have two documents before me, in one of which he writes as a "Virginian"; in the other, "attorney for the undersigned"—to-wit, "Council of Foreign Bondholders." Supposing there are two gentlemen bearing that name, we can get along with them.

No. 1—the "Virginian"—says in his lecture: "I find considerable alarm amongst our party friends lest Mr. Lybrook's repudiating resolution should again make the topic a subject of division in politics. A brief consideration of the actual state of affairs will effectually dispel this alarm." He then goes on to say in substance that it is nonsense for the Legislature now to deal with the matter, because this Legislature can't say "that the Legislature that will sit twenty years from now shall not nor will not provide for the payment of the *principal* of the debt when it shall come due." Again: "Let our friends vote for his proposition, putting on the record at the time that they believe it wrong." Really, now, Mr. Royall—the "Virginian"—you would not advise "our friends" to vote for what is wrong, and then make them put it on the record, would you?

Again: "I think all our friends will very clearly see their way * * * so far as the principal of the debt is concerned." Then alluding to and endorsing the provisions of the Riddleberger act, &c., as to the disposal of the interest on coupons, he dourishes as follows: "In the name of common-sense, how can the interest upon the public debt be more entirely and more emphatically repudiated than this?"

"The Lynchburg platform binds all good Democrats to sustain the Riddleberger settlement, and that settlement repudiates the coupons. What objection can any good Democrat have to reaffirming the repudiation of the coupons?"

"Mr. Lybrook cannot repudiate the principal, because the principal is not due."

"Mr. Lybrook has already repudiated the interest, and therefore another repudiation will do no harm."

Now, this could not have been Mr. Royall, "attorney for the undersigned," because he would have known better. For how could Mr. Lybrook effectually repudiate interest falling due in the future, as he admits he has done, and not be able to repudiate the principal falling due in the future?

In the conclusion of the lecture he claims to be the representative of the bondholders and "Virginian" also, and declares as such that it is to the interest of the creditors to vote for my proposition and the "extremest repudiating measure that Mr. Lybrook can frame." I am glad to hear that. The interests of the bondholders and the necessities of the people both requiring the passage of my resolution, the Legislature has not the shadow of an excuse in failing to pass it.

But now let us quote some parts of the language of Mr. Royall No. 2—"attorney for the undersigned"—scattered broadcast over this State, addressed to the taxpayers: "Since 1882 the press and public men of the State have represented to the people that the Riddleberger act had settled the State debt." * * * "The State debt is not settled in the sense it has been represented to the people, and the State is this day being pressed in court on her contract that she would receive her coupons in payment of taxes, and the undersigned believes that in a very short time she will be compelled to redeem the last one of them by receiving them for all taxes that she assesses." "The undersigned has undertaken the task of securing to all persons owing taxes, &c., the right to avail themselves of the State's coupons in payment of these taxes," &c. "In 1882 the impression went abroad that the Legislature had passed laws absolving the State from all obligation to receive tax-receivable coupons for taxes. * * * No greater mistake was ever made." "That the Court (Federal) will grant an injunction to restrain the State's officers from levying on the property of a taxpayer who has tendered coupons in payment of taxes." "The State's collector has no more right to levy and seize the taxpayer's property after he has tendered coupons than the highwayman has to seize his horse on the road." "If he does, the tax-payer has a right to sue him for trespass in Judge Bond's court."

Then, after instructing the tax-payer how to buy coupons at thirty cents in the dollar and tender them in payment of taxes, he says: "Thus the tax-payer will have paid his taxes and will be out of pocket absolutely nothing but the cost of the coupon. But this process is susceptible of further advantages to the tax-payer. He need not be the owner of the coupon. He can borrow one for the purpose of the tender, and it will answer the purpose. Thus one coupon, passing from hand to hand, will pay the entire taxes due to the State of Virginia." And to further seduce the people to unite in a conspiracy to utterly paralyze the Government of the State and prostrate her under the feet of her merciless creditors, he holds out the following temptation: "So far as the costs of litigation are concerned, the undersigned will furnish each tax-payer with an attorney *without charging him a cent.* Mr. William L. Royall, attorney for the undersigned, is instructed to and will represent each tax-payer in every suit he desires to bring without charge to the tax-payer."

Now if there be two Mr. W. L. Royalls engaged in this matter, the thing can be understood. If but one, all I can say is: Oh! consistency thou art a jewel!

A. M. LYBROOK.

Civil-Service Reform.

To the Editor of the Dispatch:

Will you oblige an old reader by publishing the following from Joseph Cook's Boston Monday Lectures ("Occident, page 90)?

"I most thoroughly believe that we are as honest a people as there is on the face of the earth; but in the matter of civil service we are more tempted than any other people. In eighty-two years our population has increased from 3,000,000 to 53,000,000. As late as 1801 there were less than 1,000 civil-service officers in the whole country; now there are more than 100,000. We had then 69 custom-houses, and now have 135. Our ministers to foreign countries were then 4 and our consuls 63; now the ministers are 33 and the consuls 728. Then we had 906 post-offices; now we have 44,848. The Republican party has (had) at its disposal 110,000 appointive officers. George Washington could know something definite as to the fitness of all the men he appointed to the civil service; but it is not in the physical or mental power of any one man, nor of any ten men, now to sift the army of applicants for employment under Government, and to dispense its enormous patronage intelligently. We must not expect to tie with paper twine a grab-bag as wide as the continent and containing a constantly-increasing income, now amounting to $400,000,000 annually.

"What is the spoils system? It is the application to politics of the old style of marshaling armies in the mediæval age. The army was to be inspired by the hope of plunder—loot! booty! These were the watchwords of attacking battalions when a city was to be sacked. A secret conclave—a single chieftain—gave orders for the whole army, and the rallying cry of the soldiers was *booty*. Aaron Burr was the first man to apply to politics in this country the military system of the mediæval age. Spoils! loot! booty! spoils to the victors! This was to keep up the *esprit de corps* of great political organizations; and just as in an army, a few men give the law to the whole mass of soldiers, so a secret conclave or a single chieftain, according to Aaron Burr's system, was to rule the whole army of those who had the franchise. As the supreme crime in the soldier was bolting or desertion, so the supreme crime in the voter was to be bolting or desertion from the line of effort prescribed by the chieftain. This is the spoils system that had its first application to our politics by the subtle, sensual, almost devilish soul of Aaron Burr, who had no confidence shown him either by George Washington or Napoleon Bonaparte, much as he tried to gain the good-will of each of these shrewd judges of human nature. Martin Van Buren approved and extended this scheme, and Jackson was the apt pupil both of Aaron Burr and Martin Van Buren.

"What I insist on is that booty—loot—has become of colossal proportions in this republic. You have by this civil-service list less than thirty thousand of our officers appointed after examination. All the rest is booty yet; all the rest, under the provisions of this bill, can be changed whenever parties are changed. England changes only about thirty men when she changes parties. Out of 110,000 officers 80,000, including all on whose appointment a vote of the national Senate is necessary, are not reached by this enactment. Very soon there will be 100,000 to be changed, even if this bill is carried out. Our population is doubling every twenty-five or thirty years. We might have that law fairly executed, and yet change two hundred or four hundred thousand officers every time we change parties at Washington. The republic will not safely bear this strain.

"But I think it high time to raise a note of alarm, a note of prediction—warning, at least—that even if its provisions could be carried out in good faith the new civil-service law would not close the grab-bag of partisan spoils. It leaves open more than two thirds of the entrance into that continental basket of the treasury. We must expect that the size and fatness of these spoils will continue to be a temptation to greed and fraud. Cæsar, Anthony, and Lepidus never had $400,000,000 to dispose of annually," &c., &c.

Capital and Popular Sentiment.

To the Editor of the Dispatch:

Your suggestion, that the operations of trade and manufacturing industry of the country may be cramped by the sensitiveness of capital in respect to the policy of Government, if true, goes to show that capital is distrustful of popular sentiment. We have not been taught this as incidental to a free country. Our Constitution guarantees to every citizen the right of property and the pursuits of industry and happiness, and if the functions of the Government are so directed as to excite the distrust of capitalist it must be from the Government having overstepped its authority in fostering unduly the capitalists, who may now fear the withdrawal of governmental favors. If something of this sort has not established the alliance of Republican government and capital, why should capital distrust Democratic government? It is rather a favorable sign that that Republican capital (if we can so denominate this capital), has some sensitiveness just at this time. It must be remembered that the favors of authority and power are given at the cost of the general public, including the laboring classes, and capital and capitalists have in the last twenty years had more to do with the Government in every concessionist form; have had greatest privileges, and have directed its policy more largely than was ever known before in this country. Indeed, its influence at Washington has overawed everything else, and the battle of the Democrats for power has been more to wrest the Government from the clutches of the capitalists and rings of money-power than from the supporters of Republican platforms. Honest workers and men engaged in legitimate enterprises of capital have nothing to fear from Democratic government. On the contrary, so long as the operation of Government are kept within constitutional limits, according to the Democratic doctrine, the Government cannot be made to injure or advance one department of public industry or capital at the expense of other departments, and a Government that tends to establish or favor such disparaging results as to any of its people should not be tolerated a day.

If the questions of tariff and currency are exciting these capitalists (and possibly the *Dispatch*, if it have a journalistic interest in them, as it may, we would assure all concerned that money has not lost its power or its cunning, and Congress will have to fight our battles over again to secure the fruits of our Democratic victory. The President can do little but dispense the large patronage of Government, which is more likely to damage than benefit the Democrats.

Money and tariff are purely commercial questions, and will ever be as millstones around the neck of any party that attempts to share them after a fashion to promote the interests of classes or the so-called "national currency" and "protection of domestic industry." Government has not the right to shape its course to produce any such results, and it is not an assumption to say that any act of the Government that serves to favor one class of industry, or that promotes the success of secures commercial privileges of others, can only do so by inflicting a corresponding injury on the less-favored public, who must, to all intents and purposes, make up the tribute which such legislation imposes on them.

We are constantly looking to the "State Agency," as Herbert Spencer calls it, to do something, when it were better, indeed, if it done nothing, since the boundless range of legislation is fast driving us to destruction.

The poor laborers of every class are not so ignorant as to believe that Congress can make bread; nor can they be made to believe that wheat will be cheaper if the farmer has to pay dearer for his implements, whether they are made at home or abroad; and money in every shape and form is a commodity that trade should provide or raise to suit its exigencies and wants; and as these questions, really for the general good and interests of parties as well, should properly belong to scientific inquiry, we hope to see them driven forever from the halls of legislation. We often hear people talk about money as the wealth of the country, and about the distribution of wealth. National wealth is the capacity of a people to supply their frugal wants. If they cannot do this, and there is poverty, wretchedness, and want stalking through the land, we cannot boast of wealth. If $500,000,000 were thrown out to the people to pick up, the country would be no richer than before, since it has only changed owners and increased the dependence of the poor, who must after all solve the questions of human wants by work and not chance. Capacity of a people, then, to supply with reasonable certainty their every frugal want is wealth, and more or less is not wealth, for more would be waste as well as demoralizing, and less would be want and degradation. True national wealth has its virtue in judicious limitation, and as we do not derive our living or happiness from the Government, we want a Government that is honest and not sumptuous—that does not steal from the many to give to the few.

As to the presidential patronage to which we have alluded, we think the true interest of the South is to turn away from it as far as possible. What we want is good, honest government, and we can well afford to hurl these public offices into the teeth of the Republican party by retaining every honest Republican in office that has not been odiously officious in politics, and then as to all the other offices, let good northern Democrats fill them. Why not thus free ourselves from the charge of lust of office? Remember, it is greed for office that eventually breaks down parties and demoralizes vast numbers of men that would otherwise be good citizens. C.

Reassessing the Lands in Virginia.

IRWIN'S, VA., December 1, 1884.

To the Editor of the Dispatch:

Dear Sir,—In your issue of Thursday, November 27th, I noticed a communication stating that country property was undervalued by the assessors, and the State thereby deprived of tax justly due.

A large plantation having recently been sold for $8,000—partly cash and partly on time, netting the owner, commission off, $7,600—I was curious to learn what was the assessed value. I found that to be $10,980, and at a former assessment had been rated at $17,000. For cash the farm would have brought less than the sum it did.

I doubt whether country property is not now assessed too high. Between five thousand dollars in a bond at 6 per cent, and a farm worth five thousand the difference is all in favor of the bond; the interest of the former is higher and its immediate availability so much greater as to make a difference of at least 10 per cent.

Personal property escapes taxation to a much greater extent than real property, and if the revenues of the State need to be augmented, it is in that direction the tax-collector must look. GOODLAND.

Horsford's Acid Phosphate

AS A BRAIN-FOOD.

Dr. S. F. Newcomer, Greenfield, Ohio, says: "In cases of general debility, and torpor of mind and body, it does exceedingly well."

Now that Christmas is approaching, most every household will need some pure Liquors, such as "Montrose" and "B Select" Whiskeys, Southampton Apple-Brandy, Rum, &c., &c. W. D. Blair & Co.'s, 1109 east Main street, is the place to get good, reliable articles.

DEATHS.

BEOLASKY.—Died, November 25, 1884, HENRIETTA, wife of Jefferson H. Brolasky, of Philadelphia, in her seventy-seventh year.

PHILLIPS.—Died, at Port Walthall, Chesterfield county, Va., December 1, 1884, J. L. PHILLIPS, in the 84th year of his age.

The deceased was a member of McCarthy Council, No. 468, Royal Arcanum, and of Masonic Lodge No. 13, Staunton, Va.

His funeral will take place THIS (Wednesday) AFTERNOON at 2 o'clock from the Ninth-Street Methodist church, Manchester. Friends and acquaintances respectfully invited to attend.

WEST.—Died, Monday, November 24th, at the residence of her husband, in Prince George county, near Petersburg, Va., BELLE BEASLEY, wife of George M. West.

☞ ST. PAUL'S CHURCH.—Litany service WILL NOT BE HELD at St. Paul's church lecture-room TO-DAY in consequence of the funeral of Miss M. MORTON at 12 o'clock in the church.

☞ UNION-STATION CHURCH.—There will be a Church Conference held at this church on WEDNESDAY NIGHT, December 3d, at 7:30 o'clock. The members are urged to be present, as most important business will be transacted.

ABSOLUTELY PURE.

MEETINGS.

THE MEMBERS OF LODGE FRANCAISE, No. 54, A. F. and A. M., are requested to attend a stated communication of their Lodge at 8 Allens Hall, THIS (Wednesday) EVENING, at 7 o'clock. Members of sister lodges are fraternally invited to attend.

By order of the W. M.

WILLIAM LOVENSTEIN, Secretary.

de 3-1t*

BRANCH ARTHUR PILL, KEARNY POST, No. 10, GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, Richmond, December 3, 1884.

THIS POST WILL ASSEMBLE IN FULL FORCE TO-NIGHT at Veteran Hall for NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR THE ENSUING YEAR. It is expected that every comrade will be present.

By order of the Post. J. F. BERRY, Adjutant.

HEADQUARTERS UNITED VETERANS.

THERE WILL BE A MEETING AT SCHILLER HALL at 7:30 o'clock TO-NIGHT; business of importance. Every member requested to be present. R. H. FOX, Chairman pro tem.

de 3-1t*

RICHMOND AND ALLEGHANY RAILROAD COMPANY.

Notice is hereby given that the annual meeting of the stockholders of the RICHMOND AND ALLEGHANY RAILROAD COMPANY will be held at the company's office, Richmond, Va., on the SECOND TUESDAY, BEING THE 9TH DAY OF DECEMBER NEXT, 1884, at 12 M., for the purpose of electing a Board of Directors for the year, and for the transaction of any other business that may be brought before the meeting. J. S. BRYAN, Secretary.

Richmond and Allegheny Railroad Company.

no 25-d

NOTICE.—THE ANNUAL MEETING of the STOCKHOLDERS OF THE RICHMOND AND WEST POINT TERMINAL RAILWAY AND WAREHOUSE COMPANY will be held at the office of the Richmond and Danville Railroad Company, in the city of Richmond, Va., on the 9TH DAY OF DECEMBER proximo, at 12 o'clock M.

The books for the transfer of stock will be closed from the 5th to the 9th of December, inclusive, and will be opened at 9 o'clock A. M. December 10th proximo.

no 23-td R. GOODE, Secretary.

RICHMOND & DANVILLE RAILROAD COMPANY, RICHMOND, VA., November 24, 1884.

NOTICE.—THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE STOCKHOLDERS OF THE RICHMOND AND DANVILLE RAILROAD COMPANY will be held at the office of the company, in the city of Richmond, Va., on the 10th day of DECEMBER proximo, at 12 o'clock M.

The books for the transfer of stock will be closed from 3 o'clock P. M. December 2d proximo until 9 o'clock A. M. December 11th proximo.

no 23-td R. GOODE, Secretary.

MILITARY NOTICES.

HEADQUARTERS STUART HORSE GUARDS, RICHMOND, VA., November 1, 1884.

GENERAL ORDERS, No. 28.

I. The Troop will assemble in full force WEDNESDAY NIGHT, December 3d, at 8 o'clock, in the drill-hall of the First Regiment Armory, in full dress uniform, with sabers, all in perfect order, for inspection by the Assistant Inspector-General. Every man must be present unless especially excused.

II. After the inspection indicated in the preceding paragraph a business meeting of the Troop will be held.

By order of Captain HAXALL.

E. B. DEANE, Acting Orderly Sergeant.

AMUSEMENTS.

RICHMOND THEATRE.

GRAND MATINEE TO-DAY.
GRAND MATINEE TO-DAY.
GRAND MATINEE TO-DAY.

Admission to all Matinees, 25 and 50 cents.

ROBERT E. GRAHAM,
the brother MAX,
in his own charming play of that name, with beautiful Scenes, Dances, &c., &c.

Remember the last two performances of BROTHER MAX THIS AFTERNOON AND EVENING.

Don't fail to have the Children see BROTHER MAX. de 3-1t*

MOZART HALL.

DIME MUSEUM COMPANY.

FOR WEEK OF DECEMBER 1, 1884, every afternoon and night (excepting Thursday night) the following artists will appear:

PHILLIPS and RACH,
THE
Frank—BLOODGOODS—Family.
4 DELMA FAMILY 4
(John, Lillie, Maude, and Harry).
ORIN DIXON.
PROFESSOR EVERETT.
THE
Fred.—GOTTLOBS—Army.

Admission to all, only 10c. Reserved seats, 20c., to be had at C. F. Johnston's music-store, No. 918 Main street.

An entire new company next week. de 2-5t

RICHMOND THEATRE.

THREE NIGHTS,
commencing
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4TH,
SPECIAL SATURDAY MATINEE.

Engagement of the eminent Austrian actress,
FANNY ELSNER,
(from the Imperial Theatre, Vienna),
under the managerial direction of Mr. FRANK L. GARDNER, supported by a SUPERB DRAMATIC COMPANY, who will be presented the following select English repertoire:

THURSDAY NIGHT AND SATURDAY MATINEE—CAMILLE.
FRIDAY NIGHT—LEONORE.
SATURDAY NIGHT—A SPECIAL BILL.

The advanced sale of seats will commence MONDAY MORNING, December 1st, at 8 o'clock.

Prices—Reserved: Orchestra and circle, $1; dress circle, 75c. Admission: lower floor, 75c.; dress circle, 50c.; gallery, 25c. no 28-8t

DISSOLUTIONS & PARTNERSHIPS.

I BEG TO ANNOUNCE THAT MY SIXTH-STREET STORE, which has been under the management of my eldest son, HENRY W. WOOD, for the past eighteen months, will from this date be conducted by him on his own account.

MY MAIN-STREET STORE will be continued, as usual, as a WHOLES