The Times Dispatch

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 1908.

If a man be exalted by reason of any excellence in his soul, he may please to remember that all souls are equal.—Jeremy Taylor.

EQUITABLE TAXATION.

In discussing the question of exempting personal property from State taxation, and requiring each county and city to defray its own criminal expenses, the Amherst Progress asks if The Times-Dispatch would advocate the equitable distribution of the tax on the rolling stock of the Chesapeake and Ohio and the Southern Railway. Yes, upon condition that Virginia would devise and execute a system of equitable taxation that would apply to all classes of property and to all sections of the State. Our contemporary knows very well that under the present system the cities, or some of them at least, are paying more than their fair share of State taxation. In 1906 the real estate in the eighteen cities of the State was assessed at $148,690,457, as against $230,286,612 for all the counties and towns of the State. Every tyro knows that the real property in the cities is not worth more than half as much as the real property in all the rest of the State. The tax paid on real estate by the counties and towns was $1,663,872; by the cities, $821,007. Richmond city paid $321,147, being about one-fifth of the sum paid by all the counties and towns on that account. Of income tax, the counties and towns paid $27,940; the cities, $75,831.

The Times-Dispatch wants nothing but what is fair. It is certainly not trying to get any advantage for the cities. The proposal which it has made with regard to exempting personal property from State taxation is purely and solely in the interest of uniform and equitable assessments. With personal property out of the way, the State should be able to secure an assessment of real estate according to the rule of the Constitution. But it is almost impossible to enforce that rule in the assessment of promiscuous personal property, especially that which is called "intangible." Hence the present scheme works a hardship on the honest man and shields the tax-dodger. The whole system is about as bad as could be. The Times-Dispatch is simply asking for reform, and those who are peering into its frank proposal for hidden motives and deep-laid plots are welcome to their suspicions.

A SUNDAY SCHOOL REFORMER.

The Educational Review publishes an article from Charles E. Wilter, of St. Louis, whoever he may be, in which he says that an increasingly large number of intelligent people are deterred from teaching in the Sunday-schools and other departments of the orthodox churches because they are not permitted to teach in their own way. No reputable expert in theology, Mr. Wilter asserts, attempts seriously to uphold the old theory of verbal inspiration and the old notion of "the marvelous and detailed fulfilment in the New Testament of prophetic predictions in the Old."

Many of the miracles, he says, are now regarded by scholars as myths, but in spite of the experts and the scholars, and the would-be Sunday-school teachers of the higher cult, Mr. Wilter complains that "the committee having in charge from time to time the outlining of topics for study in the International Sunday-School Lesson, seem determined to keep just this mythical, this so-called supernatural, element to the fore, doggedly ignoring all that even conservative biblical scholarship has had to say."

What would this reformer from St. Louis do? He would turn out of the Sunday-schools those devout teachers who accept in simple and absolute faith the Bible as the inspired word of God, which Mr. Wilter holds to be a narrow view of spiritual truth, and replace them with persons of the higher cult "who have outgrown the crude and literal interpretations of early years."

May God save the Sunday-schools and the children of the land from such a "reform."

THE NATIONAL BANK SYSTEM.

In view of the currency plan proposed by Senator Aldrich, it may be interesting to some of our readers to recall the circumstances under which bond-secured currency was first issued.

When Salmon P. Chase was called into President Lincoln's Cabinet in 1861, to be Secretary of the Treasury, he found the government's financial affairs in a most unsatisfactory condition.

The difficulty that he was immediately called upon to grapple with is thus described by Mr. Greeley:

"When he accepted the office of Secretary of the Treasury the finances were already in chaos; the current revenue being inadequate, even in the absence of all expenditure or preparation for war, his predecessor (Cobb, of Georgia) having attempted to borrow $10,000,000 in October, 1860, and obtained only $7,022,000—the bidders to whom the balance was awarded choosing to forfeit their initial deposit rather than take and pay for their bonds. Thenceforth he had tided over, till his resignation, by selling Treasury notes, payable a year from date, at 6 to 12 per cent. discount, and when, after he had retired from the scene, General Dix, who succeeded him in Mr. Buchanan's Cabinet, attempted (February, 1861) to borrow a small sum on twenty-year bonds at 6 per cent., he was obliged to sell these bonds at an average discount of 9 1-2 per cent. Hence, of Mr. Chase's first loan of $8,000,000, for which bids were opened (2d of April) ten days before Beauregard first fired on Fort Sumter, the offerings ranged from 5 to 10 per cent. discount; and only $3,099,000 were tendered at or under 6 per cent. discount—he, in the face of a vehement clamor, declining all bids at higher rates of discount than 6 per cent., and placing soon afterward the balance of the $8,000,000 in two-year Treasury notes at par, or a fraction over."

When the secretary went to New York for his first loan, the London Times declared that he had "coerced $50,000,000 from the banks, but would not fare so well at the London exchange." Three years later it said "the hundredth part of Mr. Chase's embarrassments would tax Mr. Gladstone's ingenuity to the utmost, and set the (British) public mind in a ferment of excitement." In his conference with the bankers the secretary said he hoped they would be able to take the loans on such terms as could be admitted. "If you cannot," said he, "I shall go back to Washington and issue notes for circulation; for it is certain that the war must go on until the rebellion is put down, if we have to put out paper until it takes a thousand dollars to buy a breakfast."

At this time the amount of coin in circulation in the country was estimated at $210,000,000, and it soon became evident that this was insufficient for carrying on the war. The banks could not sell the bonds for coin, and could not meet their obligations in coin, and on December 27, 1861, they agreed to suspend specie payment at the close of the year. In his first report, submitted on the 9th of that month, Secretary Chase recommended retrenchment of expenses wherever possible, confiscation of the property of those in arms against the government, an increase of duties and of the tax on spirits, and a national currency, with a system of national banking associations.

This simple statement, which is taken in the main from one of our reference books, shows, what everybody knows to be a fact, that our present system of bank currency is the direct outgrowth of a war measure, whose prime purpose was not to make currency, but to create a market for United States bonds. It was a part of Secretary Chase's plan to raise money with which to "put down the rebellion." But as the plan has served its purpose; as the government no longer needs it to give value to its bonds, and as the war was ended forty-odd years ago, it seems to us that the time has come to retire this veteran war measure on pension in favor of an up-to-date system of currency.

OUR ASTONISHING NATIONAL GROWTH.

"Uncle Sam" writes William E. Curtis to the Chicago Record-Herald, "is richer than any other nation that exists or ever has existed. Croesus, King of Lydia, whose name has been a synonym for wealth for ages, was a pauper compared to him." And he proceeds to defend this statement by a series of figures, strikingly illustrating our national development during the past thirty-seven years.

In 1870 the population of this country was 35,558,371, or 12.74 to the square mile; in 1907 it was 85,593,303, or 28.28 per square mile. In 1870 our total tangible wealth was $30,068,518,000, or $779.83 per capita; in 1907 it was $107,104,211,917, or $1,310.11 per capita. Our wealth, therefore, has increased appreciably faster than our population.

Between 1870 and 1907 bank deposits grew from $1,092,135,921 to $8,023,288,886, and the number of depositors (in savings banks only) from 1,630,846 to 8,588,811. One person in every thirty drew bank interest on his savings in 1870; one person in every ten draws such interest to-day.

Our imports grew in thirty-seven years from $435,958,408 to $1,434,421,425, our exports from $392,771,768 to $1,880,851,078. The value of farm animals increased from $1,564,960,149 to $4,423,697,850; and other farm figures are in greater or less degree proportionate. Railroad mileage jumped from 52,922 miles to 222,635, railway freight tonnage from 79,192,985,125 tons (in 1890) to 216,656,795,696.

Post-office receipts in the same period increased from $19,722,222 to $167,932,783, a wonderful indication of expanding prosperity. There were 5,871 newspapers in the country in 1870; there are 21,735 to-day. The teachers' payroll in public schools has mounted from $37,832,566 to $177,562,981, the total expenditures for public schools from $63,396,666 to $291,616,660, the attendance from 4,077,347 to 11,481,531 in 1905, the number of university students from 23,392 to 126,404. Wages have increased 32 per cent., and the cost of food but 22 per cent.

Not only the present condition of this country, but its rate of progress has been without precedent in history. How much further our national wealth may surpass all previous records remains to be seen. Meantime these figures would indicate that we are amply able to withstand all the financial panics that ever came out of the East.

"EXPOSTULATION."

(Selected for The Times-Dispatch.)

"Despisest thou the riches of His goodness, and forbearance and long-suffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?"—Rom. ii. 4.

The apostle here fixes his eye upon a single person, and speaks to him as "thou." And so, my good friend, this sermon is for "thee." I speak not to you as one of many, but unto "thee"—one by thyself.

Let me first, O man, remind thee how favored thou hast been of God by being made a partaker of the "riches of His goodness." In many cases this is true of temporal things. Men may be without the fear of God, and yet, for all that, God may be pleased to prosper their endeavors in business. Though they have no religion, they have wit and prudence and thrift; so that they compete with others, and God permits them to win. Moreover, He allows them to enjoy good health, vigor of mind, and strength of constitution. They are happy in the wife of their youth, and their children are about them. Theirs is an envied lot, and even sickness does not molest their household. Yet they love not the hand which enriches them; they praise not the Lord who daily loadeth them with benefits. How is it that men can receive such kindness and yield no return? O sirs, you are blessed to-day with all that need requires. Yet you think not of God! You are well to-day; you might be tossing about on a bed of sickness in a hospital or about to lose a limb. Shall not God be praised for health and freedom from pain? A thousand ills have been kept from you; you have been exceedingly favored by the goodness of the Most High.

This goodness of God is not only shown by temporal things, O impenitent man! but it has visited you in spiritual matters. Myriads of our fellow-men have never had an opportunity of knowing Christ. You have known of Him from your infancy. You are placed in the very focus of Christian light, and yet you follow evil!

This is the land of the open Bible, the land of the preached Word; and this proves the richness of God's goodness. Will you despise this wealth of mercy? With cries and entreaties you have been urged and invited to come to your Heavenly Father, and you will not. Is this to continue?

What is more, you have been favored with a tender conscience. When you do wrong you know it, and smart for it. What mean those wakeful hours after you have yielded to temptation? What means that miserable feeling of shame—that fever of unrest? You are finding it hard to stifle the inward monitor and difficult to resist the Spirit of God. Your road to perdition is made peculiarly hard. Do you mean to follow it at all costs and go over hedge and ditch to ruin?

You have been almost persuaded to be a Christian. The Holy Spirit has never ceased to follow and entreat, and at times you have been melted and almost ready to be molded by grace. If you had not gathered up all your evil strength, and if the Devil had not helped you to resist, you had by this time dropped into the Saviour's outstretched and loving arms. You have scarcely had a stripe, a frown or an ill word from God. His ways have been all kindness and gentleness and longsuffering from the first day of your memory until now. "Despisest thou the riches of His goodness?" O man, answer this at the bar of your own heart!

The apostle dwells upon the riches of "forbearance." Forbearance comes in when, men having offended, God withholds the punishment that is due. Did you ever think what is included in the riches of forbearance? Many quick-tempered persons need only a trifle to upset, and hard words and blows come thick and fast; but O! the forbearance of God when He is provoked to His face by the wicked every day! They hear His word and yet refuse it. They slight His love, and yet He perseveres in it. Justice lays its hand on the sword, but Mercy holds it still in the scabbard.

The apostle adds to goodness and forbearance "longsuffering." Forbearance has to do with the magnitude of sin; longsuffering with the multiplicity of it. Forbearance has to do with present provocation; longsuffering relates to that provocation repeated and long continued. O, "the riches of His goodness and forbearance and long-suffering!" Threefold is the chain: will you break or disregard it? Can you continue to despise it? Will you ignore it?

"Not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?"—thus the whole text reads. God calls to repentance by His gospel; He leads to repentance by His goodness. It is as though He plucked at your sleeve and said: "Come this way with Me, and I will do thee good."

What more can be said? Put it to yourselves. If you were in God's stead could you bear to be treated as you have treated Him?

O strange infatuation that men will not consent to be saved—but foolishly and madly hold out against that mercy of God which would lead them to repentance!

What if God should say: "As tenderness cannot win him, I must leave him; if My love does not draw him, nothing will, and I will let him alone"?

Lord, say not so, say not so to any who may read this!

The Albany Journal expresses surprise that no membership cards in the Paragraphers' Union were sent to "the Washington Post, the Atlanta Journal, the Chicago News, the Dallas News and a number of other newspapers that are strongly addicted to the paragraph habit." We reply that the Washington Post has already been elected to membership, and the Atlanta Journal, which has been evincing some interest in the Union's work, will no doubt be admitted at the next regular meeting of the board. All good paragraphers in the country are not only eligible, but welcome; but the Union modesty refrains from railroading them in until their own desires and intentions in the matter have been made apparent.

While Old Virginia sincerely sympathizes with Kentucky in her present troubles, it must be admitted that her chief anxiety just now is lest a horde of Texas night-riders may descend without warning upon her confines, wickedly determined to embezzle the recipe of her jentle and judicious juleps.

Richmond has long contended that it is not gentlemanly to play baseball too well. Our one regret at the news that this city is to be chartered in a league with Brooklyn, Paterson, Newark, Reading, Philadelphia and Baltimore springs from the cold fear that 1908 may see a championship pennant crowded on us.

Before a Washington police magistrate the other day John Adams charged George Washington with embezzling $2. It is a pleasure to chronicle that George, who could not tell a lie, swore that he was not guilty, and the base accusation was fired out of court.

The Earl of Yarmouth's intention to contest his wife's suit for annulment, of course, arises from a sensible man's natural indisposition to encourage an estrangement between himself and the pay envelope.

Speaker Cannon's indifference to his boom is not hard to understand from one already so richly endowed. Among his more valued possessions may be mentioned the government of the United States.

A Detroit woman sold her husband for $5,000, which shows that the panic is over and that the market for medium-grade securities is now in the hands of the bulls.

One hundred and seventy-five thousand women voted at the last general election in New Zealand. No other country in the world has such New Zealous women as that.

"How to Get Together" is an editorial caption in a contemporary. Our American locomotives, who never read editorials, do it nearly every day.

But only young or lady Georgians infer that Demijohn Barleycorn is now persona non grata in those parched parts.

We take it for granted that the night-riders of Kentucky invariably wear night-shirts of mail.

Every newspaper has long been familiar, however, with the hostility between staff and linotype.

John A. Johnson stacks up into the limelight like a man after Charley Hughes's own scalp.

Famous Words of Famous Men.

"It is the Beginning of the End."
CHARLES MAURICE de TALLEYRAND, Oct., 1813.

Napoleon had fought and lost the battle of Leipzig. The contest raged from the 12th to the 19th of October in 1813.

Out of a total force of 130,000 men, Napoleon left at Leipzig, in killed, wounded, sick and prisoners of war, an appalling total of 80,000 men, or more than one-half of his original army.

The battle of Leipzig shattered the power of the one-time conqueror of Europe, and though his military genius in the retreat across Germany was never more strikingly shown, the fall of the Napoleonic star was inevitable and irretrievable.

"Posterity will say of Napoleon," says Talleyrand in his memoirs, "That man was endowed with a very great intellectual force, but he has not understood veritable glory. His moral force was very small or even null. He was not able to enjoy prosperity with moderation, nor to bear misfortune with dignity, and it is because he lacked moral force that he caused the ruin of Europe and of himself."

Events crowded thick and fast upon each other after the overthrow of Europe's former master at Leipzig. Each day added new alliances to the continental enemies of the Emperor. His manufactured monarchies rapidly crumbled when their only support was crushed. Hanover, Brunswick, Hesse, and other German principalities, returned to the allegiance of their rightful sovereigns. The "Confederation of the Rhine" was forever destroyed, and the long exiled Prince of Orange returned to Holland in triumph from England and resumed control of public affairs in his native land.

Murat, in Italy, was conspiring against the Napoleonic dynasty, and not a single French soldier remained in Spain. Even in France Talleyrand was sounding the Bourbon royalists upon the advisability of a return to the throne, and one wing of the old revolutionists was rejoicing over the discomfiture of the Corsican usurper.

"I felt the reins slipping from my hands," said Napoleon at St. Helena.

When, however, the patriotism of the French nation, or the admiration of the French nation for the former successful commander of French armies perceptibly waned, and the Emperor could not even reckon on the support of his own ministers and generals, confusion and uncertainty reigned in all the public departments, in the salons and in the streets.

According to Lockhart, in the London 1835 version of his "Life of Napoleon," Vol. II., page 211, Talleyrand, when hearing an officer express his alarm and astonishment, made answer in words which have passed into a proverb—

"It is the beginning of the end."

ch Maur Talleyrand

Rhymes for To-Day

I MEANT TO COME AGAIN.

EARTH into earth—just there:
But howered now with roses nights and days,
And grass already growing in familiar ways. . . .
I am too late to find it brown and bare
As when they laid her there.

Hers is this graven stone? . . .
The pale beam lights a word . . . I know the rest!
That was the verse, of all, she loved the best:
So well I know why those old lines alone
Would do to grave her stone.

I had not dreamed of this:
I thought when all my pride was gotten o'er,
To come at last and find her as before—
To sear the erring years in one heart's kiss—
Not, not to come like this.

Oh, somewhere she must hear . . .
My darling!—little heart . . . see! Here I lie,
Close, close upon your earth, your rose crushed by,
Torn with the wild, wild hope to find your ear
Somewhere, and make you hear. . . .

I meant to come again!
I dreamed of long, long lifetimes to unfold
This heart that faints of love it never told:
I dreamed my Victory at last, and then
I meant to come again. . . .

She does not hear me now—
The far-blown wind will answer, but not she. . . .
And though I swooned upon my bleeding knee,
And though I plead to God for where and how,
I cannot tell her now. H. S. H.

MERELY JOKING.

Wayside Notes.

"I uster git a good deal of junk from dat house, but don't no more."

"De leddy must be frimmin' her own hats."—Washington Herald.

Not Expected of Him.

"So you want a job, hey? Well, what did you do at your last place?"

"I didn't do anything. I was the office boy."—Judge.

An Old, Old Cry.

"Shall we abolish the thumbscrew?" asked the king.

Some were in favor of so doing, others opposed the idea.

"It might hurt business," declared the latter, glancing timidly about.—Kansas City Journal.

Deduction.

Bobby: "Sister's got a beau, all right!"
Tommy: "What makes you think so?"
Bobby: "She used to say: 'Bobby, see who's calling,' when the 'phone rang. Now she runs to it herself, instead of telling me."—Cleveland Leader.

Fulfilled.

Stella: "He promised to go through thick and thin."
Bella: "He did—her wad and his."—New York Sun.

Right.

"Pa, what is dyspepsia?"
"It is the remorse of a guilty stomach, my son."—Puck.

THE PARAGRAPHERS' UNION.

Wonder if Chairman Times-Dispatch, of the Paragraphers' Union, cannot taboo the water-wagon joke for the next thirty days.—Atlanta Journal.

* * *

To the Paragraphers' Union: Don't rehash the Christmas turkey hash joke.—Washington Herald.

* * *

We are forced by a sense of duty to submit for the consideration of the Paragraphers' Union the fact that the Atlanta Georgian spells it "thru." Can we stand for that?—Houston Post.

* * *

The Charleston News and Courier and the Washington Herald have bolted from the Paragraphers' Union. The News and Courier couldn't exist without the Fairbanks cocktail gag, while the Herald became utterly miserable in his few days' silence with respect to prunes.—Houston Post.

* * *

On New Year's Day we may swear off from the Fairbanks paragraph, but we shall not be overawed and intimidated by the threats of that Paragraphers' Black Hand combination.—Charleston News and Courier.

* * *

We hereby serve notice of intention to quit the Paragraphers' Union and join the Charleston News and Courier's walkout. This business of making a noise without filing any old saws is not what it is cracked up to be.—Washington Herald.

* * *

We protest against the resignation from the Paragraphers' Union of the Charleston News and Courier. We are not permitted to use non-union paragraphs and we should certainly miss those bright gems from our Charleston contemporary.—Jacksonville Times-Union.

* * *

"The mother of Governor Folk says he never was whipped," says the Baltimore American. This is no sign, however, that he never will be Stoned—begging the pardon of the grand master of the Paragraphers' Union.—Washington Herald.

* * *

"We hereby serve notice of intention to quit the Paragraphers' Union and join the Charleston News and Courier's walkout," says the Washington Herald. We prefer to believe that this is simply another case of too many prunes, and that in due time and a calmer moment our Washington contemporary will come across with the proper explanation and apology. We urge that for the present, at least, no attention be paid to its rashness.—Bristol Herald-Courier.

LOOKING AT RICHMOND.

THE incessant demands from Richmond for the "red-headed and dimpled widow" calendars indicates that there will be a great movement of population from Richmond to Houston during the present year.—Houston Post.

* * *

Yearnishness for office is far more fanatical in Fair Florida and forty times more forensic than it is in Humorous Houston, Remorseless Richmond or Arid Atlanta.—Jacksonville Times-Union.

* * *

Our vigilant police have detected spies from Richmond and Marvelous Manhattan sketching plans of the justly famous and indescribably delicious Heavenly Houston Welsh rabbits.—Houston Post.

* * *

The first real snow of the season passed this way yesterday, en route from Rigorous Richmond to Gnawing Gnashville.—Bristol Herald-Courier.

* * *

Now we know what's the matter with Richmond. A pressing club man there has been caught doing a wholesale business in cocaine.—Jacksonville Times-Union.

* * *

If Virginia should ever go in for prohibition, it would mean that the F. F. V's are no more.—Kansas City Post.

* * *

Even January in Bristol is as pleasant as May in Rigorous Richmond or Nebulous Nashville.—Bristol Herald-Courier.

* * *

Richmond's police department has made an effective fight against the cocaine evil by getting at the source of supply. This is a method of attack which the Baltimore police might well imitate.—Baltimore News.

* * *

An aged physician in Richmond, Va., lost his life in a fire by going back into the burning house to try and get his watch. Time for him will be no more. Many others have similarly lost their lives through being as foolish.—Cohoes (N. Y.) Republican.

Voice of the People.

The Times-Dispatch will print signed letters on all questions which relate to the public welfare. Such articles should not exceed in length 150 words, except under exceptional circumstances, and should be signed with the full name of the writer, and should bear his or her address. The name of the writer will be withheld if desired.

Washington Snapshots and Sidelights

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 11.—The members of the House of Representatives are now located in their new office building. It is certain that the members of no other legislative body in the world have such palatial quarters as have the members of the lower house of the Congress of republican America. Nothing but mahogany furniture may be found, and chairs which are not upholstered in leather are not considered good enough for the American legislator. Marble, velvet pile carpets, costly desks, and the most modern furnishings and fittings throughout the building, are features of the new office building of the House of Representatives. In the basement are splendidly equipped baths, with attendants ready to aid the law-maker in performing extensive ablutions.

Nor will the Solon have to walk the few yards necessary to take him from his office to the floor of the House of Representatives. A hundred thousand dollars or more has been expended in digging a tunnel and equipping a railway from the office building to the Capitol, for the exclusive use of the statesmen, so that they may come from rest in their offices to recreation on the floor of the House without having the wind blow on them or being forced to exercise their leg muscles.

We don't have palaces in this country—not by that name. But "Office Building" means the same thing—and more. No member of Congress, no matter how great his private income, ever had at home such a luxurious office as is provided by Uncle Sam—rather, as is provided at the expense of Uncle Sam; the Congress provided it and made Uncle Sam pay the bill.

Possibly Congress may prove itself worth the $3,000,000 and upwards which has been spent on the new offices, and a similar sum being spent in the erection of a building for the use of Senators; but it should be remembered that Congressmen and Senators are now $2,500 higher than they were a year ago.

Ex-Senator Joe Blackburn, of Kentucky, member of the Isthmian Canal Commission since his retirement from the Senate last spring, is back in Washington, and promises to remain here for the greater part of the session. The Senator never looked better in his life, and living in the Bluegrass did not agree better with his health than living on the Isthmus.

"I voted for Blackburn for the Speakership of the House of Representatives twenty-nine years ago," said Senator Bob Taylor, in the Marble Room of the Senate, just after the two of them had shaken hands.

"You don't look that old," said the writer; "you and Senator Blackburn are getting along in years."

"O, I was the 'baby of the House,'" said Senator Taylor. "Joe is considerably older than I am."

Senator Taylor first saw the light fifty-seven years ago, while Senator Blackburn will have reached his seventieth milestone when the first day of next October rolls around. He is hardly so spry as Senator Pinckney Whyte, of Maryland, who passed his eighty-third anniversary last August, but Senator Blackburn still looks and acts the part of a young man.

Representative Sims, of Tennessee, believes there is at last a chance for Southern cotton growers, or their legal representatives, to get the $68,000,000 cotton tax paid the general government under several acts, the first of which was passed in June, 1862. This tax was laid on raw cotton. Of course, but little cotton was then grown in territory controlled by the United States, since the cotton States had seceded.

But first and last $68,000,000 was collected before the law was repealed. The Supreme Court held the original law providing for the tax to be unconstitutional by a divided court. The money has never been refunded. It is believed, and Mr. Sims believes, that a powerful reason with members of Congress in voting against repayment of the tax is that such a large percentage of the money would go to lobbyists.

Therefore he has incorporated in his bill the provision that no part of the refunded tax shall be paid to "any person, syndicate or corporation, except the producers who paid taxes on cotton grown by them, or to their legal representatives; and in no case shall payment be made to an assignee of such claim."

The bill provides that the tax shall be paid to the various States, and by them paid to the producers of the cotton on which the tax was paid, or to their legal representatives. Any money not claimed is to be held and used only as a permanent school fund.

While it would not be well for the persons entitled to this money to begin spending it yet, there is a chance, and about the first there has ever been, that the Congress will pass the bill refunding to them a direct tax which the Federal government has not the constitutional right to lay. A direct tax on land was refunded years ago.

"United States Treasury notes of recent issue are not good in Georgia," said a traveling man at the New Willard.

"How's that?" asked a newspaper man.

"They've got 'Treat' on 'em, and treating is not lawful down there now."

United States Treasurer Treat's name appears on all Treasury notes.

Time was when the introduction of a bill proposing to reduce representation of Southern States in Congress because of the alleged abridgment of the right of the negro to vote caused much talk, more or less excited. But that time has passed, and a bill introduced by Representative Bennett, of New York, making this proposition, has not received notice North or South.

Mr. Bennett proposes to reduce Southern representation as follows: Alabama, from nine to five; Arkansas, from seven to five; Florida, from three to two; Georgia, from eleven to six; Louisiana, from seven to four; Mississippi, from eight to three; North Carolina, from ten to seven; South Carolina, from seven to three; Tennessee, from ten to eight; Texas, from sixteen to thirteen; Virginia, from ten to seven.

Of course, Mr. Bennett, some day when the House is in committee of the whole on the state of the Union, will get the floor and make a speech in advocacy of the bill, or, probably, he will simply obtain leave to print his remarks in the Record, for members no longer listen to such speeches. They are intended solely for home consumption, and it is believed the demand at home is growing steadily less.

"The longer I practice law in New York," said Hugh Gordon Miller, formerly of Norfolk, but a resident of New York City for several years, where he has made a reputation at the bar, "the more I admire the bar and the courts of Virginia. I tell you it is an absolute fact that I can find at almost any county courthouse in Virginia a lawyer who could make his way at the New York bar, so far as ability is concerned. And the bench of New York does not gain, it loses, by comparison with the Virginia bar. Some time ago, I was called on to address the Law School of the University of New York on the proposition to elect judges by popular vote. I opposed it, and was able to point out to them the fact that while Virginia is not the largest of the States, the decisions of her Court of Appeals are recognized as authoritative everywhere, while those of the Court of Appeals of the State of New York, where judges are chosen by popular vote, have not nearly so high a standing."

Although it is impossible to obtain a statement from the Interstate Commerce Commission concerning the report that the commission intends undertaking an investigation of the affairs of the Seaboard Air Line, further than that the commission has not decided to take such a step, the information comes from an authoritative source that such an investigation will be undertaken. It is stated that the commission contemplates putting to work at an early day a number of employes of the commission, experts in railway accounting, who are not now otherwise employed. There are about fifteen such employes available.

These experts, it is stated, will be set to work examining the books and accounts of the company, covering a period of five years or more. When they shall have completed their task, the results of their labors will be turned over to the commission, and that body will then digest the evidence and take up the examination of officials, having informed themselves concerning the points on which to question the magnates who will be summoned to appear.

Of course, the investigation is expected to show that Thomas F. Ryan has been guilty of "milking" the stockholders. Everybody knows that. Whether it will be developed that any action of Mr. Ryan, in connection with the control of the road, was improper, no man can say. It should be borne in mind that financeering, which was generally sanctioned in the business world when Mr. Ryan gained control of the Seaboard from the Williamses, would not be tolerated in these glorious days of octopus chasing. It should also be remembered that now is a mighty fine time to undertake to get the probe into the Seaboard, when two contending parties have the management divided between them. Receiver Warfield representing the Ryan interests and Receiver Williams the Williams, or minority, interests. The truth should be rather easy to develop under such conditions.

Something should be done for the protection of Representative Bascom Slemp, who has just come to Washington as the successor of his father, the late Representative Campbell Slemp, of the Ninth Virginia District. One of several things is certain—there is going to be a vacancy in the seat of the Ninth District member, or, there is going to be less pulling and hauling of Slemp by Virginia officeholders and would-be servants of Uncle Sam, or Slemp is going to skip the game for awhile, and he himself to some vast wilderness where the howl of the officeholder is not heard and the weary pie-dispenser may rest unafraid.

For a week or so there has been a constant crowd of a dozen or more Virginia Federal officeholders and office-seekers in this city. From early in the morning until an hour at night which is not respectable, these fellows are after Slemp, sometimes one of them, sometimes two or three, sometimes the whole bunch at once. He is wearing the look which one sees on the cat's face when the dog has the feline in the fence-corner and the cat believes the canine is the best man. Mr. Slemp realizes that he cannot stand the strain much longer. He looks worn and worried. Seriously, the Virginia Republicans who want office, and those who want to hold on to their offices, are going to kill Bascom Slemp if they don't give him a rest.

"Have you and Jake Yost buried the hatchet?" asked a correspondent of Colonel S. Brown Allen, who formed one of a group of Virginia Republicans at the Raleigh the other night.

"Why, I guess so," replied the colonel. "You published a story four or five years ago to the effect that Yost and I had made up. You remember it, don't you? It was about the time Yost was up here after my scalp."

"Oh, you needed friends so bad about that time that we were ready to print stories that you were making friends with anybody," replied the correspondent. And, Morgan Treat, laughed right out loud.

"Reckon that was before the time you and Yost were up here getting me fired from the collectorship and Lew Summers appointed in my place," grunted Park Agnew. So did Colonel Allen.

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