HOW TO RETRENCH.

THE PROBLEM FINALLY SOLVED BY AN ANXIOUS GOVERNMENT CLERK.

An Interesting Discussion as to Where Household Economy Should Begin in View of the Prospect of a Discharge when the Next Administration Comes Into Power.

"Well," said Mr. Perkins, as he throw down the morning paper after burying himself in it for half an hour while his breakfast cooled, "I guess there is no doubt about it now. The electoral college met yesterday and declared Cleveland and Hendricks elected."

"Did they?" said Mrs. Perkins, indifferently, "I don't see that it makes very much difference to us. You weren't a candidate anyway. Plantagenet, take your elbows off the table."

"Oh! us," replied Mr. Perkins sarcastically. "It doesn't make any difference to us. Only on the fifth of March I'll be bounced. That's all. But I suppose that don't make any difference, either."

Mrs. Perkins, deep in the long-waited-for paper, made no direct reply, but presently broke out with "Just please listen to the prices they are selling beaver bands for at the Palais Royal. I must certainly get some for my brown suit, and a little muff and shoulder caps would be nice for you to give me for Christmas."

"Very nice indeed! Delightful!" said Mr. Perkins derisively. "Wouldn't you like a pair of diamond earrings, too, and a coupe?"

"Why, I don't see what you are so snappish about," retorted his wife. "You always give me something Christmas."

"Christmas!" replied Mr. Perkins, relapsing into deep gloom. "There won't be any Christmas in this house."

"Why not?" inquired Mrs. Perkins, beginning to realize that there was something in the wind, and casting aside the paper. "Plantagenet, take your fingers out of the sugar bowl instantly, and finish your breakfast. It's almost school time. Why won't we have any Christmas? Why, I've begun—Oh! I forgot."

"You have, have you?" said Mr. Perkins gloomily. "Well, you needn't finish it. I don't want any plush whiskholders or tight slippers or tinsel smoking caps, when I'm going to be turned out without a red cent in the world."

"I haven't begun anything for you," said Mrs. Perkins, and added meditatively, "I did think of giving you a brass coal scuttle for the parlor, but—"

"Very well, do," interrupted Mr. Perkins viciously, "and I'll give you a box of cigars and a keg of beer."

Mrs. Perkins took no notice of this thrust, but went on. "What I've begun was a dark green velvet suit with Irish point collar and cuffs for Plantagenet."

"You'd better get him a basket for cold victuals," said Mr. Perkins morosely—"I tell you what, Maria, we've got no money to waste on velvet suits. We must be laying by a little something to keep us from starving. We must retrench, do you understand? *retrench*, and p. d. q. too."

"Very well, Mr. Perkins," replied Mrs. Perkins with dignity, "there is no occasion to bluster at me. I am perfectly willing to retrench. Where would you like to have me begin? Shall I get corned beef for dinner instead of those ducks you ordered?"

"Well, no," answered Mr. Perkins, "I don't know as I'd do that. I can't do my work without something comfortable to eat, you know; but I should think Plantagenet could do without velvet suits, and I don't see why we shouldn't send him to the public school and save school bills."

"Mr. Perkins," said Mrs. Perkins with lofty scorn. "I am willing to deny *myself* anything, but I am not willing to treat my child with injustice. If you wish your son to herd with a common rabble of children that nobody knows about, I cannot encourage you in your unnatural desire. I prefer that he should attend a school where he acquires the manners of a gentleman. Plantagenet, darling, take your feet off the sofa, and run along to school. You know your father doesn't like to have you sharpen your slatepencil with his razor."

"Gracious heavens," screamed Mr. Perkins, "like it!" and he leaped from his chair, but Plantagenet was gone and the door was heard to shut with a bang that broke two panes of glass.

"Maria," said Mr. Perkins severely. "If those are the manners of a gentleman I should think there would be very little difficulty in acquiring them anywhere."

"You see you frightened him, Alexander. You are too severe with Plantagenet. He has a very sensitive spirit. But I thought you were speaking of retrenchment."

"So I was, Maria, and though I am very sorry to say so, I do not see how I can afford, as things are, for you to get that new suit you were speaking of. I think you will have to make your last year's dress do this winter."

"Oh! certainly, Mr. Perkins," replied his wife, in trembling tones. "My last year's dress is simply hanging upon me in rags and tatters, but if you desire to have your wife appear as a beggar, why I have nothing to say. Shall I call at Barnum's and countermand the order for your winter suit? I can go down the back streets. Nothing could induce me to be seen upon the avenue."

"Oh! my dear," said Mr. Perkins with some embarrassment, "you can see for yourself the condition this coat is in. It is so shiny you can see your face in it, and the edges are all frayed. It really would be no economy for me to do without a suit. Perhaps we can manage the dress for you, but," with renewed firmness, "there is one thing I am determined upon. We cannot have a raft of company here the whole winter, eating us out of house and home."

"I suppose," said Mrs. Perkins with withering sarcasm, "that that means that my poor old mother is not to be allowed to come to see her only daughter on the 4th of March. I had only invited Josephine and her and Mary Porter, who was my bridesmaid and has been my most intimate friend for years, but I suppose I shall have to write to them that my husband says they shan't come. But remember, Mr. Perkins, if I do, there is to be no elaborate supper gotten up for your gormandizing whist club; remember that, sir."

"Come, come, Maria, don't be unreasonable. Of course, I have to entertain the club in my turn, and you know that as well as I do. We can do without something else to make up for that—opera tickets or something. There probably be no good troupe here this winter, and anyway I would rather hear you sing than Sembrich or Damerini any day."

Mrs. Perkins sniffed disdainfully. "Maybe you would," she answered calmly, "but I wouldn't rather hear you than Campanini or Giannini. However, I am perfectly willing to give up the opera if you will give up cigars."

"Maria," retorted the harassed economist, angrily, "I do believe you are the most unreasonable woman the Lord ever made. You know perfectly well that it is as much as my life is worth to do without cigars. They stimulate the cerebral action and soothe the nerves and-er and-er and anyway you waste enough money on your Kensington work and finger-bowl doylies and trash to keep six men in cigars. I should just like to ask you if we couldn't get along just as well without a whole pack of tidies that persecute a man into profanity and screens and foot-rests that are no earthly use except to break your legs over and doylies with sewing and hemstitching all over them."

"Yes," said Mrs. Perkins, candidly, "we could. We could get along without any of the refinements of life. We could wallow in a stye and eat out of a trough, but you did not lead me to suppose I would have to when you asked me to marry you."

"Suffering Cæsar!" ejaculated Mr. Perkins, "did any woman ever——"

"Don't be vulgar, Mr. Perkins," interrupted his wife, "I have not been accustomed to insult."

How long the discussion would have lasted, or where it would have terminated, there is no means of knowing, as Mr. Perkins just then heard the clock strike nine, and darted hastily off to the office. When he returned in the evening, however, he had hit upon a plan of retrenchment which was adopted without a dissenting voice—they stopped their pew rent.

ELISE HATHAWAY.

THE DISTRICT SINKING FUND.

Its Condition as Shown by Treasurer Wyman's Report to Secretary McCulloch.

The sinking fund of the district formed the subject of an elaborate report of Treasurer Wyman to Secretary McCulloch. It states that $272,909.36 is available for the purchase of bonds for 3.65 bonds and old funded debt. For interest $176,800 has been expended, and $159,150 of bonds have been retired. The net reduction in the funded debt of the district for the past six years was $827,550, involving a decrease of interest of $66,643.47. The debt reached $22,144,500 on Jan. 1, 1881, its highest point. Since last December $450 of certificates of the board of audit have been redeemed, making a total of $683,900, and leaving $29,093.24 outstanding.

The total of the amounts retained under the authority by which the treasurer was made custodian of the five-year 10 per cent. "retain fund" from payments on contracts which have terminated was $32,929.04. The net proceeds of the securities into which these retained amounts were invested, including the uninvested cash balances, amount to $43,554.19, showing a surplus of $10,425.15. This fund was, by direction of the secretary of the treasury, deposited to the credit of miscellaneous receipts. Bonds of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal company were held by the treasurer to the amount of $75,000, of which $37,500 then overdue were presented for payment last January, but not met. A total of $172,037.89 of judgments of the court of claims has been paid in 3.65 bonds.

Mr. Wm. H. Morrison's Bookstore.

To his immense supply of law literature, which in extent and variety is unequaled in the city, Mr. Morrison, at No. 475 Pennsylvania avenue, has added a stock of Christmas goods and novelties that is simply amazing in its extent, covering the whole of the second and much of the first floor of his establishment. The trade of Mr. Morrison reaches throughout the south in addition to his large home sales, and in this way he is able to carry this great variety of expensive Christmas and holiday goods. Expensive Christmas tokens in plush and velvet, hand painted, and of unique designs, and some running up in cost to $18 and $20, and as exquisite as they are costly; beautiful ornaments in brass and bronze; works of poetry and engravings bound in plush, alligator and other material; Christmas tree ornaments, and cards and books and toys for the children—all make it one of the most desirable spot in the city for those in search of novel and beautiful presents.

Gen. Sheridan to Serve as Marshal.

Gen. Sheridan has accepted the position of marshal of the day for the celebration of the completion of the Washington monument on the 21st day of February next. All religious, charitable, civic, or military organizations wishing to take part in the procession should report at once to Gen. Sheridan, who will give them such information as may be desired and assign them positions in line.

FOOTLIGHT FAVORITES.

Bits of Gossip About Prominent Members of the Dramatic and Musical Profession.

Theo is said to have ninety-six pairs of silk hose.

The Milan Opera company has made a great sensation in Boston.

P. T. Barnum says the receipts of his show for the season of 1884 were $1,408,000.

Patti and Nicolini have been married four times, and still some people are not satisfied.

"Adonis" received its one hundredth representation at the Bijou opera house, New York, last night.

"Gaudolfo," a new one-act operetta by Lecocq, will be produced at the New York Comedy theater next week.

A new comic opera, by Audran, called "The Grand Mogul," proved a dismal failure when brought out recently in London.

Henry Irving says he has commissioned H. Guy Carleton, the author of "Marmion," to write a melo-dramatic play for him.

Mrs. Langtry has decided to make her London debut in the Princess theater in Huntley's adaptation of the "Princess Georges."

Miss Eugenie Snow, the German novelist, whose nom de plume of "E. Marlitt," is so universally known, was once an opera singer.

A French dramatist has written a play in which he lampoons certain American residents of Paris who have fallen under the ban of his displeasure.

Mr. J. S. Alexander, of the Philadelphia Ledger Job office, and manager of the "Burr Oaks" company, claims to have spent $20,000 in placing the company on the road.

Harrigan and Hart will bring out another of their successful series of local farce-comedies at their New York theater on Jan. 5. The new piece is called "McAllister's Legacy."

"Magda Irschick" is the name of an actress now starring in the west. It is said that she can excite an audience into sneezing, partiularly if they attempt to pronounce her name.

The Boston Ideal Opera company rendered the latest addition to its extensive repertory, Serpette's "Panchonette," in Chicago Tuesday evening. The new opera was well received. It is light, but pretty.

Frau Johanna Jachmann Wagner, a niece of Richard Wagner, famous both as vocalist and tragedienne, has opened a school for dramatic singing at Munich, in which she undertakes to prepare pupils for the stage in two years.

That excellent actor, Dominick Murray, whose Seth Preene in the "Lights o' London," and Cragin in "The Rajah" are remembered with such pleasure, has gone back to starring in "Escaped from Sing Sing." He played in Boston this week.

Representatives of the press and of the artistic professions give a dinner to Mme. Patti at the Hotel Brunswick, New York, this evening, to celebrate the interesting fact that she is singing in New York twenty-five years after her first appearance.

Miss Madeline Lucette (Mrs. J. H. Ryler) went to Europe by the Servia on Wednesday to select costumes and engage artists for Col. Milliken's comedy opera company, with which she is engaged to star next season in "Zerlin," "Bonface," and "Nitouche."

Oscar Wilde's new play, "The Duchess of Parma," will shortly be produced at the Olympic theater, London. It is to be hoped a better fate awaits "The Duchess" than that which here befell "Vera," happily described as composed of eight squirms and a collapse.

The Leland Juvenile Opera company, several members of which are Washington people, has been doing excellent business in Maryland and Virginia. Among the Washington people in the troupe are the Misses Lewis, James Kearney, George Crump, and David I. Towers.

The $50,000 awarded to the plaintiff in the Fortescue-Garmoyle breach-of-promise suit is probably, the *Law Journal* of London says, the largest amount of damages in such an action ever recorded in England. The nearest approach to it is a verdict of $17,500 given in 1885 to a solicitor's daughter who had been jilted by a rich lawyer.

Dion Boucicault summarily discharged his leading actor, Mr. Joseph Haworth, at Buffalo on Tuesday, and when asked about it by a reporter said: "He has been playing subordinate parts for a salary, and I discharged him as I would any other servant." For a man who depends for his bread and butter on the caprice of the public this is contemptible language.

It is somewhat remarkable that, in spite of the talk of the critics, Mr. Henry Irving's New York season, which has just closed, was even more successful than his last year's engagement. The famous English actor appears to be more than a sensation he wears well. And does not merely provoke criticism; he occasions discussions—and that would seem to be the secret of his success.

Mr. C. H. Barnabee, so well known in connection with the "Boston Ideals," celebrated his silver wedding on board the train between Cleveland and Toledo. It took the form of a lunch distributed in white boxes tied up with satin ribbons, to which an anniversary card was attached. Afterward the loving cup passed round, presentations were made, and Mr. McDonald made an excellent speech.

The Franz Abt club is doing splendid work this season under the direction of E. S. Holmes. They have in preparation a number of entirely new compositions, some of which are specially for this club. The personnel this year is as follows: Messrs. Buchanan and Richardson, first tenor; Holmes and Nelson, second tenor; Whipple and Abbott, first bass; Hancock and Barbarin, second bass; E. S. Holmes, director, and S. H. Jecko, pianist.

Marshal Lot Wright's Accounts.

The accounts of Marshal Lot Wright of the Cincinnati district, for expenses attending the Ohio state election in October, has been referred to the first auditor of the treasury for examination. They show disbursements as follows: For special deputy marshals, $14,105. For printing, $183; for badges, $198, and for livery, $76; total, $14,562. The expenditure for special deputy marshals are duly approved by Judge Sage, of the district court. The accounts for counting, badges, and livery, constituting what are designated "extraordinary expenses," are subject to the approval of the President, and can only be paid with his consent. The amount of advances to Marshal Wright, on his requisition to meet estimated expenses was $18,322, leaving a balance due the United States, according to the accounts, as rendered, of $3,760.

OVERCOATS are moving, but not as readily as we wish, the mild weather doing the drawback. We are offering special inducements to force sales. Eiseman Bros., corner 7th and E.

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☞ HOLY CROSS CHURCH, MASSACHUSETTS avenue and Eighteenth street northwest—Order of services for winter season: Sunday morning prayer and instruction for children, 9:45 a. m.; Sunday evening prayer, with short historical lecture, 7:30 p. m.; Sunday, Holy Eucharist and sermon, 11 a. m. Services are sung choirally by vested choir. Week days, Wednesdays and Fridays and all holy days, Holy Communion at 7:30 a. m. Seats free.

no8-tf J. A. HARROLD, Rector.

☞ ST. JAMES CHURCH, EIGHTH ST., near Massachusetts av., N. E.—Sunday Services 10:30 and 11 a. m., 3:30 and 7:30 p. m. Seats free. Sunday School at 3 p. m. s-tf

☞ LUTHER PLACE MEMORIAL Church.—Pastor, J. G. Butler. Services regularly at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. Sunday school at 9:30 a. m. and 3:30 p. m. Everybody welcomed. s-tf

☞ CHURCH OF OUR FATHER (UNIversalist), Thirteenth and L streets—Rev. Alex. Kent, pastor. Services TO-MORROW at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. Sunday school at 9:45 a. m. 1t

☞ RALPHEL HALL, 312 K STREET northeast—Faith healing meeting SUNDAY at 3 p. m. All are invited. Come. "And whatsoever ye shall ask in My name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son." 1t

☞ NINTH-STREET M. P. CHURCH, between E and F streets northwest.—Preaching SABBATH MORNING at 11 and Evening at 7:30 by the pastor. Morning subject, "The Prodigal's Elder Brother;" Night, "Love's Offering." Public cordially invited. 1t

☞ FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Ninth street, between G and H northwest—Services at 11 a. m., the pastor, Rev. J. T. Kelly, officiating. Sabbath school at 9:30 a. m. and praise meeting at 6:30 p. m. Strangers welcome. 1t

☞ SPIRITUALISM—MRS. CLARA A. Field, of Boston, one of the ablest inspirational speakers, will lecture TO-MORROW at G. A. R. Hall, Seventh and L streets, at 10:30. "The Whole Need Not a Physician." 7:30, Psychrometry and Demonstrations. Door collection. 1t

☞ H. O. CANDEE, VITAPATH PHYsician.—I employ the best health resources of nature, scientifically applied through Vital Nervaura, Electricity, Vegetable Remedies, Food, Water, Air, Heat, Light, Ozone, Electric Vapor Baths, &c. I discard all Minerals, Opiates, Mercury, Quinine, Alcoholic Stimulants. I prepare all my own vegetable remedies. Consultation free. Call or send for testimonials of wonderful cures.

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☞ POSTOFFICE NOTICE.

Letters for Europe need not be specially directed for dispatch by any particular steamer in order to secure speedy delivery at destination, as all Trans-Atlantic mails are forwarded by the fastest vessels available.

Foreign mails for the week ending DEC. 13 will close (PROMPTLY in all cases) at this office as follows:

SUNDAY.—At 7:30 p. m. for Honduras and Livingston, per steamship City of Dallas, via New Orleans.

Mails for China and Japan, per steamship San Pablo (via San Francisco) close here Dec. *11 at 7 p. m. Mails for Australia, New Zealand, Sandwich and Fiji Islands, per steamship Zelandia (via San Francisco), close here Dec. *13 at 7 p. m. (or on arrival at New York of steamship Britannic with British mails for Australia).

*The schedule of closing of Trans-Pacific mails is arranged on the presumption of their uninterrupted overland transit to San Francisco. Mails from the East arriving on time at San Francisco on the day of sailing of steamers are dispatched thence the same day.

HENRY G. PEARSON, Postmaster.

POSTOFFICE, NEW YORK, Dec. 5, 1884.

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