THE WASHINGTON TIMES

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CRISP TO SUCCEED COLQUITT

Governor Northen Proffers the Senatorship to the Speaker.

SURPRISE TO THE RECIPIENT

He Had No Intimation That He Was Being Considered for the Place — Governor Northen Will Support Him for the Long Term—Will Confer with His Colleagues.

ATLANTA, March 29.—Governor Northen, of Georgia, has appointed Speaker Charles F. Crisp to succeed the late Senator Alfred H. Colquitt. Not a word has passed between the governor and the Speaker, and the latter's name had not even been presented formally to the Governor.

In a message wired the Speaker late to-night the governor asks him to resign his seat in Congress at once and qualify as Senator, so that he can take part in the tariff discussion, which comes up next week.

The governor was considered a candidate for the Senate himself, but he announces to-night that he is not in the race. He says he feels it his duty to appoint the Georgian who could do the country the greatest service, and he considers Speaker Crisp that man.

The appointment was made known to some newspaper men about 11 o'clock to-night. It will be a great surprise to the state in the morning. The appointment will meet the heartiest approval of the people of Georgia.

IN DOUBT AS TO HIS ACCEPTANCE.

Mr. Crisp Says He is Under Obligations to His Party in the House.

When a TIMES reporter was admitted into Speaker Crisp's room at 1 o'clock this morning he found the distinguished Georgian sitting at his desk answering telegrams.

"It is a great surprise to me," said the Speaker. "I did not have the slightest intimation that I was to be appointed. I received a telegram from Governor Northen an hour ago apprising me of the fact of my appointment. I don't know that my name has been spoken of before for the place. It was imagined by the Georgia delegation that the governor himself wanted the place, and that he would appoint some who would step down and out of the way for him when the Legislature meets. Governor Northen's telegram assures me that he is for me for the long term.

But I cant tell yet whether I will accept or not. I must consult with my friends in the house. I am under certain obligations to my Colleagues and I must get their approval and consent before I relinquish the Speaker chair."

"In the event you should accept, who would likely be your successor?" was asked.

"I can't say," replied Mr. Crisp. "There is plenty of good material on our side. I suppose there would be several candidates."

Mr. Crisp left the impression that he would accept Governor Northen's proffer if his friends in the House did not object.

It is understood that Mr. Crisp, first thought, after recovering from the surprise incident to the receipt of the telegram, to wire the governor at once that he could not accept the high office tendered. He finally decided, however, to hold his answer in abeyance until he could consult with political friends and and associates and he telegraphed the governor to that effect shortly after 10 o'clock.

The unexpired term to which Mr. Crisp is appointed closes March 3, 1895, the same time that his term as Speaker of the House would expire, should he decide to remain in that position. There are, therefore, many considerations which will urge Mr. Crisp not to accept the offer of the Senatorship. Whether these considerations will outweigh the many inducements which the position holds forth it is impossible to learn to-night.

Mr. Crisp was in receipt of a large number of congratulatory telegrams, to which he replied substantially as he did to the governor, expressing his gratitude and gratification, but also his determination to weigh the question of acceptance carefully.

The newly appointed Senator is the present Speaker of the House of Representatives, and it is a peculiar coincidence that his appointment came upon the day when he took his most firm stand against filibustering, refusing to recognize dilatory motions, and in this manner overcame the Republican opposition and passed the pending resolution. His character is one of conservatism, marked by clear perception and intuition.

His congressional career has been marked by clear-sighted force, always straightforward and determined, which has always won for him the admiration of his colleagues on the Democratic side. He is a man of peculiarly pleasing personality, and his elevation to the Senate will be received by everyone, Republicans and Democrats alike, with sincere approval.

Charles Frederick Crisp was born on the 29th of January, 1845, in Sheffield, England, where his parents had gone on a visit, but was brought back by them to this country the year of his birth. He received a common school education in Georgia, and at the outbreak of the war joined the Confederate army, serving until May 12, 1864, when he was taken prisoner of war.

At the close of the rebellion he read law in Americus, Georgia, his present home, and afterwards was admitted to the bar. He has been on the bench and a member of the General Assembly in his state.

He was elected to the Forty-eighth, Forty-ninth, Fiftieth, Fifty-first and Fifty-second Congresses and re-elected to the present one. He was elected Speaker of the Fifty-second Congress after a sharp fight in caucus with Roger Q. Mills, now Senator from Texas as his foremost opponent. He was re-elected Speaker of the Fifty-third Congress without any opposition from his colleagues.

The Whisky Trust Deal.

NEW YORK, March 29.—A few of the terms of settlement of the differences of the great whisky trust became public property to-day. Between the American Distillers and Cattle Feeding company and the American Distributing company, contract now operative, and to run ten years, has been signed. It stipulates that the Distributing company is to handle exclusively the spirit product of the Distillers so long as it can obtain the same at the lowest market price. The Distillers company is to abolish independent distributing operations in the territory which lies east of Buffalo and Pittsburg.

Embezzler Pitcher Again Free.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL, Que., March 29.—Charles A. Pitcher, who six years ago absconded with all the assets of the Union Bank of Providence, R. I., amounting to over $500,000, left the penitentiary to-day, having served seven years sentence, reduced to five and a half by good behavior. He took an Ottawa train for Montreal, refusing to talk to reporters, except to say that he was going home.

Fall River Mills Will Operate.

FALL RIVER, Mass., March 29.—It is thought that the treasurers of the mills here have formed a determination to run their factories on whatever prices the goods will bring. If this course is adopted, it is not at all likely that any reduction in wages will come immediately. The operatives express confidence that there will be no reduction for at least two months.

To Engage Admiral De Mello.

RIO DE JANEIRO, March 29.—President Peixoto's warships from Montevideo have arrived here, and every preparation is being made to send them southward with instructions to seek out and engage the Aquidaban, Republican, and other ships which are still under the command of Admiral De Mello.

Read about "St. Elmo" top of third page.

COXEY REJOINS THEM.

The Army Cheered by the Presence of Their Returned Leader.

COLUMBIANA, Ohio, March 29.—Coxey has rejoined his cohorts, the army is amongst Populists, and the commonweal is enjoying a big boom. He was waiting at Columbiana and was received with three cheers.

The farmers at Alliance provided three wagonloads of provisions and two of wood. Beef, hams, coffee and 1,000 loaves will furnish the commonweal with provisions for three days at least.

At Lectonia 23 coopers joined the ranks, and in a speech Carl Browne said he was being misrepresented by 40 argus-eyed demons of hell, who followed him around.

He meant the reporters, and has given orders to keep newspaper men out of camp. At Columbiana Marshal Smith told the men there was to be no more begging through the towns at night.

Three hundred people welcomed the crowd of 108 soldiers to Columbiana, and the citizens provided Johnson's foundry as a camp. Straw beds were provided. When camp was being put in order, Thomas Holloway, a farmer aged 70, who was in town to see the parade, dropped dead from heart disease.

Thirty-six recruits, farmers, mechanics, and potters from East Liverpool joined the ranks. This town has a Coxey club with 53 members, of which John Harold is chairman. After seeing the army Harold said that while he sympathized with Coxey's principles he could not countenance such an array of tramps to force legislation.

Coxey says success is assured but refused to speak of his financial troubles. The march to-morrow will be to Camp Gompers, West Palestine. The four men arrested yesterday at Salem were discharged, there being no case against them.

GOVERNOR TILLMAN'S SPIES.

Darlington Citizens Greatly Excited Over the Existence of Dispensary Detectives.

CHARLESTON, S. C., March 29.—Great excitement has prevailed in Darlington, the courthouse town of Darlington county, for the last two or three days owing to the presence of a gang of dispensary spies and threats to raid private dwellings.

The townspeople did not resist raids of "blind tigers," but armed themselves to protect private dwellings.

Special trains to-day bore companies of citizens from the neighboring towns of Sumter and Florence to aid the people of Darlington in defense of their homes.

So far the spies have not dared to invade a private dwelling.

Chinamen Cannot Become Citizens.

PHILADELPHIA, March 29.—Judge Dallas filed an opinion in the United States circuit court to-day holding that Chinamen cannot be naturalized.

Judge Dallas said: "It is necessary to refer only to the act of Congress of May 6, 1882, entitled 'An act to execute certain treaty stipulations relating to Chinese.' By its fourteenth section it is enacted 'That hereafter no state court or court of the United States shall admit Chinese to citizenship'; and I cannot accept the position taken in argument that this section became inoperative upon the expiration of ten years next after the passage of the act. Its first section, and the substitute for the section, approved July 5, 1884, relate only to 'coming of Chinese laborers to the United States.' The fourteenth section forbids the admission of Chinese to citizenship at any time after the passage of the act. It is still in force and determinative of this case."

Point Breeze Racing Schedule.

PHILADELPHIA, March 29.—That there will be no running meeting at the Point Breeze track the coming season was practically settled at the meeting of the stockholders of the Philadelphia Driving Park Association to-night.

The stockholders, however, decided to hold an extra trotting meeting on June 26--29. There will be twelve races, and $10,000 will be hung up in purses. There will be three stake races, the 2:13 pace and the 2:20 and 2:24 trotting, and the purses will be $1,000 for each. Entries for the meeting will close May 1.

Frightful Runaway Accident.

BALTIMORE, March 29.—A special to the Sun from Middletown, Md., gives particulars of a frightful dash down South Mountain of a runaway team of six horses driven by Mr. Albert Miller. The accident occurred east of Gapland, the summer home of George Alfred Townsend. The rubber on the wagon broke, the saddle horse, a valuable animal, fell and broke his neck, throwing Mr. Miller, and so injured him that he now lies in a comatose condition, with his death anticipated.

All the horses were severely injured and the wagon broken to pieces.

The Philadelphia End.

PHILADELPHIA, March 29. — Christopher Columbus Jones, of the Philadelphia recruiting station of the Coxey commonweal, said to-night that when the Philadelphia contingent moves out to Washington it will be recruited by 250 men from Cross Keys, N. J., and 150 from Reading. He also said that the James Day Association, of this city, had promised forty-eight volunteers, including a young lady, who will ride at the head of the procession and will be known as "the demure Quaker City maiden."

Cremation of Hans Von Bulow.

HAMBURG, March 29.—The remains of Hans von Bulow, the distinguished pianist, who died recently in Egypt, were cremated here to-day at the cemetery. Previous to the cremation there was an imposing funeral service in the church, and the remains were preceded to the cemetery by numerous deputations from home and foreign musical societies.

Lawrence Strike Still On.

LAWRENCE, Mass., March 29. About three hundred new hands are at work in the Washington mills, but the strikers still stand firm.

It is stated that the management have determined to evict former employes from the corporation houses, and that legal notices to quit have been served on many of the strikers who occupy houses belonging to the company

Government Lax in Obligations.

LIMA, Ohio, March 29.—B. C. Faurot, late president of the Lima National Bank, has created a sensation here by issuing a circular letter to the stockholders of the bank, accompanied by a tabulated statement to back up his charges, that he is unable to get an accounting from the government for nearly $90,000.

Hon. Bourke Cockran Coming Home.

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., March 29.—Hon. Bourke Cockran and family arrived here this afternoon from Mexico, where they have been for the past three weeks on a pleasure trip. The health of Mrs. Cockran has been much improved.

Reducing Their Employes.

HARRISBURG, March 29.—A notice was posted to-day in the Pennsylvania railroad shops announcing that on April 1 thirty firemen will be reduced to brakemen and thirty-five brakemen laid off on the Philadelphia division.

District Building Notes.

The Commissioners have written First Comptroller R. B. Bowler that it would be judicious to place the voluntary permit fund in the Treasury to their credit.

The Commissioners have been advised by Major A. H. S. Davis, superintendent of the street and alley cleaning department, that the appropriation for his work is inadequate, and that $90,000 will be required to satisfy the demands of citizens.

A committee from the Northeast Citizens' Association requested the Commissioners yesterday to require all trains moving in their section at night to display a bright red lantern, and to recommend that trains be drawn instead of pushed by locomotives.

One hundred lots and free railroad transportation given to prompt builders at "St. Elmo," or life insurance to amount of purchase free. Two excursions next Monday. Read second page of this paper next Sunday.

REED AND CRISP IN DEBATE

Stirring Partisan Scenes in the House Over the Election Cases.

REPUBLICANS GET CZAR RULE

Minority Made a Bitter Fight, but the Speaker Rivals the ex-Speaker's Famous Rulings in the Fifty-First Congress—Some of the Liveliest Talk of the Session in the House.

A recurrence of the exciting days of the Fifty-first Congress, during the consideration of the contested-election cases which led to Mr. Reed's famous ruling, occurred in the House to-day, by a strange coincidence, during the consideration of a contested-election case, which had occupied all the day. When it had been demonstrated that the Democrats had not enough members present to break the deadlock in the Joy-O'Neill case, Mr. Patterson presented a resolution instructing the sergeant-at-arms to arrest absentees. A struggle followed, which was prolonged after the usual hour of adjournment, and at one time threatened to keep the House in session all night.

Mr. Patterson demanded the previous question, and it was ordered—121-2. Mr. Reed attempted to make the point that a quorum was necessary to adopt a resolution continuing an order in force beyond adjournment, but the Speaker overruled him, holding that it was plainly within the power of less than a quorum to adopt means to compel the attendance of absentees.

The previous question was ordered, 162-2. Under the rule thirty minutes were then allowed for debate and an interesting scene followed.

Mr. Grosvenor (Republican, Ohio) consumed a few minutes protesting against the purpose for which this resolution was to be adopted—the unseating of a member who had 337 majority.

Mr. Patterson (Democrat, Tenn.) declared that a great principle was involved, the supremacy of the power of the states to make laws for the conduct of its own elections.

Mr. Reed took the floor, and in a brief speech scored the Democratic side, dwelling particularly upon the absurdity of a proceeding which aimed at procuring a quorum by duress and after one was secured left the House powerless to record its presence.

Something in what Mr. Reed said evidently stung Speaker Crisp, who was on the floor at that time, and when the ex-Speaker sat down Speaker Crisp arose. It is a very unusual thing for the Speaker to address the House, and as soon as he got on his feet the members crowded up the aisles and about the rails.

The Speaker said it was not his purpose to to enter into a discussion of the merits of the question. He only wanted to call attention to the persistence with which the leader of the minority (Mr. Reed) had called attention to the absolute iniquity of the practice of members in refusing to vote when their names were called. "We have been denounced time and again," said he, "for refusing to vote."

"I counted you," interjected Mr. Reed, amid laughter.

"Mr. Reed," Speaker Crisp went on, "had placed his party in a position when he made his quorum-counting ruling where it either had to sustain that ruling or renounce him. It was an open secret," he said, "that Mr Reed had been unable to get the Republican caucus to authorize such a ruling."

"I never tried," said Mr. Reed.

"But," continued Mr. Crisp, "when Mr. Reed had once made the ruling, his party was forced to sustain him."

The Speaker proceeded to picture the absolute power of the ex-Speaker over his side of the House. He described how an agreement entered into by the minority and majority of the Elections Committee had been broken at Mr. Reed's dictation. He was the chief supervisor of his side.

"It looks as if you needed a chief supervisor on your own side," shouted Mr. Boutelle.

"What we possess and what you need," replied the Speaker, deliberately, "is independence of thought. [Applause.] There never was and never will be a chief supervisor on this side." [Democratic cheers.]

"Mr. Reed's whole purpose," continued Mr. Crisp, "was to force the Democratic side to count a quorum. All other questions paled into insignificance before this overshadowing one of self-vindication with Mr. Reed."

This being the case, the Speaker warned his Democratic colleagues that reliance could never be placed on the other side if public business were to be transacted. They would embarrass the Democrats at every opportunity. A mistaken notion existed in the public mind. The country seemed to believe that because the Democrats had eighty-five majority they had a margin of eighty-five over a quorum. As a matter of fact they had but thirty-five more than a quorum. Seven of these were now absent on account of sickness; six were absent by leave of the house, attending a funeral.

With the Republicans refusing to discharge their duty at Mr. Reed's suggestion, it was therefore necessary that the full Democratic attendance should be present if public business was to go on, and he suggested that it was important that every Democrat should attend the sessions of the House. (Applause.) Every member should feel his responsibility. He should vote, whether he approved a proposition or not. If he opposed it, he should exercise the time-honored Democratic privilege of voting against it. He should not join hands with the enemy across the aisle. (Great applause.)

Mr. Reed expressed a desire to reply to the Speaker, but his time had expired and he was not permitted to do so. He then asked for a division of the resolution, but Mr. Stone (Ky.), in the chair, ruled that the proposition was not divisible.

Party feeling had been aroused by the remarks of Mr. Reed and Speaker Crisp and the Republicans began filibustering with redoubled vigor. An appeal was taken from the decision of the Chair by Mr. Payne. Mr. Springer moved to lay that motion on the table.

Mr. Payne pending that motion moved to adjourn. This latter motion was lost 72-175. The appeal was laid on the table, 177-68.

Mr. Lacey (Iowa) moved to reconsider and Mr. Payne moved to adjourn.

The motion to adjourn was lost. The Speaker then stated that the motion made by Mr. Lacey to reconsider the vote by which the appeal was laid on the table was not in order. Mr. Lacey appealed from the decision of the chair. The Speaker refused to entertain the appeal. Mr. Reed, who was standing in the center aisle, insisted on knowing the grounds upon which the Speaker declined to entertain the appeal, but the Speaker only rapped with his gavel and declined emphatically to state the grounds of his refusal. Mr. Payne moved to adjourn, and the Speaker declined to entertain this motion also. By this time members on both sides were wildly excited. Partisan blood was at fever heat, and for several minutes pandemonium reigned. From all parts of the floor members were shouting their defiances, and several personal collisions were narrowly averted.

"Shut up!" yelled some one across the floor, while the Speaker banged his gavel and ordered all members to be seated. The Speaker was evidently determined to crush the filibustering tactics of the minority.

"I rise to a question of order," shouted Mr. Payne.

"And the Chair refuses to recognize the gentleman for that purpose," returned the Speaker. "The question is on the adoption of the resolution instructing the sergeant-at-arms to arrest absentees; as many as favor it will say aye; contrary, no."

In the midst of the chorus of voices that followed Messrs. Payne, Boutelle, and Reed were on their feet clamoring for recognition.

The Speaker refused to recognize them.

"Tellers," shouted Mr. Payne, and pending that motion he moved to adjourn. The Speaker declined to entertain the motion. Mr. Reed loudly insisted on his right to know why, but the Speaker replied by ordering him to take his seat. Mr. Patterson called for the ayes and nays, and Mr. Payne demanded tellers on that motion. The Speaker appointed Mr. Patterson and Mr. Payne. The latter was still clamoring to be recognized on his point of order. The Democrats had crowded down into the area in front of the Speaker's chair. The Speaker ordered Mr. Payne to take his place as teller. Mr. Payne declined to serve.

"The Chair then appoints the gentleman from Maine," said the Speaker. Mr. Reed was white with rage.

"I decline to serve," said he.

"The gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. Patterson) will act alone."

The Democrats raised a cheer as the Speaker said this, and moved rapidly past him in single file to be counted. The excitement was intense.

"A band of ruffians has possession of this House," shouted Mr. Boutelle.

"We are giving you some of your own medicine," retorted Mr. Outhwaite.

When a sufficient number had been counted by Mr. Patterson to order the ayes and nays the announcement was made. In chorus the Republicans were protesting against this irregularity, and Mr. Reed in a loud voice declared that the Chair knew the rules required two tellers.

"The House understands the circumstances," replied Speaker Crisp, firmly. "The Chair appointed the gentleman from New York (Mr. Payne). He declined to serve. The Chair then appointed the recognized leader of that side. He also declined. The Chair did not intend to be subjected to the humiliation of having any members of that side refuse."

"But the rules require two tellers," returned Mr. Reed.

"The Chair takes all the consequences," replied the Speaker, emphatically, amid a whirlwind of Democratic cheers. Things were now going with a high hand. The scene reminded old members of the stirring days of the Fifty-first Congress.

Mr. Payne was still talking loudly in the aisle as the clerk began calling the roll. He was ordered back to his seat, and replied that he would do so when he got ready. The Speaker met this retort by declaring that he was ready to entertain a motion to bring the gentleman to the bar of the House for contumely. He said that the Speaker must have some power to enforce order. Mr. Outhwaite and Mr. Boutelle, in the general confusion that followed, were engaged in a wordy duel, and Mr. Outhwaite threatened to move that Mr. Boutelle be called to the bar for contempt.

The Speaker decided that such proceedings could not interrupt a roll call, but upon its completion they were not renewed. The resolution was adopted, 164-3. Mr. Hainer (Rep., Neb.) moved to reconsider, and pending that to adjourn. During the progress of the roll call the excitement subsided, and by agreement the motion to reconsider was withdrawn, and at 6.30 the House adjourned.

DUDENAY KEPT HIS WORD.

Swept the Streets, Made $15, and Some Rumored Side Bets.

Mr. Wm. F. Nicholson, better known as Dudenay, who keeps a restaurant on Tenth street near Pennsylvania avenue northwest, was the center of attraction for a crowd of 700 or 800 curious people at Seventh and G streets northwest yesterday afternoon.

On Wednesday Mr. P. H. Hoban, of the firm of Osborn & Hoban, was lecturing some of his friends on the praiseworthiness of industry and offered four of them, Wm. Yates, Doc. Shreves, Stump Brooks, and Dudenay, $15 each if they would do a half day's work.

They all promised to be at Hoban's store the next afternoon to sweep the street, but Nicholson was the only one who showed up. He swept from 1 to 6 o'clock in the afternoon and got his money.

RIVER AND HARBOR BILL.

No Appropriations for New Projects and the Total Amount is $18,000,000.

The River and Harbor Committee of the House has practically completed the river and harbor bill for this Congress, though there may be some minor changes therein when the bill is finally passed on by the Committee to-day. The bill makes a total appropriating approximating $9,500,000. The estimates before the committee amounted to $38,770,611.

In addition to the amount carried by the regular river and harbor bill, the sundry civil bill contains items aggregating $8,800,000 for contract work on rivers and harbors. The total amount available, therefore, this year is nearly $18,000,000.

The bill, Chairman Catchings says, does not contain any appropriations for new projects, but provides for a continuation of the works already in progress, together with surveys for some proposed improvements and preliminary examinations for others.

A Mysterious Disappearance.

PHILADELPHIA, March 29.—The members of the firm of Sharp, Cox & Seaman, importers of prints, of this city, are perturbed over the unexplained absence of W. A. Somerville, a young man who is their representative at Jacksonville, Fla. He arrived here on last Tuesday morning, called at his employers office and has not been seen since. As he expected to settle his accounts for business done during the month of March, he is supposed to have had a large sum of money with him. When the firm failed to hear from him they reported his disappearance to the police, fearing that he had got into trouble of some kind or other. Up to to-night no clue to his whereabouts had been learned.

Lively Early Blaze.

At 12.30 o'clock this morning fire was discovered in three adjacent wooden houses at 1246, 1248, 1250 Second street southwest owned by James G. Jester of 639 F street northwest. The premises were occupied by Chas. Offutt. By the time the fire was discovered it was beyond control, and the firemen could only keep the flames from spreading. The loss, including furniture, is about $2,000. Origin of fire unknown.

Arrested for Stealing Lap Robes.

Nathan Belt, a colored boy, stole three lap robes from the buggy of H. B. Polkinhorn at 2432 Pennsylvania avenue yesterday afternoon. Officer Sprinkle detected him in the act, chased him several blocks, and caught him at the corner of Nineteenth and D streets northwest. He was taken to the First precinct station.

Congressman Wilson's Condition.

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., March 29.—Congressman Wilson has not been feeling so well today, and has not attempted any exertion. The weather is disagreeable, and this is thought to be the main cause of his depression. He has no fever, and there are no indications of a relapse.

Lost a Ring.

Mr. Charles P. Rhodes reports the theft of a gold ring yesterday, taken in his absence from his room at Seventh and H streets northwest.

A Blackbird and a Nose.

A Chicago chambermaid lost her nose, and the doctors gave her a new one by grafting the breast of a blackbird to her face.

Over the Ocean.

The Most Rev. Charles Parson Rechel, D. D., Protestant Lord Bishop of Meath, died in Dublin yesterday.

The Russian government has decided that henceforth all American insurance companies conducting operations in the empire must divide their profits with the insured after the policies have been in effect for four years.

Mr. Gladstone, replying to a valedictory address presented to him by Liberal-Unionists of the city of London, says: "Your address helps me to cherish a hope of the extinction of the schism in the Liberal party, which has had a disastrous effect upon the whole circle of politics."

A despatch received in Berlin yesterday from Major Francois, the commander of the German forces in Damaraland, operating against Chief Hendrik Witboi, states that he has inflicted a severe defeat upon Chief Witboi and believes that he has put an end to the latter's raids against German settlers.

News from the Departments.

The Post Office Department yesterday received the following:

Chief Engineer L. H. Robinson, of the Navy, has been ordered to the Atlanta.

Lieut. Col. S. M. Smith, deputy surgeon general, has been ordered to examination for retirement from the army.

CHICAGO, March 29.—Inspectors Christian and Mercer to-day, at Winona, Minn., arrested Lee A. Smith, postal clerk of Elroy and Winona railroad post office, for rifling registered letters. He made full confession.

One hundred lots and free railroad transportation given to prompt builders at "St. Elmo," or life insurance to amount of purchase free. Two excursions next Monday. Read second page of this paper next Sunday.

Read about "St. Elmo" top of third page.

AS IF HE HAD DONE NO SIN

The Silver-tongued Orator Tells of the First Liaison.

GAVE HER A TEN-DOLLAR BILL

With All His Old-time Mellifluousness of Speech He Relates the Beginning of the Intrigue and Its Denouement—Judge Bradley Disgusted and Court Adjourns.

Had an alien, untutored in the king's English, dropped into the circuit court yesterday afternoon he might have received the impression that the benevolent, elderly-looking gentleman, with ruddy face and waves of snowy hair and beard, who held the open-mouthed attention of 200 men while he discoursed in slow, mellifluous tones, was preaching a sermon from the gospel of peace.

The mistake would have been a natural one, but it would have been a mistake, for the elderly gentleman with the scriptural head was the silver-tongued orator of Kentucky, Congressman and Col. W. C. P. Breckinridge, and he was telling to twelve of his peers, and incidentally to the world at large, the story of his intrigue with Madeline Pollard.

There is a minor key of tenderness, of exquisite pathos, in the voice of Col. Breckinridge which has done much to win for him his sobriquet of the "silver-tongued." It is such a tone as one would have expected Antony to employ in rehearsing the virtues of dead Cæsar. It has charmed thousands in the House of Representatives, the hustings of Kentucky, and the lecture rooms of female seminaries and Christian societies, and it comes perfectly natural to him in his customary appearances, only it hardly accords with such a narrative as he had to tell yesterday.

The colonel stood in the little witness box, his left elbow resting on Judge Bradley's desk, with his left hand a pillow for his head and his right hand thrust carelessly into his trousers pocket. He smiled occasionally as he spoke. At first he was evidently a little tremulous in his utterances, but he lost that trace of nervousness before he had proceeded far with his story. Once he glanced down at the slender young woman in the first row of seats before him; that was when he was assuring the court that her manner toward him had been perfectly respectful and very deferential; but for the most part he addressed himself to his attorney, Major Ben Butterworth, who did the questioning.

As for Madeline Pollard, she never took her eyes from his face. Part of the time she rested her head on her hand and for half an hour she vigorously wielded a fan. When Col. Breckinridge was telling how he had made her accept a ten-dollar bill after their first interview she shut her lips tightly and would have made a motion to rise but for the restraining words of Attorney Carlisle, who sat beside her. Elevated above the scene sat Judge Bradley with his chair turned away from the defendant, his head tilted back, his eyes closed, and his features cast into an utterly bored expression.

The Kentucky Congressman got no further in his story than the first meeting with Miss Pollard. He held that the young woman had lured him to her, had met him more than half way in their intimacy, and the ground of his excuse is found in his words, "I was a man with passion, she was a woman with passion. We are human."

Before the appearance of the defendant there had been two witnesses introduced out of order to testify for the plaintiff that no such woman as Lena Singleton had kept an assignation house at the place which Kaufman and Brandt had sworn that they saw Miss Pollard, and a deposition was read from a Memphis woman, who announced herself as a former prostitute, and who also swore that the character of Madeline Pollard was bad in her early girlhood.

The attorneys for Madeline Pollard began the proceedings in the great trial yesterday with a request that the regular order of proceedings might be varied by permitting two witnesses for the plaintiff, who had been waiting in the city for a week, and whose private business demanded their attention at home, to testify at once. There was a short debate provoked by this request, Mr. Butterworth replying sarcastically that the brethren of the other side had not done the defense the honor of acquainting them with the nature of the testimony expected to be introduced. All the lawyers retired for a conference, and on their return announced that the request had been agreed to.

The first of these witnesses was a round-faced young man, John Benckhart, of Lexington, Ky. Attorney Farrell, of the same city, conducted the examination. It developed that in 1882 the witness had lived at the northeast corner of Third and Upper streets, in that town, with his brother, Matthew Benckhart, who kept a grocery and saloon there.

The witness described in detail the houses on the block fronting on Third and Upper streets, and identified a diagram of the locality. This is the block on which Lena Singleton is said to have lived, but the witness testified that at no time between April, 1882, and 1887 had any such person lived there. Except in a house owned by his brother, no white people had lived in that locality, and he was positive that Lena Singleton had not been among his brother's tenants.

Attorney Stoll wanted to know what this had to do with the case, and Attorney Farrell reminded him of the testimony of "your friend Brandt."

The witness had kept books for his brother, collected rents, and tended bar, he said on cross-examination.

"Pretty tough place, wasn't it?" inquired Attorney Stoll.

"No, I don't think it was."

"Ever any killings there?"

"Never were."

From the further cross-questioning it appeared that the neighborhood was rather a shady one, there being two or three houses which John termed "sporting" houses on the block. Some of them he had never visited, while to others he had been an occasional visitor.

"Have you ever been indicted down there?"

"No, sir."

"You need not answer that," interposed Judge Bradley.

When Attorney Stoll dropped into the Kentucky vernacular, asking about a "nigger grocery" kept by a Mr. Ellis, who had summoned the witness to Washington for Mr. Farrell, Judge Bradley eyed him askance. Then when Mr. Stoll proceeded to ask how many conferences the witness had held with the attorneys since he came to Washington, Judge Bradley said that it was entirely inconsequential, and that a lawyer who did not confer with his witnesses would be neglecting his duty.

The second witness was a tall, bewhiskered colored man, Stephen Dunn by name, who deals in furniture and lives at 162 North Upper street, between Third and Fourth, in Lexington. He gave the same line of testimony regarding the people who had dwelt in the vicinity since 1876, when he moved there. He was confident that Lena Singleton had never lived there, and if she had he would have known it.

Stephen Dunn, on cross-examination, averred that he was not a sporting character; that he attended to business, and sometimes visited the houses in the vicinity on business. Had never heard of but one Singleton, and her name was "Maria." Was sure that no such woman had kept house on the block, although she might have visited there.

The cross-examination was prolonged, and when Stephen had been dismissed Mr. Stoll announced that he would offer the deposition of Mrs. Miller, one of those to which objection had been made by the plaintiff.

Mrs. William J. Miller, nee Mollie Shingebower, formerly of Kentucky, now of Memphis, Tenn., is a more accurate description of this deponent's identity. She testified that she had known Miss Pollard when the plaintiff was visiting her aunt, Mrs. Stout, in Bridgeport, Ky., in 1877. Miss Pollard then was 16 or 17 years old, and was wearing long dresses, while the deponent wore short dresses.

"Were her associates men of good character?" was one question, and the answer was "just the opposite," to which the plaintiff's attorneys objected. Mr. Butterworth argued that Miss Pollard had surrounded herself with an atmosphere of shrinking purity; that people were known by the company they kept, and in his quaint fashion referred by way of illustration to "bacchanalian revels." Mr. Wilson responded that there was nothing to show that Mrs. Miller had any knowledge of the character of Miss Pollard's associates, and the objection was sustained.

Questions as to whether Miss Pollard had been in the habit of going buggy riding, whether she had been in the habit of staying out at night, and others of the same purport, were also excluded, the judge commenting that it would be strange if she had not taken rides. According to the witness Miss Pollard's aunt had trouble with her because she would persist in running about with men.

She had been frequently visited by one young man who was a Hebrew. Mrs. Miller, nee Shingebower, averred that she knew one Lena Singleton, who had kept an assignation house, and she, the deponent, had stopped at this house ten days at a time. On several occasions she had seen Rhodes, whose mistress the Singleton woman was supposed to be, at the house in 1880.

On cross-examination the deponent admitted freely that she was a prostitute and had formerly lived in a house of ill-fame on North Upper street, and had plied her vocation for years in Chicago, Lexington, Memphis, and elsewhere. She said she was the same woman who had once attempted to poison herself in Lexington, just because she was a fool, as she explained.

Pressure for admission to court after the noon recess was unusually great, occasioned by the expectation that the orator defendant would take the witness stand. Col. Breckinridge and Mr. Butterworth with their heads together were the center of observation. First the redirect examination of Mrs. Miller was read by Attorney Stoll. Mrs. Miller had known a brother of Miss Pollard's, Edward by name, at Mrs. Stout's, and testified that he had once made an improper remark to her in his sister's presence without eliciting any comment from her. She had abandoned her dissolute ways seven years ago.

Mr. Butterworth then arose and said: "Col. Breckinridge, will you take the stand?" and the commotion which ensued required all the efforts of the bailiff to quiet the noise.

Col. Breckinridge declared that he was born near Baltimore in 1857; that his father, John C. Breckinridge, soon afterward moved to Jefferson, Pa., to accept the presidency of the college, and in 1847 to Lexington to take the pastorate of the Presbyterian church. He had taken his diploma at Center College. He had practiced law only at Lexington, after study in the office of Madison C. Johnson, and in Louisville at the law school, a diploma from which was a license to practice.

"When were you married?"

"On St. Patrick's day, 1859."

"How long did your wife live?"

"She died in April, 1860, after the birth of her first child."

"Were you in the late war?"

"I was."

He told of his various services in the Confederate army under Kirby Smith, how he had risen to the rank of colonel, and surrendered his regiment of Kentucky cavalry at the close of the war. He was married the second time the night the Federals occupied Lexington to Miss Desha, September 19, 1864. He had five children, four living. One son and one daughter were with him here.

Here Miss Pollard and Sister Ellis entered, taking seats before the bar to the right of the defendant, amid a great rustling in the court room.

Col. Breckinridge, continuing, said that he had practiced law with Attorney B. F. Butler from 1874 to the time of the appointment of the latter to the bench.

As a matter of duty he had served on the local school board, afterward been county prosecutor, was a member of boards of trustees of several educational institutions, among them Center College, but had never been a teacher except in a law school to which he lectured.

"Do you know the plaintiff?"

"I do."

"When did you first meet her?"

"In the spring of 1884. It was a cool morning; on a train between Lexington and Frankfort. I had an overcoat on the back seat of the car, and as I passed down the aisle to get it she accosted me in a perfectly proper way. I said I suppose I ought to know you, but young people grow up so on us we forget their faces. She said: I am Madeline Pollard Breckinridge; that her father so admired my father that if she had been a boy he would have named her John Breckinridge. As it was, he gave her the middle name of Breckinridge. She said she was going to a sister who was dying of consumption. I expressed my sympathy and passed on."

"When did you next meet her?"

"I do not remember exactly. I received a letter from her. I have lost that letter, but the substance of it was a request that I would call on her at the college on some business of great importance to her.

"The substance of my reply was that it would be inconvenient for me to call at the college, but if I could give her any advice I would be glad to do so, and if she was in Lexington she might call."

"Did you receive another letter?"

"I did."

"Is this the letter?" asked Mr. Butterworth, handing up the black-bordered epistle.

"It would be affectation for me to examine that. I am familiar with it."

This provoked a tilt over the letter, Mr. Wilson contending that it had not been proven to have come from the plaintiff, and Mr. Butterworth asserting that unless the Supreme Court was in error it was, on several grounds, competent evidence.

Apart from the letter, Col. Breckinridge continued, he could not relate the conversation concerning it which he had had with the plaintiff when he called at the school a few days afterward. He could not well give the purport of the conversation concerning the letter apart from the rest of their talk.

"The plaintiff," he began, referring always to Miss Pollard by the legal term, "said: 'I suppose you were surprised to receive such a letter from a school girl.' Laughingly, I responded that perhaps she overexaggerated the importance of the matter. Then she said: 'But all this time you are standing,' and invited me to take a seat.

"Now, we propose," said Mr. Butterworth, "to offer this letter to the jury, that they may examine it and compare it with the admitted specimens of the plaintiff's handwriting in evidence. Even if we had produced no expert testimony on the point, under the ruling of the Supreme Court it would be admissible."

Singularly enough the ruling which the attorney proceeded to quote was by the great namesake of the presiding judge, Justice Bradley, of the Supreme Court. As the argument was taken up Col. Breckinridge sank back into a chair, apparently glad of an opportunity to rest.

His face was flushed, and while testifying his eyes frequently had roved over toward Madeline Pollard or swept beyond her to the background of eager, gaping men, but for the most part he kept his face turned toward the jury. He had leaned forward, with right hand resting on the witness box and left elbow on Judge Bradley's desk, a foot above the level of the worn wooden box. His tones were mellifluous and silvery, but noticeably tremulous, as he detailed the incidents of his early life.

A great wave of snowy hair swept carelessly his flushed forehead, the beard beneath was carefully trimmed, a small black clerical tie surmounted his expansive shirt front of glittering white, and the lapels of his black cutaway coat were flung open. When permitted to take the chair, he shaded his eyes for a moment with his hand, smoothed his forehead warily, and leaned back with head on one side, listening to the argument meditatively.

Ex-Judge Jere Wilson, who replied to Major Butterworth's argument as to the admissibility of the letter, began by explaining that he was confronted by an unexpected situation, since it had been his expectation that the letter would have been offered in evidence at the close of the expert testimony. His argument was that this case differed radically from one in which the authenticity of some paper or leg