

The result of the last Aldermanic election in this city was like a blow struck in the face of every business man.

Vicksburg has now a chance to improve rapidly, if the good citizens guard it against intriguers, official thieves, and ignoramuses. What say the men who own it and the business men?

DEATH levels all things. The man of incalculable wealth is no higher in the great beyond, than the poor laborer. Those who accumulate vast sums have never yet been able to buy a bill of exchange that will be honored beyond the grave.

It has come to the pass in this city that men who do their duty and freely express their opinions, are threatened and sneered at by vagabonds. A little of that will go a long way just now. This community has been so outraged and humiliated within the last few years, that the lawful citizens are seriously considering the advisability of a radical change in our city government.

The only wonder is that this community gets along as well as it does considering the number of official thieves, who have escaped punishment. The press and the good citizens may expose and by tremendous efforts oust them from office, but up to this time none of them have ever been punished.

The good effects would remain with us for fifty years if we could put a few of these infernal thieves in the penitentiary.

SOUTHERN INVESTMENT.

The People's Savings Bank of Detroit, Michigan, having a surplus of nearly a million dollars, which it is unable to loan because money is a drug in that market, has reduced its rate of interest on deposits from four to three and a half per cent, and the Free Press thinks it probable that the other savings banks of that city will follow suit shortly.

"We had to do it," said Cashier O'Brien, "because we can't use the money. Money is a drug in the market. Nobody wants to borrow it. We have nearly \$1,000,000 now that we would like to lend on good security."

"We are contracting our savings business as much as possible," said the cashier of another bank which does both savings and commercial business. "There is no use of our taking savings deposits unless we can make some use of them, and it is almost impossible to find any one with good security who wants to borrow now. I suppose there are many people who think we have nothing to do but to take in their money and pay them interest on it. They don't seem to see that it's just as necessary for a bank to have customers who borrow as those who lend."

"Rates of interest have gone down," said another official, "and we can't lend our money, so will have to stop taking it in or reduce the rate of interest."

Throughout all the Northern and Western States money is plentiful and interest is low, while here in the Southern States it is scarce and interest is high. With the restoration of confidence in Southern investment, it would seem as though there ought to be a correspondingly large influx of northern capital, and doubtless there will be when it is known that money can readily be placed here, at from eight to ten per cent, with ample security. A few hundred thousand dollars lent in this vicinity by foreign investment companies, has already had the effect to free a large number of planters from the tyranny exercised by the New Orleans commission merchants, whose charges have been altogether too high to permit of the planters making a reasonable profit upon his year's labor. Much cotton which formerly went to market in New Orleans, under the compulsion of a mortgage covenant, now finds a home market at better figures and the saving of the exorbitant charges which prevail in the Crescent city. Eastern buyers are to be found at all the more important railway stations and river landings with the cash to purchase all desirable cotton offering; they find it advantageous to buy from local merchants and the raisers near the point of production, and certainly it is to the interest of the producer to sell where he can do so at the best figures and with minimum charges. Thus much has been gained to the planting community by the investment of probably less than the sum which is lying idle in a single Detroit Savings Bank. The lenders have received a good rate of interest and the venture has been satisfactory to all interested. A further step in advance will be the

erection of cotton mills at the point of production. This would seem of easy accomplishment, when such vast sums of money are a "drug in the market" in the North and West, but the beginning must be made at home, the requisite organization must be perfected and a portion of the capital subscribed, when no doubt but that capable agents can find among the owners of the money now going a begging, at three and a half and four per cent., a sufficient number to supply all the capital needed and which cannot be raised at home. A saving of about four dollars a bale in transportation charges in favor of the local as against the Eastern spinner, is in itself a sufficient margin to afford a handsome dividend to the cotton mill which stands near to the plantation where the product is grown.

DEATH OF THE RICHEST MAN IN AMERICA.

Mr. Wm. H. Vanderbilt died at his residence on Fifth avenue, New York, last Tuesday at half past two o'clock of apoplexy. He was one of the richest men in the world. His income was ten million dollars annually. His immense fortune will be divided between seven children, three sons and four daughters.

We should have received a full account by telegraph of the death, but the storm of Tuesday night prevented our receiving it. We copy the following account from a telegram to an exchange whose news was not interrupted by the storm. At the time of the great financier's death he was in company with Mr. Robert Garrett, the railroad President:

His eyes were clear and bright. His voice was strong, and his articulation distinct. He talked with a great deal of vivacity and made a number of suggestions. He was seated in his own arm chair, in a careless, half reclining position, and his visitor sat opposite on a sofa.

Suddenly Mr. Garrett observed a hitch in Mr. Vanderbilt's voice. It seemed to grow thick and his words came with difficulty. Mr. Garrett was alarmed to see a painful twitch in his face; another passed, accompanied by slight spasms.

Mr. Vanderbilt half rose from his chair,

PAUSED AND TOTTERED.

and then fell forward on his side at the feet of his astounded guest, with whom, but a moment before, he had been engaged in lively conversation.

Before Mr. Garrett could lean over him and place his hand upon his heart it had ceased to beat. Within thirty seconds from the time the indistinct articulation was noticed, he was dead. A blood vessel in his brain had broken. His death was caused by apoplexy. He never knew how he died. His sensation may be described (if described at all) as a moment of stupor, then of blindness followed by mental chaos and then the end.

The children Mr. Vanderbilt leaves are, in their regular succession as to age, from Cornelius, William K., Frederic W. and George W., and four daughters, Mrs. Elliott F. Shepard, Mrs. Wm. D. Sloane, Mrs. Hamilton McK. Twombly and Mrs. Dr. Seward Webb. Cornelius and William K. are both actively engaged in the management of the family railroad interests, and will so continue.

Cornelius is Chairman of the Board of Directors of the New York Central and the Michigan Central systems, and William K. holds the same office in the Lake Shore and Nickel Plated systems, and Frederic W., who is about 32 years of age, is a Director in all the roads. Mr. Vanderbilt was, it is thought, richer than any single member of the Rothschild family.

The Duke of Westminster is said to be worth \$200,000,000, but Mr. Vanderbilt was richer, because the Duke's money only pays him about two per cent., being mainly in lands and houses. Mr. Vanderbilt had a much larger income. Last year he held \$54,000,000 of four per cent. bonds, and later, he reduced this amount to \$25,000,000 of government 3 1/2 per cent. His government bonds were worth almost \$75,000,000. At one time he owned 240,000 shares of Michigan Central, 300,000 shares of Northwestern and 200,000 shares of Lake Shore.

He is said to have sold considerable Lake Shore lately. In addition, he had 30,000 Chicago and Rock Island, 20,000 Delaware and Lackawanna, and about 20,000 shares in other railroads, making in all about 800,000 shares of railway stock; also \$22,000,000 worth of railroad bonds, \$32,000,000 of State and city bonds, and \$2,000,000 in various manufacturing stocks and mortgages.

He valued his house on Fifth Avenue, with its art treasures, at \$3,000,000. His

ORDINARY HOUSEHOLD EXPENSES

were \$200,000 a year. In 1884 he gave a ball that cost \$40,000. He loved horses and was a good judge of horse flesh. He sold Maud S. for \$40,000.

Mr. Vanderbilt was worth \$200,000,000, although his fortune shrank last year materially through a big decline in stocks and through business depression, but the "bull" movement of the past few months brought it up again.

HIS INCOME was calculated as follows: \$2,372,000 a year from government bonds, \$3,894,000 from railroad stocks, \$376,959 from miscellaneous securities. Total over \$10,000,000 a year, or \$28,000 a day, \$1,200 an hour, or \$19.75 a minute.

He made no ostentatious display of his wealth, and was charitable, although in this he had to be quiet as he would have been overrun by impostors. He knew enough to sell 250,000 shares of New York Central five years ago at 120 and buy government bonds at par.

SCENES AT THE VANDERBILT MANSION. The door bell of the Vanderbilt mansion was rung almost every minute this evening, and the wide portals swung open to admit of the friends who came to mourn with the mourners. Up stairs, behind the draw curtains of the millionaire's bedroom were sobs and tears.

The children of the dead were gathered there about his corpse. None of them had been with him in the hour of his death; to none had he had time to speak a word of farewell. He lay upon the carved bed, in the large square room, the windows of which overlook the avenue from the northeast corner of the south wing of the building, to the left of the main entrance.

Mr. Vanderbilt looked as if he had fallen into a gentle sleep. His features were peaceful and as natural as if he had just ceased talking and laid down to rest. His death had been as painless as it was sudden.

If the government should spend five millions a year upon new ships, and the same amount upon guns and forts, all that is needed can be accomplished in the period of ten years. It is not probable that larger appropriations could be used to advantage. Those interests which ask for high taxes are eager to find some way of using the money. It is plain enough that an effort will be made to persuade Congress to pass extravagant appropriations, but it is strange to see Mr. Tilden, whose name has hitherto stood for economy and retrenchment, come out of his retirement and advocate the most transparent of all these schemes of plunder.

It is the first duty of the Democratic House to reduce the taxes. All considerations of justice to the people, of fidelity to party professions, and of the reformation of existing abuses require that it should be done. If in working out this economy some exposure shall be made of the corrupting effects of the tariff, if the people shall be made to see how it weakens our energies, cripples our industries, wastes our resources, and enthralls our workmen and women, a most important political reform will also be accomplished, a reform more valuable than any saving of money can possibly be.—New York Star.

Our Invisible Navy.

Since July 1, 1868, the government has expended \$75,000,000 on construction, repair, equipment and ordnance of vessels, for \$70,000,000 of which there is practically nothing to show. The present condition of the navy draws from Secretary Whitney the following comment, which appears in his annual report: It is questionable whether we have a single naval vessel finished and afloat at the present time that could be trusted to encounter the ships of any important power—a single vessel that has either the necessary armor for protection, speed for escape or weapons for defense. A naval vessel at the present moment is a product of science. Taking the world over, it will be found that each part of her—her armor, her armament, her power, her form, and the distribution of her parts or characteristics—each of these features of the completed vessel is absorbing from year to year the exclusive study of a class of scientific men. And as men of science throughout the world are continually stimulated to new discoveries and inventions, no vessel that can be built can be considered a finality in any particular.

It costs the people between \$13,000,000 and \$14,000,000 annually to maintain this high standard of naval efficiency. They ought to be delighted.

But his first message has given all the evidence which the people need that Mr. Cleveland is a deep and clear thinker, that he is fully capable of grappling with the most weighty problems affecting the Republic. The Democracy will fully realize that the Chief whom they have honored as their leader is worthy of that position, that he has very clear convictions, and has the courage to express them with no uncertain sound.

There are undoubtedly points in this document that do not and will not command the unanimous approval of the party. On some questions the Democracy is divided within itself. In no instance has he laid down a tenet that will widen any existing breach. But taken altogether, it embodies a practical working plan of successful Democratic Administration, one that will bring prosperity to the country and promote the cause of good government.—New Orleans Picayune.

Claimants to Millions Hold a Meeting in Pittsburg. PITTSBURG, Dec. 12.—A meeting of Western Pennsylvania claimants to Harlem Commons, New York, was held at New Castle, Pa., yesterday and was attended by 150 lineal descendants of Luke Covert. Walter H. Shupe, of New York, was present and explained the scheme of the syndicate. It was decided to form a separate organization of the heirs in this section and co-operate. A committee was appointed to represent them in the syndicate meeting in New York and Pittsburg. It was also suggested that the number of shares be reduced to 10,000, at \$10 per share.

SENATOR COLQUITT, of Georgia is an active leader in the temperance movement.

The Vicksburg Sun is earnestly advocating the establishment of a cotton factory here.

It looks like it was a put up job to put through a job. Warren county taxpayers will understand this paragraph.

There is no more offensive partisan than Samuel J. Tilden, nor was there ever one more offensive to the Republicans than Hon. Thos. A. Hendricks.

OUR new Sheriff was elected as a reformer, and he is already proving that he means to be of inestimable value to the people. But the taxpayers and good citizens should earnestly co-operate with him.

We earnestly request our city and country subscribers to settle what they owe us. We have to pay cash or negotiable paper for everything we get, and after the first of January we will not furnish the paper to any one except for cash or its equivalent.

ITS ENEMIES.

It was remarked in some quarters that this journal is too rough in its allusions to local corruptions. We admit that it is plain spoken, but we deny that it has ever been too rough. This county and city have been protected better by exposure of the dishonest, than by any actual enforcement of the law for the protection of the people. The laws are ample if they were enforced, but they have been difficult of enforcement, and where it could have been done, the people have been too merciful.

It is only necessary for us to point to the record of this journal to prove the service it has rendered the city, county and State, and demonstrate to good citizens that it ought to be held in high esteem by them for "the enemies it has made."

THE Washington correspondent of the Memphis Avalanche says:

Printed memorials are in process of distribution to be signed by Union soldiers only, addressed to the Senate and House, asking for the enactment of a law for the establishment and support of soldiers' homes for Confederates. A printed circular letter to ex-Union soldiers, signed by Sid M. Davis, of Farragut Post, Department of Potomac, Grand Army of the Republic, argues in favor of the proposition, and is accompanied by a letter to the same effect from W. D. Wylie, Commanding Department of Texas, Grand Army of the Republic. The appeal is not based on the ground of obligation, as in the case of Union soldiers, but is asked for as an act of grace. This proposition has had its origin altogether from those who were not in sympathy with the Confederate cause, and no movement whatever in its favor has been made by those for whose benefit it is asked.

A SUGGESTION.

Some members of the Board of Supervisors have called a meeting of the Board for the 31st of December. The fact that the President, Captain Worrell, refused to call the meeting indicates that he did not think the purpose a pure one. He declares the Blake road job was forced through by a piece of sharp practice, and he has positively refused to sign the warrants and says he will not sign them under any circumstances. Whether they will be signed by some other member and put on the market remains to be seen.

It would be an excellent idea for a few resolute tax payers to attend the meeting called without the President's consent, and see what is to be done. A few have fought this system long and earnestly and we now want the tax payers to help us. They can do a good day's work by appointing a good committee to be on hand on the 31st when the rump Board proposes to meet.

WORKING THE WHISKY TRADE.

Another pointed illustration is given the citizens of the State of the great evil of a prominent official prostituting his trust to his private ends. In this country there are many delinquent of privilege licensees in the whisky business. The grand total, when the revenue agent began to investigate the matter, was over twenty-five thousand dollars. To say that the delinquencies aggregating this large sum could have occurred without the sheriff's knowledge and connivance is nonsense. As the parties have been arrested their names have been secured by us, and it is impossible to even imagine, that the sheriff did not know months and years ago that many persons were dealing in whisky without a license. Some prominent reformers secured the list of U. S. licensees and a scrutiny of that list

at once disclosed the Sheriff's neglect of duty. A little inquiry showed that he not only knew of the delinquencies, but that he wilfully prostituted his office to his personal gain and political purposes. In many cases, he or those acting for him, told persons to go ahead without license, or on a promise to pay in the future, and it would be all right. It is certain that in cases of partial payment, which he had no right to receive, and which he never accounts for, he not only betrayed his trust but entrapped many good citizens. R. F. Beck, and he alone, is responsible for the delinquencies in this county.

In some cases men have taken out one license and do business in two or more places. There are none so ignorant as to suppose that Beck does not know he has no such authority as to permit this. In all such cases the parties were Beck men in the last canvass, but as soon as the revenue agent got after them, Beck forced many of them to pay up. The slightest examination will convince any citizen that Beck is the author and promoter of the vicious system.

The law is defective in that it is easily perverted to theft by such men as Beck and it ought to be amended. It encourages good citizens to enter into collusion with official thieves, opens the gate to vicious compromises, and robs the State and the lawful citizens. How long before the people will unite as one man and demand strict accountability of all officials, and punish all who fail in it, remains to be seen.

The Rumored Mormon Outbreak. WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.—Delegate Caine, has received the following telegram:

Hon. John T. Caine, House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

We understand that representations have been made to President Cleveland and that there is danger of an uprising on the part of Mormons here; that the property and lives of non-Mormons are insecure, and that military protection is required. The City Council is making an official investigation and have invited the Federal and military officials and all others having information bearing upon the matter to appear and testify. The investigation has proceeded far enough to demonstrate the utter falsity of these rumors, and that no foundation exists for them in fact.

A battery of artillery arrived from Omaha to-day and a company of troops is quartered in the city, ostensibly to protect citizens and property. Represent the matter fully to President Cleveland immediately, stating that no excitement exists and that these measures are unequal for and entirely unnecessary. The property and personal safety of all citizens are perfectly secure.

E. JAMES SHARP, Mayor of Salt Lake City.

Of the report of the City Council the Tribune says: The best answer is a brief statement of facts. As the Edmunds law has been executed the rage and hatred of the Mormon people have increased. Their fury has been daily intensified by the Mormon press, which has pictured Federal officers as the scum of the earth and the execution of the law as persecution. The affair of July 4, the open threats of the Mormon press and preachers, the assaults on the houses of Federal officers, the beating of deputy marshals, are but steps leading to one certain point. The attempted assassination of Marshal Collins brought about a climax, which threatened violence, which was imminent that many believed it would come. The Deseret News cried out, asking how much longer before the people would break out with fury.

Two days later the Herald declared the public mind was wrought up to a pitch that would be dangerous in any other community. It then proceeded to describe Deputy Marshal Collins as a murderer, and as far as possible to further inflame the populace. The outside Mormon press was quite as violent.

In such an emergency, Gov. Murray, backed by a great many citizens, stated to the President the facts, and also that the Federal officials and non-Mormons were utterly without protection in the face of an armed host, and asked that orders be given to Gen. McCook to insure tranquility. What was done was mere prudence. The order stationing a company of soldiers in this city should have been made long ago. For the City Council, at the command of the Mormon Church, to order an investigation and make a bogus report, don't count. Somebody gravely indorsed the lowering of the flag.

Railroad Accident. LITTLE ROCK, Dec. 12.—Last night, when a few miles from Arkansas City, the south bound train on the Little Rock & Mississippi River and Texas railway had an accident, caused by derailment at a small trestle bridge. The baggage and two passenger coaches were overturned and several passengers and trainmen were hurt.

THE Lebanon Herald irreverently relieves Sam Small from debts contracted before his conversion by declaring that he had been born again and that no man can be held for pre-natal debts. It is just such frivolous remarks as this that are rapidly filling up the other place with editors.—Memphis Avalanche.

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Mr. Lamar and the Pensions.

Without any desire to shock their delicate sensibilities, the Courier-Journal desires to call the attention of its esteemed contemporaries, The New York Tribune and Cincinnati Commercial Gazette, to the following concerning the pensions paid to the soldiers of the Union:

"I know of no burden of government that is more cheerfully borne than that of the pension system. I concur fully in all efforts to demonstrate that it is universally regarded as a noble beneficence and in the view that when well and clearly administered it is noble in its purposes and good in its result, diffusing with a liberal and just hand the wealth of a wealthy people among those who suffer from the strokes of war and who have become impoverished by its misfortunes."

These patriotic sentiments are from the first annual report of L. Q. C. Lamar, the Democratic Secretary of the Interior, a Southern man in all that the term implies; a man who is great and honest and just, and who shames by his manly utterances the blatant shriekers who cried out in simulated alarm when he took office that "the South is in the saddle; the Union in danger; that the Democratic party having come into power, the results of the war would be reversed; the soldier and the soldier's widow robbed of their pensions, while the Confederates devastated the land they had failed to destroy by war." Who of them will have the manliness, the sense of justice, to set out in their editorial columns the sentences quoted from Mr. Lamar's report? Who will say to the people of the North, "We have wronged this man, the party to which he belongs, and the people of whom he is so true and prominent a representative? Not one, not one. Those who have lived by abuse and falsehood and petty partisanship will continue to feed upon such husks, leading in their sorry train such followers as may be blinded by their teachings or sored by the deprivation of official patronage. The shriekers are wedded to their idols; let them alone.

Blackmailed by Spirits.

Special to Times-Democrat.

HOT SPRINGS, Ark., Dec. 10.—A case of astonishing imposition and fraud has just come to light in this city, and it creates considerable sensation. The perpetrators are one "Dr." Haley and his wife, who claim to be spiritualistic mediums, with power to reveal hidden secrets. The sensation culminated this morning in the arrest of Haley and his wife upon a charge of assault, with intent to kill, and robbery, sworn out by Perry Huff, a prominent citizen and business man of this city. It seems that Huff has been a believer in Spiritualism and has, therefore, been a prey upon which the mediums have fed and fattened. Last August Huff's storehouse and hotel were destroyed by fire.

Soon thereafter he received a note from Mrs. Haley, informing him that she had received a revelation of the spirit land relative to the calamity, and could give him important information, and requesting him to call. He did so, and was informed by Mrs. Haley that "Intelligence," as she called the spirit with which she had communed, had revealed to her the cause of the fire. This she proposed to give to Mr. Huff, and tell him whether he could collect his insurance. She asked how much money he had with him, and was told that he had \$500. She pretended then to commune again with "Intelligence," and then informed the astonished victim that he had set fire to his own property for the insurance thereon. She said she had the proof at hand, which would prevent collection of insurance. She demanded the surrender of the \$500 and the signing of a note for \$1,500 more, and declared that if he refused she would divulge the whole thing.

Dazed at the proposition, and half wild by reason of the hold superstition had gained upon his mind, Huff attempted to resist and arose to extricate himself, when Dr. Haley and a son stepped from behind a curtain with drawn revolvers, and demanded the money and his signature to the note. He claims to have felt a strong bewildering sensation come over him, which completely unnerved him, and he is conscious of having signed the note and given up the money. After leaving the place and recovering full exercise of his mental faculties, Huff realized the enormity of the crime of which he had been made a victim, but felt so sharply chagrined that he determined to say nothing and steer clear of such folly in future. A few days since, however, the note for \$1,500 was presented to him with a demand for \$500 thereon. Huff refused, and consulted an attorney and informed the chief of police of the system of blackmail being perpetrated on him. By direction of these he went to Haley's house and demanded the note and the return of the \$500 taken from him, whereupon the would-be medium again appealed to his revolver, when Huff withdrew and procured the arrest of Haley and his wife, who now languish in jail awaiting trial to-morrow.

THEY do things differently in different States. For instance, at Gatesville, N. C., yesterday, three men named John Swanner, Isaiah Richardson and Edward Saunders were hanged for burglary. Men are seldom hanged for murder in some of the States, and for burglary get merely nominal terms in the State prison, at the conclusion of which they resume business in the old way. The North Carolina plan is not lacking in effectiveness as a means of deterring others.—Louisville Courier-Journal.