

Wilmington N. C. had a \$1,000,000 fire last Sunday afternoon.

The Fitz John Porter bill passed the House of Congress last Thursday, by a vote of 171 to 113.

Three of Hamilton county's Infantry Directors have skipped for Canada. They had a weakness for high living on the people's money.

The costly county court-house at Chicago is tumbling in pieces and there is danger in walking the streets near it. Huge blocks of stone frequently fall crashing to the ground.

Each Congressman gets this year 6,500 packages of vegetable seeds, beside 500 packages of flower seeds, which ought to guarantee any one of them that want it, a re-nomination.

The Republicans of the Twenty-seventh congressional district of Pennsylvania have decided to make nominations for congress by the vote of the whole party throughout the district, regardless of county lines.

The four distinguished Democrats who died so recently were as remarkable for the purity of their private character as for the height they attained in the public eye. Seymour, Hendricks, Hancock and McClellan lived and died without a blemish.

The Order of Knights of Labor, though yet not two years old, has already made a remarkable growth, the membership now numbering over 2,250,000! All these men are voters, and it is probable that in the next five years they will make their power felt in the politics of the country.

The Boston Globe says that the poll-tax prerequisite for casting the ballot in Massachusetts disfranchises more than 100,000 voters. And still Massachusetts raises her voice against the disfranchisement of the colored vote in Georgia, where a similar prerequisite is demanded.

It turns out that a republican who wrote the 926 which the Commercial-Gazette has been parading before the country as a forgery from 726, was written by said clerk and that there was just 926 democratic votes. It looks as if the editors of that paper ought to commit suicide, and never appear before a decent public again.

Dan Dalton in jail—a drunken Common Pleas Judge—a photograph of Precinct A—Poorman's packed jury fraud—ballot box thieves—tally sheet forgers—bunko steers—buddle distributors—blackmailers, etc., etc., is about the way the two Cincinnati organs put it every day. It is "amusing" to outsiders. Wonder which of the two—McLean or Halstead—is the greatest sounder?

The Penny Press says:—The mortgage indebtedness of this country is over eight thousand millions of dollars! The adoption of the single gold standard, or an increase in the weight of the silver dollars sufficient to make them at par with gold, would, in effect, add two thousand millions to the mortgage indebtedness as given above. Two thousand millions of a steal. No wonder the thieves work hard for it!

The Washington correspondent of the Chicago Tribune says: "Senator Sherman's speech continues to excite much comment. The bold frankness with which he stated the Republican position surprised some of the Senators on that side of the House, who had looked for only cautious statements from the Ohio Senator. His getting ahead of Edmunds has also drawn out some amusing guesses on the presidential probabilities in 1888."

The New York Times shows that in 1885 the Bell Telephone company upon an investment of less than \$600,000 demanded and received from the local exchange an annual rent of nearly \$2,000,000 or an annual profit of 350% from the local exchanges. The New York city exchange, it estimates, takes in one year rentals enough to pay for the entire plant, minus running expenses and has a surplus of over \$250,000 for stockholders.

It is said that Ex-President Arthur has been for some time suffering from dyspepsia. His law partner recently informed a reporter that he had been obliged to diet himself for two weeks, but had been well enough to attend a dinner the other day. The Brooklyn Eagle thinks this is much like the boy who upon recovering from a severe attack of green-apple colic, celebrates his convalescence by revisiting the orchard.

The conscience fund at Washington was begun in 1827. It now amounts to over \$220,000, and is increasing every year. So far, however, no congressman has been known to contribute to it because of his absenteeism, although if every member and ex-member should refund the amount he has drawn from the treasury for services not rendered the aggregate of the conscience fund would speedily be doubled.

The health officer of Chicago says that the impure water there surely bred disease and suggests a fifteen-mile tunnel under the lake. This will involve an outlay of many millions but it is urged as the only plan by which good water can be obtained. It is claimed that the river carries the sewerage of the city directly out to the present water works "crib," and that therefore the people might as well take the water at the wharf as that which is furnished by the works.

The Cleveland Plain Dealer very truthfully says: It ought to be made a felony punishable with fine and imprisonment for any member of the legislature to accept a free railroad pass, or to accept any gift or perquisite, or valuable consideration other than his salary. It ought to be accounted just as dishonorable and just as much a crime for a Senator or Representative to be caught with a free pass in his pocket as to be caught with a cash bribe in his hands.

Each of the fourteen members of the House-Committee on Coinage is said to have had a plan of his own in relation to the silver dollar, and to have advocated it with much earnestness. It is supposed that this divergence of views will result in the adoption of a compromise proposition advocated by Mr. Scott, of Pennsylvania, providing for a limitation of the coinage. His plan is to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to limit the coinage to the amount in circulation and a fixed sum (say \$150,000,000) deposited in the Treasury.

By the way, how does it happen that Preble County has never been invaded by the Bohemian oats sharks? It may be because our farmers are too wide awake and intelligent to be caught which is quite complimentary to them.—N. P. Mirror.

By the way, how does it come that the "better publication of this county" is so ignorant of the business of the county? The Bohemian oats frauds "worked" this county last summer and got several notes out of prominent farmers in it! They were forced to give up two or three and the balance stand for collection.

The public debt statement for the month of January shows a decrease of \$8,672,554. The available cash balance (exclusive of the reserve of \$100,000,000 held for the redemption of United States notes, over \$29,000,000 of fractional silver and minor coins, and about \$6,000,000 of accrued interest) is \$79,689,682, an increase of \$8,670,990 since Jan. 1. Under the new system of keeping accounts, introduced by the present administration, these latter items are treated as liabilities. If added to the assets, as was formerly the custom, the available cash balance in the Treasury would be \$215,464,284.

Samuel J. Tilden is still alive, and yet when he was pressed for the Democratic nomination for the Presidency at the Cincinnati convention in 1880, to rebuke the fraud of 1876, the principal argument of his opponents against it was that he could not live his term out—that he was feeble and palsied and on the verge of the grave! Hancock was nominated. He is dead. Hendricks was a prominent candidate before the convention—he is dead. McClellan was mentioned—he is dead. The President-elect—Garfield—is dead. All younger men than Tilden. Had Tilden been nominated in 1880 he would have been elected and lived his term out.

European immigration into the United States during 1885 was not as large as usual, the number being limited to 395,345. Of these 226,382 were males and 168,964 females. Of the males, 163,330 were between fifteen and forty years of age and presumably wage earners, but 83,968 of these were laborers and 27,585 farmers. There are fewer skilled mechanics coming to this country than is generally supposed. There were for instance only 701 immigrants skilled in the iron industries, and they were so distributed among a dozen or more trades that their influence in any one trade could hardly be felt. About one-half of the number were "machinists," but this term covers a good many trades, and the addition of 366 immigrant machinists a year to the number now here would not be seriously felt, except perhaps near the entrance port. It is expected that there will be a large number of foreign arrivals this year, largely from Germany and Poland.

So frequently do we hear the anti-monopoly side presented, that it is a pleasure to record some meritorious facts in antagonism to the prevalent hostility to corporations among some people. The other day the employes of a Washington street railway company were agreeably surprised by receiving notice that after the 1st of May twelve to thirteen hours, including all lay-over time on the stands, will constitute

WASHINGTON LETTER.

[From Our Regular Correspondent.]

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 22, 1886.

At last the issue between the President and the Republican Senators has been directly raised, and the Senate's ultimatum is the talk of the day. What does it amount to, and whither will it lead? In reality it amounts to nothing more than the expression of an opinion by a small portion of the Senate.

Some Republican Senators, in caucus, declare that they will confirm the nominations made to fill vacancies created by removals unless the reasons asked for are furnished. This position will probably lead to a temporary dead-lock between the President and Senate in certain test cases. It is not likely, however, to bring on a very serious conflict, though there will doubtless be hot political discussions over the abstract principles involved.

The President will not be coerced into abdication of a vital feature of the Executive prerogative. He may be rolled upon to hold his ground. The Republican Senators are by no means united. A number of them who were not prepared to take such extreme ground, absented themselves from the caucus. There is a widespread opinion that the Republican leaders who are prominent in keeping up the agitation, which grows out of the matter, are doing so for political effect in their own local interests.

Still, the ultra-Republican members carried the day, for their resolutions were finally adopted as expressing the sense of the caucus, and however much individual Senators may feel that their party has committed a grave error, they are now bound to act in conformity with the caucus decision.

The women are here again in annual convention wanting to vote. They have much speech making, much personal glorification and much criticism of hard and cruel mankind. About the latter, all that they say is meant, and has been said many times before.

It is interesting to look over an audience at a woman's rights convention. For, though this is the eighteenth winter that the association has made a rendezvous at Washington, many people will tell you, half apologetically, when you meet them at the deliberations of this body, that they thought they would like to come once just as a matter of curiosity. There is always a predominance of the feminine element at these meetings, but there is also a fair sprinkling of masculine wages expressive of a consuming desire to know what goes on at such places. The feminine faces express various feelings. Some show sympathy or earnestness, others look bored, others cynical, and many express the sweet silliness of womanhood as they sit receiving information as to the rights and duties of their sex.

Susan B. Anthony presides with a dignity and confidence engendered by her long familiarity with the platform. There is nothing new in what she says nor in her manner of saying it, but she always commands an attentive hearing. She triumphs in what she calls the successes of the woman's rights movement, and expresses earnest faith in its future.

At last evening's session, Miss Anthony became enthused with the speeches and asked the audience to vote. "Those who are in favor of woman suffrage say 'aye' she called, and there was a loud chorus. "Those who are opposed, say 'nay.' She turned away as if the question had been settled by a unanimous affirmative vote, when a few men far back in the audience, daringly piped forth "no," and fled instantly. Miss Anthony looked surprised, as did every one, and some hissed while others smiled.

As to the week's doings in Congress, Fitz John Porter's plea has monopolized the House and the great Educational bill has had the right of way in the Senate. Mr. Morrison's new Tariff bill was introduced in the House, also a number of anti-Chinese measures.—Among new measures presented in the Senate was a bill granting a pension of \$5,000 a year to the widow of General Hancock, and another appropriating \$250,000 for a monument to General Grant. More steps were taken to have a thorough investigation of the Pan Electric affairs, at which the Attorney General expressed his gratification.

Mr. Garland does not intend to resign, but after the House has finished its investigation of the telephone business, he says he will take steps to meet all criticisms upon his connection with the Pan Electric company, in a way that will secure the approbation of those who really desire to be satisfied.

Ex-Senator Thurman, who will be the senior counsel in the coming Telephone trial has had almost as many callers since his return to Washington as if he had come to be inaugurated President. Entering the Senate chamber a few days ago he expressed surprise at the change in his personal. "Is this the place where I spent twelve years of my life?" exclaimed he. Surveying the Chamber he missed Blaine, Conkling, Hamlin, Wallace, Anthony, Burdick, Randall, Matt Carpenter, Ben Hill, Stanton, and thirty-six others who sat with him in the Senate only a few years ago.

No one will for a moment doubt that our excessive tariff greatly retards our foreign trade. While it is large, it would be simply enormous if it were not for the tariff stone wall maintained in the interest of a few wealthy manufacturing baron monopolists. As it is, England is our best customer. During the last six months of 1885 we exported cattle to the value of \$5,845,000, of which England took \$5,655,935 worth. Of hogs England took \$260,873 worth out of \$287,794. England bought from us more even of books, maps, engravings, and other printed matter than any other country, taking \$208,109 worth of \$645,450 worth. Australia stood next, taking \$67,697 worth, and British North America next, taking \$65,569 worth. The value of Indian corn shipped to England

was \$7,707,942 out of a total of \$12,797,107, of wheat \$14,203,791 out of \$18,796,144, and of wheat flour \$10,859,173 out of \$19,142,231. Of raw cotton England took \$59,760,424 worth out of \$108,468,232. Of fresh beef she took \$4,503,287 out of \$4,663,253; of tallow \$13,256,634 out of \$14,261,494; of cheese \$4,359,903 out of \$5,063,669; of refined sugar, \$5,219,933 out of \$6,050,091, and of leaf tobacco, \$5,571,864 out of \$18,720,541. The principal articles which we sold more to other countries than to England were agricultural implements, of which we sold \$449,295 worth to the Argentine Republic out of a total of \$988,262; wool, of which we sold \$2,363,622 out of \$2,738,006 worth to British North America; manufactured cotton, of which we sold \$2,244,019 out of \$5,712,817 worth, England, however, taking \$441,759 worth, and steam-engines, of which we sold \$640,951 worth to the West Indies out of \$2,601,791. It is interesting to note that England stood second even in the matter of steam engines, taking \$400,514 worth. And yet the protection especially accorded to ourselves to repeal the customs duties that takes more than half our exports. People who are not dominated by the barons and monopolists ought to think.

Class Legislation. Occasionally there appears in the editorial columns of a republican paper a sentiment to which we can add our voice. We coincide with the Coshocton Age, the republican organ of Coshocton county, in the greater portion of the following article in opposition to class legislation:

A bill to establish a uniform system of bankruptcy throughout the United States: Section 1. Every debtor who assigns in writing all of his property of every kind and description in trust for the equal benefit of his creditors, and delivers the said writing to the trustee or trustees named therein within ten days after the making thereof, and the same operates to vest the right and title in and to the property assigned in the said trustee or trustees, for the equal benefit of the creditors of such debtor, may at any time within one year after making the said assignment file his petition in the district court of the United States for the district in which he resides; or, if he be a resident of the District of Columbia, then in the Supreme court of the same district, alleging therein that he did not make and deliver an assignment of the tenor and effect hereinbefore mentioned, and describing therein the property assigned, and stating the value thereof, also the names of his creditors, their place of residence and the amount of each of their debts, and praying therein that he be discharged from the payment of the said debts.

The creditors of such debtor shall be made parties defendant to the petition and shall have at least thirty days' notice of the filing thereof, and thirty days thereafter in which to answer the same. Upon hearing of the petition the court, if satisfied that such debtor did make and deliver an assignment in manner and form and of the effect aforementioned, and that for six months prior thereto no creditor of such debtor had been preferred, and during said time no other act was done or suffered to be done by such debtor, respecting his business or estate, to prevent an equal distribution of his estate among his creditors, or to give to one creditor an advantage over a co-creditor, shall order and adjudge that such debtor be forever discharged from the payment of the debts mentioned and set forth in the petition, and such order and adjudication shall be a full, complete and final discharge of such debtor from the payment of the said debts.

What would seem to be the most sensible programme for dealing with the President's nominations that yet has been proposed for the Republican Senators has appeared in the Philadelphia Press. It is this: "The Republican Senators have agreed to confirm all appointments made by Mr. Cleveland to original vacancies, but, in case of removal of Republicans before their terms have expired and the appointment of successors, all such appointments will demand their removal. If it be for cause, then Democratic successors will be confirmed; if it be that they are removed because they are Republicans, the President will be asked to so state, and in that case their successors will be also confirmed. The Republican Senators insist that this course of procedure is due to the competent Republican officials whose terms have not expired, as their removal is a strain unexplained to the public. If Mr. Cleveland has removed them merely because they are Republicans (as it is within his province) he will be asked to so state, and the country can pass upon his partisan appointments with the fact before it."

That is, every nomination will be confirmed, all that the Senate wants to know being whether an officeholder has been removed for moral reasons, for cause, as it is generally stated, or for reasons of politics.

Must Stand by Him.

[Cleveland Plain Dealer.] The Plain Dealer's Washington correspondent calls attention to the assault now being made on the administration by thieving rings, plundering monopolies and all other corrupt and dangerous influences of the country, aided and abetted by the Republican leaders.

He points out that the crisis in the affairs of the Democratic administration and in the career of the Democratic party is near at hand. It must soon be determined whether the Democratic party will overcome the malign influences that are arrayed against it, or be overcome by its enemies. It will be demonstrated presently whether the Democratic party is stronger or weaker than the conspiracy that has been formed to break it down.

The Selma (Ala.) Times says: "One evidence that the war is not over is that one million young conscripts are being pulled out of Massachusetts bay and turned loose in the Gulf of Mexico."

The last sale of a slave in Virginia took place in the spring of 1855. The facts were the following: The confederacy was on its very last legs, and the owner of a negro woman in Augusta, knowing that her slavery would be ended in a few days, sold her for what he could get. As there was no circulating medium of any sort then—no money—she was sold for a hundred and twenty dollars for a hundred and twenty dollars.

Congressman Goff, the only Republican member from West Virginia, has fallen heir to five hundred thousand dollars by the death of his uncle, after whom he was named. The old gentleman was one of the richest men in West Virginia, who owned no end of land, upon which were coal mines and much valuable timber. He was a slaveholder before the war, but began to pay wages to his slaves from the date of the emancipation proclamation, and not one of them ever left his employment. In his will he provides handsomely for them all, leaves one hundred thousand dollars for the Methodist Church of Clarksburg, of which he was a pillar, and gave the residue of his estate to a favorite nephew.

The Hancock Fund. New York World. General Hancock died poor. The life of the dead soldier was devoted to the service of the American people. It is their duty to see that the wife he tenderly loved, and whose sympathy and aid contributed to his success and added lustre to his fame, is relieved of all pecuniary care and embarrassment during the remainder of her days. The widow of the brave soldier and pure and honest man ought naturally to be the people's ward.

It is a wise and salutary policy to relieve great men in the public service, civic or military, of the dread of dying poor; to give them practical proof that their fidelity during life will be rewarded after death by a generous care for the interests and happiness of the helplessly dear ones they may leave behind. It must tend to remove one great temptation to venal practices on the part of those who command official influences and power. It is an encouragement to integrity and honesty to know that the reward of faithful public service will reach beyond the grave.

There will be a prompt and generous response to this suggestion of a tribute to General Hancock's memory. The qualities of the soldier and the man are highly honored, and his friends and admirers will vie with each other in aiding this testimonial to his worth. Already some liberal individual subscriptions have been made and it is to be hoped that the fund will amount to which it is raised. It is appropriate that it shall take the form of popular offering.

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The English authorities have been forced to investigate the condition of the laboring classes. The Lexington meeting of the Kentucky Distillers' association was a failure. English conservatives will oppose any measures tending to Irish home rule.

The Catholic Bishops of Ireland have formulated their views on home rule. Joe Burns, a negro who assaulted a white girl, was lynched at Martinsburg, Va. The Christians of Crete protest against foreign interference between Greece and Turkey.

Trouble is likely to arise from neglect to record marriages in the probate court at Tiffin, O. San Antonio, Tex., Knights of Labor support the boycott against the Mallory steamship company and Stetson, Va. manufacturer.

Pennsylvania coke operators offer that if the strikers will resume work at once, their wages will be advanced as asked, on March 15. Notices have been posted in the cotton mills at New Bedford, Concord, Manchester and Lowell that on March 1 wages will be advanced ten per cent.

During the month of January there were 41,828 pieces of misdirected mail matter handled in the Cincinnati post-office, a daily average of 1,384 pieces. The Knights of Labor of Homer N. Y., are building a co-operative factory for the wagon makers who were recently discharged because they refused to leave the Knights.

The Bell telephone company cleared \$1,669,442 last year. Their newspaper printing bills will cut down their profits a good deal from that sum this year, however. King Ludwig, of Bavaria, refuses to speak to anybody. He is so deeply in debt that he had to begin to economize somewhere, and he concluded to save in the wear and tear of his false teeth.

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