

Port Tobacco Times

PORT TOBACCO: Friday Morning, December 5, 1873.

Congress met promptly on Monday last. The Senate was called to order by Vice President Wilson, who seems to have recovered from his attack of paralysis sufficiently to preside.

The House organized by the re-election of Mr. Blaine to the Speakership. This is Mr. B.'s third term of service, and is a deserved compliment by his party, to his talents.

The message of the President was not received by either house until Tuesday, when it was read, and after the transaction of some miscellaneous business of not much importance the two houses adjourned until next day.

On Wednesday the Senate was mainly occupied by a discussion of the financial question, during which Mr. Morrill, of Vermont, ventilated his views at length without evincing anything of importance, though rather sarcastic on the views of the Secretary of the Treasury.

The House was mainly occupied with contested election cases, and the right of holders of certificates to their seats until the contest was finally determined.

The session promises to be a long and stormy one, but will hardly settle down to its real work until after the Christmas holidays are over.

The Message.

We lay before our readers a very full analysis of the President's Message, taken from the Baltimore Sun. The document is too lengthy for us to publish.

The Virginia Affair Settled.

Our little flurry with Spain has been amicably settled as was anticipated. The Virginia is to be delivered at once, with her survivors, to the United States, and if Spain does not before Christmas day prove to the U. S. that the vessel improperly used our flag, then Spain is on that day formally to salute the flag, and is further to institute proceedings against any parties who may have violated international or treaty rights.

Mr. Creswell's Newspaper Postage Scheme.

Mr. Creswell having induced Congress to pass a law abolishing newspaper exchanges on the free plan, now, as one of our exchanges justly remarks, "thinks it would be an excellent movement to abolish the present system by which newspapers are circulated through the mails to subscribers. Under the arrangements now in force a subscriber can pay his postage quarterly to the postmaster near his residence, and receive his paper at reduced rates of postage.

Political Dereliction.

Governor Seymour, in a recent letter to the Manhattan Club, said: "While we shall deplore political dereliction in any quarter, we shall reserve our sharpest criticisms and sternest denunciations for unfaithfulness in the part of those whose elections we supported, and not for those whose election we resisted."

Governor S. is this day one of the ablest of the statesmen of the Democratic party. He is a man of great breadth of mind and of singular purity of character, and therefore we prize such sentiments the more highly because of the source whence they come.

It is a man of great breadth of mind and of singular purity of character, and therefore we prize such sentiments the more highly because of the source whence they come. They are the words of an honorable man and not of a demagogue—and they embody, in appropriate words, sentiments which we have long entertained. As he properly says, when we consider the origin of the Republican party—born amidst the throes of a popular convulsion; installed in power during a civil war, the like of which the world has never seen, when the only law preached was that "the safety of the Republic was the supreme law," and retaining power since the termination of the war, by keeping alive the angry passions caused by it: Looking thus to all these things, we have no right to expect from our opponents the same high tone and integrity of purpose as we do in a Democrat who has grown up in the shadow of the

Constitution and been taught by Jefferson and the fathers of our country that the safety of our republican form of government depended on a strict construction of the Federal powers, the preservation of States' rights, and a firm adherence to the honesty and frugality of the early days of the Republic.

The President has offered Attorney-General Williams the position of Chief Justice, which was very promptly accepted.

The "dead" Democratic party has now Democratic Governors in fifteen States as follows: Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin, and the Legislatures in fifteen States. For a "dead" party this is a remarkable showing.

The New York World says: it is as clear as sunlight that the Democratic party, we mean the voters of the Democratic party from Maine to California, demand of their Representatives in Congress that they shall brand the salary-grab iniquity as it deserves, by calling for its repeal at once, by forcing the issue upon Congress, and by voting for its repeal, every man of them. That is the sincere desire of most honest people; it is the imperative demand of the honest masses of the Democratic party, uttered with clear and unequivocal accents in every State Democratic Convention which has met since Congress adjourned. Demand the repeal of the salary-grab.

Tweed and his Accomplices.

A few days ago the trial of Tweed ended in New York, and Judge Davis sentenced the convicted prisoner to twelve years' imprisonment. That trial was immediately followed by those of Farrington and Ingersoll, his accomplices. These men, like their chief, were found guilty and sent to the Penitentiary, one for five years, the other for eighteen months. In passing sentence upon Ingersoll Judge Davis said: "You took a solemn oath to support the Constitution of your country, and to faithfully discharge the office of Court-house Commissioner. How did you keep that oath? You, yourself, became a plunderer, one of those engaged in a scheme of plunder, the greatest, perhaps, known in any country. You appear on the Tweed trial to be the recipient of claims for over three millions of dollars, of which you kept one million seven hundred and thirty dollars, and turned over the rest to 'Dollard.'" In sentencing Farrington, Judge Davis said he was glad that Ingersoll had the manliness to admit now what he might have admitted on the trial, that his (Farrington's) case was different from the other, in that he did not forge names, but it was proved that he had made out a false account, adding thereto 50 per cent. This made him a participant in the crime, if not in its proceeds, and hence his sentence and imprisonment.

Mr. Creswell's Newspaper Postage Scheme. Mr. Creswell having induced Congress to pass a law abolishing newspaper exchanges on the free plan, now, as one of our exchanges justly remarks, "thinks it would be an excellent movement to abolish the present system by which newspapers are circulated through the mails to subscribers. Under the arrangements now in force a subscriber can pay his postage quarterly to the postmaster near his residence, and receive his paper at reduced rates of postage. Mr. Creswell is not satisfied with this, which is an accommodation to the subscribers to newspapers as well as to publishers. He wishes a law passed which will compel every newspaper or magazine sent through the Postoffice to be paid for in advance. Under such a system he thinks that the rates could be reduced on such matter, because the Department will be clear of losses. Looking at the matter from his point of view, which is merely how he can obtain the greatest amount of revenue for the government, the Postmaster-General is probably right, if he goes no deeper than a superficial consideration of the question. But he would discover he was entirely wrong if he went a little below the surface in his investigations. The value of a newspaper to the subscriber is that he shall receive it promptly as soon as possible after it is issued.

If every newspaper sent through the mails must be stamped before it can be transported, much delay will take place in affixing or printing stamps which the government require. The result would be great labor imposed upon the postoffice, and such delay in carrying the papers thro' the mail as would disgust subscribers, and reduce circulation of all classes of journals. The postage for revenue purposes. To accomplish this in England, where the circulation is limited in comparison to what they are in this country, might have been done. If such a method were adopted here the printing paper would have to be stamped by government officers before the proprietors could use it. This would necessitate delay, and sometimes prevent the printing of such papers as were to go through the mail. The waste by

spoiled copies and other accidents would fall upon the publishers of papers, and the result would be an annoyance with no advantage to subscribers and none to the United States Government. Mr. Creswell has not considered but one side of the question.

From the Baltimore Sun. The President's Message. The President's message, which was delivered to the two houses of Congress Tuesday, shortly after one o'clock, and was published in a Sun Extra within two hours afterwards, while it touches upon a great number of important subjects, hardly discusses any of them in a way to challenge special criticism or comment. In the very first sentence of the message the President speaks of the past year, "especially the latter part of it," as "an eventful one to the country," and then proceeds to summarize the events that have happened, somewhat oddly included among them, and in the same breath with the Virginia affair, the result of the political partnership has almost ceased to exist, especially in the agricultural regions." The statement is somewhat obscure, and whether intended to refer to the rise of the granges at the West, or the decline of the Ku-Klux at the South, does not clearly appear. In any case the fact chronicled can hardly be classed among events.

Following the usual order of subjects observed in such documents, the message begins as far from home as possible, with our foreign relations, and with one of the remotest of these—the Emperor of China.—Gradually approaching matters of more consequence, it reaches the subject of the payment by Great Britain of the Geneva award, and urges the appointment of a commission to make distribution of the amount among the parties entitled to it.—Common honesty would suggest as much, and it is to be hoped that the President's recommendation will be adopted. The additional legislation is asked for to enable the United States Courts in Utah to obtain juries, and a restriction of the jurisdiction exercised by the territorial probate courts is also urged. The recommendation in favor of an immense system of civil improvements, to be undertaken at the expense of the general government, is not renewed.

By a curious infelicity of expression the President is made to say that cheap transportation "has contributed to, if it has not been the direct cause of, the present panic and stringency." We suppose the President means that excessive and unwise legislation on the part of Congress, has contributed to that disastrous result—but he does not say it. He recommends Congress to undertake the care of the Erie Canal and of the Illinois State Canal, upon the condition that those canals be opened for general traffic, but otherwise defers any further expression of his views until the special Senate committee on transportation shall have made its report and recommendations. One other exception the President makes to his general policy of opposition to further land grants by the general government, is in favor of an "expedited" canal to be constructed across the arid plain which stretches from the eastern slope of the Rocky mountains to the Missouri river.

No change in the Indian policy of the government is proposed. A quinquennial census is recommended. The President also recommends that, as something to be accomplished in these days, in some uncertain and unsettled future, when the "rule" shall have been definitely settled, and for that purpose a conference between a committee of Congress and the city and county boards is deemed advisable. A more effectual method of "quelling" the whole subject could not be devised. Finally, in a single sentence, and that the last of the message, the passage of a law to better secure the civil rights of the "newly enfranchised" is recommended, which Mr. Sumner will incidentally express that one day we may feel rich enough to build houses at Washington for the cabinet officers and all persons who now receive commutation for quarters or rent at government expense and that the States may be tempted to do the handsome thing by building similar residences for their Senators.

Later on in the message the city of Washington, its improved streets and avenues, and its board of public works, come in for a "first rate notice" at the hands of the President. The idea, which has ceased to be a novel one, is that the establishment of the capital should be an object of pride and interest to the whole country, and that the improvements in question should be regarded as "a national investment."

Upon the subject of the finances generally, and the cognate topics of the currency and the money market, the message will satisfy the expectations of those who have been more or less eagerly awaiting its utterances. There is a want of clearness in the language of the message which is painfully suggestive of want of clearness in the ideas of the writer. First and foremost we have the declaration that we do not have permanent prosperity until a specie basis is reached, and that a basis cannot be reached and maintained until our exports, exclusive of gold, pay for our imports, interest due abroad, and other specie obligations, or so nearly so as to leave an appreciable accumulation of the precious metals in the country from the product of our mines.

Next we are shown how, from increase of population, increase of manufacturing industries, and the habit of the southern negroes to carry their wages in their breeches' pockets instead of depositing them in the savings banks, the currency is practically in a state of gradual contraction. It is further regarded as "patent to the most casual observer that much more currency or money is required during the fall and winter months" than during the rest of the year; it is more than intimated that with a non-elastic currency panics may thus come to be an annual institution, like the equinox, connected with "moving the crops." To meet the emergency it is suggested that power be given to the Secretary of the Treasury during these periods of annual stringency to issue to national banks a certain amount of their own notes upon a deposit by them of an equal amount of government bonds, the bonds to be redeemable by the banks at their pleasure by returning an equal amount of their bills for cancellation.

In this way it is supposed the difficulty of a non-elastic currency can be overcome, and elasticity be imparted to the present paper issues of the country. The establishment of clearing houses, the prohibition of payment of interest on deposits, and a law requiring the banks to hold

their reserves in their own vaults, are further suggested as useful modifications of the present national banking law, with a view to "a prevention of the use of other people's money in stock and other species of speculation." From all this, however, it is difficult to deduce any policy, or the suggestion of a policy, which leads up to resumption, or even leads steadily in that direction. Inflation is certainly not the road to specie payments, and the President's scheme for imparting elasticity to the currency is practical and periodical inflation—and nothing less. It is idle to expect that any rotation of the seasons can bring with it those periods of alternate contraction and inflation which are to cause now bonds, and now currency, to flow from the treasury, like the ebb and flow of a tide.

Next to the portion of the message which treats of financial matters directly, perhaps the most important is that which relates to the bankrupt law, of which the President recommends, if not the absolute repeal, at least the repeal of so much as provides for involuntary bankruptcy on account of the suspension of payment.—There can be no doubt that the whole law, and especially this portion, is susceptible of very great improvement and needs careful revision.

Of the topics that formerly occupied the largest space in General Grant's annual messages we find in the present one a notable dearth. St. Domingo is only alluded to in a single sentence, where we are told that the President (?) has applied for the exercise of an American protectorate over it. About the Ku Klux, Louisiana, and southern lawlessness generally, there is not one word. A sentence is devoted to a renewal of former recommendations in favor of general amnesty. The Morrison legislation, which has been through additional legislation is asked for to enable the United States Courts in Utah to obtain juries, and a restriction of the jurisdiction exercised by the territorial probate courts is also urged. The recommendation in favor of an immense system of civil improvements, to be undertaken at the expense of the general government, is not renewed.

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two miles long, and estimated the cost at \$3,000. The County Commissioners then issued a new commission to these same gentlemen to proceed to lay off the road, which they accordingly did—all three of the gentlemen being present. Mr. O. N. Bryan, who had not attended before, however, making a special report in which he estimated the cost at \$6,000. In this condition bids were invited, when the present Board stepped in and put their veto, for the present at least, on the whole matter. We think they acted with commendable prudence in not entering upon so costly a work without taking time to investigate the matter themselves.

We did not learn whether the Board made any disposition of the county mules for the winter, but we understood that the propriety of selling all the mules and purchasing oxen to use on the public roads was discussed, but not determined. Thus we progress.

Southern Maryland Railroad. The St. Mary's Beacon of last week says: "From parties who have visited the Railroad line of the Southern Maryland Company within the past few days, we learn that the work of grading is industriously progressing, a heavy force of laborers being still engaged thereon and working away with a will. We trust that no obstructions or delays—now that the road is certain to be built—will be allowed to impede its onward march a single moment, and that all parties on the line whose lands will be penetrated by the road will anticipate its demands for a passage through them by a speedy and voluntary offering of the necessary 'rights of way.'"

The Supreme Bench of Maryland having determined the right of the Governor to grant conditional pardons to prisoners in the Penitentiary, and that the failure of the person pardoned to comply with the conditions subjected him to rescission and reimprisonment, it devolved on Judge Gilmore to sentence Charles M. Heslin, alias John McNulty, who was pardoned out on condition that he would leave the State, but failed to do so. It will be remembered that he was suspected of complicity in the Lampley murder and was arrested, when subsequently the warden of the Penitentiary took measures to have him remanded. The case was tried in the Criminal Court of Baltimore, Heslin being defended by Messrs. Stanley, Clarke and Bowie, and resulted in finding that the defendant was liable to be remanded to prison. An appeal to the Supreme Bench having finally sustained this decision, one day last week Judge Gilmore passed sentence on the prisoner, remanding him to the Penitentiary for the term of one year from November 25, 1873.

Indictments by the Grand Jury. The Grand Jury, at its recent session, brought down some indictments of more than ordinary interest to the public. One was against Mr. George W. Carpenter, the Register in the 3d election district, for improperly refusing to register parties alleged to be entitled. One was against Mr. James A. Mudd, Register of Bryantown district, for neglecting to deliver the books of registration to the Sheriff. It is right the Grand Jury should investigate these matters, and guard with jealousy the elective franchise. The Grand Jury also brought down two presentments against Mr. Zachariah Swann, one of the newly elected Board of County Commissioners—one for forgery and the other for perjury. It is to be hoped that Mr. Swann will speedily vindicate himself, as it is not exactly the thing for a man occupying his responsible position to have such charges hanging over him.

City Markets. Now that the Railroad is running regularly our people living within easy reach of it should remember that, through its means they have almost at their doors two of the best markets in the world for eatables of all sorts—meats, butter, garden truck, &c. We need not remind our readers that, with our soil and climate, it needs but an effort on their part, by the sale of such things, to make a vast deal more money than they ever can expect to realize from wheat, corn or tobacco. That we speak by the book we give below some quotations from the Baltimore papers showing the prices for the various articles most in demand, and which we can furnish as abundantly and cheaply as any other portion of the country, if we would give more attention to such things, viz: Beef steak, 16 to 25 cts. per pound; roast pieces, 15 to 16 cts.; veal, 18 to 20 cts.; mutton roast, 15 to 18 cts.; chops, 18 to 20 cts.; hog jowl, 6 cts.; hogs-head cheese, 12 cts.; pig hind quarter, 87 cts.; fore quarter, 62 cts.; pork, 10 to 12 cts. per pound; partridges, \$2.25 per dozen; turkey, \$1.50 to \$3.00, as to size, or 20 to 25 cts. per pound; geese, \$1.00 to \$2.00; ducks, \$1.00 to 1.35 per pair; chickens, \$1.00 to \$1.20; rabbits, 30 cts.; squirts, 10 cts.; butter, 35 to 45 cts. per pound; eggs, 30 cts. per dozen, &c. These are about the average retail prices in the city markets.

Signs of a Mild Winter. Some of the Northern papers, speaking of the probability of having a mild winter, mention, among other reasons for believing so, the fact that the beavers have built very small and inferior houses, and without the usual double doors. In corroboration of this we have noticed our selves, during the past week, a quantity of wild geese flying North, as if their instinct told them they could safely return there. This, if true, will be gratifying not only to our farmers but to all others, in view of the large number of working people out of employment in the large cities.

Heavy Frost. Saturday last night, with propriety, he called White Saturday, from the very heavy frost in the morning. It was the heaviest we have ever seen, and we made it our business to hunt up that respectable person, "the oldest inhabitant," and interview him on the subject, and he told us there had been one greater than that when he was a little boy, but he did not recollect in what year, but so long ago that the Potomac was only a little stream then, and had not grown to one-tenth of its present size, and we believe him.

Elective Magazine. The December number of the Elective is at hand, and is filled, as usual, with good things suited to every taste, and especially to such tastes as like a little solid food included in their monthly menus. This number is the closing one of the year and of the volume, and its appearance reminds readers that the time has come to send in next year's subscriptions. The Elective was never better than now, and never filled so exactly the requirements of a family magazine. It is a periodical which the most cultivated *pater familias* will find it profitable to consult, and which can not fail to carry an educating influence into every household that it penetrates. The new volume begins next month, and we commend it to our readers as a magazine which can be relied on from year to year. Published by E. R. Pelton, 108 Fulton Street, New York. Terms, \$5 a year; two copies, \$9. Single number, 45 cents.

The Science of Health for December closes the Third Volume of this practical and independent Magazine. Its leading object is to teach the Science of Life, including all that relates to Recovering and Preserving Health, and promoting a higher physical and mental condition. Every family should read this Magazine. Among the contents are "The Potential Sex" in a Review of the Race; "The Model School-Girl, who lost more than she gained, and how," with illustration; "What we want for Health, Comfort and Improvement at this season of the year;" "Woman's Dress," is considered by L. E. L.; "Disease and its Treatment" by different Schools; "Cold Feet," and how to keep them warm, and many questions from correspondents are answered, and much general information given. It is published at \$2.00 a year.—A new volume begins with the next number. Now is the time to subscribe. Address, S. R. Wells, Publisher, 389 Broadway, New York.

The Phrenological Journal commends itself as a magazine to all who appreciate the good, true and improving in literature. Its candor and liberality and clearness in the discussion of all topics, adapt it to all classes of readers. We welcome each number to our table. See the December edition, which contains: The Evangelical Alliance in America, with portraits of the Dean of Canterbury, Rev. Dr. Geo. Fitch, of Paris, Rev. Dr. Dörner, of Berlin, and Rev. N. Sheshadri, of Bombay; The Face Factory, No. 2, Sketches from Real Life, No. 4; The Church of the United Brethren, with 12 portraits; Chapter on Lovers, very amusing; Money—Its Function and Requirements, No. 2; J. M. Bundy, of the N. Y. Mail; "By the Neck until Dead," Architecture; Lectures and Lecturers; Genesis of Geology, No. 2—Agricultural Hints, etc. Price, 30 cents. \$3 a year, with excellent premiums. S. R. Wells, 389 Broadway, New York.

Every case of consumption commences with cough, excited from the individual having taken cold. Do not neglect the little cough or cold, but use, the sooner the better, Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup. It is no wonder that invalids lose faith in all specifics, when so many worthless medicines are advertised for the cure of various diseases; but when, when tried, are "found wanting." We have yet to learn, however, of the first failure of Dr. Wistar's Balsam of Wild Cherry, to cure coughs, colds and pulmonary disease.

OBITUARY. Died, on the morning of the 16th ult., at the residence of his parents, in this county, after an illness of about five months, SEPHUS P. GORDON, aged 24 years. He was a "foundling" and his sufferings were great, he bore them all without a murmur or complaint. A short time before he died he said to his mother: "I am dying, mother." She then asked him if he was afraid to die. "Oh no," said he, "I am not afraid to die," and when asked if he suffered much he replied: "Oh yes, my sufferings are great; but it is good for me to suffer."

NOTICE. THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS will meet at their room in the Court House, On TUESDAY, December 23d, for the transaction of regular business. By order, CHAS. E. HANNON, Clerk.

SCHOOL NOTICE. THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS will meet in Port Tobacco, On THURSDAY, December 18th, 1873, for the purpose of receiving Teachers' reports. No reports received unless made out on blanks prepared for the purpose, issued by the State Board. The Secretary will be prepared to pay Teachers' salaries on Friday and Saturday 19th and 20th of December. GEO. M. LLOYD, Sec'y.

NOTICE. In view of closing out my stock, I will offer it for cash only, at reduced rates from date, I also take this method of calling the attention of my patrons to their accounts to date, as all accounts not settled by the first day of January, 1874, will be at once placed in an officers' hands for collection, without reserve. W. H. MOORE, Bryantown, dec 5-3t