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BANK DEPOSITS.

To the Editor of the Herald:

If there is no law to compel banks to make returns to Assessors, the sooner our Legislature enacts such a law the better for the people. The evils, the injustice, and oppression must be apparent to many as the question now stands towards property holders of every description except the depositor. It makes a perjurer of the man, who, when under oath in making returns to the Assessors, evades the items of "Moneys and Credits," and at the end of the list, "All other property not herein enumerated," and then deliberately swears he has listed in the within list all moneys, goods, credits, and all other description of property owned or held by him as principal, partner or agent.

What will be the results in future years of the father's instructions to the child, of such principles involved, in listing his property falsely? Is it not a step downwards toward the disgraceful positions that some of our recent revenue and whisky officials now occupy? Is not this systematic lying degrading, from the fact that the conscience must continually be an accuser of wrong, and bring censure and reproach from others? If there is any one point or fact in the code of morals that is a cardinal virtue, it is truthfulness. The respect due one from another, the continued possession of distinguished position, the esteem and consideration accorded men and women, the dignity of the nation depends on the truthfulness of its people. It is a foundation stone of the nation's honor. And what is this honor? "It is the finest sense of justice which the human mind can frame."

The injustice is in the fact that one is taxed and another not. Because property has different names and shapes, one class can be concealed, the other cannot. And this is why the Assessor should have the authority to compel all to come in subjection to a just law. It is an injustice for the merchant, farmer, mechanic, and miner to feel and know he is supporting the burden of taxes which depositors do not share with him; and herein lies the oppression. Where is the right, the justice, in compelling one class of our people to enact, support, and pay for laws to protect these men in the possession of their property for which they do not pay a cent. Do they not demand such laws shall be enacted as will guard banks from stealing money? Do they not demand the laws shall be executed by the expensive routine of our courts to restore to them their rights of possessions lost? Do they pay for such legislation, and the execution of such laws? What is to be gained by investing in "mines undeveloped, agricultural interests prostrate, stock-raising in its infancy," where there is so much risk, where the Assessor can easily obtain returns, when the mere act of depositing saves his money, accumulates interest, and avoids taxation?

It is not the desire or object to underrate the usefulness, excellence, or enterprise of our banks, but there should be no inclination toward establishing a privileged class. We are supposed to be free and one man is another's peer only in honor, knowledge, and wisdom. Is it not a fact that the lowering of the rate of interest from three and four per cent., is caused by the necessities of our people, who could and would not pay the high rates, and the banks and individuals were compelled to lower rates to keep their money employed?

In the statement of one of our banks, the sum of \$597,604 is in the hands of private depositors, and in the absence of any law by which the assessor can list it, this amount is exempt from taxation. At 23 mills on the dollar, the tax would amount to \$13,744. This amount, or a portion of it goes to the bank again, which should have gone to the county treasury. One statement declared a dividend paid March 4th, 1874, of \$30,000. Some portion of this is a profit from investing the \$597,604. Cannot the snarers of this dividend deposit this again, and because it is private deposits it in turn is exempt. The presumption that all persons having

money and credits, make honest returns is not warranted from facts known to many. What inducement or motive is there for the man of small means to be honest in returning property, when his neighbor of large means is constantly concealing a portion of his. Now if the capital invested and the profits derived from such investments are exempt, it gives to this capital an advantage for which other classes of business and occupations suffer. If the ruling interest in Colorado, Wyoming and other Territories is 2 per cent., and in this city not exceeding 1 1/2, and as low as 1 1/4, the same exclusiveness in regard to deposits alike in all the places named, the difference in favor of this city is not due from the accumulation of deposits, but from some other cause.

If these men are not willing to be taxed, let them return their money beneath their cabin floors and in chink holes, giving others the opportunities and advantages abused by them.

There is no principle of right in the proposition that any class of business by whatever name designated, should in part or in whole be exempt from taxation. It is all wrong from beginning to end.

If all are honest there will be no occasion for "lynx-eyed assessors" to pry into books or business. And the law is only needed for the protection of men against the dishonest. There must be some truth in the statement of the concealment of deposits, or the people would not now be agitating the question. Thinking men take warning, act wisely and well. "He is thrice armed who hath his quarrel just."

JUSTICE.

Opening of the Dominion Parliament.

CHICAGO, February 11.—The Times' Ottawa special says the Dominion Parliament opened yesterday with the usual imposing ceremonies. The speech from the throne was delivered by Lord Dufferin in the Senate Chamber. The speech makes no mention of the Pacific railroad, further than that papers connected therewith will be submitted. It announces a deficit in the revenue of the Dominion, which will necessitate a revision of the tariff and curtailing of the expenditures in all departments of the public service. This is looked upon as foreshadowing the total abandonment of the Pacific railway.

More Arrests in Cuba.

NEW YORK, February 11.—A Havana letter of recent date says that the Government has arrested some twenty persons in different classes of society for being in correspondence with Cuban refugees in New York. Among them is Don Quillerma de Sototongo. The letters were seized by the police in the hands of one of the post office carriers, and the clerks at the post office have been examined. It is said that important discoveries have been made, and that many persons hitherto supposed to be good Spaniards are implicated.

For the Black Hills.

CHICAGO, February 11.—The Times' Sioux City special says the excitement over the Black Hills news, lately received, is on the increase, and parties are fitting out and getting ready to depart. A company has been formed to start about the 21st of this month. The leaders profess to have positive assurance that the military will not only not interfere, but will assist them under certain circumstances.

The Confirmation of Judge Billings.

WASHINGTON, February 11.—Judge Billings, just confirmed by the Senate, will hold court in New Orleans next Monday. There is no business in bankruptcy, and no maritime cases have been transacted in that court for Louisiana since the resignation of Judge Darrell.

Turt Association.

NEW YORK, February 11.—The Board of Appeals of the National Trotting Association yesterday elected Col. C. W. Wooley, of Ohio, President; C. W. Hutchinson, of Utica, First Vice-President; Judge Grant, of Iowa, Second Vice-President; Thomas F. Vail, of Hartford, Secretary.

Dana's \$5,000 Suit.

NEW YORK, February 11.—The suit of the First National bank of Springfield, Ill., against Chas. A. Dana, to recover on a \$5,000 note, having resulted in favor of the plaintiff, the case goes up on appeal to the general term, and probably to the court of appeals.

Murderer Hanged.

SYRACUSE, February 11.—Owen Lindsay, convicted of the murder of Francis A. Calvin, was hanged to-day in the prison yard. Lindsay persisted to the last in declaring his innocence.

ABBY and Julia Smith, of Glastenbury, Conn., again refuse to pay their taxes, because they are not allowed to vote. "No taxation without representation," is their battle-cry.

Death of Hon. Reverdy Johnson.

ANNAPOLIS, (Md.), February 10.—The Hon. Reverdy Johnson came here last night to argue the case of Baker vs. Frick, and argued in the Court of Appeals to-day. By invitation of Governor Carroll he became his guest at the executive mansion to-day. The Governor invited Chief Justice Barton, of Maryland, and several other gentlemen, to meet Mr. Johnson at dinner at the mansion. They dined about 5 p. m. At dinner Mr. Johnson appeared in excellent spirits and his usual health, and entertained the company by his conversation and relating anecdotes. At dinner he drank one glass of Maderia and refused to take any more. After dinner he suddenly asked the Governor to take him in the parlor. He took the Governor's arm, and walking in there he sat down on a sofa. At the request of Mr. Johnson, the Governor returned to the guests at the table. Shortly after a servant appeared at the door, and beckoning the Governor out told him that Mr. Johnson was lying in the yard on the stones. Governor Carroll went immediately to the place and found Mr. Johnson lying on the cobble-stone carriage-way that passes under the porch of the mansion, close up to the wall and close to the door leading into the basement. He had evidently gone down the front steps and around to the side of the house and fell where found, about 8:15 p. m. The impression is that he had been there at least half an hour. He was then dead and bleeding profusely from wounds on the right side of his head and face. His body was at once removed into the basement room, and physicians summoned. Dr. W. G. Tuck was the first to arrive, and after examining the body pronounced life extinct. Drs. Ridout and Cloud arrived afterwards. There are large wounds on the right side of the forehead, two fractures of the skull from the upper portion of the forehead to the eyebrow, dislocation of a finger on the left hand, and cuts and bruises on the hands and legs. The physicians are examining the body, to determine the cause of his death. Mr. Johnson would have been 80 years old next May.

ANNAPOLIS, February 11.—Dr. Steener, who examined the body of Reverdy Johnson, shortly after it was found, gives the following as his theory of the cause of death: Mr. Johnson either stumbled over a piece of coal, or being seized with vertigo or incipient symptoms of apoplexy, and striving to save himself, moved towards the west, staggering along by the northerly side of the executive mansion, at each step his body gaining additional momentum, so that having reached the door into the basement, he swayed around to the south and fell, his head striking against the sharp corner of the granite base of the house, which gave the first wound in the head, and reaching the pavement of rough cobble stones, a second wound was received in the front of the first. At this instant probably the bones of the nose were fractured. One joint of the second finger of the right hand was dislocated. Whether the subsequent struggles may account for the abrasions on the knees and fingers of the left hand cannot positively be asserted. The wounds in the scalp were accompanied with the external fractures of the cranium and skull, also with, probably, a rupture of some of the arteries of the base. Death must have resulted instantly.

Mr. Gwinne, Attorney General of the State, and son-in-law of Mr. Johnson, is of the opinion that he was seized with vertigo and fell, as he had a similar attack, lasting three hours, while attending a trial in South Carolina several years ago.

When the General Assembly met to-day, it was immediately informed by a communication from Governor Carroll, of the death of Mr. Johnson. Both houses at once adjourned, to assemble in the hall of the Executive Mansion and escort the remains to the depot, where they will be taken to Baltimore in a special car. The Governor said, in his communication, that Mr. Johnson died from unaccountable and unwitnessed accident.

BALTIMORE, February 11.—Mayor Latrobe this morning issued an order convening the City Council in extra session this evening, that the municipal authorities may give expression to the great loss sustained in the death of Reverdy Johnson. The flags of all the public buildings are at half-mast. In the United States District Court this morning, the death of Mr. Johnson was announced, and the court shortly after adjourned. The Baltimore bar and bench meet to-morrow.

The favorite son of Georgia is fast passing away—not from any particular disease, but "by a general breaking down of his system." It is one of the physiological peculiarities of Mr. Stephens that throughout his life his food, though it seemed to be well digested and has never produced any dyspeptic symptoms, has never been properly assimilated, and to this fact he attributes his puny physical body, which only weighs ninety-four pounds. He is willing to die, and has not one word of regret for his unfinished work.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton on Women.

A short time since a writer, well-known to many readers, had a conversation with Mrs. Elizabeth Cady Stanton, in which interview that lady is reported to have expressed herself in the following characteristic terms:

Theodore Tilton need not have shirked an acknowledgment of his association with Mrs. Woodhull. Victoria Woodhull's acquaintance would be refining to any man. In her own character and person there is never anything but refinement in word or movement. She has a beautiful face, the idol of spirituality. Victoria Woodhull has done a work for woman that none of us could have done. She has faced and dared men to call her the names that make women shudder, while she chucked principle, like medicine, down their throats. She has risked and realized the sort of ignominy that would have paralyzed any of us who have longer been called strong-minded. Leaping into the brambles that were too high for us to see over them, she broke a path into their close and thorny interstices, with a steadfast faith that glorious principle would triumph at last over conspicuous ignominy, although her life might be sacrificed. And when, with a meteor's dash, she sank into a dismal swamp, we could not lift her out of the mire or buoy her through the deadly waters. She will be as famous as she has been infamous, made so by benighted or cowardly men and women. Theodore Tilton was ashamed to acknowledge Victoria Woodhull; but in the annals of emancipation the name of which he was ashamed will have its own high place as a deliverer.

Mrs. Stanton, seriously and with deliberate emphasis, said: "I have worked thirty years for woman suffrage, and now I feel that suffrage is but the vestibule of woman's emancipation! The one moment when Mrs. Tilton was to be respected was when she said 'Theodore, I can stand by your side no longer. I shall go!'"

The World of London.

The Metropolis of the British Empire, the largest city the world ever saw, covers, within fifteen miles radius of Charing Cross, nearly 700 square miles, and numbers within these boundaries 4,000,000 of inhabitants. It comprises 1,000,000 foreigners from every region of the globe. It contains more Jews than the whole of Palestine, more Roman Catholics than Rome itself, more Irish than Dublin, more Scotchmen than Edinburgh. The port of London has every day on its waters 1,000 ships and 9,000 sailors. Upwards of 120 persons are added to the population daily, or 40,000 yearly, a birth taking place every five minutes, and a death every eight minutes. On an average twenty-eight miles of streets are opened and 9,000 houses built every year. In its postal districts there is a yearly delivery of 233,000,000 of letters. On the police register there are the names of 120,000 habitual criminals, increasing by many thousands every year. More than one-third of all the crime of the country is committed in London, or at least brought to light there. There are as many beer shops and gin palaces as would, if their fronts were placed side by side, reach from Charing Cross to Portsmouth, a distance of seventy-three miles, and 33,000 drunkards are annually brought before its magistrates. The shops open on Sunday would form streets sixty miles long. It is estimated that there are above 1,000,000 of the people who are practically heathen, wholly neglecting the ordinances of religion. At least 900 additional churches and chapels would be required for the wants of the people.—*Leisure Hours.*

Laftie, the Banker.

An English paper says: Charles Laftie, the great French banker, who has just died, was one of the best known men in Paris. He was known not merely as a financier, but also as a man of fashion and pleasure. He was one of the founders of the Jockey Club. He was passionately fond of racing, and introduced steeple-chasing into France. Strange to say, however, he knew nothing of horses, though he ran them; in fact, he knew so little that he could not tell his own horses apart. For all that, he loved racing for its own sake, and betted very little. He was a great dandy in dress, and was always a noticeable figure with his rose or posy of violets in his button-hole when attending the race-course or the skating club. Though he did not bet on the race course, he played for very high stakes at the whist table. A rubber of £40 did not scare him. He lost with the most supreme good temper; not a word nor a frown ever betrayed his annoyance. He had a great amount of business to transact. Besides looking after his bank, he was a director of the Havre Railway, and had a great deal to do with Italian railways. He was not fortunate in love or in law. Separated from his wife in 1854, he was condemned to pay her a pension of £1,440, the pension being guaranteed by a lien upon a sum of £28,800, and he had to give her a sum of £20,000 as a dowry to his two daughters. He had many lawsuits, one of them in this country, and which resulted in his having to pay £150,000, after having spent £30,000 on the lawyers whom he retained to resist the claim.

The irrepressible Barnum, now mayor of Bridgeport, Connecticut, announces that as soon as he is released from the duties of his present official position, he will organize for the Centennial year a grand exhibition far exceeding in magnitude anything of the kind ever before attempted. When complete, he states that 120 specially built cars will be required to transport the concern, and the services of eleven hundred individuals will be necessary.

The resignation of Barclay, the veteran Journal-Clerk of the House, leaves Speaker Kerr wholly at the mercy of the parliamentarians on the Republican side. The raw recruits need a leader more than ever.

EX-SPEAKER BLAINE.

An Authoritative Statement in Regard to Ex-Speaker Blaine's Religious Faith.

(Pittsburg Gazette.)

Dr. James King, one of the leading physicians of this city and widely known in Pennsylvania as Surgeon General of the State during the late War, writes the subjoined letter, which we feel sure will be read with interest, and which will necessarily be accepted as conclusive in regard to the interesting topic to which he refers:

Pittsburg, Pa., Jan. 18, 1876.

To the Editors of the Pittsburg Gazette: I observe that anonymous writers in various parts of the country are furnishing what they term "reliable information" in regard to ex-Speaker Blaine's family and early religious education. As Mr. Blaine's name is often mentioned in connection with public affairs, an authentic statement on the subject may be of general interest. I give it, therefore, over my own name, and from long and intimate acquaintance with Mr. Blaine and with his family.

I was a member of the Faculty of Washington College when Mr. Blaine was a student there. He entered the Preparatory Department when only 12 years of age, and, from that time until his graduation, he was a constant attendant upon the service of the Presbyterian Church, which had, and still has, the exclusive control of the College. There was no Catholic Church in the town. Attendance upon church-service was required of the students, and their absence from it was noted; and it was said, and I believe it to be true, that Mr. Blaine never missed attending church a single Sunday during his collegiate course. It was also true that he never was absent from a resitation during his whole course; and this boyhood punctuality must have followed him into public life, for I have often seen it stated in the papers that, during his Speakership of six years, he was never out of the chair for a single day. Mr. Blaine graduated in 1847, before he was 18 years old, at the head of a large and well-remembered class.

Mr. Blaine's father came from a well-known and distinguished Carlisle family, of the old Colonial and Revolutionary stock,—a family specially marked in all its branches for its strict adherence to the Presbyterian faith. His mother—a talented, beautiful, widely-beloved and truly Christian lady—was from an equally prominent Catholic family; and this fact has probably given rise to all the unfounded gossip about Mr. Blaine having been a Catholic. No one knew better than his mother that he was a firm Protestant, for I very frequently conversed with her upon the matter during the last twenty-five years of her life, for the greater part of which I was her attending physician.

Mr. Blaine simply followed the traditional faith of his father's family; and when, in his early manhood, he settled in New England, he naturally attended the Orthodox Congregational Church, of which he has been a member for more than twenty years. As a zealous supporter of Mr. Greeley in 1872, and a Presbyterian, believing perfect religious freedom for all, it may well be assumed that I do not admire or approve the tone of political discussion that renders these details in regard to Mr. Blaine necessary. But, since the question is raised, it is better that the actual facts be fully set forth. All papers that have copied anonymous communications on the subject should, in justice, copy this statement, the correctness of which I am sure no one will dispute.

Very respectfully, JAMES KING.

General Butler and Jeff. Davis.

When Jeff. Davis was President of the Southern Confederacy he issued a proclamation, from which the following is an extract:

I pronounce and declare Benjamin F. Butler to be a felon deserving of capital punishment. I do order that he be no longer treated as a public enemy of the Confederate States of America, but as an outlaw and common enemy of mankind, and that, in the event of his capture the officer in command of the capturing force do cause him to be immediately executed by hanging. And I do further order that no commanding officer of the United States taken captive shall be paroled before exchange until said Butler shall have met with due punishment for his crimes; and that all commanding officers in the command of said B. F. Butler are declared not entitled to be considered as soldiers engaged in honorable warfare; but as robbers and criminals deserving death, and that they and each of them be, whenever captured, reserved for execution.

The present winter has been remarkably mild, but a correspondent calls attention to the curious coincidence, that the winter of 1776 was also an open, balmy season, presumably much like the prevalent weather of the last two months. Harpers' History of the United States bears witness to the fact that during the whole winter of 1776 the English army was shut up in Boston and watched by Washington, with his ten thousand half-armed, half-drilled soldiers. He intended to make an attack on the British in the city as soon as the harbor was frozen, but the mildness of the winter prevented the water from freezing so as to bear the weight of troops, and a bloody battle, and perhaps to the undisciplined Americans a disastrous defeat, was spared. If the Signal Service had existed then, we should, perhaps, now be able to compare the two seasons day by day; but as we have no such records of that time as those "Old Probs" furnish of the present, a general resemblance must suffice.