

THE FREE LANCE published tri-weekly as an independent newspaper, located at 200 Commerce (or William) st., Fredericksburg, Virginia, and is issued on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings by "The Free Lance Newspaper, Book and Job Printing Company of Fredericksburg, Virginia."

Subscription Terms are \$1.00 per year, \$1.00 for 6 months, 75 cents for 3 months, or 50 cents for 1 month.

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Resolutions of respect to deceased members passed by societies, corporations, associations, or other organizations will be invariably charged for as advertising matter.

All communications of every character should be addressed to "THE FREE LANCE," Fredericksburg, Va.

Weather forecast for Fredericksburg and vicinity.
Fair Saturday night north winds.

Gov. Tyler is opposed to the proposition to sell Virginia'syster grounds to a Northern syndicate.

The grave of President John Tyler, in Hollywood cemetery, up to this time unmarked except by a beautiful magnolia tree at its head, is to have a simple headstone. The stone is native granite and appropriately inscribed. It will be placed in position next week.

Congressman Rixey was unchallenged at King George and Louisa, but ex-Congressman Meredith was at Stafford with him. The fight is now on in earnest for the Democratic Congressional nomination in the Eighth district. There will be others in the field.

It cannot escape observation that Dewey is not talking much about refusing a nomination for the Presidency and that wherever he sees children he is kissing them. Vermont wants him as the next Republican nominee for the Presidency, and if perchance, the Democrats should win in Ohio this fall, Dewey may be the Republican nominee, and if so, it is easy to see that he would defeat Bryan.

Ex-Speaker Thomas B. Reed was last Wednesday admitted to practice at the New York bar. Mr. Reed in his petition says that he now resides and for 30 days has resided in the borough of Manhattan, city of New York, and that he intends to reside permanently within the State of New York. And so ex-Speaker Reed has forever out of Maine, as ex-Speaker Carlisle has from Kentucky. Each gentleman was greatly honored by his native State.

Judge Paul in the United States Court at Abingdon, last week, in sentencing several men to ten years imprisonment for murder, said "It was a reproach to the United States that no heavier penalty could be inflicted under the law for such a dastardly crime."

This calls attention and gives emphasis to the fact that the United States has abolished capital punishment. A greater mistake it never made than in so legislating.

The Republican Federal office-holders in Richmond city have received letters from W. A. Burdell, treasurer of the Ohio campaign fund, appealing for financial aid to help beat John R. McLean, the Democratic nominee for governor. The letter caused great surprise, as it was generally supposed that Hanna would be able to command at home all the money needed in the Ohio fight. It is understood that every Federal office-holder in Virginia has received a copy of the letter, but there is much doubt as to the response being at all general.

Bishop Walters, of New Jersey, as well as seen elsewhere, advises the negroes to vote with the Democrats and gives some very strong reasons why they should do so. The negro, he thinks, has done about as much for the Republican party as could be expected of him and now he should make common cause with the best of the people of the South. The Free Lance has long believed that this is the best solution of the race question. Whenever the black men, or a greater part of them, vote the Democratic ticket, there will be little heard of race troubles in the South growing out of elections and the cry of a free ballot and a fair count will soon be as ancient history in Virginia as the adjuster fights of other days. Moreover Mr. Park Agnew, McKinley's right bower officeholder and head of the Republican machine organization, is well known to believe in a lily white Republican party.

Bishop Walters says that next year the negroes of New York will vote the Democratic ticket. It looks as if the negro might cast similar ballots in the South. But read what the Bishop says.

Senator Martin, who was at the Riggs House, in Washington, on Wednesday, was called upon by Hon. T. O. Plicher and Col. Greenville Gaines, of Fauquier, and Charles Mann, of Petersburg. The presence of Plicher and Gaines gave rise to the belief that the conference with the Senator was in reference to the legislative muddle in Fauquier.

President's Message

President McKinley will commence at once the preparation of what promises to be an unusually important message to Congress. The message, it is believed, will contain the following recommendations:

Philippines—Sovereignty to be established by all the force that may be needed and to be maintained permanently. Civil government to follow the military at the earliest possible moment, and wide latitude to be allowed the natives in local self-government. The recommendations for the specific form of civil government to be established in the islands to be based on the conclusions of the Philippine commissions.

Cuba—Military occupation to be continued until some substantial progress has been made, through the medium of suffrage, toward the establishment of an independent form of government.

Puerto Rico—Civil government to immediately replace the present military government.

Hawaii—Immediate legislation to put in effect a territorial form of government.

MAINTENANCE OF GOLD STANDARD.
Financial—The maintenance of the present gold standard. Currency and banking recommendations to be based upon the conclusions of the Republican caucus committee of the House and Republican members of the Finance Committee of the Senate.

Foreign Affairs—The outcome of the Hague conference to be pointed to with satisfaction, and a statement made that the treaty agreed to at this conference will be submitted at once to the Senate. Gratification will be expressed at the final settlement of the Venezuelan boundary controversy.

The statement is to be made that negotiations are in progress for a final solution of the Samoan question, and that a treaty providing for a new plan of government will probably be submitted soon.

A new executive department, with a Cabinet officer at its head, to have charge of all matters relating to interstate, colonial and foreign commerce, which are now divided among the several different departments, will be strongly urged.

REGULATION OF TRUSTS

Trusts—Regulation of trusts and great commercial combinations so as to prevent the stifling of competition and the levying of tribute upon consumers by inordinate advances in prices, but without hampering the development of American manufacturing and commerce.

Inter-Oceanic Canal—Emphasis to be given to the importance of early action by Congress for the construction of an inter-oceanic canal.

Shipping—The passage of a ship subsidy bill to be urged.

Army—Recommendations for the prompt reorganization of the army to be delayed until after the close of the war in the Philippines.

No reference will probably be made to the nominations of Rear-Admiral Sampson and Schley and other officers participating in the Santiago campaign, which failed of action at the last session of Congress, but later in the session something will probably be done by the Administration toward rewarding these officers.

Anti-Imperialist League

A conference of many leading anti-imperialists of the country began at Chicago on Tuesday, at which Carl Schurz made a short speech against the policy of the Government in the Philippines.

At the second day's session of the anti-imperialist conference in Chicago Wednesday J. Sterling Morton, of Nebraska, presided. There was a general discussion of the Philippine question. A public mass-meeting was then held.

A declaration of principles was submitted by the resolutions committee and unanimously adopted. It denounced the policy of imperialism as hostile to liberty and unconstitutional, and as tending toward militarism. The policy of the present national administration is condemned, and the immediate cessation of the Philippine war demanded. Continuing, it says:

"We propose to contribute to the defeat of any person or party that stands for the forcible subjugation of any people. We shall oppose for re-election all who, in the White House or in Congress, betray American liberty in support of the declaration of independence in the closing campaign of the century."

The declaration closes with an invitation for the co-operation "of all men and women who remain loyal to the declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States."

Mr. Bourke Cockran, of New York, delivered an oration. The remarks of the orator were greeted with approval by those present. Mr. Cockran based his objection to the policy of the government on the broad ground that one people had no right to force a government upon another. He discussed the question in a dispassionate manner, claiming that there were many reasons why the United States should hold the islands, but no reason why it should attempt to force upon any people a form of government to which that people objected.

The conference adjourned at the conclusion of Mr. Cockran's address, those in charge of the meeting expressing themselves as delighted with its success.

Foreign Affairs

The British advance forces in Natal came in contact with the Boers in the vicinity of Acton Homes and Bostar's Station, about ten miles north of Ladysmith, Natal, on Tuesday. Firing began at 10 a. m. and continued with intermissions all day. An important battle is regarded as imminent.

The Queen has decided to call out the British militia.

It is reported that 1,500 Boers have been killed by the explosion of a British Lyddite mine at Mafeking.

The Boers continue to advance on the British in Natal.

Bryan in Kentucky

H. L. West, of the Washington D. C. Post, writes thus to his paper:

"When John Young Brown was nominated for Governor by the anti-Goebel Democrats at Lexington, he declared that Bryan would never visit this State if this should happen, but added that, if this should happen, he would take occasion to ask him some pointed questions. Today Gov. Brown made his promise good. As Bryan stepped from the platform of his special train at the Louisville depot a letter from Brown was handed him. In the presence of the 20,000 people gathered at the fair grounds Wednesday afternoon he acknowledged the receipt of the communication and announced that he had come into the State to answer the expected questions."

QUESTIONS PRACTICALLY IGNORED.
As a matter of fact, he did not answer them, although they comprised the path and marrow of the anti-Goebel movement in this State.

Gov. Brown's questions were five in number. He recalled the alleged conspiracy between Goebel and Stone, whereby 300 delegates, who had not been elected, were seated, and he asked whether the action of these substituted delegates could give Goebel the nomination of the Democratic party. He inquired also whether the chairman of the convention had a right to deny an appeal from one of his decisions; whether the domination of the convention by armed police was not a menace to free government; whether Bryan endorsed the Goebel election law, and, if so, why he advocated free government for the Philippines, and denied it to the people of Kentucky, and, finally, whether Bryan offered any other plan save that of political expediency for submission to what Gov. Brown called outrageous proceedings.

"These were specific questions, dealing, as already stated, with the grounds of complaint against Goebel. Mr. Bryan's answer as follows: 'I want to say that I did not come to sit in judgment on any convention. I did not come to discuss the details of the election law. I came to say, and I say with emphasis, that if there was anything done in that convention that a Democrat does not think ought to have been done, I ask of that Democrat what his remedy is. Is it to elect a Republican Governor and Republican officials? The man who tries to correct a Democratic convention by electing a Republican Governor assumes responsibility for all that Governor does after he has been elected.'

LOOKING TO KENTUCKY'S ELECTORAL VOTE

"As he proceeded with his speech, insisting that as Goebel stood upon a platform which reaffirmed the Chicago platform, he should be elected, Mr. Bryan squarely evolved the principle toward which he has been drifting for three days. He practically told his audience that if a nominee stood upon a Democratic platform, the manner by which he had been nominated was not a subject for discussion. Mr. Bryan again counseled the Democrats to elect Goebel and reserve their punishment of him, in case they desired to inflict punishment, until after the State had been safely landed in the Democratic column. Indeed, it was quite evident from Mr. Bryan's speech Wednesday that, after all, the importance of Kentucky's electoral vote in the next Presidential campaign is uppermost in his mind, and he regards Democratic victory this year as presaging the same result in 1900. In short, as the Democrats need Kentucky next year, a convention's alleged questionable methods are to be overlooked in order to make vote certain, especially as the platform is all that could be desired.

"The Democratic managers are delighted, however, with what Mr. Bryan has done, that they would not think of asking more. He has, in fact, gone much farther than they had reason to expect and the political effect has been so satisfactory that they look back over his three day tour as advancing Goebel's prospects to a marked degree."

BYRAN HAS DONE THEM GOOD

"To be sure, they have been traveling on the crest of Democratic enthusiasm, from the summit of which a conservative and impartial view is almost impossible. But, discounting this, they know that Bryan has done them good. He was brought into the State, not for the purpose of converting voters, but to arouse the enthusiasm from the supporters of the regular ticket. He has done this, and more. He has influenced many Brown Democrats to Goebel's side, and he has lifted Goebel bodily and placed him squarely on the silver plank of the Chicago platform, vouching for his right to stand there."

"Goebel, however, has stood mute on the silver question. The nearest approach to a declaration was a speech at Sanders Wednesday night, when he said that he knew the First Congressional District was sold for free coinage of silver at 16 to 1, and he therefore introduced the man who was the leading representative of that idea. Mr. Goebel fully appreciates all that Bryan has done for him, and Wednesday night said to me that while he had never doubted his own election, Bryan's visit and utterances had made this result doubly certain."

COOL RECEPTION AT HARRODSBURG

"Bryan traveled during the last day of his harmonizing tour in company with the redoubtable Col. Jack Chinn, who, with his enormous waist chain, came walking down the railroad track out of the mist at Burgin Wednesday morning. The first stopping place of the journey was Harrodsburg, the home of P. Wat Hardin, the defeated candidate for the gubernatorial nomination. Hardin's house was within earshot of Bryan's voice, and he left town on Sunday to avoid being present at the meeting. As Hardin is one of the most conspicuous free silver men in the State, there was much significance in Bryan's assertion that a vote for the endorsement of the silver plank in the Chicago platform."

"For the rest of the day Bryan had tremendous demonstrations, the outpouring in Louisville being rivalled by the overwhelming reception at Ovington. Even in Shelbyville, in the heart of the blue grass region, where the disaffection is greatest, Bryan was greeted by enthusiastic crowds, electing where men and women fought with each other for the privilege of grasping his hand and greeted him with shouts as the next President of the United States."

Richmond-Lancaster

Warsaw, Va., Oct. 19.—The chairman of the Democratic committee of Lancaster replying to the proposition of the committee for this county that the delegates to the Downing convention reconvene and make a nomination. This proposition the Lancaster committee, through its chairman, rejects and insists that the two county committees shall meet and make a nomination. This being the ultimatum of the Lancaster committee all efforts and agreements, it seems, are at an end. Pinkard and Weiford have each announced their candidacy.

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THE DISCIPLES

At the jubilee convention of the Disciples in Cincinnati on Monday, delegates from Virginia had a rally at the Central Christian Church in which the main question discussed was the fuller evangelization of Virginia. Although there was a large membership in Virginia it was stated that there are still 50 counties in the State in which there is no church of this faith. Rev. J. D. Hamaker, of Strasburg, Va., presided and those who made addresses were Rev. B. P. Smith, Charlottesville; Rev. W. H. Book, Clifton Forge; Rev. S. R. Maxwell and Carey E. Morgan, Richmond; Rev. F. M. Anderson, State evangelist; Rev. J. F. Stone, Bluestone, Va.; Rev. Peter Amstutz, Baltimore, Md.; Rev. H. C. Brown, Winston-Salem, N. C.; Rev. John W. West, Tidewater, Va.; and Rev. O. Q. Wright, chaplain of the U. S. receiving ship Franklin, Norfolk, Va.

A move was made to establish a paper for the State and the Christian Tribune was introduced as the medium of communication of the churches. It was announced that a State convention would be held in Richmond, beginning Nov. 5.

Strength of the Church

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Neither New Hampshire nor Nevada has a church of this faith. Rhode Island has but 1. In Vermont there are but 2 and in New Jersey 3. In Delaware there are but 2 and they are small country churches. Arizona has but 3 small churches, Idaho 3, and Wyoming 1. Indiana has 810 churches.

Remarkable Record

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Parliament Favors

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COMRADE

M. H. DeLong,



"I have used Dr. Miles' Restorative Nervine for nervousness brought on by the use of tobacco and too close application to business. It gave me prompt relief without leaving any unpleasant effects. The result was beneficial and lasting. I heartily endorse it."

DR. MILES' Restorative Nervine

Is sold by all druggists, grocers, etc. Get bottle here or money back. Book on heart and nerves sent free. Dr. Miles Medical Company, Elkhart, Ind.

CROWDS ATTEND

Big Sale of Dry Goods, Notions, &c.

We highly appreciate the kind words and sincere interest of our friends and patrons since we announced our purpose to close out our present business, and for their liberal buying during these first days. We thank you, and yet we assure you that such an opportunity seldom comes to buy seasonable, desirable merchandise at such reduced prices. Just when every one is talking higher prices, and when goods are really advancing, here comes a Sale of High Class Dry Goods, Silks, Dress Goods, Underwear, &c., at greatly reduced prices. In fact to our interest, of course, because we have something else in view, and if you help us to dispose of our present stock we'll give you lower prices, and at the same time supply your wants. It's a good time to buy yourself a nice Silk Dress or Waist, to supply your need of Fine Table Linens, to clothe yourself and children in new warm Underwear or Winter Wrap, to look after your Bedding Supplies, to secure a nice Fur or Otter neck piece, or something else of the thousands of dollars worth of needed things waiting your coming at this time.

BLACK GOODS.