

# Watauga Democrat.

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### WASHINGTON LETTER.

From our Regular Correspondent.

#### For the DEMOCRAT:

Secretaries, Noble and Tracy have locked horns again for a fight, and many think the result will be the retirement of one or the other of them from the cabinet, perhaps both. To the student of politics a contest between two such men cannot fail to be very interesting, representing as they do the extremes of the Republican party. Mr. Noble was selected personally by President Harrison for his present position, and has always belonged to the conservative or silk stocking wing of the Republican party; while Mr. Tracy came into the cabinet as the personal representative of the craftiest politician in the country—Ex Senator T. C. Platt, of New York, and belongs to the working wing of the Republican party. President Harrison's personal inclinations are all undoubtedly with Mr. Noble, but owing to his susceptibility to the influence of the powerful members of his party it is doubtful which Secretary he will in the end sustain. The trouble between the two gentlemen comes from the Pension office which continues to be a veritable thorn in the side of the administration. Secretary Noble has asked for the resignation of five of the prominent officials whose pensions were re-rated during Tanners regime. One of them happens to be a special friend of Secretary Tracy's, and that gentleman advises him to refuse to resign and promises his help to aid him in keeping his position. The result is that not only Mr. Tracy's friend but the other four officials whose resignations were asked, have refused to resign and they, together with all the other re-rated officials have formed a combination and proposed to fight for their places, and as all of them have friends,—some of them big ones—Mr. Noble will find that he has undertaken a large contract. Mr. Noble in asking for the resignation of these officials was undoubtedly endeavoring to do the administration a service by trying to stave off a Congressional investigation into the Pension office and its methods, but it is likely to result

in bringing about that very investigation.

There is little outward change in the Speakership campaign. Mr. Reed left hurriedly for New York last Thursday evening and the rest of the candidates have been puzzling their brains ever since to find out what he went for. They are all afraid of Reed though they will assure you that they have got him-beaten. Mr. Blaine, who has not been personally friendly towards Mr. Reed for some years, promised that gentleman's friends last Summer that he would do nothing to prevent his being elected Speaker. He has kept that promise up to this time, though great pressure has been brought to bear on him in behalf of one of the other candidates. The caucus will be held next Saturday and unless Mr. Blaine shall break his promise my next letter will chronicle the nomination of Reed for speaker.

Gen. Crook, the Secretary of war, and Capt. Pratt, superintendent of the Carlisle Indian school expect to visit Mt. Vernon barracks, Alabama, during the latter part of December for the purpose of deciding whether Geronimo and the other Apache Indians now confined there shall be removed.

Verily the Democratic cup of joy is full almost to overflowing. Mahone and Foraker have been put on the shelf, and now comes news to the Republican Senators that Ingalls will probably be defeated for re-election to the Senate. "Too good to be true", is the general Democratic comment on the last item.

The local Republicans are very much worked up over the rumor that Bruce, the negro ex-Senator, is to be appointed Recorder of Deeds for this city. If protesting to the President will prevent the appointment will not be made.

Honors are now easy between Senator Quay and Mr. Wanamaker, as the President has followed the Quay slate in making the rest of the Philadelphia Federal appointments.

It begins to look as though President Harrison proposed to pigeon-hole the report of the Civil Service Commission handed him nearly a week ago. It recommends the prosecution of several office holders for violating the law against soliciting campaign contributions from office holders. The Commission is anxiously awaiting the President's decision in this matter.

A strong effort will be made this winter to have Congress adopt the English idea of a postal savings bank, to be conducted by the postoffice department. Nov. 25th, 1889.

Exposure to rough weather, getting wet, living in damp localities are favorable to the contraction of diseases of the kidneys and bladder. As a preventive and for the cure of all kidney and liver trouble, use that valuable remedy, Dr. J. H. McLean's liver and kidney balm. \$1.00 per bottle.

### EXPERIENCES AND OBSERVATIONS No. 2.

For the DEMOCRAT:

I write what follows for the first time I can write.

Notice that a great many people furnish the edges of boards and planks turned up edgewise for their hens and turkeys to go to bed on. I have learned from a long experience that geese and ducks do not go to roost, but hang themselves up on the ground when they take a rest for the night.

If you will let "water" take its own way, hens, turkeys and "sich", prefer, to roost on the limbs of trees, but when "water" is varied a bit, they take much more comfort roosting on round poles than on the sharp edges of either boards or planks. These remarks on henology are for young and enterprising boys and girls, who don't know more than their grandparents and are willing to learn.

Another thing I have observed in these parts, and it is, that people hereabouts, (and elsewhereabouts, as to that), think they can not fatten hogs except they have corn to feed to them. Now, this is sheer nonsense. I know it, for I have tried it over and again. It is hard work and "much of it" to raise corn. Potatoes are raised much easier, and when boiled with your house-stap and a quart or two of bran is added to the boiling mass, you can fatten your hogs just as easy as the girl knew her daddy. And this, again, is for the grown up boys and girls who are willing to step from the poor old paths into the new and better ones.

Last winter I was over in Poplar township, this county of Mitchell, and remained over night where I had been most cordially welcomed on other occasions. It was at the residence of three maiden sisters named Bennett. They lived near the mouth of Pigeonroost Creek, which empties into Toe River, a few miles from where the latter plunges into Tennessee and becomes the Nolachucky.

The previous time I visited these venerable ladies was in '86. Then there were four of them. They owned a good farm, on which they were born and always lived, and which they tilled principally until the infirmities of age came creeping upon them, and then they took under their kindly roof anephew by the name of Lewis Bennett, who is now married, and, I suppose, will ultimately come into possession of the Bennett homestead. Their father left them a saw and grist mill, which the eldest one tended. In '86 she complained to me that she had become too old and feeble to longer go out and lift the heavy bags of grain from the wagons and animals as in by gone days. Yet she continued to tend the mill through sunshine and shower, in cold as well as warm weather. And this was the last time I saw the dear old friend. When I called at the Bennett place last winter I learned that the eldest sister had gone the

way of all the earthly inhabitants who had fulfilled their destiny here, and her chair at the table and bedside was filled by their nephew Lewis, young and lively bride. Aside from this sad intelligence I had a very enjoyable visit, the remembrance of which remains with me to this time, and it should be to be ninety years or more of age will still be fresh and green in my latter days.

For supper and breakfast they had some Long Red potatoes which were very fashionable forty and fifty years ago. On leaving the sister I begged two of the potatoes for seed.

At Erwin, Union county, Tenn., I have some very dear friends by the name of Hulin, the oldest mountain in the nearest residence to Mr. Hulin's. Mrs. Hulin saw my long red potatoes and wanted one, which I gave her. On August 25th Mr. Hulin wrote me as follows: "Nov 1 will tell you about the red potato you gave my wife. She planted it one eye in a place, and yesterday she dug her Warner patch, and from one eye planted she got five pounds, and from the entire patch she got thirty two pounds. They are long, slim and knotty, and deep eyed."

And now I will round off by saying that last spring, while setting types in the DEMOCRAT office I learned of a certain save made by Mrs. J. W. Thomas, which proved to be very excellent, and worth paying for. I am out and will soon send the money for another lot. Mrs. Thomas could get quite a revenue, if she would, by putting this salve before the public, for everybody and his or her grandfather, comes to me for some when cut, bruised or burned, and that is why I am out of the valuable stuff. J. S. W.

Liuville, N. C. Nov. 27, '89.

Persons who lead a life of exposure are subject to rheumatism, neuralgia, and lumbago and will find a valuable remedy in J. H. McLean's volcanic Oil Liniment; it will banish pain and subdue inflammation.

Western North Carolina.

The public announcement that Mr. George Vanderbilt, who, during the last ten or twelve months has secured over 4000 acres of land near Asheville, N. C., will build a magnificent residence at a reported cost of about one million dollars, and lay out the entire tract of land as a beautiful private park under the direction one of the ablest landscape engineers, will be a very great advertisement of all of Western North Carolina. It is well known that the beauty of its scenery, and its unequalled climate are the attractions that have drawn Mr. Vanderbilt to that section, and thousands of other rich people will be induced by his example to investigate for themselves, and learn that Western North Carolina is one of the most attractive regions in America, if not in the world. It is a country of magnificent scenery; its climate is the delight of everyone

who has ever been there, and probably a more invigorating, bracing, health-giving air than that of Western N. Carolina will never be found; its mountain rivers and springs furnish an abundant supply of the purest water; it has Bessemer ore enough, in close proximity to coke, to furnish the ores for furnaces of half a dozen Pittsburgs; it has vast forests of the finest hard woods; it has gold and copper, and mica, and precious stones, including even diamonds, of which a number have been found, and other minerals in the greatest abundance; it has rich agricultural valley and fine mountain grazing lands; it has, so the geologists tell us, in the oldest mountain in the world, and has a greater variety of timber and of wild flowers than any other section of equal area in the United States. These are some of the attractions of Western Carolina—"The Land of the Sky"—and the time will come when that magnificent country will be the center of vast industrial activities and the home of the rich who will seek health and pleasure in such a country.—*Manufacturers' Record.*

Alas! Poor Harrison.

President Harrison was publicly burned in effigy, last week, at Jeffersonville, Indiana. Of course it might naturally be supposed that this was done by some bitter "Bourbon" Democrats; but no, strange to say, it was done by some of the "truly loyal" Republicans! There has been much dissatisfaction among the Republicans of that town at several of the President's recent appointments, but the immediate cause of their violent outburst of indignation was his appointment of the postmaster, who obtained his appointment solely because he was a personal friend of the President.

The burning in effigy of the President of the United States is disgraceful to all concerned, and if it had been done by any Southern Democrats they would be bitterly denounced by every Republican politician and paper as being disloyal to the national government. Alas! poor Harrison seems to have the peculiarly winning way of making enemies among the men who elected him, and when his term expires he will be respected even less than was the pitiable Hayes. —*Chatham Record*

Come to Grief.

The suit of the Widow Gibbs against us for breach of promise, damage \$15,000, came up in court last Friday. This suit was instituted six months ago by the courthouse ring, which has sought our downfall ever since the first issue of this paper. This is, they put the widow up to sue us, and have advanced the money as it was needed. When the widow was put

on the stand she testified that on the night of February 21 '87, we asked her to marry us. She insisted that the date was correct, and that nothing could change her mind about it. We then exhibited the records of the jail to prove that on that day and night, and all the next day and night we were a pioneer, fifty years ago. One of our readers may remember, described from the line of virtue and gone on a border. This exhibit knocked the widow off in the first round and confounded her supporters; and we don't believe they will take her again after this fashion. As for the widow she was only a cat's paw, and we have sent to her house a basket of groceries, a clothes line and a sack of flour, to prove that we have no malice. —*Arizona Kicker.*

Family Pride.

If people who are troubled with that form of egotism which they are self-flattered into believing is "family pride," would catch hold of the idea that in this Republican country every tub stands on its own bottom, and that nobody can disgrace them except themselves they would escape much misery.

The sad case of the three ladies in Washington of one of the oldest families in the District, who have gone insane as the result of brooding in private over the shock to their pride, illustrates the folly of this tendency. One of their troubles was due to the fact that a half brother contracted a marriage some years ago which was kept a secret for several months, the wife being known during the time by her maiden name. Another brother, a never do well, "accepted a position" as marked in a billiard saloon.

What is there in either, or both of the occurrences to cause a poignant feeling of personal disgrace in the mind of any relative of the parties who are not responsible for them? An honorable secret marriage, with true affection as a basis, is much more creditable than the open sale of themselves for money which many poor but proud daughters of old families consummate. The "black sheep" of a family may disgrace himself, but there is neither rhyme nor reason in his sister and brothers taking upon themselves any of the shame.

The "old family pride" is one of the most absurd and illogical of all the survivals and apings of aristocracy in the republic of equal citizens. Some of its vagaries are amusing but the Washington case is pitiful.—*Ex.*

A boy after a great deal of labor to make a composition, began one with this truly effective remark: "It is rather difficult and pretty impossible to convey unto others those ideas of which you are not yourself possessed of."