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THE MESSAGE OF A STATESMAN.

President Cleveland's message to the Congress is very long but like all of his public documents it is strong, earnest and statesmanlike. He is a peculiar writer, but he is a man of brain, of sincere convictions, of positive character, and he makes plain his views. His last Message is a fitting close to a series of public communications characterized by a lofty patriotism, breadth of view, high conceptions of duty, a broad statesmanship and an earnest purpose to serve the American people faithfully and zealously, but always within the Constitution. In these particulars he offers his successor an excellent example which he would be wise to imitate.

The gratifying feature to us in the Message is its sanity of judgment as well as comprehensive, all-embracing patriotism. The whole Union is the field of his endeavor, and he writes like an American not conscious of sectional lines or prejudices.

No man of candor can carefully read what Mr. Cleveland says in the opening part of his Message without indorsing it. His remarks upon the character of the Government at its formation, and the first years succeeding; the necessity of maintaining the fundamental principle of free institutions—an exact, perfect, equal and assured justice to all citizens; the wild rush for wealth and the growth of Trusts and Monopolies as results of a High Tariff, are worthy of the statesman who utters them, and appeal to the understanding and consciences of all American citizens. There are many passages in his discussion of the condition of the country growing out of the long continuance of the Giant-Ottopos, known as a War Tariff, that are worthy of special emphasis, comment and quotation. Referring to the tremendous growth and sweeping influence of corporations, Mr. Cleveland says:

"Corporations, which should be the carefully restrained creature of the law and the servants of the people, are fast becoming the people's masters. This is lamentably true, and if the evil grows the final ruin of the people—their certain enslavement is assured. The corporations are already the rulers. They set up their candidates and elect them. They are in all political offices in States and have seats in both Houses of the Congress. Says Mr. Cleveland of the want of fidelity to the people by the so-called servants—the Government officials:

"But to the extent that the mass of our citizens are inordinately burdened beyond any useful public purpose, and for the benefit of a favored few, the government under the pretext of an exercise of its taxing power, enters gratuitously into partnership with these favorites to their advantage and to the injury of the rest of the people. This is not an equality before the law."

The unsatisfied avarice of men has proved too strong for their attachment to genuine democratic principles, and they have made the Government the instrument for the furtherance of personal schemes, and for the consummation of ends that are inevitably destructive of free institutions and of equality before the law. Says the President, with force:

"Devotion to American citizenship for its own sake, and the desire to accomplish as a motive to our nation's advancement and the happiness of all our people, is displaced by the assumption that the government, instead of being the embodiment of equality, is but an instrumentality through which special individual interests are to be maintained. The result is that the Government is ground down under the cunningly devised scheme of plunder which multiplies millionaires and pauperizes the masses. The laboring classes, including the so-called wronged and oppressed farmers, are learning more and more how they are plundered under the unjust, unwise and unscientific system of taxation that enriches the already rich at the expense of the millions of daily, burdened toilers. The farmer and workman should ponder well what the wise and honest President says on this line. What is more biting than this:

"He mocks the people who propose that the government shall protect the rich, and that they turn to the government for aid. Any intermediary between the laboring poor and their government, or the least deviation from the principle of government to the benefit of a few, makes the boast of free institutions a glittering delusion, and the pretended boon of American citizenship a shameless imposition. Mr. Cleveland takes nothing back. Others, like the Alabama Oakes, may be weak-kneed and one of the 'told you so's,' but the President is made of sterner stuff. He is not a man of policy, but a statesman of principles. He would rather be right than be President. He takes no retreating step from his advanced position as a Reformer. The battle for Reform is to be carried on. If need be the 'boys in the trenches' will make a charge under inspiring leadership, and will carry the flag of Tax Re-

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

Regular Meeting—Reports—The Newly Elected County Officers Sworn In. No Question Raised as to the Returns. The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session yesterday afternoon at the Court House. All the members of the Board were present; H. A. Bagg, chairman, presiding. The monthly report of the county treasurer was submitted, showing a balance on hand to the credit of the general fund of \$18,351; educational fund, \$8,708.48.

The register of deeds, report, showing \$950 received from marriage licenses, was ordered on file. On application and petition of the manager, it was ordered by the Board that the valuation of the personal property of the Messenger Publishing Company be reduced from \$14,000 to \$10,000. Mr. Coward, also, that the tax charged against H. C. Evans' lot, part of lots Nos. 1 and 2, Block 153, now the property of the Young Men's Christian Association, be remitted. It was ordered, also, that the valuation of the property of Mrs. Catherine Murchison, known as the Orton House, be reduced from \$30,000 on hotel and furniture to \$20,000.

A communication from the Mayor of this city asking that the county pay a portion of the expense of enforcing quarantine regulations was on motion laid on the table. The annual reports of county officers were submitted and ordered recorded and filed. The following named magistrates submitted annual reports and the same were ordered filed, viz: John Coward, L. H. Bowden, J. C. Mills, Henry Hall.

On motion, the Board then adjourned sine die. REORGANIZED. The new Board of Commissioners was then sworn in—Messrs H. A. Bagg, Roger Moore, B. G. Worth, J. A. Montgomery and E. L. Pearce—the oath of office being administered by Mr. Jas. W. King, J. P.

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FIFTH CONGRESS.

The President's Message Read in Both Houses—Notice Given in the Senate that the Tariff Bill Would be Proceeded With. SENATE. WASHINGTON, Dec. 8.—At half-past one o'clock the usual message from the House, containing the facts of its being in session and of its having appointed a committee to wait upon the President, was delivered. That was followed by the report of the committee to wait on the President, to the effect that it had performed that duty and that it would report on the tariff bill, and writing immediately. Another President's message was delivered by Mr. Pruden, and that was followed by the report of the committee to wait on the President, to the effect that it had performed that duty and that it would report on the tariff bill, and writing immediately.

Other portions of the message seemed to have been read, and the bill was ordered printed. The Senate then adjourned after notification by Mr. Frye that he would call up the Union Pacific Settlement bill to-morrow. Mr. Chandler then asked for action on his resolution to investigate the Louisiana election of April last; and by unanimous consent the bill was ordered to proceed with the tariff bill; and would even if the discussion became too protracted, call for a recess during the morning hours of the session.

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A Pleasant Occasion at Burgaw. A gold-headed cane was presented to Mr. John T. Bland, chairman of the Democratic Executive Committee of the county, yesterday, as a testimonial of appreciation of his services during the past season. Messrs. E. H. Shaw and J. F. Moore were appointed a committee to notify Mr. Bland, and the presentation was made by L. H. McClammy, Esq. After the presentation, Dr. W. T. Ennett read a letter from Hon. C. W. McClammy, thanking Mr. Bland for his zealous work for the party, and especially for the Congressional part of the ticket. There was a large crowd present.

Business Failures. The assignment was announced yesterday of Messrs. C. E. Brown & Co., produce dealers, No. 110 North Water street, to Thomas W. Strange, Esq. The liabilities are stated at \$3,500, and assets estimated at \$1,500. The preferred creditors are the First National Bank of Wilmington, \$800; Moffitt & Corbett, \$350; D. L. Gore, \$90; J. L. Gwin, Aversboro, \$350.

PHILBECK'S MURDERER. Taken from Jail and Hanged by Lynchers—A Druggist at Mooreville Attacked by an Unknown Man. (Special Star Telegram.) SHELBY, N. C., Dec. 3.—Van Canady, the mulatto who murdered Jas. Philbeck, was taken from jail and lynched. The jailer refused, when the mob pushed the door open, broke the locks to the cell, tied a rope around the negro's neck and carried him a mile out of town. Here the negro made a full confession and was allowed time for prayer. S. S. Royter, a druggist at Mooreboro, was attacked about 11 o'clock last night, as he was leaving his store, by a man who grabbed him, struck him on the side with a rock, and then shot at him with a revolver. He fled three shots at the man, but he made his escape. It is not known whether it was a white or black man who attacked Royter.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

To the Congress of the United States. As you assemble for the discharge of the duties you have assumed as representatives of a free and generous people, your meeting is marked by an interesting and impressive display of national unity.

Our early government was not sufficient to assure us that we no longer have dangers to fear in the maintenance of a government founded upon the freedom of the people. The time rather admonishes us to temper the measure of our freedom with the measure of our responsibility, and to have always closely kept in the course of a steady and clear path which leads to happiness and perpetuity.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. After recess the House reassembled, and Mr. Holman announced that the committee appointed to justify the tariff bill had reported, and that the bill would be introduced to-morrow. The Senate then adjourned after notification by Mr. Frye that he would call up the Union Pacific Settlement bill to-morrow. Mr. Chandler then asked for action on his resolution to investigate the Louisiana election of April last; and by unanimous consent the bill was ordered to proceed with the tariff bill; and would even if the discussion became too protracted, call for a recess during the morning hours of the session.

REORGANIZED. The new Board of Commissioners was then sworn in—Messrs H. A. Bagg, Roger Moore, B. G. Worth, J. A. Montgomery and E. L. Pearce—the oath of office being administered by Mr. Jas. W. King, J. P.

The Board was then organized by re-electing Mr. H. A. Bagg, chairman, and immediately took up the bonds of the newly elected county officers, viz: S. H. Manning, sheriff, bond for the collection of school, poor and county taxes \$30,000, process bond \$5,000, and State tax bond, \$35,000, with E. J. Pennypacker, D. L. Russell, George Chadbourn and A. W. Shaffer, sureties, was approved.

Elijah Hewlett, treasurer; bond \$20,000, with Wm. Larkins, A. J. Flanner, E. J. Pennypacker, N. Jacob, and Jas. H. Chadbourn, J. P. sureties, was approved. S. VanAurings, clerk of the Superior Court, bond \$10,000, with George Chadbourn and Stephen H. Manning, sureties, was approved.

Richard F. Holmes, constable for Wilmington Township, bond \$1,000, with Wm. H. Chadbourn, surety, was approved. J. E. Sampson, register of deeds; bond \$5,000, with W. H. Chadbourn and J. G. Norwood, sureties, was approved. Chairman Bagg, after administering the oath of office, asked the register that his office was not kept in a manner acceptable to the people of the county, and cautioned him to be more careful in the future.

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