

BY JAMES P. COOK.

OFFICE IN CASTOR BUILDING

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CONCORD, DEC. 30, 1895.

A Washington special says that Representative Shuford, of North Carolina, has introduced a bill which it is safe to say, now will never be passed. It provides for the abolition of the members' clerks and the saving of about \$30,000 per month, or \$10,000 to \$240,000, should this session of Congress extend to the usual time. There was a time when this bill could have passed, but that was before the members grew thoroughly accustomed to the luxury of having a nice, bright young man to write their letters, mail their books and seed, visit the departments and make himself generally useful and agreeable. Then, too, the \$100 per month is simply sent direct to the Congressmen, and even if his clerk is sick for several months at home the pay must go on. The Congress man can't help it; the Sergeant-at-Arms or Clerk will keep mailing it to him. So it is generally conceded that so long as this measure of reform is left to Congress it will stand a slim show of becoming a reform in fact.

The modern idea of teaching school and governing it entirely by "moral suasion" got a dull and sickening blow in a school on Long Island, which by the way is near the birthplace of nearly all mistaken notions of school teaching. A young American cocked his heels upon the desk and proceeded to be comfortable, refusing to lower his understanding at the gentle suasion request of the female artist in charge. Her suasion methods insulted the 12-year-old American and reaching down, catching the modern artist by the ankle he tripped her and then sat down upon her—lord of all he surveyed. In the old time school, where scholars were made and where the Blue Back reigned serene and unquestioned, the heels of no American youth were ambitious enough to get so high and finally seat the conquering possessor of them upon the prostrate form of the "master." But foggyism can only be seen where the "galluses" cross—he's now so far in the rear with his face turned back that only a speck can be deciphered.

Some time since the American people heard much of the Island in the Pacific Ocean, about which Prof. Noon Ingram has rushed hundreds of stereotyped letters into as many newspapers and magazines. Now that everybody, most, apprehends a season of clashing arms over the Monroe doctrine, growing out of

England's attitude towards Venezuela, it is well to know something of the country about which every newspaper in the world today is having something to say. Hence, we feel no apology is necessary for the long article elsewhere printed in this issue. It is condensed from the New York Sun and if you "see it in the Sun it's so." Let everybody read it, so when the time comes to take up arms each soldier will have some idea of the country he intends to fight, bleed and die for, perchance.

The Republican Bond Bill put through, under the lash, the lower House of the Congress was by a vote of 169 to 136. Every Democrat, save one, and every Populist voted in the negative. The few Populists in Congress couldn't swallow that dose and joined the Democrats. But they are in the minority.

ABOUT VENEZUELA.

[Concluded from first page.]

and 45 (both inclusive) are liable to service in the national militia.

The average gold product of Venezuela in a year is \$1,000,000. The standard of value in the republic of Venezuela is the bolivar, so called after Simon Bolivar, and the value of it is the same as a French franc—193 cents. Venezuela does not produce silver. Much of the foreign debt is held in England. The exports of Venezuela exceed the imports by \$3,000,000 a year.

There are more than 200 lakes within the boundaries of Venezuela, one of the largest being 1,600 feet above the level of the sea. The Orinoco River, the largest in Venezuela, is 1,160 miles long. It is five times as long as the Hudson River, but less than one-third the length of the Amazon, and less than one-half the length of the Mississippi. The roads of Venezuela are inferior. Communication is difficult. The Government, however, has expended large sums of money for the improvement of the approaches to some of the larger towns. There are twenty States in Venezuela, the official division being based on the Constitution of the United States. There is also a Federal district, corresponding to the District of Columbia, and there are several outlying Territories.

The mineral products of Venezuela, in addition to gold which English speculators are seeking by summary annexation of Venezuela territory to the British possessions, are iron, zinc, quicksilver, lead, tin and antimony. There are also extensive products of salt, alum, lime, sulphur, and asphaltum.

The summer season in Venezuela lasts from November to April. The winter season lasts from April to November. The climate of the temperate part of the country is the finest in South America, the most equable and the most salubrious, outside of Peru. The women of Venezuela are of the Spanish type, and are celebrated for their beauty. The language of the country is Spanish; no language is sweeter. About 45,000,000 persons altogether speak Spanish as their native language, a majority of the lying in South and Central America.

Venezuela imports from the United States in a year about \$4,000,000 worth of goods, chiefly manufactured articles. From Great Britain it imports \$3,800,000, from Germany \$2,100,000, from France \$2,000,000, and from Spain \$300,000. This is the country from which Venezuela imports most, and this is the country to which Venezuela exports most. Venezuela's exports to the United States average \$12,000,000,

to France \$7,000,000, to England \$2,100,000, and to Germany and Spain \$600,000 each.

The debt of Venezuela at the time of the last computation was \$22,000,000, or about one-fifth of the present debt of New York city. The debt of Venezuela was \$11 per capita. In the United States the per capita debt is \$14, in England \$87, and in France \$116.

Venezuela is in the extreme northern part of South America, directly facing the Caribbean Sea. To the west of it is the republic of Colombia, to the south is Brazil, to the east are the territorial possessions of three European Governments combined under the geographical name of Guiana. The furthest away from Venezuela is French Guiana, a territory of 46,000 square miles and 25,000 population, the chief city of which is Cayenne, whence comes the pepper, and to which French criminals convicted of serious offences are transported. Next nearest to Venezuela, but not touching it at any point, is Dutch Guiana, a territory of almost exactly the same size as the French colony, but having a population twice as large. Paramaribo is the chief town. Next, and adjacent to Venezuela, is British Guiana, the size of which is in dispute.

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 AND THREATENED  
 WITH BALDNESS  
 The Danger is Averted by Using  
**AYER'S HAIR VIGOR**

"Nearly forty years ago, after some weeks of sickness, my hair turned gray and began falling out so rapidly that I was threatened with immediate baldness. Hearing Ayer's Hair Vigor highly spoken of, I commenced using this prepara-



tion, and was so well satisfied with the result that I have never tried any other kind of dressing. It stopped the hair from falling out, stimulated a new growth of hair, and kept the scalp free from dandruff. Only an occasional application is now needed to keep my hair of good, natural color. I never hesitate to recommend any of Ayer's medicines to my friends."—Mrs. H. M. HAIGHT, Avoca, Neb.

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 PREPARED BY  
 DR. J. C. AYER & CO., LOWELL, MASS., U. S. A.  
 Ayer's Sarsaparilla Removes Pimples.

TO THE PUBLIC.

Give us your job printing, it will be promptly, neatly and cheaply done.

You cannot find a better advertising medium in Cabarrus County than the WEEKLY STANDARD, which goes to more homes than any other paper circulating in Cabarrus.

Subscription to the WEEKLY STANDARD is \$1.00 per annum, in advance.

RACKET

STORE!

We save you 25 to 33 per cent, on your

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.

We have a nice assortment of Celluloid Boxes, inlaid with mother of pearl, satin lined, for ladies and gentlemen—we sell \$5.00 Photo Boxes for 3.45.

CHINA WARE.

Japanese Vases at less than wholesale prices. Cups and saucers large enough to use, at 5 cents. Children's A B C plates up to fine

CHINA CAKE PLATES

at 98 cents, worth \$1.50 today; also mugs, teapots, dishes, bowls, syrup pitchers, salt and pepper castors, etc.

LAMPS.

LAMPS!

from 48 cents to \$5.50 each.

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cheaper than you can buy anywhere—from 1 cent up. Doll carriages from 90 cents to 1.68. Hobby horses \$1.24 to 1.89.

DOLLS from 1 to 68c.

Our stock of dolls is far superior to anything we have ever had, and fully 25 per cent cheaper than you can buy anywhere.

150 DOZEN 150

Ladies' and Gents' cotton, linen and silk handkerchiefs for the holidays. Handsome

LEATHER, WOOD

— AND —

PLUSH - ALBUMS

Candy 7 1/2 cents per pound. Children's Books, 1 to 5c. Gilt edge, red lined poems, 55c. Teachers' Oxford Bibles \$1.75 to 2.00; Ladies solid gold gem setting rings at 75c to 1.50, worth 50 per cent more. Satin pin cushions 20 to 48 cents. A nice assortment of gents neckwear for presents.

PERFUME!

both American and French—5 to 55 cents. Baskets 1 to \$1.24 each.

Japanese Bronze Tray, 12x18, \$3.50.

THE RACKET,

D. J. BOSTIAN, Proprietor.