THE HEADLIGHT.

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A. ROSCOWER, Editor and Proprietor.

GOLDSBORO, N. C., August 10, 1893.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

The message of President Cleveland submitted to Congress on Tuesday, will be no little disappointment throughout the country, particularly to the Southern people, and, no doubt, in the West also. He makes a strong plea for the repeal of the Sherman law, which is said to be the direct cause of the present financial stringency, but makes no suggestion as to what is best to be done after the unconditional repeal of this baneful law.

Commenting on this document the Raleigh News-Observer-Chronicle says editorially: "We cannot commend either the substance of it or the argument. It has long been understood that he would urge the unconditional repeal of the Sherman law, and for that we were entirely prepared, but we had hoped that he would not stop at that, but after consultation with other experienced men would have recommended some further action. In this we are disappointed, and the disappointment is the greater because we have a very high opinion of Mr. Cleveland's capacity, of his extraordinary powers, of his fine intelligence and undaunted patriotism. It seems to me that it was his duty to have recommended some further action in view of the situation which he alleges the country to be in."

The Charlotte Observer comments on it thus: "It is not to be supposed for a moment that the President would repeal the Sherman act and stop. To do that would be to put the country on a gold basis at once. As we see it, it would reduce the silver dollar from its face to its bullion value and cause a depreciation of the silver certificates outstanding to the bullion value of the coin behind them. This sudden depreciation and contraction, if it should occur, would mean universal bankruptcy. It is not to be doubted that the President would follow the repeal measure, which he so earnestly insists upon, with some other provision of law—"other legislative action"—which would provide a place for silver in the currency of the country, and it is to be regretted that he did not in his message outline his plan. Few thinking men will be found to deny that as far as he goes he is altogether right, and the only reasonable fault to be found with the message is that beyond a certain point it is indefinite.

THE FIFTY-THIRD CONGRESS.

The Congress which assembled Monday will probably go into history as one of the notable gatherings of the legislative branch of the government. Greater problems did not await the meeting of the First Congress or those of 1860 and 1864. We have reached a turning point in national affairs, and upon the statesmen now at the helm rests a grave and momentous responsibility.

For the first time in more than thirty years every branch of the Government is in the hands of the Democratic party. From the position of conservative opposition this party is transferred to that of constructive government. It can act no longer on the defensive, it must act aggressively or not at all. The political principles which this party has clung to as sacred traditions must be brought forth from shrine and imprisoned volume and be made to take a place among formative ideas of men. The party and its representatives are face to face with a responsibility which no doubt they appreciate, but which will make its presence known within the next few weeks.

But with the responsibility comes also an opportunity, no less magnanimous and no less prolific in possibilities. If the Democratic party is equal to the emergency it will build even more wisely than the Republican party did in 1860, and it will entrench itself no less surely in the hearts of the people. It is a serious crisis which confronts the Fifty-third Congress. The people have demanded a change in the financial and revenue policies of the Government. Incidentally they have declared that there shall be pension reform, navy development, expansion of the merchant marine and economy in public affairs. Will the new statesmen be guided by public opinion and pursue the patriotic course of obedience as well as leadership? If so, our country is about to enter upon an era of material development of which recent achievements are but the faintest prophecy, and then, the Democratic party will be the people's idol for years to come.

National Capital Matters.

WASHINGTON, D. C., August 5, 1893.

Speaker Crisp has been here since Monday, and it is not probable that he will at any time during the session have to do a harder week's work than that which has been imposed upon him since his arrival. The first thing that a Democratic member of the House wishes to do after his arrival is to have a little private conversation with the Speaker, about his committee assignments, etc. Mr. Crisp does not shrink from these conferences; on the contrary, he has caused it to be known that he wishes every Democratic Representative to call on him and make known his committee preferences, in order that he may, as far as possible, give them the committee assignments they desire. The committees might have been announced next week, except for this desire on the part of Mr. Crisp to meet the wishes of the members. It will, the Speaker thinks, take about two weeks after all the members arrive to get the committees satisfactorily made up.

Treasury officials are pleased to see gold again coming into instead of going out of the Treasury. The reserve fund crawled over the $100,000,000 mark this week for the first time in many weeks and it is still increasing.

While it is not probable that the financial question will be submitted to a Democratic caucus of either Representatives or Senators, Democrats almost without exception express themselves as believing that an agreement will be reached after a little time upon a financial bill that will receive the support of practically all of the Democrats in both House and Senate, and the existence of that belief adds materially to the probability of such an agreement being reached.

Secretary Carlisle and President Cleveland probably never took the time to spend a thought upon the numerous misstatements which have been made during the last few days concerning their relations toward each other, because they knew that the authors of these ridiculous stories would all be hunting for holes to crawl into in a short time, as they actually did when the official announcement was made, several days ago, that Secretary Carlisle had gone to Gray Gables to assist President Cleveland in preparing his message to Congress. The invitation for this visit was extended and accepted the day that President Cleveland left Washington, after issuing the call for the extra session, which shows how much those fellows know who have been giving the public in detail an account of Secretary Carlisle's intended retirement from the cabinet, because of the President's failure to consult him about his message to Congress. Moral: get your news from Democratic sources if you want it to be straight.

The first business to be taken up by the Senate, which will not have to lose any time in reorganizing, that having been accomplished at the March extra session, will be the contested Senatorial elections from the northwestern States. A caucus of Democratic Senators will be called early next week to discuss these cases and arrange a party programme.

A half million of dollars is to be spent, it is said, by a lobby in endeavoring to secure the repeal of the Geary Chinese law, and those who thrive in that sort of business are anticipating living in clover, although it is not expected that anything will be done until after the opening of the regular session.

Although Secretary Gresham refuses to discuss the matter at all, there are reasons for the belief that President Cleveland will very shortly send a special message to the Senate with a new treaty with Hawaii. Further than that the new treaty will not provide for annexation little is known, but it is thought that in return for certain trade privileges it will guarantee the protection of the government of Hawaii from foreign interference.

Speaker Crisp declines to discuss the statement made here this week that Representative Wilson, of West Virginia, had been tendered and had accepted the chairmanship of the House Ways and Means committee, and Representative Sayers, of Texas, the chairmanship of the Appropriations committee. The names of these gentlemen have been connected by rumor with these chairmanships for many months, ever since the election in fact, and they are thoroughly competent to fill them with credit to themselves and to the party.

At the Democratic caucus last night, Mr. Crisp was renominated Speaker of the House by acclamation.

President Cleveland, accompanied by Secretaries Carlisle and Lamont and Attorney General Olney, arrived in Washington at 1:44 this afternoon over the Pennsylvania railway.

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There was a special session of the Second Congress, assembling on October 24, 1791, and adjourning in May, 1792; and since that time there have been special sessions, as occasion has required, the more recent ones being as follows:

1837—September 4. Industrial and mercantile panic. Suspension of specie payments by New York banks; 300 business failures in New York, 160 in Boston, 100 in New Orleans.

1856—August 21. A nine days' session following tumult and disorder in Kansas.

1861—July 4. Civil war in progress. Government loan of $250,000,000 for putting down armed rebellion and for equipping Union forces provided for, and the issue of Treasury notes to amount of $50,000,000, in denominations not less than $5, authorized by act of Congress on August 5. Adjournment, August 6; duration of session, 33 days.

1867—Two short sessions, July 3 to July 20, reconstruction legislation, November 21 to December 2. More reconstruction legislation.

1869—Special session, 50 days.

1871—Special session, 47 days.

1877—Special session, October 15 to December 3.

1879—Special session, March 18 to July 1. Specie payments resumed by the United States Government on January 1. Arrears of Pension bill passed. Army Appropriation bill vetoed and then repassed.

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