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OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

WASHINGTON, April 24, 1893.—Christopher Columbus is in Washington. Not the discoverer of America, but his descendant, the Duke of Veragua, as the especially invited and honored guest of the United States, for the purpose of attending the Exposition. The Duke and his party, in charge of Commander Dickins, U. S. N., arrived here late Saturday evening and went at once to the hotel at which a magnificent suite of thirteen rooms had been engaged and over which the Spanish flag will fly during their stay in this city. Yesterday they attended service at St. Matthews, and this afternoon a special reception was held in their honor by President and Mrs. Cleveland, and tonight a musical entertainment at the residence of Senator Brice. Tomorrow will be devoted to the sights of the Capital, including Mount Vernon, and Wednesday the party will go to New York with President Cleveland, Mrs. Cleveland and the Cabinet, where they will see the naval review from the deck of the Dolphin. The Duke and his wife and daughter express themselves as being delighted with America and with the reception given them in New York and Washington, the only cities yet visited.

Prompt action on the part of President Cleveland and his Cabinet carried the country safely through what looked very much like a dangerous financial crisis. The free gold was exhausted and the demand for gold for export brought the administration face to face with the question of whether bonds should be sold or a portion of the \$100,000,000 gold reserve should be used to redeem notes presented to the Treasury. Under the law gold might have been refused for Treasury notes, they being payable in coin, but as it had been the practice of the department to redeem these notes in gold it was thought that it might have a bad effect to discontinue the practice just now, so it was decided to use a portion of the reserve fund, and \$3,000,000 of it was used; but only for a single day. Now, the Treasury has replaced what it used from the fund and has, besides, enough gold to meet all demands. Public opinion is with President Cleveland in the belief that, so long as there is known to be more than \$700,000,000 in gold in the United States, there is no necessity for the government to sell bonds to procure it, and as for using a part of the gold reserve fund to redeem notes, that is what it was accumulated for, and many say that it should be used, if necessary, until it becomes exhausted, before bonds should be issued. The present indications are that the Treasury will soon have plenty of gold, as bankers are placing their gold at its disposal, and visitors to the World's Fair will soon turn a stream of European gold our way.

Ex-Congressman Vance, of Connecticut, while on a flying visit to Washington, dropped some pleasant news concerning his State, which although regularly casting its electoral vote for a democrat, has been unable for a long period to send a democrat to the Senate. He says the legislature to be elected this year will be democratic and that Senator Platt will be succeeded by a democrat, and his friends add his name will be Bob Vance.

The weather has been unusually cool this spring, but there is no comparison between the weather and the action of republicans now holding federal offices in writing letters to the heads of the departments, asking that they be allowed to remain in office. Even such a pronounced partisan as Webster Flanagan, now collector of customs at El Paso, Texas, has written asking that he be kept in office. Evidently Flanagan is of the same mind now concerning the holding of federal office that he was almost a score of years ago when he started a National Republican Convention, when the same subject was up, by asking: "What are we here for?" It is probable that he will soon learn what the democratic administration is here for, and the knowledge will hardly please him over much.

Hon. T. F. Bayard, U. S. Ambassador to Great Britain, will start for London on May 30th. He has been, while in Washington, the recipient of unusual courtesies and attention from Sir Julian Pauncefote, the British Ambassador.

MURDERER CAPTURED.

KILLED ON THE EVE OF HIS WEDDING.

Charles Williamson, of Caldwell County N. C. who murdered his Brother, Captured in Texas.

A man who killed his brother for his sweetheart, became a fugitive from justice, and while in hiding, assisted in the killing of two other men, escaped after being captured, became a fugitive for a second time, and who after all lost the woman he loved, and for whose sake he did murder, and yet can smile over the whole transaction, is a remarkable man.

Such a man spent yesterday in Atlanta, in the jail, a prisoner of the law he has defied, being carried back to the scene of his first crime to answer to justice. And strangely enough there was nothing of the desperado or outlaw in his appearance. Well dressed, erect, smiling, self-possessed and easy mannered, he looked not the least a criminal.

The prisoner was Charles Williamson of Shelby, Cleveland county, N. C., and two years ago he killed his brother, Erastus Williamson, under circumstances that have but few parallels. The two young men belonged to an excellent family, and were quite well to do. Through the inexplicable workings of fate it so happened that both paid attentions to the same young lady, and she won both their hearts. It will never be known which, if either of the two brothers captured the affections of the charming young lady to whom they were desperately devoted.

Charles Williamson secured the promise of her hand in marriage and happy at having bested not only his brother, but many other aspirants for her hand, he began to make preparations for the wedding. About this time it became rumored around that Erastus Williamson was also engaged to the young lady, and things were considerably mixed, and naturally enough much bad blood was engendered. The two brothers became estranged, and cherished bitter feelings toward each other.

A terrible sequel followed the unusual tragedy of two brothers loving the same woman. One day two years ago, on a lonely country road the end came. Erastus Williamson was found murdered and Charles Williamson was discovered to be missing. The day followed the killing was the day set for the marriage of Charles Williamson to the young lady who had innocently caused the killing, but when his wedding day dawned, he was flying for refuge from the law. He went to Columbus, Ga., where he was employed for a time by Carson Brothers. Afterwards he went to northern Alabama where he figured in the killing of two negroes. He was captured, but executed a daring escape, and leaving Alabama went to Texas.

He has been in Colorado county, Texas, since leaving Alabama. When asked what occupation he followed while in Texas, he said with a smile that he was engaged in stealing cattle, and had tolerable good success at it. Two hundred dollars reward was offered for his capture and return to Shelby, N. C., and last week his capture was effected, and Sheriff C. E. Hambrick, of Cleveland county, was notified to come for the prisoner, and arrived in Atlanta yesterday morning on his way home. He carried Williamson to the Fulton county jail, and had him locked in a heavy iron cage in front of Lewis Redwine's room during the day. The prisoner was uncommunicative, and said that he was wanted for manslaughter. Sheriff Hambrick left on the Richmond and Danville train last night with his prisoner.

The young woman to whom Williamson was to be married and who caused the killing, has married another suitor since the tragedy occurred and is now living happily with him.—[Constitution.]

The Sheriff Will Suffer.

WASHINGTON, April 24.—The United States Supreme Court has denied the petition for a writ of habeas corpus in the South Carolina Railroad tax cases. This decision leaves the matter in the hands of the South Carolina courts, and the sheriffs will have to stand the punishment ordered for contempt of court.—[News and Observer.]

The mingling of the ladies with the sailors down at Hampton Roads just now is a pleasant way of blending tar and feathers.—Yonkers Statesman.

STATE BANKS.

Tennessee Will Test the Question of "Wild-Cat Currency."

Nashville, Tenn., April 22.—An act was passed by the Legislature of Tennessee, and since approved by the Governor, giving authority to State banks to issue a circulating medium. The act requires a deposit of United States, State of Tennessee or county bonds, and the currency will be issued for the banks on these securities, not in excess of 90 per cent. of their market value. The act limits currency to be issued by the State to \$25,000,000. Periodical examinations of banks, redemption of currency and other features of the national banking law are adhered to. The bank must redeem its circulating notes on demand in gold or silver. No county bonds will be accepted where the indebtedness of the county exceeds 5 per cent. of the taxable property, or if the county has defaulted any time in years prior on its interest. The circulating medium is to be signed by the President and cashier of the bank and countersigned by the State Controller. The act says: "The object sought by this Legislature being to furnish the citizens of this State a safe, sound and trustworthy currency, possessing sufficient elasticity to meet the demands of the manufacturing, farming and business interests and exigencies of the times, a currency based on sound securities, the stability and sufficiency of which no one can question or doubt, to be overlooked, supervised and guarded by the State's chief officers for the benefit and protection of the public."

What the War Cost.

Mr. Edward Atkinson, one of the leading statisticians of this country, has been figuring on the cost of the war and he puts it this way:

Pensions to June 30, 1892, as stated by Representative O'Neill \$1,550,000,000
Pension roll and trust payments June 30, 1892, to December 31, 1894, about 250,000,000

Names on roll December 31, 1894, about 1,275,000. If all were soldiers of 25 to 26 at time of enlistment, they will then average 60. On that basis by life tables we should have to pay about 2,000,000,000

Expenditures for war purposes, seven years of war and reconstruction. 4,000,000,000
Probable cost of war in money to the south 2,200,000,000

Interest in all, about 2,000,000,000
Total cost, not including pensions after December 31, 1894, about \$12,000,000,000

It is estimated that about \$4,000,000,000 more will be required to clear up the pension rolls. This would make the total cost of the war about sixteen billion dollars.

It is utterly impossible to comprehend any such sum, but the figures show that ours was the most expensive war the world has ever seen. But see how the country has sustained this enormous expenditure and gone steadily onward in wealth as well as in population.

The increase in wealth has been far greater than the growth of population. While our population now is about twice what it was in 1860, the real wealth of the country is at least four times as great.

The total property in the United States in 1860, including slaves, was about \$16,000,000,000. In spite of the four years and the abolition of slavery we found in 1879 \$22,000,000,000 of property, gold value.

From 1870 to 1880 the wealth more than doubled and from 1880 to 1890 it increased fully one third.

It is safe to say therefore that the total wealth of the United States now is at least sixty-five billion of dollars which is far greater than that of any other nation.

We live in a great country.

Going Back to First Principles.

The ministers of Charlotte, composing the Ministerial Union, have arranged for a picnic at Tuckasee ford, on the Catawba, when there will be a mutual contest of skill as anglers. The first Christian minister were fishermen.

GENERAL NEWS.

The town of Cumberland Gap, at the famous mountain pass, has made an assignment for the benefit of its creditors. The town charter has also been repealed. This is probably the first instance of the kind on record.

In the contests of the crews of the war ships of the different nations, in Hampton Roads, Wednesday April 19, at boat racing the crews of the U. S. steamer, San Francisco, won every race. They beat the other American crews, and those of England, France, Germany, Italy, Russia and the Dutch.

Last week two death prisoners in Sing Sing, N. Y., for murder, made good their escape and are still at large. Before leaving prison they opened the door of the cell of Carlyle W. Harris, who is sentenced to death for poisoning his wife, but Harris refused to escape. Governor Flower has referred his case for commutation to a commissioner.

The Pennsylvania Steel Co. of Steelton Pa., has failed, or rather, gone into the hands of a receiver. Several million dollars are involved. Only a few days ago the directors declared a semi-annual dividend of 5 per cent. on \$5,000,000 capital stock. The trouble is only temporary. F. W. Wood, president of the Maryland Steel Co., was appointed receiver by a Baltimore court. Luther S. Bent, president of the Pennsylvania Steel Co., says the receivership is not the result of want of profitable work at both plants, but of the present unfortunate condition of the money power. The stock was selling at \$120.

Republican Postmasters.

WASHINGTON, April 19.—All Republican Postmasters will be permitted to serve out their full terms of four years. Postmaster General Bissell has so decided. The question was brought to a head to day by Congressman Springer, who put this question to Mr. Bissell.

"Suppose that a Postmaster appointed by Mr. Harrison three years ago had died, and a Republican successor was appointed, will this man be allowed to serve four years dating from the original commission, or will he be allowed four years dating from the issue of his own commission?"

"He will be allowed," said Mr. Bissell, "to serve out the four years of his own."

"That is the ultimatum?"
"It's the rule," said Bissell.
"It's cheerful," said Mr. Springer.

A Drummer's Rough Experience.

Mr. James Coon, a traveling man, had a rough experience in Greensboro last Saturday night. He was on his way from the Benbow Hotel to the depot. Just before he reached the station, a man stepped in front of him and without saying a word hit him in the face with a brick. Mr. Coon was knocked to the pavement and for a short while was unconscious. A man standing near, saw the drummer fall and ran to him. As he approached him, the man that had struck the blow ran on and as he ran said: "He is the wrong man, I ought not to have hit him." The police of Greensboro have the case in hand.—[Charlotte News.]

The Caterpillars Again Stop a Train.

Last year about this time, the News noted the fact of an immense number of caterpillars crossing the track of the Carolina Central railroad, at Big Swamp, between Lumberton and Clarkton. The number of these insects crossing the rails at one time stopped the passage of a train on this road. The same incident recurs this year. Saturday, as the west bound passenger train passed Big Swamp, the driving wheels of the engine began to slip and in a few seconds the train was at a standstill. Upon investigation, it was found that the track for several hundred yards was covered with these insects, from one to two inches in depth, and it was the greatest difficulty that the train passed on its western journey. The track of the Carolina Central divides this swamp and it seems that the caterpillars are going to and from each side of the swamp, and the nearest route is across the railroad track.—[Charlotte News.]

An exchange publishes a marriage of Miss Angel to Mr. Hellfritz. It is for the gossips to determine whether that match was made in heaven or the rival establishment.

THE MINERS REPULSED.

Brief Battle Between a Mob and Tracy City Prison Guards.

Tracy City, Tenn., April 20.—(Special.)—The branch prison was attacked at 11 o'clock last night by an armed body of miners, who numbered probably 100, their object being to release the 500 convicts there. The attack had been expected and the guards were prepared. Firing was quickly commenced, but the miners were repulsed with one of their number, Bob Irwin, killed, Matt Parsons wounded, and another thought to be wounded. Assistant Deputy Warden Shriver was wounded in the head, but the wound is not considered a dangerous one. A guard named Walden was fatally wounded. Sheriff Sanders was at the prison during the attack.

The convicts are not at work today, and all is now quiet.

FIVE A DAY.

Earthquake Shocks Getting to Be Common Things in Zante.

Athens, April 22.—The details of the calamity that has befallen the Island of Zante show that since the beginning of April there has been a total of 100 earthquake shocks, averaging five every day. There are not in the city fifty houses that are safe for people to live in. It is now known that 150 persons lost their lives, and this list is likely to be added to when the ruins are cleared away, if this is ever done.

Literary Notes.

The next number of Harper's Weekly, published April 26th, will well maintain its usual standard of excellence and timeliness, containing, besides a variety of other interesting matter, the following special attractions: Illustrations of the Naval Rendezvous at Hampton Roads, with descriptive article by Lieutenant J. D. J. Kelley, U. S. N.; a portrait and sketch of Hon. James C. Carter, apropos of his services in connection with the Behring Sea Court of Arbitration; an illustration and sketch of the new Corcoran Art Gallery in Washington; an article by W. H. Bishop on Bradley's "Columbus," illustrated; a portrait and sketch of the Duke of Veragua; and a graphic description of the city of Lisbon, by Armand Dayot, profusely illustrated.

"The Company's Husbands" is the title of a pleasant little comedy in one act, adapted for amateur acting and parlor representation, which will be published in Harper's Bazar for April 29th. The author is Rosemary Baum.

The Earl of Derby Dies.

LONDON, April 21.—The Earl of Derby died at 8:30 o'clock this evening.

Edward Henry Smith-Stanley was the fifteenth Earl of Derby, and the head of a house as noble and distinguished as the one occupying the British throne. Born July 21, 1826, he was the son of that great Earl of Derby whose talents made him the most distinguished Englishman in a Parliament graced by giants like Gladstone, Bright, Disraeli and Palmerston.

The Stanleys have been conspicuous English history for eight hundred years. They trace their ancestry in a clear line back to the Norman conquest and for generations were Kings of the Isle of Man.

GOLDSBORO, April 24.—Five special cars with 375 members of the State Guard aboard, left here this evening at 4 o'clock for Jame City. They were the Governor's Guards, of Raleigh; the Warren Guards, of Warren; the Franklin Rifles, of Louisburg; the Edgecombe Guards, of Tarboro; the Greenville Guards, the Goldsboro Rifles and the Washington Light Infantry, with one Hotchkiss cannon. Governor Carr accompanied the soldiers.

A special to the Headlight from Newbern tonight give a hopeful view of the situation at James City. At the arrival of the train there several of the leading colored men from Goldsboro and Kinston went over to the seat of war and held a conference with the 2,000 negroes, all of whom are now willing to give in but insist that the ejectment shall be made by the proper authorities. No further trouble is apprehended.

NEWBERN, April 24.—Gov. Carr and staff are here. Seven companies of the first regiment of the State Guard are at the fair grounds.

Brigadier General Cotton is in command of the whole force. Col. Wood, Lieut. Col. Bogart and Maj. Rodman are with their regiment.
A move on James City will be made tomorrow.—[Charlotte Observer.]