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WASHINGTON LETTER.

From our Regular Correspondent.

For the DEMOCRAT:

Mr. Blaine's boom for the Presidential nomination in 1892 may be considered as having already started, and from information just received by your correspondent from an eminently trustworthy source it undoubtedly has the sanction of Mr. Blaine. No one knows better than Mr. Blaine the danger of premature booms, but certain circumstances made it necessary to launch his boom now or not at all. One of these circumstances is the fact that ex-Senator Tom Platt, of New York, during a recent trip to Washington took special pains to let Mr. Blaine know that he (Platt) intended to be a candidate and that he proposed to hold the field against all comers unless Mr. Blaine wished to make the run again, in that case he would give him loyal support. This together with similar intimations from other men, in other sections, made it necessary for the gentlemen from Maine to show his hand. Consequently the word has gone out to the trusted Blaine lieutenants that the "old men" is again in the field. Mr. Blaine and his family have just returned from a trip to Baltimore and New York, whither they went in an alleged social way, but the trip was in reality made to see and fix certain Maryland and New York politicians. Mr. Blaine has not yet fully decided whether he will retire from the cabinet next summer or wait until the spring of '92. The present programme is to keep the thing as quiet as possible for the next two years.

The rest of the House committee were announced just previous to the adjournment for the holiday recess by Speaker Reed, and quite a number of Republican members are very much disgruntled because they don't think their talents have been sufficiently recognized, but as they have more than two weeks in which to recover their good humor they will probably turn up smiling when Congress reassembles.

The fact was brought out in a discussion in the Senate

on a bill to increase the compensation of certain officials to be employed by the Census bureau, that all the reports of the last-1880-Census had not yet been printed. The Senators were also unanimous in declaring the statistics of the last census to be inaccurate and worthless. Taking the Census is a useless expense unless the statistics gathered are trustworthy and the reports are more promptly published. Better things are promised of the one to be taken next year.

Senator Morgan's joint resolution for the recognition of Brazil's new government failed in the Senate because of the absence of a quorum. He will call it up again after the holiday recess, and it will be passed.

The money that Silcott left in the safe of the Sergeant-at-Arms, because he couldn't get at it about \$35,000 has by resolution of the House, been deposited with the Treasurer of the United States until it is determined what to do with it. An indictment with 112 counts has been found against Silcott by the grand jury, but Silcott has not been found.

The enormous quantity of bills introduced in Congress last week, more than 1,500—has excited comment here, and momentarily called attention to the great waste of money in printing the wild-cat or crank bills, which form a large percentage of those introduced. It would be a good idea for both Houses to create the position of managing Editor whose duties shall be to pass on all bills before they are introduced and throw out the worthless ones. It would save Uncle Sam several hundred thousand of dollars every year.

The House is to have a chance of deciding whether it believes the various ugly charges made at various times against the Civil Service Commission should be investigated, as it will have to vote on Representative Ewart's resolution authorizing the House committee on Reform in the Civil Service to investigate these charges. It is almost certain that the resolution will be passed, and it is equally as certain that some of the charges will be proven.

Ex-Speaker Carlisle does not believe the Republicans of the House will attempt to adopt a rule giving the Speaker authority to declare a quorum present whenever the requisite number of members are in the House, whether those present vote or not, as some Republicans have stated they would. Mr. Carlisle says such a rule would be clearly unconstitutional, and that he would fight it by every means in his power before allowing it to be adopted by the House, and if defeated he would carry it to the courts.

Justice Brewer's and a lot of other nominations were confirmed by the Senate before the recess. There were

11 votes against the confirmation of Brewer. —Washington, D. C.

If you suffer pricking pains on moving the eyes, or cannot bear bright light, and find your sight weak and failing, you should promptly use Dr. J. H. Metcalf's Strengthening eye salve twenty-five cents a box.

REMINISCENCES AND COGITATIONS No. 3.

For the DEMOCRAT:

I have in my possession, some new bills; they are crisp and nice. One is of the denomination of one dollar; the other is a two-dollar bill. I was cogitating over matters and things of *lang syne* and happened to reflect on the difference there is now over my boyhood and young manhood days so far as money is concerned. I took these two bills without looking at them, even as to their amount, taking the word of the two persons who handed them to me. A little while ago I bethought me to look and see what they are, and what bank or banks they are on. They are silver certificates, but Uncle Sam has pledged their redemption in silver dollars, which is enough for me. I take money, now-a-days, pretty much as other business men generally do—without so much as looking or caring what banks issued them; whether one is on a bank in the States of Washington, Texas, Florida, Maine or any State between them. Not so 30, 40 or 50 years ago.

From 1828 to 1836 the times were flush—not hard—money was plenty, and speculation was rife. Our people lived too fast, did too much business on credit, so much so that every kind of property was bloated, so to speak. A crash was certain to come, and come it did, in 1837, and almost every man in the land was involved in debt and overwhelmed and the banks failed or refused money accommodations just when they were the most needed.

For this state of affairs there were many causes. Suffice it to say, that the distress was extreme because money was scarce where before it had been plenty.

Then, say from 1837 to 1843, it was not deemed safe to hold a bill over night, so if a man received one he got rid of it as quick as he could. The bills were issued by State banks, and there were a great many counterfeit bills; indeed, there were but few banks which the counterfeiters "let alone."

While the United States Bank was in existence which which was looked up to as a son looks upon an indulgent father—the money of that bank was good everywhere, but our State banks were not confided in, to any great extent, by foreigners in their own countries.

Indeed, there were but few State banks the bills of which were taken at par beyond the limits of the State where issued. Massachusetts money was preferred in England over that issued by any other State. I remember of going

to a bank in Memphis, Tenn. in 1860, and inquiring for some Massachusetts money and paying the cashier bills his president and he had signed and three per cent premium. Massachusetts money commanded a premium everywhere in the Union West and South yet, a bill issued by a bank in Kentucky was discounted in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Tennessee and Virginia. These States surrounded or bound Kentucky. The father one went with Kentucky money the more it was discounted. And so it was with all the Western and Southern States.

New England is homogeneous, so a Massachusetts bill was as good and no better than a Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut or Rhode Island bill, barring that the bank which issued it was sound.

To tell in those days, what standing a bank had for soundness, almost every business man subscribed for Thompsons Bank Reporter, and consulted it daily or oftener.

The government, in those days, did not employ any detectives because the United States Bank had gone into "innocuous desuetude," and the States were cognizable of the crime of counterfitting. Now the case is reversed: we have no State money, all our circulating medium is issued under authority of the general government. Hence all genuine bank bills on National Banks are good, even if a bank breaks, because the general government guarantees the redemption of broken bank bills. There is not a hundredth part of counterfitting now there was 30, 40 or 50 years ago.

The present generation of business men know nothing of the hardships endured by all our people for want of a uniform and safe currency, during the time I speak of. But let them reject the present system of issuing paper money and return to State issues and they will soon find out the difference between then and now.

It would prove an interesting study to our people if they would look into the reasons for the state of affairs I have indicated, and find out what was responsible for the sad state of things existing, so far as money was concerned, in those trying times.

I could "a tale unfold," and give a true reason for those "hard times," but I will not, at present.

J. S. W.

Terrible Tragedy.

Asheville, N. C., Jan. 1.—A terrible tragedy took place in Mitchell county N. C. twelve miles from Bakersville, the county seat. In a drunken row Christmas day three men were killed. On Friday, Monroe Garland, a brother of one of the murdered men, rode up to a crowd in the same place and fired into the crowd killing three and wounding twelve.—News-Observer.

VANCE.

We are with Senator Vance as with Cleveland, it is all blow when the enemies say they will defeat him. Cleveland is the popular favorite because he has been thoroughly tried and has been found to be pure gold, thrice refined. Vance has been thoroughly tested in the furnace of war, in the fierce days of reconstruction, so disastrous to many North Carolinians of previous good name, and in the dulcet, piping times of peace, and he has stood it all without showing alloy or taint of any kind. The people know Vance and will stand by him. They will not be trifled with by the politicians and schemers and agents of the money power, and they will make it hot for legislators when they plot for his head and dicker with his enemies.

When his enemies lay their pipes and gather their forces to out Vance let him appeal to the people of North Carolina and they will never forsake him. He is the most popular North Carolinian of our time. The people's hearts are in sympathy with their able, far-seeing War Governor and faithful Senator.

We have closely watched his career since he left the camp to become Governor or at the call of the people. As Representative, as soldier as Governor, as Senator, as citizen he has always been true and faithful to North Carolina and himself. He has preserved an honest record throughout, and no man can asperse his character with truth on his side.

His ability is beyond all doubt. He is a clear-headed, strong man, well trained, well read, and faithful to convictions. He is a statesman in a high sense, and deserves well of North Carolina always.—Messenger.

Sugar Grove, N. C.

Jan. 1st, 1890.

To the DEMOCRAT:

I will tell you something of my late trip over the mountains to the Cranberry Iron works, and to the growing and thriving town of Elk Park.

Leaving home at 9 o'clock, a. m., I travel down the turn pike, passing the steam saw mill of the Edmisten brothers in full speed, closing out to move to Rich Mountain. They are moving out today. Then we came to Beech Creek where John Reece has a good grist and saw mill. Here we leave the turnpike, and take the Poga road which has a steep grade, but we pass several nice mountain farms. Now we are at the Loggy Gap, and we take the new road which has a good grade, and when completed, will be the best graded road to Banner Elk. At 4 p. m. we arrive at Mr. John Brown's, where we stay all night, and are pleasantly entertained by him and his kind family. Next morning, with Mr. Edwin Brown, we start for Cranberry, and ride down the lumber road to Banner Elk, passing two or three

houses in such deep gorges or gorges, surrounded by such high hills and peaks that it would be difficult for a wild turkey to fly up over the heights, while on the left we see the grand old pile called the Beech Mountain, whose summit is the home of the clouds. Now we cross Elk Creek, and travel that rugged, muddy and steep road to Cranberry Creek, and up said creek to the bridge, a distance of about two miles. It is the roughest road I ever saw, and is a disgrace to a progressive people. Will not the good people of Elk Park, Cranberry and surrounding country grade a road down the bank of Elk, and up Cranberry Creek. A road so made would have a splendid grade, and would greatly facilitate and increase the travel and freight wagon, and build up a better trade to Elk Park and Cranberry; in lumber and produce.

We are now at the old Har din farm which is so much improved, that it now produces thousands of bushels of corn, rye and oats. Cranberry is quite a town: Main and Smoky Streets are crowded with tenement houses. It is interesting and wonderful to see the machinery for mining, and for moulding the millions of tons of the finest iron in the United States, if not in the world. The bed, yes, I might say the mountain of ore seems to be inexhaustible. I believe the vast deposit of ore will consume all the timber for miles around the works. The coal ovens, nine in number, are cone shaped and beautifully white-washed. The mine where the ore is blasted, is the grandest and most interesting of all I saw while there. After a careful study and close observation of the machinery, and the process of manufacturing iron, which many think has a large percentage of silver, we ride two miles to Elk Park, where we meet many old friends and acquaintances. We were warmly received and kindly entertained by the polite and courteous host and hostess of the Banner House. The town has been greatly enlarged and improved in the last two years.

As the day is eclipsed by the night, so ends our trip and visit to Elk Park and Cranberry, and we are in saddle on our way home. Oh! the rain, the mud and rocks, 'till we came to Banner Elk. Then up, up the steep spurs of the Beech Mountain 'till we are again at Mr. Brown's where we spend the night, and next day we were at home again.

The Flannery, or Buckeye silver mine is on a big boom. The Knoxville company begun work there again. They are making a new road from the Dave Gap, near Mr. John Reece's and up Beech Creek by the silver mine, and on to the Loggy Gap, where it will intersect the new road which goes to Elk Creek. The company has a steam engine and all machinery required to work the mine, now at the R. R. depot, and will transport it to the mine as soon as the road is done. R. V. W.