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LINVILLE.

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WASHINGTON LETTER.

From our Regular Correspondent

For the Democrat

The most attractive feature of the present Congress, is to see the rats deserting the sinking G. O. P. ship.

Senator Plumb of Kansas is the last one to open his eyes, and swim for his life. He is one of the largest rodents in the Senate chamber of the vessel; but he found it sinking, and is "pulling for the shore." The democrats were put into a state of extreme gratification, when they heard the Kansas Senator denounce the theory he has been harping on for years.

That staunch old soldier, of verbiage, Mr. Sherman replied to him, and showed that he hated, yet to give up. But the fact is growing daily more apparent, that the republican party has absolutely stamped and, if the country wants "protection" it will be necessary to find another guide.

The question was on paragraph 100 of the "tariff bill relating to china, porcelain, and crockery ware. The "break" on the subject, made by Mr. Plumb, was even more distressing to his republican colleagues than was the first made earlier in the season, by representative Butterworth, of Ohio.

The finance committee, of the Senate recommended a reduction of the rates in the the House bill, from 66 to 55

per cent, on decorated articles, and to 50 per cent on white and undecorated ware.

Messrs Sherman and Hiscock opposed the Senate amendments. Then Mr. Allison of Iowa, arose, and, in substance, said that he was bound to get in a word if it was the last act of his public career. He roared that he had stated a few days before, (with all the carelessness of desperation) that the increase of duty caused by the administration bill, in taxing cartons and coverings, amounted to from 10 to 15 per cent. That it was true, as stated by Mr. Sherman, that the crockery industry, had had, in the last few years a most remarkable development. He wanted a reduction of duties, such as was recommended by the Finance committee, and if it wasn't done he was ready to throw up his job.

Mr. Vest wanted the rates up at 40 per cent, and Mr. McPherson, wanted it a few per cents higher. Senator Vance made a humorous speech on the high protective system. He declared that the whole earthen ware section of the bill was a disgrace to anyone who claimed to be tinctured with a sense of humanity. Because it was simply a discrimination in favor of the rich against the poor. That the same policy of discrimination ran through the whole tariff bill, from one end of it to the other. But the existing part of the whole matter was—when Senator Plumb committed *mutiny*. He had with him, facts, figures and invoices, which showed that originally and before the crockery business became fat, it was satisfied with a gratuity of \$16.40 on a given amount of ware. Under the pending amendment it would amount to \$31.32 and under the McKinley bill \$57.12. He said "the whole tendency of civilization is toward the reduction of prices of all products of human labor. To claim that the tariff has been the main factor in the reduction of the prices of manufactured goods, is to ignore all the forces of civilization. The American people are entitled to have cheap goods if competition can bring that about. When is the time coming when the people of the United States will derive some benefit from the establishment of home industries?" But the best of it was the way in which he said that he didn't say all that with the slightest idea that it would be of any effect upon the vote in the Senate, (as if he had cast pearls before swine.)

Senator Gorman is winning golden opinions on all sides for the able manner in which he is managing the democratic side of the tariff debate. He has already compelled the republicans to abandon their announced policy of silence, and to enter into a defense of the outrageous bill which they wanted to pass without debate.

Mr. Harrison and Secretary Blaine now have their

heads together at Cape May Point trying to devise some method of preventing the defeat which they can see staring their party in the face. The result of their lengthy confab will probably soon be apparent, as they are both to return this week.

Representative Cummings, of New York has exposed a nice little scheme of Speaker Reed's to bribe voters in his district with government money by having the Navy department order the employment of a large number of workmen just before election at the Kittery Navy Yard, which is in Mr. Reed's district. Mr. Cummings has offered a resolution instructing the committee on Naval Affairs to investigate this matter. That will, of course be the last of the matter as far as the House is concerned; but the people will be heard from a little later.

Life will acquire new zest, and cheerfulness return, if you will impel your liver and kidneys to the performance of their functions. Dr. J. H. McLean's Liver and Kidney Balm will stimulate them to healthful action. \$1.00 per bottle.

THE MOON'S INFLUENCE ON VEGETATION.

The reflected light of the moon has no appreciable influence upon either vegetable or animal life on this planet, and if there is any electrical or other influence it has not as yet been discovered. The idea, however, that the moon has some peculiar influence on vegetation and animals is a very old one, and while there never was any foundation for it except the vagaries of a disordered brain, still, as the belief is perfectly harmless, it is useless to disturb the quiet of your ignorant neighbors who take so much pleasure in planting their cucumbers and beans during certain phases of the moon. The poor old moon has long been accused of being the cause of many a catastrophe of which she was only a silent spectator. What are called the signs of zodiac originated from the supposed influence of certain planets within the imaginary band or zodiac extending around the celestial sphere, having as its mesial line the ecliptic or apparent path of the sun. The original planets known to the ancients within this band were Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn, but later other planets were discovered, and this destroyed some of the old ideas of the planetary system, as well as the influence of these celestial worlds upon our own. No intelligent or learned agriculturist of the present day pays any attention to the signs of the zodiac when either planting or harvesting his crops, or in weaning his calves and pigs.—*New York Sun*.

The damp and decaying vegetation of regions newly cleared of timber, exposed to the rays of the sun, is sure to breed malaria. Dr. J. H. McLean's Chills and Fever Cure, by mild and gentle action will radically cure. 50 cents a bottle.

LET US HAVE POLITICAL HARMONY

"Fools names like their faces, are often seen in public places," is an ancient truism, and not older than it is true. Yet those of us who read and think, who are interested in the growth and prosperity of the country, especially the southern portion of it, cannot view without interest and some anxiety the present acts of the farmers' alliance. That the farmers should organize to protect and promote their interest was natural and right. At the present time, critical time, when the South is passing through a most crucial and important period of her history, when of all times she should be united, deliberate and strong; when she of all times needs the wisest, best and most experienced men at the front; when she wants union and not discord, is it not unwise, Mr. Editor, for the farmers to turn their organization into a political machine? And in doing so, to turn down their wisest, most experienced and best friend? No one denies the power, strength and influence of the farmer. It would be idiotic to dream of such nonsense. We have all been taught from our cradles up to believe our agricultural friends to be the "bone and sinew", and I will add the true aristocracy of the land. But, my dear sir, it cannot be and is not under any circumstances the interest of the farmer to array all against those who are not farmers. The lawyer, doctor, merchant, mechanic, preacher, philosopher, miner, and, in fact, all creatures on earth are consumers of the farmers' labor. Then are we not mutually dependent on each other? In the alliance are men like many outside, men who love office better than plowing. My sight is not as good as it was thirty or forty years ago, but I can see them in N. C. and S. C., as well as elsewhere, even from this distance. They are the men the farmers need to watch and see that they do not lead the men who do the plowing into trouble. I have no fear of the genuine, working, honest, hard-handed farmer. He "is all right" and will be. He always was. But it is the political, the "official" some call them, or miss call them, literary farmer that we fear. Tell the real farmer to go slow, to be careful, and watch these fellows. Look at dear old South Carolina. Remember what it was a few years after the war, under radical rule, when the farmers' home had neither value nor safety; when the merchant from whom the farmer bought his shoes and trace chains, had no money nor credit. Look now under the democratic party with such men as Generals Hampton and Butler at the helm. All is prosperity, peace and comfort. In spite of this, bad men have taught the honest farmer to doubt and suspect their best friends. What a mistake. I do hope and pray that the North Carolina farmers cannot be duped by any such political tramps.—*Baltimore correspondent to Wilmington Messenger*.

A FAR OFF STAR.

It would take A Cannon Ball 100,000,000 Years To Hit It.

It is difficult to conceive that the beautiful dog star is a globe much larger than our sun, yet it is a fact that Sirius is a sun many times more mighty than our own. This splendid star, which, even in our most powerful telescopes, appears as a mere point of light, is in reality a globe emitting so enormous a quality of light and heat that were it to take the place of our own sun every creature on this earth would be consumed by its burning rays.

Sirius shining with far greater luster than any other star, it was natural that astronomers should have regarded this as being the nearest of all the "fixed" stars; but recent investigation on the distances of the stars has shown that the nearest to us is Alpha Centauri, a star belonging to the Southern latitude, though it is probable that Sirius is about fourth on the list in the order of distance. For, though there are about fifteen or twenty stars whose distances have been conjectured, the astronomer knows that in reality all of them, save three or four, lie at distances too great to be measured by any instruments we have at present.

Astronomers agree in fixing the distance of the nearest fixed star at 22,000,000,000,000 miles, and it is certain that the distance of Sirius is more than three and less than six times that of Alpha Centauri, most likely about five times, so that we are not far from the truth if we set the distance of Sirius at about 100,000,000,000 miles. What a vast distance is this that separates us from the star! Words and figures themselves fail to convey to our minds any adequate idea of its true character.

To take a common example of illustrating such enormous distances. It is calculated that the ball from an Armstrong 100-pounder quits the gun with the speed of about four hundred yards per second. Now, if this velocity could be kept up it would require no fewer than 100,000,000 years before the ball could reach Sirius.—*Scientific American*.

Senator Vance has introduced a bill providing for the repeal of the tax per cent on the circulation of state banks, and providing that no higher rate of tax shall be levied on such circulation than on that of national banks.

This is one of the demands of the alliance and should be passed.—*Ex*.

The most delicate constitution can safely use Dr. J. H. McLean's rare wine Lung Balm, it is a sure remedy for coughs, loss of voice, and all throat and lung diseases.

There are many accidents and diseases which affect stock and cause serious inconvenience and loss to the farmer in his work, which may be quickly remedied by the use of Dr. J. H. McLean's Volcanic Oil Liniment.

Why Woman Is Man's Best Friend.

First and foremost a woman is a man's best friend:

Because she is his mother.

Second, because she is his wife.

Because she is patient with him in illness, endures his fretfulness and "mothers" him.

Because she will stick to him through good and evil report, and always believe in him, if she loves him.

Because without her he would be rude, rough and ungodly.

Because she teaches him the value of gentle words, of kindly thought and of consideration.

Because she can, with him endure pain quietly and meet joy gladly.

Because, on her breast, he can shed tears of repentance, and he is never reminded of them afterwards.

Because when he is having like a fretful boy—and we all do, you know, at times—with no reason in the world for it, woman's soft word, touch or glance will make him ashamed of himself as he ought to be.

Because without her as an incentive he would grow lazy; there would be no good work done, there would be no noble books written, there would be no beautiful pictures painted, there would be no divine strains of melody.

Because she has made for us a beautiful world in which we should be proud to live, and contented to die.

Because—and this is the best reason of all—when the world had reached an unenviable state of wickedness, the blessed task of bringing it a Savior of all mankind was given to a woman, which was God's way of setting His seal of approval on her who is mother, wife, daughter and sweetheart, and, therefore, man's best friend.—*Ladies' Home Journal*.

Sick headache and a sensation of oppression and dullness in the head, are very commonly produced by indigestion; morbid despondency, irritability and over sensitiveness of the nerves may, in a majority of cases, be traced to the same cause. Dr. J. H. McLean's Liver and Kidney Balm and pills will positively cure.

ARE YOU IN THE VINE?

I have seen a branch tied to a bleeding tree for the purpose of being engrafted into its wounded body, and that thus both might be one. Yet no incorporation had followed; there was no living union. Spring came singing, and with her fingers opened all the buds; and summer came with her dewy nights and sunny days, and brought on all the flow'rs; and brown autumn came to shake the trees and reap the fields, and with dances and mirth to hold the "harvest home;" but that unhappy branch bore no fruit, nor flower, nor even leaf. Just held up by dead clay and rotten cords, it stuck to the living tree, a withered and unsightly thing. So also it is with many who have a "name to live and are dead."—*Guthrie*.