

# Watauga Democrat.

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## WASHINGTON LETTER.

From our Regular Correspondent.

Mr. Harrison has never been credited with having an over-supply of back bone, but he has just given indisputable evidence that he can be stubborn when he desires to be. Sometime before Congress adjourned he nominated James H. Beatty to be United States District Judge for Idaho, but owing to the active opposition of the two Idaho Senators and other republicans the Senate adjourned without acting on the nomination. Now Mr. Harrison has appointed Mr. Beatty to be judge, and he will sit on the bench until the Senate meets again, even if his nomination should then be rejected. Another exhibition of the obstinacy of Mr. Harrison was his going off to-day on a week's hunting trip instead of settling the question of who shall be the nine judges of the United States Circuit court, provided for under the new law, which he was urged to do by many members of his party, who do not wish to leave here until this matter is settled. It is thought that it was to get away from this gang that Mr. Harrison went on this hunting trip, but it will do him no good, for these fellows will never leave here until these prizes are distributed.

Believing that it would be but justice to have the democratic party represented in these appointments, a number of prominent democrats have decided to present the name of representative Culverson, of Texas, to Mr. Harrison. Mr. Culverson is recognized as one of the ablest lawyers in congress and he was re-elected to the Fifty-second Congress, but his friends say that he would resign if appointed to the bench, as the judicial duties would be more congenial. It is not probable, however, that Mr. Harrison will give the democrats even one out of the nine new judges.

Representative Sayers, of Texas, who has to a large extent taken the important place so long and so ably filled by the late Representative Samuel J. Randall in the House committee on Appropriations, has made a statement showing the amount appropriated by the Fifty-first Congress to be in excess of one billion and six million dollars—stop a moment and think of that immense amount of money. He has also suggested a practical way to reform the expenditures of the government that is worthy of careful consideration by the new democratic House. He thinks that there should be one committee of not less than fifteen members upon the expenditures of the Government instead of a separate committee for each department as it is now.

Mr. Sayers says in advocacy of this change: "It is a fact which cannot be disputed that no single one of the several committees upon the expenditures in the depart-

ments has within the last three Congresses ever investigated the expenditure of any department and reported the result of their investigation to the House. In truth, these committees have rarely ever held even a single sitting during any Congress, and the consequence has been that nothing has resulted to the House from their organization. If a general committee of fifteen were organized, possessing the same dignity and enjoying the same powers and privileges as the committee on Ways and Means and the committee on Appropriations, it cannot be doubted that such a committee would be able to furnish the House with such information and advice as would lead to a very great reduction of expenditures and a thorough reform in the administration of the public service. What do the House and the country know of the expenditures under the several laws making indefinite appropriations? The expenditures and methods of administration under these permanent appropriation acts are practically unknown to Congress. What do Congress and the country know about the internal administration of the Pension Office, the Patent Office, and Bureau of Internal Revenue and the several bureaus of the War and Navy department?"

Mr. Sayers has another good idea too that should not be overlooked. He thinks the House should elect a permanent chairman of the committee of the whole and the committee of the whole on the State of the Union. In speaking of this he said: "It has been a noticeable fact that these chairmen have been appointed by the Speaker, from time to time, at the instance of the gentlemen whose bills were to be considered, and very often it has been the case that the rulings of such chairmen have not only been in variance, but have led to the suspicion that there was an undue leaning towards the opinion expressed by the gentlemen in charge of the particular bill under consideration when a question of order has been raised. This would be obviated by electing one man to position, making him independent of the Speaker." Mr. Sayers thinks these two changes would result in reducing the current expenditures at least 30 per cent.

Secretary Procter, who has spent less time in Washington than any member of the Cabinet, has gone on a Southern jaunt that will last a month.

The Johnson City Comet says:—Two jail-birds escaped from Jonesboro jail last night. They were Sherman Lewis, a murderer, and Ben. Williams, a burglar. Both were from Johnson City and were daring, desperate fellows. It is reported that they escaped by locking jailor Hawkins in the cell when he took them their supper.

## THE MONUMENTAL WASTE AND EXTRAVAGANCE.

The papers are daily discussing the great financial abuse and sins of the late radical Congress that was buried on the 4th with all its putrefaction. It is regarded as the surprise of the age. If all the republicans had been drunk from first to last they could scarcely have made a greater havoc with the finances.

Representative Dockery, of Missouri, who is a member of the House Committee on Appropriations, has given the details of the expenditures, and they are indeed calculated to make men believe that a republican politician of this day is not responsible to any thing or any body for his acts—to God, his country his conscience. The total expenditure amounts to \$1,009,270,471 for two years. This is about \$200,000 in excess of the democratic administration that expended \$200,000,000 at least too much. Buchanan required from 64 to 68 million dollars for everything. Then the country was half the population it is now. The expenses of the country administered rigid economy would not surely exceed \$200,000,000 or double that in two years, making \$400,000,000. Cleveland's administration expended more than \$800,000,000 which was far beyond what a proper economy justified.

But the radicals have swept far beyond these figures and vote away over a billion for two years. The surplus remaining in the Treasury July 1st, 1891, is figured at \$4,248,240; the estimated receipts for the ensuing year are \$446,955,032; making a total of available resources, \$451,203,272. The appropriations to be expended during that period amount to \$519,292,961; leaving in sight a deficiency in the treasury, July 1, 1892, of \$68,089,689.

Mr. Cleveland, it will be remembered, left an actual surplus in the Treasury of nearly \$100,000,000. It is gone and the balance short shows on the other side an approaching deficiency of possibly \$68,000,000. One estimate is that by 1st July, 1892, the actual deficit will be \$75,000,000.

But this is not all the wrong done to the people by the Tom Reed gang of incapables and robbers. They voted away at a rate of extravagance monies to be raised and then authorized contracts requiring great sums, but making no provisions to meet them. The people will have to meet these hereafter. The Baltimore Sun says that "immense war-ships, numerous public buildings, etc. have been sanctioned but not appropriated for, throwing a heavy burden upon the Fifty second Congress. A feature of the work of Speaker Reed's regime was the creation of several thousands of new offices carrying salaries aggregating over \$300,000. The party provided for its friends.

There is another aspect of the action of the reckless rad-

icals that it is well to not. These great sums to a considerable extent were voted away by men, for the most part, who had been condemned and repudiated by the people in the election of last year. Dozens of them were "sent to the rear" and will have no chance of devilry in the next Congress. The New York Evening Post says:

"No party has, in the country, and indeed we think we may say in any country, ever received such a mark of popular disapproval as was inflicted on the republican party in the November election. No such vote of 'want of confidence' is to be found in political annals. Only a handful of the legislators of 1889-'90 got back to Congress.—Messenger.

## SENATOR VILAS INTERVIEWED.

Continued Ascendancy of His Party Predicted.

Ex-Secretary of the Interior and Senator elect Vilas, of Wisconsin, with his daughter Miss Nellie, arrived in the city yesterday morning. He is stopping at Wormley's where he has been receiving many friends made during his sojourn in Washington under the last Administration. The common desire of many of the new members of the next Congress to be in at the death of the present one, together with business affairs, has brought Senator Vilas here at the present time.

The Senator was found in his room at the hotel last evening looking the picture of health. He has lost nothing of his old time cordiality, and seems glad to be back on the scenes of his public life.

In answer to an inquiry from the Post representative Mr. Vilas said that the political outlook from a democratic standpoint was most satisfactory.

"Who is the most prominent and the most probable candidate for the party nomination in 1892?" was asked.

"Why, ex-President Cleveland, of course," was the ready response. "At least he is the favorite in my State. We are all for Cleveland in Wisconsin."

"Then his expression on the silver question did him no harm in that part of the North west?"

"On the contrary, the people of Wisconsin indorse his position. You know the Legislature of that State passed resolutions instructing their delegates in Congress to vote against free coinage. We are opposed to high protection, either to big manufacturers or to big silver miners."

"What is the political feeling in Wisconsin at present?"

"One of intense satisfaction. The people have spoken and the people rule. We have everything in our own hands, and expect to keep it there. Last fall's election was the spontaneous expression of a people who demanded change. Instead of running to any new third party or taking in the political schemes that have grown up in the West, they turned to the party that has always been the people's

party and devoted to the people's interests—the honest democratic party."

"Then the Farmer's Alliance does not cut much of a figure in your State?"

"We have no Farmer's Alliance in Wisconsin. The farmers understand that their interests will be taken care of by the democratic party."

"How about the next Legislature—what will its political complexion be?"

"Undoubtedly democratic. The causes that resulted in the election of the present legislature are still in existence. The republicans certainly put forth their best efforts last fall, and were defeated. I can not see where they expect to change the result next year."

"Is there any likelihood of Senator Spooner succeeding Senator Sawyer?"

"I cannot see how there can be. Senator Sawyer certainly did all he could to elect a republican legislature last year with the intention of re-electing Senator Spooner and I cannot see how he can do any more next year. Wisconsin is safely democratic, and the feeling of security and satisfaction now prevalent among the voters of that State argues well for its continuance in the democratic ranks. Our farmers are too sensible to be led away by the new ideas that have cropped out in the third party movement."

Senator Vilas will remain here several days. Among his callers last evening was Associate Justice Lamar. A very strong attachment exists between these two men, and their greeting was of the most affectionate character.—Washington Post, Mar. 3.

## Preparing for Emergencies.

CHICAGO, March 10.—A Montreal special quotes an officer of the British Navy as saying there is more significance to be attached to the approaching visit of Lord Wolsley to Canada than generally believed. Wolsley will at once proceed to the Pacific coast with Gen. Herbert and inspect the defences of British Columbia and the naval yard at Esquimault. He will remain at Victoria until the United States is given an ultimatum with regard to the Behring Sea question. The officer said "I would not be surprised to find Great Britain and the United States at war before the year is out. The British Government has been remaining quite in view of the possibility of the Liberal party in Canada getting into power, through whom Lord Salisbury believed a more satisfactory settlement of the matter in dispute could have been reached than through the administration of Sir John McDonald, whose policy has been more in the direction of intensifying hostilities than effecting reconciliation. The activity about the British dock yards clearly shows that England is preparing to be ready for any emergency."—Messenger.

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