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WASHINGTON LETTER

From our Regular Correspondent.

Hon. W. J. Bryan will visit Washington this week, but he will not probably stay until Inauguration day. He will be the guest of Mr. John McLean, who will give a dinner to about one hundred guests in his honor. This dinner will not be a political event, as the guests will include a number of personal friends of Mr. Bryan in all the parties. But, during Mr. Bryan's stay, there will be a conference, perhaps several, to discuss the immediate future of the democratic party.

Senator Daniel, Va., is one of the best elocutionists in the Senate; consequently the farewell address of Washington, which, in accordance with the usual resolution was read immediately after the Senate convened, in honor of Washington's birth day, was much better rendered than usual, and was listened to by an unusually large number of Senators, in addition to the crowded galleries.

It is unfortunate in more cases than one that there should be an investigation at this time into an act of the administration by which the step-father of the President's wife will be largely benefitted. And everybody sincerely wishes that the Senate Committee on Public Lands will find everything straight about the Florida Land patent for 23,000 acres, which was recently issued by Mr. Perrine, the husband of Mrs. Cleveland's mother, and which the committee is now investigating. Ex-Congressman Brookshire, of Indiana, is counsel for the settlers on this land, who claim was forfeited many years ago.

The Civil Service Commission has made answer to Senator Allen's resolution, adopted by the Senate last week, as to the alleged dismissal of two women from a branch of the Agricultural department at South Omaha, Neb., for displaying pictures of Mr. Bryan in the late campaign. The answer says the Commission investigated the complaint when first made and that Secretary Morton denied that the discharges were made for the cause specified, or that he knew the politics of those discharged. The most significant portion of the answer especially to those in office who regard themselves as being protected by the Civil Service Commission is the following: "The Commission is not an appointing or restraining or removing body."

Representative McRae, of Ark., who was one of the democratic members of the Coinage committee who voted for the favorable report, with amendments, of the Senate bill authorizing the President to appoint delegates for any international monetary conference, called by any nation or by himself, took occasion to briefly state the attitude of the democrats toward the bill. He said the democrats had no faith whatever in such a method of bridging a-

about the free coinage of silver, but that they had no desire to place any obstacles in the way of the republicans trying to carry out the promise made by their national platform; on the contrary, that they were anxious for the next administration to demonstrate to the country what would be done along that line.

Notwithstanding Senator Kyle's assertion that he did not get the republican voters which re-elected him by making promises, the republicans in Washington are now counting upon his voting with them to obtain control of the Senate organization, and to fill committee vacancies that will exist March 4th. This confidence of the republicans is not based on any vague expectation or hope; they do not say that Senator Kyle may vote with us, but that Senator Kyle will vote with us. In voting with the republicans in this particular case, should his vote settle the question, Senator Kyle will betray the principles he has professed ever since he entered the Senate. As most people know, the Senate finance committee as at present made up, is controlled by silver, although seven of its thirteen members, including the Chairman, are republicans. There will be two vacancies on this committee on March 4th. Senator Sherman will enter the Cabinet and Senator Voorhees will retire to private life. The republican leaders consider it necessary, as this is the Committee that will handle the new tariff bill, that both of these vacancies shall be filled by men who can be counted upon to support the new tariff bill and to oppose any silver legislation that may be proposed; and they are saying that Sen. Kyle, whose advocacy of silver and of free trade is widely known will vote with them. If he does what will be the natural inference?

Representative Walker, of Mass., could not upset the Reed rules, but he could and did express himself very vigorously on the subject, saying in part: "Under the rules of the House we get very few rights. When you go to see about a bill you are referred to a sub-committee, and then you may cool your heels there day after day before you can get so much as one member of the sub-committee to hear you. And when you do, he tells you he knows all about it and intimates that you are boring him. Then when he reports against you and you try to appeal to the full committee, you get no satisfaction." He called this "a system of tyranny," and added much more to the same effect.

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In Memory of Andrew J. Baird.

Andrew Jackson Baird, the subject of this sketch, was born Oct. 27, 1829, and died Jan. 27, 1897, aged 67 years, 2 months and 29 days, when the Death angel came to release his weary spirit.

He suffered greatly the last 31 years of his life, from asthma, and when the La Grippe seized him in its strong embrace it proved more than his broken down constitution could bear, and after suffering for thirteen days his spirit winged its flight to the God who gave it.

During his last illness not a word of complaint ever escaped his lips, but as his physical strength diminished his spiritual strength seemed to increase, even to the last moment.

Yes, Papa is gone, and his body rests on the hill overlooking the beautiful Watauga river. How very sad it is to think that we can never hear father's voice again nor see him in his accustomed place in the family circle; yet we have the consolation that all was done for him that willing hands, loving hearts and kind medical attention could do, and we know that we have the precious promise: "Lo, I am with thee always," and we have the full assurance that our loss is his eternal gain.

He was a member of the Methodist church at Valle Crucis for many years, and lived a pious christian life. His greatest dread seemed to be leaving his dear companion, and as the end drew near he was fully conscious, and watched poor old weeping mother until the last. He admonished Steward, the youngest boy, a week before his death, to always be good to his mother, and provide well for her.

He was the father of eleven children, three of whom preceded him to the spirit land; four were with him during his sickness and death, and our hearts go out in great sympathy to the four who are so far away.

ETTA.

If you wish to get an idea of what the republican party is in point of extravagance listen to Congressman Dingley, of Maine, who says that while the present congress will take of the people's money over one billion dollars "it does not appear that there have been any expenditures to which the term extravagant could be justly applied." As a matter of fact, at least one half of this sum comes within the term extravagance, while much of it is expended in the interests of fraud. Let one item suffice: We are now paying more civil war pensions than there ever was Union soldiers in the active service. The republican party will yet bankrupt the country.—Asheville Citizen.

We have learned that the Mecklenburg Road Law will not be repealed but a bigger tax and more days work will be required. We understand that some of our Republican leaders have ordered it not repealed. We will see what there is in the report later on.

Only A Minute Work.

It is said that an itinerant minister, some years ago, was passing through a prison crowded with convicts showing every phase of ignorance and brutality.

One gigantic fellow crouched alone in a corner, his feet chained to a ball. There was an unhealed wound on his face where he had been shot while trying to escape. The sight of the dumb, gaunt figure touched the visitors sympathies.

"How long has he to serve?" he asked the keeper.

"For life."

"Has he any body to look after him—wife or child?"

"How should I know? Nobody has ever noticed him all the time he has ever been here."

"May I speak to him?"

"Yes but only for a minute."

The minister hesitated. What could he say in one minute.

He touched the man's torn cheek. "I am sorry," he said, "I wish I could help you."

The convict looked keenly at him, and the hard lines of his face softened, and he nodded to indicate that he believed in the sympathy expressed.

"I am going away, and shall never see you again, perhaps but you have a friend who will stay here with you."

The small keener eyes were on him; the prisoner dragged himself up, waiting and eager.

"Have you heard of Jesus?"

"Yes."

"He is your friend. If you are good and true, and pray God to help you, I am sure he will care for you."

"Time's up!" called the keeper.

The clergyman turned sorrowfully away. The prisoner crawled after him, and catching his hand, held it in his own while he could. Tears were in the clergymans eyes.

Fourteen years have passed. The convict was sent to work in the mines. The minister went down one day in to a mine and among the workmen he saw a gigantic figure bent with hardship and age.

"Who is that?" he asked the keeper.

"A lifer, and a steady fellow; the best of the gang."

Just then the "lifer" looked up. His figure straightened for he had recognized the clergyman. His eyes shone.

"Do you know me he asked, 'Will he come soon? I've tried to be good.'"

At a single word of sympathy the life had been transformed; the convict redeemed.

—False prophets, false brethren, false accusers, false witnesses, false teachers—reader do you belong to any of these classes? Examine yourself carefully. Be sure that you do not. Have you never proven untrue to a brother? Have you never accused any wrongfully? Do you teach the truth by word and deed? God grant that you may henceforth be true to God in all things and at last win a welcome to the heavenly home.—D. H. Tuttle.

WISE WORDS.

People usually pick their own temptations.

Ignorance isn't innocence, but they're near relations.

The thing that makes you glad always shows your character.

The successful man always sticks to one thing until he gets there.

All careers are desirable for men who know how to make them so.

He who can suppress a moment's anger may prevent days of sorrow.

After a man is thirty he suffers less from love than from rheumatism.

Six women can talk at once and get along all right—but no two men can do it.

Children are a lot more nuisance than they used to be when they were little.

A bohemian is a man who borrows money on the strength of wearing a soiled collar.

The virtue which parleys is sure to surrender, moral strength gives a negative at once.

The man who entertains his thoughts would not always like for his neighbors to see his guests.

The great thing in this world is not so much where we are, but in what direction we are moving.

When a woman has a secret, nothing makes her so mad as the discovery that no one wants to know it.

When a man tells you he likes to work, you may not say so to his face, but you think it just the same.

A young married woman always talks to bachelors as tho' they don't know much, when she gets older she gets more suspicious.

If a man lies clumsily to a woman about a few little things he can lie cleverly about a lot of big ones and she will never suspect him.—South West.

The enrolling clerk's office in the Legislature, from which A. L. Swinson was bounced, is being used as a place of refuge for the fellows who want jobs and can't be provided for elsewhere. Whenever a Republican or minority Populist has a constituent who he feels must have a job he puts him in the enrolling clerks office and he goes on the pay roll at \$5 a day. There are now two chief enrolling clerks (who succeeded Swinson) and 13 assistants; at \$5 a day each—making a total of \$75 a day which it is costing the State to run that office. This is subject to change as more clerks may be added at any time. Among the assistants are two colored men, Young and Quick, on account of whom Swinson got into trouble and a Cherokee Indian, Jim Blythe. We haven't seen it stated anywhere that all of these clerks were needed to do the work—in fact it is distinctly stated that they are not needed—but the pie brigade must be provided for.—Landmark.

When I was a boy my mother used to say to me sometimes: "De Witt, you will be sorry for that when I am gone." I remember how she looked, sitting there with cap and spectacles, and the Bible in her lap. She never said a truer thing than that. While we have our friends with us the feelings of those to whom we ought to give nothing

but kindness. After a while some of our friends are taken away from us, and those of us who are left say: "Oh if we could only get back those unkind works, those unkind deeds! If we could recall them, but you cannot get them back.—Talmage.

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