

Watauga Democrat.

VOL. IX.

BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, N. C., THURSDAY, OCTOBER, 21, 1897

NO. 44.

WASHINGTON LETTER.

From our Regular Correspondent.

That Mr. McKinley is being duped by the government of Spain is the opinion of nearly everybody, except Mr. McKinley and the members of the Cabinet. Spain is playing for time and plenty of it, and it is likely to get it too, unless this country rudely awakens the administration from its dream and demands that Spain be made to fish or cut bait. It is difficult to find an intelligent person who does not believe that the change of ministry in Spain was brought about solely for the purpose of securing delay in replying to the proposition submitted by the United States, and if the game worked well then, there is no reason that it will not be worked again, or at any rate attempted, when Minister Woodford tries to prop the new ministry for a reply. Spain is also trying to secure the support of the bread and butter brigade in this country by hinting at a commercial monopoly to be granted us soon as peace is restored to Cuba under the new home rule scheme. These things may catch Mr. McKinley, but they do not catch those who know the actual situation in Cuba. Spain will have nothing to do with the commerce of Cuba when there is a restoration of business and trade on the island, because its hold upon the island will be gone. Mr. McKinley cannot change the ultimate result in Cuba, but he can hurry up matters, if so disposed. If he allows Spain to pull the wool over his eyes by the recall of Butcher Weyer, and indefinite talk about Home Rule concessions to the Cubans, which every schoolboy in the United States knows will not be accepted, he will simply lose a great opportunity to please the people of this country, regardless of party. He probably has not forgotten how difficult it was to prevent Congress forcing this issue last spring. It will be impossible, if nothing has been done by the time Congress reassembles in December.

The single gold standard advocates composing the so-called monetary conference, which has reassembled in Washington after a recess, are, perhaps unconsciously, doing the silver men a great favor by trying to force the administration into the advocacy of a financial bill intended to perpetuate the single gold standard on the country, at the coming session of Congress. Nothing would please the silver men so well as to see this issue forced to the front by an attempt to jam legislation through Congress. Without the active assistance of the administration, it cannot be done. Left to himself, Mr. McKinley would let the financial question severely alone, but with this commission hammering away at him from the outside and Secretary Gage from the inside,

he may give in and recommend financial legislation in his annual message to Congress. If the support of Czar Reed be secured, any sort of a bill can be passed by the House, but that is where it will stop. The silver men command the situation in Senate, and nothing they oppose can get through that body.

It is enough to cause a smile on the face of a wooden Indian to listen to the official announcement that Mr. McKinley is going to Ohio to vote, but is in doubt as to whether he will accept either of the several invitations that have been extended to him to make a speech in the State previous to the election when it is well known that Boss Hanna billed him weeks ago for a speech in Cincinnati.

Pagan Bob Ingersoll had influence enough with Mr. McKinley to pull down a nice plum for one of his nephews, John C. Ingersoll—in the shape of the Consulship at Copenhagen.

"Fools rush in" etc. There has been more or less comment in Washington on the fact that Senator Foraker, of Ohio, was the only republican of national prominence who could be induced to take part in the republican mass meeting in New York, held to ratify the nomination of Ex-Secretary Tracy by Boss Platt and Mr. McKinley. Ex-President Harrison positively declined, although Tracy is his personal friend and was a member of his Cabinet; Chauncey Depew conveniently managed to have other engagements, and Czar Reed politely refused to go. This means that these men are "on to" the Platt-McKinley game and are too smart to get themselves mixed up in it. Why Foraker went to New York is one of the hard things to answer. After his shabby treatment in Ohio by Boss Hanna, he was probably flattered when Boss Platt asked him to speak at the New York meeting and accepted the invitation off-hand.

"I can't see how any family lives without Chamberlain's colic, cholera and diarrhoea remedy," says J. R. Adams, a well known druggist of Geneva, Ala., in a letter inquiring the price of a dozen bottles, that he might not only have it for use in his own family, but supply it to his neighbors. The reason some people get along with out it, is because they do not know its value, and what a vast amount of suffering it will save. Wherever it becomes known and used, it is recognized as a necessity, for it is the only remedy that can always be depended upon for bowel complaints, both for children and adults. For sale by M. B. Blackburn.

An exchange says a New Jersey judge fined a man \$27.50 for kissing a woman. The only defense the man made was that she was so pretty he could not help it, and the judge said that in view of the provocation he would not impose a heavy sentence. But 'wasn't \$27.50 mighty high?

THE COMING SHOWER OF STARS AND RAIN OF FIRE.

Baltimore Sun.

The astronomers look for the next great meteoric shower on the morning of Nov. 15, 1899. They calculate that the earth will then pass again through the centre of an immense swarm of meteoroids, as they are called before combustion. These great "Leonide Star Showers," as they are called, occur at intervals of every 33 years and one day. The great shower of 1799 occurred on Nov. 12th; that of 1833 on Nov. 13th; that of 1866 on Nov. 14th, and, consequently, a repetition of the next wonderful phenomena is expected on the morning of Nov. 15th, 1899.

In the meanwhile, however, as the aggregation of meteoroids is of immense length, one end of it will encounter the earth in 1898 and the other in 1900, making, as Prof. Lewis Swift, the distinguished astronomer, of Rochester, N. Y., says, considerable showers in those years also. Not only this, but it is stated on the same authority that many forerunners of the great shower may be expected to come within the earth's atmosphere on Nov. 14th, 1897, because many of the meteoroids are always considerably in advance of the main cluster. Prof. Swift says "the thickness of the meteoroidal stream is 100,000 miles, and the duration of the shower is equal to the time of the diagonal passage of the earth through it, usually from midnight to dawn." He adds: "As there is a light shower of Leonoids every November, we know that there is a vast ring formed by the comet's tail, and that the immense shoal in one portion is the product of the exploded comet itself, through which we pass once every thirty-three years and a day."

The meteoroids are dark bodies, and it is only when they pass into the earth's atmosphere that they are ignited by friction and become visible for a few seconds. The stream makes a revolution around the sun in about 33 1/2 years, and by consequence the earth passes through it in a new place each year. The length of the swarm is so enormous that although at perihelion it moves at the rate of nearly 25 miles a second, yet it takes it two years to pass the earth, so that when its hinder parts are still with us its advancing side will have reached the orbits of Jupiter and Saturn. Notwithstanding this extent, it is but a fraction of the entire orbit. Prof. Swift says: "This great cluster will reach the earth's orbit about June the 1, 1899, but the earth will not have arrived there then, but will be due nearly six months later, when our planet will plunge into the swarming mass, and for at least five hours we shall experience a literal rain of fire."

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Clay, Hessian and Skunk.

Charlotte Observer.

The brethren are passing the compliments of the season. In an interview, Tuesday, with the Raleigh correspondent of the Observer, Maj. Hiram L. Grant, of Goldsboro, said that Senator Butler moulds Governor Russell like clay; that the latter could be impeached for "general cussedness;" that nobody except Marshall Mott stands with him, and that he could not now get one vote in 500 that he received last year. In response to this the Governor says that "Grant is a Hessian who betrayed his constituents in order to get the smiles and favors of monopolists, and he is one of the sneaks and traitors whose existence and safety attest to the liberality and toleration of the decent people among whom he lives." Solicitor Mott also takes a whirl at the mayor through the medium of an interview in the Greensboro Telegram, in which he says that Grant has heard him say that he did not endorse Russell's course, and therefore he knowingly tells what is not true; that he (Mr. Mott) is stronger with his party in his county than ever before, can get a re-nomination for solicitor, if he wants it, practically without opposition, and that the statement that he would be nominated by the Democrats is "startling information" to him. He then proceeds to criticize Maj. Grant as "an old pie-hunting alien," and winds up by apologizing for taking up so much time in talking about a striped skunk.

We set these things down merely as chronicles of the history of the times. As for our part, give us liberty or give us death.

Monday Morning.

The rain has come, the earth is getting soft. The farmer is hitching up his blind mule, and one-eyed horse and goes forth to plow. He goes a few 'rounds' and receives notice by the pickets that a "yaller jacket" camp is near. Round or two more and he hears the camp and the fight begins. The enemy comes out in columns two and three deep. "Yaller jackets" fight better on a drizzly day; they don't use powder. Their javelin is driven by an "automatic spring," as you may know. They will drive it to the point every time—never miss fire. The mule uses both hind feet, the horse his fore feet. The enemy don't mind the kicks. The man uses language not suitable for prayer-meeting. The enemy keeps up the fight. The man can't drive off nor unhitch; finally he gets in front and leads off and the enemy holds the field.—Visitor.

The latest definition of a jury is "a body of men organized for the purpose of deciding which side has the smartest lawyer."

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More Radical Rule.

How rotten things must be when Christians are made to "cuss."

And we're afraid they'll not stop soon, for every day that passes demonstrates more clearly to the public mind the utter incompetency of the present officials to manage the affairs of our municipal government. Our board of aldermen, with an exception or two, is almost as illiterate as persons living in the Green Swamp who have yet their first blue back-speller to see, and a part of the city's most particular business is entrusted to what we might say a beardless youth, just barely over the maturity line, without any experience in public life whatever. This is a sample of Judge Russell's creations, an experiment which will come pretty high to our town.—Wilmington Dispatch.

ALLEN'S PATENT GUN.

Chapel Hill, N. C., Oct.—"Cleophas Allen (the man who walked from Waynesville to Chapel Hill to enter school) has invented a gun that will hit accurately in the dark. If America does not want it he will give it to France. Interviews desired with men of capital. Only those who have money and mean business need apply."

The above is a copy of a notice posted on the bulletin board here. An interview with Mr. Allen found him reticent on the subject, as negotiations are pending with capitalist concerning the patent rights. Mr. Allen has acknowledged that he would not let his patriotism stand in the way of money getting, and again designated France as his choice after his native land America.

Rev. Dr. Kingsbury says several reputable Populists of this State have suffered a change of heart and gone over to the Democrats. It appears to us that the learned Doctor might get out his Gatling gun and capture one of these "critters." There is some vacant space in the State Museum, and such a curiosity would be a great attraction. If the Doctor will capture a specimen, have him hermetically sealed up, marked "right side up with care" and shipped to Secretary John Nichols, it might be the means of bringing many people to the Fair next week. We've heard of these critters before, but they seem as hard to capture as an ordinary ghost.—News and Observer.

Some people are beginning to suspect that the returning prosperity shout of a few weeks ago was a Yankee trick to induce merchants to buy heavy stocks. Times have improved somewhat, perhaps, but this is due to natural causes, as has been explained, and the people continue to wait for the promised deluge of prosperity that the Dingley tariff bill was to turn loose upon the country.—Alleghany Star.

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Judge Greene's charge to the grand jury is spoken of as the plainest ever given here. All the people understood him from the opening to the close. Col. T. Geo. Walton, who has been attendant upon the opening of court for many years, and has often been foreman of grand juries, says he never heard a better charge.—Farmers' Friend.

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