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WASHINGTON LETTER.

From our Regular Correspondent.

The Platt-McKinley deal, first shown up in this correspondence, has been fully proven by the actions of the administration, public and private, within the past few days. It was to whip all administration republicans into line for Platt's man Tracy that Mr. McKinley and Secretary Bliss write that gushing letter in Tracy's favor announcing his intention to personally take part in the New York campaign. The fate of other national administration candidates in New York should have warned Mr. McKinley.

According to private letters received from those who move in diplomatic circles in London, Mr. McKinley became very much afraid about the time the Governor of the Bank of England made that silver bluff, that his own bluff, the international bimetallic commission, was being seriously taken by the British government, and caused it to be unofficially intimated to Lord Salisbury that this government had no real desire that any steps should be taken that were likely to lead to international bimetallic, as it was slowly but surely paving the way to make the single gold standard permanent in the United States.

Senator Gorman's manly open letter to the publisher of the Baltimore Sun, offering to withdraw from the leadership of the democratic party of Maryland, if the Sun would show its loyalty to the democratic party, by honestly supporting its candidates, and its publisher would take the management of the present campaign, has been the most absorbing topic of conversation in Washington since it was published. Inasmuch as the Sun has claimed Senator Gorman to be the only obstruction to its support of the nominations of the democratic party in Maryland, Senator Gorman's offer has placed it where it must present some better excuse for ignoring the offer than it has yet done, or run the risk of losing the confidence of many democrats. Democratic sentiment in Washington is practically unanimously on the side of Senator Gorman in this controversy. In that open letter Senator Gorman thus defines his attitude towards the Civil Service Law: "I am unalterably opposed, except in judicial places, to life tenure of office. It is incompatible with our free institutions. I believe that the highest standard for admission to the Civil Service should be honesty and capacity. When appointed, persons in public employ should be free from political assessment, but I am unalterably opposed to any rule which will prevent the people, at stated and fixed periods from changing their public servants."

Is it no longer a secret that

Gen. Fitz Lee, who has been much before the public since he became our Consul General to Cuba, will be a candidate for the seat now held by Senator Martin. It is also fully understood that Gen. Lee will, when he returns from Cuba, probably early next year, begin a personal canvass for the Senatorship, which he intends shall cover the entire State of Virginia, even to its remotest corners.

The administration fully recognizes the danger of a big Treasury deficit during the next fiscal year, added to that which is being piled up during the current fiscal year, and at the last Cabinet meeting it was determined that the departmental estimates for appropriation to be submitted to the coming session of Congress, should be cut down as low as possible, in order to try to get the expenditures down to the receipts of the government. This is confirmation of the arguments presented by prominent democrats while the tariff bill was before Congress—that the bill would not raise sufficient revenue.

No one in administration circles has denied the statement that Attorney General McKenna is to have the vacancy made by the retirement of Justice Field from the U. S. Supreme Court, on December 1, although there is one special and particular reason why Mr. McKenna should never sit on the Supreme Court—he is too friendly to the big corporations, this was known before he came to Washington, but additional proof was given by his avidity to ratify the bargain made under the Cleveland administration for the sale of the Union Pacific Railroad to the Huntington reorganization committee, under conditions which particularly shut out competition in the bidding. An attempt is now being made to get Mr. McKinley to interpose his authority in some way to stop the sale of the Union Pacific at least until the conditions of the sale can be changed so as to make them as fair to one set of bidders as to another, but there seems to be some doubt of his authority and more of his inclination to interfere, after Boss Hanna had told the Huntington ring that the sale should be put through under the old agreement, although the government will lose millions of dollars by the sale under present conditions.

Some newspaper men are terrible liars. In writing of a cyclone out West one of them said it turned a well wrong side out, a cellar upside down moved a township line, blew all the staves out of a whiskey barrel and left nothing but a bunghole, changed the day of the week, blew the hair off a bald headed man, blew mortgages off farms, blew all the cracks out of a fence and took all the wind out of a politician.—Ex.

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WHAT NEGRO RULE MEANS.

The News and Observer in an editorial says:

One of the most respectable ladies in Newbern had for some time had in her employ a small colored girl, who was so well treated that when she was bound out by the clerk of the court to a negro from the country, she did not want to leave her white mistress. Armed with the order of the clerk for the custody of the child, the negro man, to whom the girl had been bound, called at the home of the white employer and demanded that she go home with him. The girl secreted herself and the lady, knowing her aversion to going, did not disclose her hiding place. Whereupon the negro went down to Five Points and obtained from a negro magistrate a warrant against the lady for abduction of the child, and placed the warrant in the hands of a negro constable who served it upon her. The lady did not attend the trial, which was held in a negro hut, but sent an attorney to represent her, waive examination and give bond for her appearance before the superior court. When the lawyer appeared at the place of trial, he found that a negro lawyer had been employed to prosecute the lady, and when he offered to waive examination and give bond for her appearance to the upper court, the negro lawyer objected, and insisted that the lady should be brought personally into court. He made a violent speech and declared that her absence was a contempt of court and was intended as an expression of contempt of court, and demanded that she be attached for contempt and be brought into court. The negro constable, who is a darkey of better sense than the lawyer, advised the magistrate that he could accept the bond without the defendant being brought into court, and the matter was settled in that way against the protest of the prosecuting attorney.

This affair created great indignation among the white people as soon as it was known, and if the advice of the negro lawyer to have the lady brought into court by the negro constable had been taken, nothing could have prevented a race riot. The lady is the wife of a gentleman well-known in the state.

The only hope for decent government in North Carolina, not to speak of any reform, is voting out the present corrupt and incompetent gang. The man who says he wants reform, and applauds Russellism or Pritchardism is a liar or a fool. Each of these Republican leaders may now and then do a good thing, but the whole tendency of their leadership is to elevate bad men and lower the tone of public morals. If you doubt this, look at their white and negro appointees holding state and federal jobs.—News and Observer.

To Cure Constipation Forever. Take Cascarets Candy Cathartic. 10c or 25c. If C. C. C. fail to cure, druggists refund money.

Education and Wages.

We find in the New York World an extremely interesting, and, in this State at the present moment, pertinent summary of the report of the Massachusetts Bureau of Statistics of Labor.

From this it appears that tariffs have little or nothing to do with wages. The Bureau found greater differences in wages in like trades in this country than between the wages of the workers of the United States and England in the same occupations. In other words, our mechanics and laborers' incomes are both lower and higher than those of men in the same trades abroad.

A more significant fact is that Massachusetts workmen receive the highest wages paid in this country. What is the cause of this? The 'World' says:

"The statistics of education undoubtedly furnish the clue to it. They show that Massachusetts gives each of her inhabitants seven years' schooling of two hundred days each, while the average for the United States is four and three-tenths years of two hundred days each.

"Further, while the average wealth-producing power of each man, woman and child in the United States is forty cents a day, the average wealth producing power for each man, woman and child in Massachusetts is seventy-three cents a day—nearly double."

The lesson seems plain. The uneducated workman is at a disadvantage. Illiteracy is costly.—Asheville Citizen.

Climate and Crime.

The Secretary of Agriculture is testing, through the meteorological bureau department, the theory of French, Italian and German scientists that the volume of crime, notably suicide, is determined by atmospheric conditions. This year the number of suicides has been extraordinary. The record will surpass the statistics of several consecutive years. In all the large cities of the country the suicides have appeared in large force. Poisoning, shooting, drowning, have been the usual methods of "shuffling off this mortal coil," while not a few have preferred to be pulverized under the clanging wheels of heavy railway trains. The Secretary of Agriculture should by all means pursue his investigation. It will certainly be something gained if we can establish the theory he is working upon as solid fact, i. e., that after all, crimes of violence and all crimes are prompted by a peculiarly moist condition of the atmosphere; that a condition of great heat and humidity induces that left spinal movement of the molecules of the brain which impels a human being to envy, hatred and malice and all uncharitableness; yes, even murder or self-destruction, according to the eminent biologists to whom man is but a mechanical arrangement, a fortuitous concourse of atoms and thought, emotion, passion, but exudations of secretions like bile.

An Odd Bridal Tour.

The story of one of the strangest bridal tours ever taken is told by the St. Paul Globe. Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Berry started for Alaska immediately after their marriage, and have spent the last eighteen months in the inhospitable region, searching for gold. They were unsuccessful at first, but afterward hearing of gold in the Klondyke, they went there, and have now returned to St. Paul rich. Mrs. Berry herself picked up \$10,000 during the season. She is in excellent health, weighing twenty-two pounds more than when she left, although she has endured many hardships.

"I would advise all who contemplate going to the Klondyke," Mrs. Berry said, "to provide themselves with the warmest clothing possible. I carried with me four suits of extra heavy flannel underclothing and stockings. It is essential that one's foot wear be near perfection as possible. I wore heavy woolen stockings all winter, and my other dress was in keeping. I would not advise any one to take the journey this fall. There will unquestionably be great suffering among the miners already there, and if a thousand more prospectors go in there is no telling how great the misery will be."—Ex.

A Prompt Answer.

An amusing anecdote was told me the other day by an acquaintance of Sol Smith Russell, the actor, concerning his little daughter.

Five year-old Alice had been very disobedient, and her mamma, believing in the efficacy of moral suasion, sent her to her chamber to pray God to forgive her naughtiness.

The little girl was absent for a long half hour, and when her footsteps were heard upon the stairs her mother expected to see a thoroughly penitent and, perhaps, tearful suppliant for God's mercy.

But Alice came blithely into the room, and announced the response to her supplications:

"What did Jesus say, dear?" questioned her mother.

"W'y, he said, 'Great Scott! Alice Russell, I know a lot of worse little girls than you are,'" announced Alice with gravity becoming the situation.

Mrs. Russell was silent with surprise at the wit displayed by so small a child, and she now believes implicitly that the talent of the father descendeth unto his children.—Ex.

Marion Messenger: Prof. J. J. Britt, of Bakersville was in town last week. His school at Bakersville now numbers 130 and 200 are expected on the roll. Prof. Britt stated that a few days before leaving Bakersville Sheriff Pritchard had spoken to him of being able to walk about town.

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Asheville Citizen: George Johnson, negro, was convicted of rape in the Wilmington criminal court, and sentenced to be hanged. Johnson assaulted a young colored woman. He was defended by two colored lawyers, while Solicitor Richardson, for the State was assisted by Congressman Geo. H. White, colored. The jury in the case consisted of 11 white men and one negro.

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