Goldsboro Messenger.

J. A. BONITZ, Editor and Proprietor. "For us, Principle is Principle—Right is Right—Yesterday, To-day, To-morrow, Forever." Published Semi-Weekly—$3.00 a Year

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WASHINGTON ROUTINE.

General Legislative and Executive Intelligence.

[From our Washington Correspondent.]

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9.—The Senate adjourned over yesterday until Monday. It considered the Utah bill at some length and finally passed it. There were only seven nays. Quite a number of bills were introduced.

In a debate arising upon a bill for private relief, Mr. Dolph commented on the increasing number of such bills and the decreasing number of meritorious bills coming before Congress. He thought it would be necessary to make some general provision for the consideration of private bills and take them away from Congress. He showed that during the first fifty years of our government the number of bills introduced in the House of Representatives was 8,777, while the number introduced in that house during the Forty-eighth Congress alone was 8,630.

Mr. Eustis offered a concurrent resolution with a preamble setting forth that whereas the act of Congress of 1878 declared the silver dollar a legal-tender for all debts, public and private; that by the act of 1869 the faith of the United States was solemnly pledged to the payment in coin, or its equivalent, of all public obligations not bearing interest, etc., that by the refunding act of July, 1870, the principal and interest of the debt were made redeemable in coin of the then standard value; that since the enactment of those laws it had been the unvarying practice of the Secretary of the Treasury to pay the bonds and interest in gold coin; and that the Secretary of the Treasury had issued a call for ten million dollars of bonds, payable on the 1st of February, 1886; therefore be it resolved, etc., That in the opinion of Congress said bonds of ten million dollars, payable on the 1st February, 1886, should be paid in silver dollars, such payment being in strict compliance with existing law and in aid of the financial policy established by the legislation of Congress.

Mr. Eustis desired the resolution referred to the committee on finance, and expressed the hope that that committee would report on it at an early day, in order that it may be determined whether or not this practice of paying the United States bonds and the interest on them exclusively in gold coin was approved or disapproved by Congress. The resolution was so referred.

The president on Thursday sent to the Senate, in compliance with a resolution of December 9th, 1885, the correspondence of the Department of State with Ministers Pendleton, Phelps and McLane, and Mr. Walker, consul general at Paris, regarding the attitude of the European governments on the silver question. This correspondence is preceded by a letter from Secretary Bayard to the President explaining the circumstances under which the information was gathered. Minister Phelps says England inflexibly adheres to the gold standard, and will enter into no international agreement for the creation of a bi-metallic standard. Minister McLane finds that France would not permit even the restricted coinage of silver in her mints. There is a large amount of foreign silver circulating in France, on which that country would lose 600,000,000 francs if the countries coining silver should refuse to redeem it in gold. A French five-franc piece to-day is intrinsically worth only four francs. Minister Pendleton finds Germany's attitude toward silver much the same. Consul General Walker says the prevailing sentiment of Germany is unmistakably in favor of the restoration of silver to full monetary functions.

Yesterday only a few of the new committees of the House organized. The judiciary, of which Judge Bennett is a member, was one of these. Another was the Commerce. The Naval Affairs Committee decided to subdivide and authorized Chairman Herbert to submit a plan next week. This committee will call in a body Monday on the Secretary of the Navy. As only a few members ventured through the blizzard to-day, there was little or no perfectly organization.

The following-named persons have been appointed and sworn in as committee clerks: W. C. McBride, of District of Columbia, alcoholic liquor traffic; John Wesler, of Indiana, invalid pensions; John F. Elliott, of Texas, Indian affairs; W. P. Rix, of Winconsin, military affairs; B. M. Turner, of Georgia, post offices and post roads; Abram C. Weaver, of Iowa, expenditures in the Department of the Interior; Alexander J. Jones, of Illinois, claims; Clifford Sanders, of Missouri, labor; Charles Gordon, of Ohio, territories; Louis Choble, of Texas, commerce; P. V. DeGraw, of the District of Columbia (temporary), foreign affairs; Jas. Bluter, of Alabama, naval affairs; Geo. B. Cobb, Indiana, public lands; W. H. Smith, District of Columbia, patents; John Carmichael, of Virginia, judiciary.

There is some complaint of the commissioners of pensions. Investigation resolutions have either passed or been introduced in both houses of Congress.

Acting Secretary Fairchild has appointed Special Agents Montgomery and Tingle and Deputy Collector Berry a committee to make a thorough examination of the New York custom house, with a view to a reduction of expenses and a simplification of business methods.

Mr. Anderson's bill in the House to prohibit members of Congress and judicial officers from receiving railroad passes or telegraph franks provides that before any instalment of salary falling due to any of these officers shall be paid to him he shall certify in writing that during the period for which such instalment is due he has not traveled on any railroad nor transmitted any message by telegraph at rates less than are paid therefore by the general public for like service, and in the event of his failure to make such statements the instalment of salary shall be forfeited and remain forever unpaid. A fine of $1,000 is imposed upon any officer of a railroad or telegraph company furnishing passes to any of the persons mentioned.

Senator Harrison will report back favorably from the committee on territories on Monday or Tuesday the bill for the admission of Dakota. It will be accompanied by a long report embodying the constitution of the proposed state and other papers, and will be called up for consideration as soon as possible after the report is printed. It is not yet known whether or not there will be a minority report. The present indications are that the division upon the question in the Senate will be very nearly upon strict party lines. In the House the bill will go to its death just so sure as it reaches the body.

One of the clerks in the land office, whose salary with some thriteen others of the employes has been reduced, recently went to Commissioner Sparks and spoke of the hardship in having his salary cut down. Mr. Sparks remarked that there were some fifteen employes who had been selected for removal, and if the clerk preferred instead of being on the list with the clerks reduced in salary, he could be placed on the list for dismissal. "It was either reduction or dismissal," was the conclusion of the commissioner, which had the effect of bringing the interview to an end.

Comissioner Sparks, of the general land office, yesterday issued a series of rules respecting attorneys and clerks. The former will not be permitted to visit the rooms occupied by the representative divisions of the land office, nor to interview the chiefs of divisions of clerks upon matters of official business except by order of the commissioner, while clerks will not be allowed to receive visitors at their desks without special permission of the chief of division.

Attorney General Ayers, of the State of Virginia, continued the argument for the defendants in error, before the U. S. Supreme Court Thursday in the Virginia coupon case, after William L. Royall had argued in behalf of the appellants.

Secretary Lamar returned to day from his home in Mississippi, where he has been spending the holidays. The commissioner of patents, Mr. Montgomery, will be back on Monday, and then a decision in the great telephone case will be announced. Secretary Manning and assistant Secretary Smith have also returned.

Miss Charlotte L. Walker, the daughter of the late distinguished Robert J. Walker, and sister of Gen. Duncan S. Walker, died Thursday at the latter's residence in this city and was buried to-day. C. W. H.

KINSTON ITEMS.

Paragraphs by Our Regular Reporter.

We had watermelon for desert at dinner Jan. 8, 1886,—Is that early or late?

Mr. Joel Kinsey of Cobbton and Mr. Frank Kornegay, of Goldsboro were in town Friday on a trade.

The Spring session of our schools have opened well.

The boys say, when Miss Minnie Bryan of Newberne, and Miss Lizzie Biddle of Craven are added to the home attractions at Dr. J. P. Bryans, they cant stay away.

Rosco Miller left last Saturday for the Horner school.

E. L. Miller leaves this Tuesday for New Yory to complete his law course.

The thermometer registered 4. above 0 in Kinston Monday morning.

Among the young men who homeward flew, to spend some of the holidays was Mr. Stonewall Pollock.

A colored school teacher with a first grade certificate after failing to explain why 5 2 5 weeks and 1 7-20 months were equal, was asked what 2½ yards, of calico would come to at 2½ cents per yard? and only after many fruitless efforts and some suggestions did he succeeed in getting the correct answer.

A dead lock, a water-haul, and still it goes on. The Magistrates met last Monday presumably to abolish the Inferior court, but there was not a quorum (a dead lock) and as their meeting seemed to be for that purpose it was a-water-haul. Everybody nearly seemed to think it would be abolished, and would die without a struggle, and for that reason no arrangements were made for the holding of the court. No papers served. No jurors summoned. No letigants on hand. But the court was not abolished and must be held, at a cost perhaps of several hundred dollars to the county. Of course the Magistrates wanted it to continue or they would have been present, and we submit cheerfully to the powers that be.

J. R. Tingle, a young minister of the Disciple church has entered Kinston College.

Several families have moved into town and some have moved out.

Mr. L. J. Mewborne is erecting a handsome residence.

Our clever Register of Deeds Mr. G. L. Hodges and Miss Florence Rountree, daughter of Dr. Rountree were married at the brides' fathers on the morning of the 12th inst. Dr. Harper pronouncing the two one. The happy couple took the morning train for a bridal tour in Florida. May the rich aroma of the flowers of spring time, and the luxuriant fruitage of the orange tree be but emblems of their happiness and prosperity. A grand reception was given at Dr. Rountrees on the night of the eleventh. There were sixteen attendants and a large crowd assembled to witness the marriage, notwithstanding the early hour and the extreme cold. Mr. E. L. Miller furnished the music. The bridal presents were numerous and pretty.

FOR WARMTH AND COMFORT.

Our Stock of Bicycle Shirts are beauties, and quality guaranteed. Colors, three. Styles, two. At SOL EINSTEIN & Co's.

TOBACCO CULTURE.

The Plant Bed and How to Make it.

[Henderson Gold Leaf of December 31, 1885.]

The *Gold Leaf*, true to its promise, and pledged to the best interests of the people, lays before its readers this week the first paper of a series of articles to be given from time to time as the season progresses on the subject of tobacco culture. Recognizing the importance and value of tobacco as a money crop to the farmer, it is designed to make this feature of the paper of special interest to the new beginner in this most profitable of all agricultural pursuits, and to this end we shall spare neither time, trouble nor expense to make it as full and instructive as possible.

First we take up the subject of plant beds, giving in detail the mode of preparing the same, as practiced by Maj. R. L. Ragland, of Halifax county, Va., one of the most successful tobacco growers in the country, a gentleman of intelligence and large experience, and a recognized authority on the subject of tobacco culture.

PREPARATION OF PLANT BEDS.

There are two modes for raising plants—in hot bed or cold frame, or in the open air—one or the other of which has preference according to locality; the former being more practised North of forty degrees latitude, while the latter is preferred South of that line. We will here give both, that planters may choose.

THE HOT BED.

Select a Southern or Southeastern exposure, sheltered on the North, dig and shovel out a space five by twelve feet, or any required length, to the depth of eighteen inches. Place straw to the depth of three or four inches in the bottom of this trench, and cover with fresh unrotted manure from the stable to the depth of six or eight inches; then cover the manure with soil—woods-mould is best—five inches deep, and surround the bed with planks twelve inches wide on North side and six inches wide on South. These will make a frame over which sections of canvas covering should be placed to keep the bed warm, promote growth and protect the plants. These sections may be made of frames five feet long and three feet wide, with common domestic cloth tacked thereon as a covering, and they answer every purpose as glazed sash, are cheaper and less destructible, and may be used for several years to grow tobacco or horticultural plants. Once used, you will be loth to do without them for the latter purpose. But, to return. Tobacco seed is sown on the bed thus prepared at the rate of two teaspoonfuls to a bed five by twelve feet. To sow regularly, mix the seed with a fertilizer, ashes or plaster, and sow in drills three inches apart. A bed twelve feet long will require four sections of canvas covering, which are light and handy, and may be put on or off, or adjusted at pleasure. When the plants have pretty well covered the surface of the bed, remove the canvas during the day, and only replace them when there is danger of frost, or to keep off the flea-bugs. There is the advantage of having earlier plants by this mode and perfect security against the flea-bug, which will repay for the additional cost of raising at least a portion of the plants needed for the crop by this safe mode.

OPEN AIR BEDS.

But there is no question that open air beds are cheapest. And where this mode of raising plants is practicable, it is greatly to be preferred for the main supply of plants. It is a well established opinion that plants raised in the open air stand transplanting better and usually grow off quicker than plants raised in hot bed or cold frame.

SELECTION OF LOCALITY.

On the selection of a proper locality for a plant bed and its preparation largely depends the timely supply of strong, healthy plants, without which it is impossible to raise a crop of fine grade. The planter therefore cannot be too careful in choosing a sheltered spot, neither too wet nor too dry, as rich naturally as can be found, and located so as to possess different degrees of moisture.

Go into the woods, original forest, if possible, and select a spot near a branch or stream of water, embracing both hillside and flat, and having a Southern or Southeastern exposure, protected by woods on the North. Burn over the plat intended for plants, either by the old or new method. The first consists in placing down a bed of wood on small skids three to four feet apart on the ground, well cleared and raked. Then fire this bed of wood and permit it to remain burning long enough to cook the soil brown for half an inch deep. With hooks or old hoes fastened to long poles pull the burning mass of brands a distance of four and a half or five feet, throw on brush and wood and continue burning and moving the fire until the bed is burned over. Never burn when the land is wet. It will require from one and a half to two hours to cook the soil properly.

Or, better still: Rake over nicely the plat to be burned, then place down poles from two to four inches in diameter, three and a half to four feet apart, over the entire surface to be burned. Then place brush thickly over the plat and weight down with wood, over which throw leaves, trash or other combustible material; over this sprinkle kerosene oil, and set the whole on fire and burn at one operation.

But any mode of burning the plat will suffice, provided that it is effectually done. After the plat has been burned and has cooled, rake off the large coals and brands, but let the ashes remain, as they are essentially a first-class manure. Then coulter over the plat deeply, or break with grub hoes, and make fine the soil by repeated chopping and raking, observing not to bring the sub-soil to the surface, and remove all roots and tufts. Manure from the stable, hog pen or poultry house, or some reliable commercial fertilizer, should be chopped into and thoroughly incorporated with the soil while preparing the bed to be sown. Experience has demonstrated that it is better to use both. But beware of using manure containing grass seed. The judgment of the planter must guide him in the amount of fertilizing material to be applied at this stage; but it were well to remind him that the tobacco plant rarely responds to homœpathic doses of plant food, but that the allopathic usage suits it best.

Sow at the rate of a teaspoonful of seed, which is about half an ounce, on every fifty square yards at first sowing, and later resow with a heaping teaspoonful over the same surface, to secure a good stand. Injury by frosts or bugs may require a third or fourth sowing. Sow a little thick rather than too thin to meet contingencies, and secure a good stand in time.

The best way to sow the seed is to mix them thoroughly with a fertilizer or dry ashes, and sow once regularly over the bed, reserving seed enough to cross sow to promote regularity. The tobacco seed is the smallest of all farm seeds, and consequently requires a light covering. If the seed are sown before the 20th of February, the best way is to firm the surface of the bed by treading it over closely, but if sown later, sweep lightly over with a brush or light rake. Then run surface drains through the bed, with inclination enough to pass off the water. To do this properly, run them off four or five feet apart with the foot, then open with a narrow grubbing hoe to the depth of three or four inches. Then trench deeply around the outside of the bed, to ward off surface water and prevent washing.

MULCHING AND COVERING.

Hog hair whipped fine and scattered over the bed, attracts and retains moisture, protects the plants from frost, and acts as a manure. There is no better covering for a plant bed, but unfortunately it is rarely ever in full supply. Fine brush should be placed thickly over the bed, or if not handy cover with straw or chaff free from grain. A covering of some such material is necessary, or the young plants are likely to be killed by frost or suffer from drought, and they thrive better with some protection.

A covering of thin cloth has been found to hasten the growth of plants and protect them from freezing and injury by the flea-bug. The bed is surrounded by boards tacked up close, to the height of eighteen to twenty inches, according to the size of the bed; then a covering of thin canvas is made, the size of the bed, and tacked to the upper edge of the boards all around. This excludes cold air and fleas, makes the bed warmer, and acts as a cold frame, the canvas taking the place of glass.

Horner & Hyde, of Baltimore, Md., prepare a cloth for plant beds by a process which greatly promotes durability, while rendering the cloth, unfit for domestic use, and therefore not liable to be stolen. It is a good thing, as the writer knows from trial.

The canvas should not touch the bed, but be kept suspended above, by ropes stretched across underneath, and firmly fastened, to prevent sagging.

A STANDING PLANT BED.

Every planter ought to have a standing plant-bed, which may be secured in the following way: Sometime in July or August select one of the best of the old plant beds, and with hoes shave down the green plants over its entire surface, and cover over thickly with straw or leaves, then place green brush thickly over the bed and weight down with wood. When the whole is dry, some time in the late fall or early winter, set on fire, and thus re-burn over the bed. Then chop and rake fine, sow and trench as when first prepared. Repeat the same operation every year, and, if the bed is manured properly, it will improve and prove a stand-by for many years.

UNBURNED BEDS.

Plants may be raised by going into the forest, selecting a moist rich plat; and after raking off the leaves, coultering or chopping the surface fine, manuring heavily, and sowing the seed. But such beds rarely hold out well if the season be dry. They never "repeat" well after the first "drawing" like burnt beds, which are more reliable for a successive supply of plants as the season advances.

TIME OF SOWING SEED.

The time for sowing varies with the latitude, variety and season. Between the parallels of 35 and 40 degrees north latitude, compassing the great tobacco belt, beds may be sown any time between the 1st of January and 20th of March, and the sooner the better for the bright grades, which ought to be planted early to mature, ripen and yellow, preparatory to being cured early in the fall, when the most successful curings are usually made. Yellow tobacco ought to be planted out in May, but June plantings usually do best in heavy dark grades. The planter will consult his interest by sowing at a proper time to suit the grade he desires to raise.

Plants set out after the 10th of July rarely pay for growing and handling, and if not planted by that time, it will be wise to plant the hills in peas, potatoes, or something else.

HASTENING THE GROWTH OF PLANTS.

As soon as the plants become "square," *i. e.*, have four leaves, you may begin to force their growth if necessary. Nothing is better at this stage of their growth than to apply dry stable manure, rubbed fine, and sowed over the bed—applying at the rate of five bushels to every one hundred square yards. Be sure to have it dry and fine, and apply when the plants are dry. This is a favorable time to apply a good fertilizer, and the best time to apply it is during a shower, or when it is apparent that one is impending.

LOOK OUT FOR THE "FLEA-BUG."

If the "fly," as it is called, begins to devour the young plants, apply plaster, in which rags saturated with kerosene oil have lain for a few hours, covering the plants with the plaster, if necessary, to keep the little pests from devouring them. Repeat the application after every rain, unless the flies have left.

A covering of green cedar brush has driven off the fly when other remedies failed, and saved the plants. If the flies are numerous, the planter can save his plants only by vigilant and constant attention. Hard burning, early and thick sowing, liberal and frequent applications of manure, are the best safeguards, which rarely fail to reward the planter with an early and full supply of stocky plants, and with some left for his less provident neighbors. Some planters, if such they may be called, always fail—some never. Follow the latter, and you will always be right.

DUPLIN COUNTY ITEMS.

Mr. O. P. Middleton was unfortunate to have a horse die which he had purchased but a few days before.

The Rev. Mr. Kennedy, we are sorry to learn, is confined to the house by illness.

The new force pump, just placed in position by the Wa saw Comissioners, is doing good service and in case of fire will prove valuable. Mr. A. Hamblin is agent for the pump.

Just on the brink of the holidays Mr. Luther Powell and Miss Bettie Brice were married at the home of the brides father. Hundreds of friends were on hand to congratulate the happy couple. Rev. Sandlin officiated

The Rev. J. D. Stanford, who as you remember recently received license to preach, went down in the lower edge of the county—his old stumping ground. It was pretty generally advertised that their old favorite was coming, and the crowd was so great that the church would not accommodate even the ladies, and a number had to take position with the men at the open windows. It was estimated that from eight hundred to one thousand people were in attendance.

Here is a strange bit of news and the strangest part of it is that its true. A white man went to the county Register and procured a license for an other party as he said—that wanted to marry. He gave the name of a gentleman and lady and then went and married the lady himself using the license notwithstanding his name was very unlike the name in the license.

Magnolia regrets losing, by removal to a residence near Goldsboro, Mrs. Hartsell and her accomplished daughter Miss Laura.

The concert and festival which recently took place at Magnolia was a splendid success in every respect. The attendance was large and very liberal. The characters were well chosen and showed evidence of skillful drilling. Between the acts Miss Hartsell furnished some charming instrumental music. Over forty dollars were realized.

We are pleased to learn that the reported failure of Mr. Buck Pierce is untrue. The fact which led to the false report was merely a business transaction that does not interfere with Mr. Pierce's financial soundness.

Mr. William Aaron has removed to Mount Olive with his family. Mr. James Swinson and Mr. John Register have located in the same town. Our friends carry with them the best wishes of a host of friends. The young men are worthy of the respect of all good citizens.

Some business changes have occurred at Warsaw. Mr. Herring goes back to Clinton. Cox & Hamilton have desolved. Mr. Cox will continue business in Mr. Hunter's new room. Mr. Hamilton goes to the Woodard block. Mr. C. Best occupies one of Mr. Morisey's store rooms.

Master John Carroll publishes a lively little paper at Magnolia with a good size subscri tion list.

We hear quite a number talking of attending the Kellogg concert at Goldsboro on the 28th inst. providing reduced R. R. fair can be had, from Magnolia and Warsaw.

The Spring term of the Warsaw High School opened last Monday with very flattering prospects. The Messrs Kennedy deserve success and we are glad to state that the public is showing its appreciation of the advantages which they offer.

The county Commissioners and the county Board of Education met in joint session last Monday for the purpose of examining the Treasurer's books. The people of the county know that Mr. John Wells is a clever gentleman and the Boards say that he is an excellent officer.

The Rev. Dr. Hufham of Scotland Neck has beed visiting his aged father, Rev. G. W. Hufham. The Dr. preached in the Baptist church Monday night.

Prof. B. F. Grady, County Superintendent of Public Schools, was in town last week. Prof. Grady visited the High School and in an hour's discourse greatly pleased and highly entertained the pupils. Prof. Grady is a fine scholar and without doubt one of the best informed men in the State. Duplin has it in her power to honor Mr. Grady and in honoring him benefit the State and honor herself.

Notwithstanding the hard times people will marry. Tuesday last Mr. Sam Parker of Sampson came to Duplin and wedded Miss Hardy, daughter of Mr. Andrew Hardy. May their joys be many.

The apportionment for Duplin public schools is 39 cts per capita, with half that amount to be appropriated as the Board of Education deem best.

A number of our most advanced farmers will plant considerable land in tobacco this coming season. Last years experience proved conclusively that the soil in this section is especially adapted to successful culture of the weed.

Just received a full line of Black Jerseys. Price from 50 cents to $2.00, at

† J. METZGER & SON.

LEADING EVENTS.

A Review of the World's History in 1885.

[Baltimore Sun.]

The year 1885 may be said to possess the enviable distinction of having closed its record with achievements of which it gave no promise in its opening months. It began with wars, actual and prospective, in the Soudan, in Afghanistan, in Tonquin, in Madagascar, in Canada, in Central America and in Peru, and as it progressed further conflicts were developed in Burmah, in the Balkan peninsula and in Mexico. The dispute between England and Russia over the Afghan boundary, and the struggle of opposing interests brought about by the revolution which resulted in the union of Roumelia with Bulgaria, at one time threatened seriously the repose of Europe and Asia. Yet the year closes in peace, England and Russia, Austria and Russia, France and China, France and Madagascar having for a time at least composed their differences amicably, while in Canada, Central America, Peru, Burmah and Mexico pacification has resulted from successes gained by superior military force. In the Soudan alone, where the fanaticism inspired by the Mahdi makes incessant war against all unbelievers an article of faith, is war still flagrant.

The year 1885 has been attended with fairly good crops the world over, and while from an industrial point of view it has had its share of disappointments, still only the veriest pessimist on a review of the entire field, could deny that upon the whole the world has made substantial progress. The series of earthquakes, floods, storms and destructive epidemics, extending throughout the twelve months, and the depression of trade with which the year began, and with which, for most countries, it ends, are to be reckoned, of course, on the other side of the account. The United States may, however, claim perhaps to have suffered less than other nations from these inevitable visitations, and it certainly occupies an exceptional position in having during the last six months experienced an appreciable revival of commercial and industrial activity. Coincident with this movement there has been a palpable amelioration of national politics. The possession by a Democrat for the first time in twenty-four years of the presidential office, besides cheering the larger part of our population, so long excluded from executive power, has also by its results agreeably surprised and reassured those who conscientiously believed the interests of the country to be safe only in Republican hands. The Cleveland administration in the ten months it has been in power has demonstrated the capacity of the party it represents to manage affairs of state in a wise, progressive and yet conservative spirit, and the President, by his rigid adherance to the principles of reform laid down in his inaugural address, has done a great deal to alter the spirit and improve the tone in which political questions are discussed in and out of Congress. The sectional issue has in consequence ceased to be a reliable weapon of party warfare. Its employment of Mr. Sherman in the fall campaign greatly diminished, it is generally conceded, his party's vote everywhere, and in Virginia and New York contributed much to the decisive victories gained by the Democrats in those States. The exit of sectionalism, which may be considered one of the most important events of our national history in the past year, has given an opportunity to the statesmen of both parties to consider dispassionately questions of foreign and domestic policy that have long been demanding attention.

Mr. Cleveland and his cabinet, in the exercise of their executive functions, have done much to improve the civil service, to restrain the depredations of railroads and individuals upon the public domain, to check irregularities in the administration of the departments, and, generally, to enforce the laws impartially; but in the communications laid before the forty-ninth Congress they have urged the pressing need of reforms which only the legislative branch of the government can take in hand. Among the matters thus brought into deserved prominence are the silver problem, the necessity of a reduction of the high tariff tax, the needs of the navy, and the importance of enactments dealing with the questions of presidential succession and electoral counts. The only foreign enterprise in which we have engaged was the restoration of order on the Isthmus of Panama. This, thanks to the discretion and tact of the Secretary of State and vigor of the Navy Department, was speedily accomplished without offence to the Colombian government, and in such a manner as to convince European governments of our intention to exercise the predominant influence in the decision of all questions affecting interoceanic lines of transit in that quarter of the world. The effort of Barrios, the President of Gautemala, to compel a union of the five Central American States was frustrated by his death in battle with the resisting San Salvadorans, and peace was restored after some further fighting of a desultory character. The cordiality of our relations with Ecuador were at one time threatened by her treatment of Santos, an American citizen, but Secretary Bayard's determined insistance upon the release of Santos secured a substantial, if of formal, concession of our just demands. Peru during the past year, as for several previous years, continued to be torn with civil war, but the capture of Lima by Caceres, a few weeks ago, the resignation of President Iglesias, and the prospective election of the victor to succeed him, will, it is hoped, secure at length permanent peace.

In Brazil the movement for the abolition of slavery has made considerable progress in the past year. In the interference of Federal troops, in the interest of a presidential candidate with the local government of the State of Nuovo Leon, Mexico gives us a painful reminder of the reconstruction period of our own history. As the interference was inspired wholly by ordinary hunger for office, it is to be feared that the incident is but a further demonstration of the chronic incapacity of the Spanish race for republican government. Our northern neighbor, Canada, has had variety given to her annals by a small-pox epidemic and by a rebellion of the squatters on the public lands of the Northwest Territory. The completion, however, of the Canadian Pacific Railroad to within a few hundred miles of the Sasketchewan region, occupied by the rebellious half breeds, facilitated the suppression of Riel's movement by Gen. Middleton before it became wide-spread, and the completion of that transcontinental route from sea to sea promises the dominion government immunity from enterprises of that character in the future. Looking aboard we find European statesmen struggling patiently with the myriad difficulties created by the circumstances and past history of their several countries. In a number of them internal commotion is added to foreign complications.

The British disasters in the East brought discredit upon the foreign policy of Mr. Gladstone, and lost him early in June the majority with which he took office five years before. He was succeeded as prime minister by Lord Salisbury, who, with good luck, tact and more conservative policy speedily altered the aspec of affairs. Russia came to terms, the Egyptian convention was ratified, and Bismarck, who had thwarted every purpose of the Gladstone ministry at Constantinople and elsewhere, now lent his powerful aid. Added to this came the death of the Mahdi from disease or poison at Omdurman, near Khartoum, which, for a time, paralyzed the movements of his followers. The Bulgaro-Roumelian question, after prolonged discussion, is to be settled on the lines laid down at the outset by the British ministry. The Zanzibar question with Germany was satisfactorily solved, and England obtained like favors with Germany in the settlement of the Caroline Islands difficulty with Spain. Large additions were made to the empire in the acquisition of Bechuanaland, in the interior of Africa, of the Niger region, and of the kingdom of Burmah, not to mention smaller areas in other quarters of the globe. The passage of Mr. Gladstone's bill enfranchising some 2,000,000 new electors necessitated the election of a new Parliament. The voting, which took place in the first week of December, resulted in the election of 333 whigs and radicals, 251 conservatives and 86 Irish nationalists. As 336 votes constitute a majority, it is evident that neither of the two first-named elements can maintain itself in power without the aid of the third, the net result of which is to make Mr. Parnell's demands in behalf of Ireland the first matter for the new House to pronounce upon.

France has also had changes of ministry, M. Ferry losing office in April on the Tonquin question, and M. Brisson, his successor, going out by reason of the country's continued disapproval of adventurous colonial enterprises. The war with China was brought to a conclusion early in the year, and the difficulties with Madagascar have been composed by a treaty negotiated during its closing months. Fighting and massacres of Christians continue in Tonquin, which promises to be anything but a profitable acquisition. Russia's already vast possessions have, during 1885, been made more considerable by additions in Central Asia. The progress toward Herat has been rapid, to the dismay of the British politicians. Her chief employment, however, has been to consolidate her strength within her actual limits by constructing forts, railroads, &c., restricting her foreign enterprises to secret negotiations with leaders of opinion in Afghanistan, in Persia and in the Balkan peninsula. Germany has continued with success to develop her policy of colonization and acquisition in the interests of trade. Her army has been strengthened, and in conjunction with that of Austria has been an effective instrument of the preservation of the peace of Europe.

The past year adds many names to the list of the distinguished dead, among their number those of President Grant, Vice-Presidents Hendricks and Colfax, Gens. McClellan, McDowell and Toombs, and the millionaires Vanderbilt and Garrison. England regrets the loss of Gens. Gordon, Stewart and Earle, killed in the Soudan; the Earl of Shaftsbury and Sir Moses Montefiore, the eminent philanthropist, and Dr. William B. Carpenter, the distinguished physiologist. France lost her greatest modern poet in the person of Victor Hugo. Spain counts among her dead King Alfonso and General Serrano. The necrology of Germany includes the names of Field Marshal, Baron Von Manteuffel, Prince Frederick Charles and Dr. Natchtigol, the explorer of Africa. Not the least famous name in the list of the year's dead is that of Amed Achmet, the Mahdi of the Soudan.

Happy Thought in the Night

For years Mr Jas. R. Ackley, of 163 West Fayette street, Baltimore, had suffered with neuralgia so that he could hardly sleep. But he writes, "One night I was suffering very much, and the thought struck me that Brown's Iron Bitters would do me some good, and perhaps cure me. It was a happy thought, and to my great joy it has entirely cured me after using two bottles. After three months I have had no return of the symptoms. I cheerfully recommend it as the best tonic I have ever used." Neuralgia sufferers, take the hint!

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