WASHINGTON LETTER.

Special Correspondence.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4, '99.

The Republican caucus committee has presented the long promised gold standard bill to the public, and Tuesday evening the house caucus will consider the means of getting it passed at an early day by that body. It is generally admitted that the senate will make important amendments, and delay considerably action upon it. Many of the leaders were averse to its being reported at this session, but the party was confronted by threats of vengeance from leading gold standard agitators if the promise to pass such a measure was broken again in this congress; and the bill accordingly was presented to the house. The Republicans are in sufficient control now in both houses to secure final enactment, if they are really bent on such a course. It seems to be settled that the house will act, without great delay; not so certain, however, is the fate of the measure in the senate. The bill can truthfully be characterized as one drawn especially for the benefit of the national bankers and the large holders of government bonds. It appeals, therefore, for the support of the great capitalistic influences, which are strong in the councils of the Republican party. Its avowed object is to fasten the gold standard more firmly upon the country. It proves that the bankers of the east interpreted correctly the Republican platform of 1896, and that they were justified amply in supporting McKinley upon the money issue, because in due time they would be rewarded by legislation made to their order. But it shows conclusively, at the same time, that the specious phrase "international bimetalism" used in the platform was merely a catchword for the silver Republicans of the middle west, and meant nothing else. Had the bill been drawn by such large holders of government bonds as J. Pierpont Morgan and the Goulds and Vanderbilts, it could not have better suited their interests. It proposes to go back and make all the coin bonds heretofore issued, payable in gold. Such a bill is essentially class legislation, discriminating and unjust; and when its full purport is understood, while it continues to satisfy the great monied interests, it will be repudiated by the great mass of the people. As the government bonds now command a premium, although payable in "coin," either gold or silver, no such law was needed to maintain these government obligations on a parity with gold. The bill is aimed to effect kinds of money, but not quantities of money. The former consideration is of interest to those who have unlimited money, and the latter concerns those who are striving to get it; and therein is the distinction between Republican and Democratic currency legislation. The bill in time will probably pass. It will do nothing to quiet general currency discussion, but will gain votes for bimetalism, the more its provisions are studied and comprehended.

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The reported alliance between this country, or rather between the present administration of the government, and the powers of Great Britain and Germany promises to give the Republicans endless embarrassment. No treaty of alliance has been made, nor prepared for signature; and of course none could be operative without ratification by the senate. But while there has been no formal treaty negotiated, there undoubtedly has been an interchange of diplomatic assurances, well understood abroad. This is evidenced in the public expressions of our ambassador to England, Mr. Choate. Taking his cue from the State department, it appears that Mr. Choate has lost no opportunity to assure Great Britain that the Americans regard that monarchy as an unmitigated blessing, whose power should be extended to every zone excepting that occupied by the United States. The consequence of this is that the American people are put in the position of abetting a monarchy in its war against a struggling republic in South Africa. Chamberlain, speaking for the English State department, has congratulated his countrymen on our moral support, which he rates as of the utmost value. This pretty understanding has its drawbacks. The publication of such utterances abroad has led to pertinent questions at home. The question is being asked: By what authority do these officials who are charged with but brief authority, and little of that, venture to speak as for the great American republic in such matters? By none of course, is the answer; and the administration fearing a very lively discussion of State department performances makes haste to deny publicly that there is an "alliance." Of course there has been no alliance; but there has been an understanding, which if duly published and admitted throughout the world, would serve all the moral purposes of an alliance. This understanding was given by officious Republican State department agents, prominent among them being Mr. Hay, the Secretary of State, lately returned from London, greatly impressed by the splendors of the court of St. James, the magnificence of royalty and the wisdom of the House of Lords; but with not enough of American manhood in his composition to see some of the defects and burdens of even the most liberal monarchy. But these gentlemen, seeing the political error they have made at home, are beating a hasty retreat; and now are printing assurances here that there is nothing in the reported alliance; and at the same time, no doubt, cabling renewed winks to Choate that denials at home are made only for home consumption.

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Mark Hanna has announced definitely that he does not wish to serve through another campaign as chairman of the Republican National Committee. One reason inducing Hanna to withdraw is that he doubts the probability of McKinley succeeding himself; and he does not care to take the brunt of the criticism and condemnation of Republicans that will come to the committee in the event of failure.

* * *

Mr. McKinley's long message,—one of the longest ever sent to congress—was not sent in today, owing to the early adjournment of both senate and house as a mark of respect to the late Vice President Hobart. It will go in tomorrow, and then the real business of the session of congress will begin. The Democrats were never in a more aggressive mood, and "hot times" are ahead for the Republican majority in both senate and house.

A mob gathered around the hotel in Paris where some of the Tennessee volunteers were stopping on their way home from the Philippines, and, mistaking them for English soldiers, threatened them with violence. It dispersed when the truth was discovered.

NO CURE—NO PAY.

That is the way all druggists sell GROVE'S TASTELESS CHILL TONIC for Chills, Fever and Malaria. It is simply Iron and Quinine in a tasteless form. Children love it. Adults prefer it to bitter nauseating tonics. Price, 50c.

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Export Trade Turning Southward.

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., Nov. 30.—The New York State Commerce Commission held an all-day conference here today with leading grain and flour shippers in an endeavor to get at the reasons for the decadence of commerce through the port of New York. The shippers pointed out that Newport News, Va., by reason of 2½ cents differential, now secure most of this export trade. It was thought that the only way New York could regain would be by improving the Erie canal and the terminal facilities at Buffalo and New York, at the same time reducing the rates.

A Confederate monument is to be erected at Shelby.

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$400 Pianos, well made, suitable for Teachers or School, neat but plain case, only - - - $225

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