WILMINGTON, N. C.: THURSDAY MORNING, Dec. 16 1875.

SUCCESSION IN THE PRESIDENCY. Dispatches from Waihington indicate that there is some interest manifested there in the question of the succession to the Presidency in the case of Grant's death before the election by the Senate of a new presiding officer. Correspondents say that the Democrats claim that in such event Speaker Kerr would be President. This conclusion is reached by an examination of the constitutional provisions relative to the Vice Presidential succession, and from the rules and precedents laid down in Jefferson's Manual.

Immediately after the death of Vice President Wilson we combatted the idea of some that there would be a vacancy to be filled otherwise in the President were to die before the meeting of Congress. If Grant had died then we thought, and yet think, that Mr. Ferry, as the last President pro tem., of the Senate, would have been President of the United States. How the conditions are changed, now that the Senate has failed to elect a new President pro tempore and that the House has chosen a constitutional presiding officer, we do not pretend to say. We simply present what the correspondents of leading Northern papers assume to be the arguments by which leading Democrats arrive at the above conclusion.

The Constitution, Article II., Section 6, declares that:

"Congress may, by law, provide for the case of removal, death, resignation, or inability, both of the President and Vice President, declaring what officer shall then act as President; and such officer shall act accordingly, until the disability be removed, or a President shall be elected?"

Congress in 1792 passed a law to carry out this provision of the Constitution. That law is contained in section 146 of the Revised Statutes, namely:

"In case of removal, death, resignation, or inability of both the President and Vice President of the United States, the Presi dent of the Senate, or, if there is none, then the Speaker of the House of Representatives for the time being shall act as President until the disability is removed or a President is elected." The claim of the Democrats to the

Presidency, in the event of the possible death of President Grant, turns of course, upon an alleged vacancy in the Presidency of the Senate. This raises the disputed point as to the necessity for the election of a presiding officer in the Senate. The Constitution is silent upon the subject. There are no definite provisions which are conclusive under the existing circumstances. In the ab sence of affirmative constitutional provisions, the Democrats insist that the interpretation which prevailed in the early history of the Government should control the succession now. They claim, therefore, that there is a vacancy in the Presidency of the Senate, and base their crams upon this passaged Jefferson o Mernal of

"In the Senate a President pro tempore, in the absence of the Vice President, is prounderstood to be determined on the Vice President appearing and taking the chair, or at the meeting of the beaste after the

The Vice President being dead and the Senate having met after the recess without electing a President pro tempore, the Democrats claim that in the event of the death of President Grant Speaker Kerr would become President of the United States.

GEN. LEE'S BIRTHDAY-HOW TO

Farm to Rent or Leave.

A HI 17 CRLEBRATE ITH CO. The 19th day of Lanuary is the anniversary of the hirth of Gen. Robert Edward Lee. It has been suggested with wisdom and in patriotic reverence that some means be taken on this day in all the Southern States and wherever Southern men do congregate to honor his virtues and services in an appropriate manner. Mr. S. B. French, Secretary of the Lee Monument Association at Richmond, has addressed to the Southern press a ciroutar, in which he states that it is the late message of the President, has desire of the Board that every South- been printed in pamphlet form by the ern family shall be visited and solicit. above named committee, and five huned to contribute to the proposed mon- dred thousand copies of it will be disument fund. It is believed that the tributed all over the Union. 19th of January next, the anniversary of General Lee's birth, will be the most suitable day for the general canvass to take place; and circular letters have been prepared requesting ordinaries, judges of condition and mayors of towns in the Southern States to "lay off their respective counties and each, who, upon official notice given, shall on that day make the domiciliary visits and solicit generous contributione." All respris and to be made to Hon, R. M. T. Hunter, Treasurer \$1 5000 To?

AZONIE W B S

of Virginia and also Treasurer of the Board.

This plan has considerable merit. It is the sacred duty of Southern women and men to perpetuate the glory and the memory of the plendid virtues of Lee to the remotest genera-In the monument they testify their gratitude honor themselves in honoring the hero and Christian

There is likewise another scheme now working successfully. The people of Lexington and admirers generally desire to protect the statue recumbent of Valentine which will be placed over the remains of the warrior in that place where the last years of his glorious life were spent in teaching Southern youth. A mausoleum for Lee is a desideratum. Gen. eral R. D. Lilley, a gallant officer of the Confederate army, and an amiable, accomplished gentleman, his been spending a number of days in our city in furtherance of this latter plan, and we are highly gratified that he has accomplished as much as he has. He and the ladies are now projecting some entertainments to be given in the month of January by which it is hoped to render up in fuil the quota of Wilmington to this

laudable enterprise. We must not neglect our dead. We cannot dishenor ourselves thus Heaven would punish our ingratitude and infamy, and our own hearts would condemn us utterly.

HENDERSON'S REMOVAL. Esthematical and Comm Anxiety of the Republican Pointicians | Baltimore Gazette Special.]

Washington, Dec. 13. Nearly every prominent Republican politician, to whom I have tasked on the subject, admits that the action of the President in removing ex-Senator Henderson will have a bad effect upon the country. They, of course, insisi that the ex-Senator was guilty of a gross breach of professional eliquette in reflecting upon the President, as it is alleged he did, in his closing argument in the Avery trial. He had no locus standi in the court save as the representative of the government, which in this case was the President At the same time these gentlemen treely admit that the mass of people will only look at the one point-the removal of Mr. Henderson-and will not appreciate the question of pro ressional enquette. Mr. Henderson ad proved himself a vigorous, suc cessful and efficient prosecutor of the whiskey ring thieves, and now that his removal coincides with the indictment of General Babcock, the country will naturally believe that the President sought to protect his confidential secretary by getting rid of the man who had convicted dicDouald and Avery.

The Republican politicians are ex ceedingly anxious to see the state or public opinion on this subject as redected in the public press. They look gloomity and speak doubtingly of the future prospects of their party. They tear that the developments thas ta made by Bristow's myestigation of the whiskey frauds have only scratched the surface-that it is the beginning only. What they now dread is tearless inquiry by a committee of he House of Representatives. Such an investigation will doubtless be set on foot at an early day, and if Speaker Kerl judiciously selects the committee on which this duty will be devolved, there is little doubt but the the country will be astounded at the revelations which must follow, The disclosures made three years ago by the inquiry into the Credit Mobilier b ibery cases startled the country from one end to the other. The re sult of the elections in the fall of 1874

is directly attributed thereto. If an investigating committee goes to work in the right way and conducts an inquiry into the transactions of the Whiskey Ring discreetly and fearlessly, the result must be a story of official corruption and bribery which will astonish the people of this countryers by a al bonnger; ed Limbar

The Republicans and the Religious Question. [Special dispatch to the New York World.

dride good WASHINGTON Dec. 110. The Republican Congressional Campaign Committee have determined to follow the President's leadership upon the religious and sectarian questions. Two or three weeks ago the Rev. John P. Newman, the pastor of the Metropolitan Methodist Episcopal Church in this city, which the President and his family attended, preached a sermon on the Inquition, Crammer, Queen Mary, and kin-

The Common Schools Should Stand as they Are.

[N. Y. Tribune.] The more fully the views of all classes are expressed, the clearer it becomes that the only safety for a Common School system rests in standing just where we are on the tewns into numerous and convenient appropriations, and on the other divisions, and appoint canvassers for drag the question into mational politics. The moment we pass from the present settlement, an agreement upon any practical basis seems to become impossible. It is a most danger ous subject for the proplete parmit demagogues to be fooling with.

— Miss Montague, a native of Battimote is a brillant addition to Miss Kellogy's company and an ornament to our battomal lyric stage that will grow hrighter and brighter for pears to come. She has, indeed, almost any fature at her command.

AEBCHTER & CALDER BROS.

A Little Bit of History. [Norfolk Landmark.]

More than once the State of Virzinia has been reproached most vabsuidly because she did not stulify hereal by doing honor to those her sous who distinguished themelves in the Federal service during the late war. Among others General Thomas, a stout and gallant soldier, has been named more than once as an llustration of this temper. Apart from the obvious unfitness of what once seemed to have been expected of us there were special reasons in his case which were sufficient, without regard to any others, to explain

the course of the State. These have long been known to us, but we have never felt at liberty to disclose them until now, and now only because of the following publication, which we take from the Richmond letter of the Index-Appeal:

The Southern Historical Society has received from Gen. F. H. Smith an autograph letter of the late Gen. George II. Thomas, written January 18th, 1861, in which he makes inquiries with a view to applying for a position in the Virginia Military Instiute on the ground that a from preshit appearances I fear it will soon be necessary for me to be looking up some means of support." Gen. Smith states that this letter was followed by correspondence, in which Major, Thomas sought a position in Virginia and said that he had made up his mind "never to draw his sword against a State struggling for its constitutional rights." Governor Letcher finally appointed him chief of or, dinance of Virginia, but before the commission reached him he accepted a place as brigadier general in the

United States army. General Thomas was a brave and successful soldier, born in this district of a gallant family; but, while we credit him with valor, we cannot put him down in our list of self-sacrificing patriots on either side.

The Sound Bearers.

|St. Nicholas for January. | The birds make great fun of human music. Do you know why? Because it has laws! Now, their music as laws, too, but the dear little things don't know it. A robin friend of mine, sitting on a window-sill lately, heard a music-master giving a little girl her music lesson. He thinks it the funniest thing in the world. and assures me, on the authority of the music-master, that human music is made entirely by little hobgoblins, who carry the sounds up and down the musical scale or ladder, slowly or rapidly, according to orders. Mr. Semibreve, he says, is the slowest of them all. Next comes Mr. Minim, who is only half as slow as Semibreve: then Mr. Crotchet, who is half as slow as Minim; then little Quaver, who is half as slow as Crotchet; then Semi-Quaver, half as slow as Quaver, and finally, Demi-Semi-Quaver, the liveliest little chap of them all, who can run up and down the whole flight, while slow old Semibreve is rolling to the next step.

[New York Star, 11.] A Man Choked to Death white Bat-

ing a Plece of Bread. About 10 o'clock last night a man entered Britton's saloon, No. 125 Greenwich street, and begged for something to eat. There were several persons in the place at the time, among whom were William McCutchen, who is believed to live at No. 60 East Ninth street, and Robert Phillips, of No. 291 West Twenth-seventh street. McCatchen offered the beggar a piece of bread and us he was bout to take it withdrew it and put t to his own mouth, saving, "D-n an Irishman, anyhow!" He then pointed to two men who were seated it a table, and said to the beggar, "There are two of your Irish friends; go to them." Shortly afterwards Phillips heard a peculiar noise coming from the direction of McCutchen, and on going to see what the trouble was found him almost black in the face and choking. He sounded an alarm, but before any assistance could be rendered him the man died.

Ben Franklin's Press.

John R. Murray, of New York presented to the Commissioner of Patents a claim of ownership of the original Benjamin Franklin printing press, which las been for many years n possession of the Patent Office. After full examination of the documentary evidence submitted, it is found that Mr. Murray's claim is perfeetly good, and the press will now be held subject to his order. It is Mr. Murray's intention to have this interesting relic of the first great American printer exhibited at the Centennial alongside of a Hoe lightning cylinder of the latest construc-

Simpson Dentes. The Philadelphia City Item, havng poblished what purported to be an interview with Bishop Simpson, of the M. E. Church, in which that divine was represented as saying that should President Grant be re-elected the people will have done wisely,' the Bishop has denied the statement that he had expressed any apinion on the third term question, and deprecates any attempt to connect the church with political nominations or

The speech of Gen. Hancock, in moving the adjournment of the Militaty Court of Inquiry, will do much for his reputation. Its scope is broad, its diction elegant, its sentiments sound. It is in striking contrast with the spleen and petalance fust exhibited by Gen. Grant toward Mr. Henderson, says the New York Sun.

OF HANDIND, BUCKET CO.

- Crime is almost unknown among to introduce seaweed for per ment -Henry James, Jr., supersedes Arsene Houssaye as Paris correspondent of

ay's youngest daughter, died on Nov. 28,

- The able periodical Littell's Living Age, enters in January upon its

thirty-third year.) do are is I not Let no guilty man, except Babcock, escape, was what the President meant, to say. -Index-Appeal,

- Mr. Julius Sheldon of Manchester, England, is making an exact copy of Shakespeare's house at Straiford-on-Avon for exhibition at our Centennial.

- A writer in the Tribune who signs himself "H. W. B." protests in the name of Christianity and common sense, against sending men like the Rev. Gilbert Haven into the South to scatter fire-brands everywhere. He says were Haven's influence to prevail throughout the country, there could never be any more peace between the sections, and but very little harmony and Christianity in this fair land. - Some one writes from Rome to

W. M. Rossetti that an old sailor in his dying confession to his priest stated that he was one of the crew that ran down the boat containing Shelley and Williams, which was done under the impression that the rich 'milord Byron' was on board, with lots of money. They did not intend to sink the boat, but to board her and murder Byron. She sank, he said, as soon as she

MISCELLANEOUS.

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Arrive at Augusta. 8:45 A.

Arrive at Augusta, 8:45 A.
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Leave Celumbia. 8:15 P.

Leave Wilmington 6:30 A
Arrive at +lorence 12:05 P

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ton and with Freight Train with Passenger Coach stached for Colcarbia Mondays, Wednesdays a. d

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Arrive at Florence 1:40 A. M.
Arrive at Columbia 9:00 A. M.
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Thursdays and Saturdays at 6:20 A. M and arrive at Wilmington Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 5:34 P. M.

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Arrive at Charlotte at 11:30 A

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Leave Wilmington at 5:00 P. M. Arrive at Charlotte at 5:0 P. M. Leave Charlotte at 5:0 P. M. Arrive at Wilmington at 5:0 A. M.

dec 3 tf Chief Engineer and Superintendent

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OFFICE OF GEN'L SUPERINTENDENT, J. Wilmington, N. C., June 8, 1875.

july 2-tf JAMES ANDERSON,

GUSTA R. R. COMPANY,

WILMINGTON, N. C., July 1, 1875.

Scribner's Monthly for 1876. The publishers invite attention to the following ist of some of the attractive articles secured for Scribner's Monthly, for the coming year. In the field of fiction, besides numerous novelettes and shorter stories, there will be

70 YALL ENCE.

MISCELLANEOUS

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CONFER-

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territory, now forming the Sta es of Louisiana and Texas, at the time of As on Burr's treason. The characters it ed in a section which was now Ameri-

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By BRET HARTE.

We shall also begin in the January number. " PHILIP NOLAN'S FRIENDS.

By EDWARD EVERETT HALE. The scene of this story is laid in the Southwestern

can, now French, and now spanish, a d this tec id of their adventurous lives make a story of latens, and unflagging increst throughout.

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