

THE DEMOCRAT.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1889.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

We confess to disappointment in reading the above document. There is neither force of argument or suggestion in it; on the contrary it is a slipshod article alluding to various subjects without a positive declaration or recommendation upon any, certainly so far as those of special importance to the country are concerned.

He repeats his approval of the civil service law in the face of his persistent and consistent disregard of it since entering upon his duties.

He says the proposition for establishing an equality between silver and gold, and the increase of coinage is "so recently formulated" and requires "careful consideration," etc., etc. Of course it has been agitated for years, yet he straddles completely in his suggestions. It is the same as regards tariff and internal revenue. Altogether it is not a creditable paper for the President of this Republic, and is not equal to those of his predecessors, or to the expectations of the country. Mr. Harrison is a sham even as a trimmer.

REED THE SPEAKER.

The able Washington correspondent of the Louisville Courier Journal says:

"It is a little surprising that Reed should have received so many votes from the South and Southwest. * * * That he was the candidate of the monopoly rings of the country, the corruptionists, the railroad and trust corporations, is known beyond a doubt. He has been for six months supported by all of the combined monopoly interests in the land for his position, and that he should have failed would have been a startling surprise. He will go into the Speaker's chair Monday nearly as heavily loaded with obligations as did J. Warren Keifer in the beginning of the Forty-seventh Congress."

The Baltimore Sun's Washington correspondent says:

"When Mr. Reed's committees are announced the hand of New York and Pennsylvania will be plainly visible, and the smouldering embers of yesterday's strife will burst out afresh. With a Speaker like Mr. Carlisle the selection of the committees necessarily required time and deliberation. With Mr. Reed it need not take long, for the 'friends' whom he intends to reward know exactly what they want, and doubtless have already advised him."

It is well recognized in Washington and throughout the country that Mr. Reed was the candidate of all those elements most vicious and hurtful in American politics. Yet he received the votes of the solid Republican vote of the House for Speaker.

WHERE WAS EWART?

A dispatch from Washington to the Philadelphia Record last Friday night, referring to the Southern Republican members, says:

"The Southern 'squad' of patriots met to-night and agreed to go for the winning man if they could find out in time who he is to be. They have pledged and promises from all except Reed. Twelve of the seventeen are for McKinley."

Mr. Reed was the only Republican candidate for Speaker who made no promises, yet he received every Republican vote for Speaker. Will some one rise and tell us how Mr. Reed

stands on the Blair bill and the repeal of the internal revenue laws? He has stood against both heretofore; how does he stand now? Yet every Southern Republican voted for him.

THRIFTY PATRIOTS.

The Philadelphia Record says:

"There is nothing mean about the seventeen Republican members of Congress from the South. They want a Speaker who will favor the Blair educational bill, repeal of the internal tax on apple-jack, maintenance of the duties on sugar and such places on House Committees as will advance their interests. Failing in this programme they would be content with the Doorkeepership of the House and a liberal share of its patronage. There ought to be no great difficulty in making an arrangement with these seventeen thrifty patriots."

As Mr. Reed, Speaker-elect, made no promises, it is presumed Mr. Ewart and his sixteen thrifty colleagues will satisfy themselves with patronage and leave alone legislation.

HOW THEY VOTED.

In the Republican caucus Mr. Ewart voted for Mr. McKinley for Speaker; Mr. Brower for Mr. Cannon, of Illinois, and Cheatham, their negro Republican colleague, voted for Mr. Reed. Every one of these candidates are opposed to the repeal of the internal revenue laws.

In the House, all voted for Mr. Reed, the caucus nominee, who refused to "make any pledges or promises," and who has been strongly opposed to the repeal of the internal revenue laws, and uniformly voted in Congress with the enemies of the Blair bill.

Hasn't Mr. Ewart put his little foot into it?

NOBLE EDGECOMBE.

A large portion of Eastern North Carolina is suffering from a short cotton crop, another illustration of the oft repeated warning to farmers against putting all their eggs in one basket. But the exigency has been met in the noblest manner by the people of Edgecombe. The men of substance in the county have organized an association which pledges itself to raise \$150,000, to be advanced to embarrassed farmers at the rate of \$75 to the plow. This relief will be advanced without interest to farmers of energy and reliability. The disaster of a single year can have but little effect upon a people with a spirit like this.

THE CAUSE OF HARD TIMES WITH THE FARMERS.

That the farmers, indeed all producers, have been suffering for some years in financial results of their labors, is a fact painfully apparent. Causes for this growing difficulty have been given, some charging it to over-production, others to want of demand, others to transportation rates and discriminations, and so on, yet all the while hard times have increased, until this year, notwithstanding abundant crops and products, the producers are more distressed than ever. One of the most intelligent, and we think correct, statements of the difficulties, the causes and the remedy, we have seen, is from Mr. B. B. Turner, a farmer of Fauquier county, Va., written to the Baltimore Sun. Mr. Turner says:

"As I have seen many answers in your columns to the question, 'Does farming pay?' but none from this immediate section, I will try to give you and those who read your paper some idea of the business here. We are in what is known as Piedmont Virginia, and perhaps the very richest portion of that hitherto highly-favored section. If we go as far back as 1867 farming was a very pretty and prosperous business here. Our lands were rapidly improved, and we made large crops and received very remunerative prices. During the decade from 1870 to 1880, with the exception of one or two years, we still did well, but not so well

as prior to '70, nor on the whole was our business near so prosperous in '80 as it was in '70. From '80 to the present time we have been less and less prosperous each year until now, when by nine farmers out of ten your question would undoubtedly be answered in the negative. Not only does it not pay, but we are really producing at a loss to ourselves. We have not been able to pay off debts contracted in more prosperous times, nor even to keep the interest down on the same, and the amount of crop which in '70 would have paid all the debt will not now pay the interest. Not that our crops are less. On the contrary, we make as much or more, both of wheat, corn and oats now than we did then, but because of the lower price. I have in my mind now an instance where on ninety acres of land there is not less than 800 barrels of corn. It was worked with more economy than many people are able to exercise, and consequently at a very small cost comparatively, and yet the crop actually makes its owner harder strapped than he would have been without it, from the simple fact that he cannot sell enough of it to pay back what it cost him to cut it and will cost to house it. Indeed it seems impossible to sell it at any price. Not that there are not people who want corn, but because there is no money to buy with. Much of our corn has been sold heretofore to cattle feeders, but feeding has proved so unprofitable in the last year that few if any are bold enough to try it again on any other than a very small scale. Corn has until now been considered with us our most paying crop, the wheat crop having long since proved very precarious, and oats and corn in better times would scarcely bear sending to market and net much profit. Many of our farmers who have been contending for wheat, when brought to figures would have to fall back on the straw for their only profit, which now, owing to the extreme low price of feed, cannot be turned to much advantage.

"To ask if our young men show a disposition to leave the farms under such a condition of affairs would seem a superfluous question. Of course only those remain who are unable to get anything else to do; and the old ones would go, too, if they knew where to go. The greater part of our labor has left, and more will probably go, and yet it is scarce here; but the laborers, except those employed by the year, can only get work in such busy times as wheat threshing, corn cutting and housing, etc., which do not last long enough to enable them to live. To those whom we hire we pay as high wages almost as we ever did, but we can raise no money to have a great deal of work done, which we formerly had done, and which employed the labor between the busy times.

"As to the cause of all this depression of course I do not pretend to know, but I will say what I believe, and give, if I can, my reasons for the faith that is in me. I do not believe, as some think, it is owing to the amount of produce from the West, nor to its cheap transportation. I do not believe that the great God, who makes no mistakes, and has made both East and West, has made them so that the prosperity of one must prove the ruin of the other. If we look at the West we must see that they are not prosperous either. Nor do I believe in the theory of over production. There can be no such thing as overproduction proved while children cry for bread or human beings have less daily food than is necessary to satisfy the cravings of hunger and to keep their systems in a strong and healthy condition. Will any man claim that there are none in all this great nation who want? If so, he cannot have much faith in the daily press of our country. With regard to manufactured articles I know there is no over production, for in a few miles around me my neighbors and myself could use carloads upon carloads if only we could get it at the same rate of exchange for our produce as we could have done in '67.

"I think there is, however, a very great under-consumption, and the exceeding hard times make everybody more economical, and consequently consume less. The great want everywhere seems to be money—only money. Everything else is in abundance. All supplies and all demands, if only the money could be had to facilitate the exchange. Thus I have arrived

at the conclusion that all our hard times are produced by there being in circulation too little money. Now, come with me back to the year 1867, when times were at their very best, and we find that there was in circulation at that time \$52 per capita to the population of the United States. Gradually that amount has been growing less and less, and in the same ratio times have been growing harder and harder, until now, when we have something about \$15 per capita, and it is almost impossible to live and utterly so to keep down taxes and interest. If the circulating medium of a certain people is, say \$100,000,000, and you reduce it to half that amount, do you not double the indebtedness of every man who owed a debt? Do you not double his interest and his taxes if they remain the same in amount as in the first place by making one dollar do the work of two, and thus doubling its value? Grant this, and is there any wonder that times are hard? The wonder rather is that we get on at all; and, indeed, we would not get on if we could not in a measure make bank checks or drafts on merchants, or paper in some other form, take the place of the circulating medium.

"Now, as to the remedy. If I am right in my supposition that our trouble is caused by too small a circulating medium, to increase it will help the matter, and that, as far as I know, can only be done by an act of the general government, and I hope that the matter may in some way be forced on the notice of our Congress during the coming session.

"B. B. TURNER."

The above is a strong, and we believe correct statement of the case. When money was plentiful and an exchange was easy, the people prospered; but the money lenders did not and could not hold the business of the country so completely by the throat as they have since the radical legislation which tended rapidly and regularly to lessen the volume of money and thus enhance the value as well as increase the scarcity of the dollar. Of all the crimes imposed upon the people by any party, that by the Republican party by which money was made scarcer and higher, and thereby necessarily concentrated in the hands of the few and the grasping, all at the behests of the bond-holders and the money-lending class, is the greatest. By high tariff manufacturers have been enabled to maintain high prices out of proportion to those for farm products, by legislation decreasing the money medium the prices of agricultural products have been forced below the limit of profit. Mr. Turner says there are now about \$15 per capita in circulation. He is even mistaken in this, for there is not so much. He estimates upon the basis of all moneys in vaults, banks, etc.—fifteen per cent. of all circulation of banks being required to be kept in bank—which will reduce largely the amount actually in circulation in business channels. The farmer and the ordinary business man is crushed by the money lender and the legislation in his interests. It is wrong, it is a crime.

Here is a good opportunity for the Alliance and other farmer and laboring organizations throughout the country. They should meet at once throughout the country and demand of Congress, which met Monday, to legislate and promptly, in the interest of the people. Reduce and reform and equalize the tariff, and if no better way can be devised, increase the circulation by authorizing the Treasurer to buy several millions of dollars more of silver bullion per month, to be paid for with silver certificates at the value of the bullion when bought, to be redeemed with bullion at the market price of the latter at the time of redemption. This would keep the certificates on a par with gold, because the bullion is bought and sold at its market value in gold; so long as money is as "good as gold" there cannot be too much of it, not for the people in general if for the

money lender. We appeal to the people to act at once and send their action promptly to their representative. It is time the people were given a chance.

UNFORTUNATE APPOINTMENTS.

Postmaster Brady, of Charlotte, who was appointed by President Harrison, and some of whose bondsmen are leading Democrats, appointed as subordinates two negro dudes named Charles Henderson and W. J. Brown. These negroes have been "cutting the buck" very extensively since their appointment. The Charlotte News says their Sunday "rigs" outshone those of most white men in Charlotte. Brown is Secretary of the Republican Executive Committee of Mecklenburg. Money has been missing from Charlotte letters for some time. Two post office detectives took the case in hand and caught the two negro clerks in the act of rifling letters. They confessed. About \$2,000 has been stolen. Upon this subject the News says editorially:

"In the defalcations brought to light this morning in our city post office, Postmaster Brady begins to realize an unwholesome indication of his wisdom and policy in selecting negroes to fill the places of subordinates in his office. There were scores of capable and available white men in the community from whom he might have chosen with credit to himself and profit to the government, and there was not the least semblance of a necessity for this straining towards effects by placing negroes in such responsible, and, to them, seductive positions. This instance of unmitigated thieving, however, is nothing novel or unexpected to the people of this section, who are acquainted with the general traits of depravity and cupidity in the negro, but to the contrary, it affords a striking illustration of the inherent characteristics and proclivities of the race. It is an egregious and fatal error in such negrophilists as Wana-maker and embryonic Republicans as Brady to place smart negroes in positions of trust when they have access to the people's monies with the belief that they won't steal when an opportunity presents itself. This is an austere and harsh lesson to a susceptible though well purposed young official, which we trust he will not fail to profit by. Our impression is that the clerkships in an office like the Charlotte post office, are both responsible and desirable, and should not be filled except by thoroughly qualified individuals. The people expect and demand this. Will Mr. Brady heed and protect us, as well as his Democratic bondsmen."

The Statesville Landmark is informed that a Northern gentleman and his wife, going home a few days ago from Asheville, paid \$16.50 for dinner on one of the elegant buffet cars which now are used on the Western North Carolina road. This was not intended to convey the idea that dinners are enormously high on these cars, but that visitors to and from Asheville will have what they want, regardless of cost, and that these cars can furnish it.

Mr. Randall was too ill to attend the opening of Congress, and grave fears are entertained that he will not be able to do service this winter.

The Reidsville Review says: "The newspaper 'trust' is something the people ought to sit down upon and always pay their subscriptions in advance."

Republican members of Congress from Southern States are giving the country an object lesson as to why they are so few in number. In the Speakership contest their votes are offered to the candidate who promises the largest return in the way of patronage. If they are true representatives of the Republican party South it is well that it is no stronger than it is.—Philadelphia Ledger, Republican.

Sheriff Nixon, of Lincoln county, is the first to send his abstract for settlement of State taxes with the State Treasurer. The net amount for the State is \$5,281.54.—Raleigh Call.

Good Advice

—FOR—

Farmers, Mechanics, Bricklayers, Poor Folks, Women and Children.

Come to the Big RACKET STORE to trade. It is the cheapest store in town and keeps everything. Read some of the prices:

A whole stock Brigan, 98c. a good wool Hat, 50c.; a wool Shawl, large, \$1.25; whole stock, Boots \$2.00; a solid Shoe for women \$1.00; a good heavy Overcoat, \$2.00. A splendid Overcoat, \$5.78—worth \$9.00; a boy's wool Hat, 25c.; a splendid Suit of Clothes for 5.00, worth 8.00; wool Cants for 1.25; Pant Ploth, 15c. per yard. Worsted dress goods 10c. yard; a lady's Straw Hat, 20c, worth 50c.; Knives and Forks, 46c. set; Tea Spoons, 5c. set; 10 in Monkey Wrench, 28c. a good Hatchet, 35c. a good strong Pocket Knife, 25c.; a gallon Coffee Pot, 17c.; Tin Cups, 3c.; a working man's Dinner Bucket, 20c., worth 50c.; Lamp Chimneys only 5c.; a good Lamp complete 20c.; 600 Matches for 5c.; ladies' Corsets 25c., worth 50c.; all wool Undershirts, 48c. Women's Stockings very cheap.

Everything you need to use or to wear at prices lower than anybody in Asheville. ALL GOODS WARRANTED. A big discount to Alliance men. Do not trade any until you have been to the Big Racket Store on Main street, next to the drug store. Do not mistake the place. There are some who pretend to sell as cheap, but don't be fooled, Look for Yourself. Find our store before you trade, and if our prices don't suit, Don't Buy, but be sure and price our goods before you trade any.

Geo. T. Jones & Co., THE "RACKET STORE."