

NOTED LITERARY AND CHURCH WOMEN OF ALABAMA MOVE AGAINST STATE PROHIBITION.

Mobile, Ala., Nov. 17.—Nearly 1,000 women of mobile, representing wealth, society and literary and church circles, headed by Mrs. Augusta Evans Wilson, the author, yesterday signed a petition to be presented to the State Senate Monday, urging that no statutory prohibition bill be passed.

Business men and schoolteachers also petitioned the Board of Education for holidays on Tuesday and Wednesday to permit teachers to go to Montgomery in a body and plead against the passing of statutory bills.

Women Were Present. Montgomery, Ala., Nov. 18.—The presence of women using their influence to have the State prohibition bill, which has passed the house killed in the senate, was enjoyed by members of the legislature to-day.

Among those here are Mrs. E. Sommes Colston, daughter of Raphael Semmes, the Confederate Admiral, and Miss A. Kirkland, who, as officers of the Mobile schools, say the loss of revenue from the liquor licenses will make it impossible to carry on the schools.

Raleigh News and Observer.] A state prohibition law has passed in the Alabama House and is pending in the Senate. The remarkable spectacle is witnessed in Montgomery of two ladies of high position lobbying against the bill as it passed the House, urging that its going into effect be deferred till 1910. Their reason is that to pass it now would be to deprive the schools of large revenues, but they say by 1910 provision for sufficient revenue for the schools could be obtained from other sources. They are not against prohibition—only wish to defer its operation.

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THE DEATH OF BARNEY.

The death of Barney reveals a state of affairs in bank practices in New York which afford a glimpse of the rotten financial system centered there. What an awful spectacle is thus presented—a great nation of eighty millions of people, striving with all their might for a share of the bounty with which God has blessed this favored land, and yet subject to the financial control of a conscienceless set of scoundrels as ever lived. It may be said that bank-wreckers might exist under any system; but it is self-evident that the centralized financial system which the triumph of the Doctrine of Force in 1865 caused to be established, tends to produce them and vastly enlarges their power for harm.

The Atlanta Journal speaks interestingly of this matter as follows: One of the tragedies which have followed in the wake of the financial upheaval in New York comes in the suicide of Charles Tracy Barney, the deceased president of the Knickerbocker Trust Company, who shot himself on Thursday morning in his magnificent home, as the climax of his mental and physical collapse.

The lesson of his life and death is so obvious and so true that it hardly seems worth while to point it out. He had made his way to prominence and competency by his own efforts. He had attained to a commanding position in the financial world. As the head of the Knickerbocker Trust Company he was one of the most prominent figures, one of the most highly respected characters in the business circles of New York.

But he was one of the group of high financiers who gained control of a number of New York banks six years ago. The run on the Knickerbocker Trust Company gave the New York clearing house the opportunity it had sought for a long time to make an investigation into the affairs of these banks. The result was the deposition of President Barney and a number of other financiers who were devoting their time and the funds of the banks with which they were connected to speculative ventures rather than to legitimate banking.

The house cleaning which has resulted placed the New York banks on a sounder and more healthy footing than they have been in for six years, at least. It was a genuine blessing.

But the shock to the commercial world, undermining public confidence, to a certain extent, was the moving cause in precipitating the financial embarrassment which has been gathering for some time. With health and fortune broken, Barney realized that he was to a certain extent—to a large extent—responsible for the existing conditions. He found himself alone a pauper where he had been a king.

There is little wonder that it preyed upon his mind. He has sat at home ever since the upheaval, brooding over his downfall, and finally, on Thursday, he made an end of it all by suicide.

The lesson of it all is old, to be sure, but seldom is it exemplified in a man of such prominence. Not since the insurance scandals ruined so many men who had been high in the business world, has there been such a fall. His death, two months ago, would have precipitated a panic on Wall street. To-day it passes by almost without a tremor.

MR. BRYAN AND THE PRESIDENCY. Raleigh News and Observer.] "Will Not Be Counted Out This Time." The Fayetteville Observer, one of the soundest and ablest Democratic journals in America and one that is consistent and persistent in advocacy of sound principles, in printing Mr. Bryan's announcement touching the presidential nomination, professed its astonishment by these wise expressions: "It is a noble presentation of his views on the subject, and of the conditions under which a nomination by the party should be made. He assumes that he will not be nominated unless the party is able to make an aggressive fight for Democratic principles, and declares that acceptance of the nomination should not be dependent upon whom the Republicans nominate or upon the prospects of victory or defeat.

"This settles the question of the nominee, for, in our opinion, he will be tendered the nomination by acclamation notwithstanding his statement that he will not ask for or seek the nomination and that he will not assume to decide the question of his availability.

"The progress of the Revolution set in motion by Mr. Bryan's previous campaigns, and the state of public feeling in regard to the reforms which he advocates, justify us in the belief that he will be elected, and that he will not be counted out this time, as he was by the purchased election officials in the Middle West in 1896 when the reformers disclosed the impossible result of a vote for every four inhabitants.

The last paragraph calls attention to an opinion that is held by many well posted men in America—that but for the corrupt use of untold money and unprecedented bribery Mr. Bryan would have been seated in the White House in 1897. A leading newspaper man, then a correspondent of one of the greatest Republican newspapers in America, said in a company of fellow journalists in Washington last year that there is no doubt that Mr. Bryan was fairly entitled to the presidency in 1896, and that only the lavish and corrupt use of money denied him the electoral vote of Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana and other States where the vote reported polled was phenomenal by large. He held the view of Major Hale that the phenomenally large vote was not actually polled but counted as polled by venal agents of the trust conspirators who bought the election.

Why is Bryan stronger than any other Democrat? The Winston-Salem Sentinel gives the reason thus: "The fact that so many recent events have been fulfillments of prophecies has attracted even greater attention to the Nebraska than would have been the case otherwise. He has proven himself a pretty accurate forecaster of political tendencies and in nearly every instance time has vindicated him."

The Birmingham Age-Herald, commenting on Mr. Bryan's statement with reference to the Presidency, says that he will not only carry the Democratic vote of the country, but that many thousands of Republicans will also support him—that class of Re-

publicans that oppose subsidies and trust rule. The Democrat who does not think Bryan the strongest candidate will admit the man of his choice and then "submit to the arbitrament of the National Convention." Any other course is party anarchism which invites party defeat.

Why Bryan Will Win. We printed on Sunday that Tom Johnson, ex-Governor Campbell and State Chairman Gunn, of Ohio, all declared for Bryan. They are the three leaders in Ohio, and they do not generally pull together. In Alabama the Bryan sentiment is strong, and there is confidence that Bryan will win. Mr. John C. Pugh bases his faith in Bryan's success because Bryan and his principles are stronger and because the big corporations will not give a big campaign fund as heretofore. The Birmingham Age-Herald quotes Hon. John W. Tomlinson, of Birmingham, as giving three reasons why Bryan will win:

"It will make little difference whom the Republicans nominate against Mr. Bryan, whose nomination, according to press dispatches from all parts of the country, seems now an assured fact.

"The Republican party will be held responsible for the present financial troubles. Such has been the history of political parties. The shutting down of industries, the curtailment of business, the throwing of men out of employment all over the country, when next year the result of the election is decided on the party which has control of all the departments of the Federal government.

"Furthermore, they will not have the immense corruption fund which they have had in the past Presidential campaigns. Officials will be afraid to appropriate for election purposes the funds of their companies since the disclosures brought out in the investigations of election companies in New York.

"The Democratic party is going to make the strongest race in its history next year, and the result of it will find Bryan President of the United States."

SUGGESTED ISSUE OF HALF A BILLION IN BONDS FOR WATERWAYS. A Washington telegram says that a bond issue for 500 millions to pay for the improvement of all great waterway projects in the country has been proposed to the president by Representative Bartholdt, of Missouri. "I cannot quote the president's views on the matter," Mr. Bartholdt is reported to have said, "but I may say I have assurances that the idea is in line with his policies. Posterity will benefit from these improvements more than we will, and should therefore bear its burden of the cost. The only way to make posterity pay is to issue bonds, that posterity must redeem."

In Mr. Fox's speech in Fayetteville the other day, he spoke of the estimate of Mr. James J. Hill, the railway president, that 5 billions would be required to bring the railway transportation needs of the country within the power of the railroads to meet them; whereas 500 millions (only a tenth) would be more than enough to give water transportation to an extent ten times as great.

The issue of bonds in peace times is contrary to the policy which formerly guided this country; but, if bonds can be issued for far-away Panama and for relieving panics brought on by Wall street juggling, and that is to continue to be the national policy, then far better occasion is there for bond issues for developing the waterways at our doors. If such a policy should be adopted, however, it should provide for a yearly appropriation which would redeem the bonds in a given time.

"SAVING HIS FACE." The Orientals have an expression, "saving one's face," which they apply to the act of an official who may be kicked by the sovereign but is skillful enough to arrange a screen between himself and his inferiors, so that the latter are prevented from seeing his humiliation.

A Washington telegram to the Baltimore Sun, headed "Too Many Rules to See—Why Taft Hurries Home Explained by Royal Visits—Might Have Offended France," etc., starts off as follows: "Secretary of War Taft's final decision to come directly home from St. Petersburg is accepted here as the result of intimation of the President through the State Department that it would not be feasible for him to visit Emperor William without visiting the President of France, particularly since he would have to go to England to find the Emperor, thus bringing about diplomatic necessity by courtesy of also visiting King Edward, all of which would require several days and probably result in his being unable to catch the ship sailing from Cherbourg December 11. It is thought to be the best of all worlds that Mr. Taft should not take the ship sailing from Cherbourg, December 7, inasmuch as he would have to rush through France without opportunity to stop a moment to accept the hospitality so generously offered."

There is much more to the same effect. For a couple of months past, the cables have been kept hot with statements about the necessity for Secretary Taft's cutting off this part of his itinerary abroad, and then that, on account of urgent business at home, which had developed since he started round the world. No one seemed to know what the fat Secretary was traveling for anyway, but the mystery deepened with these repeated telegrams. Now, the explanation is clear, to those who know how rigidly the German Emperor adheres to the rules which hedge Kings from the vulgar. A couple of weeks or so ago the cables said that our ambassador to Germany had received from the German foreign secretary an expression of regret that his imperial master

would be absent on a visit to his uncle, the King of England, at the time when our ambassador said the American secretary would arrive in Berlin. No doubt the Emperor had made a convention of his English kinsman, in order to escape the dilemma of meeting one of the common people, like Taft, or of offending the American nation by refusing to receive its secretary of war.

In the light of the foregoing, it is plain that the reams of cablegrams about Mr. Taft's changing itinerary, were merely designed to "save his face." The "proffered hospitality" of the President of France is, no doubt, true enough, for there would be no degradation to Fallieres, an ex-candidate maker, or some other kind of a proletry, in talking to a person like Taft.

How strong the sentiment alluded to is among the oriental despots (and among some of the European royalties, like the German and Austrian rulers) is illustrated by an incident of the visit of the late Shah of Persia to England in 1888. He was invited to a garden party given in his honor by the Premier, the Marquis of Salisbury, and refused to go on the ground that his would-be host was a subject.

It was explained to him that Salisbury as Premier, was really the ruler of the British empire; and, finally, the oriental was persuaded to go, though much against his will. Arrived at Salisbury's home he sulked about the grounds, refusing to notice any of the brilliant company assembled to welcome him. Presently the Prince of Wales (now King Edward) arrived, and the Shah's face lit up as he hastened to meet one of his kind. Taking the Prince by the arm, he pointed to the Premier and said: "I see you've got that fellow yet. Cut his head off—he does not do you any good." The story does not proceed further, but the astute and up-to-date prince no doubt wondered if the Shah could ever understand how completely Salisbury "had" him.

The German Emperor, by the way, with all his airs, is but third in his line—a mere parvenu in the eyes of many of the oriental rulers.

DR. DIXON AND THE TAX CONVENTION. Raleigh News and Observer.] Expressing himself as delighted with his trip and with his stay in Columbus, Ohio, Dr. B. F. Dixon, State Auditor, has returned to the city from the conference of Auditors and Tax Assessors of the United States and Canada.

Dr. Dixon reports that at the conference thirty-eight States were represented either by Governors, Auditors, or Tax Commissioners, as well as representatives from the Dominion of Canada, among these the Premier of Alberta, and a representative of Toronto. To go on with the work begun at the Conference there was established "The North American Tax Association," the headquarters of this to be at Columbus, Ohio.

"It was a body of active working men," said Dr. Dixon, "and they kept at work on the details for the three days of the session and at each of these sessions there were seven papers on different phases of taxation, each prepared by an expert, sixty-three papers in all. None of these exceeded twenty minutes in delivery and each was discussed in brief, practical talks. These will later be published in book form and a copy sent to the Legislature of each State.

"I found many people there in favor of State's rights," continued Dr. Dixon, "and a resolution was adopted for the control of the inheritance and income tax by the States, and not by the general government. Another resolution adopted, and this was the main work of the conference, was for a uniform system of taxation of property, as well as to arrange that the same property be not taxed by two States. The idea was to keep separate State and county taxes, to let the State derive its revenue from franchise and license taxes, and to let local taxes be on the ad valorem basis."

NORTH CAROLINA FIRST AT THE JAMESTOWN EXPOSITION. Norfolk Virginian.] However far short of glowing expectations the Jamestown Exposition may have failed, the matter of attendance and financial success, nothing of this is properly chargeable to lukewarmness or any dereliction on the part of our sister State of North Carolina. The support accorded the celebration by that great commonwealth as such, and by its people, has been a landmark in the history of the State, and has done more to bring the North State into the front rank of the States in the history of the world, than any other single act of its people.

North Carolina was among the first of the States to give official recognition to this patriotic undertaking by a liberal appropriation for a State building to exhibit. The structure bearing the name of that commonwealth, and from which is dispensed the hospitality for which the Old North State is deservedly famous, is among the most striking of the State buildings—buildings which, because of their architectural design and beauty and of the historical associations clustering around their originals, constitute not the least pleasing and instructive feature of the celebration. In the products of its mills and factories, of its mines and fields the Old North State has furnished an exhibit well worthy of its many and varied resources and of the indomitable energy of its people—an exhibit contributing in no small degree to the completeness of the industrial feature of the Exposition; while its historical exhibit, constituting a connected illustrated history of the State's settlement, growth and development, ranks in importance second only to that of Virginia. In the matter of attendance it is not risking too much to say that North Carolina holds first place, having sent to the Exposition more sons and daughters than any other State in the Union, not even excepting Virginia herself. North Carolina Day was admittedly the biggest day from the standpoint of paid admissions, in the history of the celebration, barring none, not even Opening Day, Jamestown Day, Virginia Day or any other special occasion; while that State has undoubtedly furnished its proportionate share of the most interesting exhibits. Had all the other States, in the matter of attendance, stood by the Exposition as well as North Carolina, in proportion to their population and propinquity, there is no doubt that the celebration would to-day be as great a success second only to that of Virginia.

To give North Carolina this meed of praise is nothing in depreciation of the interest and loyalty shown the Exposition by other States—especially the original thirteen. Of what they have each and all done to contribute to the success of this great and patriotic undertaking Virginia is deeply sensible and appreciative; but to her nearest neighbor on the South she feels that an especial measure of praise and gratitude is due. North Carolina deserves all praise, and Virginia accords it fully and freely.

AN APPEAL FOR "THE BREAD LINE." The Bowers Mission "Bread Line," at which 1,000 men who are out in the streets for the night are given a breakfast of hot coffee and rolls every morning at one o'clock, is one of the most pathetic sights in all the wide world. To go on with the work begun opening these poor, starving men stand in a single line that sometimes extends for blocks in length, waiting for the coffee and rolls. During the last winter, this breakfast was given to a total of 144,000 homeless men and boys, and up to date nearly half a million more. The work has been hampered by the fact that the Bowers Mission is a charity, and the work of the Bowers Mission is a charity, and the work of the Bowers Mission is a charity.

Interpreting New Jersey's Vote. New York Globe.] The result in New Jersey is obviously susceptible of a double interpretation. It can be read as a rebuke to the Republican party for passing and the Republican candidate for defending the Bishop liquor law, an enactment that has bruised the susceptibilities of the people, and it can be read as a sign that a good many Republicans of New Jersey wished to call attention to the fact that they are not altogether satisfied with the President's policy.

Those concerned about attacking the President will be disposed to read the New Jersey result as a large national significance. Those concerned about defending the President will ascribe it to the local issue. The common sense view is that both factors contributed; that alone neither would have produced so remarkable a change, but that, acting in conjunction, they resulted in the defeat of a majority of 50,000. With the entire question of the main Katzenbach was a platform in itself, and there came a great slackening in the love of the New Jersey committee for the Washington administration.

HOBBSON'S POSSESSIONS. Norfolk Virginian.] Some men are born to assiduity; some achieve it; and some have it thrust upon them. Young Hobson appears to have had the benefit of all three processes.

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David Parker, of Fayette, N. Y., who lost a foot at Gettysburg, writes: "Electric Bitters have done me more good than any medicine I ever took. For several years I had stomach trouble, and paid out much money for medicine to little purpose, until I began taking Electric Bitters. I would not take \$500 for what they have done for me. Grand tonic for the aged and for feeble weak nesses. Great restorative and body builder; best of all for lame back and weak kidneys. Guaranteed by B. E. Sedberry & Sons, druggists, 50 cents.

To check a cold quickly, get from your druggist some little Candy Cold Tablets called Preventives. Druggists everywhere are now dispensing Preventives, for they are not only safe, but decidedly certain and prompt. Preventives contain no Quinine, no laxative, nothing harsh nor sickening. Taken at the "onset stage" Preventives will prevent Croup, Bronchitis, LaGrippe, etc. Hence the name Preventives. Good for feverish children. 48 Preventives 25 cents. Trial boxes 5 cents.—Sold by B. E. Sedberry & Sons.

Dancing Proves Fatal. Many men and women catch colds at dances which terminate in pneumonia and consumption. After exposure, if Foley's Honey and Tar is taken it will break up a cold and no serious results need be feared. Refuse any but the genuine in a yellow package, Guaranteed by Dr. J. C. Souders, Druggist, 25 cents.

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WHAT ARE "OPERATING EXPENSES?" Atlanta Journal.] W. J. Nesbitt, a member of the railroad commission of Alabama, has addressed a communication to President Milton H. Smith, of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, asking him to specify what items are charged under the head of "operating expenses."

Commissioner Nesbitt expresses a desire which has been in the minds of the people of Georgia for a long time and the reply of President Smith to this question will be awaited with considerable interest. Mr. Nesbitt pointed out that the earnings absent for last year showed an increase of more than five million dollars. President Smith says that ninety-eight per cent. of this amount went to "operating expenses." The Alabama commissioner would like to know if everything spent is thus accounted for.

There is a very general opinion that the Louisville and Nashville, as well as other railroads in the South, has been charging up to operating expenses items which belong to investment or some other department, for the purpose of making the earnings of the road appear larger than they really are, and the public would like to know the truth about the matter.

It has been made reasonably clear that lessees of the Western and Atlantic Railroad have been pursuing this course with the property. In the effort to depreciate the value of the state road in the eyes of the public, a system of bookkeeping has been adopted which does not fairly represent the relation of earnings to operating expenses. Under this system it would make no difference how prosperous a railroad might be—how much the earnings sheet might show in the way of increase over previous years—if, when the accounting came, it was all shown to have gone for "operating expenses."

An increase in earnings of five million dollars over the year before is quite an item in the Louisville and Nashville's showing. If it has all been put into operating expenses it looks as though there must have been some very unbusinesslike extravagance somewhere, and Mr. Smith should call his lieutenants around him and find out where the trouble lies.

Let us have an itemized statement, not only from the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, but from all the other railroads operating in Georgia and Alabama, showing just what is charged under the head of operating expenses—and expenses for operating what? Perhaps the answer to that might be interesting, also.

If the railroad is to be treated fairly by the people, they must be equally candid with the public. Juggling of figures, showing conditions which do not exist, will not contribute anything to the confidence of the people in railroad methods.

The best policy will be honest about this matter and tell us what becomes of the increased earnings.

QUINCY APPEARS TO BE AN ASS. Norfolk Virginian.] Josiah Quincy's aspirations for a "sane radicalism" in politics is but the Boston way of spelling impossibility. According to sanity and radicalism (the meaning respectively attached to them by common usage), they are as incompatible as an emollient and an irritant. Why didn't the gentleman cry at once for a peaceful war, a noiseless thunder storm, or a humane butcher?

Or he might have sighed for a healthy sickness or enlightened idleness or a calm paroxysm. It is not by riding on paradoxes and incongruities that Josiah will ever attain the plane of statesmanship that his grandfather adorned. Sane radicalism, Bah! Buncombe! Fiddlesticks!

A Marriage of Interest to Many Fayetteville People. The groom has numerous friends mentioned below in Fayetteville, who wish for him many years of happiness with his life companion, who is a cousin of our townsman, Dr. E. Floyd. We take the following from the Robinsonian: "Dr. J. C. McKenzie, of Barnesville, and Miss Chattie Floyd were married Tuesday afternoon at three o'clock at the home of the bride's brother near Barnesville. It was a quiet wedding, only a few relatives and friends of the contracting parties being present. The ceremony was performed by Justice Kelly Barnes. Immediately after the ceremony Dr. and Mrs. McKenzie left for Norfolk to visit the Jamestown Exposition. They will return to their home at Barnesville Monday. The groom is a brother of Treasurer M. G. McKenzie, of Lumberton, who attended the wedding. Both the contracting parties are well known and prominent in that section of the county."

Jail Doors Open But to Close Again on Prisoner. In the case of Dan Carrol, the negro charged with burning a dwelling in Rockfish township, and who has been in jail for several months awaiting trial for the offense, the grand jury yesterday failed to find a true bill, and the jailer was hurrying to set him at liberty, when Carrol was presented together with Walter McNeill, charged with injuring the jail property, and in this case a true bill was found.

As court was about to adjourn, the case would not be taken up, and Carrol will have to remain in jail until the January term, before getting a hearing in that matter.

Pain anywhere, pain in the head, painful periods, Neuralgia, toothache, all pains can be promptly stopped by a thoroughly safe Little Pink Candy Tablet, known to druggists everywhere. As Dr. Shoop's Headache Tablets, pain simply means congestion—undue blood pressure at the point where pain exists. Dr. Shoop's Headache Tablets quickly equalize this unnatural blood pressure, and pain immediately departs. Write Dr. Shoop, Racine, Wis., and get a free trial package. Large box 25 cents. B. E. Sedberry & Sons, druggist.

The Peace Conference of the Central American republics is occupying the centre of the stage this week, and the opening ceremonies were informal, though quite impressive. Secretary Root opened the conference with an able and most felicitous speech in which he expressed the gratification of the people of the United States that the States of Central America feel they will find here an atmosphere favorable to the development of ideas of peace and unity, and assured the delegates of the sincere and friendly desire for success in their labors on the part of the United States. And Mr. Root declared that nothing could prevent the people of these five republics from living together in peace and unity, except the ambitions of individuals who care more for their own selfish purposes than for the good of their country.

The pocket diary issued this year by C. A. Snow & Co., Patent Attorneys of Washington, D. C., is one of the most useful and complete books of the kind we have seen. It contains beside ample space for daily memoranda and cash account information, about patents and other data of value to the business man, the mechanic and the general public. Nowhere that we know of can such a complete memorandum book be obtained for so little. Copies may be had by sending a two-cent stamp to C. A. Snow & Co., Patent Attorneys, Warder Bldg., Washington, D. C.

The New Pure Food and Drug Law. We are pleased to announce that Foley's Honey and Tar for coughs, colds and lung troubles is not affected by the National Pure Food and Drug Law as it contains no opiates or other harmful drugs, and we recommend it as a safe remedy for children and adults. McKethan Drug Store (O. O. Souders, Prop.)

Appendicitis is due in a large measure to abuse of the bowels, by employing drastic purgatives. To avoid all danger, use only Dr. King's New Life Pills, the safe, gentle cleansers and invigorators. Guaranteed for headache, biliousness, malaria and jaundice, at B. E. Sedberry & Sons' drug store, 25 cents.

Dr. Shoop's Restorative. Stomach troubles, Heart and Kidney ailments, can be quickly corrected with a prescription known to druggists everywhere as Dr. Shoop's Restorative. The prompt and surprising relief which this remedy immediately brings is entirely due to its Restorative action upon the controlling nerves of the Stomach, etc. B. E. Sedberry & Sons, druggists.

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WASHINGTON LETTER. (From Our Regular Correspondent.) Indications of that sweet harmony which prevails in the Republican party whenever the subject of the tariff is under consideration are manifest and Speaker Cannon has clearly given evidence of his determination to thwart the desire of the President and of Secretary Taft to have the Dingley tariff revised at a special session immediately following the next presidential inauguration. Representative Burton, of Ohio, has avowed his allegiance to the tariff revision program. Representative Grosvenor, of Ohio, was it will be remembered, defeated in his race for re-election and this leaves an Ohio vacancy on the Ways and Means Committee, that committee which will have to report a revised tariff bill or take the responsibility of refusing to do so. Mr. Burton, feeling himself entitled to General Grosvenor's former seat, has announced his intention of resigning the chairmanship of the Rivers and Harbors Committee, which he has held for years with notable ability, in order that he might be appointed to Ways and Means. Now Speaker Cannon, in an arbitrary decree, which exceeds anything ever attempted by the late "Czar-Read," has caused to be made public first that Mr. Burton cannot resign until he is appointed with the Ways and Means Committee, and that if he then persists in resigning, the speaker will submit to the House the question, "Shall Mr. Burton, of Ohio, be relieved from all further duty on the committees of the House?" In other words, unless Mr. Burton does precisely as he is told by the Speaker, he will be deprived of his efforts to get on Ways and Means, he will be deprived of all his committee assignments.

Mr. Cannon is first of all things a "stand pater" and he is wholly unwilling to permit a revisionist to go upon this important committee. Incidentally, too, Mr. Cannon fondly cherished the illusion that he is a presidential possibility and he regards a blow at Mr. Burton as a body blow at Mr. Taft, who is conceded to be the most likely of the Republican presidential possibilities. "How good it is for the brethren to dwell together in harmony."

There are many indications that the all powerful influence exercised by Speaker Cannon is to be proscribed to the promotion of what he foolishly regards as his presidential chances. For instance, Representative Fordney, of Michigan, who is most anxious to secure a seat on Ways and Means, has already held his district convention and elected two delegates to the national convention and instructed them to cast their votes for Mr. Cannon. Having been held before the call of the National Committee the convention was doubtless illegal but that will probably interfere in no way with the Speaker's gratification and Mr. Fordney's ambition. A neat sign on the door of the Speaker's room reading, "All members who inspire to good committee assignments must first see that their district delegates to the next national convention are instructed to vote for Joseph G. Cannon for President," would be most appropriate, as it would correctly portray the motives which are controlling Mr. Cannon in making up his slate of committees for the new Congress.

Representative Swager Sherley, of Kentucky, has come to Washington to frame up, with some of his colleagues certain amendments to the House rules which if adopted would checkmate the prostitution of his autocratic powers of which Speaker Cannon is guilty, but unfortunately Mr. Sherley's efforts are not destined to amount to anything more than a credible Democratic protest against the existing conditions. Every man who votes for any particular amendment to the House knows full well that the vindictive resentment of the Speaker will follow him throughout the Congress and that he will be injured in the eyes of his constituents in every way that the Speaker's omnipotent power will make possible. Truly Mr. Sherley deserves credit for his courage.

Democrats in Washington are much gratified over the positive declaration of Mr. Bryan on the subject of his attitude toward the Democratic Presidential nomination of 1908, and they