

THE REPORTER

J. PEPPER, Sr., | J. T. DARLINGTON
Editor. Associate Editor.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24.

CONGRESS.

From one of our Washington special correspondents, whose letter is unavoidably crowded out this week, we learn that the work of reducing the estimates and expenditures goes on bravely. Each one of the sub-committees having charge of department expenditures, finds that large reductions can be made not only in the number of the clerical force, but in the salaries paid, while many of the useless "bureaus" can be lopped off, as the rotten branches are taken from fruit trees, not only without injury, but with actual benefit. During the ascendancy of Radicalism there has been built up in Washington a privileged class consisting of over-paid non-working clerks, who are pensioned upon the people for services performed to some of the politicians, and the dirtier work done the better the pay given. It seems to be the intention of the House to destroy this class, root and branch, and not to have more clerks in the departments than are necessary to perform the labor, nor to give more than a fair compensation for that labor. The Radicals are resisting every effort of this kind, but the discipline of the Democratic majority has been improved by experience and they will pass their measures, throwing the responsibility of defeating these reforms, should they be defeated, upon the Republican Senate.

The inevitable Pinchback once more comes to the front in the Senate. His groom and trainer, Senator Morton, trotted him out several days ago, but seems to be rather afraid to force a vote. Morton wielded the party whip and made the lash crack over the backs of the recalcitrant Senators, telling them that if Pinchback was not seated a Democrat must be; but some of the Republicans refuse to be lashed into the injustice of putting this grumbling negro barber into the Senate. The notorious Spencer begins to feel uneasy. The spirit displayed by some Republican Senators in the Pinchback case makes him fear that when the bottom facts are known as to the manner in which he was elected, that he will be invited "to step down and out," and the Senatorial places which now know him will know him no more forever. A greater disgrace to the Senate than this fellow Spencer never existed, and the State of Alabama is doing all that can be done to rid herself of the stigma of his representation. Even the Republicans of that State have cast him off, and a large delegation of them are expected in Washington to aid in unseating him.

In the House, Mr. Cox, of New York, has introduced a bill for the reform of the civil service. It provides for a board of four commissioners, whose duty it is to hold public examinations at least four times a year, in Washington city, and by sub-committees of two, at least twice a year in the Eastern, Middle, Western, and Southern States, at which times any person of good moral character may apply to be examined, and, if the examination proves satisfactory, is entitled to a certificate. All new appointments are to be made from persons holding these certificates.

The House Committee on Pacific Railroads will report in favor of the Texas and Pacific bill, if it has not already reported, introduced by Mr. Atkins, of Tennessee. The bill provides that the Government shall guarantee the interest on the bonds of the road, at the rate of thirty-five thousand dollars per mile. Ample guards are thrown around this guarantee to protect the Government from any possible loss. A first mortgage is reserved on the road, and all moneys due from the United States for the transportation of troops, supplies, mails, etc., is to be retained in the Treasury to meet the interest. The amount thus retained, it is shown, will be more than sufficient to pay the interest, and the passage of the bill will do more than any other measure to revive the drooping trade of the country, as it would

place nearly \$100,000,000 in circulation in a short time.

The Democratic Executive Committee have opened rooms on F street with Major A. D. Banks, secretary in charge. From this political center documents of all kinds will be distributed throughout the country, and the campaign will be conducted. All communications should be addressed to Major Banks.

JOURNALISTIC NOTES.

We are in weekly receipt of the Congressional Record, for which Hon. A. M. Scales has our thanks.

"The Reidsville Times" is the name of a new paper published by Thompson & Duggins, at Reidsville, N. C. The Times presents a very neat appearance, is Democratic in principle, and worthy of support. We wish it and its proprietors unbounded success.

"Peterson's Ladies' Magazine" for March is already on our table, and it is a very attractive number. As principal embellishment it presents a beautiful steel-plate engraving, entitled "Pay Toll, First;" then an extension colored fashion-plate of five figures, all very handsome; and next, a colored pattern for tidy on Java canvas; besides a large number and variety of wooden illustrations. Terms \$2 00 a year. Published by Charles J. Peterson, 306 Chestnut street, Philadelphia.

The February number of the "Southern Planter and Farmer" is received. It contains a picture and sketch of Col. Holt, President of the North Carolina Agricultural Society; and articles from Gen. Fitz Lee, Col. E. Dromgoole, "Civis," Judge Cox, and other representative farmers of our Southern States. Every question of vital interest to the farmer is handled with perfect candor. In fact, it contains all a farmer would like to see, and we trust our friends will avail themselves of the aid it offers them in so many ways. Published at Richmond, Va., at \$2 a year.

The "American Farmer" for February is promptly issued and will be found of unusual value, containing as it does numerous papers suitable to the season and the times. A very interesting essay from Mr. J. Atlee, reviewing the progress of agriculture for the past century, gives a general outline of the improvement in every branch, and is instructive and encouraging to the farmer. The correspondents of the "Farmer" are very numerous and able, and from all the States from Pennsylvania to Mississippi; and every subject connected with agriculture in all its branches receives full attention. Published monthly by Samuel Sands & Son, Baltimore, Md., at \$1 50 per year, or five copies for \$5. Specimens may be had on application.

From Washington.

A Spicy Letter.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]
WASHINGTON CITY, D. C.,
February 18, 1876.

What a grand display we are preparing for the thirty-nine heathen nations who are coming here to view our civilization this year. How the American eagle will scream with delight. There is the big show at Philadelphia; but that is only a small part of the entertainment we are preparing. Two national conventions are to be held. How the violent and ruffianly fellows who govern Europe and Asia will be astonished at the calm and dignified manner in which these conventions are conducted. How they will wonder, when they see by the educated and intellectual appearance of the delegates, that none but the very best—the most intelligent, refined and orderly men—are selected by the people of the various States to choose candidates for the highest positions in the nation; and then, when the election comes off, with what wonder they will read the five thousand political newspapers, listen to the myriad of political orators, and find that in no single instance has either or any of them departed from the rules of courtesy, in discussing the merits of candidates

and parties. That in no case is personal abuse, blackguardism, or any departure from the rules of politeness permitted. How strangely will appear our illustrated papers, which, instead of being the custom of these papers in the "effete" countries of Europe, and caricaturing their opponents, publish excellent likenesses, with complimentary biographical sketches! Then the grand mass meetings and political gatherings, the torchlight processions, etc.; what a revelation it will be to these denizens of the old world, to see the order and dignity displayed!

Congress will be in session, too, and the nations may enter the galleries by platoons and see our law-makers at work. They can see how fastidiously each one for himself has dressed to please all; with what attention and courtesy each member is treated by all; what oppressive silence reigns, and in what listening attitudes all place themselves when any member arises to address the body. After the houses adjourn how earnestly and honestly every member devotes himself to the duties of his high position; how they feel the responsibilities and dignity of their high places!

Then, too, since the Bowen letter, there are probabilities that we can show them the best of evidences of the purity of our spiritual shepherds, their devotion to the flocks entrusted to their care; the affection that invariably exists between pastor and people; how all the churches are free from any censorious members, or from bickerings among themselves. We can have a copy of the whisky-ring trials printed, and the investigations that have been made for the past few years, to show how guileless and honest our public officials are.

All these and many other evidences of our progress as a nation, besides the display made at Philadelphia, can and will be shown to our visitors. Let the eagle scream his loudest and make his loftiest flights, for we are going to show before all the world.

I think in the above truthful and graphic (*sic*) description, I mentioned the word "letters." I have met several men in the last few days who are adjectively inclined because of letters. Some have gone so far as to wish that letters could not be written, and I have heard one learned fellow damn Cadmus for the invention of the alphabet. He said that its combinations had always been getting people into trouble and always would be, and cited many instances running through several centuries. I thought for a time that his wife had found a note in his pocket, but listening a little longer the cause of his anger came forth; the Bowen letter, he said, would start the scandal again and that would crowd the newspapers so that they could not give enough attention to politics, and "the letter of Jeff Davis would raise —" I did not distinctly hear the last word, but thought it was "bell," it sounded like that, anyhow. And then I walked off reflecting that if it had not been for the alphabet, and letters, and printing presses, etc., your many readers would not have the pleasure of reading what Saxon has to say, and that I might be engaged like Cincinnatus, in plowing cabbages, or Grant in tanning leather, or some other useful occupation, preparatory to being called by the people to rule over some great country. This train of thoughts so occupied my mind as I sauntered up the avenue that I ran against a lamp post, and my dream of cabbages and the Presidency was gone.

Speaking of the Presidency reminds me that we are to have an election this year. Had you heard of it? Possibly; but I will state again that there is to be an election for President this year. Nervous, foolish people, who want to have things their own way, are actually getting excited about it, as if there was anything in this world that could possibly justify a man in getting excited, and thereby injuring his digestion. One of these excitable individuals rushed into my office, and casting himself into a chair, said: "Saxon, who are you going to advocate for the nomination?" With that calm dignity which is so well known, I asked him what he meant,

and he answered, "who is your favorite?" I told him my pointer dog "Rock" was the only favorite I had, and the man actually said I was a damn fool, and then left in disgust before I could argue the case with him. There ought to be a police regulation to protect innocent people from politicians and beggars; they are the two most annoying nuisances of Washington.

I have invented and am applying for a patent for a button that I expect to make a fortune out of this summer; it is a coat button, and is put on with a patent fastener, which immediately comes loose when the button is grasped between the thumb and finger. Think what a blessing it will be to have these buttons this summer! When the ward politician seizes you by the button and commences to dilate upon the necessity of your voting for his candidate, you walk right off and leave him talking to the button! I expect to obtain the prize medal from the humane society for that invention. I am trying to perfect it by making it so powerfully electrical that it will paralyze the holder's tongue for at least twenty-four hours. Should I succeed, countless millions will bless the name of Saxon.

NEWS OF THE WEEK

Shad are \$1 a pair in the Wilmington market.

Kentucky refuses to appropriate to the Philadelphia jamboree.

Charlotte is going to have an asylum for aged and destitute women.

The House repeals the Bankrupt Act, and it is believed the Senate will concur therein.

It is claimed that the Baptists in the Southern States have a grand muster-roll of 1,200,000.

Horace Ogden, an old citizen of Beaufort county, fell dead in his mill the other day, of apoplexy.

The bank of Commerce at New London, Connecticut, was robbed of \$21,000 Tuesday night of last week.

Christiancy, Senator from Michigan, who has just married a 16-year-old department clerk, is 64 years old.

The New York Herald predicts a terribly sickly season, as a consequence of the unnatural warmth of the winter.

Sheriff Hearne, of Stanly county, has returned from Arkansas with Allen Carter, who murdered Bush Lilly in 1866.

John L. Burke, convicted of highway robbery, and sentenced to the penitentiary fifteen years, has just escaped Rutherford jail.

An authoritative statement comes from Washington that under no circumstances will there be any change in the tobacco tax this session.

"Judge" Whipper, of South Carolina, late major-general of militia, is a negro thief who vamoosed from Michigan to escape the penitentiary.

Two Chicago women started the other day on a walking race of 300 miles. One gave out at the 231st mile-stone, and the other went only three better.

Work has begun on the telegraph line between Salisbury and Asheville. The railroad company furnishes and erects the poles, and supplies operators from the depot agents.

William Hargrave, a young man from the neighborhood of Deep Well P. O., while running a horse race a few days ago, was violently thrown against a tree and knocked senseless. His injuries, it is apprehended, will prove fatal.

A Charlotte rum-miller sees those Yankee churches that offer a chromo for every convert, and goes a few better. He proposes to give a picture for every 20 drinks swallowed and paid for. Private art galleries will soon abound in that village.

Hon. Reverdy Johnson, of Maryland, died suddenly on Wednesday of last week. He was found dead by a servant in the grounds surrounding the Executive mansion at Annapolis. With other guests he had dined that day with Gov. Carroll.

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Officers, Soldiers and Sailors of the late war, of their heirs, are entitled to money from the Government of which they have no knowledge. Write full history of service, and state amount of pay and bounty received. Enclose stamp to Gilmore & Co., and a full reply, after examination, will be given you free.

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