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WASHINGTON LETTER.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 18.—That President McKinley is in favor of Gen. Tracy as the only regular Republican candidate for Mayor of New York is not known all over the world, as was your correspondent when he told your readers that such was the case. Secretary Bliss had the support of President McKinley when he wrote that strong letter endorsing Gen. Tracy and asking every Republican to vote for him, as he has the support of the President in going to New York for the purpose of registering instead of ascertaining in what manner he can best help Gen. Tracy and the regular Republican ticket, and he will have that support in whatever he may do in the campaign. President McKinley does not intend to write a personal letter for use in New York, any more than one for use in Ohio, not because of any lack of sympathy with Republicans engaged in the campaign in both places, but because he doesn't think that the President of the United States should personally engage in a political campaign, but he is going to Ohio to cast his vote for the Republican ticket, and it is no secret that he will think more of every Republican voter in any state who follows his example. There is nothing surprising in all this; it would have been surprising to those who know the man, had President McKinley indicated any intention of acting otherwise.

Nothing but commendation has been heard of President McKinley's selection of Hon. John A. Kasson, of Iowa, to be a special Commissioner of the U. S., with plenary powers to negotiate reciprocity treaties with other governments, in accordance with the provisions of the Dingley tariff act. Mr. Kasson served in Congress several years, where, as a member of the House Ways and Means Committee, he acquired valuable experience, and his diplomatic career has been brilliant and enviable. He was first Minister to Austria, then Minister to Germany and later U. S. Commissioner to the Berlin conference, which arranged the present government of Samoa. The country may rest assured that Mr. Kasson will see that its interests are properly taken care of in any reciprocity treaty he negotiates. Negotiations with France have been under way sometime, and that country is likely to have the honor of the first reciprocity treaty under the Dingley law. Austria and Germany have already served notice of their intention to open negotiations for a similar treaty.

There was no surprise at the publication of the tender of Justice Field's resignation from the U. S. Supreme Court, and of President McKinley's acceptance of the same, to take effect Dec. 1, 1897. The fact is generally known that Justice Field would have retired during the last administration—he has been eligible for retirement under the age limit nearly eleven years—but for his disinclination to give Mr. Cleveland an opportunity to appoint his successor, and he announced last year to his friends his intention to retire early in the present administration. His health is quite feeble at this time. There seems to be little doubt that Attorney General McKenna will be named for the vacancy as soon as Congress meets.

Senator Gorman's latest bluff, offering to withdraw as a candidate for reelection and to give up the leadership of the Maryland Democrats, if the publisher of the Baltimore Sun would agree to take the leadership and stop fighting the Gorman machine, is so transparent that it has furnished nothing but amusement for the Republicans. Gorman knows that the next Maryland legislature is almost bound to be republican, and he is anxious to unload the responsibility for the defeat on somebody, and he preferred Mr. Abel, of the Sun, who has for years been his most influential enemy inside the Democratic party, to anybody else. Mr. Abel has been fighting Gormanism too long to be caught by such a scheme; he knows as well as Gorman does that democratic defeat is well nigh certain, and he wishes his paper to share in the credit for bringing about the defeat, this year, just as it did in the carrying the State for McKinley and Hobart last year. Mr. Gorman has been credited with much political shrewdness, but he will have

to get up a better scheme or many will think that he has been much overrated in the past.

Those who started that story about President McKinley intending to stop the sale of the Union Pacific Railroad overlooked the fact that the sale was ordered by a decree of the United States Circuit Court. The only thing that could have stopped the sale would have been an appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court and that the Government decided sometime ago not to take.

EXTINGUISHED STARS.

FROM THE FRENCH OF AUGUSTE DORCHAIS

William Hall in International

When comes that hour of evening when upon the sea,

The distant sails are lost to sight; When o'er the plains of heaven march so silently,

The countless stars which gem the night.

Has it per chance occurred to you that you clear sky

Has, like the sea, its shipwrecks, too? That worlds are lost in darkness,—stars each moment die,

Shipwrecks amid that ocean blue?

Seest thou, toward the zenith, that star which shineth there

Like to a jewel on night's brow? Its silver sphere, 'tis said, that seems to us so fair,

Is but a mournful coffin low.

There was a time when its superb its way did trace

Amid the azure fields above;

There was a time when floating through the realms of space

'Twas filled with life and thought and love.

Its various noises have grown silent one by one;

Around its space is void of light;

And so in silence and in gloom it wanders on

Forever through the livid night.

But still, although a thousand years have passed away

Since o'er it darkness fell like death, It is so far that until now its final ray Has never reached the earth beneath.

For us therefore, is nothing changed; each morn the light

Of dawn subdues its colors red,

Each evening gives it back the same unto our sight—

No one doth know that it is dead.

THE COLLECTOR'S WORK.

Examiner Says He Found Nothing Wrong Two Resignations.

Asheville Citizen.

Fred Wannauaker, who was sent here by the Civil Service commission to inquire whether Collector Harkins had been careless in handling the deceptation axe, left yesterday for Chattanooga. At the collector's suggestion Mr. Wannauaker secured permission from the commission to return here Saturday or Sunday. While here he stated in effect that so far as he had been able to investigate during his stay, the collector had worked within the law in making removals and appointments.

The story sent out from Washington that the salary vouchers of new appointees had been suspended and that they would not be paid until the matter is definitely settled, does not apply to the Asheville office. Collector Harkins says the salaries have not been held back here, and the collector says that his official acts have been approved by the department.

There have recently been two resignations of men assigned to duty as brandy gaugers in Yancey county, the pay of which position is \$3 a day and expenses. One of those who resigned is Dan E. Young. He was suspended some time ago under charges. Saturday the following note was left on the collector's table by G. W. Lynch, of Fairview, who had been at work in Yancey: "I have decided that I will not work at my job any longer, so you can give it to someone else. I think I am able to show all my work to satisfaction."

After the fire at Durham last Thursday the superintendent of the water works and the editor of the Sun scrapped because the Sun's account of the fire wasn't satisfactory to the superintendent.

MISTRIAL IN THE ATKINSON CASE.

Jury Stood Seven for Acquittal and Five for Conviction.

WAS OUT ALL NIGHT LONG.

Mrs. Atkinson on the Stand Ten Hours—She Made a Good Impression—It Is Not Believed That the Case Will Be Tried Again.

Greenville, W. Va., October 13.—The jury in the famous case of Mrs. Governor Atkinson, on trial for forging her former husband's name, disagreed today and was discharged by the court. The jury stood seven for acquittal and five for conviction.

There had been a continuous session of the court since 9 o'clock yesterday morning, excepting an hour's intermission for meals, and Mrs. Atkinson had been on the stand for ten hours. Her testimony was a general denial of all the allegations charged in the indictments. She did not waver from the statement on cross examination that all the receipts in controversy given to Owens were written at the dictation of Judge Camden in his life time, and that they represented what they show upon their face.

She insisted that all the other papers and transactions relied upon by the state to show criminal intention were genuine and instituted at the dictation of Judge Camden. She denied that she had any interest whatever in the Owens land or that Owens had at any time paid her money or any other thing of value. The cross examination was very rigid. Mrs. Atkinson's demeanor upon the witness stand was modest and unassuming. She made a favorable impression.

At the conclusion of Mrs. Atkinson's testimony at 5 o'clock last evening the argument commenced, the court allowing each side three hours. Jno. S. Withers opened for the state and was followed by W. W. Brannon for the defendant. At the night session R. F. Kiddon, Judge Brannon and John Davis spoke for the defense and were followed by R. C. Linn, who closed the argument for the state. The court's instructions to the jury were impartial and the case was given to twelve men. At 11:15 a. m. the jury asked for instructions on certain circumstantial evidence, and returned to consultation. At 2:30 a. m. they had not agreed and the court adjourned until 7 a. m. At 9:30 a. m. the jury reported that it had failed to agree and was dismissed. The court immediately adjourned. It is not believed that the case will be tried again.

What the Governor Says.

Cincinnati, O., Oct. 13.—A special to The Commercial Tribune from Weston, W. Va., says:

In the case of the state of West Virginia against Myra H. Atkinson, wife of Governor Atkinson, the defendant refused to talk. But Governor Atkinson gave a statement for the press, in which he said: "The prosecution was actuated by malice. I am of the opinion that several witnesses, indeed all the real testimony upon which the case hinged, had been induced to testify for consideration. I am thoroughly convinced that two or more of them were purchased. All fair-minded people could see clearly that Camden Sumner's grandson of the late G. Camden, was at the bottom of, and instigator of, this procedure. Soon after Judge Camden married my present wife, Mr. Sumner and others started out on a career of persecution stories. Indeed, prior to Mrs. Atkinson's marriage to Camden, she was annoyed with an anonymous letter, warning her not to marry Camden. Furthermore, when the will of Judge Camden was about to be probated, she received various letters threatening newspaper publication unless a large sum of money was paid, in which case it was promised nothing would be said or published relative to her."

Prior to her marriage to me a similar anonymous letter was sent her, threatening newspaper notoriety. The man who inspired all these publications is well known to be Camden Sumner, the address of whom is Judge Camden, upon whose testimony the indictment against Mrs. Atkinson was solely founded and who appeared as the principal prosecuting witness in this case.

"In my unbiased judgement Mrs. Atkinson is guilty of no crime whatever, most certainly not the crime of aiding and abetting in uttering the forged papers charged against her in the indictment. Evidence in this trial showed that Camden Sumner proposed to the attorneys of Joshua Owens that if he would testify against Mrs. Atkinson nothing would be done with Owens, and that he would not have to pay for his land which they claimed had not been paid for. All I have to say in conclusion is that the whole thing from beginning to end is worked up to injure my wife and humiliate me."

A Woman of Standing.

The trial of Mrs. Myra H. Atkinson on a charge of forgery is one of the most remarkable on record. She is the rich wife of George Wesley Atkinson, governor of West Virginia, but in Washington.

Mrs. Atkinson has powerful influences behind her, for aside of her own wealth is said she can command a million through her sister, Mrs. Goff, a relative of Judge Nathan Goff, of the United States district court.

As if this were not enough to enable her to put up a strong defense, she can also command a political influence that might prove more potent than mere money. Her position seems almost impregnable when it is considered that besides all this she is the wife of the governor, who has the pardoning power, in case of conviction, though he says he has never given the idea a place in his mind and neither has his wife.

Mrs. Atkinson was thrice married, and each time was to her benefit. As a poor and obscure girl she first married Dr. Ed. Davis, a man of a prominent family. In 1875 Dr. Davis drank lye for whiskey in the dark one night and died.

In 1883 the widow married Judge Gideon Draper Camden, the most prominent and wealthiest member of the famous Camden family, that numbers senators, governors, and millionaires in its list of notables. She was then thirty-eight, handsome, vivacious and lively—just the sort of a woman to attract a millionaire widower of seventy-five; and that he was attracted, and that the widow was not without business sense, is proved by a marriage contract that gave her \$100,000 or marrying him and caring for him in his old age; also by the will, that gave her all of his estate except a few \$500 legacies he left to his children and grandchildren. When Mrs. Camden married Governor Atkinson last summer she was still well preserved and retained much of her youthful spirit and vigor.

The forgeries Mrs. Atkinson is alleged to have committed are in connection with the property left by Judge Camden.

And it is through these that she is alleged to have secured control of and to have turned into cash thousands of dollars' worth of property now claimed by others of the Camden line.

Judge Camden was weak for a long time before his death, but up to the last he insisted upon transacting his own business. Physically incapacitated, he was unable to do this satisfactorily, and he left many things half done.

Clever Scheme, It True.

The charge against Mrs. Atkinson is that she took advantage of this, after Judge Camden's death, to get control of the estate of \$12,000 he left, or at least converted it into cash. The method she adopted it is said, was to sell the land cheap, and by means of forged letters antedating the death of Judge Camden, intended to prove that the business transacted had been carried on and concluded before the judge passed away. Thus the money paid for the land would go to her directly and the other heirs would see none of it. It is with these letters and contracts that the prosecution hopes to win its case.

The arrest of Mrs. Atkinson caused a profound sensation from which the natives of West Virginia have not yet recovered. It was given a political significance that perhaps, it did not merit. Some of the governor's friends went so far as to charge that the case was brought to injure his chances for the seat in the United States senate now occupied by Senator Faulkner.

The fact is, Mrs. Camden (her name before her marriage to Governor At-

kinson, a short time ago) was under indictment before her marriage, and the movement to indict her was begun before it had even been hinted that a love affair between them existed. The announcement of their engagement last June was, in fact, more of a surprise than the announcement that Mrs. Camden had been indicted.

STATE NEWS.

Will X. Coley has sold the Davie Times. It will be edited hereafter by Mr. John M. Blount.

Residences are being built very rapidly at Spencer, the new railroad town, near Salisbury.

Senator Pritchard leaves this week for Omaha, Neb. He will be absent two or three weeks.

The Weekly Visitor, a paper established by Rev. J. H. Booth, at Catawba, made its appearance last week.

Raleigh is to have another morning paper. W. X. Coley, former editor of the Davie Times, will be night editor.

The Connelly Springs property which was advertised for sale Monday at Salisbury was not sold. No bidders could be secured.

James McCullough, one of the side show attaches of Wallace's circus, was killed at Newport, Tenn., last Friday night. He was between two engines which ran together.

It is stated that the Neuse river at Kinston is so low that the wreck of the gunboat Neuse, which was partially burned during the war, is high and dry; in fact, far above the water. People are now stripping the wreck of metal, bolts, etc. Never before has the wreck been thus exposed.

The main building of the county home of Pasquotank county was burned Sunday morning of last week. The fire is supposed to have originated from the overturning of a lamp in the room of Geo. McCall, a pauper, former keeper of the home. McCall was 80 years old and was burned to death in the building. The other paupers had narrow escapes.

A correspondent writing the Wilmington Star from Clinton says Alex. Gilmore, the Cumberland county outlaw, was shot to pieces near Ingold, Sampson county, by constable Kelly and a posse of deputies who attempted to arrest him. Seven loads of duck shot were fired at him and nearly all took effect. Gilmore escaped into the swamp, but persons who have since seen him report that he is to badly wounded to live.

Frank Abernathy, a son of Rev. J. W. Abernathy, of Mathews, Mecklenburg county, has confessed to burning a house and barn. He also says he robbed his own store and then gave out the impression that it had been robbed by burglars, in order to get sympathy and aid from his neighbors. Abernathy has been laboring under religious excitement recently and it is thought possibly that his mind is unbalanced.

The fire at Durham last Thursday destroyed property of the estimated value of \$490,000, on which there was \$200,000 of insurance. Seven tobacco prize rooms and eight dwellings and 3,000,000 or 4,000,000 pounds of leaf tobacco were burned. The principal losers are The American Tobacco Company, H. J. Bass & Co., W. Duke, B. L. Duke, Geo. W. Watts, W. T. Carrington, Blackwell Tobacco Co. Manning & Morgan, the Newton Estate, and L. W. Wise.

Beware of Quackery for Catarrh that Contains Mercury.

as mercury will surely destroy the sense of smell and completely derange the whole system when entering it through the mucous surfaces. Such articles should never be used except on prescriptions from reputable physicians, as the damage they will do is ten fold to the good you can possibly derive from them. Hall's Catarrh Cure, manufactured by F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, Ohio, contains no mercury, and is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. In buying Hall's Catarrh Cure be sure you get the genuine. It is taken internally, and made in Toledo, Ohio, by F. J. Cheney & Co. Testimonials free. Sold by Druggist, price 75c. per bottle.