THE JOURNAL.

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THE N. Y. World is authority for the statement that Henry Geroge will not be a candidate for President, and that he is opposed to his party's nominating a candidate.

AS THE Democrats are beginning to align themselves for a square fight on tax reduction, the Republicans, with Blaine at the head are drawing up for a battle for protection. This will give a live issue for the campaign of 1888, and the Democrats ought to insist on "fighting it out on this line if it takes the whole year."

THE Democrats and Republicans of the Fiftieth Congress are both reported to be happy: the former over the probability that they will be able to unite on tax reduction in accordance with the President's message; the latter over the fact that the President has made a blunder in declaring against a high protective tariff. If the Democrats are wise they will make a square issue and force the fight.

THE National Republican committee has decided to hold their next National Convention, for the purpose of nominating candidates for President and Vice President, at Chicago on the 19th of June, 1888. The Blaine men seem to be directing affairs and it is quite likely that the two great parties will be headed by the same men, while it is a fact that both the second men on the tickets in 1884 have passed over the river.

HUGH McCulloch, who was Secretary of the Treasury under Presidents Lincoln and Johnson, declares in favors of President Cleveland's view of the tariff. He regards himself as an old Henry Clay Whig and believes in a revenue tariff with, perhaps, incidental protection. He says the Constitution as he reads it confers absolutely no right to frame a tariff protection, and he thinks that instrument, though old, is safe guide to follow.

ONE of the most hopeful signs for the next election is that the Democrats and Republicans will have a square issue on tariff reduction. If Cleveland and Blaine are the nominees of their respective parties the mad slingers will be at a loss for scandal timber since the private affairs of these gentlemen were thoroughly and exhaustively discussed during the campaign of 1884. It would be refreshing to have one decent campaign with a real live issue before the people.

THE Virginia House of delegates by a vote of 90 to 1 adopted resolutions directing their Senators and requesting their representatives in Congress to use every effort to secure a repeal of the entire internal revenue laws. The demand for the repeal of this useless, and offensive tax is growing continually. The United States government will find it more congenial with the people to collect money for the administration of the government by tariff on imports than to bring the tax gatherer face to face with the people, hunting them down and dragging them to court's on alleged violation of internal revenue laws. Why harass and bedevil the people for the purpose of taking money from them that the government does not need?

EVERY lover of the Constitution will rejoice that the Supreme Court of the United States has overruled Judge Bond in the Virginia cases where it was sought to use the Federal power to force the State to receive the coupons of her bonds in payment of taxes. Under Judge Bond's order, he being a circuit judge of the United States, the Attorney General of the State and two of Commonwealth's attorneys were imprisoned for contempt. The cases were appealed upon a writ of habeas corpus to the Supreme Court of the United States which holds that the Circuit Court was without jurisdiction in the cases. The doctrine of Jefferson is again waxing and that of Hamilton waning.

THE PRIDE OF A TRUE SOUTHERNER.

The following letter was recently written by Mrs. Jefferson Davis in response to a movement set on foot at Macon, Ga., to raise by popular subscription a Jefferson Davis fund. It was addressed to Col. W. H. Ross, chairman of the committee having the matter in hand:

"If anything could enhance my to our friends in Macon it would be the solicitude manifested for my welfare through the love left for my husband. But, my dear sir, let me entreat you to let us thank you for the effort, but deprecate the accomplishment of it. But my daughter and I have received as education which would stand in stead of money were everything to be swept away, which I do not contemplate, and the blessings of freedom and independence are dearer to us than wealth and ease, and we should not be comfortable under this monied obligation to those who have given a far greater boon to my husband already—their hearts. I have been thus frank with you because, as Montaigne says, 'It is you and it is I.' I hope you will act on my letter.

These are noble words and in striking contrast with others who have been the recipients of bountiful gifts from friends, thus placing them in positions of wealth and case without any effort on their part. People who are blessed with health and education can not accept alms without compromising that self respect, independence and freedom which are essential to true manhood.

THE STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

From the Raleigh News & Observer we learn that the State Board of Agriculture has been compelled to reduce salaries and lay off other expenses so as to bring the cost of the work within the means at their command. The heaviest cutting was made in the sub department which embraces the experimental farm. This is doubtless the place where cutting in expenses could be made without impairing the usefulness of the department. We have never been able to see how much practical benefit could inure to the farming industry of the State at large by an experimental farm at Raleigh.

Every farmer should have his experiment farm on his own farm and should give his neighbors the benefit of his experience and receive his in return. This plan of experimenting can be made of great practical benefit by the Granges and other farmer's organizations, and by using freely the columns of the local newspapers. The articles on "Green Manuring" and "Cow Peas" in the JOURNAL of last week are worth a dozen such articles as general experimental farmers usually produce, and are practical suggestions. They were found published in several news papers in the State, and we know the results are such that they will publish more good than any agricultural article we have seen in a long time.

GENERAL RANSOM'S REPLY TO GENERAL LONGSTREET.

In the December number of the Century Magazine General R. Bert Ransom has a reply to General Longstreet's paper on the battle of Fredericksburg which appeared December 1885-1886. Longstreet's account, which appeared in the August number of the Century, 1886, utterly ignored General Ransom's command which consisted of his own and Cooke's brigades although they were engaged throughout the entire day and held the important point at Marye's hill where the heaviest assaults were made by the enemy. He Longstreet, awards the honor of holding and defending this position to Kershaw's command and merely mentions General Ransom's command as being in reserve.

General Ransom deserves the thanks of his old comrades and in fact every North Carolinian for his persistent efforts in trying to correct this seemingly intentional error of General Longstreet by which the history of an important battle, if permitted to remain as he wrote it, would rob North Carolinians of their share of the honor of winning one of the most complete victories of the civil war. As soon as Longstreet's article appeared in the Century, nearly eighteen months ago, General Ransom immediately addressed him a letter calling his attention to the many errors of his account of the battle and the great injustice done his command, and asked him to correct at once. To this letter Longstreet made a somewhat evasive reply, saying that at some future time he would write upon the third volume of all the battles in which he was engaged during the war and endeavor to do justice to all. General Ransom then appealed to the publishers of the Century Magazine to give him an opportunity of replying. General Longstreet's article appeared in the Century as referred to above in August, and after a delay of over 16 months he has been permitted to reply partially to it. He publishes as first work a paper on the battles of the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, North Anna, Cold Harbor, and Petersburg, and leaved from the battle of Fredericksburg. Longstreet's account of the battle is published in the Century, while Ransom's account is published in the December number. He replies to Longstreet on the point as well as it could be done in the limited space, but a year so complete and exhaustive as the General Ransom proved to be, and which should in the future be followed space for publication.

It is indeed strange that General Longstreet in writing an account of an important battle in which so many of his old comrades were killed or wounded, should so entirely ignore the presence of Ransom's brigades, which had gained such an opportunity to reply. The Longstreet's errors in his account of the battle have caused many wounded literally to turn in their graves, and Ransom's brigades, which had gained such a glorious victory, to turn in their graves at the delay in giving them an opportunity to make a proper