

Civil Service Reform.

We prefer a Democrat to a Republican of equal character. No honest and true Republican asks to be retained, and none other should be retained.

THE POWER TO TAX IS THE POWER TO DESTROY.

The privilege to assess our property for its value is an implied right to take all if the emergency should seem to demand it. The Constitution gives Congress power to raise by taxation money enough to defray the necessary expenses of the government.

The civil service reform that was proclaimed from every democratic stump in 1884 meant putting honest men in and cutting down expenses. All knew that the offices, a great many of them, were filled by corrupt men.

The Silver question bids fair to become the paramount issue between the eastern gold men and the western silver men, with the South divided between the two.

CIVIL SERVICE ACT.

The advocates of the present useless and undemocratic law in regard to the civil service found their position upon false grounds. The presumption that any such law is needed is entirely erroneous.

civil service humbug, and what can explain the positions of the remaining admirers we know not, unless with republicans it is to keep their friends in and, too, unless with democrats it is because they are dissatisfied with their own success in the party and don't want to see true democrats in the front and therefore they too wish the republicans kept in office.

The Cabinet officers are exempt from the civil service examination because the people have confidence in the President's sense and discretion to select competent men. The foreign ministers are exempt from the humbug of examinations because it is conceded that the appointing power has sense and discretion enough not to select either an idiot or a tyrannical demagogue.

The assistant cabinet officers stand no examinations because it is believed that the President and the cabinet officers have sense and discretion enough to make no big mistakes. All this is right. Jefferson and Buchanan and Hendricks believed in this.

And now the civil service act advocate comes and plainly and unquestionably says, for actions speak louder than words, "Mr. President and Mr. Cabinet officer, you have sense enough to make an appointment which it takes education, brains and statesmanship to fill but you have not got sense enough to make an appointment which needs only business qualities in the officer, therefore I say we ought to keep an official in for life when we get a competent one. You will, if left by yourselves unrestricted select a fool, an incompetent man, an ignoramus, a hot-headed, reckless partisan demagogue."

The Silver question bids fair to become the paramount issue between the eastern gold men and the western silver men, with the South divided between the two. The only trouble is the administration seems to be afraid of getting too many silver dollars out in the hands of the people.

Now the president and his financial secretary, say they can't get the silver dollars in circulation and it is becoming very expensive to store it. Well let's see if that trouble can't be obviated. There is we will say \$200,000,000 of silver in the treasury. The current expenses of the government are, say 260,000,000 of dollars.

But what the administration, if this is done the country will be flooded with too much money. Here is their mistake, if they will make gold dollars and silver dollars of equal purchasing value, it will be utterly impossible to have too many of them out in circulation. The value of either gold or silver or by the value of both. And if they are equal in value, no conceivable amount of both in circulation could result in harm to any body, or to any interest in the country.

Gold will increase in value and silver will decrease in value, and the debtor class will be at the mercy of the creditor class.

THE MESSAGE.

We have waited patiently for the President's message to Congress, hoping that he would redeem himself in the eyes of all men everywhere, by washing his hands of wumpism and mugism, and by rising to the height and measure of a full grown statesman. But we were doomed to sad disappointment.

On all minor questions upon which he had been fully informed and posted by the reports of his Secretaries, he takes a manly, dignified position. And in the outset we will say that we must heartily approve of all he says so far as he went on all except the Tariff, Silver, and Civil Service reform questions. We were in hopes he would make many suggestions and point out many ways by which the government could be administered on less money and the burdens of the people made lighter.

Upon the Tariff question, one of the great issues of the day, he straddles the fence, and is making a desperate effort to walk arm-clutched with both Sam Randall and John G. Carlisle as though he possessed the miraculous power of causing oil and water to mix.

Upon the civil service question he goes into spasms, and doesn't think this grand Republic and glorious country of ours, the home and birth place of Jefferson, Madison, Jackson, Hendricks and a thousand other such grand types of American manhood and American democracy, could possibly stand the strain of another general election without going to pieces, without the aid of the civil service law and his administration.

As to the silver question, he attempted to trim and split hairs between the Democratic party and the Republican party. He also tried to run between the gold men and the silver men with a decided inclination to the yellow jackets.

He evidently showed a little hankering after the silver kings of the West, but the gold kings of the East succeeding in pulling him on the other side of the fence. If we could, in justice to candor, we would hurrah for the great man in the White House. But at heart we do not endorse our President in all his caperings, and must be allowed to dissent.

From reading his message, as a whole, we cannot tell whether it is a democratic or a republican document. He certainly attempted to create the impression that he stood far above partisan influence and partisan control.

And just here we would say where the common good of the country was at stake, he ought to stand far above partisan influence. He evidently has studied neither the Tariff nor Silver question. Because his message is as silent as the tomb on the relations of silver and gold to the value of property and labor. He does not comprehend one act that ought ever to be remembered that any fluctuation in the value of either gold or silver, will always throw the labor and commerce of the country in a state of chaos and confusion.

However, in spite of the President, the country is safe. The Tariff reformers are only silver kings of the great West can easily form a combination and off-set the President and his gold kings of the east.

The Philadelphia News says there are 43 Congressmen named William and that that fact must account for the number of bills.

Silver should always be alongside gold as money.

NEVER GIVE UP. If you are suffering with low and depressed spirit, loss of appetite, general debility, disordered blood, weak constitution, headache or any disease of a bilious nature, by all means procure a bottle of Electric Bitters. You will be surprised to see the rapid improvement that will follow; you will be pined with new life, strength and activity. Will return, pain and misery will cease, and henceforth you will rejoice in the praise of Electric Bitters.

Sold at fifty cents a bottle by E. T. Whitehead & Co.

The author of the Federal pedagogy bill, Blair by name, is evidently a dissatisfied man, a complete moralist, perhaps a crank. He is a New Englander and talking about strange notions, he has them. What a reformer he is! No wonder he is in favor of Federal free schools.

The Observer says that nearly one half of the male population of Charlotte were losers by the failure of the "Mutual Self Endowment and Benevolent Association of America." The scheme was a very enticing one, and there must have been but a shade of difference between it and some of the more open gambling concerns so popular now. So far the writer has heard no complaint among our people on this score.

We notice that Elder P. D. Gold of Zion's Landmark had a political editorial last week. Something strange, of course it is all right for all men are interested in politics. He is a Civil Service Reformer, we are surprised to learn.

Some of our contemporaries are for Hill and Lee for 1888. Both David B. Hill, Governor of New York, and Fitzhugh Lee, Governor of Virginia, are good Democrats.

The Statement of our State treasurer shows receipts for the fiscal year ending in November to be \$86,700 against \$63,000 last year. The increase is accounted for by vigilance.

There are agents in N. Carolina who are trying to persuade the negroes to go to Kansas and Arkansas. It is tried every year and a lot of our happy colored people are humbugged away from home.

Vanderbilt was the richest man in the world being worth two hundred millions of dollars. He had an income of \$19 per minute.

Mexico is having a little war. It is around Monterey. The little countries keep up a racket all the time.

M. DeLesseps says he'll live to sail through the Panama canal. This canal is rapidly nearing completion.

It is rumored that Miss Rose Elizabeth Cleveland wrote that part of the President's Message in regard to Mormonism.

Cleveland, in his message did not refer to the Mississippi river appropriations.

Emperor William of Germany is 89 years old.

Abolish mugwumpishness from our country.

Cut down the tariff.

Up to Saturday night there had been 417 bills introduced in the Senate of the United States.

In England they have mugwumps now. The Democratic party sympathizes with England.

Vanderbilt's two oldest sons get \$60,000,000 apiece for their inheritance.

GREAT EXCITEMENT AT F. STERN'S. Last night in the absence of the proprietor two men stole into his store and owing to hard times and scarcity of money riddled the entire stock down 90 per cent less than sold heretofore. After a thorough examination they proved to be two clerks in the employ of F. Stern, and owing to above facts all goods will be sold hereafter at above deduction.

FOR SALE OR RENT. One dwelling house containing six large rooms and lot attached containing one acre, with good stables and outhouses. A good well of water. The place at which I now reside on the corner 9th and Greenwood streets.

J. C. PITTMAN. Other lots for sale also.

HODGES & HODGES, WHOLESALE HATS, 49 COMMERCIAL STREET, NORFOLK, VA.

Report of Superintendent of Public Instruction.

General orders passed by the Board of Education of Halifax county, at its last meeting, Dec. 7th, 1885:

That the Secretary of the Board give notice to the School Committee of each district, that no arrearages will hereafter be paid to teachers, who are employed by them without having the necessary funds to the credit of the district, at the time of the employment.

That all of the schools shall commence on the 1st Monday in January and continue until the 2nd Monday in April, provided the funds are sufficient—then commence on the 2nd Monday of August and continue one month or longer if the funds are sufficient.

Report of County Supt. of Public Instruction of Halifax county—Dec. 7th 1885.

To the Board of Education of Halifax Co. The county Supt. of Public Instruction in pursuance of Section 2573 of school law of 1885, reports for the year ending Nov. 30th 1885—as follows:

Table with columns for Teachers examined and approved, Number of white males 1st grade, Number of white males 2nd grade, Number of white males 3rd grade, Total, Average attendance, etc.

The following is a correct statement of the Public Schools taught in the county, during the school year, the number of pupils enrolled, race, sex, and an average attendance, average length of school and average salary of teachers.

Number of Public schools for whites, \$2. for colored, \$4. No. pupils enrolled, white males 536, females 426.

Average attendance 527. Number of pupils enrolled colored males 1772, females 1552. Average attendance 2423.

Average length of school terms—white, 9 weeks, colored 12 weeks. Average salary, white teachers per month—\$27.81, colored teachers per month—\$24.80.

Number of children in county between the ages of six and twenty-one years—Number of white children males 1458, females 1295.

Number of col. children males 3267, females 2984. Total 6251. Number of school districts for whites 11, for colored 11. Number of public school houses for whites 14. Value of public property for whites, \$2851, for colored \$4080r.

D. C. CLARK, Co. Supt. Pub. Ins.

There are only two colored men in the U. S. Congress now. One is Smalls of South Carolina, the other is J. E. O'Hara, of this district.

A GUARANTEE FROM THE MANUFACTURER. I claim that these shoes are made of the best leather that can be produced; there is no shoddy in them; they will wear equal to any custom made shoe that would cost you \$5.00.

MIRACULOUS ESCAPE. W. W. Reed, Druggist, of Winchester, Ind., writes: "One of my customers, Mrs. Louisa Pike, Barton, Randolph Co., Ind., was a long sufferer with consumption, and was given up to die by her physicians. She heard of Dr. King's New Discovery for consumption, and began buying it of me. In six months time she walked to this city, a distance of six miles, and is now so much improved she has quit using it. She feels she owes her life to it."

Free trial bottles at E. T. Whitehead & Co's Drugstore.

F. STERN HAS A COMPLETE STOCK OF GENERAL MERCHANDISE

And is offering same at Bottom Prices to Cash BUYERS.

WE LEAD, OTHERS FOLLOW.

LOW PRICES FOR SEASONABLE AND DESIRABLE GOODS. A visit to our Store will fully repay for the journey, where you will find a Complete and well Selected Stock of

WHITE GOODS, NOTIONS, 5c. LAWN, FINE LAWN, EDGINGS OF VARIOUS KINDS, LADIES COLLARS AND CUFFS, FANS, HANDKERCHIEFS, LADIES AND GENTS HOSE, CLOTHING, HATS AND LADIES AND GENTS WHITE DRESS SHIRTS, GLASS WARE, CROCKERY WARE TIN WARE, WOODEN WARE

Full Supply of GROCERIES of every Description, also, the best makes of BOOTS AND SHOES always on hand, and in fact everything in a first-class retail store can be had at S. P. BRINKLEY & SON'S, Spring Hill, on the Scotland Neck Branch R. R.

E. T. WHITEHEAD & CO. SCOTLAND NECK, N. C.

DRUGGISTS AND PHARMACISTS, DEALERS IN—

PURE MEDICINES, DRUGS, CHEMICALS, Toilet and Fancy ARTICLES, Cigars and TOBACCO.



PATENT MEDICINES, Garden and Field Seeds, RUSSES AND SHOULDER BRACES, FANCY & TOILET GOODS, PAINTS, OILS, VARNISHES AND DYE-STUFFS, LETTER PAPER, PENS, INK, ENVELOPES, GLASS, PUTTY, PERFUMERY, DRUGGIST'S EXQUISITES, Fine Cigars and Tobaccos. Always on Hand, Country merchants are cordially invited to examine our stock before purchasing elsewhere. SATISFACTION AND PRICES guaranteed.

OPENING OF FALL AND WINTER GOODS.

AT N. B. JOSEY & CO'S.

CORNER MAIN AND 10th Sts. AN ENTIRELY NEW STOCK OF LADIES DRESS GOODS, CONSISTING OF SILKS, OTTOMANS, VELVETS, CASHMERS, TRICOTS, SATENS, FLANNELS &c. &c.

WHITE GOODS.

LACES & EDGINGS IN ENDLESS VARIETY HOSIERY, CORSETS, JERSEYS, MEN'S & BOYS WEAR, LADIES NECK WEAR & NOTIONS. OUR LINE OF WINTER WRAPS EMBRACING SHORT WRAPS, NEW MARKETS, CIRCULARS, CLOAKS, &c. IS THE LARGEST EVER OFFERED IN THIS MARKET.

CLOTHING.

REMEMBER YOUNG MEN TO GIVE US A CALL BEFORE YOU PURCHASE YOUR FALL & WINTER SUITS. OUR LINE IS NEW & WELL SELECTED.

BOOTS & SHOES.

W.L. DOUGLAS \$3.00 SHOE, BEST TANNERY CALF, BOTTOM SEWED.

W. L. DOUGLAS \$3.00 SHOE, BEST TANNERY CALF, BOTTOM SEWED.

HATS & CAPS.

We have in addition to our general stock of merchandise a special department devoted exclusively to millinery. Having procured the services of Miss Annie Robertson, a lady of much experience and good taste, we feel warranted in assuring the public that in this department we have but few equals and no superiors within the radius of our patronage. We also have in this department five hundred pieces of ladies' muslin underwear, which we are closing out at Baltimore cost. All orders by mail promptly and faithfully executed.