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THE TIMES.

The Times

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Note Heads, Statements,
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—Executed Neatly and Promptly.

VOL. V. WALTER B. BELL, Editor.

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BILL ARP'S LETTER.

REMINDED IN VARIOUS WAYS
THAT OLD AGE IS COMING.

Bartow's Sage Gives Modern Athletics
a Hard Rap.

I'm fond of children—good children, and I like snow, an occasional mid-tempered snow, but when they both come together the racket is appalling. Here are three little grand-children in the house, and one of them with a birthday to celebrate. Their grandma wouldn't let them go outdoors and so we turned them loose in the back room. For while they played very discreetly, but by and by began to take more liberties and go to jumping off the center table and the bed and playing circus and riding around on the tricycle and screaming like wildcats, and the old dog joined in the procession and barked. Ever and anon the youngest one would get almost killed and my wife would hurry in to be at the funeral of the boy. Sometimes they would send a committee to beg me for snow and I would have to go out and get a pan full. Then they played hide and seek and it took both rooms for that, and my wife had to help them find new places. Will they never get tired and settle down? No, never.

Yesterday while it was raining my wife found a three-cornered hole in window pane in the upper east and she began to shiver so I thought she was going to have a chill; so I took the stepladder and went outside to patch the glass. I found a three-cornered piece that covered it nicely and while I was driving the tacks to fasten it the old ladder creaked on one side and I fell a whole quadrant of a circle onto a pile of flower pots. But, like a cat, I lit on my feet and tried it again. Next I went out to feed the old cow, for my wife said she was lowing like she was hungry. I had to cross some planks that were covered with ice and before I was conscious of either age or infirmity I was down flat on my back with nervous prostration. Before I got up I looked toward the house to see if anybody was looking, but there was no one. The back of my coat told me and they said they wished they had seen me. I am too venerable to be bopped about in these ungraceful attitudes, but my female folks make sport of me just like the Phillistines did of Samson. I walked down town yesterday to the postoffice and the rude boys snubbed me with malice aforethought. "Look out, old man," was all the warning I got. I don't believe old age is respected like it used to be. I don't believe the boys have as much manners. The legislature is trying to fix up a reformatory for young criminals, and that is all right, but the parents of the rising generation should start a little one in each family and then the big one wouldn't be needed. The main thing now in raising a boy is to have him graduate as a good football kicker. So much importance is attached to the development of arms and legs that I think athletics should have a place in the curriculum of the colleges and when the report of the boy's standing is sent to his parents it should contain his jumping and running and pitching and kicking record, and this record should have weight in fixing the honors. While they are developing muscle it would be a good idea to have a rail-splitting and a cotton-picking attachment in which the farmers' sons could compete so as to be ready for business when the old man calls them home. The apprehension is that great excellence in kicking a ball will not meet with proper rewards in after life. If we should have a war and the enemy should kick balls at us we ought by all means to be ready for them, but as General Sanford remarked: "They would come at us that way."

Same as a very notable athlete and slew a lion and outran 3000 feet, but we have no lions and foxes are scarce. I've been wondering what we can do with these athletes when they graduate with all their muscular biceps and settle down among their unpretending fellow citizens. Bob Fitzsimmons and Tom Sharkey and Peter Jackson and a few others, have monopolized all the business in their line. I had a very strong darkey once who could get under a loaded wagon and bump it out of a mudhole when the team stalled, but we have good roads now and don't need these strong men. But maybe we old men are a little jealous over our fading laurels. I was talking to Commissioner Trammell about this ball kicking business and he said with some emphasis: "It ought to be stopped; it is a non-sensational business and is dangerous. The colleges have gone crazy. But he brightened up when he began to tell of his own youthful sports and how he could outrun and out-wrestle any boy at school. And George Adair is disgusted, too, but delights to tell how far he could knock the old-fashioned town ball and how he used to get his ankles bruised and blackened playing shinny and how many marbles he won at sweepstakes. "I played fair," he said, "and always took the mark, but there was Jim Jenkins who always fudged and cheated, and he is fudging and cheating yet. As the schoolboy is so is the man."

And I bragged some, too, for I was the boss at some things. So maybe we old men had better take a book seat and sew wood. Nevertheless, I'm bound to say the boys have run this thing in the ground.—BILL ARP in Atlanta Constitution.

No man ever shaped his own destiny or the destinies of others wisely and well who dealt much in "presentiment."

CLEVELAND'S LAST MESSAGE

Gold Notes Must Be Retired and Our Financial System Reformed.

ENDORSES THE WILSON TARIFF

Recommends That This Country Maintain Its Present Attitude Toward Cuba—The Pension List Must Be a "Roll of Honor"—This Congress Should Inaugurate a System of Retrenchment and Economy.

Last Monday the Fifty-fourth Congress re-convened, and President Cleveland's last Message to that body was read, and below can be found the most important parts of the same:

To the Congress of the United States: As Representatives of the people in the legislative branch of their Government you have assembled at a time when the strength and excellence of our free institutions and the fitness of our citizens to enjoy popular rule have been again made manifest. A political contest involving momentous consequences, fraught with feverish apprehension, and creating aggressiveness so intense as to approach bitterness throughout our land, and determined by the degree of freedom and independence of our tranquility or the least sign of weakness in our national structure.

When we consider these incidents and contemplate the peaceful obedience and manly submission which have succeeded a heated clash of political opinions we discover abundant evidence of a determination on the part of our countrymen to abide by every verdict of the popular will, and to be controlled at all times by an abiding faith in the agencies established for the direction of the affairs of their government.

Thus our people exhibit a patriotic disposition which entitles them to demand of those who undertake to make and execute their laws such faithful and unselfish service in their behalf as can only be prompted by a serious appreciation of the trust and confidence which the acceptance of public duty involves.

In obedience to a constitutional requirement, I herein submit to the Congress certain information concerning national affairs, with the suggestion of such legislation as in my judgment is necessary and expedient. I do not believe that the present somber prospect in Turkey will be long permitted to offend the sight of christendom. It so mars the humane and enlightened civilization that belongs to the close of the nineteenth century that it seems hardly possible that the earnest demand of good people throughout the Christian world for its corrective treatment, will remain unanswered.

The situation in Cuba still continues with all its perplexities. It is difficult to perceive that any progress has thus far been made towards the pacification of the Island; or that the situation of affairs as depicted in my last annual message has in the least improved. If Spain still holds Havana and the seaports and all the considerable towns, the insurgents still roam at will over at least two-thirds of the Island country. If the determination of Spain to put down the insurrection seems but to strengthen with the lapse of time and is evidenced by her unhesitating devotion of largely increased military and naval forces to the task, there is much reason to believe that the insurgents have gained in point of numbers, and character.

The spectacle of the utter ruin of an adjoining country, by nature one of the most fertile and charming on the globe, would engage the serious attention of the government and people of the United States in any circumstances, in point of fact they have a concern with it which is by no means of a wholly sentimental character.

It is reasonably estimated that at least from \$30,000,000 to \$50,000,000 of American capital are invested in plantations and in railroad, mining, and other business enterprises on the Island. The volume of trade between the United States and Cuba, which in 1889 amounted to about \$64,000,000, rose in 1893 to about \$103,000,000, and in 1894, the year before the present insurrection broke out, amounted to nearly \$96,000,000.

The message treats length of the conditions of Cuba, the acts of Cuban sympathizers in this country and the attitude of Spain. It would seem that if Spain should offer to Cuba genuine autonomy—a measure of home rule which, while preserving the sovereignty of Spain, would satisfy all rightful requirements of her Spanish subjects—there should be no just reason why the pacification of the Island might not be effected on that basis. Such a result would appear to be in the true interest of all concerned. It was intimated by the government to this government of Spain some months ago that if a satisfactory measure of home rule were tendered the Cuban insurgents, and would be accepted by them upon guarantee of its execution, the United States would endeavor to find a way not objectionable to Spain of furnishing such guarantee. No definite response to this intimation has yet been received from the Spanish government.

considering that by the course of events we may be drawn into such an unusual and unprecedented condition, as will fix a limit to our patient waiting for Spain to end the contest either alone and in her own way, or with our friendly co-operation. When the inability of Spain to deal successfully with the insurrection has become manifest, and it is demonstrated that her sovereignty is extinct in Cuba for all purposes of its rightful existence, and when a hopeless struggle for its re-establishment has degenerated into a strife which means nothing more than the useless sacrifice of human life and the utter destruction of the very subject matter of the conflict, a situation will be presented in which our obligations to the sovereignty of Spain will be superseded by higher obligations, which we can hardly hesitate to recognize and discharge.

Until we face the contingencies suggested, or the situation is by other incidents impressively changed, we should continue in the line of conduct heretofore pursued, thus in all circumstances exhibiting our obedience to the requirements of public law and our regard for the duty enjoined upon us by the position we occupy in the family of nations.

VENEZUELAN CONTROVERSY. The Venezuelan controversy is briefly reviewed, and a treaty of general arbitration recommended.

THE NUMBER OF IMMIGRANTS ARRIVING IN THE UNITED STATES during the fiscal year was 343,267 of whom 340,468 were permitted to land and 2,799 were debarred on various grounds prescribed by law and returned to the countries whence they came.

THE POSTAL SERVICE. Our postoffice department is in good condition, and the exhibit made of its operations during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1896, if allowance is made for imperfections in the laws applicable to it, is very satisfactory. The total receipts during the year were \$82,499,208.40. The total expenditures were \$89,626,296.84, exclusive of \$1,559,899.27, which was earned by the Pacific railroad for transportation and credited on their debt to the government. There was an increase of receipts over the previous year of \$9,516,080.21, or 7.1 per cent., and an increase of expenditures of \$9,836,121. The deficit was \$1,679,956.19 less than that of the preceding year. The deficit for the last year although much less than that of the previous year, emphasizes the necessity for legislation to correct the growing abuse of second class rates, to which the deficiency is mainly attributed. The transmission at the rate of one cent a pound of serial libraries, advertising sheets, "house organs," sample copies and the like ought certainly to be discontinued. A glance at the revenues received for the work done last year will show more plainly than any other statement, the gross abuse of the postal service and the growing waste of its earnings.

The free matter carried in the mails for the departments, offices, etc., of the government, and for Congress, is estimated to be \$1,480,180. It thus appears that though the second class matter constituted more than two-thirds of the total that was carried, the revenue derived from it was less than one-third of the total expense. The average revenue from each pound of first-class matter was 93 cents, from each pound of second class 81.2 mills. I recommend that legislation be at once enacted to correct these abuses and introduce better business ideas in the regulation of our postal rates.

Experience and observation have demonstrated that certain improvements in the organization of the postoffice department must be secured before we can gain the full benefit of the immense sums expended in its administration. This involves the following reforms which I earnestly recommend: There should be a small addition to the existing inspector service to be employed in the supervision of the carrier force which now numbers 1,300 men and performs its service practically without the surveillance exercised over all other branches of the postal or public service. Of course such a lack of supervision and freedom from wholesome disciplinary restraints must inevitably lead to the imperfect service. There should also be appointed a few inspectors who should assist the central offices, post office sites, allowances for rent, fuel and lights and in organizing and securing the best results from the work of the 1,400 clerks now employed in first and second-class offices.

I especially recommend such a re-casting of the appropriations by Congress, for the postoffice department as will permit the Postmaster General to proceed with the work of consolidating and reforming its service. This work has already been entered upon sufficiently to fully demonstrate by experiment and experience, that such consolidation is productive of better service, larger revenues and less expenditure to say nothing of the further advantage of gradually withdrawing post offices from the spolia system.

CIVIL SERVICE REFORM. Progress in civil service reform is reported, and it is stated that more than 84,000 places are now included in the provisions of the act, all that properly come under the civil service except four class postmasterships. The extension to the last named class is recommended.

THE WILSON TARIFF BILL. He refers to the Wilson Tariff bill, and says: "Whatever may be the short-comings as a complete measure of tariff reform, it must be conceded that it has opened the way to a freer and greater exchange of commodities between us and other countries, and thus furnish a wider market for our products and manufactures. The only entire fiscal year during which this

law has been in force ended on the 30th day of June 1896. In that year our imports increased over those of the previous year more than \$6,500,000, while the value of the domestic products we exported and which found markets was nearly \$70,000,000 more than during the preceding year. Our tariff laws are only primarily justified as sources of revenue to enable the government to meet the necessary expenses of its maintenance.

considered as to the sufficiency in this respect the present law can by no means fall under just condemnation. During the only complete fiscal year of its operation it has yielded nearly \$8,000,000 more revenue than was received from tariff duties on the preceding year.

THE DEFICIT IN THE TREASURY. There was, nevertheless, a deficit between our receipts and expenditures of a little more than \$23,000,000. This, however, was not unexpected. The situation was such in December last, seven months before the close of the fiscal year, that the Secretary of the Treasury forecast a deficiency of \$17,000,000. The great and increasing apprehension and timidity in business circles and the depression in all its interesting aspects that have resulted from causes perfectly well understood, entirely disconnected with our tariff law or its operations, seriously checked the imports we have had otherwise received, and readily account for the difference between the estimate of the Secretary and the actual deficiency, as well as for a continued deficit, indeed, of \$23,000,000. This, however, has not had a more unfavorable effect than the last two years for the collection of tariff revenues. We cannot reasonably hope that our country has other than a limited depression will be sudden, but it has already set in with a promise of acerbity and continuance.

RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT'S TARIFF LAW. I believe our present tariff law allowed a fair opportunity will in the near future yield a revenue which with reasonable economical expenditures will overcome all deficiencies. The meeting of our present needs, or may occur need excite or disturb us. To meet any such deficit we have in the Treasury in addition a gold reserve of over one hundred millions of dollars, and a hundred and twenty-eight millions of dollars applicable to the payment of the expenses of the government and which, unless expended for that purpose, remain a useless hoard, or if not extravagantly wasted, must in any event be perverted from the purpose of its exaction from our people. I suppose the meeting of our present needs, or may occur need excite or disturb us. 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