

HENRY A. PARSONS, JR. - Editor
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1875.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

A contemporary puts the third term business in the right light when it says that "there is not written or unwritten law against a third term but in the case of Grant there would be a majority of about 1,000,000 against it, which would perhaps answer the same purpose."

There would seem to be something unattractive about the State Treasurer's office of Ohio. Governor Allen appointed J. M. Mithken, the Republican elect to the vacant Treasuryship but he declined, when the appointment was tendered to Hon. A. T. Wykoff, Chairman of the Republican State Committee, but he also has declined The office is still vacant.

Judge Van Brunst, of New York, committed a singular freak, not to say crime, some time ago. He compelled his wife to procure a divorce for him and then in violation of the statute which prohibits his re-marrying, went to England and married an English girl. The judge is still abroad having been traveling a portion of the time, and ill of brain fever another portion. It is demanded that the governor remove him from the bench, and appoint some one who knows how to keep the laws, in his place.

At the approaching session of congress ex-Speaker Blaine proposes to move an amendment to the constitution to provide that "no money raised by taxation in any state for the support of public schools or derived from any public fund therefor, shall ever be under the control of any religious sect, nor shall any money so raised ever be divided between religious sects or denominations." Such a provision is incorporated in the new constitution of this state, but there are few others that have so provided, and probably Mr. Blaine's plan is the one best to adopt to secure a speedy settlement of a disturbing question.

It is popularly supposed that, in the excitement following the assassination of President Lincoln and the impeachment of Andrew Johnson, the question of the succession to the Presidency in the emergency of the death of the President, Vice President, President of the Senate and Speaker of the House, was settled by Congress in the passage of an act intended to remedy the defects of the law of 1792. It is certain that it was proposed at that time to amend the act referred to so as to provide that in case of the four vacancies above specified the Chief Justice of the United States, and after him the Associate Judges of the Supreme Court in the order of their seniority of their appointment, should become President. A bill to this effect was proposed in Congress. Indeed, some go so far as to assert that the bill passed both houses of Congress and became a law, but there is no record of it to be found in the documents of Congress for the past sixteen years. Even if it had been enacted as is asserted, it would now be null and void for the reason that it was not codified into the last Revised Statutes of the United States, and being omitted therefrom would, under the law of 1873 stand repealed. There is no way now of supplying the defect of the law of 1792 other than by special act of Congress declaring the line of succession to the Presidency, and making it long enough to obviate the remotest probability of such an emergency as has been suggested by the death of Vice President Wilson.

WEATHER—WASHINGTON HOTELS AND BOARDING-HOUSES—THE WOULD-BE OFFICERS OF THE HOUSE AND THE ARMY OF DEMOCRATIC OFFICE SEEKERS—THE LAST OFFICIAL ACT OF THE LATE VICE PRESIDENT WILSON—ETC.

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER
Washington, D. C., Dec. 4, 1875.

There has been in the last few days a decided change in the weather. As yet we have had no snow, but the ground is frozen and with the present temperature could we have a few inches of snow we would have good sleighing which is unusual in this climate. The farmers around have concluded their fall work and are now rapidly bringing in the products of the season. Produce generally is cheaper than it has been for many years yet in hotel and boarding house prices we find no reduction. The fare in the hotel ranges from \$2.50 to \$4.50 per day, with the reduction of about one-third by the month, in the boarding-houses it ranges from \$10 to \$75 per month, according to location and rooms it has become quite customary of late for Congressmen and others of means to rent rooms without board and take their meals at first-class hotels. This, of course, is on account of

being able to get better rooms at less price than can be obtained at the hotels. It is calculated that the Centennial will improve Washington, in a business point of view, as much as any city in the country, with the exception of Philadelphia. Very few it is thought of those who come from foreign countries and those in the remote sections of this country, will fail to visit Washington. The railroad companies are already aroused to the necessity of affording more accommodations for travel during the Centennial months. This will necessitate the running of more trains. There is an effort made on the part of our citizens, to get the railroad companies between Philadelphia and this city, to issue excursion tickets at reduced rates.

Only two days more and we shall witness the meeting of Congress. Every train arriving in this city is filled with members of the First, Second and Third Houses, and applicants for office in the next Democratic House. Never before in the recollection of your correspondent has there been so much excitement two days preceding the meeting of Congress. The first questions asked on the arrival of those office-seekers are: "Who is going to be Speaker?" "Who is going to be Clerk?" "Who is going to be Sergeant at Arms?" "Who is going to be Postmaster in the House?" These questions are asked for the purpose of obtaining the probable one, evidently to determine whom they should support with a view of getting office. It is estimated there are now at least one hundred applicants for position in the House, where there is one to give. If one out of every ten of these office-seekers should come to Washington, which will probably be the case, we will have three or four thousand hungry dejected looking individuals, but not holding their respective democratic members. This will be a strange sight indeed. The present Republican officers clerks door keepers, etc., will of course hold their places until their respective successors are elected or appointed. A few of the present force hope to retain their positions and will use every effort to that end. Possibly some may become newly converted Democrats. Their hopes, however are groundless. In talking with a prominent M. C., yesterday, your correspondent was told that there would be an entirely new deal, with the exception of the police of the Capitol, who hold their positions by the joint appointment of the Senate and the Architect of the Capitol, two of whom being necessarily Republicans, it is doubtful whether there will be any great change in the police force.

The last official act of Vice President Wilson was to supersede Mr. Howell restaurant-keeper of the Senate by the appointment of a Mr. Dempster of Boston. Mr. Howell of course became greatly incensed, and since the death of the Vice President, has been laboring ardently to get reinstated. The position of restaurant-keeper of either the Senate or the House, is very lucrative and for that reason important. Mr. Howell has already had his bills of fare and orders printed and appears sanguine that they will yet be of use to him. There are now many applicants for this position on the House side. Members of both parties are being button-holed on their arrival by them. Thus far it would appear that Tom Harbin of the National Hotel who has been very industrious during the past year in seeking this position stands ahead.

We learn that the Report of the Commissioner of Education for 1874 recently published is not in the hands of the Commissioners for general distribution. Parties wishing this document should address their members of Congress. The Senate has 5000 copies for distribution and the House 2000.

The friends of the Vice President, pro tem, of the Senate T. W. Ferry, were, some days since considerably excoriated over rumors that the East were favorable to the election of Senator Anthony to the Vice Presidency, and the consequence is that there has been considerable commotion in the political cauldron. It is now conceded however, by the majority of both the friends of Ferry and Anthony, that the former has the inside of the track. Senator Ferry is a man of no ordinary caliber. He makes a good presiding officer.

The excitement was great in the Treasury today, caused by the rumor that Secretary Bristol had resigned. While the rumor is unfounded, the knowing ones believe in his early retirement from the Cabinet. Also it is not improbable that Mr. Jewell will feel like relinquishing his Portfolio very soon. In his report a year since it will be remembered that he said that it was the first time in his life that he found himself at the head of a department that was not self-sustaining, and intimated to the country that he was going to greatly reduce the expense of his department. His report this year, which has so mysteriously got into papers in advance of the President's Message, shows that the expenses of the P. O. Department are \$1,500,000 in excess of last year.

It appears from reports just received from the Democratic caucus now in session in the Capitol, that the Eastern and Middle States will be ignored in the selection of the Officers in the next House. Of the five which have just been nominated, Adams, Thompson, Fitzhugh, Stewart and Townsend, only one comes north of Mason and Dixon's line and this one exception, Thompson of Ohio only a little way north of it, will be well received.

Secretary Chandler finds that great reductions in the clerical force of the Interior Department have to be made for the reason that the force since the beginning of the fiscal year (July 1, 1875) has been greatly in excess of the appropriation to pay it, and the result is that Secretary Chandler is at the head of a department without sufficient money to pay the necessary force to conduct it.

Five buildings in McKeesport, Pa., were burned on the 24th ult. Loss, \$13,000.

The First National Bank of Monroe, Mich., was robbed on Tuesday night, 23d ult., of \$10,000.

Worcester, Mass., December 2.—Mr. A. G. Coes, a prominent and wealthy manufacturer of this city, was thrown from his carriage this morning and instantly killed.

THE WEEKLY SUN.

1876. NEW YORK. 1876.

Eighteen hundred and seventy-six is the Centennial year. It is also the year in which an Opposition House of Representatives, the first since the war, will be in power at Washington; and the year of the twenty-third election of a President of the United States. All of these events are sure to be of great interest and importance, especially the two latter, and all of them are fully and freely reported and expounded in THE SUN.

The Opposition House of Representatives taking up the line of inquiry open years ago by THE SUN will sternly and minutely investigate the corruptions and misdeeds of Grant's administration and will it is to be hoped, lay the foundation for a new and better period in our national history. Of all this THE SUN will contain complete and accurate accounts furnishing its readers with early and trustworthy information upon these absorbing topics.

The twenty-third Presidential election, with the preparations for it, will be memorable as deciding upon Grant's aspirations for a third term of power and ponder, and still more as deciding who shall be the candidate of the party of Reform, and as electing that candidate. Concerning all these subjects, those who read THE SUN will have the constant means of being thoroughly well informed.

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