

FIRST EDITION

LETTER FROM WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 12. The long illness of the Federal City is broken by the approaching session of Congress. Numerous workmen are engaged at the Capitol in fitting up the Senate chamber and House of Representatives, to be in readiness for use. The hotels are filling up, and the streets are once more thronged with people. Already several Senators and Representatives have arrived, who have come this early to secure quarters for the winter. As this will be the long session of Congress, extending perhaps into the summer months, it is quite important that members should make themselves comfortable. The new hotel, the "Arlington," situated on Seventeenth street and Jackson square, will be, without doubt, the fashionable resort of the winter. The other palatial hotels of the city, inspired into competition, are freshening, painting, and, in some extent, refurnishing, and consumption of money required, and which, altogether, will make Washington a more endurable city to the visitor than it has been heretofore.

The White House has been for some time past also undergoing a rejuvenating process. Foreign artists of skill are engaged in gilding and frescoing its ample halls, and otherwise decorating the Presidential mansion, preparatory to the customary levees and receptions in anticipation during the winter. Indeed, a gay season is contemplated. Many of the foreign ministers and members of the Cabinet and Senators have secured large and elegant residences, with a view, no doubt, to inaugurate a general season of brilliant entertainments, diplomatic and international.

The President is engaged in the examination of the reports of the departments, abstracts of which have been submitted to him upon which to base his annual message. The reception halls of the Executive mansion are nevertheless daily crowded with office-seekers and other persons seeking interviews with his Excellency, and who engross most of his time.

A large number of Government officers of the customs and internal revenue have been fitting out and to on the anxious seat, not alone as regards the tenure of their office, but in reference to modifications of Treasury rules. There has been a regular game of "cross purposes" played for some months past between Tweedies and Tweedies, in regard to rulings, and geographical divisions have been obliterated in enforcing rules stringently resulting in "confusion worse confounded." The departments find themselves perplexed as to the administration of the law. Year by year the fallacy of imposing a universal law for so diverse a population and so extended a territory is becoming more apparent, and the attention of Congress will be called to the necessity of amending the revenue laws so as to make them equally effective in every section. Many of the regulations which suit one section are entirely antagonistic to others, and their enforcement has led to many serious complications.

Commercial regulations and business customs differ widely on the Atlantic and Pacific, North and South, East and West. The rules adopted and enforced are of a general and not special character, and will not work advantageously to the Government in every section. Hence a modification of a more specific character than hitherto broached will have to be made, or complications will continually ensue, clogging the workings of commercial and manufacturing interests.

The forthcoming report of the Comptroller of the Currency recommends a change in the banking laws, so as practically to admit of free banking, which is the subject of great contrariety of opinion. If Congress acquiesces in the recommendation of the Comptroller to increase the circulation of national bank currency from \$30,000,000 to \$50,000,000, the increase of \$20,000,000 will necessarily be apportioned to national banks in the South and West, many of which institutions are now without currency. Of course new national banks will be chartered, and such a fight will be inaugurated as to the disposition of the currency, that Congress will be forced to pass a law equalizing the entire amount of a \$50,000,000 between the States of the East and West.

The Southern States will, of course, be relieved from the present pressure for currency, but the New England States will be forced to surrender some of their national banks, for they have absorbed so far nearly one-third of the issue of \$30,000,000. In any event, common justice to the business interests of the entire Union requires that national bank currency should be so regulated as to defray the speculation now indulged in by Wall Street, who "corner" the currency market by hoarding it and then sell it to Southern and Western banks, who are without currency, at from four to nine per cent. premium. It is a traffic at once injurious and vicious, and should be checked by general legislation.

Wholesale Spinner, United States Treasurer, in his annual report discusses at length the question of compensation to officers of the civil service of various grades. He has given much attention to this subject during the eight years that he has been in the service, and speaks in behalf of a system of compensation by which a higher order of talent may be secured to the Government. Since General Spinner has been Treasurer the transactions of his department have amounted to forty thousand millions of dollars, and yet not a dollar has been paid to any of his subordinates. A record which speaks for itself.

The Morning News contains the following, which may be of interest to your readers, and has not appeared in any of the New York papers:—"Report says that last Thursday evening, Dr. Wood, the night editor of the Sun, had a violent dispute with the managing editor, Amos C. Cummings, who was always looked upon with contempt as a principal in the shameful publication of John Russell Young's private letters. They came to blows finally, and the result is that Dr. Wood was made managing editor, but is obliged to wear a beefsteak on one of his peppers, for he has (in Mississippi parlance) a fifteenth amendment—a dark eye."

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The Rumored San Domingo Expedition Officially Denied. The New York Times has the following in its Washington dispatch:—"The reported sailing of a naval expedition for San Domingo, which appears in some of today's New York papers, is largely sensational and is denied here on official authority. The Albany Argus, which left New York on Wednesday, was under orders to join the West India Squadron, which she will do after the arrival of General Balfour at San Domingo. The Government, at the Island of San Domingo, General Babcock, who was sent to that island last summer, and returned in August, left here on Tuesday last for the purpose of communicating with the Government of San Domingo and Hayti. What the nature of his instructions are is a kind of profound secret, though it is generally believed that his mission relates to the question of the acquisition of that island. The statement that a naval expedition is to take possession of the island is absurd, in view of the fact that that would be an act of war, and the report that it is to be surrendered to three commissioners is also absurd, when it is remembered that such a surrender could only follow a regular treaty to that effect, which must be the assent of the Senate. It may not be generally known, but it is nevertheless a fact, that a direct proposition for the acquisition of San Domingo was received last February from President Biaz, and now lies in the State Department. It came to hand just as Mr. Seward was in the city, and the knowledge of this fact was at the bottom of the efforts in behalf of a protectorate, which were made in the House at the close of the last Congress."

A FORTUNE.

How a Yankee Made It. A correspondent, writing from Dayton, Ohio, relates the following:—"It may not be pertinent to tell how a Yankee newspaper correspondent and poor printer three years ago made a fortune. At the close of the war Mr. Hickam came to the city, with good capital and the means of doing a business. He was offered for sale. It occupied a dilapidated one-story shanty on Main street. Mr. Hickam proposed to the leading Republican publisher of the city, that if the Journal if they would furnish \$5000 to \$10,000, and give him three years' time to pay them. Such an arrangement was finally agreed upon. Mr. Hickam had no money, and was recommended by Prince Murd of the Cincinnati Commercial. The paper was turned over to Mr. Hickam. Each stockholder paid the amount of the advertisement. He received very high rates for an interior city like this. Assurance the Journal prospered. In less than six months after Mr. Hickam took the paper, he had turned to the stockholders for advertising, and in each case the bills were for a larger sum than the share of stock held by that stockholder."

LEGAL INTELLIGENCE.

Court of Quarter Sessions and Oyer and Terminer. The following has been issued by Mr. Gibbons:—DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, Nov. 13, 1869.—The District Attorney gives notice as follows:—1. The Court for the trial of homicide cases, and no other cases will be tried at the present term in which counsel are retained. 2. The Judges will hold a Court of Oyer and Terminer, commencing on the first Monday in December. Homicide cases not disposed of at the present term will then be tried. 3. A Court of Quarter Sessions will also be held in December for the trial of other offenses. In the January term the cases will be classified for trial as follows:—First Week—Prison cases and misdemeanors. Second Week—Indictments for selling liquor without license. Third Week—Cases of felony and misdemeanors. No cases will be tried during Christmas week. 4. Prisoners will not be permitted to represent the Commonwealth in cases of felony, or in the prosecution of charges against police officers, or other public officers, without the special authority of the court. The District Attorney in all other cases reserves his right to conduct the prosecutions, whenever in his opinion the fairness of the court or the interests of justice require it. 5. Witnesses for the Commonwealth are required to be in court punctually on the day and hour fixed for their attendance, and to remain in court until they have been sworn. Witnesses absent at the time named, or otherwise in default, will be liable to attachment and payment of costs. 6. Witnesses for the Commonwealth are required to be in court punctually on the day and hour fixed for their attendance, and to remain in court until they have been sworn. Witnesses absent at the time named, or otherwise in default, will be liable to attachment and payment of costs.

THE POPE.

Gifts Offered to His Holiness. The Pope's enthusiasm respecting the Council is said to be unbounded. He has been brought him a large sum of money from the ladies of a German diocese, and in accepting the gift the Pope inquired what the money was for. The priest replied that he was too old, being in his seventy-first year. "You call seventy-one old?" exclaimed the Pope. "I am seventy-eight, and I am not able to do anything but to receive money and neglect my other duties." Under date of October 11 the Roman correspondent of the London Post writes that the Pope has written to the Marquis de Bute lately wrote to the Pope offering to replace the present glass windows of the portico of the church, which are really worthy of a splendid an edifice, with a single plate glass window for each window, reserving two of them for the arms of the Pontiff and his own—not in color, but merely on the glass. His Holiness, after having consulted the architects of the "reverend fabrica," and the comino, Monsignor Teodoli, instructed the latter to reply to the Marquis that there were at the present moment no means of effecting the restorations required in the basilica than changing the windows of the portico, carrying his lordship at the same time for his very trumpet have given to the Cardinal's sound the most liberal estimate, not more than \$5,000,000 may be expected this year from the two sources of revenue, thus leaving the bank, as to its transactions with the Government alone, with a balance on the wrong side of \$13,715,000. In addition to this, the Spanish Government has ordered a fresh issue of notes to the tune of \$13,000,000, guaranteed by the

THE SPANISH BANK.

It is Virtually Insolvent. The Spanish Bank issue in July last amounted to the enormous sum of \$18,715,000, while its entire available and true assets were not worth more than \$2,000,000. The balance of \$16,715,000 is represented by any trustworthy value whatever. In open accounts and accounts with correspondents the bank owes \$18,715,000. Thus it appears that the liabilities payable at sight amount to \$18,715,000, while the assets meet them only for \$2,000,000. The bank has \$15,715,000 in the treasury; according to which the holders of fully \$19,000,000 of the whole amount of the bank would be left with nothing. The assets of the bank would, if real, perhaps make out a better condition of things, but how much they are worth may be judged from the fact that out of a total nominal value of \$18,715,000, not less than \$10,000,000 consists of "Government liabilities," that is, amounts to be realized from customs dues and other demands made by the Bank to the Government, under an arrangement between them which obliges the bank to advance the Government any amount it may ask, the former being authorized to collect the taxes and receive the payments at the Custom House, in order to reimburse itself. But the progress of the revolutionary movement prevents any larger collection hereafter. Altogether, the most liberal estimate, not more than \$5,000,000 may be expected this year from the two sources of revenue, thus leaving the bank, as to its transactions with the Government alone, with a balance on the wrong side of \$13,715,000. In addition to this, the Spanish Government has ordered a fresh issue of notes to the tune of \$13,000,000, guaranteed by the

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