THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

RESULT ON PARTIES OF THE LATE ELECTIONS.

Republicans Expected Victory—Senator Hill's Political Fortunes—The President and His Party—Balance of Power in the Senate.

Special Washington Letter.

The election news has been the great subject of conversation in this capitol during the past few days. It can frankly be said that the politicians of both parties saw the signs of the coming storm. The Republicans on duty here at the Congressional headquarters were absolutely confident of a sweeping victory, and the Democrats, while not willing to admit that their cause was hopeless, were evidently impressed with the fear of coming defeat. Mr. Lawrence Gardner, the genial secretary of the Democratic Congressional Committee, informed me in an entirely confidential way some time since that the indications pointed to a Republican majority in Congress.

In view of the greatness of the landslide, everybody here is impressed with the hopeful attitude kept up by the Democrats until the last moment, and especially with the brilliant and aggressive campaign waged by Senator Hill in New York. The Senator's future career is the subject of discussion in many mouths. He will return to the Senate with an increased reputation as an able and aggressive orator but with the prestige of invincibility as a political manager entirely torn from him. Many of Hill's friends profess to believe that the gallant fight he made as the leader of a forlorn hope will increase rather than diminish his influence with his party. Others claim now that the only hope for the Democracy is to turn unreservedly to President Cleveland for guidance and leadership.

There is little doubt in the minds of experienced politicians that the disaster to the Democracy has largely arisen from the cross purposes between the Democratic majority in Congress and the President. From the outset the Democratic leaders have been bound to have their own way, or to accede unwillingly to such measures as the President deemed it his duty to urge upon Congress. The delay in passing both the silver and tariff bills arose from the disposition of the Democratic leaders to resent executive advice. The President succeeded in forcing the Silver Repeal bill through, and in securing an unsatisfactory tariff measure, but it is well known here that, under the surface, the attitude of the Democrats in Congress has been one of actual rebellion against the White House. Whether the Democrats can "get together" is now a question that is being solemnly discussed in the secret councils of the party leaders here. The warning conveyed by the late overwhelming disaster will doubtless incline even the most recalcitrant to a more conciliatory attitude than has recently been shown. One of the most prominent of national Democrats said to me after the election news was received: "The very existence of the Democratic party now seems to depend upon our healing up our quarrels." Another Democrat remarked more humorously: "The Democratic party always unites under the shadow of affliction, and we have not only the overwhelming disaster to subdue our feelings, but Tom Reed will wield the chastening rod over us again."

Discussing the Disaster.

With the overthrow of the Democratic majority in the House, the control of the Senate will also pass out of their hands. The situation is a peculiar one, as apparently the Populists will hold the balance of power between the two parties in the Senate. The power may be made decidedly useful by them as a check upon legislation, and as a means of securing deals with one party or the other. In view of the undoubted demand of the country for adidtional financial legislation, the position of the Populist Senators is a very significant one.

TOWNSEND.

When a Man is a Success.

Let a man in business be thoroughly fitted for the position he occupies, alert to every opportunity and embracing it to its fullest possibility, with his methods fixed on honorable principles, and he is a successful man, writes Edward W. Bok in the Ladies' Home Journal. It doesn't matter whether he makes one thousand dollars or a hundred thousand dollars. He makes a success of his position. He carries to a successful termination that which it has been given him to do, be that great or small. If the work he does, and does well, is up to his imitations, he is a success. If he does not work up to his capacity, then he fails, just as he fails, too, if he attempts to go beyond his mental or physical limit. There is just as much danger on one side of man's limit line as there is on the other. The very realization of one's capacity is a sign of success.

A Woman at Thirty-five.

A woman at thirty-five has enthusiasm without gush; she discriminates and is quite sure what she likes, writes Elizabeth B. Custer in the Ladies' Home Journal. The abruptness of youth has given way to the softening and subduing grace of maturity. She has still passionate intensity of heart and great capability of devotion, but she has reserve, and daws do not peck at her sleeve.

Obedience.

Kissam—I am going to see my best girl on Thanksgiving Day.

Huggins—Why on that day especially?

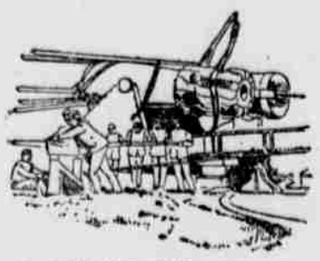
Kissam—Because the President in his proclamation tells us to repair to our places of worship.—Judge.

MAGNETISM IN WAR.

The Bright Idea of a United States Army Officer.

The largest magnet in the world has been constructed at Willet's Point, Long Island, by Col. W. R. King, commander of the Engineers' Corps stationed there. For some time he has been experimenting with huge magnets as a means of defense in time of war. When Col. King conceived the idea of building an immense electromagnet, he had no thought of its possibilities. There entered into the construction of the first magnet two huge guns, some pieces of iron and a good many miles of heavy insulated telegraph wire. The guns stood on carriages on top of the fort. The pieces of iron were fastened across the breeches of the cannon, and were held in place by chains, forming a horseshoe. The telegraph wire was wound around the muzzle ends of the guns, making two immense spools. The current of electricity was supplied by a dynamo, and the first time the magnet was charged it developed marvelous power.

The work undertaken simply as an experiment soon became a matter of great importance. The magnet had not been long in existence when it was discovered that it would derange a vessel's compass at a distance of six miles from the fort. This discovery suggested that if in time of war an



The Largest Dynamo.

enemy's ship attempted to pass the fort under cover of darkness or during the prevalence of a heavy fog, when the pilots would have to depend solely upon the ship's compass, the commanders of the war ships would probably find their vessels ashore near Willet's Point, where they could be blown up with torpedoes or destroyed by the guns of the fort.

Many experiments have been made from time to time in testing the power of the big magnet. One of the most interesting ever attempted is shown in the accompanying illustration. It was made under the personal supervision of Col. King, who can be seen standing at the right of the picture. A number of pieces of railroad iron were placed near the muzzles of the guns, and the current of electricity turned on. Immediately the rails flew to the magnet, and were held as fast as if they had been welded to its immense core. Col. King then had one end of a large chain fastened around the pieces of iron to ascertain the amount of power necessary to pull them away from the magnet. The other end of the chain was attached to a capstan, that was held firmly in place by long stakes driven into the ground.

When everything was in readiness for the test the capstan bars were manned by eight stalwart engineers, and they endeavored to pull the railroad iron away from the magnetized guns. After straining for some time, the stakes holding the capstan in place gave way and toppled over. The railroad iron had not even moved on the face of the magnet. The dynamometer which had been attached to indicate the amount of strain the magnet would stand showed that it had resisted 22,500 pounds. It was found impossible to disturb the pieces of railroad iron until the electricity had been shut off.

Origin of Thanksgiving Day.

There is no law setting apart a day for Thanksgiving, nor is the President under any legal obligations to issue a proclamation. He simply follows an old custom, both as to setting apart this day, and as to its date. Custom, however, has established the festival and the last Thursday in November has been accepted as the date on which it shall occur.

This custom dates back only to 1864, though Thanksgiving day was celebrated at odd times as far back as the days of the colonies. Among the records preserved by Congress in a proclamation by the council of Massachusettes, dated November 16, 1776, recommending "acknowledgments for mercies enjoyed." A form of Thanksgiving proclamation was reported to the Continnental Congress November 1, 1777, by Samuel Adams, of Massachusetts. It was Samuel Adams who urged the opening of Congress with prayer in opposition to John Jay, who said that Episcopalians, Presbyterians, etc., could hardly be expected to unite in formal worship. Adams' form of proclamation follows the fancy of the President who writes it.

In November, 1778, the chaplain of Congress recommended that Wednesday, December 30, be observed as "a day of thanksgiving and praise." So the Thursday in November has not been the invariable day for this festival. In 1779 the first Tuesday in Hay was appointed as a day of thanksgiving, and this appointment was made by proclamation of the Continental Congress. This was an extra day of thanks, for in the following October Congressman Root reported in favor of appointing Thursday, December 9, as a day of thanksgiving. In 178 the states were recommended (on report of Congressman Witherspoon) to appoint November 28 as a day of thanksgiving.

Poverty's View of It.

"Oh, Emerly, did you hear that that rich Mr. Astorbilt's little daughter was dead."

"What did she die of?"

"She overloaded her stummuick with turkey and mince pie on Thanksgiving."

"Oh, what a lovely death—how I envies her corpse!"

Woman at Her Best.

A woman is "at her best" mentally and physically, when she is "at her best"—and that is all there is about it.—Mary Mapes Dodge in the Ladies' Home Journal.

A century hence large wild game will be practically exhausted.

HOUSEHOLD RECIPES.

After washing never wring worsted dress goods. Shake them.

Acid phosphate will remove ink stains from the hands when everything else fails.

Milk, applied once a week with a soft cloth, freshens and preserves boots and shoes.

Canned sardines carefully browned on a double-wired gridiron and served with lemon are appetizing.

One of the easiest ways of "taking cold" is to drop asleep without an extra wrap over the shoulders.

No receptacle for soiled clothing, even if handsomely decorated, should be kept in a sleeping room.

Do not approach contagious diseases with an empty stomach, nor sit between the sick and the fire, because the heat attracts the vapor.

These are days when extra care should be taken to keep the feet perfectly dry. A fresh pair of stockings should be used every day.

Canned tomatoes are more delicious baked than stewed. About ten minutes before removing from the oven spread buttered bread-crumbs over the top.

Handsome parlor vases are usually filled with some such ingredient as sand to weight them and prevent the light porcelain from being brushed off the mantlepiece.

Calicoes, ginghams and chambrays cannot be properly washed with the white clothes. They need a much quicker process, and the long delays of an ordinary washday would ruin them.

It is said that oil spilled on a carpet or any woolen material may be removed by applying buckwheat plentifully, brushing into a dustpan after a short time and putting on a fresh supply until the oil has disappeared.

Two uses of eggs are not generally known or appreciated. A fresh egg beaten and thickened with sugar, freely eaten, will relieve hoarseness, and the skin of a boiled egg, wet and applied to a boil, will draw out the soreness.

Sweet briar or eglantine has a most delightful fragrance, as those who have gathered it in the fields and enjoyed it afterward in the house, well know, and the leaves of it are said to be excellent, when dried, to fill pillows to put under the head, instead of balsam or pine.

A Bride for a Vanderbilt.

Miss Alida Chanler, the last young woman to be reported engaged to George Vanderbilt, says the New York Herald, belongs to the Chanler family, who are prominent not only because of their social position and wealth, but on account of their strong individuality. Miss Chanler is a sister-in-law of Amedia Rives, her oldest brother being Armstrong Chanler.

There are three Chanler girls, each with pronounced ideas and views of her own. Miss Margaret Chanler is devoted to woman's rights, and Miss Bessie Chanler to art, but at the same time is fond of society. The youngest of the family is Miss Alida, whose hobby is society.

She is a tall, handsome brunette, who is fond of all sorts of sports, and a girl who will undoubtedly make a brilliant match, even though she may not marry that most prominent of bachelors, Mr. George Vanderbilt.

Where Widows Need Help to Marry.

According to a vernacular paper in India, a movement in aid of the remarriage of widows among Mussulmans was started two or three years ago in Kalanam, in the Gurdaspur district. The Mohammedan religion does not prohibit the remarriage of widows, but long residence in India and contact with the Hindu has made many Mohammedans look down upon remarriage of widows.

Considerable opposition was at first shown, but it has been overcome. A widow remarriage association has been formed, and publishes a flourishing weekly paper which disseminates news and information on the objects of the society. Over eighty widows have been remarried within the last three years, and the fund started to aid destitute widows on their remarriage exceeds 20,000 rupees.

The War on Skirts.

The reason why women wear skirts, and why they will continue to wear them in spite of all efforts to introduce hygienic and ugly divided skirts or leggings, is because the skirt is the most becoming and modest form of dress for women. No ideal of female beauty will ever exceed that of the great Greek sculptors, and all modern artists have followed the Greek idea of woman's dress as the perfection of female adornment. The influence of beauty in the world is underestimated by would-be reformers. The skirt is beautiful, when properly worn, and its claim as an article of adornment will always overcome purely hygienic objections. Moreover, the Greeks, whose women wore the most clinging of skirts, were the healthiest race that ever lived.

"Perfect Men."

"Perfect men are so hard to find," exclaimed the philosophical maiden. "Now, what girl could endure a bald head or a red nose even if it went with loads of wealth and bushels of love? Why, in less than six weeks she'd be making the poor man wear a frilled cap and a prepared chalk nose. A man's good looks go a long way with a girl, I am ashamed to confess, and a jerky manner of talking or a sissy walk or a nervous movement of the hands will make a girl's teeth grind and her temper fray at the edges—that is unless she's really and truly in love; then he might be a tailor's dummy, noseless and cross-eyed, bewhiskered and with rouged cheeks and she'd still think him the loveliest thing on earth."—Chicago Record.

The Best Eye-Opener.

A pint of hot water with a squeeze of lemon or grape juice in it is the best eye-opener, the cheapest cocktail the finest breakfast appetizer and the most harmless tonic in the list of morning drinks. It will not cure a bad stomach, liver or complexion at once, but it may in time. Illness develops by degrees; remedies operate the same way.

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