

Our Washington Letter.

Gold or Silver?—Thoughts for Thinking Men—Speaker Randall's Reception—Coffee and Politics—New Laws for the Election of President and Vice-President Discussed—Investigation Continued.

WASHINGTON, May 11, 1878. Among the reasons urged in opposition to the re-eminence of silver, one of the most prominent has been the increased production of silver ore in Nevada and elsewhere. It now seems, however, that a gold bonanza has been discovered about sixteen miles from Helena, Montana, which promises to be as productive as the famous big bonanza itself; and while the latter yields about forty-five per cent. gold to fifty per cent. of silver, the former yields almost pure gold. In view of this fact, and of the great increase of the gold product to be expected as the result of introducing the new system of hydraulic mining (which is not applicable to silver mining), it is of gold rather than of silver that excessive supply is to be apprehended.

One of the strongest arguments in favor of the double standard system is furnished by Professor W. S. Shaler, of Harvard University, in his article in the May number of the Atlantic Monthly on "The Silver Question Geologically Considered." In this article Professor Shaler not only shows from the best authorities on the past production of the precious metals that the supply of silver has been vastly steadier than the supply of gold but that from the geological distribution of these metals and the conditions under which they are found, it is to be anticipated that the fluctuations in the gold supply must always be comparatively great, and that, if a single standard were to be used, a silver standard would be far more nearly uniform in value than a gold one. This excellent article, expressing the views of a scientific man who regards the subject from the standpoint of a geologist, and not from that of a partisan, deserves to be widely circulated both here and in Europe. If the facts so clearly set forth by Professor Shaler could be made generally known to European statesmen and economists, there would be but little difficulty in securing the appointment of the international commission asked for under the silver act recently passed, and still less in inducing such a commission to take the requisite action to insure the full rehabilitation of silver as money.

The reception of Speaker Randall last night was an ovation to the gentleman who occupies the third official position in the government of the United States. Over 200 invited guests, members of Congress and other distinguished gentlemen, filled the house, No. 120 O street, southeast, and discussed tariff and territorial, cases and communism, flowers and finance, with equal gusto and grace. Mrs. Randall's taste had adorned parlors and dining-room with a lavish display of flowers, and the Speaker's tact met each guest with such grateful courtesy as made him think the flowers were a compliment to himself alone. A couple of hours were spent pleasantly and pleasurably, and the guests departed each satisfied with supper and speaker. A majority of the guests were republicans, who, while condemning the Speaker's politics, yet highly lauded his hospitality. The Speaker, to avoid the discomforts of an overcrowded house, very sensibly invited his friends by installments, and the result is that the number present at each reception is never more than can be satisfactorily entertained. Another innovation made by him upon usage is that no drink stronger than coffee is supplied at the supper table; but the edibles are the best of their kind, and the Speaker is personally so much liked by his fellow members that they rally at his receptions quite unanimously, despite the drawback of the mild nature of the beverage dispensed.

The Committees of the Senate and House on the Revision of the Electoral Laws held another joint meeting yesterday, and entered freely upon a discussion of the several propositions submitted. The constitutional amendment proposed by Southard's subcommittee was rejected. This amendment proposed to elect the President and Vice-President by direct vote of the people, and to divide the electoral vote of each State among the candidates in proportion to the popular vote cast for them. The Senate bill was discussed at length, and the Senate committee was in favor of its adoption. At a meeting of the House committee, held subsequent to the joint meeting, a substitute for the Senate bill was adopted. The only change of importance made in the Senate bill was in relation to the decision of contested returns. The Senate bill left the decision with the State absolutely, and the House substitute provides that the decision shall stand as made by the State unless changed by the concurrent action of the two Houses of Congress. The committee will hold frequent meetings from now on, and are confident of being able to present a proposition that will receive the approval of Congress during the present session.

The Judiciary Committee of the House are having frequent conferences, and, as a member of the House, "trying to lick into shape" a resolution providing for an investigation into the alleged Florida fraud. It is not the intention of any member of the committee to offer the resolution, but they will act as advisory counsel for whoever does offer it. Yesterday Frye, of Maine, a member of the Judiciary Committee, asked for ten days' leave of absence. He had a conference with colleagues on the committee, and stated that he was going away, but that if the committee contemplated the offering of any resolution on the Florida subject before the expiration of ten days, he would postpone his departure until the subject was disposed of. He was assured that the committee had no present intention of bringing the matter to the attention of the House, and upon this assurance Frye will take the leave granted him. It is understood that Speaker Randall holds that the offer of a resolution for investigation is not a question of privilege.

A LINE OF BATTLE.

You often read about "a line of battle," and, we dare say, think that the two armies stand in two lines; but it is not so. The army is divided into divisions, and there are often great gaps between the divisions. They are posted in positions, or in commanding places—that is, on hills, or in woods, or on the banks of streams, in places where they will be best able to resist or attack the enemy. The divisions are usually so placed that they can support one another. You can understand a line of battle pretty well by imagining a regiment here on a hill, another down in the valley, a third in a piece of woods, with artillery and cavalry placed in the best positions. If you want to make it

more real, when you are out in the fields or pastures, with the hills all around, just imagine that the enemy is over on yonder hill, with 10,000 men and twenty pieces of artillery. You are General, and have an equal number. The enemy will come down that road, spread out into the field, or creep up through the woods and attack you. You can't exactly tell how many men he will send on the right, or how many on the center, or how many on the left, so you must arrange your forces to support each other. Then, to shift it, you are to attack him. You don't know how his troops are arranged, for he keeps them concealed as well as he can. You don't want many of your men killed, but do want to win a victory. Now there is a chance to try your skill in planning a line of battle. You must place your artillery where it will do the most damage, and receive the least from the enemy. You must move your infantry so that they will not be cut off by the enemy before they get near enough to cut them up in return. You see that it is no small thing to be a General. These are great responsibilities.

En Gespräch zwischen der Sohn und dem Dady.

The following story we clip from the Perkiomen Valley Press: Der John hot Lust krigt for heiere und ut sell hin mit seim Dady wie folgt geschwatz: John. Dady, ich hab dir schon lang sage well, dass ich im Sinn hab zu heiere, un dem Jack grad zueh Jahr aelter wie unzer Jaeck, un seller wer bis der zwelte April 16 Jahr alt.

John. Dady, ich glab du bist mitstaeken, die Maem hot mit du der anere Dag gesagt, ich unser alt korszschwanzig Kue waere just zueh Jahr aus enauer, un noch den Kaever, wir selle nau schun gabat haet, mussz ich in mein 21ste sie.

Dady. Dummheit, wer rechelt dann nach Kaever? Sell halt sie Lewo net aus. Kumm ich wil dir uf en Hoer wese beim alte Jaeck sel Zaehn, dass du erst 18 Jahr alt bist.

John. Sell moecht dich awer doch ah betruenge, Dady.

Dady. Nes thut net, die Gaeul ihr Zaeln wachse alle Jahr en vertel Zoll, un dem Jaeck selne messe nau exaktly 4 Zoll un en halber, sell macht 18 Jahr un net meh, un sell is del Ael.

John. Well, Dady, for was kann ich dann net heiere wann ich ah noch net meh wie 18 bi?

Dady. Well du noch keh Verastand host. Es is gar net der Wert, dass Buwe von Verastand schwatze well, eb sie 21 sin, un noht sin sie alsemol noch holter naerisch, heiers just, well sie en Frak kriege, denke awer nie net dran, dass ah Haas gehalten werre mussz. Besser du schaffst noch en paar Jahr for mich, dernoeh weller mer wieder vun sellem schwatze.

John. Sell mag all woher sein, but die Maed froge mich allemol wann sie mich sehne, ob ich noch net bal heiere wott, un do hab' ich denket, ich wott en End vun sellem mache.

Dady. Well warst du daun still bel den Maed?

John. Neh, ich war net, un hab ah net im Sinn un geh bis ich gelohret bin.

Dady. Nau thut just grad die Kinder aus, John, un pack dich in's Bett! un schwatze mer keh Wort meh vun heiere, sunst krieg ich die Gebel.

Der John ir fort un hot geheult wie en Kind.

VERSCHLOFDICHEN.

Through Countess Little Openings in the skin, invisible except through a microscope, the perspiration, in a state of health, exudes, hour by hour, night and day. The total obstruction of these minute outlets would produce death; and when they become partially blocked, the skin grows dry, yellow and finally diseased and the general health is injuriously affected. Glenn's Sulphur Soap, by opening the pores, removes eruptions and unhealthy granulations on the skin, and imparts to it a healthy clearness, luminosity and smoothness, banishing from the face of beauty complexional blemishes, whether attributable to impurities in the capillary circulation, or to undue exposure to the sun and wind. For obstinate scorbatic complaints, like the itch, salt rheum, and erysipelas, it is a sovereign remedy, being quite as effective as Sulphur Baths, for such maladies, as well as rheumatism and gout. It is wonderfully healing and soothing in its action, removing the eczema where broken by external injuries, relieving the swelling and inflammation attendant upon sprains, scalds and bruises, and curing the most obstinate sores and ulcers. The medical profession sanction its use, and, from all classes of society, voluntary evidence in its favor is continually emanating. Ladies of fashion prefer it to any similar accessory of the toilet and the bath, since it promotes not only health, but personal attractiveness. As a disinfectant of discontaminated clothing it has no peer. After they have been washed with Glenn's Sulphur Soap, garments and linen from the sick room may be handled with perfect impunity. Sold by Druggists, Price 25c. per cake. 1 Box (3 cakes) 75c., sent by mail, prepaid, on receipt of price. C. N. Crittenton, Prop'r, Sixth Avenue, New York. Hill's Hair and Whisker Dye, Black or Brown, 40c.

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