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By STEPHEN M. HENNING.  
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**Black and Sweet.**  
United States Pension Commissioner Black, having invited Miss Sweet, pension agent at Chicago, to resign, in a telegram as sweetly-worded as the circumstances would permit, Miss Sweet declines to resign in the sweetest way possible—under the circumstances—stating that she is not resigned to resigning and does not care to seem to be what she is not. She reminds the president, to whom she writes, that her commission runs until April 16, 1885, and that as Commissioner Black says that he has no reason personal to herself or to her official conduct for asking her resignation, and as she is confident she has conducted the office with an eye single to the public interest, she does not see the need of surrendering it. In other words Miss Sweet says to the president that in the absence of charges against her she proposes to hold her office until her commission expires; which is a determination that no fault can be found with if Miss Sweet can do as she proposes.

We incline to think that Miss Sweet is a clever woman. We are in sympathy with her view that there is no call upon her to resign when no fault is found with her personally and officially; and this is altogether independent of the question as to whether she can hold the fort or not. We agree with her that a resignation under the sanction of General Black is not an act of resignation in the proper sense of the word. It would be an act of resignation to be resigned to an ejection from office, as to any other ill to which life and flesh is heir. But to resign anything of value needs to be voluntarily given, and not under invitation in no degree better than to be removed; and unless there was a particular desire to oblige General Black in Miss Sweet's heart, Miss Sweet was quite right to decline his invitation.

The general we fear, has "put his foot in it," somewhat, in the style of his telegram to Miss Sweet, of Chicago. He says to her, "You will readily appreciate the fact, which I gladly state, that there is no reason personal to yourself or to your management of your office which induces this request."

Miss Sweet evidently does not readily appreciate the fact thus stated; and she appreciates the further fact that General Black in his gladness has taken away every possible motive for asking for her resignation. If she is personally and officially objectionable, there is no other relation remaining to base an objection to her upon, as her gender is without politics. General Black was not careful enough in his language. He should have said that she was personally objectionable because she filled the place he wanted for some one else, and as she had held it for eleven years she should give some other fellow a chance. It is very well to talk sweetly to women, but when you want a woman to give up anything she has in possession it is not advisable to appreciate the fact that you are undertaking a work of some magnitude, in which words of persuasion will be of no account at all.

**THE FERRY INCIDENT.**  
The Republican placemen and spoils hunters have done their worst. The five department, which was organized as a non-partisan affair, has been invaded by the pot-house politicians; and an efficient and attentive chief, who had done much to make the system complete, has been put out to secure a place for an unfit appointee, whose only recommendation was his party services.

Against the protests of many representative business men and citizens, regardless of party; and against the votes of some of the best Republicans in councils, this outrage has been consummated. They who have sown the wind to-day will reap a fine crop of whirlwind.

The Ferry incident reveals what a quick tempered nation the French are. They seem to set first and think afterwards; look after, rather than before they leap. Only the other day the Chamber of Deputies rang with howls of derision at Prime Minister Ferry's supposed evasion of the Franco-China trouble. An overwhelming reversal of a government measure forced the Ferry cabinet to resign, and the chief was publicly branded as a coward and traitor. No one, however, seems to be able to form a cabinet out of the discordant elements that are now on the surface of French politics, and a reaction in public opinion is now setting in regarding the treatment accorded to Ferry. France is by no means anxious for war with China, and it seems to be the growing belief that Ferry's negotiations would have succeeded had he not been embarrassed by the cabinet to resign, and the chief was publicly branded as a coward and traitor.

THE STATE THAT PROPHETICALLY JOHN L. SULLIVAN, as his own country, is sadly deserting him in his hour of need. At Lynn, Massachusetts, the city council committee on licenses has resolved not to grant a license to him to give a sparring exhibition in that city. Meantime John L. is enjoying himself on a glorious debauch.

THE ILLINOIS HIGH LICENSE LAW OF 1883, which fixes the minimum license fee for dram shops at \$50, and for malt liquors at \$100 in that city, towns and villages, and authorizes county boards to grant licenses on like terms upon petition of the legal voters of any town or precinct, has diminished the number of saloons in Chicago from 1,000 to 500, while the revenue is increased a million dollars. In nineteen other cities and towns there were, before the enforcement of high license, 731 saloons, yielding a revenue of \$80,000. There are now in these places only 468 saloons, but the revenue has been increased to \$233,000. The new system has shut up the low grogeries which were resorts of vile characters, and the consequence is less crime and less drunkenness. The number of arrests has fallen off, and drunkards have decreased in the larger cities by thirty per cent. There is also an improvement in the quality of the men who keep the saloons.

**REV. DR. S. H. TROTT, SR.,** has become insane and his family will have it judicially established.

**MARTIN F. TUPPER,** the rhymester moralist, at 75 years of age, has lost his fortune and is vexed with debt.

**PATIENCE** hated Nicolini so that she stipulated with her manager that this tenor must never sing with her.

**O'DONOVAN ROSSA** says the Fenians are not helping Louis Hill in his revolution. This will be cheering news to Hill.

**JOHN L. SULLIVAN**, will on his drunk, failed to turn up in New York on Saturday to make a match with Mitchell, who was there to meet him.

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