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LETTER FROM WASHINGTON.

From our regular Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 22, 1880.

Washington has just passed through one of the most disagreeable weeks within the memory of that venerable sage "the oldest inhabitant." Rain, rain, through the week, until Saturday, when the clouds dispersed and gave us a beautiful day.

At last the domestic infelicities which have been known to exist between ex-Senator Christianity—now minister at Peru—and his wife, have culminated, and we are promised a divorce suit as full of nauseating details as any in which the Prince of Wales ever figured as a witness or participator. Mrs. Christianity returned here some months since from Peru, and her husband's friends assert that her conduct has been quite reprehensible, though only in keeping with her actions for several years past, not only in this country but in Peru. He has applied for a leave of absence, and will return here to institute proceedings against her for divorce. She, on the other hand, charges him with extreme cruelty, and asserts her innocence of crime. It is not at all likely that Mr. Christianity will invoke much sympathy for himself no matter what his witnesses may prove against her. She was a mere child when he married her, younger in years than some of his children, and, beyond that, was destitute of any of the solidity of sensible womanhood. She was regarded as volatile and frivolous, and could not fail to make the wedlock of such extreme disparity of ages, and temperaments an unhappy one, even if, as she insists, her skirts are clear of unfaithfulness.

The President has approved the bill allowing one hundred additional pension clerks. Now there is a prospect of some relief from the great delays of the Pension Office, and a hope that the business of the office, which is fully one year behind hand, will be brought up to a point where a pension claim has some show of being adjudicated. As matters now go in that important bureau, which is so unfortunate as to have the poorest of executive heads, a claimant has little assurance that five years will see the end of his case. A 100 more clerks will, of course, expedite, to some extent.

Considerable interest was manifested in the proceedings of Congress, and notwithstanding the wet weather crowds daily wended their way to the Capitol to witness the proceedings. The subject before the wise men of the nation that attracted most attention was the consideration of the deficiency appropriation bill which was finally disposed of on Friday. The feature of the bill that excited the interest of outsiders was the clause relating to the pay of the deputy marshals appointed under the Federal election laws and the proviso attached to the bill in the shape of a rider so amending these laws that hereafter special deputies shall be appointed by judges of the United States Circuit or District Courts, and shall be selected from the different political parties. After a three days' struggle the Democrats succeeded in carrying the amendment through the House. The contest on Friday was one of the most exciting and important parliamentary conflicts in Congress for many years. Those Republicans who are known to reflect Mr. Hayes' views regarding Federal election laws expressed themselves in favor of the provisions of the amendment adopted by the House and they voted against it only on the ground of opposition to general legislation on appropriation bills, but a

large number of extreme Republicans denounce the proposed amendment of the laws as a compromise and surrender of the political advantage they now enjoy in having exclusive party control of election machinery. While no one doubts that Mr. Hayes will approve of the proposition adopted to-day, which was in reality prepared by Gen. Garfield and shrewdly accepted by the Democrats, it is believed the Republican leaders of the Senate will make an intensely bitter fight in opposition to it. There is, however, a favorable prospect that the Democrats will carry their point and essentially modify the partisan character of existing election laws.

After occupying the best part of three days in considering the case of Simmons, the Georgia census supervisor, the Senate rejected his nomination by a vote of twenty-nine to ten. Seven Republicans only voted to confirm, Senators Eaton and Hill were the only Democrats in the affirmative, and Judge Davis made the tenth man on that side. Among the Republicans opposed to Simmons, several of whom, however, were paired and did not vote, were Don Cameron, Jones of Nevada, Blaine, and the colored Senator, Bruce, of Mississippi. Senator Hill made probably the longest speech he has delivered since his entrance into the Senate in favor of Simmons, going thoroughly over the whole history of Simmons, and making the argument that it would be most disastrous to the Democratic party in Georgia and in the country at large if he should be rejected. He said his colleague (General Gordon) would one day regret more than any other act of his life his action against Simmons. General Gordon, in opposing the confirmation of Simmons, did not speak more than a half hour, replying briefly to the statements made by his colleague. He took the view that the confirmation or rejection of a census supervisor in one State was not a question of national importance. He did not think the people of the North made pets of men like Simmons, who only vaunted their loyalty when they had claims to get through or offices to seek. His efforts were mainly directed to show that Simmons was unfit for the position, not only as a blind partisan, but as a malicious defamer of his own people, and of a character unworthy of respect. Mr. Blaine made quite a humorous speech. He said Simmons had established, beyond any doubt, in his letter to the President asking for the appointment, that he was a firm and unflinching republican, and in his subsequent letters and declarations, seeking confirmation at the hands of the Senate, that he was a red-hot and uncompromising democrat. Further than this, he had proved himself to have been an unwavering loyalist and an enthusiastic Confederate. "I regret," said Mr. Blaine, "that I have not two votes, for then I would take great pleasure in giving one to confirm this devoted unionist and this sincere republican, and equal satisfaction in giving the other to reject this active rebel and this ardent democrat. As, unfortunately I have but one vote, I think it perhaps best I should not cast it at all." Afterwards, however, Mr. Blaine voted in the affirmative, to make a quorum.

Several other rejections of census supervisors were effected by strict party votes, and after very little discussion concerning them, the dominant majority basing its action upon the same ground that was taken in the Ohio cases viz., that the appointments in question should have been accorded to the democracy, in order to comply with the non-partisan spirit of the census law and with the understanding as to a fair division of the census superintendencies when the law was enacted. It is proper now to give a bit of inside history in connection with the mooted retirement of Justice Hunt from the bench of the Supreme Court some months since, and the proposed appointment of Senator Edmunds to fill the place. Justice Hunt had, in view of his physical infirmities, concluded to resign, and on it being communicated to Senator Edmunds that the place would be at his disposal, he, after due consideration, concluded to accept it. There is no question that the State of Vermont will continue Mr. Edmunds in the Senate as long as he lives, if he desires, and the point to be considered by him was whether a life tenure in the Senate or on the bench of the Supreme Court was the more desirable. He decided in favor of the latter, not, it is believed, because the compensation is double, for that is not of material consequence to him, but because his tastes incline to the bench, and he has an idea that once there he could introduce such reforms and improvements as would very much expedite and simplify the business of the Court. At this point Senator Conkling stepped in. Judge Hunt had been appointed by President Grant at his instance. If Judge Hunt was to retire, Mr. Conkling wanted another New York man and another personal friend. As he could not expect any favors of the Hayes administration, the next best thing he could do for himself was to keep Judge Hunt in, and it is the understanding that through his influence Judge Hunt abandoned his intention of resigning.

Secretary Evarts has lately been overhauling the diplomatic and consular agents abroad with a view as he gives out of improving the service. Among the many changes announced is that of the popular author, Bret Harte, who is promoted from Consular agent at Crefield, at which place the salary is received in fees, to Glasgow, where he will receive a fixed salary of \$3,000 a year. The change will no doubt be an acceptable one for the genial Bret. FELIX.

Fearful Accident.

A CROWDED SCHOOL HOUSE FLOOR GIVES AWAY.

EPHRATA, Pa., March 21.—During the progress of an entertainment given by the public school in Public Hall at Lincoln, last Saturday night, at which about five hundred persons were present, part of the floor gave way, precipitating between one hundred and one hundred and fifty persons to the floor below. Many escaped by jumping out the windows, which are about twelve feet from the ground. About thirty persons were injured; some very seriously. Among the latter are Mrs. Jacob Koenigsmacher, Misses Alice Bowman, Ada Springer, Ada Miller, Laura Erb and Christie Bingham. During the confusion the scholars rushed on the stage, overturning two coal oil lamps and setting fire to the carpet, but the fire was extinguished before any serious damage was done. Intense excitement prevailed throughout the neighborhood. It is not yet certain that all of the injured will survive.

Further reports from the scene of the accident, at Lincoln, last night, state that Mrs. Koenigsmacher and the Misses Springer and Bingham are slowly recovering. Miss Erb remains unconscious. And now Manager J. H. Haverly is announced as having been robbed on Saturday night at a Boston railroad depot of a valise containing articles and papers worth \$5,000, which was snatched from a servant's hand while waiting to have it checked.

Scandal in High Places.

SENATOR CHRISTIANITY'S SALE OF OFFICE AND HIS DOMESTIC TROUBLES.

From Washington Dispatch to New York Times.

The story of domestic unhappiness related by Mrs. Christianity is exceptional in some particulars. One could hardly imagine an ex-Supreme Court Judge, an ex-Senator of the United States and at present a member of the American Diplomatic Corps in the role of a wife-beater, yet Mrs. Christianity avers that he has upon several occasions, actually knocked her down, and that upon other interesting occasions Mr. Christianity varied the programme by choking, pinching and slapping her. This difficulty between man and wife grew after the knowledge upon the part of the latter of the intrigue by which Mr. Christianity resigned his place in the Senate to make way for the late Zachariah Chandler. The particulars, as related by Mrs. Christianity, are substantially as follows: It was in the fall of 1878 that Zachariah Chandler went to Mr. Christianity's house in Lansing, and there made the arrangement for the latter's withdrawal from the Senate. Mrs. Christianity says that this interview occurred in the month of October. She was not present at the interview, but Dr. Victor Christianity, a son of the Senator, now residing in Leavenworth, Kansas, was in the next room and heard the greater part of the conversation. Victor reported the conversation to her. On the same day he gave her a graphic description of Messrs. Chandler and Christianity walking up and down, haggling over the terms. Mr. Chandler began the conversation by saying that he had been to Washington and had seen President Hayes, and that the matter pending between them was all right. This remark showed that there had been other conversation between them upon the same subject. Mr. Chandler then went on to say that Mr. Christianity could have either the mission to Peru or Central America. The administration had placed these two places at his (Mr. Chandler's) disposal. Mr. Chandler also thought that the Japanese mission might be had, as Minister Bingham was talking of coming home, but the Peruvian and Central American missions were absolutely at his disposal. Mr. Chandler advised the acceptance of the Central American mission; there Mr. Christianity would find life so quiet that he could save nearly all of his salary. Then followed a long talk about routes, the mode of travel, etc., when the conversation finally closed with a talk about a sum of money that was to be paid Mr. Christianity by Mr. Chandler as a bonus for his retirement. The exact amount of this sum was not mentioned, because from the conversation that followed it was plainly shown that it had been previously arranged. Finally Mr. Chandler said: "Who shall I give the money to?" Mr. Christianity answered: "Henry—send it to him." Henry is Mr. Christianity's favorite son, who resides in Detroit. It was in his favor, after this Mr. Christianity said: "Then we will call this a settlement." Mr. Chandler laughed as he said, with the satirical air of a man in good spirits over a bargain to his advantage: "Yes, we will call this a settlement." "Then," said Mr. Christianity, "pledge me that no other human soul shall know of this." "No," replied Mr. Chandler, "how can they?" This ended the conversation. It was that same day that Dr. Victor acquainted his stepmother with the particulars of what he called his father's degradation. It was not until they arrived in Peru that Mr. Christianity learned of his wife's knowledge of this affair. He found an allusion to it in a letter to Mrs. Christianity from Dr. Victor. His rage at this was extreme. He threatened her, and even went so far as to strike her. After he knew of her share in this secret there was never any peace between them. Mr. Christianity watched her constantly and never missed an opportunity to show his displeasure. Mrs. Christianity says that he is a confirmed opium eater, and that in addition to this he uses liquid stimulants to such a degree as to be in a continual state of morbid irritation. Finally, the quarrel in Peru culminated by the Minister knocking his wife down in the parlors of the Legation in the presence of Mr. George E. Haight, an American resident in Peru. Mr. Christianity objected to Mr. Haight's presence in the Legation, as he had accused him of meddling in some of his affairs and paying too much attention to his wife. After this scandalous scene Mrs. Christianity left her husband. He threatened her with ruin if she should leave him. He said he had money and position, and could ruin her character, while she could not ruin his. She asked for money to return home; it was refused. She told her story to some of her American friends in Lima, and they lent her money to pay her passage home. The money has since been repaid out of her earnings here, as she has not received any support from Mr. Christianity since that day. She is now living with her mother, Mrs. Lugenebel, sister of Colonel Lugenebel, of the army. Her mother keeps a small boarding house, and the daughter gains a moderate income by coloring photographs.

The Kerns Matter.

COPIES OF LETTERS SHOWING SENATOR WALLACE'S RELATION IN THE CASE.

From Special Dispatch to the Philadelphia Record.

WASHINGTON, March 17.—A prominent Democrat here expresses the opinion that the elaborate attack upon Senator Wallace in the Pittsburgh Post of Monday will recoil upon the heads of the Tilden-Randall-Barr faction, from which it emanated. He says the publication is made to influence the action of the State Central Committee, which meets at Pittsburg to-morrow, and the primaries in Allegheny county, which will be held on Saturday; but that it will fail. It is predicted that the Tilden forces will be utterly routed in the committee, and that the faction that is pushing Tilden in Allegheny county will be beaten in the choice of delegates to the State Convention. There are said to be many Democrats in Allegheny county who, although not unfriendly to Tilden's candidacy, deprecate these attacks upon Senator Wallace, and do not propose to stand the dictation of the small coterie of self-constituted leaders who assume to control the affairs of the party and exercise a censorship over individual action and expression.

The annexed official copies of letters in connection with the Kerns matter speak for themselves:

LETTER OF SENATOR WALLACE.

UNITED STATES SENATE CHAMBER, WASHINGTON, March 16, 1880.—HON. J. E. McDONALD and A. H. GARLAND, Sub-Committee of the Judiciary Committee of the United States Senate, Gentlemen: I will thank you to furnish me with copies of my correspondence with your committee on the subject of the confirmation of James N. Kerns as United States Marshal for the Eastern district of Pennsylvania; and, if you feel at liberty to do so, with a statement of the reasons governing the committee in reporting favorably upon his nomination.

Very respectfully yours,

WILLIAM A. WALLACE.

REPLY OF SENATORS McDONALD AND GARLAND.

WASHINGTON, March 16, 1880.—HON. WILLIAM A. WALLACE, United States Senator. Dear Sir: In reply to your inquiry as to the correspondence between yourself and the Judiciary Committee of the Senate touching the confirmation of James N. Kerns as United States Marshal for the Eastern district of Pennsylvania, we herewith inclose you copies of your letters, sent to the committee, opposing Mr. Kerns.

The reasons which governed us as the Democratic members of the sub-committee in recommending Kerns' confirmation were substantially as follows: The confirmation was opposed upon political grounds alone. We made careful inquiry as to the personal character of Kerns, and found that it was good. We both had been members of the investigating committee before which Kerns appeared and testified, and were also present in Philadelphia when the examination of witnesses affecting his official action was held. This testimony was the ground of political opposition to him, and had been sent by you to the committee. In a careful examination of it we found that Kerns' conduct on election day was not censurable, in view of the duties imposed upon him by law, and our judgment was that those duties were neither vindictively nor illegally performed. He swore before our committee of investigation that deputy United States Marshals were not needed in Philadelphia, and that he had appointed them because the law compelled him to do so when application was made by two citizens. He admitted he did not know many of the deputies, and took the endorsement of his political friends as to their character. In the respect he was censurable, for the character of many of these deputies was very bad. This was the sole ground upon which we could sustain our rejection of Kerns, and in view of what he had testified, as well as of his personal character and behavior on election day, we did not feel justified in rejecting him, as we would run the risk of obtaining a man who would execute the law vindictively because he believed in it. These were the grounds upon which we acted. Kerns came to see us personally whilst the nomination was in our hands, and we discussed the subject with him fully, and he reiterated the opinions he had previously sworn to. You did not at any time request or suggest his confirmation, nor, so far as we know, was there any interference by you with the action of the Judiciary committee, except as the letters hereto attached show. It is not the practice of that committee to hear persons before it orally, but always in writing. We are, very respectfully yours, J. E. McDONALD, A. H. GARLAND.

Presidential Election.

Below will be found the electoral and popular vote cast at every Presidential election held in the United States. It will prove valuable for reference—

Table with columns for Year, Elector Vote, and Pop. Vote. Lists candidates for various years including George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, James Monroe, Andrew Jackson, John Q. Adams, Martin Van Buren, James K. Polk, Zachariah Taylor, Lewis Cass, Martin Van Buren, Franklin Pierce, Winfield Scott, Hale, James Buchanan, John C. Fremont, Millard Fillmore, Abraham Lincoln, Stephen A. Douglas, Abraham Lincoln, Ulysses Grant, Horatio Seymour, Ulysses Grant, Rutherford B. Hayes, Thomas A. Hendricks, B. Gratz Brown, Samuel J. Tilden, Rutherford B. Hayes, Peter Cooper, Smith.

No Use for the Chinese.

WASHINGTON, March 19.—The special report on the Chinese immigration question of the House committee appointed to inquire into the causes of the labor depression was submitted to-day. The majority report is signed by Hendrick B. Wright, Minch, Dickey and O'Conner and was accompanied by two minority reports. The majority report finds that Chinese immigration is destroying the trade and materially affecting the business of San Francisco and the Pacific coast. The subject is assuming an alarming importance. The Pacific coast is hostile to immigration, and especially San Francisco, where a population of 35,000 or 40,000 Chinese are located in the heart of the city. This Asiatic element are governed by their own laws, living in dirt and filth and evading all responsibility of municipal taxation. The majority recommend as a temporary measure of relief that the bill of the last session limiting the landing of but fifteen Chinese upon one vessel be adopted by Congress, leaving out the two sections enacted by the Senate upon the bill which recommended the abrogation of our treaty with China and which was, the report says, probably the cause of the bill being vetoed by the President.

Failure in Michigan.

The failure is reported at Grand Rapids, Michigan, of Hibbard & Gruff, millers; L. H. Randall, President of the Farmers and Mechanics' Bank, and H. W. Hindsdale, capitalist. The liabilities, which are reported heavy but not definitely known, include \$400,000 borrowed money. Speculation in grain option caused the failures.

STATE NEWS.

Pottsville schools are closed on disagreeable days.

Williamsport lumbermen have advanced the price of lumber.

There is a demand for carpenters in the northern part of the State.

Forty thousand railroad ties have been cut in Monroe county this winter.

Nearly fifty two years ago the first pretzel was baked in Lancaster county.

There is a grand total of about 6,000 coke ovens in the western part of this State.

There are seventeen female applicants for census enumerators in Montgomery county.

Four rolling mills and twenty three blast furnaces in the Shenango Valley are in operation.

Lancaster is in love with the Belgian block, and proposes to pave many of her streets with it.

A man who has lost \$150,000 on speculation is now working as a street cleaner in Pittsburg.

Miss Jane Prouditt, of Williamsport, is said to have a fine blonde beard, eight inches in length.

In 1875 the poor of Fayette county cost \$20,000; in 1877, \$30,000; in 1878, \$30,000; in 1879, \$18,000.

There's a silver brick in the Bradford Oil Exchange, sent from Arizona, that weighs 99 pounds.

A vein of iron ore has been found near Franklin, Mercer county, that puts out 65 per cent. of pure iron.

Nearly all the judges are holding special terms of court in the western and northern part of the State.

It is almost impossible to rent a house in Altoona, and it is expected there will be much building this season.

Miss Kneiss, of Redbank township, Armstrong county, aged 15 years, weighs two hundred and thirty-six pounds.

It is estimated that one-tenth of the children under 5 years old died of diphtheria since the first of last November in this State.

The Ninth regiment will visit Scranton in April to attend the grand fair to be given at that time, and will take part in the parade.

Girard College contains 870 orphans. The college has up to this time educated 3,454 orphans, a number of whom have gained distinction in life.

A large eagle has been destroying lambs for the farmers of Carroll township, Cambria county. It is said to be the largest ever seen in that section.

Frederick A. Rhue, of the firm of Rhue Brothers, at Allentown, one of the largest tobacco houses in that part of the State, died suddenly on Sunday morning.

The following gentlemen were guests of ex-Senator Cameron at Donegal, Lancaster county, on Saturday: United States Senators Thurman, Edmunds, Anthony, J. D. Cameron and Governor Hoyt.

After an interval of ten years the annual encave of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar, of the State of Pennsylvania, will be held at Williamsport, beginning Tuesday, May 25th, and continuing three days.

There are about 5,000 justices of the peace in the State, to whom commissions must be issued dating from the first Monday in May. The State will realize about \$10,000 from the officers in the shape of fees for their commissions.

A Harrisburg dispatch says that the Montour Iron and Steel Company, capital stock of \$200,000, divided into 4,000 shares, was chartered at the State Department last Thursday. A great deal of the stock is held by the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Company.

Gertrude Logan, of Mill Hill, Clinton county, saved her father from a long imprisonment for selling liquor without license by presenting the case to the Governor in such a clear and comprehensive statement that the fine was remitted.

Hon. J. P. Wickersham, Superintendent of Public Instruction, suggests to school boards the propriety of passing resolutions requiring all teachers in their employ to hold, near the close of the school term, a public examination or review of the work gone over during the term.

The 8,000 regulation overcoats ordered by Adjutant General Latta to be manufactured are nearly completed. The ordinance stores are now ready for distribution, and it will not be many days before the National Guard of Pennsylvania will be for the first time in the history of the State thoroughly uniformed and equipped.

The saw mill of Fredericks & Kreamer, at Farrisville, Clinton county, was burned down Thursday afternoon. F. Speaker, foreman, was severely burned in attempting to get out a tool chest. He jumped into the mill dam to extinguish the fire in his clothes, and a companion went to rescue the sufferer, and both narrowly escaped drowning.

Jonathan Moyer, a farmer, living on South Mountain, opposite Robesonia, Berks county, while digging post holes, discovered an immense body of fire clay, covering many acres upon his farm. Upon investigation it was found that it required no more than about one to one and a half feet of uncovering, when the solid clay lies exposed to what depth it has not yet been ascertained, but it is estimated that millions of tons are imbedded there. The bed lies about two miles from Robesonia, and is said to be worth at least \$2 per ton, on the cars.

Pennsylvania postal changes during the past week: Postmasters appointed—Edith Krigh, Brookdale, Susquehanna county; A. Robertson, Excelsior, Northumberland county; C. A. Mecommed, Fleetwood, Berks county; Jacob A. Klinefelter, Glenville, York county; A. K. Zeigler, Harleysville, Montgomery county; N. Albright, Keister's Mills, Berks county; T. J. Russell, Holyoke, Butler county; D. Atland, Liburn, Cumberland county; Joseph Deihl, Pennsylvania, Montgomery county; Wm. H. Stout, Southamptonville, Bucks county; John R. Brinham, Wellsburg,