

# The Centre Democrat.

SUPPLEMENT, OCTOBER, 24 1889.

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## Atlantic Coast Storms.

The storms that do such incalculable damage along our southern and eastern coasts are generated in the boiling hot atmosphere of the Caribbean sea. They are usually known as West Indian hurricanes. A peculiarity of them is that they follow the general course of the gulf stream northeastward. What is known of them definitely is that immense volumes of heated air rise among the islands east of the Caribbean sea. They rise and whirl around and around in great eddies, sucking up in their course more and more hot air, circling eastward and northward as they whirl. Why they move in these vast circles, and why they travel eastward and northward will be a problem for future scientists to solve.

If a cyclone like this touches the Gulf coast then there is a terrific storm along our southern shores. Destruction and terror are in the wake of such a hurricane.

Again the cyclone stands off the Gulf coast, whirls eastwardly, then, suddenly drawn northward, follows the line of the Atlantic coast from Georgia to British America. In the southern Atlantic states the rice and cotton fields are wrecked, further north, watering place hotels and towns are damaged, houses are splintered in the gale and ships are foundered and driven upon the coast. The hurricane season is from Aug. 10 to Oct. 30. It is then that the accumulated heat develops its greatest energy. It is rare for a season to pass without at least one of these mighty hurricanes.

## All the Americas.

"The success of Mr. Blaine's device would be of great and incalculable value," remarks La Epoca, a paper published in Madrid. The Spanish journal refers to the congress of the three Americas, which opens its sessions in Washington this week. It does not appear, however, that the idea originated with Mr. Blaine. The scheme first began to take shape as far back as Garfield's administration, but the late Congressman Townsend, of Illinois, first introduced it. It is entirely commercial in its object. Mr. Townsend had a favorite plan, which was that all the countries of the American continent should be joined in one customs union, against the rest of the world. The German word Zollverein expresses the meaning of such a union as Mr. Townsend wanted.

At this very important congress the great object in view with both North and South Americans will be to increase and facilitate trade. The annual commerce of Central and South America amounts to \$700,000,000. The United States gets only a small fraction of the whole vast sum. This is not because the Spanish republics do not want our trade, for they do. It is a fact that many of our manufactured products are first sent to Europe, repacked and labeled, and then shipped anew to South America, where they are bought as European goods.

The great difficulty in the way of direct trade with these countries is lack of facility of transportation. There are very few lines of steamers in the North and South American trade. Merchants and those interested say that steamers enough can be maintained regularly if the United States will pay increased sums for rapid mail transportation. But there is in the United States a strong feeling against subsidized steamer lines, so that the question will not be easy to settle.

Other topics discussed at the congress will be arbitration of international disputes, the acceptance by each government of a common silver coin which shall be legal tender in all the countries, and the adoption of uniform customs regulations and of uniform weights and measures.

Modern experiments with galvanic electricity afford curious confirmation of the assertions of the old phrenologists that certain faculties of the mind are governed by special localities in the brain. It has been found, for instance, that when the phrenological organ of cheerfulness is touched by the galvanic current, a smile is produced on the face. If the spot where the phrenologists locate consciousness is similarly excited, the face assumes an expression of fear.

Russia seems to be supplanting the United States in the kerosene oil trade in India. In 1886 we exported over 24,000,000 gallons of petroleum to India. That year Russia came in as a rival for the first time, with 1,500,000 gallons. But during the past eight months of the fiscal year we have only sent to India 14,000,000 gallons, while Russia is crowding us very close with 11,000,000.

There are in Boston over 400,000 people. Of these 205,550 go to church on Sunday. The rest go somewhere else or stay at home.

## Old Age and Gardening.

Ex-Vice President Hannibal Hamlin is at Bangor, Me. He is 81 years old, and was vice president so long ago that the present generation need to be told that it was during Lincoln's first term. The old gentleman is in full vigor of health and mind. He walks fifteen miles a day frequently. The pride and delight of his present existence is a wonderful orchard and garden in which he works with his own hands and rears marvelous flowers and fruits.

There is something peculiarly attractive in this serene, bright sunset to one of the busiest lives of the century. The storm and excitement are past, and the old man tends his lilies and roses and gathers great luscious peaches in the sunshine and blue air.

It is the ideal close of a long and busy life. Englishmen know it. When one of them approaches old age and has won a competency he retires to a house and garden in the country. He was cheated out of life with nature, in the open air, during his early years of struggle, and now he makes up for it. He communes reverently with the sublime mother, he watches the green things grow, he listens to voices that he did not hear in the heat of the strife, and is happy. We seem somehow to drift naturally back to the earth at last.

If any life could fit a man for heaven, after he has deserved well of mankind, it is this. The old Greek and Roman philosophers recognized that and betook themselves to groves and villas in the country. Our American men will recognize it too, in course of time, and as they approach the philosophical age will learn to prize the life of the country as the elixir of youth that outdoor life has for all of nature's children.

## Work of the Next Congress.

If the Fifty-first congress performs its tasks faithfully, it will be one of the most important and useful bodies since reconstruction days.

First, there will be an unusual number of contested election cases. They will occupy considerable time and members will have opportunity to expend the wind of their eloquence on them, so that they may afterwards settle down to the hard pan of business. After the election cases there will be made a powerful effort by those interested to get congress to subsidize lines of South American steamers. Much will be heard, and that for weeks, about the vital importance of developing our trade with South America. That no one denies, since our states have traded with themselves till they are fully supplied with goods of domestic manufacture, and a foreign outlet must be sought. The question to be decided is: Should that outlet be obtained by the cooperation of private capitalists or by subsidies from congress?

The Behring sea seal fisheries difficulty cannot be longer staved off, and congress must take hold of that and make arrangements to settle just what waters are embraced in American jurisdiction. The Sannoon treaty will require to be ratified or rejected by the senate.

Then there are those three perennial blossoms of the congressional docket—the pension list, the tariff and the surplus. As to the surplus, there will not be so much of it as there was, no longer enough to be a howling menace to the further continuance of the nation. The last congress towards its close increased largely the appropriations for next year, as was rendered necessary, and these will probably be made still greater.

The pension list will be revised and classified. Regarding the tariff, a prominent Republican says that his party has pledged itself to revise the revenue duties, and is therefore bound to do so. A bill is promised to be introduced in favor of "penny postage" by some one who overlooks the fact that we already have penny postage. It would be half-penny postage if letters were to be carried through the mails for one cent. As to who will be speaker of the house—go ask the winds.

Within the past quarter century the Protestant Episcopal church has grown in America as at no previous period in its history. It is mentioned as a curious fact that as the taste of the American people for artistic decoration and aesthetic ceremonial has been awakened and intensified the Episcopal church has increased proportionally.

The taffy Emperor William of Germany gave Minister William Walter Phelps is something unspeakable. He always admired the United States, quoth the emperor, and the study of our "history of peace" had excited in him the greatest interest. This sounds very sweet coming from the most warlike ruler in Christendom. Well, most of the nations of Europe are beginning to find it healthy to admire our country as much as Emperor Willie does.

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