

PROGRESS BACKWARD

Gail Hamilton Makes a Vigorous Assault Upon Democratic Civil Service Reformation.

The Advance of Public Sentiment on the Spoils System.

SUNSHINE DRAWN FROM CUCUMBERS

(WRITTEN FOR THE DISPATCH.)

The remarkable nature of Prof. Norton's assertion regarding Mr. Curtis's reform achievements can only be seen in the full sunlight of the details published in his own report. The press has given them too little attention and has not been so quick to see that Prof. Norton has ever taken a step back.

This man, who has achieved more for reform in the last 20 years than all other men put together, declares of whole departments of the Government that, "as a body they were trained and competent officers, but (under his reform administration) the great majority of them have been removed or reduced and their places have been filled by untrained successors."

But this is the sum and substance of the spoils argument. The veteran machine politicians maintain that much of the work is so far a matter of rule and routine that any intelligent man can do it as well as the man who has done it for years.

But why so pale and wan, fond lover; prithce, why so pale over Maryland's sin? Why should that unhappy State be singled out for censure? Is not the man who is the thief, the appointer as the appointee?

But Mr. Curtis confronts a harder work than this. Recognizing "a complete partisan chaos in the civil service and a powerful rejection of reform bills in Congress," as only a "certain reaction," claiming to be in spite of such "reaction" a steady progress in public sentiment and a steady progress in the reform of the civil service.

There is nothing in the way of partisan change, of corruption, of disaster to reform on which Mr. Curtis does not confess judgment, in whole and in particular; yet he sets up men of straw to be reproved as "hasty and inconsiderate in thinking that because the President does not apply the principles of reform in their fullest scope uniformly everywhere and immediately he is to be justly denounced as a liar and a traitor."

There are no signs of executive and legislative reaction, but that does not affect the value and significance of the progress which reform has already achieved.

NE NEVER RETURNED.

Death of a Lady Whose Husband Disappeared Twenty-Two Years Ago.

UNIONTOWN, February 9.—The death of Mrs. Catherine Vanderlice, who was buried at New Salem to-day, closed a life with a romance. Mrs. Vanderlice was the wife of James Vanderlice, who came to this county with his two brothers from Philadelphia, where the family are well known, coming from an ancient Holland family.

Near the close of the war James Vanderlice removed with his family, then consisting of his wife and several children, to Columbia, O. While there he engaged in the cattle business and formed a partnership with P. Kline. They bought and sold cattle for the Pittsburgh market, and Vanderlice usually made the trips to the city in charge of the cattle they shipped. One day while making one of his usual trips, in 1867, the train was derailed at Rochester, Pa., and some of the cattle were killed. The accident caused considerable delay, and when Vanderlice arrived in the city he found the market was down. Not liking the outlook, he decided to run the risk of the Philadelphia market, and took his cattle on to that city. But he found the situation no better there, and the result was a loss of about \$1,200.

Vanderlice returned to Columbiana very much depressed in spirits. He had become further indebted to his partner Kline, to whom he owed all about \$2,000. This financial reverse weighed on his mind until his queer actions attracted notice. Finally he suddenly and mysteriously disappeared, and no one has seen him since.

GLADSTONE'S VISIT TO ROME. A Statement of the Reasons Which Led to His Refusal.

NEW YORK, February 9.—The Catholic News of this city has received from its Rome correspondent a cablegram stating: "Mr. Gladstone has resigned his contemplated visit to the Eternal City at the express wish of the Italian Government, and in accordance with earnest requests from persons high in the diplomatic service of England."

One of the Pope's domestic prelates remarked to the correspondent: "This is a proof that the Italian Government fears the influence of Leo XIII. on the minds of men who come into personal contact with him. It was feared that Gladstone might sanction an appeal to the nation and give countenance to a scheme, which it is known the Holy Father has in view."

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JOHN L. TREXLER & FAUL BAUER, Undertakers and Embalmers, Livery and Sale Stable, No. 375 and 380 Beaver ave. Branch office, 679 Third ave., Allegheny city. Telephone 3418.

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