

A MORE MATTER OF PRECEDENT

Is the Reading of the President's Message in Both Houses of Congress.

OPINIONS ON THE LATEST. Republicans Consider It a Message Strong in Many Ways.

Democrats, of Course, Term It Peevish and Ill-Natured—The Logic of the Situation Pointed Out to the Incoming Administration in No Uncertain Way—The Wage Worker to Learn Much by Experience—More Good Words for Ship Canals—Arguments in Their Favor That Are Very Telling—New Propositions as to the Time of Congress to Convene—Some Novel Ideas Advanced.

(FROM A STAFF CORRESPONDENT.)

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—It goes without saying that the reading of the President's annual message, the last one Mr. Harrison will write, was the event of the day in Congress, but it was more an event on account of the time consumed in its delivery by reading clerks whose voices soon became husky than from any other cause.

Such reading of such messages never gains the attention of more than a few, and of that few only in certain passages. It is therefore one of those performances that might well be given to the cemetery of obsolete formalities.

In the old days, when printing presses did not vie with the lightning in speed, and when newspapers were not in the hand of every man, containing the message in full, before its reading was finished by the clerks, this formal delivery was well enough, and doubtless had the attention of every member of those old Congresses. Now it is a hollow show of respect to the chief executive.

How the Message Is Read Nowadays.

This was never more conspicuous than today, for hardly had Chief Clerks Kerr, of the House, and McCook, of the Senate, commenced to intone the message from printed copies, the manuscripts lying on the desks before them, when other printed copies were in the hands of correspondents and members and employees of every grade, and they simply ignored the reading, holding in chairs in smoking and committee rooms, turning to such portions of the paper as they thought would interest or amuse them, or to the news columns.

This may seem inconsequential, but to anyone who views the scene of the reading at close range it appears a ridiculous wonder that it can be persisted in. Of course the message is treated wholly from a partisan point of view by members. Democrats variously term it peevish, ill-natured, utterly commonplace and one positively entitled to: "The Song of the Dying Swan."

How the Republicans View It.

Republicans term it a message strong in that it shows the accomplishments of an immense number of important things, aside from the McKinley bill; that this has been an administration busy with large questions with which it wrestled with marked success.

The Republicans are much delighted with the serious manner in which the President points out to the Democrats, the logic of the situation, "with phrases which may be ironical, or dryly humorous, or suggestive, a certain profound solemnity and concern with which he looks upon the future of the country. As this tariff passage might please the Republicans, naturally it might please the Democrats, and they show a real aggravation at the pointed, simply severe, and admirably simple manner, sensibly directed, in a brief page or two, the whole basis of dispute.

Probably the passage which is considered most pointed is that which refers to the part played by the wage workers, who in their struggles with so-called protected employers, had their judgment "obscured by the passion evoked by these contests," and then which severely criticizes the action of Canada in the endeavor to improve trade relations between the United States and that country, quoting the immense benefit derived from the United States by Canadian railways, and concludes by urging the construction of a ship canal around Niagara on the American side and of other ship canals connecting the Great Lakes with seaports of the United States by the Dispatch.

Good Seed Sown by the Dispatch.

Thus the great project which might be said to have been developed by THE DISPATCH, and upon which it has dwelt eloquently for years, with articles which have attracted the attention of the whole country, has at last actually excited the attention of a President of the United States, and he gives it forth with all the vigor and flaming of a new discovery. His arguments are not the less telling, however, if they come a little late. Yet upon "the Hill," in the pliancy of the Committee on Railways and Canals, he has a dozen important ship canal bills, including one from Lake Erie to the Ohio at Beaver and one around Niagara Falls on

the American side, thence through Lake Ontario and across the country to Troy on the Hudson. No attempt has been made to even consider these bills, much less to report them, though no more eloquent presentation of any cause has been made before a committee of Congress than that before the Committee on Rivers and Harbors and on Railways and Canals early last session by representatives of the deep-water convention which had been held at Detroit some months before.

Most Popular Part of the Message.

Possibly the Democratic party, resurrected, clothed with the divine right of governing by the voice of "the people," may be induced to take up this project of all commercial reforms. As I have said, this passage of the President's message was applauded on all sides, and it may possibly bear better fruit than any utterance of Mr. Harrison's during his term.

While there is little doubt that some bill changing the meeting of Congress from the first of December to the first Tuesday of March will be reported, and that it will cause one of the liveliest debates of the session, there is little probability that it will become a law. If the House pass it, it will not be reported, and if the Senate pass it, it will not be reported, and if the House pass it, it will not be reported, and if the Senate pass it, it will not be reported.

There is much anxiety on the part of the Republicans to force the hand of the Democrats at once, and prevent them from sneaking in any bill by delay and subterfuge. This is the only hope such a change would have at the hands of such esteemed old gentlemen of another generation as Mr. Dawes, Morrill, and even young Republicans than they in the Senate. Such a bill would go to the Committee on Judiciary of the Senate, of which Mr. Hoar is Chairman, and even young Republicans are such sticklers for precedent as Wilson, of Iowa; Platt, of Connecticut; Pugh, of Alabama; Coke, of Texas; Vest, of Missouri; and George, of Mississippi, and the Senate will not be likely to pass such a bill.

It would seem that any such complete demolition of a solemn enactment of the past is a ridiculous thing to do with this committee, notwithstanding the presence of it of iconoclasts like Teller, of Colorado, and Mitchell, of Oregon.

One of the chief connections with the change which goes farther than others is that of McMillin, of Tennessee, who would not permit a Congress to meet in the month of March, and the regular session of the new Congress began in March, Mr. McMillin would not permit a change in the date of the opening, which does not represent the will of the people.

A Case Where It Wouldn't Work.

This would be all very well when a clean sweep is made, but it might happen that a President and Vice President would be chosen and both Houses of Congress have a majority from another. Or the Senate and President might be of one faith and Congress show a majority of another. In such a case, where the matter comes to be analyzed (all the movements in that direction have as yet been merely impulsive and not intelligent) many things may turn up in regard to the "radical of the fathers" which even such old youngsters as Hoar, Morrill and Dawes do not suspect.

There will be some plain talking before Mr. Smith, of Arizona, and Senator Joseph, of Nevada, and the other members of the United States Senate, at the election of 1896, and all told, about 11,000 votes, and the result will be a good deal different from that which the present Congress has decided. The Democrats will have a majority over all of it. This will, of course, be increased by Third party votes on most important questions, as nearly all of the eight Third party men were elected with the assistance of Democratic votes.

The most remarkable feature of the list is that which reached the Clerk's room at the Alliance and People's party were to play so great a part, not a single independent can be found. The Third party coteries led by Simpson, of Kansas, and Boon, a new man elected in the Seventh Minnesota; McKelghan and Keim, of Nebraska, both in this House; Francis, of Nevada, who was elected wholly on account of his advocacy of free silver, and Life Pence, of Denver, are real People's party men.

Miller's Name Sent to the Senate.

Among a large batch of recess appointments which reached the Clerk's room at the Senate to-day the name of George W. Miller appeared. The list was not presented in the usual way to the Senate, by messenger, but was deposited informally at the Clerk's office. It is an executive session held to-morrow Mr. Miller will doubtless be confirmed.

QUAY LOOKING TROUBLED.

Rival Candidates Are Making His Life a Real Burden.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—[Special.]—Senator Quay was a troubled look-to-day. He was between two fires, each of which threatened destruction to his re-election to the Senate. A Philadelphia delegation was here to induce him to support a Philadelphia friend for Speaker of the Pennsylvania Legislature, while the next morning a country delegation was also here to get him to support the country candidate for Speaker. Each delegation promised to reciprocate his support by favoring his re-election, and each requested trouble if his assistance was refused.

The Senator is trying to keep out of the Speakership fight, but from the large delegations here to-day it is probable he will be dragged into it. This is his chance for returning to the Senate may be considerably lessened by it. Dave Martin, who is said to be in charge of the Quay forces in the Pennsylvania Legislature, and who is at the conference with his chief to-day, and it is probable Dave received instructions how to manage the coming fight.

WHAT WHITNEY WANTS.

He Would Rather Be a Senator Than Again Be in the Cabinet.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—[Special.]—General Tracey, of Albany, and Representative John W. Mitchell, of Wisconsin, both of whom have been very prominently mentioned as probable members of Mr. Cleveland's new Cabinet, deny that there is any foundation for the rumors that have connected their names with department portfolios. General Tracey said with regard to Mr. Whitney that he had in the authority of Colonel Dan Lamont that the ex-Secretary of the Navy was not to be considered in the list of Cabinet possibilities.

Mr. Whitney does not want anything

from the incoming administration," said General Tracey. "If the State of New York should elect him as one of its Senators I think possibly that Mr. Whitney would like to have that position. He would certainly be a very capable man for such a post."

SPRINGER IS ANXIOUS.

He Wants a Tariff Legislation Proceeded With at Once—His Plan for Changes in the Electoral Vote to Be Considered—Other Matters He is Advocating.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—[Special.]—Mr. Springer, Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, is very anxious to proceed at once with tariff legislation, so as to carry into completion the general plan inaugurated at the last session. His plan is not apt to meet with approval of the full committee, however. That policy was never intended to apply to any but the situation then existing with the Democrats in control of both Houses. With both Houses of Congress and the Executive a little while ahead, a proposition to proceed as before cannot meet with favor.

There is another thing which Mr. Springer has in mind which he is going to put his best energy. At the last session he introduced a resolution for a constitutional amendment providing for the abolition of the Electoral College and for a change in the time of the meeting of Congress. "This he proposes to press to the front at once."

Mr. Springer seems to be very anxious to give his State as many electoral votes as it has members and Senators, as now, but to divide the electors of each State between the candidates for President and Vice President. The popular vote received by each, the population being divided into units. Congress, he proposes, shall expire in December following the general election. The committee to which the resolution was referred will hold a meeting on Friday, and it is said that it will take the matter up.

Mr. Springer points out the fact that there is a dispute as to the present time in the case of Ohio, one in Kansas, and some single about the electors of California, and says that with such a condition of affairs, the country might easily be divided into two camps. The result of the election were close enough to make it depend on these votes. His plan, he contends, would avoid the possibility of any such a division, and would render corruption very difficult.

During last session Mr. Springer did not get much consideration for this proposition, and he is anxious to present it in an opportune, and that he can press it upon the attention of the public and Congress so as to secure favorable consideration. The committee to which the resolution was referred will hold a meeting on Friday, and it is said that it will take the matter up.

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Throughout Mr. Cleveland's administration from 1884 to 1888 the Empire State had two representatives in the Cabinet, Daniel Manning, Secretary of the Treasury, succeeded by Charles S. Fairchild, and Mr. Whitney, Secretary of the Navy. This was rather unusual, according to Western critics.

The West Demands Two Men.

Now that the West has come out so brilliantly as a factor in electing the Democratic President, many Democrats in that section believe that Mr. Cleveland should select a Western man for Secretary of the Treasury, as well as Isaac Pusey Gray for Postmaster General. They point out also that there are several divisions between the East and the West which promise to become still more pronounced. The Postmaster General and the Secretary of the Treasury, between them, practically control the bulk of the Federal patronage at the command of the administration. This fact is an important one with the eastern business men.

It is advised by Mr. Cleveland's friends that he could very well afford this time to give the West one more Cabinet officer than it had under his first administration. The West would naturally be one of the two given to New York State in Mr. Cleveland's previous administration.

Some Democrats are referring to the interviews with Editor Scott, of the Chicago Herald, a month before election day. Mr. Scott in those interviews declared that he would be elected to the West naturally be one of the two given to New York State in Mr. Cleveland's previous administration.

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WALLS OF WEST

When It Is Said Cleveland Won't Go There for Cabinet Material.

WHITNEY MAY BE CALLED TO Act as Secretary of State, if New York Should Again

GOBBLE UP TWO OF THE PLACES.

The War of Anti-Snappers and Straight-out Democrats

IS BY NO MEANS OVER YET, AFTER ALL

(SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.)

NEW YORK, Dec. 6.—Affairs are so shaping themselves, it was admitted to-day, that Mr. Cleveland may find it necessary to let Mr. Whitney accept a portfolio in the Cabinet. Indeed, several very close friends of Mr. Whitney believe that Mr. Cleveland has determined to request him to be Secretary of State.

All the Democrats hereabouts are perfectly aware how Mr. Whitney feels about such matters. He does not believe in saying anything for publication until he is perfectly satisfied. He has already been offered in many places. He has already been offered in many places. He has already been offered in many places.

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CHILD'S PAPER BURNED OUT.

The Composing and Press Rooms of the Philadelphia Public Ledger Building

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 6.—The Public Ledger building was badly gutted this evening by fire and water. The damage by fire was confined almost entirely to the composing room on the top floor, but a torrent of water poured down through the building, flooding every floor on the structure. The loss is about \$100,000 on building and \$50,000 on contents.

The Ledger building is 88 feet front on Chestnut street and 228 feet on Sixth street, and is a five-story brownstone building with a mansard roof. The fire originated in the basement. Through a holeway the fire leaped directly to the top floor. The compositor, who had previously been warned, early escaped.

The files of the paper were all saved, and the many rare and costly things in Mr. Child's private office were all carried out. Mr. Child posted himself in the doorway of the Court House, and the street was calmly watching his building go up in flames. When invited to enter a neighboring office, he declined and said he liked to see the fire. By 7:30 a fire was under control, and all danger of the total destruction of the building had passed. The annex on Sanson street escaped entirely.

A number of lawyers, brokers and real estate offices were drenched with water. Executive alterations had recently been made in the building. While the fire was still burning the work of getting out to-morrow's paper was going on. The city department was removed to the Board of Trade room in the Drexel building. Except for the Ledger, no other newspaper plant on Locust street, and there the compositors are setting type to to-morrow's paper. The Wood office will do the press work in the morning.

THE SILVERSMITHS COMBINE.

An Agreement Reached to Keep Up the Grade of Silver.

NEW YORK, Dec. 6.—[Special.]—A number of leading silversmiths of this country, according to announcements made to-day, have entered into an agreement with each other to protect themselves by maintaining prices for silversmiths, and also to protect the general public by making only sterling silver goods. The combination will be something similar to the Goldsmiths' Guild of London. It will both protect and give protection. The Gorham Manufacturing Company, the Whiting Manufacturing Company, the T. & G. Manufacturing Company, the Shiebler Manufacturing Company are the concerns that have been instrumental in forming the combination.

A leading member of the trade said to-day that he expected to see the price of silver to rise in strict accordance with the rules of the Silversmiths' Guild of America. The object of all concerned is to form a trust. The price will not be advanced in any way. The chief object of the combination is to improve the quality of silverware on the market. The goods manufactured by these firms have always been of the highest quality.

MRS. MAYBRICK DYING.

Gail Hamilton Receives Despondent Cablegrams From the Prisoner's Mother.

BOSTON, Dec. 6.—[Special.]—Gail Hamilton has written the following letter concerning the imprisonment of Mrs. Maybrick in the United States. "I received this morning a telegram from Woking, England, that 'Mrs. Maybrick is dying; hemorrhage; faint body.' Later I received a second telegram from her mother, the Baroness de Baguer. 'She is dangerously ill.' This is what the mother has been saying with agony and anxiety. The only son died of consumption when little older than Mrs. Maybrick. She has been a close friend of Mrs. Maybrick's for many years. She has been of assistance to him in getting material to assist public men and to preach about immorality in the pulpit. I have had these letters copied. Every one who has read them will be interested in the case. The letters were written by a person interested in the divorce suit."

"I have letters in my possession," continued the superintendent, speaking slowly and as though measuring the effect of every word, "showing that Mrs. Maybrick is a close friend of Mrs. Maybrick's for many years. She has been of assistance to him in getting material to assist public men and to preach about immorality in the pulpit. I have had these letters copied. Every one who has read them will be interested in the case. The letters were written by a person interested in the divorce suit."

More of It to Come Yet.

The superintendent said that was all for the present. More would follow within a day or two. When asked to be more explicit, he said the letters he referred to had been written by Mrs. Maybrick to the woman who had brought suit for divorce. There were more than 20 of them. Evidently the woman had no idea of the magnitude of the trouble she was stirring up, as one of the letters was written to a party interested in compromising public men, and the letters show that this was being done through a woman.

CHARLESTON HAS A PANIC.

Children of One of Its Schools Stampeded by a Furo of Earthquake.

CHARLESTON, S. C., Dec. 6.—[Special.]—The old earthquake city had an excellent opportunity to show the value of its public schools. The incident occurred in the main room of the Bennett, one of the largest public school buildings in the city. Shortly after the noon recess, while the pupils were in the main room, one of them, a little girl, was seized with convulsions. There was a quick gathering around her of the teachers and other pupils. The girl was taken to the hospital. The incident was a warning to the city.

ANOTHER GAS ROABER.

The Pennsylvania Still Striking It Rich in the Elizabeth Strike.

MCKEESPORT, Dec. 6.—Last night Elizabeth the Pennsylvania Company brought in another gas well, said to be a big one. The last strike in the same immediate district where other good wells have been struck, but this one was drilled 200 feet deeper than any of the others.

This strike was made on the Howell farm, and it is stated to-night by experienced operators who have visited it to be one of the biggest strikes in the valley.

A Landslide for Ahlwardt.

BRELLY, Dec. 6.—The re-ballot in the Arncliffe-Friedberg district for member of the Reichstag took place to-day, and resulted in the return of Pastor Ahlwardt, the anti-Semite who is on trial for slandering Herr Loewe, the Hebrew social arms manufacturer. The poll stood: Ahlwardt, 10,300; Drave (Freisinnige), 3,075.

A Fat Job for Dave Hill.

NEW YORK, Dec. 6.—It is reported that Senator Hill has been tendered the position of general counsel to the Equitable Life Assurance Society, at a salary of \$25,000 per annum. It is understood he is considering the matter favorably. Senator Hill refused to talk.

PARKHURST ROASTED

Superintendent Byrnes Begins to Give Away Some Secrets He Has

TO TELL OF THE DOCTOR.

He Says the Cause of the Preacher's Crusade on Immorality

WAS A DIVORCE IN HIS CHURCH.

CHARGES OF ATTEMPTS TO INVEIGLE MAYOR GRANT AND OTHERS INTO

INTRIGUES THAT WOULD RUIN THEM