SIR FREDERICK BRUCE.

His Intercourse with Mr. Johnson.

The mind naturally goes back to the circumstances attending Sir Frederick Bruce's reception here. Sir Frederick arrived in this country in April, 1865, being the successor of Lord Lyons, during a critical state of the relations between the United States and Great Britain. The Secretary of State was at that time confined to his bed by the injuries received during a fall from his carriage. He, however, directed Mr. F. W. Seward, the Assistant Secretary, to arrange for Sir Frederick's presentation to the President, and although severely suffering at scarcely able to utter a word, indicated the proper language to be employed in the usual reception speech with a pencil in the left hand, and inserting some additions, among them the kind remembrance of the Queen in connection with the passage "on the importance of the two countries preserving their friendly relations."

After the Cabinet meeting on Friday, April 14, Acting Secretary F. W. Seward asked President Lincoln if he would receive Sir Frederick Bruce on the following day.

President Lincoln replied:—"Yes, at any hour you choose."

The Acting Secretary then inquired, "Shall it be at two o'clock in the forenoon?"

"Yes," said Mr. Lincoln, "at two o'clock, and be sure to send up the speeches, as I like to read over those things beforehand." Promising to do so, Mr. Seward took his leave, and on the same day sent up to Mr. Lincoln the drafts of the speeches.

On the night of that day Mr. Lincoln was assassinated, and the attempt was made to take the life of both the Secretary and his son. By this attempt the last named was left totally unconscious for the twelve days. The first sign of returning consciousness exhibited by him was his asking, "Has Sir Frederick Bruce been presented yet?" On being informed that he had, he added by whom. The reply was, "By Mr. Hunter." Sir Frederick had been presented on the 20th of April to President Johnson by Mr. Hunter, who had in the meantime been appointed Acting Secretary of State. Soon after he had asked, "What day of the week is it?" The answer was "Tuesday." "What day of the month?" The day was named, which reply being unsatisfactory, he then inquired, "Which month is it?" The sequence was "May," and so he learned that it was the month of May. It was not until a month later than this that he was informed of the assassination of Mr. Lincoln, and of the accession of President Johnson.

Sir Frederick's official intercourse with the government was exhibited a genial temper, combined with great diplomatic ability and discretion, which rendered his conduct most agreeable, and productive of good results.

HIS DEATH REGARDED AS A CALAMITY.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 19.—The death of Sir Frederick W. Bruce, in view of the present relations between the United States and Great Britain, is looked upon as a great misfortune. It is not seen how, under the existing temper of the British nation, exhibited by their press, he can be replaced.

The Philadelphia Copperhead Delegation in Washington.

A special Washington despatch to the *Inquirer* says:

The delegation of Philadelphia Democratic politicians, headed by Samuel J. Randall, who joined this morning by State Senator Thomas Scarigh, representing one of the interior districts in the Pennsylvania Legislature, and thus reinforced, they commenced operations by besieging Postmaster-General Randall, and also visited the President at the White House, Secretary Welles and Secretary McCulloch, and Commissioner Rollins having returned to duty this morning, they did not fail to pay him their respects. After their arduous labors they left in the afternoon train for Philadelphia. They transpired at the conferences with the various high officials named, it is impossible as yet, with sufficient has been developed to-day to show that the object of this visit was for a far more comprehensive and important character than was indicated in my despatch of yesterday. The prevailing impression yesterday was that the object of this delegation was to operate for the benefit of the party in the city of Philadelphia. This was only part of the plan—or plot, it may be more properly termed—so far as Pennsylvania party in carrying the State of Pennsylvania by the use of the government, the appointing power is able to control entirely, if they can induce the President to consent to their arrangements. It is understood that in the conference to-day with the President the delegation assured him that if he would give them control of all the federal patronage in the State, they were confident it would go Democratic by fifty thousand majority.

In answer to questions as to how this was to be accomplished, it is alleged they demanded of the President the suspension of every Republican Federal officeholder in Pennsylvania, on the charge of misconduct, as provided for in the Tenure of Office bill, no matter whether they have been guilty of any delinquency or not. When this shall be done, they ask that the offices so vacated shall be filled by trusty Democrats, who will give freely of the proceeds of their offices and their personal exertions to the success of the Democratic party. They also demand that all Republican office-holders holding minor appointments and not commissioned should be removed and their places filled by Democrats.

They ignore the fact that such officers commissioned under the government now would thus be suspended without cause would be promptly reinstated by the Senate soon after it meets; but before that time they will have gained their object, which is to control the October election, and they don't care how soon after that the suspended officials may be reinstated, as they are well assured they cannot ultimately prevent such reinstatements by the Senate.

But in the meantime they feel that this scheme will powerfully assist the Democratic party demoralize the Republicans.

It is understood the President received the proposition kindly, and said he would think over it, and give them an answer in a day or two. He is most set soon, or the advantage sought to be gained by his friends will be lost. These propositions, it is said, were also made to the various heads of the departments visited by the delegation, and it is probable the President will consult with them on the subject before declining, and may bring it to the attention of the Cabinet to-morrow, and if it should be decided not to adopt this course, then you may look out for whoops and decapitation immediately.

It is also reported that the delegation made an onslaught upon Collector Cake, of Philadelphia, and demanded his removal or suspension, because on account of his refusal to make certain appointments the Democratic party was assured by should make. This complaint was made both to the President and Secretary McCulloch, but what will be done in the matter will not be known until it is decided what course will be pursued with regard to the wholesale suspensions recommended.

It is evident the most extraordinary exertions will be made at every National, or State election in Pennsylvania for the Democracy, and it was alleged to be one of the strongest points of their consultation with the President, that if Pennsylvania went Democratic, the New York election is fairly follow, and it was all important he should render them all the aid in his power to effect this most desirable consummation.

From Washington.

One of the letters filed on FIX John Porter's application for a new trial is from an ex-rebel General, who in unpacking of his reminiscences, says, "He was ready for any attack at 11 o'clock A. M. August 29th, and was only anxious and uneasy for battle after 12 o'clock M." Long prior to that day of battle, Artillery was ready, possibly to handled upon the ground on our right, and it was difficult to handle infantry in that position. If you remember, and was at that time, that on that day your troops would have been destroyed, that is if we had been attacked by less than twenty-five thousand." One point made against Porter on trial was that if he had attacked the rebels at 5 o'clock that day the enemy would have been defeated. His force was about eleven thousand.

Two colored men, whilst excavating ground in Alexandria, Va., found a small basin, carefully sealed, containing six or seven thousand dollars in Alexandria Corporation notes, together with a will of the testator, who, upon inquiry, was ascertained to have fallen in the battle of Seven Pines.

T. B. Munson, late owner of the famous Munson Hill, Va., died yesterday. This hill affords a view of Washington, and was the point from which rebel officers observed the movements of our troops when they first moved from Washington.—*Ledger.*

In connection with the War Office imbroglio, the excitement regarding which has somewhat subsided, it has transpired that the President did offer the position to General McClellan, but he very curtly refused to accept it. In the meantime General Steadman's friends urged his claims with great partiality, and received such assurances of success that they paid such assurances of success that they paid the next would bring forth the order restoring Grant back to the headquarters of the army. The President never offered the position to Steadman, and the latter's refusals to accept the position were therefore superfluous. The letter from Grant countermanding his appointment was prematurely published by the President, notwithstanding that it was marked "confidential," and the further fact that he excused himself from printing Steadman's fulsome letter because it was marked "private." It was intended that the letter should be used in influencing the Senate when Steadman's nomination came up for confirmation, but its publication has blocked that portion of the programme; and it, therefore, the pressure to secure his appointment was announced as abandoned, it is a fact, however, that the announcement was untrue, as the President has been repeatedly urged to follow Greeley's advice, and the confidential letter