

County Advocate.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 1871.

CONSTITUTIONAL ELECTIONS.—On the 17th of January fourteen States will elect members of the United States Senate. Six States have already elected, so that there will be twenty new members in the Senate of the forty-second Congress. Of the fourteen Senators to be elected, according to statement in the Philadelphia *Press*, the only two about whose election there seems to be any certainty are Wilson of Massachusetts, and Thayer, of Nebraska. The election of these gentlemen seems to be conceded. In Arkansas, Illinois, Kansas, Maine, Michigan, and other States, there is considerable of a contest. The legislatures of all the States above named are Republican, and the only difficulty is as to the choice of the man. The Democrats in the Senate will receive an accession to their ranks of six Senators. If Missouri sends a Democrat, as it is expected she will, in place of Drake, the Democrats will have seven out of the twenty new Senators.

The New York *Evening Post*, which a short time since advocated the collection of the Alabama claims from Great Britain by the individual claimants, now thinks the President's plan the best way. It says: "The excellent suggestion of the President in his message that Congress should authorize a scrutiny of the claims known as the Alabama claims, and the payment by our government of those which a commission should allow, is, we understand, to be adopted. We hear that a bill is ready to be introduced into Congress when it re-assembles which will authorize a commission to examine the claims and decree their payment by the treasury. When the losses of private individuals are thus made good, we need not be urgent with Great Britain to settle them with our government. We have only to wait. The British government finds its position constantly more embarrassing and will before long thankfully offer any terms which we may justly demand."

SURATT AGAIN.—It seems that there were good grounds for refusing to allow Suratt to lecture here last night, as it evidently was the determination of a number of parties both Democrats and Republicans, to create a disturbance. It seems that after he lectured here, Suratt intended to make a Southern trip, but his late troubles have dissuaded him from it and his friends have advised him that such a course would expose him to personal danger—a suggestion which Suratt has never yet failed to heed. In connection with Suratt, it might be as well to state that the assemblage in these dispatches that Suratt was promised by Judge Advocate Holt that if he gave himself up his mother should be released, was made upon one of the counsel employed by the government in the case.—*Virginia Citizen.*

Did Senator Sprague Trade with the Rebels?

Charges have been made that during the war Senator Sprague of Rhode Island was engaged in contraband trade with the rebels in Texas; that he sent to them arms and ammunition, and got cotton back in return. Great prominence has recently been given to these accusations by the publication of a report made to the Secretary of War in June, 1865, by Gen. Holt, Judge Advocate General of the Army. This report was founded upon papers which appear to have been sent up to the War Department by Gen. Dix, who then had his headquarters in this city. Of course the Judge Advocate General could only express an opinion upon the evidence given in these papers, and accordingly he suggested a trial by a military court. Luch, however, was not the opinion of Mr. Stanton, the Secretary of War, to whose knowledge other facts had probably been brought convincing him that Senator Sprague was entirely innocent, and that it would be a great wrong to bring any public accusation of the sort against him. This opinion was also subsequently adopted by Gen. Dix, who has written a letter, which has been published, in which the Senator is completely exonerated from all imputations in connection with this subject.

No doubt this is the correct view of the matter. It is preposterous to suppose that a man who exhibited in the field so much bravery, and in the councils of the nation so much steady patriotism as Senator Sprague, and who by his circumstances was above all the temptations of avarice, could have lent himself to such treason as these accusations allege against him. There is no doubt that Mr. Sprague is entirely innocent of trading with the rebels.—*N. Y. Sun.*

RELIGIOUS DEPARTMENT.

REV. G. M. HEARD, EDITOR

PRESERVE AND REWARDED.—At a recent Sunday-school concert in an Eastern city, an anecdote was related to the children, which is too good to be lost. It illustrates the benefit of perseverance in as strong a manner as ever did a Bruce. One of the corporations of the city being in want of a boy in their nail, a piece of paper was tacked in one of the posts, in a prominent place, so that the boys could see it as they passed. The paper read:

"Boy wanted—call at the office tomorrow morning."

At the time indicated, a host of boys were at the gate. All were admitted, but the overseer was a little perplexed as to the best way of choosing one from so many, and said he:

"Boys, I only want one and here are a great many; how shall I choose?"

After thinking a moment, he invited them all into the yard, and driving a nail into one of the large trees, and taking a short stick, told them that the boy who could hit the nail with a stick standing a little distance from the tree should have the place. The boys tried hard, and after three trials each, signally failed to hit the nail. The boys were told to come again next morning, and this time, when the gate was opened, there was but one boy, who, after being admitted, picked up the stick, and throwing it at the nail, hit it every time.

"How is this?" said the overseer. "What have you been doing?"

And the boy locking up with tears in his eyes, said:

"You see sir, I have a poor old mother, and I am a poor boy. I have no father, sir, and I thought I should like to get the place, and so help her all I can; and after going home yesterday, I drove a nail into the barn, and have been trying to hit it ever since, and I have come down this morning to try again."

The boy was admitted to the place. Many years have passed since then, and this boy is now a prosperous and wealthy man, and at the time of the accident at Penberth Mills he was the first to step forward with a gift of one thousand dollars to relieve the sufferers. His success came by perseverance.—*Exchange,*

An Evil Example.—We are sure that there is no greater folly than to defy public sentiment when it is concurred by religious usage and sanctioned by God himself. Although the majority of our people are not over nice in observing the Sabbath, they yet believe that the day of rest should not be secularized by such entertainments as belong to the week-day routine. The need of this break in the work of the world, that body and mind and heart may be refreshed by reflection upon higher themes than those which ordinarily absorb them, is recognized even by those who put a very liberal construction upon the fourth commandment. To set in defiance of this sentiment, as a certain popular lecturer has done, is to violate the law of good sense; let us say nothing of the plainer violation of a higher law. We are the more sorry to see this disregard of propriety in a woman who is trying to set an example of self-help to her sisters. Would that she would set, also, an example of at least outward reverence for one of the mainstays of Christianity.

CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.—Love to our fellows is second only to love to God. It is only fair analogy to reason that love for the higher orders of animals and kind treatment of all living things is second only to love and kindness for all human kind. Does God take care for oxen? Most certainly; albeit his care for them may have a deeper symbolic significance than appears in the direction, "Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox when he treadeth out one corn." The man who maltreats and abuses the horse that so nobly and patiently serves him, is insensibly stealing himself for violence and oppression.

JUST AS HE TREATS THE LORD.—A Christian gentleman, widely known as such, after remarking upon a brother's prayer the other evening, and calling attention to the way in which he "singed back upon himself," said: "And he treats his friends just as he treats the Lord. If he comes to see you when he rises to go he will linger and talk, sit down again and talk, and even after he has gone out and shut the door he sometimes comes back again to say the same things in exactly the same way."

Man is pleased to have his fellow-man straightforward and direct in his intercourse, and is not pleased to have him repeat himself so many times as to create a suspicion that he distracts his listener's power of hearing or of comprehension. Although God's thoughts are not as our thoughts, nor His

ways as our ways, yet inasmuch as he has commanded us to beware of vain repetitions, we may well shun such uncertainty and reiteration, both in prayer and social intercourse, as might cause our acquaintances to say, complainingly, "He treats his friends just as he treats the Lord."

RAILROADS.

PHILADELPHIA & ERIE RAILROAD.

WINTER TIME TABLE.

On and after MONDAY, DEC. 26th, 1870, the trains on the Philadelphia & Erie Railroad will run as follows:

MAIL TRAIN leaves Philadelphia, 9:45 p.m.

" " " departs at 10:15 a.m., and arrives at Erie, Pa., 12:45 p.m.

" " " departs at 2:30 p.m., and arrives at Philadelphia, 4:45 p.m.

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