

THE FOREST REPUBLICAN.

J. E. WENK, EDITOR & PROPRIETOR.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1896.

McKINLEY loses one Presidential Elector in California, but if it is true that he gains one in Virginia, the figures in the Electoral College still stand at 272 to 175.

Now that the Populists have full swing in Kansas, it would be a strange illustration of the irony of fate if they should drop Peffer and send a man without whiskers to the Senate.

The principal feature of the Lodge immigration bill is an educational test for all foreigners who seek to become residents of the United States. Certainly a provision of this kind is prudent and wholesome and will be endorsed by all good citizens.

Now they tell us that it is Allison for Secretary of State and Dingley for Secretary of the Navy. Even the Democratic speculators on the composition of the next Cabinet are compelled to admit that none but statesmen need apply this time.

DR. TALMAGE, the syndicate preacher, is preparing to mix up his family matters in great shape. He will shortly marry the sister of his daughter's husband. After the marriage Dr. Talmage will be his daughter's brother-in-law; his wife will then be the step-mother of her sister-in-law and step-mother-in-law to her own brother.

Those who are insisting that the change of a few votes would have given Kentucky to Bryan should explain this little conundrum: Cleveland's plurality in Kentucky in 1892 was 40,020, and the vote for Weaver, Populist, was 23,500. Now is it worth while to talk about gaining 200 votes in the face of a loss in four years of 63,000?

The Tariff Bill Coming.

The only obstacle in the path of the adoption of a new tariff bill is the possibility that the new Senate will not have a majority favorable to protection. Much will depend upon the attitude of the silver Senators who were elected as Republicans and who have always acted with the Republican party until near the close of the last session, when they made an issue of silver and joined the Democrats and populists. Now that there is absolutely no chance of free silver under the McKinley administration, it is expected that these old-time Republicans will not resume tactics to which they resorted when the Dingley bill was before the Senate. We have got to have a revenue, and the sheep and wool interests of Idaho, Washington and Montana ought to be strong enough to demand a protective tariff bill.

That a bill will be framed this winter is now certain. Fortunately, the Republican members of the Ways and Means Committee have all been re-elected to the next Congress. That those gentlemen are in touch with Major McKinley is apparent, for they have decided to take up the tariff question at once, and to perfect a bill and have it ready for the extra session which the new President is expected to call. Of course, President McKinley will be governed by the circumstances existing at the time of his inauguration, but the indications are that an extra session will be called in order that the discussion may begin early and the bill placed upon the statute books as soon as possible. Business demands an early and permanent settlement, and it is most certainly good politics to have the bill thoroughly tried and fully understood by the people before the elections of 1898. Quick work will be necessary to do this, but quick work can be done, and the members of the Ways and Means Committee are alive to the importance of action.

Whether the committee will give hearings or not is a question. As a matter of fact, the bill can be drawn quietly and without public meetings, and it seems to be pretty well agreed that the new bill should be conservative and yet give us ample revenue; that it should avoid extremes and still be protective. The good features of the McKinley bill are known to the experts who will take a hand in drafting the new measure. The inequalities of the Wilson-Gorman act are apparent to all. The committee has but to avoid radicalism on one side, and thus clear of prohibition, and the low duties which have ruined wool-growing and closed our mills on the other. The tariff bill ought to be in such an advanced state as to be ready for submission to Congress upon the very day following the inauguration if necessary.—Phila. Inquirer.

The Betrayal of Maceo.

If Maceo had fallen in the ordinary chances of battle it would have been a serious loss to the Cuban cause. But it is doubtful whether his assassination as the victim of foul conspiracy and odious treachery will not prove more disastrous to the Spanish plotters and oppressors. It will in flame the Cubans to a more determined and desperate resistance and it will excite horror and alienate toleration everywhere. In this country especially it will deepen the general detestation of Spanish perfidy and cruelty, and will be calculated to intensify the sentiment in favor of national action in some positive form.

While there are disagreements on some details the present reports of this last hideous chapter in the Spanish warfare generally harmonize, and they explain much that could not be understood until this veil was lifted. They seem to make it certain that Maceo was led into a trap and deliberately murdered. Why did he leave his command? Why did he cross the trocha with a bare hand full? Where was his force which, however scattered and broken, was not destroyed or dissolved? With the earlier stories it has been impossible to answer these questions. But the revelation that the Spanish commander, unable to catch and cope with the Cuban antagonist in the field, plotted his betrayal and assassination, clears the mystery and accords with the known facts. A cunning proposal and a base traitor completed the scheme and under a flag of truce the Cuban chief was led into an ambush and wantonly shot down.

The infamy of this atrocious deed will excite universal abhorrence and revulsion. It is as barbarous and brutal as Modoc savagery. General Weyler and the Spanish Government must seek to disavow and deny it, for to confess it would be to brand their own immeasurable shame; but, unfortunately for them, it fits in with their well established methods, and is only a more conspicuous and startling illustration of a prolonged warfare without scruple, without mercy and without remorse. The atrocities which have desolated Cuba and have sickened and saddened humanity constitute a long and dark record; but the world was familiar and passive, and possibly needed this crowning treachery and villainy to emphasize the character of the Spanish crusade and to arouse a general protest.

General Maceo as a martyr may prove even more potent for Cuban independence than as a leader. American feeling will be deeply stirred by this culmination of medieval perfidy, and the sentiment for some assertion of our national sympathy with the Cuban struggle will be strengthened. It will be sure to find heightened expression in Congress, as it will among the people, and even the dictates of prudence will not restrain the outburst of profound indignation. The losing Spanish cause had reached a point where it was necessary to strike a blow for political effect everywhere; but when it fails to make any headway against the Cuban forces and only succeeds in assassinating a chief through conspiracy and betrayal, the blow may prove more disastrous to the conspirators than to the patriots at whom it was aimed. The martyr's place will be filled and the moral power of the martyr's cause will be doubled.—Phila. Press.

Some of the Madrid newspapers say that the "probable indications" are that Maceo is dead. The editors of these newspapers would make excellent weather forecasters. When in doubt the latter always fall back for safety upon "probable indications."

The imported products of agriculture are limited in number. They are mainly sugar, wool, hemp, coffee, tropical fruits and nuts.—Annual Report of the Secretary for Agriculture for 1896.

And they could be still further limited in number by a protective tariff that would exclude imports of sugar and wool, both of which can be produced in ample quantities in our own country under protection. As Secretary Morton says, "that political economy which best advances the interests of the agriculturists furnishes the best impetus to the manufacturers of the United States." The policy of protection, therefore, to our agriculturists—enforced in respect to sugar and wool—would also furnish "the best impetus to the manufacturers" and their employees. Hence it should be promptly and permanently enforced.—American Economist.

—Any person desiring first-class dental work done will do well to bear in mind that I will be in Tionesta for the week commencing on the first Monday of each month.

R. H. STILLSON.

Lincoln's Faith in Providence.

The following is an article which appeared in the December North American Review, written by ex Senator James F. Wilson of Iowa. It will be read with interest:

The raid made by the Confederate general, J. E. Stuart, in June, 1862, around the Union army commanded by McClellan, caused great anxiety in Washington. One of its results was the interruption of communications between the capital and the Army of the Potomac. What this portended no one could affirm. That it suggested the gravest possibilities, was felt by all.

While this feeling was dominating all circles, several gentlemen, myself among them, called on President Lincoln in order to be definitely advised about the condition of affairs as understood by him.

To our question: "Mr. President, have you any news from the army?" he sadly replied: "Not one word; we can get no communication with it. I do not know that we have an army; it may have been destroyed or captured, though I cannot so believe for it was a splendid army. But the most I can do now is to hope that serious disaster has not befallen it."

This led to a somewhat protracted conversation relative to the general condition of our affairs: It was useless to talk about the Army of the Potomac; for we knew nothing concerning its condition or position at that moment. The conversation therefore took a wide range and touched upon the subject of slavery, about which much was said.

The President did not participate in the conversation. He was an attentive listener, but gave no sign of approval or disapproval of the views which were expressed. At length one of the active participants remarked:

"Slavery must be stricken down wherever it exists in this country. It is right that it should be. It is a crime against justice and humanity. We have tolerated too long. It brought this war upon us. I believe that Providence is not unmindful of the struggle in which this nation is engaged. If we do not do right I believe that God will let us go our own way to our ruin. But if we do right I believe He will lead us safely out of this wilderness, crown our arms with victory and restore our now diserved Union."

I observed President Lincoln closely during this earnest opinion and expression of religious faith was being uttered. I saw that it effected him deeply, and anticipated from the play of his features and the sparkle of his eyes, that he would not let the occasion pass without making some definite response to it. I was not mistaken. Mr. Lincoln had been sitting in his chair in a kind of a weary and despondent attitude while the conversation progressed. At the conclusion of the remarks I have just quoted he arose and stood at his extreme height. Passing a moment, his right arm outstretched towards the gentleman who had just ceased speaking, his face aglow like the face of a prophet, Mr. Lincoln gave deliberate and emphatic utterance to the religious faith which sustained him in the great trial to which he and the country were subjected. He said:

"My faith is greater than yours. I not only believe that Providence is not unmindful of the struggle in which this nation is engaged; that if we do not do right God will let us go our own way to ruin; and that if we do right He will lead us safely out of this wilderness, crown our arms with victory, and restore our diserved Union, as you have expressed your belief; but I also believe that He will compel us to do right in order that He may do these things, not so much because we desire them as that they accord with His plans of dealing with this nation, in the midst of which He means to establish Justice. I think He means that in furtherance of His plans, and He will open the way for our doing it. I have felt His hand upon me in great trials and submitted to His guidance, and I trust that as He shall further open the way I will be ready to walk therein, relying on His help and trusting in His goodness and wisdom."

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