

TALK AT THE CAPITAL.

THE PERSONNEL OF THE CABINET DISCUSSED IN WASHINGTON.

**Idaho, Wyoming and Arizona Favorably
Reported for Statehood—Gov. Hill's Visit
to the Whitneys—Blaine Feted—Gen.
Harrison Rents a Cottage.**

[SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.]

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12, 1889.

It now transpires that Mr. Allison's delegation to assist Gen. Harrison out of a dilemma, by accepting the Treasury portfolio, smacks decidedly of ingratitude. Six years ago, when the Iowa gentleman entered the campaign for re-election, he was called from the canvass by the sickness and death of his wife. The Prohibition *pot pourri* was then boiling in that State, and outside statesmen were unwilling to enter the field in Allison's behalf for fear of involving their own political prospects.

In this perplexing condition of affairs, disaster threatened the Iowa Senator, when Gen. Harrison, and Eugene Hale, of Maine, loyally came to his rescue, and saved the Senatorial chair for him. The second choice for Secretary of the Treasury is as hard to locate as a needle in a haymow.

Prominent men, from lake to Gulf, from coast to coast, have been mentioned as probable recipients of the somewhat dunned honor, and there is no reason to premise that one has been chosen above another. It is said that Gen. Harrison has inclosed Senator Allison's rejection in a neat gold frame; but whether as a curiosity or a continued reminder that the Senator from the Hawkeye State will be in the field of Presidential candidates against him in 1892, has not been determined. Rumor has it that McKinley is now in the position from which Allison has just escaped, but any political reasons why the Ohio statesmen should not accept the Treasury portfolio are not assigned, unless possibly he objects to being second choice.

Clarkson, Windham, Thomas, and John C. New next head the list of possibilities for the position.

A Kansas delegation, headed by ex-Gov. Anthony, have solicited the place for Plumb, who is just entering upon a six-year term in the Senate. The Jayhawkers think, inasmuch as their State gave the banner majority vote to Harrison, it should be represented in his advisory, particularly as the man they suggest for the honor is in every way fitted to sustain it. Wanamaker's appointment is not so certain as it was a week ago, and the understanding is now that his contemplated trip to Paris was a fine stroke of policy, engineered by the diplomatic Quay to bring Harrison to time. A strong opposition in the merchant prince's own State has formed against promoting a man to political honor even at the price of \$400,000. The other members of the cabinet, with the exception of Blaine, are as problematical as they were last November.

Meantime, Gen. Harrison and his cabinet have been invited to the Washington centennial in New York, and it seems as though the lucky gentlemen ought to be notified in time to decide whether they will accept the invitation.

The House has settled down to hard work, and is holding frequent night sessions, with only now and then an occasional bit of filibustering when attempts are made to call up the Union Pacific funding bill, which Mr. Payson persistently keeps in the background as much as possible. Springer's bill, providing for the admission and enabling acts for Idaho, Wyoming, and Arizona, has been favorably reported by the Committee on Territories. Roger Q. Mills, of the Ways and Means Committee, is still hard at work among a great mass of tabulations, showing the difference between the Senate tariff bill and the Mills bill. He has been under continued pressure now for eighteen months, without recreation, and the great strain is beginning to tell upon him. He refutes the statement that President Cleveland has intimated any desire to him to have the two houses agree upon some measure to reduce the revenue by accepting part of the Senate bill; and it is presumable that his committee will bring in a measure not differing materially from the original Mills bill. Hence, it might as well be conceded that there will be no tariff legislation during the Fifteenth Congress.

The Oklahoma bill is now in the hands of the Senate Territorial Committee, although Chace from Rhode Island declared it was belittling the whole question of Territories to so consider a strip of uncultivated land. He was reminded that Oklahoma contained several times the area of little Rhodey, and subdivided. The friends of the measure feel sure of its passage in the Senate.

Everything is quiet at Samoa, and the conference between the United States and Germany, begun at Washington in 1887, in regard to the islands, will soon be resumed at Berlin. Meantime 3,000 tons of coal which, delivered at Pango-Pango coaling station, will cost about \$17 per ton, are to be transported thither from New York or Philadelphia. Pretty expensive, to be sure, but Uncle Sam always was willing to pay "millions for defense; not a cent for tribute."

The Nicaragua bill now lacks only the President's signature to become a law. It protects all our international rights without binding the United States to any pecuniary promises or holding out guarantees to capitalists.

The Sackville-West incident is again being revived in gossip circles with the report that a gentleman named Sir Julian Pauncefote will be the next British minister here. He is only a baronet; has never been educated in the wiles of diplomacy. Still he will be welcome when he arrives, which will not be until after the inaugural, and the wiser he is the fewer letters he will write.

President Cleveland contemplates laying in regard to West; and political agitators are endeavoring to make it appear that he will thus leave an international complication which will require great skill and firmness in his successor to smooth away.

Society just now is in a dizzy whirl, the entertainments of the past week having surpassed those of any previous one this season, both in number and brilliancy. Since the decollete question is settled nothing frets the mind of the belles, lest perchance their cheeks become noticeably hollow and their eyes dull with overexertion. Right here it may be well to state that Queen Victoria has decided that ladies may with propriety wear high or low neck dresses at her receptions hereafter. For the sake of harmony in appearance Mrs. Harrison should by all means persuade her husband to wear a swallow-tail coat. The beaux hope she will.

The most elegant of Secretary and Mrs. Whitney's justly notable receptions was the one given to President and Mrs. Cleveland, and was the event of the week. A large round table was arranged to accommodate twenty-six guests. Magna Charta roses were the principal flowers in the decoration of the apartments, which was something in beauty beyond description. Among the noted guests were Governor Hill, of New York, also W. S. Russell, the Democratic candidate for Governor of Massachusetts in the late election, and more than social interest attached to the event. New-Yorkers say the whole business was arranged by Whitney, the main purpose being to show that no ill-feeling exists between Cleveland and Hill, and that Empire State Democrats are united on Hill for President in 1892.

The dinner given by John McLean, editor of the Cincinnati *Enquirer*, who resides here, was also another significant affair, in

that it marked Mr. Blaine's first entrance this season into fashionable society. McLean has been very unpopular with the present administration, and if the truth must be told, he has been snubbed by social leaders. His recent reception, however, was conspicuous by the presence of Bayard, who left a reception at his own house to spend an hour with Blaine's friend, Whitney, Endicott, and others.

The state dinner of the week was given by the President and his wife in honor of the Supreme Justices. The usual profusion of floral decoration prevailed and bouquets for the ladies were of La France roses tied with souvenir ribbons of the White House.

Mrs. Daniel Lamont gave the first of very pleasant afternoon teas this week. It is definitely stated that the President's private secretary will be engaged by a ratifying corporation after March 4 and make his headquarters in New York City.

President Cleveland also will make the great metropolis his future home, and will occupy rooms in the magnificent Gerlach, where Mrs. Frank Leslie also has apartments. Mr. Cleveland means to demonstrate the fact that a man fit to be President of a great nation is fully equal to earning his own livelihood and does not require a pension.

It is useless for the preachers to grumble any more about the inaugural ball. The Indianapolis Ministerial Association has called upon the President-elect in a body and presented him with an address which is an indorsement of his past life and sets no stumbling block to his future.

Harrison has rented the Spencer cottage at Deer Park, within a stone's throw of where President and Mrs. Cleveland passed their honeymoon, and he will occupy it during the heat of the season.

Vice President Morton has bought from Secretary Whitney his pew in St. John's Episcopal Church. This is the ultra fashionable church of the Capital. Its capacity is great, and usually there are 200 or 300 applicants waiting a chance to buy the privilege of worshiping. Room, however, is usually found for people who are high enough up in official life.

Among the Republican representatives the conviction is daily growing that there must be another session of Congress in the early spring, but somebody who has been looking up the facts reports that President William Henry Harrison called an extra session of Congress and died within a month from the effects of the importunities of office-seekers. Therefore, it is predicted by this prophet that the grandson is not likely to subject himself to the same danger.

MORSE

THOMAS NICHOL DEAD.

The Earnest and Eccentric Advocate of "Honest Money" Expires in New York.

Thomas M. Nichol, whose connection with the "Honest Money League" of Chicago and other political associations was well known, died at the New York Columbia Institute for Chronic Diseases. He had been under treatment at the institute for several months for a disease of the spinal cord. Mr. Nichol was 44 years old.

Mr. Nichol, well known among public men throughout the country, and despite his eccentricities, was so much respected that his death will be sincerely mourned. He was a most eccentric man, a genius, and had a great mind, although, as Senator Sawyer once said of him, he "was all sail and no rudder."

Nichol was born in Ohio, went into the army, carried a musket for four years, and then at the close of the war landed in Illinois, down near Belleville, where he taught school for several winters and worked at blacksmithing summers. Then he moved out to Kansas, and lived at Humboldt and Fort Scott for a time. At the latter place he edited a newspaper for several months. His hobbies always were finance and politics, and he would walk twenty miles to hear a political speech. The winter debating societies were his delight, and it was said in that country that there was not a lawyer or a minister or a pedagogue in those counties who could stand up with him in a debate.

While he was blacksmithing, Nichol invented a plow, and was advised by dealers in agricultural implements to take it to the J. I. Case factory at Racine, Wis., where it was thought he could find a purchaser. This was in 1876. He landed at Racine one afternoon, and when he went up to the hotel learned that Gen. Samuel F. Cary was to make a greenback speech in the town hall that evening. Of course Nichol went to hear him, and during the progress of the speech asked Cary some questions. The speaker was very much embarrassed by the perplexing inquiries put to him by the stranger, and finally declined to answer any more of them. Mr. Nichol, an entire stranger to everybody in the room, then arose and asked permission to reply to Cary at the conclusion of the latter's remarks, but was prevented from doing so.

There was great excitement in the town, and Nichol found himself a hero. The Republicans hired the hall for the next evening, and Nichol made a speech in which he demolished Cary in such a manner as to command himself to the Wisconsin Republican Committee, by which he was employed to follow Cary about the State. When Cary finished his campaign in Wisconsin, Nichol followed him into Ohio, and then to Maine, and then all over the United States, making the acquaintance of Sherman, Garfield, Blaine, Conkling, Arthur, and other public men, and gaining for himself a phenomenal reputation.

The winter following the campaign of 1876 Nichol was employed to organize what was known as "The Honest Money League," in opposition to the inflation movement. John Sherman was the President and he was the Secretary, and he traveled from one end of the United States to the other lecturing on hard money and organizing branches of the league in all the cities and larger towns.

He was occupied at this work until the summer of 1880, when he went to Washington to take charge of the literary bureau organized to promote Sherman's Presidential prospects. He went to Chicago as a confidential agent of Sherman, and when Garfield was nominated returned with him to Menor, where he became his private secretary and served as such through the campaign of 1880.

When Garfield was elected he tendered Nichol the position of Private Secretary at the White House, but Nichol declined it, and was made Commissioner of Indian Affairs, in which position he served just two days.

On the evening of the second day he went to the White House with his resignation in his hand, and told the President that he could not stand it any longer; that he had not been able to eat or sleep, and would go crazy before the end of the week unless he was relieved from duty.

Although he was a great theorist in finance, he did not have the faculty of putting his ideas into practice, and those who were associated with him in business soon discovered it to their sorrow. In the first place, it was his habit, as he used to say, to keep his books in his head. He never made a record of any of his financial transactions, but depended entirely upon his memory. His carelessness was proverbial, and a friend who knew him said that if you would lock Nichol up in a room alone with \$1,000 in \$1 bills he would lose half of them before he got out. While he was at the Grand Pacific Hotel one day he had \$50,000 worth of bonds stolen from him, bonds issued by a Denver street railroad, which he was carrying to be sold in the East, and he did not even miss them until they had been found among the plunder of a thief who had been arrested by the police.

GUARDING THE BALLOT.

THE AUSTRALIAN SYSTEM OF VOTING EXPLAINED.

Details of a Method Which Is Becoming Widely Popular in This Country—Wigmore's Recently Published Work on the Plan—Its Origin and Growth.

In view of the evident need of an electoral reform in this country, says the Chicago *Inter Ocean*, and of the prominence with which the Australian method of voting has been suggested as a relief, the work entitled "The Australian Ballot System," by John H. Wigmore, of the Boston Bar, becomes of unusual interest.

Mr. Wigmore says: "It is proposed in the following introductory pages to sketch the history of the measure known as the Australian ballot system, as it passed from state to state in Australia, or to the mother country in Europe, thence westward to Canada, and eastward to continental countries, and finally westward to these United States, and in conclusion to take up briefly the reasons underlying its effectiveness and the application of its principles to practical conditions in this country."

The system is, briefly, as follows: The aim is to provide for a secret ballot. To secure this the ballots are printed at public expense, the names of all the candidates for all the offices being on one slip.

The voter, having passed the usual examination as to his eligibility, receives one of these slips from a ballot officer, and retires alone to an unoccupied compartment of a booth, a long counter divided off by partitions. Here he marks with a cross the name of the candidate for whom he intends to vote, folds up the slip and hands it to the presiding officer, who deposits it in the ballot-box.

The plan was introduced by Francis S. Dutton, member of the Legislature of South Australia from 1851 to 1865, and during that time twice at the head of the Government. The secret ballot was first

used, including violence and intimidation, improper influence, dictation by employers or organizations, the fear of ridicule or dislike, or of social or commercial injury. Tumult and disorder at the polls, bargaining and trading of votes, and all questionable practices depending upon the knowledge gained of the drift of the contest must disappear. Another essential feature of the Australian system is the development of the traditional system of nomination in England and Australia. Now the only avenue to an election seems to be through a nomination by a caucus or convention. The proposed system enables any body of citizens of the number prescribed by law (sometimes as low as 1 per cent. of the voting population) to have the name of their candidate printed on the same ballot with the names of all other candidates for the same office, so that before the law and before the voters all candidates and all party organizations will stand on a perfectly even footing.

The ballot act passed in Massachusetts in 1888 provides that all ballots shall be printed and distributed at public expense. Conventions, caucuses, or individual voters to the proper number may nominate candidates, any party being entitled to representation which, at the election next preceding, polled at least 3 per cent. of the entire vote. The certificate of nomination must be properly signed and attested. Nominations of candidates for any offices to be filled by the voters of the State at large may be made by nomination papers signed by not less than 1,000 qualified voters of the State.

Nominations of candidates for electoral districts or divisions of the State may be made by nomination papers signed in the aggregate for each candidate by qualified voters of such district or division, not less in number than one for every 100 persons who voted at the next preceding annual election in such district, but in no case less than fifty.

Nomination papers for State offices shall be filed at least fourteen days before the election, and for city offices at least six days before. The tickets must be

proposed by him in the session of Legislative Council of 1851, before representative government and universal suffrage had been granted to South Australia. In 1856 came the Constitution granting popular representation and manhood suffrage. The measure became a law, under the name of the elections act, in 1857. Soon the aspect of elections was completely changed. Riot and disorder disappeared entirely, and the day of polling saw such quietness that a stranger would not realize that an election was going on. Intimidation by landlords and dictation by trades unions alike ceased. Its operations have since been extended, so that now it applies to all elections alike—municipal, rural, and legislative—in the colony.

The system spread rapidly throughout Australia, and soon was heard of in England, where thoughtful men were anxiously looking for some solution of the problem of pure and tranquil elections. In the elections of 1858 matters reached a climax, and March, 1859, saw a committee appointed, with the Marquis of Hartington in the chair, to inquire into the existing methods of conducting elections, in order to provide further guarantees for the tranquillity, purity and freedom of parliamentary and municipal elections.

In 1870 the committee reported a recommendation that the secret ballot be adopted. The fruit of the movement was the ballot act of 1872, based substantially on the South Australian method, but modified, enlarged and carefully applied to the circumstances of its new home. It at once commanded itself to the people, and now covers almost the entire field of elections in Great Britain. Belgium and Norway soon adopted the secret ballot, and rural, and legislative—in the colony.

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