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### Washington Letter.

(From Our Regular Correspondent.)

Washington, Feb. 22, 1889.  
Senator Harris, of Tennessee, is at the head of a coalition of democratic senators who have started in on the impossible task of trying to shame the republican senators into confirming some of the nominations now pending before the senate. Mr. Harris has announced his purpose of making a motion every day to go into executive session in order to consider these nominations.

The facts in the case are without precedent, and should bring a blush to the cheek of every fair-minded republican. After the presidential election of 1880, Hayes sent to the senate 690 nominations, nearly all of which were confirmed. After Mr. Cleveland was elected, Arthur sent to the senate 612 nominations and all of them were confirmed except twenty. Now Mr. Cleveland has sent to the senate since the election of Harrison 458 nominations of which 133 relating to army and navy promotions that may be considered non-political have been confirmed. Of the 325 other nominations, the most of which were made to fill official vacancies, only 48 have been confirmed, leaving the enormous number 288 unacted upon. Such partisanship has never before been displayed by the senate, but even the most conservative republicans seem to glory now in what they are doing.

Congressional interference with southern elections does not seem to be popular in either house of the present congress. The house committee on elections has decided that it had no jurisdiction over the contest which the late J. M. Clayton, of Arkansas, was making at the time of his death. The seat Mr. Breckinridge was elected to, and the senate committee has tabled the Chandler and other resolutions of the same ilk. It has reported a much milder resolution, but even that is not certain to get through the senate.

An agreement on the omnibus territorial bill has been arrived at and only the presidential approval is necessary to make it a law. The act provides for elections in time for the senators and representatives from North and South Dakota, Montana and Washington to take their seats next December.

The president has signed the bill chartering the Nicaragua canal company.

The lobbyists interested in the passage of the direct tax bill are in great trouble. They succeeded in getting it through both houses of congress, but owing to unexpected opposition causing delay, it reached the president within less than ten days of the end of the session which makes it absolutely necessary that the measure shall be signed by the president before 12 o'clock on the fourth of March. This will give Mr. Cleveland an opportunity to see the bill die without the trouble of vetoing it. Many people still believe that it will be vetoed, and that the president will take this occasion to administer a sharp rebuke to congress in relation to this class of legislation.

The Pacific railroads have once more proven themselves stronger than congress. All hopes of getting the bill relating to their indebtedness to the government through at this session have been abandoned, and the senate has, at the request of the committee on Pacific railroads, recommitted the bill to that committee. Evidently Mr. Huntington has not been holding private conferences with that committee for nothing.

Minister Phelps, recently arrived from London, came to Washington this week to pay his respects to the president.

The open letter written to Mr. Cleveland by the recently removed civil service commissioner, Judge Edgerton, in which the latter was abusive of the former, will do Mr. Edgerton much more harm than

the president. Few people care to pay attention to the tales told by a discharged employe. Had the judge written such a letter a month ago and accompanied it with his resignation it would have created a political sensation, but now it raises but few comments.

The changes in the cabinet slates are more erratic than ever, as the time in which they can be made grows shorter. Names are proposed and gravely announced as decided upon only to be dismissed from prophesy the next morning. The latest, though not for that reason the most probable or reasonable slate, gives Mr. Blaine for secretary of state, Mr. Windom for the treasury, Gen. Rusk for the war department, Mr. Wanamaker for postmaster general and Mr. Noble, of Missouri, for secretary of the interior. The impression is prevalent that Mr. Harrison's law partner, Miller, will also sit at his council table.

### An Expensive Session.

In summing up the cost of the recent session of the legislature, the Oregonian says:

The legislature was the most expensive one the state has ever had. Secretary of State McBride estimated the cost of the session at \$40,000, and the legislature, to make due allowance for any discrepancy one way or the other, appropriated \$42,000 for the purpose. This amount, it has been found, will not cover the cost of the session, which will be somewhere between the amount appropriated and \$45,000, as compared with \$40,435 in 1887, \$30,000 in 1876, and \$12,000 in 1863.

It would be interesting to know what runs the cost of biennial legislation up to such a high pitch.

One of the most high-priced features is the clerk hire, which this year will cost the state nearly \$15,000. Last session clerk hire called for an outlay of nearly \$11,000, and at the present rate of increase nearly \$20,000 will be required to pay the clerks two years from now. The system of clerk hire prevalent at the past session and the session of 1887, was a disgrace to the state. Less than \$8,000 would have paid for all the clerk hire needed, and here we have a legislature appropriating nearly double the amount required for that purpose. The per diem of the members amounted to about \$11,000, about one-third less than the cost of clerk hire; their mileage amounted to about \$3500, and the stationery furnished them cost about \$3000. Thus there was expended for clerk hire, per diem, mileage and stationery \$32,500, leaving the balance of the \$45,000 for incidentals.

This does not include the cost of the codes, and supreme court reports furnished each member nor the cost of printing. The codes are worth \$13 a set and as each member was supplied, \$1170 was spent for that purpose. Each of the three volumes of the reports furnished or to be furnished is worth \$8, making \$18 for the set, and 90 sets are worth \$1620. The codes and reports represent an actual valuation of \$2700.

Each of the forty days of the session cost the state \$1025, and if the worth of laws are to be judged from a pecuniary standpoint each of the 170 represented a cash valuation to the state of about \$265.

Of the 170 laws enacted, 137 were general and special in their nature, while 33 related to the amending of city charters and the incorporation of towns. This beats the record of the legislature of 1887, which made 117 laws, of which 72 were general and 45 special in their character.

Jay Gould is said to be completely under the thumb of his son George, and to that enterprising young man is attributed the freezing out of Vice-President Hopkins of the Missouri Pacific railroad. The elder Gould discharged Morosini to please his son, and Hopkins was sacrificed because George was jealous of the favor shown him by his father.

### Harrison and Snort.

(Texas Story.)

Col. Snort of Texas is still at Indianapolis after an office, according to the following letter which he has written to young Fizzletop, who jerks the Archimedean lever in Crosby county:

DEAR JOHNNY:—I am still watching Jim McSnifter and his gang, but I have another reason in prolonging my visit to General Harrison. I am waiting to see Russ. Russ is to Harrison what Walker Blaine is to the Planned Knight, or Bismarck's son Herbert to the Iron Chancellor himself. He is the crown prince of the Harrison ranch. Russ has a great deal of influence with the old man, and vice versa. He has been in New York straightening out the tangle between Miller and Platt, which promised to split the party wide open. Now the rumput between Snort and McSnifter is just like the Miller-Platt fuss. If the administration is to be a success, I must be conciliated with an office that's got some fat in it. The administration has got to recognize me. The breach between Snort and McSnifter must be healed. This is more important than the Blaine business by a blank sight.

My plan is this: I will return to Crosby county and sulk in my tent. Then Harrison will send Russ down to Crosby County to examine into the political situation. As soon as he gets there I and the other influential Bill Snortites will capture him, and not let one of the McSnifter gang come within forty yards of him. They do say that Russ is an easy one to fool.

That's the way that Whitelaw Reid worked Russ in New York. As Russ is a sort of a one-horse journalist out in Omaha, we will have to get him up a press lunch, and he will be my guest while in Crosby county.

Look at the result of Russ being the guest of Whitelaw! He, Whitelaw, is already talked of as having a bully portfolio, tendered him, or going to London as minister. It seems to me, Johnny, that our chances ought to be as good as Whitelaw's. The Tribune has always been a republican paper, and there is no danger of its flopping, even if Whitelaw never gets a smell of the pie, but how is it with me and the Crosby County Clarion and Farmer's Vindicator? If I am neglected I am liable at any minute to flop back to the democracy and pour in broadsides of red-hot shot, and throw bum shells into Harrison's camp. I reckon that if Harrison knew that I am liable to become an easy prey to the enemy he wouldn't hesitate long in pledging me the little position of honor and trust I sigh for.

I bet if he knew the influence of my paper, and what a nasty quill I sling when I get mad at an administration, he would invite me to come right up and take tea with him and Carrie, which he hasn't done yet, although he knows that I am here on expense at a hotel where I am stopping, at \$2 a day in cash, unless I can persuade the landlord to take it out in an ad. in my paper, which he will have to do, anyhow.

The last thing I said to Harrison was: Mr. President, Bill Snort is no Allison. When I say that I think I will accept, you can count on me as one of the bulwarks of the administration. I'll not wire you back that you will have to get somebody else, as Allison did. You see, Mr. President, I've got no future presidential aspirations. That's where I've got the bulge on Allison.

All the reply the president made was to stroke that long goat like beard of his, and smile a sort of frozen smile, which I didn't like.

Gen. Mosby is here. He is as confidential as molasses with the president, and comes here on special invites. He has been to the president's house twice. I know Mosby personally so I went over to see him at the New Dominion

House. I asked him what was the reason Harrison had snubbed the South, and Texas in particular.

Says I: "Mosby, what makes you so devilish popular with the next administration while my claims are ignored? Like you, I bushwhacked some myself during the war. No federal train with whisky and provisions was safe when Snort and his rangers were around. You became a repentant rebel, and flopped, and so did I, and what's more I've got a newspaper behind me and you haven't, and yet Harrison don't seem to care to know me, while he snuggles up to you like a sick kitten to a tepid brick."

Mosby laughed, and replied that the greatest mistake I had made was in not being related by consanguinity or affinity, or both, to the Harrisons. He, Mosby, was from Charles county, Virginia, where Harrison's ancestors came from, and had fixed it so that his grandmother was a first cousin of old Tippecanoe. Mosby is working Harrison to appoint him consul-general at Hong Kong, which place he got from Hayes in 1877, and it looks very much as if he was there already.

My talk with Mosby opened my eyes to the necessity of a political aspirant having the right kind of ancestors. I have neglected this matter heretofore, but am making up for lost time. I have been at all the afternoon on a family tree, and you can bet that I have got the Snorts and Harrisons pretty well mixed up. Of course, I am as yet nothing but an amateur at this business, but the ancestors get there all the same. I have brought the original Snort and the original Harrison over from England in the same ship in 1624. This is not as easy a business as it looks, but there is nothing like giving up one's whole mind to a thing. It will make Jim McSnifter sick when he reads about how thick the Harrisons and Snorts used to be.

If I had time to go to New York and consult with a regular ordained heraldist it would be an easy thing to show that the Major Gen. Harrison who was hung by Charles II. was related to De Snort, who came over with William the conqueror, but I haven't got money or time to go to New York just at this crisis. I should have attended to these things before. It is very careless in a man who is liable to become the cynosure of the eyes of the whole people—referring to myself, of course—to put off until the eleventh hour providing himself with the requisite high-toned ancestors, but it can't be helped now. Your benefactor,

BILL SNORT.  
P. S.—Put Whitelaw Reid's paper on exchange list, and see that the bull-pup in the back yard gets his meals regular. B. S.

### Miscellaneous.

"John," said a wife who was supposed to be on her deathbed, "in case of my death I think a man of your temperament and domestic nature, aside from the good of the children, ought to marry again."

"Do you think so, my dear?"

"I certainly do, after a reasonable length of time."

"Well, now, do you know, my dear, that relieves my mind of a great burden. The little Widow Jenkins has acted rather demure toward me ever since you were taken sick. She is not the woman that you are, of course, a strong-minded, intelligent woman of character, but she is plump and pretty, and I am sure she would make me a very desirable wife."

The next day Mrs. John was able to sit up, the following day she went down stairs, and on the third day she was planning for a new dress.

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