

The New Secretary of the Treasury.

When Richardson was obliged to leave the Treasury Department, because of the odium which attached to the Sanborn contracts and the general mismanagement of the national finances, President Grant nominated and the Senate confirmed as his successor, General Bristow of Kentucky. The question arose as to who Bristow was, and it transpired that he had been a Brigadier General in the Union army during the war, and was a lawyer of some eminence in his own State. He was first nominated as Williams' successor for the Attorney Generalship when that officer was named Chief Justice, and it looks a good deal as if the President never lost sight of a man when he once brought him forward, but kept him in the line of promotion. But we are not prepared to find fault with the nomination and confirmation of the new Secretary of the Treasury, if he will but act up to the example he has set in the opening of his career. He shows character, self respect, and a punk—or, we might better style it, unexampled firmness in the outset, the like of which has not visited Washington of late years. Sawyer was Assistant Secretary when Bristow took possession. Sawyer was implicated in the previous misdeeds and corrupt practices and mismanagement that led to Richardson's removal, and it became current matter of news that Sawyer intended and expected to maintain his position. To this report Bristow responded that if Sawyer remained he himself should not do so, and the Assistant Secretary thereupon found it convenient to resign.

It is notoriously the case that the Treasury Department supports a small army of supernumeraries; clerks who draw salaries and do not work, or are on the pay roll and do not work; the pets of leading Congressmen, and as a compliment to their power and influence allowed to be vampires of the Treasury. Bristow ordered, soon after his installation into office, that the working force of the Department should be reduced to the least number necessary to do its labor, and the officer on whom it devolved to decapitate the race of leeches and frauds came to him with fear and trembling to plead that he would thus offend the most powerful men in the nation and draw down on himself the wrath of the most influential, if forced to carry out the mandate of removal. To do so he must be backed up in the most substantial shape. The Secretary gave his assurance that he should be sustained, and the removals were accordingly made.

So far, then, Bristow is a man not cast in the common mould in which great men take shape at Washington. He cannot even be said to resemble in character and want of firmness too many of the President's appointees. He is a strange animal in the Washington zoology, and we must confess that we glory in his spunk. The next question is: Will he hold out to the end and never let upon speculators and other corruption still he has rivalled the work of Hercules in cleaning out the Augean stables, where six thousand cattle, equal to those kept in the Treasury, had been stalled for so long, or will his virtue weaken and lose its pristine vigor and purity to grow tame and inefficient like the staple of Washington official goodness? We hope to hear that Bristow will succeed, and fill the bill ably and fully. And if so, we shall watch his career with interest in the future. A common honesty is the basis of financial success, and the early indications favor the view that the Treasury will be well administered.

The currency bill passed by the Senate, so far as the numerous amendments made to it can be understood from the meager, indefinite and somewhat contradictory reports of the telegraph, has provisions as follows: Limiting the national currency to a circulation of \$182,000,000, and providing for a reduction to a maximum of \$100,000,000, by retirement of twenty-five per cent. of the circulation issued under the provisions of the bill until that amount is reached. Issuing, on and after January 1, 1878, registered bonds—bearing 4 per cent. interest, redeemable in gold coin in fifteen years—in exchange for United States notes. The House bill provides for issuing, on January 1, 1875, thirty-year bonds, bearing 4 per cent. interest and ultimately redeemable in gold coin. It also provides for a return to free banking. Inasmuch as almost every Senator and Representative has an individual theory of finance which he is anxious to force upon the nation, the mind may well be appalled at the illimitable prospect of amendments and substitutes upon these two bills which are yet possible.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

We do not see that the cause of woman suffrage is making much headway at the present time, though we do see that woman's influence is increasing, and that she is finding wider fields for labor and more encouragement than formerly. The recent dispatches from California show that local option carries in almost every town where a vote is taken, and that is due almost entirely to the influence of women. They are learning how to exercise their influence to accomplish results. They have removed the crusade from the streets and the saloons to the vicinity of the ballot box, and it would seem that they are quite as powerful as if armed with the ballot in their own hands.

The Chicago Tribune makes the following allusion to a passage at arms on the woman suffrage question that lately took place in Washington:

"The first battle for woman suffrage in the National Senate was fought and lost yesterday. The bill erecting the new Territory of Pembina was under discussion. Amendment was offered, to the effect that the right of suffrage should not be abridged on account of race, color, or sex. Morton favored the amendment in a speech which was an excellent specimen of pure bombast; Carpenter, Ferry (Mich.) Stewart, Flanagan, and Sargent did likewise. The amendment was opposed by such men as Thurman, Conkling, Edmunds, and Bayard. A significant incident in the debate was the refusal of Stewart to extend the operation of the proposed experiment to the District of Columbia. None of the woman-suffrage Senators wanted to reduce their flights of rhetoric to practice in their own neighborhood. They were content to see how the thing would work in far-away Pembina, where there are few women, and no political questions of pressing interest. The amendment and bill were rejected."

And the following, from the same paper, explains the position of the people of Michigan, who have a constitutional amendment pending which is to decide if the women of that State are to have the elective franchise:

"In default of any other political issue, the people of Michigan are just now violently exercised upon the question of woman-suffrage, as they will have to vote upon the amendment in September next. The woman-suffragists are making an active canvass, and have brought out Mrs. Cady Stanton, who is stamping the State. Her manner of opening the canvass, however, has not been very satisfactory, and some of the friends of the movement are beginning to question whether she is not doing more harm than good to the cause. Our exchanges from that State treat the movement as the most important public question now pending in Michigan."

Reciprocity Treaty.

We understand that for some weeks negotiations have been in progress at Washington between Mr. Fish, Secretary of State, and Mr. Thornton, the British Minister, and Mr. Geo. Brown, of Toronto, representing the Dominion of Canada, concerning the re-establishment of reciprocal trade between the United States and the British Provinces. Apart from the general importance of having such relations restored, certain treaty stipulations between the two countries are rendered necessary under the treaty of Washington. Under the 23d article of the treaty, Commissioners were to be appointed to determine a money compensation to be paid by the United States for the employment of the coast fisheries of the Dominion. Pending the appointment of this Commission, it is proposed by Great Britain and the Canadas to waive this claim, or to include it in some general adjustment of commercial relations between the United States and Canada. This friendly offer was received with satisfaction by the President and Secretary of State, and the representatives of both Governments have addressed themselves to the consideration of some form of treaty which shall comprehend more than the old treaty of 1854-56, and which shall be mutually advantageous. The result of these negotiations will probably result in a treaty that shall comprehend:

- 1. The waiver of the money compensation by the United States for the fisheries under the Washington Treaty.
2. That the Canadian canals, from Lake Erie to Montreal, shall be enlarged within three years, at the cost of Canada, so as to admit the passage of vessels 200 feet in length and 45 in breadth, and with a depth equal to the capacity of the lake harbors.
3. That, during the continuance of the treaty, all the Canadian canals, and the Erie, Whitehall, Sault Ste. Marie, and Lake St. Clair Canals shall be open to the vessels and boats of both countries on the same conditions and terms.
4. That the free navigation of Lake Michigan be put on the same terms as the free navigation of the St. Lawrence River.
5. That the navigation of the St. Clair Canal shall be maintained at the expense of both countries in proportion to their commerce thereon.
6. That the products of the farm, forest, mines, and water, and also animals, meats, and products of the dairy be admitted into both countries duty free, as was provided in the treaty of 1854. This list may possibly be extended

ed so as to include agricultural implements, manufactures of iron and steel, and of wood, mineral oils, salt, a few other articles. There may be other things which the contracting parties may consider proper and just to include in this treaty, and which would be equally satisfactory.

The great consideration in favor of this treaty to the West is the agreement on the part of Canada to enlarge, at her own expense, the Welland and St. Lawrence Canals within a specified time, and to permit the use of these canals to American vessels on the same terms as Canadian vessels. The importance of this concession cannot be overestimated. The cost of these works will not be less than \$8,000,000, and when completed they will give the long-needed water-route to the ocean and to an Eastern market. The opening of this route will inevitably be accompanied by the connection of the St. Lawrence River with Lake Champlain, and thus, during the whole season of navigation, there will be a continuous water-route of unlimited capacity from the lake ports to the interior of New England and New York. It will reduce freights from Chicago to the ocean market very largely, will shorten the time of the water-route at least one week, and the capacity for transportation being unlimited, there will be no complaint of inability to move the productions of the West.—Chicago Tribune.

THE GRANGE.

VIRGINIA.—The following card in the Petersburg Index, gives a hopeful account of grange matters in Virginia: "We confidently believe that in twelve months from this time every county in the state of Virginia will be represented in the State Grange, and in many counties every township; and even then we can confidently say that not the slightest interference will be had with the politics of the country. We have for our object higher aims and nobler purposes—the moral and social elevation of our people. We have united together in a common brotherhood for our mutual protective interests an advancement and this we have done without the slightest infringement upon the rights of others and by the help of God and our own strong arms we expect to go on till we kindle a flame of brotherly love, and bind together under one common banner, the farmers of Virginia."

A farmers' fire insurance association was organized in Washington county, Iowa, last week, on the mutual plan. The articles are not to be of binding force until 100 members have been enrolled. The initiation fee is \$1. Property is to be insured at two-thirds its appraised value, and whenever a fire takes place among the insured an equal assessment will be made on the membership. The membership is not confined to Patrons.—Burlington Herald.

Whiteside County Council, Illinois, has opened the stock books of "The Farmers' Co-operative Manufacturing Company," capital \$100,000 in shares of 24 each. All granges taking stock are to order implements direct, thus saving agency and advertising expenses. The works are to be established at Lyndon, on Rock River, where a \$30,000 site, three acres in extent, with 1,500 inches of water, has been given to the Patrons.

Agents for a "Chicago grange store" are selling coffee by sample in Monroe county, Ind., thirty pounds for \$2, where clubs of sixty are made, one-half cash down, balance on delivery of goods. The goods have not been delivered, as a matter of course.

The order is prospering wonderfully in Texas. Already over 400 granges have been formed and it is expected that fully 1,000 granges will be represented in the State Grange, which meets in August.

Grange in Idaho.

A Boise paper says: On last Thursday, May 21st, a Grange was organized in this city, at Temple Hall, by Mr. Frank Shelton, Deputy, under the name of Boise Grange. The following officers were elected and installed: L. E. Carter, M.; W. H. Drake, O.; I. N. Cosson, I.; Daniel Bacon, S.; John Wilson, A. S.; J. B. Walling, C.; John McClellan, T.; G. D. Ellis, S.; R. B. Wilson, G. K.; Miss A. Bacon, P.; Mrs. M. Robbins, P.; Miss Ella Carter, F.; Mrs. T. J. Ellis, L. A. S.

BURNING THE DEAD.—This topic is just now widely discussed in European and some American papers. The defenders of the new method are fascinated with the idea of burning the mortal remains of their friends and preserving their ashes in vases and urns. They start from a medical basis, claiming that grave yards are dangerous to the health of the living, forgetting that the figures on the subject give them little aid. It is claimed to be a return to the old method. It was practiced among the Greeks in the time of Homer, though burying was more generally in vogue. The Romans at first buried, though burning was not unknown. Christianity led to its rejection by both Greeks and Romans. Christianity, too will retain the custom of burying, not because the resurrection of the body is excluded by cremation, but because the ideas of the age will not permit such a revolution.—Review.

WHEAT IN AUSTRALIA.—The Queensland of March 7th, publishes an official report of yield of wheat in Allora, Queensland, last season. The number of acres reported was 300; number of bushels, 11,562; average yield per acre 38 bushels and 32 pounds; highest yield per acre, 50 and 15-60ths bushels; lowest, 26 bushels.

Farmers' Conventions.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., June 10. The Farmers' Convention met here this morning, took a recess, and re-assembled at 2 o'clock p. m. A State Central Committee, consisting of one from each Congressional District was appointed. A permanent organization was effected by the election of J. M. Allen as President, with a Vice President and Secretary. The Committee on Resolutions reported a long platform, which was adopted unanimously. They declare it to be the duty of voters to attend all conventions and elections, in order to elect good men; to dissolve their allegiance with either political party now in this country; insist upon re-formation and economy in governmental affairs; demand immediate reform in civil service abuses; favor improvement of the navigation of lakes and rivers; oppose further land grants or subsidies to corporations; favor a repeal of the National Banking law, and direct the issue by the Government of a legal tender currency interchangeable for Government bonds bearing the lowest possible rate of interest; demand a revision of the Patent laws; endorse the railway legislation of the State, and demand its enforcement; declare that the right of the Legislature to control railroads must be vindicated and established, and maintain and assert that they will agree to no compromise in the matter; condemn the reception of railroad passes by public officials; oppose a protective tariff; declare for a tariff for revenue alone; condemn the contract system in the construction of public works as a fruitful source of corruption and fraud at the expense of the laboring and mechanical classes, and demand its reform. The Convention adopted the name of Independent Reformers, and appeal to all classes to support the platform and nominations, and to the laboring classes to make Congressional nominations in accordance with the platform. David Gore of Macoupin county was nominated for State Treasurer; S. Elder, of McLean county, Superintendent of Public Instruction. A resolution opposing the further issue of paper money and favoring a return to specie payment was defeated by a very large vote.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., June 10. The Convention of Farmers adopted resolutions, prefaced by a long preamble, enumerating the grievances complained of and remedies therefor, resolving that henceforth they would support the most capable candidate, regardless of party platform; oppose a second term of office; condemn the practice of legislators receiving free railroad passes; denounce the salary grab; advocate a reduction of taxes and general expenses. For Secretary of State, N. S. White; Auditor, Ebenezer Henderson; Treasurer, Morris C. Bennett; Attorney General, James Michell; Judge of the Supreme Court, Horace F. Bodie; County Superintendent of Public Instruction, Clarkson Davis.

Shakespearean Readings.

A very numerous audience, composed of the elite of Salem and its vicinity, among whom we noticed his Excellency, the Governor, and others of the Executive Department, the Circuit Judge and a plentiful sprinkling of lawyers, doctors and ministers, filled the opera House last night, to listen to the reading prepared by the Shakespearean clubs of this city. A more appreciative audience, a more satisfactory performance, or a better selected program, could not have been desired.

The first selection from the great dramatist was the scene between Coriolanus and his wife and mother, before the walls of Rome, which was rendered with a completeness, pathos and beauty, surprising in amateurs.

The second selection was a series of three extracts from the historical play of King John, which were connected by some explanatory remarks of Mr. Walton the manager who we thought exhibited unmistakable signs of "stage ague." The sorrows of Constance, (Mrs. George H. Jones) and the pathetic pleadings of Prince Arthur, gave great interest to these scenes, and showed the dramatic powers of the performers to be far above average.

The trial scene from the Merchant of Venice followed. Portia, the disguised judge, was represented by Miss Clara Watt whose exquisite conception and artistic rendition of the part could not be excelled. It was simply beautiful. The part of Shylock was ably filled by Hon. Rufus Mallory, of this city—Antonio, Bassanio, Gratiano, and the Duke, by Messrs. Stibson, Patterson, Bewley and Chamberlin, gentlemen who here made their first and very creditable appearance, and the *tout ensemble* was strikingly sensible.

The evening's entertainment concluded with an assemblage on the stage of the beauty and gallantry of Salem, at a simulated wedding scene, in which the beautiful bride, Miss Emma Gilbert, delivered a temperance lecture calculated to do more good than seven years of "crusading."

Much credit should be given to Mrs. Geo. H. Jones, to whose energy and talent the evening's success was partly due. Her personation of Constance was a thorough piece of acting. Mrs. Bowman, as Volucmia was very successful, she looked the part well, and her rendition showed careful preparation. Her sister, Miss Clara Watt, was equally happy in giving the character of Portia. The pleadings of Miss Lena Williams, as Arthur, brought tears to the eyes of the audience. All did their parts well. The gentlemen named deserve a fuller mention, but we need only say that they sustained the characters assigned them as well as the ladies did theirs. It was one of the most enjoyable evenings ever spent in Salem, and was a classic performance of which Mr. Walton, the manager, and his accomplished assistants, may feel justly proud.

WHO THEY WERE.—The performers who took part in the Shakespearean reading the other evening were, Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Bowman, Misses Clara Watt, Dora Hernandez, Lena Williams and Marian Clarke, and Messrs. Chesborough, Gilroy, Mallory, Stibson, Bewley and Chamberlin. Mr. Chesborough had a leading part and should have been mentioned as one of the most successful performers. Our readers, who were of the audience, must have noticed our failure to do him justice. He was one of the most energetic in forwarding the enterprise and deserved mention as much as any one.

A famine is prevailing in Asia Minor. It is estimated that the daily number of deaths from starvation in the Town of Angora is 100. Angora is 235 miles distant from Constantinople, and is a city of 30,000 inhabitants. If the distress there is so great, the condition of the people in the country region must be terrible.

FORMATION OF A COMPANY TO SHIP OREGON PRODUCE DIRECT TO EUROPE.—"The Oregon Shipping Company of Scotland" has issued its prospectus. The capital at the outset is to be \$150,000, of which \$46,000 is limited to Oregon subscribers, with power to double or treble the company's capital if required. The company's circular begins as follows: "For the last three years those interested in shipping Oregon's agricultural productions out of the State have complained of their grain, flour, and other produce paying tribute and going to San Francisco, to be there re-shipped at considerable cost to Europe as California produce; of the large profits so consumed by middlemen but of Oregon, thereby materially reducing the Oregon farmers' profit; of the great scarcity of shipping from Oregon to foreign ports, by which large freights are chargeable on wheat and flour shipped to Europe from Oregon direct; and of the want of an institution in Oregon to make advance on shipments to Europe, and which would at the same time sell on commission in Great Britain so exported. It is to rectify as far as practicable these complaints, and to afford Oregon shippers facilities which have not hitherto been enjoyed, that this company has been formed in Scotland. The company's head office will be at Dundee, Scotland, with a branch office at Portland." One particular clause reads thus: "The promoters' object is not to limit the stock to a few hands, but widely to spread it among farmers all over the North Pacific coast."

OREGON GOING AHEAD.—The San Francisco News Letter of the 6th says: Oregon is at last waking up, the painter is to be cut, and San Francisco no longer to be a toll gate for Portland. Mr. Heck, of Dundee, is at present in Portland arranging for a Scottish Oregon Company, with the object of direct shipment of wheat, etc., to Dundee; and we hear of an Anglo-Oregonian Company, who are making arrangements for extensive trade. The great desideratum of all provident cities, viz., a saving bank, has been incorporated under the name of the Iberian Savings and Loan Society. A lease has been obtained of the Bank of British Columbia's old premises, and some of our leading financiers are sending up a gentleman by the John L. Stevens, to place matters in working order, for immediate business.

WHEAT IN ENGLAND.—Official returns of imports into the United Kingdom shows that the total imports of wheat in the two months ending February 28th, 1874 was 7,208,720 cwt., of which the imports from Russia was 1,250,591 cwt., a decrease of 1,177,313 cwt., from January and February of 1873; and from the United States, 1,455,942 cwt., valued at \$3,600,974, an increase of 2,020,051 cwt. The increase in United States imports of flour was from 100,227 cwt., to 710,380 cwt. Counting wheat and flour, the United States results in the two periods were, respectively, 4,325,774 and 10,410,552 bushels. The price of this wheat was equivalent, respectively, to \$1.70 and \$1.81 per bushel. For these periods, in which a small total increase is shown, the Russian receipts were reduced about one-half; those of the United States were doubled.

LOST CHILD.—On Thursday of last week, a little son of John Walters, who lives near the Moon Ranch, started out with his little dog to hunt rabbits, and not knowing which way he was going, was soon lost. The little fellow, not three years old, tramped bravely on, and when night overtook him he was in Meville's woods, where he took lodging. The next morning an old gentleman, a book agent, found the young hero emigrating from a grapevine thicket, crying for water. The old gentleman took the child up in his arms—the little fellow kissed him joyfully, and the little dog seemed to be as glad as his little master—and, laying down his carpet-bag, started home with him, which he reached in a short time. The joy of the parents at the sight of their child was unspeakable. The whole neighborhood had been aroused to look for him; wheat and barley fields had been diligently searched for miles around, and the despairing and half-crazed parents expected he had fallen in the river, but the young hunter had kept the woods with his dog, and said he was hunting "wabbit, and the wabbit tried to bite him."—[Tehama Independent, May 30th.]

It was stated in the Senate of Massachusetts, a day or two ago, that conductors of the Eastern Railway had confessed that in a series of years they had stolen \$150,000 to \$300,000 annually from the company.

The Chicago Prairie Farmer says: At no time since the Great Lakes were first whitened by sail has money invested in shipping paid so poorly as at present. We learn that coal is on its way to this city from Buffalo, the freight on which is only twenty-five cents per ton. As we write, corn is being contracted for Buffalo at three and three-fourths cents per bushel, and other grains at proportionally low rates. Counting out the expense of running the vessels, and insurance, there is hardly anything left for the use of the money invested in shipping. The recent introduction of steam barges has produced quite a revolution in the carrying trade, especially in the matter of wood and lumber. One of these sometimes has four or five barges in tow. Only two men are required for each barge, their only duties being to steer the craft. These steam barges make quick trip and at stated times. At present there are owned in Chicago, 646 vessels of all kinds navigating the great lakes, and represent a tonnage of 104,827. American crafts navigating the great lakes are classed as follows: Sailing vessels, 1,585; steam vessels, 809; unrigged vessels, 3,114. Total number, 5,512. These vessels have a capacity of 777,375.18. It cost to build and rig this fleet of vessels over \$32,000,000.

NATIONAL SECURITIES.—On the 20th of May United States five per cent. bonds of the new issue were selling on Wall Street at two per cent. above par in gold, after deducting the interest accrued up to date. The New York papers show that the same bonds in London were at the same time from one to two per cent. above par, with interest to date deducted. There are still \$30,000,000 United States six per cent. bonds outstanding; and the Tribune calls on the Administration to avail itself of the present opportunity to refund the whole amount in five per cent. bonds. Why not, since the fives are above par in gold. The saving would be \$9,300,000 a year in gold to the country.