

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7, 1885. It has been a little bit dull at the Capitol this week, and will probably be dull until the 22nd of February, when the monument will be dedicated, and then for two weeks or until the fourth of March, the city will be as lively as crowds and great expectations can make it.

Society, dear, simpering, weedy mouthed society continues to smile, and smile as he will. Indeed it must be chronicled that society has smiled too much and too often this winter. The punch has been too heavy, and there have been some rows and orgies in high life. These things do not get into the papers, they are personal matters, and not of sufficient importance to be spread before the world, but the result of certain disgraceful episodes at dancing parties and receptions is that the punch will be brewed milder in certain West End houses in the future.

Mr. Beecher was here during the week as a lecturer and there is no doubt that he was cut by his old Republican admirers. It is true that the Democrats helped to fill the breach, but the Democrats are not numerous or rich yet. The hall was not much more than half full, and for the first time in years the great orator saw many vacant seats before him. If he will come again next year he will have a better house; he is an entertaining lecturer, and, as a prophet, is superior to the Editor of the New York Sun.

Mr. Cleveland has invited a large number of prominent Democrats to meet him in New York, and so far as heard from none have sent their regrets. There was almost a quorum of Congressmen in New York on Friday. A Virginia delegation has gone to urge the appointment of Mr. Barbour as Postmaster General. Mr. Barbour is well fitted for the place, and his appointment would mean the utter extinction of the pestilent little Mahone.

The Democratic statesmen who have returned from New York seem to be one and all impressed with the honesty of purpose, and good common sense of Mr. Cleveland. It is observed also that they have caught from Mr. Cleveland the contagion of holding their tongues. They persistently refuse to disclose any private conversations held between President-elect Cleveland, and his party associates. The Republicans are looking and praying for factional fights and political blunders in the new administration. Many Democratic leaders have been to see Mr. Cleveland in the last six weeks, and they have all come away pleased with the coming President and determined to do all in their power to make his administration successful.

There is prospect of a still further reduction of postage, by increasing the weight of first-class matter that may be carried for two cents, from a half ounce to two ounces. The Committee appointed by the publishers of the West and North West to urge upon Congress the propriety and justice of reducing the postage on newspapers, report progress which is encouraging. The House committee on Post Offices is in favor of reducing postage from two cents a pound to one cent. The present tax of postage on newspapers is a very heavy one, amounting to a little less than two million dollars per annum. The postage was put on about ten years ago by certain men in Congress who took this method of revenge for harsh criticism received from the press. One of them was Mr. Hamlin of Maine who thought that the large city papers would be the chief sufferers, but the result was that the tax was felt most heavily by the weekly papers. The large daily papers avoided some of the expense by employing Express Companies at cheaper rates. It is thought that a uniform postage of one cent per pound will result in giving the government all the business, with only a slight decrease in the present revenue.

Tramps are given ten days on bread and water by the Omaha Police Justice.

SAUCE FOR THE GOOSE, ETC.

Before Grant was elected to the Presidency his best friends will not claim that he was a saint, and yet the Democratic press did not continually harp on that period of his life, and keep standing in type the fact that he was a drunkard, and, in Oregon's early days, not much removed from what is known in this times as a "squaw man," nor have the anti-administration papers kept continually flinging the notorious story in the face of Arthur that even since his advent to the White House, he has not been as pure as snow. It was not love for the man that deterred them, but respect for their positions. The Oregonian will do well to follow the example of its opponents, and respect Cleveland as President elect of the United States, if not as an individual. No possible good can come from the everlasting snarl about "Maria Halpin," while it may result in a great deal of harm to the domestic circle of prominent Republicans.

If President Cleveland is to be fought by resurrecting a private scandal and keeping it continually before the people, no one would blame the Democrats for striking back with the same kind of weapons—an abundance of which Oregon supporters of the next administration can find without going out of their own State—and prominent Republicans would have to look well to their closet doors, for there would be an exhibiting of skeletons that would belittle the catacombs of Rome.—Sunday Welcomer.

FACTS AND NEWS.

The winter is so severe in the Kansas ranges that cattle are dying at a fearful rate. A crematorium has been formed at Buffalo, N. Y., with a capital stock of \$10,000. The Massachusetts Legislature has refused to allow a woman preacher to perform the marriage ceremony.

A forty thousand dollar hotel which in 1864 adorned the now deserted old town of Pithole, in Pennsylvania, has just been sold for kindling wood. A schoolmistress in Barry county, Michigan, was dismissed because she declined to eat fat pork, the people believing that she was attempting to put on "too much style."

The latest style of engagement ring represents a square lump of sugar of chased gold, with a heart beside it. Most girls would rather have sweetheart spelt with a solitary diamond.

The run on the New Haven Savings Bank brought out several persons with bank books who have been drawing aid from the city for years. Their supplies from that quarter will be stopped.

The Canada Pacific Company, it is reported, wants the Dominion Government to buy back all their unsold land at two dollars an acre, and there are indications that the Government intends doing so.

A man got up recently at a church meeting in Augusta, Me., and after explaining that he had been reduced from affluence to poverty, requested the church to return him the sum of \$2000 which he had given to it when he was wealthy. He didn't get it.

Bismarck is again ill, and has been ordered to leave Berlin for repose. England built the past year 184 vessels, of 130,000 tons burden, for foreign account.

The effect of the news from Khar, Loum on the trade and amusement world in London has been paralyzing. Frank Abner, aged fifteen years, brained his grandmother with an ax because she reprimanded him at Metropolitan, Ill., last week.

A marriage has been arranged between the Princess Clementine, daughter of King Leopold of Belgium, and Prince Albert Victor, elder son of the Prince of Wales.

The fund for a gift to Bismarck on his seventieth birthday is growing to enormous proportions. The English Const-General at Berlin has subscribed 150,000 marks.

The trouble in the Hooking Valley continues. Rumors of an attack by the strikers in the neighborhood of Nelsonville and Buckstell, Saturday, created great alarm.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

In the last twenty years the national debts of the world have increased from \$13,000,000,000 to \$23,000,000,000. This is apart from municipal and corporate indebtedness, which, during the last quarter of a century, have been added to prodigiously. The only nations that have succeeded in getting rid of any part of their indebtedness are the United States and Great Britain.

There are, it seems, \$20,000,000 in securities and money in the treasury of the United States that no one claims. In times gone by sundry persons have bought government securities which they have lost or which have been destroyed; hence the twenty millions of unclaimed bonds in the treasury. There are savings banks in New York which have in their vaults large sums that will never be claimed. They belong to poor people who have died or moved away, or forgotten that they had ever any money in the bank. There are supposed to be some eighty million dollars of unclaimed money in banks and trust companies throughout the country.

Despite the ill-success and loss of life of former polar expeditions, a Russian enterprise is now projected to reach the North Pole. They expect to start with sledges and dogs from the New Siberian Islands, which are nine hundred nautical miles from the North Pole. Geographers insist that Arctic exploration has more than paid expenses. It has enabled us to improve our maps, and the blank spaces of sixty years ago are now filled with large islands, archipelagos and vast seas. New whaling and sealing grounds have been found, and also cryolite, a mineral of great commercial value.

One fifth of the habitable globe is under the sway of Queen Victoria. Her subjects number 315,000,000, and Australia and Canada have room for 200,000,000 more. The annual revenue of the empire amounts to \$1,018,000,000. Local taxes swell this sum \$305,000,000 more, so that the entire cost of government is about \$7.50 per capita annually. These are impressive figures; but our own country is rapidly overtaking Great Britain in wealth and population. Our relative increase is much greater. In the pregnant words of Mr. Gladstone, "The United States are passing England at a canter."

London is the greatest city the world ever saw. Babylon, Thebes, Rome were never so populous, while the greatest city of India at the present time contains less than one-fourth the inhabitants. Within the borders of the metropolitan police districts, a circle of fifteen miles, it is computed there are at the present time upwards of four million persons. London is three times more populous than St. Petersburg, twice as populous as Constantinople, with two-thirds more people in it than Paris, and more than even the living multitudes of Peking. All Scotland but equals it in the number of its people, and half as many Yorkshire men again are numbered in their own county could find accommodation within its circle. Every eight minutes of every day of every year a soul goes out of London, and in every five minutes of every day a new mortal enters upon this scene of its probation. It is at once the center, the seat of government, the court of fashion, the home of all the charities, and the general rendezvous of all criminal and desperate characters of the United Kingdom.

The deepest sea-sounding ever made, says the Scientific American, was made in the Pacific Ocean near the entrance to Behring's Sea. The bottom was struck at 4,655 fathoms. The cast was made from the United States schooner Tuscarora. The shallowest water in the middle of the Atlantic, 731 fathoms, shows the subsidence of mountains.

America is the scene of many notable railway enterprises. One of the most difficult feats is to get to the top of a mountain in a steam car. This has been accomplished frequently, however, and by different devices. The railway at Mount Washington climbs the uprise, advancing forward like a cat climbing a tree. The iron clamps or claws are advanced and the train of cars are pulled up by main force. The method is entirely different at Central City, Colorado, the cars moving forward then backward, but each change switches them off to a higher elevation. It is now proposed to build a railroad to Pike's Peak, the summit of which is 14,000 feet above sea level, and is 8,000 feet higher than Mount Washington.

The following is an account of the famous "Great Wall," made to obstruct the incursions of the Tartar: The wall is 1,728 miles long, 18 feet wide and 15 feet thick at the top. The foundation throughout is of solid granite, the remainder of compact masonry. At an interval of between 200 and 300 yards towers rise up 25 to 30 feet high and 24 feet in diameter. On the top of the wall and on both sides of it are masonry parapets to enable the defenders to pass unseen from one tower to another. The wall itself is carried from point to point in a perfectly straight line, across valleys and plain and over hills, without the slightest regard to the configuration of the ground, sometimes plunging down into abysses fully a thousand feet deep. Brooks and small rivers are bridged over by the wall, while on both banks of larger streams strong flanking towers are placed.

Up to this time the United States has been forced to depend for its supply of tin upon England and other foreign countries. This invaluable metal has recently been found in the Black Hills region of this country. There is enough of it in Dakota not only to supply this country, but the whole world for centuries to come. The tin in Dakota is richer and more easily mined than any other tin on the face of the globe.

Pittsburg anarchists have received a large supply of dynamite and arms. It is said they have regular nights for drilling.

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