

WASHINGTON.

From our regular correspondent.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31st, 1888.

Mr. Cleveland has once more shown that he has the rare faculty of saying the right thing at the right time. In a letter of regret from him read at a banquet given by the Boston Tariff Reform League last Friday night, he blazes the way for the weak-kneed members of the party to follow him and for every member of the party to uphold the principles voted for by a plurality of more than 100,000 in the total number of voters in the country last November. After expressing his regret at not being able to attend the banquet, Mr. Cleveland wrote: "Our institutions were constructed in purity of purpose and love for humanity. Their operation is adjusted to the touch of national virtue and patriotism, and their results under such guidance must be the prosperity and happiness of our people; and so long as the advocates of tariff reform appreciate the sentiments in which our institutions had their origin, so long as they apprehend the forces which alone can guide their operations, so long as they, in a spirit of true patriotism, are consecrated to the service of their country, temporary defeat brings no discouragement. It but proves the stubbornness of the forces of combined selfishness and discloses how far the people have been led astray and how great is the necessity of redoubled efforts in their behalf. To lose faith in the intelligence of the people is a surrender and an abandonment of the struggle. To arouse their intelligence and free it from darkness and delusion give assurance of speedy and complete victory. In the track of reform are often found the dead hopes of pioneers and the despair of those who fall in the march. But there will be neither despair nor dead hopes in the path of tariff reform; nor shall its pioneers fail to reach the heights. Holding fast their faith and rejecting every alluring overture and every deceptive compromise which would betray their sacred trust, they themselves shall regain and restore the patrimony of their countrymen, freed from the trespass of grasping encroachment, and safely secured by the genius of American justice and equality."

Brave words, these, for a defeated candidate, and very badly needed too, for many democrats in Congress have recently shown very decided weakness of that spine on this subject and have talked about compromising with the enemy to the extent of passing a bill making large reductions in the internal revenue, leaving the unjust import duties to remain as they now are, etc. The indications now are that Mr. Cleveland's letter will furnish the necessary stiffening for the wobbling back-bones and that we shall hear no more talk of compromise.

The democrats of the House will handle the Senate tariff bill without gloves, when it goes to them after its passage by the Senate. They propose to show the country what a one-sided and unfair measure it really is. They are now busy gathering facts and statistics for the purpose.

The President has ordered the dismissal of Edwardushing, Collector of Customs at Bath, Maine.

Representative Crisp, Chairman of the House committee on contested elections, expects to call up this week the cases of Small vs. Elliott and Sullivan vs. Felton.

Michigan has a handsome statue of Gen. Lewis Cass, to be placed in Statuary Hall at the Capitol.

A new and very fine crayon portrait of Speaker Carlisle has been hung in the lobby of the House.

The Blaine war grows apace. Everywhere two or three republicans are gathered together you are certain to hear the name of the gentleman from Maine mentioned. His enemies are bitter and his friends staunch, and the battle is sure to rage continually between them from now until four years from next March, with what result only time can tell. Mr. Harrison probably wishes most heartily that Mr. Blaine had never been born, but if he had not, the people of this country would have missed lots of fun.

As if there were not already a surfeit of candidates for Speaker of the next House, three more were brought out last week. They were Representative Lodge, Bayne and Farquhar. I do not suppose that either of these three men have the most remote idea of ever being elected Speaker; but they probably hope that their being mentioned for the position will cause them to get better committee assignments from the man who is elected. And judging from past experience they are right.

It is proposed to have the takers of the next census make a schedule of the surviving ex-Confederate soldiers. The idea has been very well received, and will be considered at the next meeting of the Senate committee on the census. The bill already passed by the House provides for a similar schedule of Union soldiers.

To-morrow President Cleveland will hold his last New Year's reception in the White House for some years at least.

The most comical play now on the American stage of life is played by those statesmen who go and spend a day or two in Indianapolis, perhaps seeing Mr. Harrison, perhaps not, and who then return home looking very wise and saying nothing. Ah, there are none who can keep the secrets of the president-elect as well as those who don't know them. Some of the great statesmen look wiser than others, having learned better the dramatic art of fixity of countenance, but they know about an equal amount and that is very little.

In Missouri hugging circles have been introduced. A paper gives the following scale of prices: Girls under 16, 25c for each hug one minute; from 16 to 20 years of age, 50c; from 20 to 25, 75c; schoolma'ams, 40c; widows, according to looks, from 10c to \$2; old maids, 3c a piece or two for a nickel, and not any limit of time. Ministers are not charged. Editors pay in advertising, but are not allowed to participate until everybody else gets through.

The laborer comes or he goes. Any attempt to better his lot by quack legislation must only increase the expense of government, which all falls on his shoulders. Tax him when he arrives and he must earn enough to pay the tax, while another drone is appointed to spend it. To have a tariff on all but the workingman's wages is the salvation which Blaine has offered. Under that plan wages can and will reach zero.

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