

The Democrat.

From our regular correspondent.
WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 23th, 1899.

Senator Voorhees, who, by the way has been quite sick, but is now much better, was asked what he thought of the administration as far as it had gone and of the political situation. "The administration," said the Senator, "suits me, as I guess it does most democrats, a great deal better than it does the republicans. President Harrison has only to keep on as he has begun to make the election of a democrat in 1892 an absolute certainty. The only thing I fear is that some of the long-headed republicans in Congress will open President Harrison's eyes to the danger ahead of him."

Public Printer Palmer has appointed his son to a clerkship in the Government printing office, and several republicans who were applicants for the position are busy writing essays on nepotism which they will probably threaten to publish if they are not provided for. Mr Palmer is not at all alarmed, as he has only followed the example set by those above him officially.

The French Government has apologized for the arrest and discourteous treatment of two New York ladies by the public authorities of Mentone, France, several months ago, and the officers who made the arrest have been reprimanded. These facts were sent by the state department to the ladies that were arrested, and they say they are satisfied.

This is likely to go down to posterity as the administration-afraid-of-its-mouth.

Mr Lew Barnard, a well known Cincinnati democrat, has been giving his friends here a glowing description of the democratic prospects for carrying Ohio, if the remainder of the state gives the same democratic gains that Hamilton county promises. Foraker is particularly unpopular there, and he will be scratched on all sides. I have a standing offer to wager that Foraker will poll the lowest vote of any candidate on the republican state ticket and that Campbell's majority in Hamilton county will be over 5,000."

The Three America's Congress will meet in this city Tuesday, October 1. As soon as organization is perfected the members will start on a four or five weeks tour of inspection of the country, leaving the business for which they meet to lie over until their return to this city in November. How long the congress will remain in session no one seems to know, but the state department has rented a large dwelling house for its use.

Of course everybody knows that the United States leads the world in inventions, but few have any idea of the enormous number of patents issued by the government. The annual report of the commissioner of Patents just completed, shows that the number of applications for patents received during the year ending June 30th was 36,740, and that 21,518 were granted.

Things at the Pension office are in a decidedly mixed up condition, and there is much complaint from the attorneys doing, or rather trying to do business with it. Nothing is being done that is out of the routine, and it is impossible to get anybody in the office from the acting commissioner down to the humblest messenger to say a single word relating in the remotest manner to the business of the office. This state of affairs is likely to continue until the new commissioner comes in, and President Harrison determines just how far the methods of ex-commissioner Tanner shall be reversed. The army of pension attorneys are all on the anxious bench.

Secretary Tracy is a bold man. Notwithstanding the records of his republican predecessors he has decided that the two 3,000 ton cruisers, for which the last Congress provided, shall be built in Government Navy Yards. The reason is that all the bids received from private builders exceeded the appropriations. If Secretary Tracy can build these vessels for less than the bids offered by private parties he will do more than has ever been done by his predecessors.

President Harrison is in a predicament, and he has asked ex-representative Warner to help him out by accepting the office of Pension commissioner if only temporarily, although that gentleman had already positively declined the office. The trouble seems to be that General Merrill of Massachusetts was promised the place if Warner declined it, and the President now thinks that Merrill talks too much and don't want to give him the place, hence his personal appeal to Warner. Mr Warner has, as a personal favor to President Harrison, again taken the matter under consideration.

The Postoffice department invites improved designs from artists and others for postal cards. Drawings must be submitted to the Third Assistant Postmaster General on or before noon of November 6th.

To-morrow the elections will be held in all the four territories—Washington, Montana, North and South Dakota. The republicans will carry Washington, North and South Dakota. The democrats have hopes of carrying Montana, but there are grave doubts about their being able to elect the Congressmen.

A WILL WITH CONDITIONS.

It is a generally accepted principle that a man's property is his own, to do with as he pleases while he lives and to dispose of at his pleasure in event of his death. But it has been found necessary to hedge about these inherent rights with some restrictions. A man may be declared a spendthrift and be refrained from squandering his possessions, and the courts have again and again intervened to prevent the carrying out of hard and unjust provisions in a will by arbitrarily setting it aside. How far this course may be pursued with safety to the general welfare must, of course, always be a serious question, but it would seem to be wise public policy to discourage any will that is calculated, by its terms, to partake or the nature of a bribe. The story of such a case comes from Newport, and tells of the conditions upon which Miss Sarah Harvey of that city inherits \$3,000,000. The story is that Mrs. Sarah Hovey Wilbour was one of the wealthiest residents of Orange, N. J., and when she died a short time ago it was expected that all her wealth would go to the Roman Catholic church, of which she was a devout attendant. But about a month ago Mrs. Wilbour learned that she had a grand-niece living in Newport. She had never seen the young lady, and did not know of her existence till this summer, but she altered her will and bequeathed her immense estate to this grand-niece, Miss Sarah Harvey, under the following conditions: She shall attend divine worship at a Roman Catholic church at least one Sunday in every month, and annually give \$1,000, for the support of the Catholic convent in her city. If she marries she must prefix her maiden name to that of her husband. She must never become a member of a Protestant church. If, when she is twenty two years old, Miss Harvey is willing to fulfill all the above conditions she will come into full possession of all the personal property and real estate of the testatrix, which at that time (the fall of 1892) will aggregate \$3,000,000. All this property will be hers with the exception of \$50,000, which is in trust for the benefit of her female child. In case one is born to her, and the stipulations in regard to that female child are that she shall be named Sarah Harvey Wilbour, and shall be educated in Roman Catholic convent. If she shall refuse to comply with the request, in regard to the child, in case one is born to her, the \$50,000 must be given to furnish the library of St. Paul's university, Orange, N. J. Miss Harvey cannot receive one cent of the principal or interest until her twenty second birthday.

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