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PERTINENT.

Observations at Washington—Tense Notes and Comments.

The country doesn't want war, but Secretary Olney's assurance to Spain are circulated to arouse a war spirit in good Americans.

If Secretary Olney and Mr. Cleveland were the whole United States government, as they would like to be, and are trying to be, their promises to Spain might give more comfort to Spaniards and more worry to Americans.

The last two months of his administration might be happy, for him, if Mr. Cleveland could only abolish Congress.

President-elect McKinley should have a say about a war which he would have to conduct. He will have enough on his hands when he assumes office without a ready-made war.

How can Ambassador Bayard promote himself to his daughter marrying a Frenchman, instead of an Englishman? However, it is probably a consolation to him that she will not marry an American.

The republican members of the house ways and means committee have taken no Christmas recess, but are going right ahead with the work on that republican tariff bill. This is as it should be.

Mr. Bryan is the only man the country has produced, official enough to assume that he has a mortgage on a presidential nomination four years in advance.

The Queen of Hawaii was not asked to eat her Christmas dinner with Mr. Cleveland, although she was a very visiting distance of the white house.

Henry Watterson doesn't seem to be leading the Kentucky democrats to any appreciable extent, and his paper is said to have lost many subscribers because of Henry's attempt to lead instead of follow.

A war scare was certainly not a very appropriate Christmas gift for the country.

Spain felt like the boy who got a swish in his stocking when the senate committee on foreign relations presented it with that resolution providing for the recognition of Cuban independence.

It doesn't seem to occur to some of the democrats who are making monkeys of themselves that Bryan was defeated by purchased votes it was bound to have been democrats who sold them.

Ambassador Bayard says he declined that proposed English Christmas gift as soon as he heard of it. He wouldn't have heard of it yet, if the American press had not had a few words to say about it.

Secretary Herbert's argument, that defects in our warships should not be discussed in the newspapers, is as untenable as would be the argument that defects in our public men should not be discussed.

Nobody has heard "Silver Dick" Bland say that he would support Bryan for president in 1900.

In the language of the rank, Secretary Olney fooled congress when he told the Spanish minister that nothing would be done about Cuba by this administration, no matter what action congress might take.

Spain has beautiful women, fine fruits and one of the most valuable climates in the world, but it has little else that is good.

It was fully demonstrated during the late presidential campaign that a few noisy and largely attended mass meetings do not necessarily represent the sentiments of the majority of our people.

Common sense, and not hysteria, will decide what this country shall do with the Cuban question.

Perhaps the Spanish minister has been giving Secretary Olney a few lessons in the art of pompous bluster, which has long been a Spanish specialty.

Made a Mistake.

Ex-Congressman Tracy tells a very funny story. The scene was a swell reception in Washington and the stars colored butler whose knowledge of public men and his diplomatic contentment was limited. He made two announcements. During the evening the Guatemalan ambassador arrived. He presented his card to the butler and the next moment both he and the guests were astonished when the announcement was made in stentorian tones: "The Watermelon ambassador!"

Rumor was Wrong.

Now the Stillwater Journal says that rumor was wrong in saying that the fifteen young men went to one address in Boston. They all went to different houses.

IN UNCLE SAM'S SERVICE.

A Deputy Collector Drives to Fort Ann to Examine a Package.

About a week ago according to the Whitehall Times, the Whitehall deputy revenue collector received notice from the postmaster at West Fort Ann, announcing that a mail package from a foreign country had been received at that office which it was suspected might contain some dutiable article. On Monday morning the government official braved the frosty atmosphere and drove to "Johnny Cake Corners."

On arriving at his destination he was cordially received by the ex-postmaster and escorted down a narrow-lane between cracker barrels, tea chests and soap boxes into the private department in the rear. The safe was unlocked and from a little compartment the mysterious package was taken.

Each of Uncle Sam's alert officials, in turn, weighed it carefully in their palms and speculated as to its possible contents. Superficial examination was of no avail and the to be recipient was summoned. On the arrival of the third party the revenue collector carefully broke the seal and removed the outer wrappings from the parcel. A pungent aromatic odor greeted their olfactory and the removal of a second paper disclosed the contents. "Twas an orange of saffron for a teething baby sent by thoughtful friend in England who had been appraised by the mother of young America's trouble condition. The package was delivered to its owner without further red-tape and this ended the first lesson in materia medica.

The deputy collector was out his time; horse bled and dinner as the government provides no compensation for such service, and he doubtless wishes that in the future, country postmasters might assume a bit more responsibility and examine their own mail packages.

A C. O. D. Trick for Unwary.

A new form of swindling is being practiced in the cities at the present time. The method of operation is this: A messenger boy takes a package to a residence and insists upon leaving it, telling the person who receives it that it has been ordered, and that he was told to collect on delivery. A short time after the first boy has departed another boy makes his appearance and says that there has been a package left there by mistake; would they please give it to him? The person hands over the package, if it has been received, and supposes, of course, that he or she can rectify the matter at the store of the firm sending it; only to learn at the store that they know nothing of the transaction whatever.

He Thought He Knew.

Two Washington county residents were recently in Glens Falls, says the Star, taking in the sights. Straggling into the building where one of the fire wagons is housed they began an inspection of the apparatus. One of them, evidently had never seen the like before and was heard to say to his companion, "What's them?" referring to the fire extinguishers. "Them," was the reply, after some hesitation, "them is fire distinguishers."

A Fall in Butter.

Charles Carter, a South Argyle farmer, visited Glens Falls one day last week. He had a wagon load of butter and while driving past an electric car his horses became frightened. The wagon was overturned and Mr. Carter received several bruises on his head and face. Not a small share of the butter was ruined.

Challenges Anyone.

Gaudaur, the champion oarsman, announces that he will row any man in the world in Canada in June next for \$2,500 or \$5,000 a side. Failing to get a match on these terms Gaudaur will go to England after August first and row Harding and Barry, both races to occur within three weeks of each other, the stake in each race to be for \$1,250 to \$2,000 a side.

Died While Praying.

Matthew Guerin, an aged resident of Sandy Hill, died suddenly in that village last Wednesday. The deceased was in the act of praying when he expired. Mr. Guerin was 60 years of age and is survived by his wife. The funeral occurred Saturday morning.

Beyond Expectation.

It was estimated that the state would receive only \$8,000,000 under the Raines law, but Comptroller Roberts reports that the state's share of the receipts under this law amounts to \$2,504,014.

Up in Granville.

Granville boasts of an eccentric fellow named Evans, who imagines he is a second Messiah. One sees and hears of strange things in Granville.

WILLS AND ESTATES.

An Abstract of Proceedings Before Surrogate in Albany.

Following are the proceedings of the surrogate's court of the county of Washington for the week ending December 23:

Estate of Martha M. Fraser, Salem, Frederick Fraser and William C. Larman appointed appraisers.

Estate of George H. Caldwell, Greenwich. Letters of administration issued to Charles H. Van Ness, Gibson W. Sprague and Charles P. Miller appointed appraisers.

Estate of William Sheehey, White Creek. Letters of administration with will annexed issued to Denis M. Smith.

Estate of Sarah J. Sheffield, Greenwich. Inventory filed.

Estate of William B. Northup, Hartford. Former order as to publication. Notice to creditors revoked and administrators directed to publish notice to creditors in Washington County Advertiser.

Estate of David P. Baralay, Fort Edward. Letters of administration issued to Catherine Barclay.

Guardianship of Frederica Hanks, Greenwich. Letters of administration issued to Edward Bentley.

Estate of John Gifford, Cambridge. Inventory filed.

Estate of Eben Wright, White Creek. Order entered appointing appraisers in proceedings to sell real estate to sell debts.

Guardianship of Carl R. Baldwin, Greenwich. Letters of guardianship issued to Joseph C. Baldwin.

Estate of Franklin Stevens, Salem. Citation issued for judicial settlement of accounts, returnable January 8, 1897, at Salem.

Estate of Amanda M. Johnson, Whitehall. Citation issued for probate of will, returnable February 10, 1897; Sandy Hill. Order entered for service of citation by publication on non-residents in Whitehall Chronicle and Sandy Hill Herald.

Estate of Everett Clow, Hartford. Citation issued for probate of will, returnable February 10, 1897, Sandy Hill.

Estate of Elizabeth S. Parke, Whitehall. Letters of administration issued to James H. Parke.

Estate of Harriet Gray, otherwise called Grant, Kingsbury. Will admitted to probate. Letters testamentary issued to Edward Grant.

Estate of Hesse Nichols, Fort Edward. Decree entered judicially settling the accounts of William Doig, executor.

Estate of Mary Hannahab, Greenwich. Letters of administration issued to Patrick Hannahab and John H. Mealey. Edward Balch and Edward Gleason appointed appraisers.

Estate of John McMullen, Easton. Judicial settlement of accounts of John F. Houlister, surviving executor. Hearing had. Case closed. Cause to be briefed and requests within thirty days.

Estate of Edson Mead, Kingsbury. Letters of administration issued to David Mead.

SPRUCE IN DEMAND.

Spruce is Worth More in the Markets Here than for Wood Pulp.

Timber cutters in the Adirondacks and elsewhere in this country are now confronted with the unique condition that spruce is worth more in the market as material for wood pulp than as lumber. Spruce is the only wood that is in demand at the pulp mill as well as the saw mill. The cutting of spruce is stimulated by the increasing demand from abroad for American wood pulp, and it is an industry that the framers of the Dingley Tariff bill deemed worthy of protection. If Congress passes that bill, a duty of \$1.20 per 100 feet will be placed on Canadian spruce.

A recent calculation, made by experts in the lumber trade, shows that at least sixty per cent of all the spruce cut in the forests of this country this year will go to the pulp mill. The competition of Canadian lumber men has for a long time been a serious drawback to the profit-taking of American timber cutters, consequently the imposition of a stiff duty on Canadian lumber would meet with eager approval in certain quarters.

Ex-Gov. Russell A. Alger, of Michigan, has very large lumber interests in Canada, and while in Montreal a few days ago he is said to have expressed the belief that the McKinley administration would favor a "conditional" policy toward Canada.

The exportation of American wood pulp to Great Britain, it is said, will probably be largely increased of a proposed advance in the price by Scandinavian manufacturers. Formerly the Scandinavian wood pulp had a monopoly of the British markets, but the American product has been making headway in that direction steadily for the last few years.

SECRET SOCIETIES.

A Budget of News of Happenings in the Secret Fraternity Orders.

All the lodges in Brookton are in a prosperous condition, with prospects for a large increase in membership during the winter.

Supreme Representative William Jadow of New York city has been appointed general organizer for the new York rank for the domain of New York, except Long Island and Staten Island.

J. A. Hines, president of the board of control, calls special attention to the amendment of the endowment rank constitution providing for \$500 certificates.

I. O. O. F. Apollo lodge, Philadelphia, enjoys the distinction of having the largest membership in the jurisdiction.

Greater all assets of subordinate lodges whose charters have been surrendered shall be placed to the credit of a fund to be called and known as aged Odd Fellows' fund.

Any Odd Fellow over 50 years of age who has been in continuous membership for 25 years or over, and whose subordinate lodge has surrendered its charter, and who would, under the laws of the grand lodge, be entitled to receive a grand lodge card, may petition the grand lodge to place his name upon the aged Odd Fellows' register.

A New Book.

A new book, "Knitting and Crocheting," of 64 pages, over 50 original designs illustrated, beautiful lace patterns, shawls, hoods, jackets, etc., has been published by The Home, 141 Milk St., Boston, Mass., and will be sent with a subscription to this paper. The Home is a 20 page monthly filled with original stories, literary and domestic topics and fashions, its department of Fancy Work is a special feature, new and original designs each issue. The price of subscription is 50 cents per year and will include one of these books. As a special inducement to trial subscribers, a copy of this book will be given with a 6 months' subscription. The price of the book is 25 cents, but a 6 months' subscription and the book combined will be sent for only 25 cents. Their annual premium list for 1897 will be sent free on application.

Installation of Officers.

The I. O. O. F. lodges in the Rensselaer and Washington county districts will be installed by D. G. M., Officers and staff on the following dates: Rayneflow Jan. 1; Schaghticoke Jan. 5; Berlin Jan. 7; Hoosick Falls Jan. 11; Valley Falls Jan. 13; Johnsonville Jan. 14; Greenwich Jan. 18; Cambridge Jan. 20.

Annual Ball.

The citizens of Comstock will hold a grand ball at Baker's hall in Comstock tomorrow evening. The affair is one of great social importance to the residents of that community.

The Appointment Confirmed.

The United States senate has confirmed the appointment of E. M. Tasker as postmaster at Fort Edward.

FALL OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE.

Contributed.

The decline of the Roman Empire began with the reign of Augustus, who, though apparently a good Emperor, was actuated by avarice and selfish motives. He assumed to himself all the chief offices of the Empire, thus increasing his own power under the cloak of disclaim of the Kingship. He was king in fact if not in name. So one emperor after the other, from Augustus, who started it on its way to Constantine, who completed it seemed to glory in hastening the Roman Empire on to destruction.

The tyrannical rule of the Emperors throughout the whole life, except as one and another occasionally came up to the ideal of a better ruler, produced a demoralizing effect on the entire Roman populace. These kings reared men of high mark to further their own power, and even members of their own families. Hundreds of people suffered death in the amphitheater for the amusement of the people. It is no wonder that under these conditions, the people became sick at heart. They were truly pitiable. Even at this time Roman history is full of valiant exploits of her able generals. It is a lamentable fact that we find them fighting among themselves. It might be argued that this did not effect their decline, as they were fighting a common enemy, but it has been truly said "a house divided against itself cannot stand." This state of affairs had a general effect upon the whole Empire.

During these discouraging circumstances they were invaded by the Northern hordes. These hordes first invited to Rome as a means of defence, soon became so numerous as to crowd the Romans out. Immediately they became dissatisfied and arose in arms. Against Rome worn out and disheartened, could present no means of defence against their murder and degradation. Rome is doomed to be thrice sacked by these Barbarians. Thus we see the Empire undermined in two of its principle branches, political and military, in a way which owing to further causes, it is destined never to arise.

With all these troubles comes the adoption of the Christian religion by Constantine. You may wonder why I mention this, and perhaps also why God allowed the once mighty Roman Empire to fall just on the morrow of his adoption of his ordained religion. After its long decline Constantine takes the first step to its final downfall by putting the sign of his new religion on the Roman standards in place of the Roman insignia.

It can be easily imagined, a nation in modern times whose head adopts a new religion, with what difficulty it could give up its old deep-rooted religion. So it was with Rome. A superstitious people, with a worshipful mythology and burdened with its many gods. Not only this disturbed them, but famines, earthquakes, and conflagrations which swept the provinces.

These transient faintings and sicknesses were too truly the symptoms of approaching collapse. The rule of Constantine was one of weakness and degradation. He fled to Constantinople and placed himself under the protection of the church and its dogmas. Henceforth the Roman Empire which had had so illustrious a record was no more, and the church of Constantinople ruled the world.

Increased Activity.

State Excise Commissioner Lyman says that the recent report of his special agents show that the number of prosecutions for violations of the Raines liquor tax law is greatly increasing. This is thought to be due to the recent agitation of the matter, especially by Senator Raines special committee.

Yes, I find it pretty easy to draw the line, said the barge driver as he refused to give Weary Walker a ride over the dusty roads.

To Compete at Office.

A Greenwich coach will compete at the National "Whisk-Blasted" at Office in 1897.

Resigns His Office.

A. D. Bartholomew has resigned as police commissioner of Whitehall.

Unconditional?

According to the Fort Edward Advertiser Hartford girls surrender the beauty penit to Argyle.

Not in Holiday Time.

Nobody is complaining now that a dollar buys too much.

BULLETINS.

From the N. Y. Agricultural Experiment Station at Geneva.

So large a number of new varieties of strawberries are being introduced into cultivation each year and the sale of the plants is pushed so vigorously that one is often puzzled in trying to decide which of them are most worthy of trial. On this account testimony as to their merits from some one who has no financial interest in the success of these varieties is particularly welcome to fruit growers.

Bulletin No. 109 gives such testimony. One hundred and seventy varieties besides the Station seedlings were grown at the Station in 1896. Of the varieties which fruited there for the first time in 1896, Bisset, Bisset, Enormous, Thompson No. 101, Tubbs and William Bell are considered especially promising. Bisset, Marshall, Marston and Tennessee have been fruited two seasons and are recommended as worthy of testing. Lists of varieties suitable for early fruiting, or for late fruiting are published. A summary of the records of varieties which have been fruited more than two years is also given.

Bulletin No. 110 discusses the relation of milk-fat to yield of cheese and the consequent value of milk-fat as a basis in paying for milk for cheese-making. The discussion is based on results secured by making analysis of the milk of 30 herds of cows whose milk was taken to a cheese factory. The work covered an entire cheese-making season of six months from May to October inclusive.

It is shown that in general the cheese yield is somewhat greater for a pound of fat in poor milk than in rich milk. For example, comparing two milks containing respectively 4 and 4 per cent of fat, the former makes 2.85 pounds of cheese for each pound of milk-fat, while the latter makes 2.55 lbs. less or 2.00 pounds of cheese for one pound of fat. It is shown that this difference in favor of cheese yield for fat in poor milk is only an apparent one, because this difference of 0.35 pounds is made up of casein and water, which is really not as valuable as separator skim milk cheese, and which has a market value not to exceed 2 cents a pound.

The constituents in 100 pounds of cheese made from the richer milk are worth more in the market than are the constituents in 100 pounds of cheese made from the poorer milk. Milk rich in fat can be made to yield cheese of the same composition as milk poorer in fat in one of two ways: (1) By adding skim-milk to, or (2) removing fat from, the richer milk; then the cheese yield for a pound of fat becomes the same. The difference in the cheese yield of milk fat in the case of poor milk over richer milk is a skim-milk difference, and the extra yield of cheese for fat in the poorer kind of skim-milk cheese.

It is shown that paying for milk according to weight of milk furnished is exceedingly unfair to the producer of richer milk. It is shown that the cheese yield by itself does not constitute a fair basis for payment, because it gives poor milk an undue advantage. A critical comparison of all methods of paying for milk suggested or in use, leads most emphatically to the conclusion that milk-fat affords the fairest practicable basis to use in paying for milk for cheese-making.

In conclusion, it is pointed out that where the milk-fat basis is used, there is a tendency to adulterate and to fraud, while there is every encouragement to produce milk of better quality.

These bulletins may be had free by sending an application for it to Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva, N. Y. Those who request to have their names placed on the permanent mailing list will receive future bulletins as they are issued.

When a young man first gets out of college, his main idea is that he is going to reform the world, but he doesn't realize how much the world needs reformation till after he has been out a while.

Phillips—You look despondent this morning. Did Miss Boston promise to be a sister to you last night? Aston (savagely)—No, a brother.

So you think you are an established funny man, do you? Sure, I get other people's jokes credited to me every day or so.

Diane! "So that is a great comedy, eh? What is his favorite play?" Whist (savagely)—"Tripping his partner's ass" comes to me.

D/34