DESERET EVENING NEWS.

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

The most, we think, that the bitterest of President Cleveland's opponents can say of him is that he is wrong in his judgment or mistaken as to the proper thing to do. They cannot justifiably say that he willfully and designedly does or says that which he knows to be improper or invites disastrous results. In all his state papers, in his public utterances and in his whole official conduct he has certainly evinced patriotism of a high character, the good of the country and what he conceives to be the welfare of all classes within it being earnestly and sincerely sought. That the people or a great body of them sometimes oppose, criticise and even condemn what he says or does is regrettable but still their privilege; but to denounce him personally, in view of his manifest candor and his lofty station, is unbecoming if not indeed unpatriotic.

The News presents its readers today with the President's message to the extra session of Congress, which will be found in its proper place in our news columns. It is not very long nor very brief, but from the first word to the last there does not seem to be superfluity or redundancy. The sentences bear the unmistakable evidence of care and thoughtfulness in their compilation, as though the author knew that he was, in connection with the men whom he called together, engaged in a momentous and most trying duty. Never since the Southern members withdrew from Congress was a President confronted by a country so completely divided in sentiment and to so great an extent by geographical lines as now, and never was the cause of this drawing apart one that appeared more difficult of adjustment. To gratify one part entirely is to antagonize and embitter the other even if it should be no worse; and in such a dilemma, with such diverse demands and so many whose claims to consideration conflict and yet cannot be set aside, the duty of the Executive and Congress becomes a most trying one indeed.

The language of the message shows that there is no disposition to set aside or overlook any interest. That the President has different views from most of the Western and Southern people as to how their interests are to be furthered—that he proposes that they be conserved without violating sacred obligations and ignoring vested rights elsewhere—is undoubtedly true; but it is also true that he shows himself to be keenly alert as to those interests and only desires that all may be fostered without either having to be lost or weakened.

The President wants to retain silver as money; so do the people of the West. He thinks the best if not the only plan to do this and make it secure is to obtain for it practically universal recognition which can best be attained, he says, by withholding it from the metals of the world until by its absence its virtues are made manifest; the people this way look upon that as too prolonged and too hazardous an experiment to try, especially when they remember that there was no trouble about silver maintaining itself alongside of gold until it was subjected to hostile legislation. Both claims cannot be upheld and let us hope that out of the contest now upon the land a compromise broad and equitable enough to secure the rights of the greatest number and the welfare of all sections without scuttling or endangering any part may be the result. Let the reader peruse the message carefully and see if he does not think that some such arrangement, if not premature, is at least not forbidden.

THE SIZE OF CONGRESS.

The Congress which assembled yesterday, according to the figures made up, is the largest legislative body that has ever convened in Washington. The Senate has the same number of members as it had in the Fifty-second Congress; that is, it will have when all the members are admitted, but there is a gain of 24 members in the House, under the operation of the new apportionment, making a total membership in the latter body of 356. The first apportionment of the members of the House according to population was after the census of 1790, when one member was assigned to each 33,000 of population, producing a House of 105 members. The present apportionment is on a basis of 173,901 population to each member.

DUTY AND RED TAPE.

A curious dilemma, in which a Canadian official was recently placed through the fact that his religious scruples conflicted with the duties devolving upon him as a public man, has furnished a theme of considerable amusement to the secular press of the East and has not altogether escaped comment from sectarian writers. It appears that the mayor of Montreal, (the lord mayor of London, we an ardent and loyal Roman Catholic, and also like that worthy, he declines to let any official requirements lead him into actions which his religious superiors might criticise. So, when an Italian warship arrived at Montreal the other day, the concierge of Mr. Mayor was stirred by a conflict of duties; for on the one hand it was his official duty to receive this guest, with the officers it bore, with proper honor, and extend to the latter the hospitalities of the city; while drawing him the other way was his loyalty to the pope, whose relations with Italy are somewhat strained, to put it mildly. Finally the pope won, and the mayor printed a letter in the newspapers in which he said, in effect, that Italy had treated the pope badly, and that he, as a devoted supporter, could not forgive such treatment, and therefore could not receive or take part in any hospitalities extended to the vessel's officers and crew.

This would seem to have carried satisfaction to the perturbed bosom of the doughty official, but it had the effect of raising a mild hurricane among his fellow citizens. The Springfield *Republican*, which discusses the subject at some length, asserts that while the people went to work and gave the visitors the warmest kind of a reception, they also took occasion to rate their mayor a small-minded bigot. Still, the Italian admiral came very near sailing off in anger, over the mere matter of a salute. His vessel fired a salute to the city when she came to anchor, but the city did not reply, the reason given being because of red tape. Technically Montreal is not a saluting port. Ships coming by Quebec are saluted, and the gunpowder thus burned is expected to last them until they come down the river again. Unfortunately for this excuse for ignoring the vessel's salute, it has been the practice for Montreal to salute every vessel when there was any pretext for so honoring. The Italian admiral found this out, and scoffed the acting mayor and the local military authorities that if his bombardment was not returned before sunset of the following night, he should sail away from Montreal and let his government settle the matter with the government at London. The consequence was that he got his salute, and all became serene. These being all the facts, it appears that if there was some bigotry, there was also a good deal of ceremonial nonsense in the incident.

SUNSPOT OR COMET?

And now from scientific circles outside comes the announcement that our sunspot is a comet. Very well; comet or the other thing makes no difference so far as the discovery is concerned, that honor and its giving out to the world belonging to Mr. Hesse and the News jointly. It has been claimed in astronomical circles a good many times that the sun was led by the brilliant tramps who infest the planetary regions, and it is not unreasonable to suppose that among the many meteoric detonations he now and then captures a cometary whale. If the great spot now visible on the sun's countenance be a comet which he is in the act of devouring, and this shall be fully established, it only goes to show that the less we pretend to know about what goes on outside our sphere the less we will have to account for.

"FREE COINAGE," ETC.

Referring to a recent article in the News showing that the talk regarding silver was engaged in by many who knew nothing whatever of the merits or demerits of the subject—who had a vague idea, perhaps, that it meant "more money" and that many of those who spoke so glibly of "free silver" had no comprehension of its significance—we are asked by one who wants to know to cease criticism and ourselves give the information. It has been done in these columns many times, but as the subject is an important one and there are evidently many who honestly desire information that they may be on the right side, it will not be improper to speak of it again.

"Free coinage" and "free silver" are not necessarily synonymous terms; the former includes the latter while the latter stands by and for itself. "Free coinage" unqualified is the conversion of bullion or ingots of either gold or silver into coins of the realm with no charge or seigniorage by the government upon the owner; it also has reference to there being no restriction as to amount of bullion, the one who presents either metal at a mint having the right to receive in return therefor as many dollars as are represented by the metal's weight, fineness and value. It is something like taking grist to a mill and receiving back the product of the grain, except that in the case of the government no toll is to be taken out. When this is applied to silver bullion only we have a full and expressive definition of what is meant by "free silver."

It is asked how the government is to be "made even" by such proceedings, working up metals into coins and returning the full quantity to the "customer" without deduction or charge. This question is easily answered—would answer itself if the ones who ask it would only stop to think for a short time. In this country the government has no separate existence from the people; it is simply an agency which they establish and support for their own convenience and safety. It has nothing but what they give it and pays out or does not pay out in accordance with their directions. If they elect to have a mint perform the coinage of the country without a direct charge upon themselves therefor, there is no power on earth to prevent that thing being done. The government being sustained by them in any event, even if it were a distinct and separate entity it would have no right to complain; but as it is not, there is no place or function from which a complaint could emanate. Besides, the government, without being invidious or discriminating, must foster certain industries if not enterprises. It has to aid the Pacific railway because it had become a necessity to the country and demanded too much of an investment for private capital unaided to make the venture; and agriculture is made its special wards—seeds, plants, documents, etc., being sent free to all applicants—and having a special executive department. So let it be with mining and coinage. Utah has done a full share in the cause by exempting mines and the products thereof, now let Uncle Sam do the rest by granting the petition of his fellow laborers in the national vineyard and establishing such aids in the way of free coinage or unrestricted coinage of both and just ratios as from his vantage ground may be deemed equitable, just and proper.

A DESERVING DEED UNREWARDED.

All the trials, vicissitudes and adventures connected with the undying name of Abraham Lincoln will probably never be told, as voluminous as such recitals are and have been. Now and then one comes to the surface that had lain in the depths of past events ever since its occurrence and our minds are again turned to the remarkable man and those who were associated with him, with a freshly-awakened interest. A story is now told which if true—as it seems to be—should cause attention to be diverted for a time from the man himself to the one who rendered him an inestimable service. We are told that Col. W. A. H. Silloways in May, 1862, rescued President Lincoln from a disabled steamer on the Potomac under fire from a Confederate battery, and rowed him to the Maryland shore. This adventure of President Lincoln is not generally known, but if the tale be true, Mr. Silloways should not be allowed to be in want of money to pay his rent in a poor room in Boston, where he is now said to be and in imminent danger of the Tewksbury almshouse. It is conceded to be a shame that such a situation should even be talked of; this relief and his future support should be immediately provided for. It is said that Silloways has a personal letter of thanks from the great President. We hardly think a special pension in this case would meet with much objection in or out of Congress; certainly, it would be a very peculiar kind of man who would offer one.

WOMAN OFFICE-SEEKERS.

The San Francisco mint underwent a change of superintendency on the 31st ult., ex-Lieutenant Governor John Daggett succeeding General Dimond. It sounds like a simple enough matter, but it was attended with a good deal of ceremony nevertheless. The mint is no small affair and the amount of wealth which it contains is always very large, of course much more so at some times than at others. On this occasion the coin had all been counted up and everything placed in readiness for the new management, which at once gave a receipt in full. It was found that in coin and bullion there was the immense sum of $53,126,514 91 in the vaults of the mint. Of this amount $36,176,350.99 was in silver coin; $9,797,763 in gold coin; $3479.91 in currency, and the rest in bullion, principally silver, of which there was 11,360,080 ounces purchased under the Sherman act.

We are advised by a San Francisco paper that the ceremony of sealing the vaults took place in the afternoon of the previous day. In one vault was piled $23,000,000 in silver dollars, or 600 tons of coin. A paper setting forth the contents of the vault was pasted over the door and the facing so that it can never be opened without tearing the paper. This was signed by the new superintendent and W. L. Morgan and A. A. Hassett, agents of the treasury department, representing the bureau of the mint at Washington. In one corner Lyman H. Clement, the cashier, placed the seal of General Dimond, and in another Superintendent Daggett placed his seal. In each of the other corners the treasury agents placed their seals. The next vault sealed up contains $14,000,000 in silver dollars, and the third, 17,000,000 ounces of uncoined silver in bars. In all, there is nearly 1500 tons of silver stowed in the mint vaults. The stock of gold is said to be lower than it has been for many years.

As soon as the new superintendent took charge, the inevitable rush of office-seekers began, many of the callers being women. He had twenty-eight positions to be filled by females and on the first day there were 400 applicants! It is not such a difficult matter to dispose of a male applicant as a female, at least that is what those who have passed through the ordeal say; so it is useless to try to even imagine what Mr. Daggett's experience must have been—are being, perhaps we ought to say. It is not alone the swarm but the character of the applicants in some cases that causes vexation and annoyance; they present all sorts of endorsements and recommendations from prominent persons, personal appearance and from years and character which are both doubtful to those which, one way or another, are not at all doubtful. One of the applicants was the once notorious but nearly forgotten Laura D. Fair. She was listened to attentively and politely and then given to understand that she could not be gratified. We should think not.

The burning of Secretary Hoke Smith in effigy in an Ohio town recently has money drawn from him the pointing response that he doesn't care a fig.

A dollar in a savings bank is worth two in an old sock.

The Agricultural College of Utah is a Territorial institution having five full departments of instruction, viz: Agricultural, Domestic Arts, Mechanical Engineering, Civil Engineering and a Commercial Course, four of these being four years' courses. All departments are equipped with apparatus for illustration, while practical exercises, either on the farm, in the dairy, in the cooking, cutting, sewing, laundry rooms, in shop work, in wood and iron, and in foundry work, together with other means of illustration, are joined to the class room instruction. Its first students entered September, 1890. Last year it enrolled 303. The fall term opens September 5th. For information address

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