

of Congress can be prolonged from the first Monday in next December to the Saturday immediately preceding the same day of the month in 1894 if necessary, and within that long period, or whatever other one may be decided upon, all the legislation needed can be enacted; meantime it would seem as if we had enough laws to enable us to get along till the beginning of the regular session.

It means more than this, however. Not only will there be no new laws but those we have now will be left undisturbed. There was never any other reason assigned for the necessity of an extra session than the repeal of the Sherman silver purchase law, and we are now secure in the situation as it is for several months at least; that is, the government will go on buying 4,500,000 ounces of silver every month for 83 cents or whatever other price the white merchandise may be fixed at by the Wall street speculators, and occasionally issuing some of it in the multitude of money at the rate of about \$1.20 an ounce. One would think there was nothing for the government to complain of in such transactions, but it does, and in the hands of President Cleveland and his associates it is complained of more than ever. However that may be, the make-shift will probably go on till the next regular session of Congress, and whether or not it will then be superseded by something better or by nothing at all no one can tell.

The determination to make no removals in the public service except for cause is a necessary corollary of that to make no appointments except for merit. It falls with a harsh, unwelcome sound upon the spoils brigade, no doubt, but if it has been so decreed by the dispenser of patronage, it will be done to a certainty. Mr. Cleveland's enemies sometimes deny that he possesses any very striking qualities as a statesman or that his qualifications for the exalted station he holds are above mediocrity, but none of them, we believe, questions that he means what he says and is firm enough to remain on ground once taken. This means a shrinkage in the list of presently appointive positions awful for the hungry ones to contemplate; it practically leaves no list at all, since all the offices are at present filled and that few of those who fill them will die and still fewer will resign in reasonably certain. The "rascals" will not, it seems, be all "turned out" till towards the end of the present administration if, indeed, many are not in their present places when Mr. Cleveland ceases to be President. It is very sad from one point of view, and quite cheering from another.

We of Utah are not as a rule greatly concerned as to who hold the offices since we have no voice in choosing them. Changes might in some cases be beneficial and in others they might not. The offices are reasonably well filled now, not with men of the same politics as the party in power of course and therein there may appear some little incongruity; but we accord to them one and all, almost without exception, honesty of purpose and general ability. When the changes shall be made, as they must sooner or later, we sincerely hope we may fare no worse.

### THE PLEASURE OF GOING.

It is the customary thing for officials whose term has expired to express the pleasure they feel at being relieved from the cares and perplexities of office. In some cases this feeling is doubtless sincere; for there are many who find enough neither of honor nor profit to repay them for the sacrifices made first to get and then to keep the office and for the constant scrutiny and merciless criticism to which their official acts are subjected. But there are others, and these are the chronic office-seekers, who seek to conceal their disappointment behind a smiling face, and would fain make the public believe that the happiest hour of their lives was that which sounded their release; when everybody knows, as a matter of fact, that they only retired because they had to, after having tried with all their might to secure reappointment or re-election.

It is seldom that the intelligent public are deceived in this matter. As between sincerity and hypocrisy, that tribunal seldom makes a mistake. Men of sense are aware of this, and unless their motives and consciences are clear they do not invite the judgment. Ex-Secretary Noble is one who has no fears on that score, and we believe he has no occasion for them. It is quite refreshing to hear from him that he is going back to St. Louis to practice law, and that, in many respects, his official life in Washington has been extremely pleasant. It involved a vast amount of hard work, but, on the whole, it had been work that was agreeable to him. Nevertheless, he expresses himself much as did the runaway darkey before the war.

The fugitive was on his way to Canada, and was met by a countryman, who questioned him as to the treatment he had received at the hands of his master.

"Didn't you have enough to eat?" the countryman asked.

"Yes."

"And enough to wear?"

"Yes."

"And a warm place to sleep?"

"Yes."

"Then what did you run away for?"

"Say, boss," the darkey replied, "if you think you'd like the place it's open to ye."

### THE TELEPHONE.

Speaking of the introduction of the telephone the *Scientific American* pleasantly recalls our attention to the time when it was first introduced and considered an impracticable invention, seventeen years ago. But after the telephone with microphonic transmitters for short distance work had become a recognized fact, the difficulties caused by induction and the static capacity of long lines caused a general belief that the invention could never be made useful for a long distance communicator; but the recent telephonic connection of New York and Chicago has dissipated all that, for it is a complete success.

The *American* mentions a still greater achievement occurring on February 7th last. On that day was witnessed the opening of the telephone

line from Boston to Chicago. Telephoning is successfully carried on over 1250 miles of wire, owing to a somewhat circuitous route followed by the line. All distances hitherto covered are insignificant compared to this. The possibilities it holds for the future cannot well be overestimated. A step beyond Chicago and the banks of the Missouri will be reached, and we may yet see Omaha and San Francisco connected by a line which will form the final link in a chain bringing San Francisco and New York within speaking range of each other. When conversation is carried on perfectly as it now is over 1250 miles of wire, the extension of distance becomes a matter of detail.

### THE CORRECT WORDS.

Those who refer to the assault on Mr. Mackay as an "attempted assassination" not only depart from good English (and therefore "good form"), but make use of an expression lacking in euphony and grace. Mr. Mackay was assassinated, but the assassination did not result fatally. The abstract noun without a prefix conveys the full meaning.

A similar case appears in the newspapers and elsewhere every now and then. Some reader or other person wants to know if the proceedings against President Andrew Johnson should not be referred to as a trial or some such thing, and not, in view of the fact that he was acquitted, as an impeachment. The President was impeached, the commencement of the proceedings against him by the House of Representatives being an impeachment.

We thought some of taking up "electrolysis" while engaged in this kind of thing; but perhaps the foregoing are all that ought to be expected of us in the line of lexicon work for one day.

### THE LIFE OF BLAINE.

The News is in receipt of a prospectus of the "Life and Work of James G. Blaine," an elegant volume of 500 large pages profusely illustrated. The composition is by John Clark Ridpath, LL. D., ex-Governor Selden Connor of Maine and others more or less familiar with the deceased statesman. The book contains an account of Mr. Blaine's boyhood, his youth in school and college, the initial period of his public career, his services in Congress and two cabinets, his great speeches, his contests for the Presidency, his international diplomacy, his literary productions, his policies and statesmanship, and an estimate of his genius. Accompanying each subject are incidents of the time and place where it occurred with pictures of the more noted men and other features, making the volume one of general interest in connection with the subject in chief. The authors' names are a guarantee of accuracy of detail as well as of literary excellence. The book will be sold by subscription only.

AS A persistent and successful quill-driver, the porcupine still occupies the front rank.