

Declined a Salary—He was not an American of course.

The refusal of Sir Edward Thornton to accept the salary provided for the umpire of the Mexican Claims Commission, a position which he has filled with so much ability, industry and fairness, struck the Centennial American aghast!

When the subject came up in cabinet the other day the new Attorney General suggested a writ *de lunatico inquirendo*.

Mr. Chandler, who never misses an opportunity to smite the British lion under the fifth rib, thought it was good ground for declaration of war.

Mr. Bristow, who has had a great deal to do with penitents lately, thought that no action had better be taken as yet, since Sir Edward might change his mind.

Mr. Robeson suggested, after shivering his timbers, that the refusal of anything from a glass of frog to the copper bottom of a condemned vessel was entirely beyond his comprehension, that to him looked like a diplomatic torpedo, which would explode somewhere when you least expected it; but he would like to hear from Jack Bunsby, and he turned his quid and his tarpaulin in the direction of Mr. Fish.

The Secretary of State acknowledged the comparison and compliment with becoming gravity, and after chewing on a piece of red tape, keeping the Cabinet in suspense for several minutes, quoted Grotius, Vattel and Wheaton, Dana's edition, and said that within his long experience the conduct of Sir Edward Thornton was without precedent; that while it reflected on the President and most of his Cabinet, who had, under remotely similar circumstances, and would now have adopted a diametrically opposite course by accepting the salary with a vigor which would astonish the Keely motor, he did not think that Sir Edward meant any disrespect; that since the days of Sir Roger de Coverley English knights were accustomed to do eccentric things, harmless in themselves. He thought, however, public service of any sort unrewarded might have a bad effect; that they would be expecting every official to work faithfully for his high salary or six hours a day on reduced wages; that the non-acceptance of anything on the part of Sir Edward might discourage the disposition to give on the part of the people; that if such a spirit were possessed the masses public would have no attractions for any of his distinguished coadjutors; that as for himself, he thanked God that he was materially relieved from anxiety on this subject, and his whole salary went for chicken salad, which was devoured by the lunch fiends of the press; that he believed with Peter Pin-

the turnpike road to people's hearts I find through their stomach, or I mistake mankind."

and that he stuffed every correspondent with terrapin and gratified at the same time.

Mr. Jewell here interrupted and he thought it was extremely kind in Sir Edward to refuse this salary; that with the money in his pocket there was an assurance of Verzenay at the English ambassador's dinners, but that he had heard of an instance of social economy when the guests were divided into three classes: champagne, sherry guests and water, the latter consisting of ladies who couldn't get the second. Jewell did not give any names, feelingly added he agreed with the inimitable author of Tristram Shandy, that when you can't get what you want, to take up the next best thing to it is pitiable and description.

Mr. Robeson and Mr. Fish exchanged glances of astonishment and indignation at this interruption on the part of Mr. Jewell, but he had gotten through the story of State resumed where he left off and said, "I was reading on the appetites of newspaper people, but the theme is too sensitive to permit further consideration at this session. I will, without prefacing my conclusion with the whys and wherefores of a diplomatic system, which I say, for Sir Edward's gratification, suggest a resemblance between Temple, Malmsbury and I, I will, I say, solve this problem by suggesting that instead

of forcing this salary upon Sir Edward we make him a present."

Silence ensued; it always does in deliberative bodies. Consult the Congressional Record of the Greeks—the Iliad—and you will find that they had "occasional brilliant flashes of silence."

The President in the meantime was wrestling with a happy thought. "Gentlemen," said the President, "I approve of the Secretary's proposition. Give Sir Edward a present by all means."

The question was put to a vote and carried.

"The next thing is to decide on the gift," said Mr. Fish.

Mr. Robeson suggested an old ironclad as being especially appropriate for the representative of the Mistress of the Seas.

Mr. Jewell thought that there was enough material in two large-sized mail bags out of which to make Sir Edward a pair of boots.

Mr. Taff objected to this, and said as Sir Edward was a great walker it would make him feel like a letter carrier to be perambulating the city with his legs encased in Mr. Jewell's condemned leather pouches.

The Attorney General thought that an elaborate brief of his in a will case put in a gilt frame would be acceptable to Sir Edward as an accompaniment to Henry the Eighth's statute on the subject of testamentary dispositions.

Mr. Chandler suggested recalling the patent for Kidwell Bottoms and transferring it to Sir Edward, as it gave no title, but read well and looked well on parchment.

The President laughed all of these proposals to scorn, and the happy thought which had possessed him found utterance: "I propose, gentlemen, as Marshal Bown has got a few more of those pups, that we present Sir Edward Thornton with an Anglo-American terrier."

Mr. Fish approved of the suggestion because the gift had something international in its character.

The rest of the Cabinet acquiesced, and the reward of merit will be formally forwarded to Sir Edward.—*Washington Capital*, June, 4th.

FRENCH STRATEGY.—When the French were in Mexico the stage robberies in the vicinity of Monterey became almost as frequent as they are getting to be between here and King-bury. With the practical common sense for which the French are distinguished when they go about killing people, the French general at Monterey devised a plan that worked like a charm. He picked out half a dozen of the smallest Zouaves and dressed them up as females, and put them in the stage. Each unprotected female had a short breech-loading carbine concealed under his petticoats, and they covered their demure faces by veils. Of course the robbers surrounded the stage, and the ladies, with an excess of feminine modesty, climbed out of the vehicle and fell in line with the rest of the passengers, when of a sudden an epidemic broke out among those Mexican patriots, for each lady, on an average, destroyed about three of them, and the rest lost all taste for female society and went away disgusted. The ladies returned to town in high glee, but for a long time the Mexican bandits entertained such a lofty veneration for the gentler sex that an old bonnet and shawl displayed conspicuously in a stage secured it immunity from interruption.—*An Antonio Herald*.

RIDICULOUS PATENTS.—Among the ridiculous patents that have been granted at Washington are a trap for catching tape-worms, a combined plow and cannon, a patent brick to be tied to a cow's tail to keep her from switching her natural appendage, a house on rollers that deaden the shock of an earthquake, and a combined trunk and house. The person afflicted with tape-worm starves himself until the worm, attracted by the delicious bait in the trap, is readily caught. The combined plow and cannon is for frontier farmers, and is intended for mowing down savages. The combined trunk and house is adapted to persons of small means, and can be extended or contracted, as they may have occasion to use a house or a trunk.—*Colorado Farmer*.

"Does a delegate have a vote in Congress, pa?" Inquired a young American the other morning at breakfast. "No, my son" was the grave reply, "delegates cannot vote, but when it comes to giving powerful advice they are as raging mustangs of the rolling prairie, carrying along behind them a

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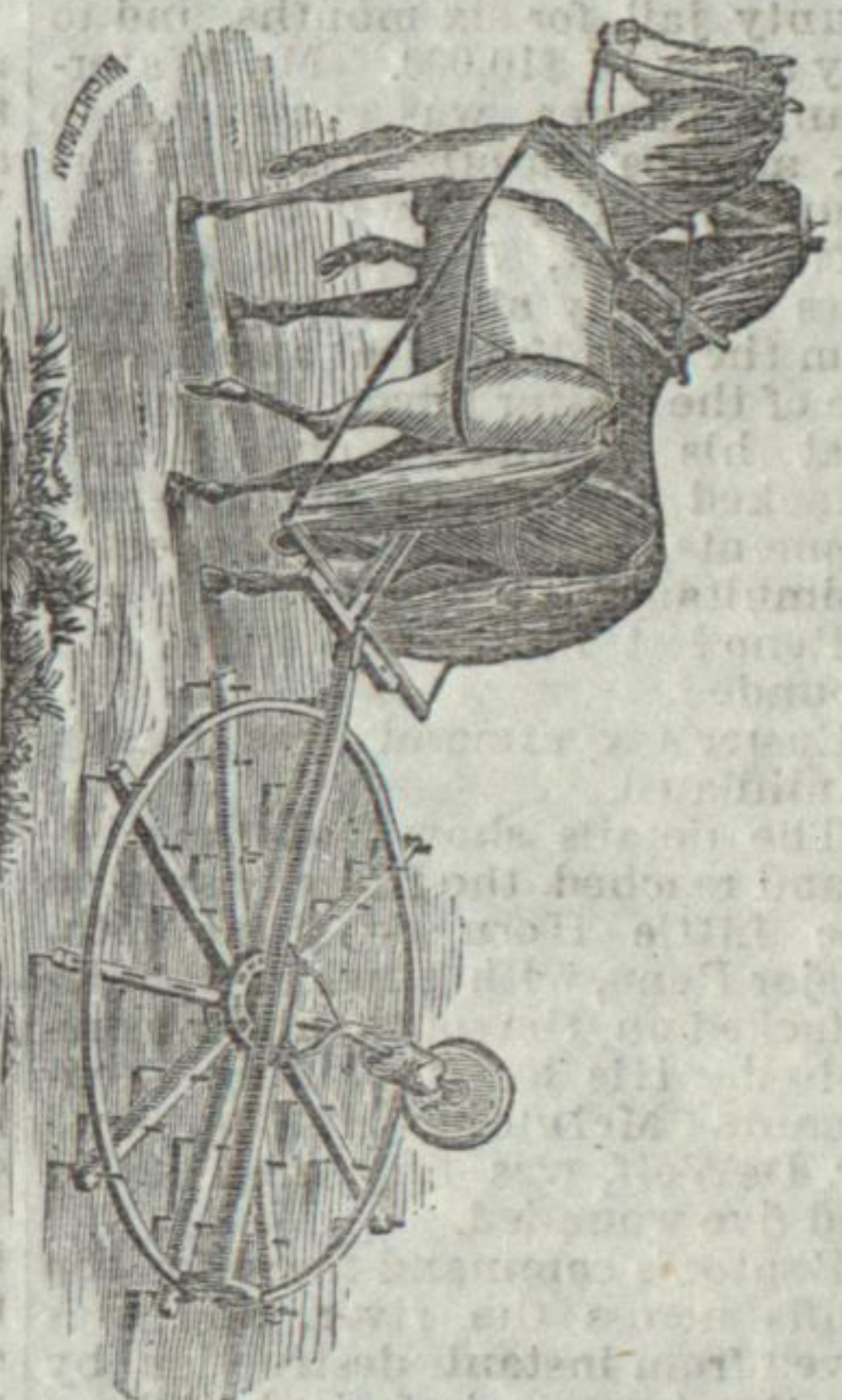
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