

WASHINGTON JOTTINGS.

I was present today at the opening of Congress, and heard the announcement of the vote electing the Hon. "Tom" Reed (republican) as Speaker of the House. He had 166 votes, while Carlisle (democrat) had 154, and one candidate received one vote. Some thought he voted for himself, but he didn't. The "Chair" appointed Carlisle and McKinley (the latter being the next most favored candidate at the republican caucus) to lead the Speaker-elect to the chair. They had to fetch him from one of the Committee rooms, and he had the appearance of a giant as they led him up the aisle. He was then sworn in, and made a speech, short and to the point. Mr. Reed speaks in a clear tone of voice, and with very little nasal accent. He comes from Maine, is of colossal form, and looks like "a cross" between Robert Ingersoll and Prof. Lewis, with a little of the weight of the much respected Judge Wright to grace the combination. It is said that he is a tornado in debate, placid as he appears in the chair, and has figuratively made many of the members feel his oratorical weight upon their political corns.

The members were next sworn in, in squads of about twenty at a time, the representatives from the new States causing a ripple of excitement as they approached the Speaker's desk. The representatives from Arizona, Idaho, Wyoming and Utah formed a lonesome looking quartette, but the Hon. John T. Caine was as graceful a gentleman as any that appeared on the floor. He looked dignified enough for a senator, and I could not help picturing in my mind Utah as a State, with some of our most able citizens on the floors of both Houses. God speed the day when territorial vassalage shall cease in the United States.

It is believed that McKinley will be appointed chairman of ways and means committee and Cannon of appropriations, of which Henderson will be a member. He is a long-headed Scotchman and prefers to be next to the funds, as there is more influence in that capacity than any in Congress, as well as everywhere else.

Senator Edmunds—the favorite in Utah—was chairman of the committee to wait upon the President and inform him of the organization. The country will doubtless have been telegraphically submerged with the President's message before this reaches you. The republicans will pronounce it "sublime," while the democrats will speak of it as "so so." When the republican majority was shown by the election of Mr. Reed for Speaker, there was a burst of applause on the left of the House. The democrats who were in the majority last time did not look quite so enthusiastic, but they accept the situation in hopes for the future, based on the recent election in several States showing democratic victories almost unexpected.

This city is swarmed with con-

gressmen, lawyers, lobbyists and visitors with axes to grind on the congressional stone. Veterans with limbless sleeves and going on crutches are as thick as "liberal colonists" before an election. Changes in the pension laws are anticipated, and everybody who has ever heard a gun go off expects to draw lacteal nutriment from the breasts of the government during the rest of his natural life.

On Thanksgiving Day I attended the Covenant Church, and put my mite into the same contribution basket with President Harrison. His \$20 bill was doubtless more acceptable than my "quarter," but nobody quibbled about the discrepancy. We had a scientific sermon from the Rev. Dr. Bartlett of the New York Avenue Church. He gave us some oratorical touches which reminded me of Brother Bywater, and showed his familiarity with science and history, as well as common sense. His text was, "Today if ye will hear My voice." Among other good things, in speaking of keeping in communication with the Almighty, he said, "Did God speak to Moses on Sinai, and at Calvary, and has He nothing to say to this great nation? If He spoke on Sinai it was as the sounding of the pipe, while today it is the full organ. Then it was the notes of the lute, but now He gives us the full orchestra. Today He touches with His mighty hand the whole gamut from the bass to the soprano. All we have to do is to keep our auditory faculties in condition to receive the swell of the music." Revelation, as well as other "Mormon" doctrines, is becoming a popular theme under the cover of sectarian oratory.

Some portions of his discourse were quite humorous, and elicited smiles from the congregation. Imagine such "sacrilege" would have horrified the Presbyterians of another age. But now common sense is largely taking the place of pharisaical sanctimony, and poor humanity is not expected to crucify itself on Sunday that it may be saved the rest of the week, even in the Church of the Covenant.

A son of General Sherman is lecturing here. He is a Roman Catholic, and is advertised as the Rev. Father Sherman. He addressed an audience lately in the Catholic University just dedicated. Churches are as frequent here as drug stores in a prohibition State, and people can get any kind of religion they want to pay for, from the mass that commences at 5:30 in the morning on great days and lasts till 11, to the colored Methodists, who convert sinners at several meetings every Sunday, and take up three collections at every meeting—the dark man thus eclipsing, financially as well as physically, his white brother whose religious proclivities he duplicates.

But I must now close, and tell your readers about the great institution known as the "General Land Office" in another letter.

C. W. STAYNER.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 2nd, 1889.

BUILDING ON CAPITOL HILL.

Governor Thomas has inaugurated an important movement, and with his accustomed energy and persistence he will no doubt accomplish the object he has in view, and in which he will be warmly seconded by leading men in official business circles. The undertaking is no less than the securing, from this session of Congress, of an appropriation for the immediate erection of public buildings on Capitol Hill. The amount asked for will be \$500,000, a sum that would pay for the erection of buildings and improvement of the grounds in a manner that would be a credit to the government. It is believed that at least \$250,000 would be readily given for the purpose, and while this would be sufficient for a magnificent structure, yet a larger amount would be necessary to place the grounds and surroundings in a desirable condition.

THE COMMISSION'S ORDER.

Following is the order of the Utah Commission, formulated upon the complaint against the registrars, and made by the People's Central Committee:

OFFICE UTAH COMMISSION, }
SALT LAKE CITY, Dec. 11, 1889. }

Certain charges having been this day preferred by the Municipal Central Committee of the People's party, against the registrars of said city, it is ordered that the following reply be communicated by the secretary to the complainants, to wit:

WHEREAS, Your communication of the 11th of December inst. charges the registrars of the city of Salt Lake, U. T., with divers acts in violation of the law, and the instructions issued by the Utah Commission on the 13th day of August, 1889, based upon the law, a copy of which instructions are attached hereto, and calls upon the Commission to take cognizance of the charges, you are hereby notified that the Commission will on the 16th day of the present month at ten o'clock a. m., hear proofs of the charges.

The Commission requests and expects you to make such charges specific as to particular acts, times and places, and the persons claiming to be affected as qualified voters by said acts; such specific charges are expected to be filed as promptly as possible, so that the registrars may be informed before the day set for hearing of the specific charges they have to meet.

And the said registrars are requested and directed to be present at said hearing, and answer said charges. Respectfully,

G. L. GODFREY,
Chairman.

To H. M. Wells, Vice-Chairman,
R. W. Young, Secretary, Municipal Central Committee, People's Party.

Salt Lake City.