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BUSINESS DIRECTORY.

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WASHINGTON LETTER.

Washington, D. C., July 20, '84.

Congress provided just before adjournment for the appointment of one hundred and fifty special examiners in the Pension Office in addition to the number now employed. What peculiar qualifications are necessary for an intelligent discharge of the duties of an examiner I don't know, but the Civil Service commission is going to hold its class meetings all over the country, beginning next Saturday, for the purpose of examining into the proficiency of the proposed examiners. The delectable feature of the business lies in the fact that there are some hundreds of applicants for Governmental positions who have already passed an examination by the commission, and, of these hundreds, just four have been provided for, only one of whom has found a place in the Interior Department! From this statement it can be ascertained to some degree of accuracy how much of a show there will be for the hundreds of applicants who will present themselves for examination for this position of special examiner, a position, by the way, which will doubtless be filled as all the rest of them have been, by drafts upon the Census Bureau and relays from other departments.

The withdrawal of Wilbur F. Storey, of the Chicago Times, from the field of journalism may not be a serious matter now, when the newspaper has practically perfected itself in its great mission, but to Mr. Storey more than any other man, living or dead, is the credit due for the tremendous enterprise which has been brought to the making up of the great journals of the day. It was always the aim, as it was the pride and boast of Mr. Storey, to get the news and lay it before his readers before all competitors. For the accomplishment of this he spared neither labor, expense, diligence or dubious methods, in which money considerations too often entered, and thus was enabled to inaugurate a system of newspaper work which every large paper in the country was compelled to adopt, and the great public was the gainer by it. For some years Mr. Storey has taken no active part in the management of the Times, nor was it necessary, for every writer upon the paper knew exactly what the old man's notions were, and governed themselves accordingly. Mr. Storey, of course, made a fortune out of his enterprise, to take care of which it has recently been become necessary to appoint a conservator, as the old man's brain has softened, and his days of usefulness gone forever.

The usual muddle caused by the indecent haste with which measures are rushed through Congress in the closing hours of the session, is developed in the letter-carriers' vacation bill, which gives these employes fifteen days of junketing without making appropriations for the payment of their substitutes for more than seven days. There is no more propriety in bestowing a half a month's time upon this class of employes than there is for paying any other class of Government laborers twelve and a half months' pay for twelve months of labor, which the Solicitor of the Treasury has solemnly declared that the Government has not the right to do. While it may be admitted that the letter-carrier is eminently deserving of any and every privilege that the Government has the power to grant, he cannot expect to receive favors that must necessarily work detriment to the public service. He has a good salary, is morally certain of retaining his situation so long as he behaves himself, has no doctored time on account of weather or holidays, and altogether he is about as well provided for in the line of receiving favors as a reasonable person ought to expect. It is a notable fact besides, that almost from the time of the inauguration of the system of mail delivery, these letter-carriers have been organizing and combining among themselves for increased pay, and other privileges which the Government has as regularly allowed them, as it has steadily refused them to other classes of employes.

The great scarcity of one and two dollar greenbacks will soon be at an end, as the Government has set its printing presses at work to print them until the appropriation therefor is exhausted. The issues of ones will amount to some sixty-six millions, and the twos to about thirty-eight millions, which in addition to the present circulation is thought to be ample to meet all present needs.

DOM PEDRO.

LET us take it easy. Let us not begin to get hot and mad about politics right here in the dog days, with the election four months off. Let us take it coolly and gracefully and peacefully, and let the unfortunate fellows in the October states do the sweating and fretting for the present. This, of course, is dropped as a temporary suggestion, to be determined by the environment of time, place and circumstance. But there is one admonition as to political conduct that we desire to engrave upon the mind of every republican. Make all your election bets cash. If a rash and impudent democrat offers to back up his wind with the money, and you feel that you must garner him in, be sure the money is put up in the hands of a reliable stakeholder. Such a course will no doubt greatly reduce the number of bets, but it will add largely to the gathered harvest after election. These Topics know a man who makes two or three hundred dollars a year by making election bets on credit, and then collecting what he wins but failing to pay his losses. It is wrong to bet, but if you do, bet cash. This is the law and the profits. Topics.

A RECENT telegram to the New York Herald from Mexico states that the nomination of Cleveland is received with great satisfaction by the Mexicans. This must be very pleasing news to Mr. Cleveland. He now has the support of the British lion and the Mexican greaser. The Mexican greaser is laboring under the impression that Blaine will invade and capture his country. Immediately after Mr. Blaine's nomination a Mexican paper advised the utmost vigilance on the part of the national guard, the arming of private citizens and preparations to prevent the threatened invasion by the plumed knight. It is probably for the same reason, if the truth could be known, that the British lion now roars for Cleveland. He is perhaps afraid that Blaine and Logan, will invade Canada and annex it to the United States.

A SINGLE bitter word may disquiet an entire family for a whole day. One surly glance casts a gloom over the household; while a smile like a gleam of sunshine, may light up the darkest and weariest hours. Like unexpected flowers which spring up along our path, full of freshness, fragrance and beauty, so kind words and gentle acts and sweet dispositions make glad the sacred spot called home. No matter how humble the abode, if it be sweetened with kindness and smiles, the heart will turn lovingly toward it from all the tumults of the world, and home, if it be ever so homely, will be the dearest spot beneath the circuit of the sun.

The cholera situation in France is becoming very serious. The fatal and epidemic character of the disease is established beyond question. The problem now is, can it be restricted to the district already affected? This is hardly possible, though it was done successfully in Egypt last year. But there military authority was invoked, and travel absolutely stopped by a cordon of rifles through which no one could pass. Such a blockade cannot be established in a thickly populated and civilized country and the chances are that the plague will spread all over the world.

A SUMMER house for cats has been established by a lady in Boston, and there are 700 feline inmates. The leaders of the independents go there regularly for their inspiration and to take lessons in harmony. The cats are harmonious, but on a basis that applies to them and the independents alike. Each cat is locked in a cage by itself.

The Washington monument has reached a height of 482 feet, and when eighteen more feet are added it will be completed. It is hoped to finish it this year.

FASHION NOTES.

EXTREMELY high French heels are not put on walking boots.

The overdress is more and more frequently worn with downward plaits as the season advances.

SINGLE bangles are attached by a ribbon to handsome parasols, to slip over them and keep them closed.

SLIPPERS for the house are cut very low in front, and have their box toes more sharply pointed than shoes.

WHITE China silk is being extensively used for underclothing. It is soft and silky, and delightfully cool.

LONG fichus are in white embroidered mull and India muslins with an edging of wide lace gathered in a full ruffle.

LAPIS-LAZULI is both prettier and more becoming than navy blue, and is the blue of the season in both dress fabrics and trimmings.

JERSEYS are finished with velvet collars and cuffs. Almond-colored and cream-white jerseys are stylishly used over ecru foulard skirts.

PRETTY lamp-shades for the summer have a rose-colored or yellow foundation, covered with narrow ruffles of any kind of delicate imitation lace.

A NOVELTY in the Queen Ann shoe is the introduction of red and black patent-leather fronts, just fastened with a small steel button, and Louis Quinze heels.

LITTLE girls' dresses of sateen have entire bodies of sateen gathered to a yoke of embroidery, the skirt being finished with a three-inch hem and a ruffle of embroidery below.

YOUNG girls wear peasant-waists, or corselets of velvet over guimpes of crepe lisse or India mull, with small puffs for sleeves. The skirt is ornamented with bows of velvet to match the corselet.

For those who prefer colored gowns, pale blue or pink, Scotch gingham of solid color is used for all of the gown but the yoke, which is made of white embroidery in open compass, wheel or star patterns.

VERY dressy white bonnets have the front nearly covered by an Alsatian bow of fluted Valenciennes lace, on which rested tinsel butterflies; the smooth crown is of white crape, with small figures upon it made of gilt beads.

Too many ostrich tips are not in good taste on the summer hats. The Gainsboro shape so much worn by the picturesque young ladies for some time past is quite passe, and will not be worn by those who wish to be considered in style.

HAND-PAINTED sashes of silk or satin, in pale or dark colors, will be much worn this summer over simple house dresses of French muslin, organdie and lawn. With more dressy toilets for the evening, graceful little sleeveless jackets are made to match.

THE little Princess Mercedes, eldest daughter of the King and Queen of Spain, and called after his first wife, is much admired and talked about. She is said to be like her mother, Queen Christina. The princess appears daily in public, and when her outriders are seen on the streets or public promenades every one stops to get a glimpse of the pretty little thing. Summer and winter she wears pure white, and even the small chair which is fixed upon the seat of her carriage is covered with white satin upholstery.

THERE are indications of a general resurrection day for politicians who are "out of politics." They are beginning to spring up Phoenix-like all over the country with an astounding spontaneity—only to be "out of politics" for a season once more.

CALIFORNIA has begun shipping beer to Chicago. This is like carrying coals to Newcastle.

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