

OBSERVATIONS.

A blind man could see a radical change in the supreme court since the crabbed old man, Maxwell, was jarred loose from the bench, much to the relief of the bench, and correspondingly, to the discomfiture of the judge, who has become so hopelessly addicted to the office holding habit that he has, it is reported, been more or less hysterical, ever since he had to step down and out to make room for Judge T. O. C. Harrison. For some reason not clear to anybody but himself, Judge Maxwell was firmly imbued with the idea that he, Maxwell, was a person of immense consequence, and he sat in his chief justice's chair a hoary despot. The associate justices were, in his opinion, mere clerks, and the officers of the court and attendants and such attorneys and citizens as happened to have business with the court, were so many nobodies to be trampled on regardlessly by his mightiness, the Chief Justice. Maxwell is no secret that he led his associates a very sorry life. Now matters have assumed a more natural and rational aspect. Judge Harrison is a welcome addition to the bench and the chief justice, Norval, is a very reasonable gentleman. The Maxwell regime is entirely over, and everybody around the court breathes easier. Business is done in a business like manner. There is no folderol, and the ravings of the old man are a thing of the past. It is said, and we have reason to think with much truth, that Judges Norval and Post appear fully ten years younger since Maxwell was ushered out of office. Cases will be expedited in the supreme court now.

Newspaper men have sometimes complained that the State Journal is painfully slow in recognizing and placing a proper value on merit, and that paper is noted for its conservatism both as regards editorial and business policy. Hence the important change in the business department, of which announcement is now made, by which F. C. Seacrest becomes business manager, is a very decided compliment to that gentleman. Those who are cognizant of Mr. Seacrest's work on the Journal in the last two or three years know that he deserves the recognition which he now receives, and newspaper men in this city are pleased to observe his success. The phenomenal development of the semi-weekly edition of the Journal in the last two years has been due to a very large extent to Mr. Seacrest, who has given the greater share of his attention to this particular field. He has been singularly successful and has accomplished a great work. Now that he is given new powers and greater responsibility he may be expected to achieve even greater things. Mr. Seacrest is a young man to undertake such responsibility as the position of business manager of a concern of the Journal's magnitude carries with it, but he is admirably qualified, and he will be a success.

A dollar of the kind described below would fill a long felt want with most people. It would probably be acceptable to the News and Call. An exchange says: "What we want is a dollar easy to get and hard to let go; a dollar that will pay four dollars worth of debts and then come back by means of a string of tachment; a dollar that snuggles easy in the sock of John Smith, but withers like the manna of old in a safe of a railroad president; a dollar that will buy some flour and meat while it buys much whisky and tobacco; a dollar above drawing interest and yet will double itself while the owner sits in the shade and spits at a crack in the pavement; will buy shoes for baby while it buys fun a man in places where he can't take his wife; a dollar that will surely repair the waste of sloth, appetite and bad judgment; a dollar that comes to the lap of indolence like worms to the craw of a fatherless robin; a dollar that will remove the sentence pronounced upon Adam and reduce the order of men."

Lincoln has a considerable colony of Russians, and if some George Kennan would penetrate into the inner life of these people he might discover a number of things of more or less interest. The Russian peasant doesn't know very much about Ibsen or Tolstol, and poetry doesn't fill his soul. His ideas are intensely practical. He is in the business of living for what he can get out of it—in a much more eminent degree than the American, and his practical ideas of money-getting sometimes assume very peculiar, and at times, startling forms.

We haven't a particularly clear idea of the inner consciousness of the Russian male peasant as we see him in this country, and we do not know what he thinks; but, if outward and visible signs are to be accepted as a true representation, it would seem that he regards his wife or daughter in much the same manner that we (those of us who have them) regard our horses. He certainly has the greatest confidence in their strength, for he doesn't hesitate to put any kind of a burden on their shoulders. And when it comes to matrimony he exemplifies his

practical ideas in a manner that must appear most striking to the American suitor.

Women, like horses, have a value, and he values them by the amount of work they can do and if you want his daughter you have got to buy her just as you would his horse, at least in some instances. In one case that has recently come under our observation a young man asked a Russian laborer for his daughter's hand and was told he could have her for \$100—that was the amount she would earn the coming summer picking beets at Grand Island. The young man objected to buying a wife, and there was a secret marriage. After the ceremony the father said he would take \$50 for her. He didn't take any, for the young man commanded the situation. It is said to be a fact that it is a common practice among the Russian inhabitants of this city to dispose of their daughters in this manner. Where the swain is of the same nationality he has to meet the father's terms.

We observe that the Call has taken down its standing editorial card addressed to President Cleveland. In a few days a brand new one addressed to Mr. Gladstone will appear. The Call will take this method of informing Mr. Gladstone that his ideas about government and home rule, etc., are soggy. The Call is a great paper.

Prof. Hicks is one of the few men who are able to hold a political office without becoming a politician in the common conception of the term. It cannot be said that he leaves politics to become a missionary, because he was not in politics. If he exhibits the same efficiency in his missionary labors—and we believe he will—that he has shown as chairman of the board of public works, he will be a most valuable addition to the missionary corps.

If Mayor Weir would only follow Hicks' example and depart for foreign lands to engage in similar work it would be a good thing—not necessarily for the heathen, but for the city of Lincoln.

The editor of the "One Way of Putting It" department of the State Journal, had the temerity to attack that most formidable aggregation of color and monstrosity, the Lansing drop curtain, last Sunday, and the curtain came out second best. It was a very clever piece of work—the criticism, not the curtain.

Tuesday of this week was the first anniversary of the collapse of the Capital National bank, the worst calamity that ever visited Lincoln. If the Capital National had not closed its doors when it did, and under such circumstances, the wave of hard times that rolled over the country would have had very little effect in this city. Whatever of business embarrassment there has been may be attributed almost wholly to the bank wrecker, Mosher. And yet, with the closing of the bank and the prevailing business stagnation, it is wonderful how little damage was done in the past year. It has been a trying period; but Lincoln has come out of it with flying colors.

If Garneau had only saved the money that he blew in on Lillian Russell in Chicago during the world's fair, he could have made her a very handsome present when she married the other fellow. It is understood that for a considerable period, it was a nip and tuck race between Sandow, the strong man and our own Garneau. The contest cost the people of Nebraska a good deal, to wit: the ruination of the state exhibit.

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IN WASHINGTON

(Written for the COURIER.) WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 24, 1894.—The practical effect of the administration's Hawaiian policy upon the American people—always lovers of fair play, can best be shown by two pictures observed and commented upon by the politicians. One, that of a seemingly solitary individual, of somewhat distinguished appearance, seen frequently at the capitol and whom everybody seems to know. He always receives a more or less friendly greeting, but is usually left severely to himself by his old associates in congress, even of his own political persuasion now in the majority in both houses. If he is overtaken in the corridors, or if found in the senate restaurant alone, he is always pointed out as a conspicuous personage; even the ubiquitous Washington guide has caught the infection and informs his country friends that "there goes Paramount Blount."

The other picture is that of Ex-Minister Stevens, who although well along in years, seems to be in great demand everywhere. The newspapers are anxious to interview him; he has by invitation delivered lectures upon Hawaii in Boston, at the Academy of Music in Philadelphia, and other places, and is now to be the guest at the re-union of the republican clubs of Michigan in the near future. He, with Senator Allison, another invited guest, will go from this city with the Michigan delegation to Detroit in a special car. At the Yale Hawaiian dinner the other day given by the Hawaiian students in celebration of the events of last January, Dean Wayland of the Yale law school said: "I understand that Mr. Cleveland used to scratch his head this way." The dean went through the motion of scratching his head by placing his fingers in his hair and moving them up and down. Continuing he said, "Now I understand that Mr. Cleveland scratches his head this way," lifting his hand as far above his head as possible, the dean clawed the air and then his hair for a moment, and sat down amidst a burst of applause. Several of the young Hawaiians shouted "Cleveland has a swelled head." The Yale law faculty has always been supposed to be composed entirely of Cleveland men.

The tariff seems to have the right of way over everything else at present. Protests against the Wilson bill are being poured in from every part of the country at the rate of 100 per day. Nobody seems able to guess what the outcome will be; a tariff reform measure will undoubtedly pass both houses, but the opinion is held in many quarters that the present bill will have to be "reformed" before it can become a law.

The story is told of the discussion by a rural debating society of the question as to where is the best place to have a boil, and the conclusion after a heated argument, "On the other fellow." This to a certain extent seems to be the underlying theory of the present bill the majority of its exponents coming from the south and west. Witness some of the provisions: The orange growers, rice farmers and peanut raisers are accorded practically undiminished protection, while coal and wood are put on the free list. Canada imposes a duty of 40 cents per barrel on our apples; 60 cents a ton on our coal; 20 per cent duty on our lumber and shingles, while we propose to admit these articles free. She requires a duty of 18 percent on our sole leather, while we ask her to pay only 5 per cent.

Mr. Carlisle's bond proposition was received with instant favor, the offerings the first day aggregating \$200,000,000, just four times the amount to be issued. Some of the offers were at 120 and 122. The proposed bond issue has not had much effect upon the stock markets; indeed with a surplus bank reserve in New York of \$102,754,450 last week something must be wrong, not in the financial, but the business world, when Dun reports thirty-seven business concerns as being resumed during the week, while twenty-one stopped at reduced force. The concerns starting up did so at a reduction of 13 to 15 per cent in wages. The sales of wool were 3,180,500 pounds against 3,082,300 pounds a year ago. The domestic price of wool was so low that it was exported the first time since 1857.

As a result of the hard times the social functions of the official families in Washington are attended with much less splendor, than formerly. They are fewer in number, and the ladies of the cabinet by agreement omit refreshments at the afternoon receptions. Therefore a reception without refreshments is quite the thing now.

Some comment has been provoked at the failure to invite the charge d'affaires of the Hawaiian legation to the diplomatic dinner at the white house last week, in the absence of Mr. Thurston. Every other legation was represented.

The members of the diplomatic corps have taken umbrage at the treatment accorded them by Mr. Cleveland at the

dinner. It appears that the annual state dinner is about the only occasion on which they can chat informally with the president of the United States, but on this occasion after the dinner, the ladies retired to the east room while the gentlemen remained in the state dining-room. Cigars were brought in, and Mr. Cleveland at once entered upon an earnest conversation with Senator Morgan, chairman of the senate committee on foreign affairs and for an hour and a half left his guests to entertain themselves. Secretary of State Gresham was similarly absorbed with Senator Sherman. It is said that Mr. Cleveland finally noticed some uneasiness whereupon he suggested that they join the ladies in the east room. NIXON.

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