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THURSDAY, FEB. 1, 1900.

Washington Letter.

Special Correspondence.

In order to heal the threatened break between the sham reform forces of Nebraska, and at the same time to perfect the old arrangement to deliver the populists over to the democrats for good and all, the pop managers, or rather the democratic managers of the populist party, have arranged to hold the Populist National Committee Meeting at Lincoln. According to the program, just when the real populists are objecting to the trickery of the democratic managers, and are in the act of being thrown out over the transom, Bryan will arrive from Kentucky or somewhere, and enter the hall all out of breath, and all unconscious that anything is going on. Then there will be the usual pre-arranged spontaneous outburst of enthusiasm, and the general tumult will drown the groans of the wounded. In fact Jones and Allen have planned a grand finale that will be worth going to see.

Some comment is heard in Washington over the showing made by the banks of Nebraska. It seems that the last consolidated report shows that the banks have individual deposits amounting to \$50,525,771.50 being \$50 apiece for every man, woman and child in the state. And this does not include government deposits, of which there is a considerable amount held by Lincoln and Omaha banks. Eastern people are wondering how calamity howlers can have the face to remain in a state where there is so much money. If the extra dollars that are carried around in pockets, or are laid away in the stocking banks, were added to the total the Easterners might well wonder.

In the caucuses held by the senators this week, Senators Teller could take no part, and remained back in the senate chamber all by himself. He still disagrees with the republicans on the money question, but he is not so unpatriotic as to subscribe to the Aginaldoisms of the fusion leaders, or the free trade ideas of the democrats. So he remains out of the conferences. Not so our Senator Allen. He walked up and took every kind of medicine that was offered, and cried for more. It is a curious fact that some of the democrats in congress who have wept bitter crocodile tears over the slavery and polygamy in the Sult Islands, are the same ones who want Roberts seated in the house, and who want disfranchise the negroes in the South and take away from them the opportunity of an education. All of which goes to show that political inconsistency is not confined to the limit of Nebraska.

It is reported here in Washington that Senator Thurston is to round out his political career presiding at the Republican National Convention. It is urged that he be given his position on account of his ability to preside and his wonderful voice which he always heard and understood.

One Nebraskan who is gaining national prominence is George D. Meikeljohn, who, while holding the position of assistant secretary of war is really the actual secretary so far as the duties of the Office are concerned, and it is upon him the burden falls of receiving all the delegations, assuming all responsible and keeping the work going. While he does all this with full satisfaction, he is unquestionably the busiest man in the Capital City. To party of Nebraskans who called on Admiral Dewey a few days ago the great commander expressed the greatest of admiration for the first Nebraska Regiment, and said he had watched it through the whole campaign, and was ready to certify that it was one of the very best Regiments in the United States, if not superior to all of them.

Explanation of Sunday School Lesson. BY REV. GEO. B. BURNE.

The First Disciples of Jesus. John 1:35-46. February 4, 1900.

GOLDEN TEXT: "They Followed Jesus."

After Jesus' temptation he went back to where John was baptizing, at Bethabara, on the other side the Jordan. While Jesus was undergoing the temptations in the desert place John continued to preach. The authorities at Jerusalem, unable longer to be silent, sent a commission of priests and Levites to question John. They ask John whether he was Elijah, or the prophet; and if he was neither why did he baptize? John said he was not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the prophet; and if he was neither, why did he baptize? John said he was not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the prophet, but a voice, "I baptize with water," said John; in the midst of you standeth one whom ye know not, the latchet of whose shoe I am not worthy to unloose. At the height of his fame, without anyone as a rival, John stoops to the dust to his rightful Lord. The greatest preacher of his day, not worthy to kneel in the dust before one in their midst, unknown.

On the next day John the Baptist stood with two of his disciples and looking upon Jesus said, "Behold the Saint of God." There was something about Jesus that caused this spontaneous outburst. John saw in him the graciousness, the gentleness, the dignity that marked him as more than man, that set him apart as a divine person. The Saint furnished of God, slain from the foundation of the world. His blood poured out for the remission of sin. The lamb without spot or blemish, led to the slaughter, whose blood cleanses from all sin.

One of the disciples standing with the Baptist was Andrew, the other doubtless was John. No sooner did they hear John's testimony pointing them to the Saint of God, than they left the Baptist and followed Jesus. It is not to be wondered at that they followed Jesus. In a short time all men would seek him, not long until he would draw all men to him. The Pharisees confessed after a time that the whole world had gone after him and from present indications it is continuing to go after him.

When Jesus saw these two men following him, he said what seek ye? "They say, Master, where dwellest thou?" "Come and see." There was abundance of welcome in the invitation. "Come and see." An invitation that characterizes the christian religion. God never turns the seeker away. No rebuff at the hands of Christ. He welcomed the inquiry and they went and saw where he dwelt, and remained the rest of the day. It may have been at ten o'clock in the morning or four in the afternoon when they entered his lodging. The hour depends on the time of reconing that St. John uses. These first hours they spent in company with Jesus were hallowed. From that time Jesus Christ dwelt in their hearts. They would now follow Jesus and become his disciples. The conversation on that afternoon and evening, quite likely, was of the kingdom. An invitation no doubt was extended to these two men to become members of the kingdom and his intimate disciples. Nothing more than this personal acquaintance was required to convince these men that Jesus of Nazareth was superior to John and that here indeed was the Messiah of whom the prophets wrote.

Christianity is propagated by the personal effort! Everyone is his brothers keeper. Great general movements in society or church do not convert people. It is the work of Andrew and Philip that converts. Andrew first finds his own brother Peter and tells him. "We have found the Messiah," and he brought him to Jesus. In the religion of Jesus the brother brings the brother, the sister the sister, relative brings relative, friend brings friend and the Lord brings whoever will come. Good

tidings told is, the Gospel. Andrew's first thought was "where is Peter?" The lesser brings the greater. Thou art Simon the son of Jona. Thou shalt be called "the Rock." "Peter the Rock." Possibly Peter's old friends that knew him would smile at the impulsive, quick tempered, heedless man being called "the Rock." But such he would become. It would require much labor, no end of patience and abundance of teaching before Peter would be "the Rock." After three years of the Master's influence and teaching, Peter was yet far off from being "the Rock." He even with all these three years of discipleship could curse and deny the Master but after more patience, a little more labor, after more forgiveness he became "the Rock." If anyone doubts the strength of Peter's character let him read the Acts or Peter's epistles. The apostles were not ignorant men, nor weak in character. They were picked men, chosen by the Master who knew all men.

The Lord now had two, he must have ten more, for the apostleship. The next day Jesus went to find another. He knew where he could find him and went to Galilee to meet him. He found Philip of Bethsaida where Andrew and Peter lived. "Follow me," he said and Philip followed, not for one day but his whole life. As in the case of Andrew, Philip seeks his friend Nathanael. Both friends had been of the same mind looking for the Christ. Philip finding his friend tells him of his discovery. "We have found him of whom Moses and the prophets did write Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." This was greater and better news to this class of men than had they suddenly run onto diamond fields or gold mines. For long years they had been waiting in expectation and at last the dawn of that hopeful day had come.

"Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" asked Nathanael. As Nathanael lived in Cana, a small town not far from Nazareth there possibly was a little town jealousy in his speech. "At least he was somewhat prejudiced against Nazareth. This home town of Jesus had a bad reputation, but that excuses no one from being prejudiced against a country or people, thinking there is no good in others. Philip did not stop to argue but said, "Come and see." Here is the best test of christianity. Invite people who are prejudiced against Jesus Christ to come and see for themselves. I invite infidelity, agnosticism, atheism, all skepticism to see for itself and Jesus Christ will convince beyond gainsay that, "He is the way, the truth, the life." We discuss and argue, affirm and deny; we have great systems of apology to prove the truth of christianity but the best and most convincing is to "Come and see." Experience is the absolute proof. Jesus seeing Nathanael coming said, "Behold an Israelite indeed in whom is no guile." After further conversation Nathanael confesses, "Rabbi thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel."

Secretary Porter's late denunciation of the board of transportation is stirring up quite a feeling among the faithful and some of those in high authority indulge in uncomplimentary remarks about Mr. Porter.

Twenty-six thousand arrests for drunkenness a year and eight thousand imprisonments is the appalling record of one of the most enlightened of American cities. It means one arrest to every four families. What it means to the taxpayers may be reckoned from the facts that, while the fines collected amounted to less than twenty-five thousand dollars, the cost of maintaining the prisoners took from the public more than one hundred and twenty five thousand dollars. The net cost to the city was therefore more than one thousand dollars. Were it proposed to appropriate that sum for a library or any beneficent public institution, the matter would be carefully considered, lest the city be guilty of extravagance. A remedy for this yearly tribute to the city's shame and curse is much more worthy of consideration. —Youths Companion.

Cotton is touching the highest figures in a long time. The plants, like the rest of the agriculturists, are experiencing the republican prosperity. Most of the cotton growers doubtless voted against the republicans in 1896. A large part of them will probably vote the same way in 1900. Yet the republican party will win just the same, and the prosperity which its victory three years ago brought to the country will be still further extended by the triumph in 1900. This prosperity, too, will be shared by the democratic masses just as it will be by the Republicans. The democrats will get little better fortune than they deserve, but the republican party makes no preferences in the distribution of such favors. —Exchange.

Secretary Porter says, the members of the board of transportation do nothing but draw their salaries and that the demand of the shippers who protest against high freight rates receive no attention by its members. His suggestion that they should be discharged and a new board organized, does not meet the approval of the State House ring who hold their position by the assistance of the members of the board.

A Pittsburg jewelry drummer said recently that his patrons had been "cleaned out" during the holidays and that they needed new stocks immediately. Most of the wholesale jewelry firms in that vicinity seem to find their patrons in the same situation, and many of them have closed their stores during stock-taking in order to expedite the work and get themselves in shape to supply the trade as soon as possible. Dingley law prosperity is the kind that brings the luxuries as well as the necessities of life. It is this fact which accounts for the phenomenal sale of jewelry during the holiday season just past.

Four years ago Mr. McKinley said it would be better to open the mills than the mints. Now the only mills which are closed are those which cannot get material to run with. —Burlington "Hawk-Eye."

The Pop Incubator.

The Pop Incubator has hatched out another egg and Dr. Rhodes was heard cackling with joy on the compost heap back of his stable. That Pop Incubator is a wonderful machine. How easily the eggs the farmer put in are extracted and goose and cuckoo eggs put in their place. Dr. Rhodes is a truly scientific farmer, and no one knows just what is hatching. The Dr. is not experimenting for fun or health those long rides he and Joe Osbourn made over the county last fall hunting eggs for their Incubator were not fruitless. The Dr. and Joe are out and sly. That Incubator had to be in safe hands. Only the best skill of the Medical profession could run it safely. So Joe gives Dr. Hakes a position on the Incubator. Dr. Rhodes, Dr. Hakes, and Dr. Brown. Such eminent men insure that the political Incubator will turn out some fine work. Evidently Dr. Rhodes will be a necessity in the next legislature in behalf of the Incubator. Dr. Hakes will sit at the "seat of Custom" and gently get in his work for Dr. Rhodes, Dr. Brown, as coroner, will sit on the political corpses and pronounce them cases of death from want of proper incubation. Joe Osbourn no doubt will be the pious man, who "don't know nothing." We are after you boys. We saw you do it, and we intend to put some dynamite into that Incubator, don't be surprised if you have an explosion, some day, Dr. Rhodes, Dr. Hakes, Dr. Brown, and Pious Joe will be seen rushing around bespattered with the foulest eggs ever put to hatch in an Incubator.

Old Swain Finch may "holler" whoop-e-e. And old Charley Blower may blow, and old Huste Brown on the south Loup-e-e, may waggle his "noggin"—"not so, but we'll bet high, that they will all see that the egg in the Incubator will hatch out the next Demopop nominee, they run for a legislator. —OBSERVER.

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