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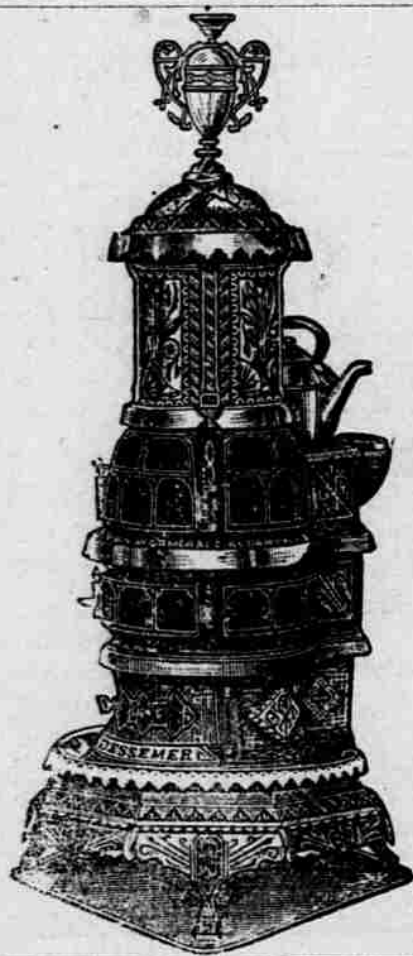
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THE bill which passed the Senate last week providing for the exercise of the Presidential functions in the event of the death of both the President and the Vice-President is substantially the same bill that failed in the last Congress only for lack of time. It changes the existing statute in one very important particular. Under the law of 1792 the President of the Senate, or if there were none, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, would act as President until the disability were removed or a President elected. By the Hour bill this introduction of legislative officers into the Presidential succession is avoided and with it the possibility of a political change not authorized by public opinion. The succession is to the Secretary of State, then the Secretary of War and other cabinet officers in order, who have been duly appointed with the advice and consent of the Senate and are eligible to the Presidency by the Constitution. The officer so succeeding shall act as President for the remainder of the term, if that be not more than twelve months; otherwise he shall notify the States of an election to fill the vacancy, as provided in the present law. This provision has the merit of simplicity and directness in carrying out the purpose of the Constitution that "the Congress may, by law, provide for the case of removal, death, resignation or inability both of the President or Vice-President, declaring what officer shall then act as President."

The venerable John Thompson, president of the Chase National Bank, the first national bank organized in New York city, is the only national bank president in the city now who is an advocate of our silver dollar. When Mr. Thompson started his bank he couldn't get anybody outside of his own family to take stock in it and had to set up a straw stockholder with ten shares to eke out his sons and sons-in-law so as to make the necessary five directors. After he had perfected the organization the New York clearing house held a big meeting and resolved to have nothing to do with the new money. Mr. Thompson has lately been interviewed, and he calmly expresses his belief that his brethren will have to take the back track in the matter of our silver coinage, just as they did in the matter of national currency. He says the gold output is unquestion-

ably diminishing, and that to throw out silver as a part of our coinage will result in stagnation, depression and finally a monetary revolution, doubling the purchasing power of the monetized metal, causing a corresponding cheapening of all property, including silver, and bringing debtors as a general thing to bankruptcy. He favors the free coinage of silver and says that ultimately the other New York bankers will be for it. "It is manifest destiny," he says. —State Journal.

ONE of the most significant items of foreign news that has reached these shores for several weeks is that the Sultan of Turkey has appointed Prince Alexander Governor for life over Eastern-Roumelia, with due rights of succession. It is seen in a moment that this cuts the tangled knot as to the Bulgarian-Roumelian union and what is to come of it, and actually lifts that question out of the need of any further consideration by the European powers. It is virtually a recognition of the accomplished fact about which all the trouble has arisen, only it is such recognition that no outside European power has any lawful right to object to. The arrangement has probably been brought about by English influence, which from the start has favored the union of the two provinces under Alexander, and of course this action of the Sultan makes Prince Alexander a firm friend of the Turkish cause and puts a pretty solid chunk of opposition in the way of Russia. What the Czar will think of this movement it is easy to guess, but what he will do about it nobody knows. But with Turkey and England to back him, and Austria and Germany unfavorable to Russia, Prince Alexander may yet be able to smile at his great cousin's snubbing.

REPRESENTATIVE PRICE of the Eighth Wisconsin District, was the only one among the 325 members of the House who voted "no" on the bill to allow the usual pension to the widow of Gen. Grant. Mr. Price has made a ridiculous mistake which his friends sincerely regret. He has won a distinction to which precious little honor attaches.

"I SOMETIMES think," says Ella Wheeler Wilcox in her new novel, "that God must be a woman. He is expected to forgive so much.

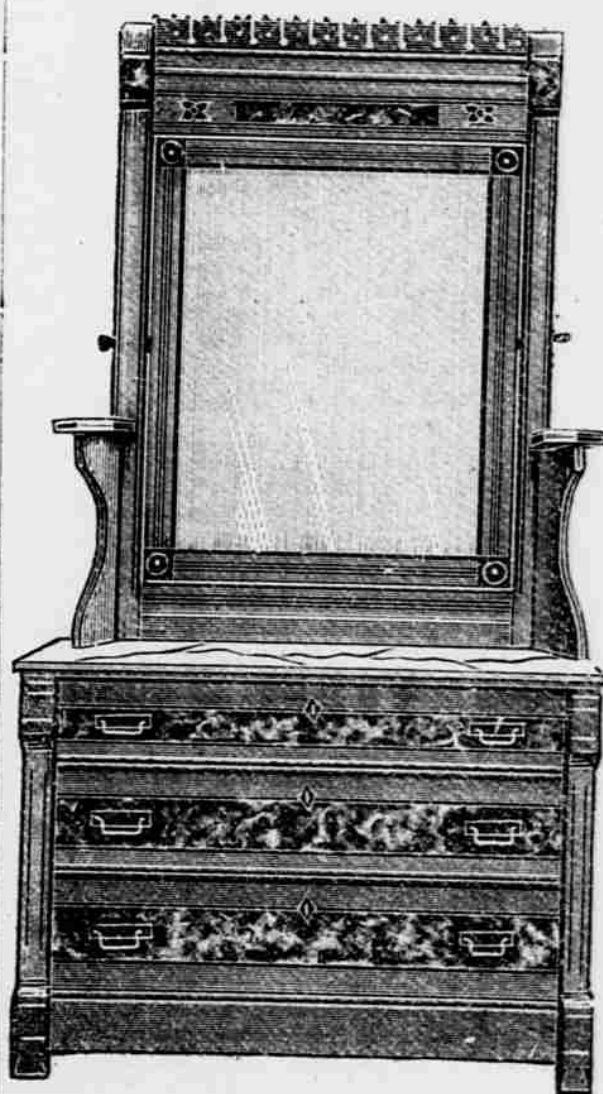
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