

A MUTTERING METEOR.

One of the Star Route Thieves Threaten to Peach on the Peculators.

Reerdell Determined to Save Himself by an Open Confession.

The Prospect of Conviction Increased by Dissensions in the Defense.

The Treasury Department Farther Elucidates the Chinese Law.

The Pension Mania—Christmas at the Capitol—Other Matters.

CAPITAL NOTES.

REERDELL'S CONFESSION.

WASHINGTON, December 26.—The Star, on the subject of Reerdell turning states witness in the star route cases, says it is thought by those who have closely observed the proceedings that Reerdell will take the step indicated in the case. He sees, before the trial closes, it will afford the only retreat for him to escape the penitentiary. At the last trial Reerdell was deserted by his co-defendants and convicted, a verdict, it is said, which the co-defendants approved heartily, as it was supposed at the time the danger of Reerdell appearing against them was removed. Judge Wylie's action, however, at the close of the former trial, in sitting aside the verdict in Reerdell's case and giving him an equal chance with the others, has brought him forward again as the man to be feared. There are evidences that there is great lack of harmony among the defendant's and their differences, it is expected, will result in favor of the prosecution.

THE TRIALS. In the criminal court this morning, the government proceeded with the presentation of the star route case of Sweeney, of the postoffice department. Merrick objected to a question of the defense, which was sustained, and Wilson, charged that the judge, in sustaining the objection, assumed that Brady had done something wrong before he had proof of it. The case was adjourned till to-morrow, on account of the illness of a juror.

In the Dickson case Dickson was recalled and further examined.

THE HEATHEN. In answer to an inquiry on the subject, the treasury department has decided that a Chinese wet nurse must be considered a laborer, and as such must be excluded from admission to the United States, under the provision of the act restricting Chinese emigration.

HOMESTEADS FOR THE CHIPPEWA. The president has issued an executive order setting apart certain lands in Dakota territory for the Turtle mountain band of Chippewa Indians, and such other Indians of the Chippewa tribe as the secretary of the interior may see fit to settle thereon.

THE NAVY YARDS. Secretary Chandler says it is not true he has decided to close one or more navy yards. However, plans for reducing the expenditures in the civil departments of the navy yards will be announced at an early date.

A PRINCE CALLS ON THE PRESIDENT. Prince Arisugama and suite paid their respects to President Arthur today.

Pensions Without Limit. Washington Special to the Cincinnati Commercial.

The house committee on pensions has come to the conclusion that this is the proper time to report a bill granting pensions to all survivors of the Mexican war and several ancient Indian wars, and also to the widows of all soldiers who were slain in the war or have since died. While the country has been regarding with astonishment and alarm the enormous cost of the arrears act, and while congress hesitates about the extent to which taxation can be reduced, because it is not known whether the cost of the pension roll next year will be \$100,000,000 or \$150,000,000, the house committee on pensions proposes to enlarge the rolls to the extent already indicated. Many bills introduced in the house by Messrs. Reagan, Atkins, Ford, Sparks, Townsend, of Virginia, Finley, G. W. Hewitt and others have been referred to this committee, and one has been agreed upon. The work of constructing a bill had been given to a sub-committee, of which Mr. Hepburn, of Iowa, was chairman, but the bill made by this sub-committee was not satisfactory to those who favored a bill without any restrictions, and these members brought forward one in its place. Two sections were approved several days ago, and the remaining sections were approved to-day, although only six of the eleven members were present. The four members who carried the bill through are Messrs. Rice and Burrows, of Missouri, both greenbackers; Mr. Falkerson, of Virginia, readjuster; and Mr. Goldsmith W. Hewitt, of Alabama, democrat. The bill grants a pension of \$8 a month to all survivors of the Mexican, the Creek, Seminole and Black Hawk wars, and to the widows of the soldiers of these wars who have not remarried. Only sixty days' service in the Mexican and thirty days' service in the Indian wars are required to qualify a veteran for a pension. If a veteran has lost his certificate of discharge, other evidence of an honorable discharge may be deemed sufficient, and even the receipt of a land warrant under the congressional act for service in these wars shall be prima facie evidence of service and an hon-

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HENDRICKS ON M'DONALD.

Thomas A. Not a Promoter of Fortunes.

He Denies That He Has Ever Advocated McDonald.

Political Notes From Other Points.

Special to the Cincinnati Commercial.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., December 26.—Gov. Hendricks is not dead, and does not propose to be politically buried—that is, not by his party friends. A few days ago a report was telegraphed from Washington that Mrs. Hendricks had written to a friend there for her husband was in training for governor in 1884, and to return therefore was to be secretary of state when "Old Ironsides" should become president. Mr. Hendricks reads the papers regularly, even if he don't go down town and raise a racket with the boys, and when he read that paragraph he was about as mad as a gentleman of his quiet disposition can be; and he at once had prepared an authoritative denial of the invention, which he concluded with the following significant declaration: "It is not agreeable to be mistaken to promote the fortunes of any one." That, of course, is a direct kick at McDonald, and an open proclamation that no matter who may be behind the McDonald boom, Thomas A. Hendricks is not one of the crowd. He does not propose to be used to promote the political fortunes of any one, and particularly McDonald.

The public have not forgotten the incidents of the campaign of 1880, and Governor Hendricks sums to remember them also, but their lesson he has not read. Everybody remembers that McDonald went to Cincinnati "to promote the fortunes" of Mr. Hendricks, and that the efforts of all of the friends of the latter did not succeed in making Mr. Hendricks the candidate of the convention. But Mr. McDonald did his best to promote the fortunes of Hendricks, yet the latter failed to see it in that light, hence the expression quoted above.

Mr. Hendricks is afflicted now with the same political blindness which affected him in 1880. He did not muster an army of followers with banners then, and he cannot do it in 1884, or any other year. He has ceased to be (if he ever was) a political possibility in the line of the presidency. He is a great and pure man perhaps too great to be selected for the presidency. He has gone so far away from political prominence that he is no longer the body and soul of his party in his own state, and he cannot secure the prize himself, but he has the chance to make his choice between men who are possibilities. If any man from Indiana can be the nominee of the next democratic convention, that man is McDonald. He can poll the whole regular democratic vote, and all that dissatisfied republican vote which is opposed to measures rather than men, and Mr. Hendricks cannot do more. As to the standing of the two men out of Indiana, the incidents of the late Cincinnati convention illustrate which was the stronger. I am not writing anything which I have not said to Governor Hendricks, whom I would rejoice to see in the office of president.

JANUARY.

Congressional Nomination. Special Dispatch to the Bee.

INDIANAPOLIS, December 26.—The democratic convention of the Ninth congressional district met in this city to-day and nominated Judge Ward, congressman elect, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Hon. G. S. Orth.

Chalmers' Contest. Special Dispatch to the Bee.

JACKSON, Miss., December 26.—In the mandamus case brought by General J. R. Chalmers against the secretary of the state to compel him to count for Chalmers the Tate county vote returned for J. R. Chalmers, counsel for the secretary of state filed a plea of abatement on the ground that a former suit was pending in the same cause. Counsel for Chalmers demurred. Judge Wharton overruled the demurrer and the case was dismissed.

Updgraft's Successor. Special Dispatch to the Bee.

WHEELING, December 26.—The republican Seventeenth Ohio Congressional district convention at Bolivar to-day nominated Col. J. D. Taylor, of Cambridge, for the vacancy in congress, caused by the death of J. T. Updgraft. Thirty-two ballots were taken.

Closed Up. Special Dispatch to the Bee.

CHESTER, Pa., December 26.—The Shaw & Sons woolen mills, Withersill & Co.'s china works and other important industrial establishments in this city have closed for a time on account of the depression of trade. Large numbers of persons are thrown out of employment.

Impounding Louisville Officials. Special Dispatch to the Bee.

LOUISVILLE, December 25.—The council to-night formally impeached City Auditor Phil Hinkle, Assistant Fire Chief George W. Levi, and two of the city hall officials who are under indictment for frauds in the assessor's and tax collector's offices. Managers were appointed to conduct the impeachment and report articles to the board of aldermen. That body will meet Tuesday, January 2, to try the cases. The council chamber was crowded during the proceedings.

A Fair Field and a Failure. Special Dispatch to the Bee.

NEW YORK, December 26.—The co-operative dress association, of which K. S. Field was president, closed its store in Twenty-third street to-day. Assets stated at \$24,400; liabilities \$125,000. Miss Field refuses to say anything, but claimed to be creditor to \$15,000.