CIVIL SERVICE REFORM.

Were it not for the fact that members of Congress desire patronage to bestow upon their favorites, and use as a means of enhancing their own prospects, it would be regarded as one of the strangest of all the strange matters connected with Congressional legislation, that notwithstanding the undeniable and everywhere admitted want of justice and practical wisdom in the present manner of selecting officers for the Civil Service, it is so exceedingly difficult to push through Congress any measure of real reform in the matter. Were a farmer, a merchant, or any professional man, (except, perhaps, a professional politician or a Congressman,) to act upon the plan pursued by our Government in making Civil Service appointments, he would justly be considered by his neighbors as lacking in a very essential degree the first principles of good common sense.

How and why, as such things are now managed, are the appointments to important offices in the Civil Service made? Is the man selected, as a usual matter, because of his adaptation and fitness for the office? his capabilities and honest, strict integrity as a man and citizen? Is the good of the country, more than the selfish schemes of politicians, kept in view? Will any man—even a Congressman—dare to affirm it?

In the Hon. Pullwire Jackinabox's district a Consulor Collector or Customs is to be appointed. Properly, the Hon. Jackinabox has nothing to do with it—in common parlance, it is none of of his business. The selecting and appointing powers are neither of them his prerogative. But it has become a custom with our Government to let each Congressman designate the man whom he would like to have appointed, and almost invariably that man is appointed—whether he has any real fitness in character, abilities, and moral habits, or not.

In the Hon. Pullwire Jackinabox's district is a fussy, tricky, upstart political quack, who, if his brains were equal in weight and solidity to his brass, would overtop the Seven Wonders of the World. By dint of sly wire-pulling, the force of aggressive impudence, and persistent pushing, he has been instrumental in securing the nomination of Hon. J—x to Congress. Hon. J—x thinks he must remember his friends, of course, and—Mr. Sly Trickster is made Custom Collector, —although he may possess no proper qualifications for the office, or, if he has suitable mental abilities, he may be a sharper and an ingrained rascal in the bargain!

The result of the foolish and reprehensible system of appointments in vogue, is to the shame and disgrace of our country. Men devoid of honor, destitute of just principles, bankrupt in character, known among their neighbors as utterly unworthy of trust, dishonest, cheats and sharpers, crowd themselves into offices of trust and honor,—while men of honest worth, genuine abilities, and superior qualifications, are coolly thrust aside.

Further, if perchance a good, true, worthy and capable man is happily appointed to an office, and fulfills his official duties with credit to himself, to the satisfaction of the people and advantage of the Government, there is no certainty that he will not be turned out of office after the first election, or at any time, to make way for some other man, who has, by means of money or mere political service, become a new object of political favoritism. Without fault on his part, or unfaithfulness in the discharge of his duties, he is liable to be removed from office without a day's warning, and to his personal loss, and the detriment of the country's service.

These things are a grievous evil and wrong, and a burning shame to our nation, and especially to our national legislature. For its continuance Congress—we say it plainly—is responsible. There is no valid excuse, no reasonable plea, that may be admitted in extenuation. To say that Congress cannot invent some practicable remedy for this shameful state of affairs, is to charge that body with possessing less than the minimum of common sense. The difficulty inheres not in Congressional abilities, but in the Congressional disposition.

For a number of sessions past Mr. Jenckes, of Rhode Island, has been endeavoring to get through the House a bill tending to effect a reform in the Civil Service. Senator Schurz, of Missouri, has also labored to secure the passage of a bill to the same purpose. Either of these bills would work a decided reform in the Civil Service—but Congressional politicians love office, and as a means to that end they dearly love patronage to bestow on their greedy underlings, and the Civil Service measures make very slow progress indeed. The efforts of the friends of Civil Service reform have been like the labors of Sisyphus, rolling the stone up the hill only to [illegible] over again.

rebuke. It will be difficult to induce some members to vote for Civil Service Reform, because such reform will deprive them of the means to reward friends and purchase support, and will compel them to stand or fall upon their own merits, before their own constituents—and of this, many of them have a just dread.

The National Capital.

We publish a call this week for a National Convention, to meet at Cincinnati, on the 15th day of October next, to consider the location of the Capital of the United States. Each Congressional District is to furnish three delegates; six from each State large, and three from each Territory. In case any State or Territory shall fail or refuse to appoint delegates, the appointment shall be made by the Convention called for that purpose.

Congress is now pressed, says the N. Y. *Tribune*, to authorize more expenditures, for objects now less pressing at our present seat of government; and these expenditures, if justifiable at all, must assume that Washington City is the permanent Capital of the United States. If this be so—if the stupendous acquisitions, and discoveries, and upturnings, of the last seventy years, have left Washington incontestably the point at which Congress should sit, and the Executive transact the diplomatic business of the Nation, then let the People, by some direct and emphatic declaration, so proclaim it. If it be not so—if the American people, for reasons satisfactory to themselves, prefer a different location for their Capital—then it is high time that the fact were ascertained and respected,—The question has been raised; it ought to be considered and decisively adjudicated. It is not well that Million after Million be spent in enlarging public grounds and multiplying public edifices destined to be abandoned; nor is it right that such expenditures should be incurred in order to strengthen the argument against relocation based on the vast amounts of public money expended on the present Capital. Let us first decide that the Capital is or is not to remain where it is; than act in conformity to our knowledge. And now that our Westward march has been arrested by the Pacific, while our Southern boundary seems permanently traced by the Rio Grande and the Gila, it seems fit that the Federal Metropolis shall be placed where it is to remain, or that it shall be conclusively located where it now is.

A Choice of Routes to the National Capital.

A trip to Baltimore or Wassington from this section of the country need no longer be limited to the single route hitherto in vogue, for the Erie Railway Company have recently perfected arrangements for the sale of tickets to that and other Southern points, by the way of New York City and the New York and Washington Air Line road, thus offering the traveler a choice of routes, either by the way of Elmira and the Northern Central Railway, or by the new route just mentioned. Passengers are thus enabled to vary their journey to the National Capital if they desire, and reaching their destination in eight hours from that city.

The triumph of Lay Representation in the Conferences of the M. E. Church is assured beyond a doubt. It is strange that it should ever have been doubtful, in a country so attached as ours to republican government.—It is our impression that the adoption of this important principle is the forerunner of further important changes in the governmental economy of that Church. It will to a very great extent if not wholly remove the principal obstacles to the union of the non-Episcopal Methodist bodies with that Church, and will probably, before many years, lead to the modification of the Episcopacy, so as to bring the form of government of the church more nearly into the likeness of our form of civil government.

At a meeting of the Medico-Legal Society, in New York City, on the evening of the 12th inst., Dr. W. A. Hammond read an elaborate paper on "A Medico-Legal Study of the Case of Daniel Macfarland." Dr. Hammond gave it as his opinion that Macfarland was insane for a long time before he shot Richardson,—Insane men should be placed in an Asylum, and not allowed to run at large.

The Banking and Currency Committee have agreed to report to the House a bill providing for $95,000,000 additional National Bank circulation for the cancelation of $45,000,000 of 3 per cent bonds and $40,000,000 of Greenbacks, and providing for a free banking system on a gold basis. All amendments offered have been voted down.

On account of an accident we are obliged to omit publishing the call for the National Convention concerning the removal of the National Capital. It will appear next week.

Republicans throughout the State

Our Washington Correspondence.

WASHINGTON, May 14, 1870.

The following statement respecting the threatened Indian war may be relied upon as coming from authentic sources. Many of the exaggerated reports, chiefly originating in washington, are corrected by a letter from a military officer stationed in Dacotah.—He says the Sioux are the only tribe that have exhibited a war like disposition, and that instead of there being from ten to twenty thousand Sioux on the war path, as has been currently reported, the entire tribe does not muster over eight thousand, and that only about eighteen hundred of them are warriors. The indians claim that the *Infraghio* arises from the refusal of the Government forces to respect the treaty stipulations; while the latter avers that the Red Men are predatory, and refuse to keep within the reservation. There are now in the Dacotah Territory forty one hundred troops, infantry and calvary. The forts in Montana and Dacotah are strongly garrisoned, and the fourteenth and seventeenth regiments of infantry have been recently dispatched to the latter Territory. There is to be a Council of Peace here, at which several Chiefs of the warlike as well as the peaceful tribes will assemble, and it is thought that a commingling of the minds of the Presidents "*Pretaga*" and the Red Man's "*Columet*" will mollify the feelings of the "original owners of the soil," and tend to a pacific settlement of pending difficulties. General Sheridan, writing to a correspondent here, says that the reservation system is the best, but that a strong military force will have to be kept to preserve order generally.

The April report, just out, of the Agricultural Bureau, speaking of the wheat prospects in Maryland and Virginia, says, "a smaller quantity of fields than usual has effected growth in early prose, and the cold March was a disadvantage generally." Forty two counties of Virginia, the tenor of reports of the condition of the crops is favorable. The words "good, were fertilized" attest the necessity of manuring, and it is equally true in this region that "drilled wheat is good, broad cast poor."

Senator Morrill's long expected speech on the Tariff question was delivered in the Senate on Monday. He argued that the Government was fast approaching a condition when direct taxation could be dispensed with. His speech throughout was strongly in favor of a Tariff for Protection, and was an exhaustive exposition of the system as arrayed against Free Trade. It occupied three printed proof slips and occupied two and a half hours in the delivery.

The Senate Military Committee have decided to report adversely on the House resolution requiring the War Department to refer the pensions of the late General Rawlins, which are now in a vain here. The delay in the action of does not seem to be understood, and considerable dissatisfaction is indulged in respecting it.

There are no now or important revelations coming from the State Department concerning our Foreign Relations. Minister Sickl's reports that affairs in Spain are comparatively quiet, and that a feeling of more general satisfaction with the authorities prevails at Madrid. Nothing has been done recently respecting the Alabama claims. Some correspondence has passed with regard to indemnification, but the nature of the same has not been made public. General instructions are being prepared for Mr. Wilkes, our new Minister to Ecuador, who sails on the 20th instant.

In a comparative statement of the Internal Revenue returns of nine months of the fiscal year as compared with the same year, it appears that there has been a gain of twenty millions of dollars. Of this amount there has been an increase of forty one per cent. on tobacco and twenty six per cent. on spirits.

The four days' session of the American Medical Association closed without enacting either to promote the general welfare of the profession, or without a from a discriminating world. The proceedings throughout were so generally characteristic of confusion and tedious prolixity, that the benefits otherwise to have been imparted by the convention were large widely lost. The various "isms" and "ologies" were discussed in a spirit more commendable for its zeal than its wisdom.

The appropriate declaration by Congress of the 30th of May as a National holiday is likely to invest the ceremony of the decoration of soldiers' graves on that day North and South, with peculiar and befitting interest.—Preparations are being made to render these occasions so impressive, that it may not be said of Americans that that they lack in reverence for the memory of the heroic dead who gave up their lives that their country might live. It is gratifying to know that in this feeling of mournful respect for those who were sacrificed on the altar of our country, our brethren of the South with hearty sympathy strike hands with us in this touching manner of paying annual tribute to the memory of their revered friends and comrades.

The local gossip of the current week embraces the following glittering generalities:" While a reduction of the army is being talked of the boot-black brigade is on the increase. *Shoeblack "don't nobber me"*——The indications are flattering for an abundant fruit crop hereabouts——Serenading ice cream vendors are permeabulating the streets——Mr. Gurckanickquicks Yakuskolitmilks Sikinkeptirmilks Aukachagauks Mekotouknickzokers keeps a hotel at Sitka, Alaska. The Patent office is in receipt of models of several kinds of heating apparatus to send to "thaw out" that name—Green peas and strawberries have made their appearance in our markets. Price of the latter five cents a small——The House of Representatives is now clad in summer uniform, the carpets hav

for the City Hall——East Washington society is in a state of tremulous sensation over an elopement. The "mourners" are devoted husband, not yet a year old Benedict, and a horror-stricken mother-in law, who never'd a'thought such things of her "darter,"——The prevailing style of ladies' hats is a tall cupola in telescopic sections with a feather "at half mast" on the top——The building which was the scene of the assassination of the late President Lincoln is owned by the Government, and contains a vast collection of anatomical specimens showing scientific surgical operations during the war. ALPHA.

BELMONT CORRESPONDENCE.

Belmont, N. Y., May 16, 70.

EDS. ADVERTISER:—For some days past we have had a realizing sense that a something which has become a component part necessary for our more perfect comfort and enjoyment, is lacking:—that something is the ANDOVER ADVERTISER. Ye Editors will confer a favor by coming to our relief and filling the vacuum with the ADVERTISER.

Our citizens are busily engaged in gardening and various other improvements incident to the May season. Bulbs out will soon blossom as the rose. Nature has blessed us with a great variety of beautiful scenery, so much so that one half the attention given by other rural towns to horticulture and artificial adornment would make our village the "Venice" of Western New York.

The new bridge spanning Phillips' Creek, on Greenwich Street, is now so near completion that travel is resumed. The structure is substantial, and reflects much credit on our able Highway Commissioner, Mr. C. Ellis, and upon Mr. L. F. Willers who built the same.

Now that travel is resumed by the way of the new bridge on Greenwich Street, a speedy removal of the sawlogs and other obstructions therein, is desirable. We trust our Street Commissioner, Col. A. J. McNett—who has such a thorough disgust for all public improvements—will relieve more than one locality of standing nuisances.

If you or your patrons wish to make a hasty fortune at the expense of damaged house and barn, come to Belmont at once or the first dark night available, and break your leg or neck in passing over its terrible walk down the street from the Depot. Do not fear, the Corporation is responsible, and in case of accident heavy damages may be expected. Collection not guaranteed.

Again for the seventh time we have a newspaper—a real genuine newspaper, called the *Belmont News*—which is a fair looking sheet, edited by Col. Rufus Scott, late 19th Army Dist. Army. Under his able and energetic supervision we can anticipate for it a well-to-do success. May it be equal to the Colonel's courage and daring—A brave newspaper is one of the real wants of every town that would be alive to the advancement of its prosperity. Success in this enterprise is worth trying for with all the greater earnestness because of the many unsuccessful failures we have experienced.

Hon. Hamilton Ward is at home on leave of absence for a few days. He is looking well. Matters connected with the insurrectionary action and local politics occupies a dominant attention.

EX—T.

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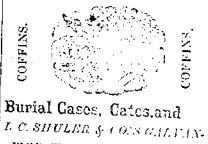

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