

The Greensboro Patriot

JOHN R. HUSSEY, Editor and Proprietor
GREENSBORO, DECEMBER 14, 1881.

THE PATRIOT-SUPPLEMENT.

The delay in transmitting the President's message to Congress and its great length precluded its publication in THE PATRIOT last week. Its length is greater than anticipated, and in order not to exclude our usual miscellany of reading matter, we print the message and a carefully revised abstract of Secretary Folger's report in supplement form.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.
THE PATRIOT prints in extenso this week the President's message and a carefully prepared abstract of the report of the Secretary of the Treasury.

The message presents a forbidding prospect, but those who wish to be informed on affairs of government in detail will find in it condensations of the reports of heads of departments. They comprehend a vastness of information much of which has been dealt out to the people piece-meal through the newspapers.

It will be found to be a plain matter of fact business document. Its most salient features are a renewed declaration of the right of the United States alone to guarantee the neutrality of the Panama canal free from European interference; announcement of the purposes for which special envoys have been sent to Chili and Peru; the formulation of the Treasury programme; the statement of vigorous policies regarding the Indian and Mormon questions; an earnest endorsement of the propositions for increasing the numerical strength of the army, strengthening our sea-coast defences and creating a new navy; suggestions for national aid to education and internal improvements; an extended treatment of the civil service reform problem, and the pressing upon Congress of the necessity of legislation to determine how the electoral vote shall be ascertained and declared, and a definition of the clause of the Constitution which provides that, "in case of the removal of the President from office, of his death, resignation or inability to discharge the powers and duties of said office, the same shall devolve upon the Vice President."

The President makes a graceful and appropriate reference to his illustrious predecessor and to the nation of the Governments of other nations concerning his death.

THE UNITED STATES TREASURY.
The showing made by this year's report of the Secretary of the Treasury is very remarkable and most gratifying. It is literally a complaint that there is too much revenue—a condition that rarely occurs in the history of any Government, and almost never without universal and bitter protest against an excess of taxation. The surplus revenue of last year was something like \$800,000,000. One year ago Mr. Sherman, then Secretary of the Treasury, estimated that the surplus revenue for the next fiscal year would be \$800,000,000. As a matter of fact the surplus has proved to be more than \$100,000,000. A year ago there was a deficiency under the requirements of the Sinking Fund law of more than \$51,000,000, owing to the falling off in revenue during the six years succeeding the panic of 1873. The requirements for the last fiscal year have been fully met and deficiency in the fund on former years reduced to \$16,000,000, but the requirements for the present fiscal year are already exceeded by the redemption of bonds in July, August, September, and October, so that, at the present rate, the deficiency in the sinking fund will not only be completely supplied, but by next July the Government will have reduced its debt at a more rapid rate than it ever promised. The estimated surplus of the next fiscal year is over \$105,000,000.

In the face of this showing it is not strange that the Secretary of the Treasury should urge upon Congress a speedy and equitable reduction of taxes. The increase of revenue is about equally divided between the internal and customs taxes, each class having yielded about \$11,000,000 more than during the previous year. The Secretary pointedly recommends the retention of taxes on whisky, beer, and tobacco legitimate subjects of taxation, but assents to a repeal of all the other items of internal taxation except that on bank circulation which he regards as properly taxable because circulation is a direct source of profit to the banks under the privilege extended by the Government. In other words, he would remove the taxes on bank checks, deposits, on capital, on matches, on cosmetics and patent medi-

cines repeated as a partial means to the reduction of the surplus revenue, and recommends a revision and reduction in the tariff taxes as the principal relief.

The facts in the Secretary's report are satisfactory but many of his suggestions are not in harmony with the preponderating sentiment of the country. The figures showing the great prosperity of the nation, the immense balance of trade in our favor and the healthy condition of the Treasury are most interesting reading. They bring up directly for consideration the question as to revision of the tariff and internal revenue laws.

Sustained by the President, Secretary Folger takes the middle course between the protectionists who want to abolish all internal taxation, and the revenue reformers who desire to vastly modify the customs duties.

He would pay off the total of the debt, although it could be done in ten years if the income and expenditures of the government should maintain their current amount and relative proportions. He submits the argument that a portion of the burden should be handed down to posterity, and thus the people might now be relieved from a portion of the weight of taxation, while the bonds representing the unpaid debt would remain as the foundation of the national banking system and offer safe investments for capital. Holding these views, he is opposed to refunding the extended bonds, but intimates that the department should be left to call them in at its pleasure. These latter ideas are contrary to those of the Republicans in Congress for whom Mr. Sherman speaks and the Democrats who take their cue from Mr. Randall; and as a three percent refunding bill has already been introduced in the Senate, there may be a sharp conflict of forces on this question during the session.

OVER SEVEN HUNDRED LIVES LOST.
In the burning of the Ring theatre at Vienna last Thursday night Death reaped a victory such as rarely falls to his lot off the battlefield. Over seven hundred dead, suffocated and burned, is the latest estimate, although it is gloomily hinted that over a thousand persons are missing, and, as yet, unaccounted for. Every dispatch adds to the awful details elsewhere published, and the scenes and incidents are too painful and piteous, and too heart-rending to dwell upon them.

The audience in the theatre appears to have become completely panic stricken when the flames broke out and rushed without order for the doors. The one controlling thought was to escape, and, like other purely selfish thoughts, it appears to have defeated itself.

The crowd blocked the exits, and in the mad attempt to escape persons were trampled to death, while others were crushed to death. The killed and wounded were in the way of the escape of the living and the whole, and the smoke and flame wreaked its vengeance upon those who had not suffered from the panic.

IN A FIERY FURNACE.
Over 700 Persons Perish in the Flames. Heartrending Scenes Amid the Work of Death and Destruction.

VIENNA, Dec. 8.—9:30 P. M.—The Ring Theatre formerly the Comic Opera House where Sarah Bernhardt recently performed, took fire at 7 o'clock to-night, just before the beginning of the opera "Les Contes d'Hoffmann." The fire was caused by the fall of a lamp on the stage.

INCIDENTS OF THE FIRE.
VIENNA, Dec. 10.—"A few seconds," says the Wiener Allgemeine Zeitung, "after the commencement of the fire, Manager Janner appeared at one of the windows of the first story leading to the Ring. He shouted to the crowd, but what he meant only few could understand. He asked the crowd to keep quiet, not to press on. 'Only the curtain is burning; keep quiet; don't press on,' a human voice cried, making itself heard above the screaming of thousands and the misery of hundreds. The voice was heard for a few minutes, then it was suffocated by the thundering noises produced by the fire and the human crowd. The fire had gained rapid headway inside and had reached the gas fixtures.

DARKNESS.
"The lights suddenly went out in all the corridors of the theatre, in the wardrobes and restaurants. In the lobby the dark night reigned. A lurid light was only seen in the auditorium, where the devouring flames carried disaster, but still showed to some few the road to safety. But the staircases—these unhappy staircases!—in one moment they were filled up and obstructed. The crowd pressed on, trampled, fell down, and fresh masses of fugitives went over the bodies of the unhappy ones who had fallen. There was no escape, there could be none, as one pressed against the other. Some few, who had jumped up in the first moment, got through; now and then also a strong man made his way out. On the Ring there were seen some faces, blackened by the smoke and reeking with blood.

THE RESPONSIBILITY.
Every precaution for the security of the audience was here exceeded, and the discipline of the attendants, who, with their direct or indirect responsibility for the catastrophe, are responsible for the catastrophe. The audience was helpless. Several of those who escaped are to-day madmen. Last night, about midnight, a young man, belonging by his dress to a poor class, was found in a side street near the burning theatre, bareheaded and dazed, and crying out incessantly a single word, "Amalie!" He held a strip of fur worn by ladies around the neck hysterically to his bosom. "Where do you live? Have courage!" said a compassionate bystander. But his only answer was "Amalie! Amalie!" He sprang down, but she is being burnt within. She is being burnt within.

THE RAILROAD WAR.
Gov. Jarvis Answers Sen. Vance—A Reply to Sen. Vance's Address to the People, of October 2, 1881.
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, RALEIGH, Dec. 3, 1881.
Capt. S. A. Ashe, Editor News and Observer.
DEAR SIR:—The following paper was prepared to be spread upon the records of the commissioners at their meeting the 10th of November. It was read by Commissioner Vance, and for reasons deemed sufficient it was not put on the record. I now beg that you will publish it with this note.
Truly yours,
THOS. J. JARVIS.

My conduct as a commissioner of the Western North Carolina Railroad having been misrepresented and unjustly criticised by one of my associate commissioners and by the assignees and their supporters, I deem it a duty I owe to myself and to the trust I have had in charge to place upon record the facts in the case, as I understand them, and the misrepresentations that have formed the basis of these criticisms.

FIFTEEN FATAL MINUTES.

"They had fought for their lives on a battlefield without glory. Fifteen long minutes passed. The most bloody battle, which decides the fate of king or crown, could scarcely have demanded so many deaths as those fifteen minutes. At last the engines arrived through the Schotten Gasse over the Ring. The parquet and the boxes had meanwhile been emptied quickly enough. Climbing and jumping over the seats the crowd had found an exit. But in the galleries death reaped a fearful harvest, especially on the left side and on the third, where a door caught fire. The firemen who came in saw the most dire spectacle. In lines, in heaps, dead men and women lay at the doors and entrances in such thick knots that they could hardly be disentangled. More than once a couple of corpses were brought out, man and wife, who had entwined themselves in the cramp of death. The smoke had had pity on them and had executed the sentence of death before the flames could do their devouring work. Persons were found suffocated and crushed to death. Happy those who had reached the corridors and other localities leading to the front. There were no ladders at first. One single stepladder was to be found, and a few long minutes passed before it was got into order. Sheets had meanwhile been opened and the persons standing up stairs were encouraged to jump down.

A LEAP FOR LIFE.
Women were the first to jump. It was terrible to see now one after the other make the leap through the air. Then men followed. Then again women. An old gentleman insisted that two boys should jump first. One of them refused to go. He caught hold with his hands of the window bar. His fingers were trodden on and he fell into the street. Fifty persons were in this way saved.

THE FIRE CURTAIN.
In the excitement the working men had overlooked the most important method of safety. They did not lower the iron fire curtain, and as the curtain, as stated before, got lifted up a little by the air, current a free passage to the auditorium was opened to the flames. Had the iron curtain been lowered it would have been impossible for the auditorium to be caught by the flames, and the fire would have been limited to the stage and the backward part of the roof.

NEGLIGENCE.
According to trustworthy information it appears that oil lamps were not lighted. They ought to have been, according to the latest police ordinances, in all the staircases and hallways of the theatre, to enable the public to find the exits if the gaslights should go out.

SCENES AT THE MORGUE.
To look at the dead bodies in the morgue and at the Krankenhaus tells more of the terrible death which the victims met than the report that any eye-witness has yet given. Some appeared to have died from suffocation alone. Two beautiful girls are there with their faces scarcely discolored, looking as if they were only asleep. Another youthful female figure lies there, only one charmed stump of her neck remaining, while her body and lower extremities are untouched. The linen of her underclothing is as spotless white as when, on the afternoon of the fatal day, she dressed herself for the play. Her death is described easily. Caught in the dense, surging crowd the flames descended upon them all, charring and consuming only the heads with the fierce heat. Most of the better preserved bodies show one arm uplifted as if struggling for freedom, while the other hand is closely pressed to the mouth to exclude the deadly breath of the fire. Others have the heads and upper part of the bodies without disfigurement, while the feet and legs are charred off. Other victims are represented by the trunk alone, the heads, feet and legs missing entirely. Those who were exposed to the flames as dark as Africans, but with the form and features often faithfully preserved.

STRUGGLES OF THE VICTIMS.
The other bodies retain the form of the last desperate struggle, the features expressing the final cramp of agony. Others are fair women, some with diamond rings still glittering on their fingers. Their bodies are by which they can possibly be recognized have been trampled to death and then parly consumed by the fire. Some have their skulls crushed in and limbs discolored and broken. But why continue the ghastly list? How the fire originated is immaterial and nobody seems to know really how it started. A single word, "Amalie!" He held a strip of fur worn by ladies around the neck hysterically to his bosom. "Where do you live? Have courage!" said a compassionate bystander. But his only answer was "Amalie! Amalie!" He sprang down, but she is being burnt within. She is being burnt within.

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Although Commissioner Vance and myself have not been in entire accord in every particular in our action as commissioners of the Western North Carolina Railroad, yet I have never questioned his motives or criticised his course or permitted any one else to do so in my presence. I know he has discharged this duty, as he does every other public trust, as he believed in the best interest of the State. But while I concede to him this perfect integrity, I claim for myself the same honesty of purpose, and I deeply regret that I have not enjoyed the same measure of exemption from criticism by him.

The strictures by Commissioner Vance of which I complain are contained in the three extracts which I shall make from his recent address to the people. The statements made by him in these extracts, so far as they refer to me, are, to say the least, inaccurate. As I think I will be able to conclusively show. Not supposing the commissioner intended to misstate the facts, I would have paid no attention to them had not references and conclusions been drawn from these misstatements prejudicial and unjust to me. In fact, the commissioner himself, assuming these misstatements to be true, expresses his astonishment at my course.

The first extract which I will refer to my action on the question of extension, and is the following, to-wit:

"Although I invited a suspension of action on the part of the other commissioners, and promised to explain to them in full the reasons for my course, this was not accorded me."

To show the inaccuracy of this statement of the commissioner, I quote his own letter:

WASHINGTON, May 12, 1881.
Governor T. J. Jarvis:
MY DEAR SIR:—Circumstances coming to my knowledge since our meeting in Raleigh induce me to withdraw my consent to the extension of time asked for by A. B. Andrews, president. No legal application by the assignees has yet been presented, as Andrews promised, and I have reason to believe there will not be soon. I will explain fully when I see you. Meanwhile please notify Andrews that I do not hold myself responsible any longer to accept the proposition, when offered. He ought to know at once.

I will be at home early next week and can go over the work with you.
Yours truly,
Z. B. VANCE.

This is the only letter or message of any kind I received from him on this subject, and there is not the slightest request or invitation in it for "a suspension of action on my part."

On the contrary, the letter left me completely in the dark and entirely at liberty to take such course I should deem best under the circumstances.

The second quotation I make is upon the same subject, and has in it a similar inaccuracy. The commissioner says: "I quote the following letter to Gov. Jarvis in answer to his of the 13th of May, in which he implied that he would wait and hear my explanation." My letter referred to is as follows:

RALEIGH, N. C., May 13, 1881.
Hon. Z. B. Vance:
MY DEAR SIR:—I am just in receipt of yours of the 12th inst., and have informed Col. Andrews of its contents, and given him the notice requested.

On Monday, the 9th inst., Col. Andrews presented me with the paper prepared strictly as agreed upon with all the suggested amendments, made and signed by Messrs. W. P. Clyde, A. S. Buford and M. Logan, assignees. He wished to have it presented to each of the commissioners at once, but I told him to wait till we met to examine the work, as that was our understanding. He will so present the paper when we can get together.

I have been recently very much encouraged by the belief that the present owners are about to begin work in earnest on both lines of the road, and I shall regret to learn that you have in your possession any facts to prove that they do not so intend to act.

If it shall turn out that I am right as to their purposes, I trust that no question of reasonable time shall prevent their going on with the work. If, on the other hand, it shall turn out that I am deceived and that they do not intend to work on the Ducktown line, you will find me ready to do my full duty in the matter.

I am determined, as far as in me lies, to have this road completed without further costs or trouble to the State, and I believe by proper management it can be done. To declare the contract forfeited throws the road back upon the State, a thing I shall be slow to do as long as there is any reasonable

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