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TUESDAY MORNING, JAN. 4, 1885.

Civil Service Reform.

Every business man and every bank or other corporate body chooses his or its employees for their real or supposed capabilities, and dismisses them if they turn out useless or dishonest.

It is only in the service of the state that favoritism is the sole ground of appointment, and protects against dismissal for any cause. In fact the public, who are individually awake to their own interests, do not seem to care collectively how or by whom they are served.

And the natural consequence has followed—the public service has become the refuge of the dulle and the ward, a providential provision for the families of ministers and members of parliament.

Now, what we mean by civil service reform is simply the application to that service of those ordinary business principles which every individual follows in selecting and retaining his own employees. John Bull has shown his proverbial common sense by being the first to introduce this reform, in spite of aristocratic traditions and privileges.

Of course the actual process of selection cannot be conducted in the same personal manner as when only a few private clerks are concerned. It has been assumed that other things being equal—the best educated man is most likely to prove an efficient public servant. The test for first appointments is therefore an educational one, but it is supplemented by a year's actual trial before the appointment is confirmed.

This plan, so sound in theory, has worked well in practice, and has admittedly made the English civil service the best in the world.

In the United States the patronage system in its fullest development was, till lately, regarded almost as a vital principle of the constitution. Yet, even there experience has led to the adoption, about two years ago, of the English plan with some modifications. President Arthur and the commissioners who had administered the act agree in reporting that the results are even better than was hoped for.

The president-elect has also taken pains to assure the country that he will uphold this reform even against the tremendous pressure that will be brought to bear on him by hungry democrats.

What Canada so far behind these two great Anglo-American nations? Simply because her party leaders have not had the courage to deprive their camp followers of their share of the spoils. Their action cannot arise from ignorance of the evils of patronage. Mr. Casey's committee, appointed during Mr. Mackenzie's regime, reported unanimously against the present system, and in favor of the English one. Sir John A. Macdonald's commission in 1880, after a searching enquiry fully endorsed this report, and urged the introduction of competition. It is generally believed, too, that the leaders on both sides are personally favorable to the change. They know that patronage is not only harmful to the service, but also, in the long run, to the party which exercises it. Yet they have not dared to run the temporary risk of abolishing that abuse.

It is a pity that no great reform seems possible in Canada till it has been made a party question—but such has been the fact hitherto, and we are not likely to have a non-political civil service till one party or the other is pledged to establish it. Which of the existing parties will earn the gratitude of the people by such a patriotic policy? Or have the really independent electors of both parties sufficient influence to compel its adoption? They can have no better occasion to show their powers, or none more likely to win them general sympathy.

England in a Crisis.

We were not premature in saying yesterday that a crisis had come in England, and that the Manchester policy of peace at any price had ended in a signal break down. This view of the situation is well confirmed by the latest cable despatches. On Sunday the admiralty office was in a bustle of activity, and at Portsmouth preparations for the sailing of an important naval expedition were being urged as if in time of actual war. Important despatches had gone abroad on Saturday, and preliminary orders had been sent to Portsmouth; but, strange to tell—the cable correspondents were not favored with copies of any of these documents.

"It is certain, however," says one of the most enterprising of the fraternity, "that a more vigorous foreign policy has been decided upon in the prolonged cabinet councils which were held on Friday and Saturday." But it is added that great divergence of opinion prevailed as to towards what quarter of the earth or ocean all this new vigor was to be directed.

One indication of the new vigor infused into British councils may be seen in yesterday afternoon's despatch stating that Granville declines to hold a formal conference on the Egyptian question at Paris. He proposes that informal meetings be

held at the British embassy at Paris, Lord Lyons presiding, at which other foreign ambassadors may take part in the discussions, but without having votes. The Times on Monday, in an article on the Egyptian muddle, recommends Gladstone and his cabinet to resign at once. This is certainly plain language from the leading journal; and the conjecture that its original inspiration has come from the queen herself will be freely indulged in if definite contradiction does not speedily follow.

Suppose that Gladstone were now to take a very sharp turn, and enter upon a really vigorous foreign policy, could he remain in power to carry out his new course?

It is hardly possible to say, but it is not unreasonable to suppose that he would be able to do so. He has shown himself to be a man of great energy and determination, and he has the support of the leading members of the cabinet.

The question uppermost in the public mind will be this—is the new display of willful vigor directly mainly against France, or Germany? Bismarck, it is true, to answer, indeed; but still a point or two may be made while we are still waiting for further information. If truly reported, Granville's resolve at Paris looks as if England and France had arrived at some important understanding, in virtue of which they will now proceed to settle the Egyptian difficulty by themselves together, without allowing any other power to interfere. In such a case it might be deemed necessary to despatch a fleet to the eastern end of the Mediterranean to keep Turkey quiet, making mischief at the instigation of Russia. If England and France are going to act together in the affairs of Egypt, the ministers ought to be able to hold their places while carrying out this policy, provided always that no disgraceful surrender of British interests were involved.

But it is difficult to imagine the Times so far astray as to be calling for the resignation of Gladstone and his colleagues on Monday, if any presentable understanding with France had been arrived at the Friday or Saturday before. The leading journal is privileged to hinder as much as it pleases with regard to Canada and the United States, but early information of impending changes of government is one of its strong points. That England has come to a crisis in her foreign relations seems certain enough; whether this means a crisis in Downing street and a change of government will shortly appear.

So little is known of El Mahdi that the British informants estimate his forces at from 20,000 to 80,000. This is a wide margin. Judging from his supineness, the smaller would seem to be the more accurate number.

Six senatorships are now vacant, and six times six aspirants are in suspense. These are cases in which the general public will not complain of any delay that may occur in making the appointments.

The Pall Mall Gazette's prediction that Ireland will give local self government before the end of the present year, indicates a great advance in English politics upon this subject during the last few years. Five years ago no London newspaper would have dared to make such a prediction, but now it is received as a prediction, but now it is received as a prediction, but now it is received as a prediction.

One of the results of the abolition of the death penalty in that murderers who are imprisoned for life or long periods, frequently obtain their freedom in a few years through political influence. A glaring instance of this evil comes from Illinois. Five years ago a lawyer named Hamilton defended an alleged murderer, who was found guilty, but was let off with thirty years imprisonment. Now the same lawyer, acting as governor of the state, pardons his late client.

The cable despatches from Europe will be likely to draw a very large share of public attention here as soon as the excitement of the municipal elections has subsided.

Meat has been coming down in price lately, and butter should come down too, but does not to any extent. Some parties in the trade are holding on to large stocks of butter, expecting to get big prices by and by. They will probably have to sell it dirt cheap in the spring.

England is not the only country which has just determined upon having what has been called "a spirited foreign policy." A similar resolve has been arrived at in France, where the new minister of war, General Leval, comes into office to carry out the policy of pushing the war in Tonquin and China as vigorously as possible, even should the army at home have to be seriously reduced for that purpose.

Following the New Year an increased activity in some important lines of manufacture is already reported from the States; and some such indications are beginning to be noticed in Canada too.

Notwithstanding the unsettled state of Europe, Kaiser William says that he has confidence in the continuance of peace. This recalls the third Napoleon's: "the empire is peace," at a time when he was contemplating schemes of conquest.

Yesterday was the day set by western strategists for the destruction of the earth. There has been the customary postponement, and the earth will continue to do business at the old stand until further notice.

Whether France and England are coming to an understanding or not, some sort of working agreement between France and Germany appears to be on the cards. Bismarck and Ferry are to meet somewhere in Switzerland as early as the 15th, and it seems as if a real change of French policy in the Tonquin war had been decided upon. If all this means that England is to be left

out in the cold, then the reported excitement in London, and the demand by the Times that Gladstone should resign, are sufficiently accounted for.

SOCIALISM IN GERMANY.

New Secret Societies Meet and Commemorate With Each Other.

One of the reasons of the successes of the socialists in the past, and the danger of the present, is no longer the chief characteristic of the social democracy, but the great mass of revolutionary

It was said that he took up every cause he was engaged in like a fanatic and defended it like a philosopher. It may be said of the leaders of this party that, although fanatics in their cause, they display a wonderful amount of common sense in the means and methods for compassing their ends.

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who himself lies beneath an almost plain state, which represents Bacon seated in "deep, yet thoughtful, repose."

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LEAR'S

INDEX FINGERS.

A Scientist who Declares They Represent the Highest Type of Beauty. The question whether the index finger of the human hand is longer or shorter than the third or ring finger does not appear difficult to solve, and yet one is unable to come to any definite conclusion.

Twenty-four negro men had shorter index fingers, and one had the two fingers of the same length. Fifteen negro women had a shorter index finger, in three the two fingers were of equal length, and in six the index was longer.

From these facts—that the index finger is relatively shorter in eyes and negroes, and relatively longer than the ring finger of white women of good birth and that great artists have never made a short index in a hand which represents ideal perfection—it is suggested that the longer index finger represents a higher type of beauty, and that in this respect as in others the female form appears to be the better.

What I have so much confidence in it that I wagered \$100 with a friend that I could find two women in which there was a wide difference in beauty, I could tell which was the better looking even if their features were completely obliterated.

An Ungrateful Rat. A few weeks since a Maltese cat, who makes her home in Mr. Hiram Thomas's office, brought forth two kittens. I don't think I need describe her as having so small a family, and feeling that she could very easily manage and care for a larger one, she began searching for some little wanderer who needed the kindly attention of a mother.

There Was Something Strange on His Face. A glorious maiden, just budding into beautiful womanhood, stood upon the lawn surrounding her father's mansion, and she was radiant as a living ruby.

At a late hour last evening a young man left a chair in a fashionable uptown barber shop with his handkerchief in his mouth.

He's got a moustache that naturally droops. He wants the ends to curl up, so we put a couple of these on it.

What can be more disagreeable, more disgusting, than to sit in a room with a person who is troubled with eczema, and has to keep coughing and sneezing all the time? Such persons are always to be avoided if they try to cure themselves with...

Every Day Philosophy.

When you're with life's great things, then keep quiet and listen to what you hear. I draw some sort of comfort from the ill I have to see.

What you lose is a great deal. The month of misery is long; but happy is the day, if it is only a day.

Getting Ready for a European Trip. "My dear," said Mrs. Spooendyke, looking earnestly at her husband and biting the side of her forefinger.

"I don't know," said Mr. Spooendyke, severely. "It strikes me that when I get where you and the rest talk all a shiver, I'll have much of a time. How're you going to fix it?"

"I do love dress!" exclaimed a young society belle. "Then I should think you would wear more of it," retorted the cynical bachelor friend of middle age.

"I have suffered severely with eczema, and was unable to get relief from treatment of any kind until I was recommended to try Holloway's Cure. After applying it for a few days I was enabled to remove the eczema, and give rest to the sufferer, and no inconvenience in using it. I can heartily recommend it to all suffering from eczema."

THE COMBAULT'S CAUSTIC BALSAM! is undoubtedly the most valuable and reliable Veterinary Remedy ever discovered. It has superseded the Actual Caustic or hot iron, produces more than four times the effect of a blister, and is the place of all such remedies.

Common Nitre. "You look like a poet," leaped the funny editor, as the handsome dressy youngster entered.

What can be more disagreeable, more disgusting, than to sit in a room with a person who is troubled with eczema, and has to keep coughing and sneezing all the time? Such persons are always to be avoided if they try to cure themselves with...

A Golden Opinion.

Mrs. W. Allen of Azon, declares that Maggard's Yellow Oil is the best household remedy in the world for colds, croup, sore throat, bronchitis and other painful complaints. Her opinion is well founded.

Just at present there are large numbers of men carrying watches in chamois leather cases. The watches are present, and the recipients have determined always to protect them in this way.

Something new in international exhibitions is proposed by Prince Roland Bonaparte in Paris. Being interested in ethnological study, he suggests a collection of the different and civilized nations of the world.

There are now a great many American business men in Romania, and the material interests of the country are advancing rapidly.

"I do love dress!" exclaimed a young society belle. "Then I should think you would wear more of it," retorted the cynical bachelor friend of middle age.

Among the Apache Indians it is a fixed law that a man and his mother-in-law shall never meet. The Apaches must have been reading some of the old dime novels about mothers-in-law.

One of the latest London absurdities is for the owners of little dogs to leave the dog's card with their own when they make out a check for the dog's food.

At a late hour last evening a young man left a chair in a fashionable uptown barber shop with his handkerchief in his mouth.

What can be more disagreeable, more disgusting, than to sit in a room with a person who is troubled with eczema, and has to keep coughing and sneezing all the time? Such persons are always to be avoided if they try to cure themselves with...

TORONTO POSTAL GUIDE.

Table with columns for destination, class of mail, and time. Includes entries for Montreal, Quebec, and other regional destinations.

TORONTO RAILWAY TIME TABLE.

Table showing departure and arrival times for various railway lines, including the Grand Trunk Railway.

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