

SUMMARY OF THE WEEK'S NEWS.

[WEDNESDAY, January 13, to TUESDAY, January 19, 1886, inclusive.]

DOMESTIC.

In the Senate on Wednesday Mr. Ingalls (Rep., Kan.) offered a resolution, "That in the opinion of the Senate the compulsory coinage of silver dollars directed by the law of February 28, 1878, should not be suspended until the aggregate reaches the sum of \$500,000,000." It was laid over for the present.

More work was accomplished by the Senate on Wednesday in executive session than on any previous day of the present Congress. Over 150 postmasters were confirmed, and, in addition, a long list of navy promotions, including Captain Walker to be Chief of the Bureau of Navigation.

In the House of Representatives on Wednesday, Mr. Curtin (Dem., Pa.), addressing the Speaker, said: "It was your pleasure, sir, to do me the honor to place me first on the list of the Committee on Banking and Currency. I did intend to state to this House my reasons for declining that honor, but on the advice of many friends, and of the sentiment of the public journals of the country, I have concluded to offer no reasons of my own. For reasons of my own, which seem to be understood by my friends and colleagues on this floor, I do ask this House to excuse me from the important duty as Chairman of the Committee to which you have assigned me." Mr. Curtin was excused. This devolves the Chairmanship upon Mr. Miller, of Texas.

The House on Friday passed the Presidential Succession Bill as it came from the Senate, by a vote of 183 to 77. All the negative votes but two came from the Republican side. Thirty-seven Republicans voted with the Democrats who supported the bill.

President Cleveland on Tuesday affirmed the Hoar Presidential Succession Bill, which is, therefore, a law.

The House River and Harbor Committee on Friday fixed the limit of the River and Harbor Bill at \$11,000,000. The bill which President Arthur vetoed in 1882 appropriated \$18,743,875.

On Monday in the House Mr. Wadsworth (Rep., Ky.) introduced for reference a resolution declaring that the President has done what he could to keep silver, gold, and paper on an equality. He desired that this should be referred to the Judiciary Committee. Mr. Weaver, representing the silver men, moved its reference to the Coinage Committee. The latter motion prevailed by a vote of 159 yeas to 57 nays. The silver men claim that on any question involving silver they have about 100 majority.

In the Senate on Monday Mr. Frye offered a resolution to the effect that in the opinion of the Senate the President's recommendation for a new fisheries commission should not be carried out. Mr. Edmunds declared that the agreement entered into by the Administration involved grave questions as to the powers of the President. While not strictly a treaty, its terms did practically and precisely what a treaty would do, and there might be a question as to the assumption by the President of rights and powers not given him by the Constitution. Messrs. Hoar and Dawes declared that no American fisherman would suffer injury by the termination of the treaty, and Mr. Frye sneered at the efforts of Minister West in behalf of American fishermen, and declared that his action and that of the Administration were the most marvellous pieces of business in the history of diplomacy.

Senator Voorhees (Dem., Ind.) has introduced bills for the admission of Montana and Washington Territories as States.

Secretary Manning on Saturday sent a communication to Senator Morrill, Chairman of the Committee on Finance, in which he ac-

knowledged the receipt of his letter requesting the reasons for the suspension of a certain Collector of Internal Revenue, and the appointment of another person in his place, and then said: "I would reply that as yet I have received no directions from the President in relation to transmitting the papers and information called for."

"The following," said a Democrat in high authority, "may be regarded as the Administration's position in regard to the nominations before the Senate: The Tenure-of-Office Act is considered to have been practically nullified by the partial repealing act of 1869. Since that repealing act the President has no longer been required, even by form of law, to send to the Senate the reasons for suspensions. As to original appointments, the Administration is of opinion that the Senate, as a matter of right, is not entitled to receive any information from the President on demand as to his reasons for appointments. But it has been the custom for the Executive department to furnish such information as a courtesy, and that courtesy will be continued. The case, however, is different in the matter of suspensions. The Senate has no constitutional right to concern itself with the President's reasons for suspensions. But the President wishes to observe the courtesy due the Senate to the furthest extent possible consistent with the maintenance intact of the Presidential prerogative. If Senators, as a matter of courtesy, desire the reasons for certain suspensions, those reasons will be furnished. If, however, the Senate shall demand these reasons as a right, they will be withheld. Everything will depend upon the form of the request."

Secretary Lamar has decided that the Government should bring suit to test the validity of Bell's telephone patent.

It is known authoritatively that the Republican Senators in caucus did agree upon these two points: First, that there shall be no rejections except for causes which would insure the rejection of nominees of a Republican President under like circumstances; upon this subject the Stalwarts were signally defeated. Second, that the information called for in cases of suspension must be furnished; and that if it shall be withheld, the respective Cabinet officers will be served with a summons *duces tecum* by the Senate committees.

A test suit was decided in the interest of commercial travellers by the United States Supreme Court on Monday. The court held, Judge Bradley delivering the opinion, that a discriminating tax imposed by a State, operating to the disadvantage of the products of other States when introduced into the first-mentioned State, is in effect a regulation in restraint of commerce among the States, and as such is a usurpation of the power conferred by the Constitution upon the Congress of the United States.

Senator Sherman was re-elected Senator of the United States from Ohio in the joint legislative session on Wednesday. He addressed the Legislature on Thursday, urging the members to revise the State election laws. "I invite your attention," said he, "to the example set by the great State of New York. In that State in 1868 great frauds were perpetrated by a man whose name will be repudiated by any party, Boss Tweed. Then it was that men of both political parties went to work and reformed their election laws. If it had not been done, civil war would have been inevitable. Men of both political parties resolved upon reformation, and it resulted in the best election law in the world. In the dispute last fall over the election they awaited the announcement of the official vote, and the matter was ended. One of the most distinguished men to bring about this reform was Samuel J. Tilden (applause), and I am glad to speak of him here. In this respect I heartily refer to the recommendations made by Governor Hoadly in his annual message, which express my sentiments better than I could do."

The Ohio House on Wednesday appointed a committee of five to investigate Donavin's

charges of bribery in connection with the election of Mr. Payne as United States Senator.

The committees as announced in both branches of the New York Legislature on Wednesday are generally approved by those who hope to see good work done. The following are among the chairmen in the Senate: Sloan, Finance; Comstock, Judiciary; Low, Railroads; Hendricks, Cities. In the Assembly: Erwin, Ways and Means; Kruz, Appropriations; Baker, Judiciary; Hamilton, Cities.

In the Assembly on Thursday the bill incorporating the Grant Monument Association of New York City, and permitting it to hold, exempt from taxation, real estate to the value of \$1,000,000 was passed. A resolution authorizing Weed, Parsons & Co. to do the State printing pending the legal controversy over awarding the contract to the *Argus* Company, was passed by 70 to 48.

W. Bruns, Tammany Assemblyman, introduced on Monday night several bills amending the charter of this city. They provide for a Park Commission of two members, to be appointed in the first instance by the President of the Board of Aldermen, and afterward by the Mayor; transfer the duties of the Public Administrator to the Corporation Counsel; consolidate all the bureaus of the Public Works Department into three, etc.

Chauncey M. Depew was elected President of the Union League Club in this city on Thursday night, and the rest of the regular ticket was chosen without opposition. The following resolution was adopted by a nearly unanimous vote: "Resolved, That in the opinion of the Union League Club the public welfare demands that the compulsory coinage of silver dollars should be suspended by act of Congress, and that the Senators and Representatives from this State be respectfully requested to advocate such a measure."

Preparations are being made for the starting of the large furnaces at Riddlesburg, Pa., lately owned by the Kemble Coal and Iron Company, which have been out of blast for more than a year on account of the failure of the company.

A strike of 7,000 miners and coke workers, in western Pennsylvania is threatened. They demand 10 per cent. advance in wages.

Mr. Schoenhof, American Consul at Tunstall, England, in an interview, expressed his belief that the decrease in the British exports of pottery was due to depression in the pottery trade in America as much as to the high tariffs. He added that the pottery market in America was glutted by purchases from England in 1883 previous to the raising of the tariff.

Collector Herbert Beecher has seized \$45,000 worth of 'prepared' opium stored at Kassin Bay, Alaska, awaiting shipment to Portland, Oregon, and San Francisco.

Patrick Egan, President of the Irish National League, of America, will resign at its next meeting.

The Rev. Henry Norman Hudson, the Shaksperian scholar, died at his home in Cambridge, Mass., on Saturday, at the age of seventy-two. He was born in Vermont, and his education was obtained while struggling with poverty. In 1840 he was graduated from Middlebury College. He went South as a teacher, and delivered his first lectures on Shakspeare at Huntsville, Ala. Four years later he went to Boston and lectured there and in other large cities. For three years he was editor of the *Churchman* in this city. His first edition of Shakspeare appeared in 1851, and has been very popular. He did other critical work, especially on Wordsworth. For twenty years past he has lived at Cambridge, and has prepared many text-books.

The Rev. Benjamin Currey died on Saturday, near Peekskill, N. Y., at the age of eighty-seven. He lived on the same farm in Westchester Coun-

ty all his life. Early in life he became a Methodist preacher. For thirty years before the war he was active in the so-called underground railway for helping fugitive slaves. He was a fearless abolitionist, and when that question was settled became a temperance advocate.

Miss Bayard, eldest daughter of the Secretary of State, died suddenly on Saturday afternoon.

FOREIGN.

The new members of Parliament were sworn in on Wednesday. The Speaker permitted Mr. Bradlaugh to take the oath.

Queen Victoria on Monday sent her private secretary with a letter to Mr. Gladstone on the Irish question. The royal speech was drafted at the meeting of the Cabinet on Monday. Lord Randolph Churchill overcame the demand of a section of the Cabinet that the whole Coercion Act be renewed. The Government will rely upon a division of the Liberals to secure support of its Irish proposals. It is also asserted that the Government will at the earliest moment introduce a bill in Parliament making boycotting a felony, enlarging magistrates' powers of summary jurisdiction, and otherwise strengthening the Criminal Law. Parliament will be asked either to regulate or suppress the National League.

Deputations from the various branches of the Loyal and Patriotic Union waited on Lord Salisbury, the Premier, on Tuesday, and urged that a stern enforcement of the law accompany any concession granted to the Nationalists by the Government. The Loyalists were arrogant and dictatorial in their address, which so offended Lord Salisbury that he dismissed them with a very short speech, instead of the long political address which was expected. The Loyalists were chagrined. It is reported that Mr. Gladstone will deny that he ever proposed an Irish Parliament. Ulster Loyalists are indignant because he has refused to receive a deputation of their number.

The London *Times* on Saturday morning recognized that the Irish question must receive the immediate attention of the new Parliament. In a spirited leading article it urged the necessity of the Conservative party at once facing the issue. It says the Conservatives cannot shirk or postpone decisive action. If they attempt to remain in office without making a vigorous effort to grapple with the Irish difficulty, it will react in their prompt and unequivocal condemnation. Universal scorn will be their portion if they give their opponents a chance to overthrow them without staking their existence on a bold defence of the Union. Such a course would be worse than a blunder—it would be crime. The Government should not hesitate to challenge the verdict of the House of Commons on the question of home rule. It cannot be doubted that they would obtain an immense majority in favor of maintaining the integrity of the empire.

The *Daily News* says that the Government contemplates a *coup d'état* in Ireland, and that General Lord Wolseley will be appointed to command the military forces there; but this has been denied.

The Earl of Carnarvon, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, will soon resign. The Viceroyship will be left in commission, with Lord Ashbourne, Lord Chancellor of Ireland, presiding at the Castle.

The Dublin *United Ireland* attributes the intended resignation of the Earl of Carnarvon to his reluctance to abet wholesale evictions contemplated by the Government, which will render the Irish desperate. It implores the Cabinet to look before it leaps and not adopt coercive remedies, as the people will not submit tamely to being robbed of their homes.

Great distress prevails in many parts of Ireland, especially among the inhabitants of Achill and Eagle Island. Lord Carnarvon says that his sole reliance for affording relief to the starving people is the limited

means at his disposal of sending the unfortunates to the workhouse. He, however, hopes that private contributions for the relief of the sufferers will enable the poor people to remain in their homes instead of being compelled to seek shelter in the already much overcrowded workhouses.

A condition of great alarm exists in Dublin commercial circles, owing to reasonable fears regarding an extensive boycotting system which, it is thought, will soon be inaugurated.

Monday's *Pall Mall Gazette* says there is no foundation whatever for the rumors now current that the Government will resign immediately on the reassembling of Parliament.

It is asserted on good authority that Mr. Gladstone and his colleagues have become reconciled; that Earls Spencer and Granville, the Earl of Derby, the Marquis of Hartington, and Sir William Vernon-Harcourt have all given their assent to a course of tactics suggested by Mr. Gladstone, and that the ex-Premier will take the first chance to overthrow the Conservative Government.

The Duke of Bedford writes to the *London Times* as follows: "There is a growing belief that Mr. Gladstone seeks to abandon the loyal Irish to the dominion of the disloyal. This obliges me to ask myself whether the party allegiance to which I have ever adhered is not strained to the breaking point. Many Liberals besides myself are eager for assurance to the contrary."

The Parnellites will join with English and Scotch Radicals in supporting an amendment to the address, protesting against evictions in Ireland and in the Highlands among the crofters.

Lord Salisbury has consented to recognize China as nominal suzerain over Burmah, on condition that the Peking Government abandon its claim to tribute from Burmah, and open the Chinese frontier to British traders at 5 per cent. ad valorem duties, except on opium.

The British Minister at Lima has been instructed to recognize the existing Peruvian Government upheld by Caceres.

The Direct Cable Company's report shows that the receipts have decreased \$150,000 during the past six months, and attributes the decrease to the reduction in the tariff and to competition.

Mr. Stead, editor of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, was released from prison on Monday.

Prince Bismarck has received despatches fully confirming the reported seizure of Samoa. The British Consul in Samoa telegraphs: "Commander Weber has driven the King from the seat of government. Weber hauled down the King's flag, a force from the *Albatross* assisting. The King was insulted. The British and American Consuls entered a solemn protest. Their presence alone prevented a massacre of the Germans. War is imminent. A report is current that Germany will annex Samoa."

Bismarck has officially assured Lord Salisbury that Germany will neither annex Samoa nor permanently interfere with the government of the islands.

A sensation has been created by the publication of the letter from Prince Bismarck to the Pope acknowledging the receipt of the decoration of the Order of Christ recently conferred on the German Chancellor by his Holiness. It says: "Your kind letter and decoration have greatly gratified the Emperor William and myself." It then goes on to state that the Pope's words that the Papacy means to practise the works of peace, first suggested to Prince Bismarck the idea of seeking the mediation of his Holiness in the Carolines question, and, in deference to his faith and confidence in the Pope's elevated views and impartiality, he selected the Pope as the arbiter of the dispute. Germany and Spain have no cause to complain

of the terms of the protocol, and the effect of the mediation will be lasting. Prince Bismarck will not neglect chances to attest his lively gratitude, highest devotion, and deepest respect for his Holiness in the future.

Emperor William opened the Prussian Diet on Thursday. In his speech his Majesty said: "I am grateful for the love and fidelity of my people, and for the benevolent sympathy which has been extended to me from foreign countries. Our foreign relations are friendly, and support fully our belief that the peace of Europe is sure to continue."

Another German-American has been expelled from a Prussian town.

President Grévy has signed a decree granting amnesty to persons convicted of political offences since 1870, and reducing the sentences of many offenders against the common law.

President Grévy's message was sent to the French Chambers on Thursday. "A republic," he says, "is the form of government necessary for France, in view of the importance and divisions of its opponents." M. Le Royer has been re-elected President of the Senate by a majority of 24.

M. de Freycinet, the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, in the Chamber of Deputies on Saturday, said that the new Cabinet's colonial policy would be less adventurous than that of its recent predecessors. This statement was received with cheers.

M. de Lesseps has written to the Marseilles and other principal Chambers of Commerce, asking them to appoint delegates to accompany him to Panama, for which place he will start on January 28.

M. Taine has been forbidden by his doctors to continue mental labor.

Paul Jacques Aimé Baudry, the French artist, is dead at the age of fifty-seven. He was the son of an artisan. Success came to him rapidly. In 1850 he obtained the Grand Prix de Rome for his painting, "Zenobia Discovered on the Banks of the Araxes." In 1857, when he exhibited in the Salon "The Punishment of a Vestal," "Fortune and the Child," and "Leda," he had established his fame. Since then he has painted about 200 pictures.

Greece and Serbia are negotiating for an alliance against Bulgaria.

Greece has declined to disarm. The Ministry threatened the King that they would resign unless he assented to an alliance with Serbia and the maintenance of the army on a war footing.

A war fever is again raging in Serbia. The Government at Belgrade has summoned the second ban, and has ordered another 20,000,000 of cartridges, eighteen batteries, and several machine guns. The Austrian Government is keeping a squadron in Greek waters. An improbable rumor was circulating in London on Tuesday that Russia is to occupy Bulgaria, Austria to march an army corps into Serbia, and Great Britain to be asked to force Greece to lay down her arms. Bulgaria, however, has consented to disarm if Serbia will. Turkey is also more tractable.

Amilcare Ponchielli, the composer, is dead, in his fifty-second year. Ponchielli is known in this country chiefly through his "Gioconda," one of the operas in which Nilsson appeared in the first season at the Metropolitan Opera-house. He was, next to Verdi and Boito, the most gifted of contemporary Italian composers. He was born in 1831, near Cremona, and made his debut as a dramatic composer in 1856 with "I Promessi Sposi." His first special success was won at Milan, in 1872, with his first opera. Thereupon he was engaged by the Scala management to write a ballet, "Le due Gemelle," which also had great success. In the same city his "Gioconda" had its first performance in 1876. His last opera, "Il Figliuolo Prodigo," was first sung in 1880, and was also very favorably received.

THE TELEPHONE CASE.

THE view we should take of Secretary Lamar's decision to have the validity of the Bell telephone patent tested in the courts depends very largely upon our standpoint. If, as the Secretary seems to assume, and as a lawyer might naturally assume, the mind of the judge in such a case is to be *tabula rasa* on which the contending parties may freely write their arguments and impress their evidence, it is quite possible that the judge might see only that conflict of evidence on which the Secretary's conclusion is based. The result of the Star-route trials is an example of how a long and tedious argument about very simple facts may confuse rather than inform the mind. If a man could secure a fortune by making it appear debatable whether the Washington Monument might not talk, he would undoubtedly succeed. Hardly would the hearing be commenced before scores of people would be found who, in the still of night or the hum of day, had heard aerial voices proceeding from the Monument, which could not be accounted for without supposing that object to possess the power of speech. A perfectly unbiassed judge, with no prejudices of his own on the subject, listening attentively for two months to the evidence and arguments on both sides, would undoubtedly find the views very conflicting; unless, indeed, he should reach the decision that the talking power of the Monument had been fully established. But if we suppose the judge to possess beforehand some common-sense ideas of physical principles, and some knowledge of the world, then Mr. Lamar's conclusion is simply amazing, and we apprehend has surprised no one more than the plaintiffs themselves.

What gives his decision interest is not merely the historical and personal question of priority of invention, but the fact that the conclusion insures the success of one of the worst stock-jobbing schemes now before the public. The stock in trade of the companies on whose motion the suit is brought consists of a paper capital of several millions of dollars, and a few patents, of insignificant value, which they probably never intend to use. Before the courts, a suit instituted by and in the name of the United States is invested with such dignity that all injunctions against infringements of Bell's patent may remain undecided or inoperative until the case is finally settled. The result is that the companies have a fair chance of getting the use of Bell's invention for a period of perhaps three years—as long, in fact, as they are able to stave off a final decision. This prospect will enable the projectors to dispose of their paper capital on terms extremely remunerative to themselves. The grounds on which they are allowed to enjoy this advantage on the motion and at the expense of the Government are therefore worthy of very careful consideration. What we have to say on the subject is founded mainly upon the bill of complaint filed by the prosecution, supplemented by the well-known facts of the case.

Stripping the bill of all its verbiage, repetition, and incongruities, we find its gravamen to be contained in the following propositions:

1. That the examiner who passed upon the

patent did not know that the invention was to be claimed as a speaking telephone, but supposed it to be only a method of harmonic multiplex telegraphy.

2. That a caveat, having been filed by Elisha Gray on the same day that Bell made his application, the latter was allowed to see the caveat, and, in consequence, changed his application so as to cover ground which belonged to Gray.

3. That the speaking telephone was really the invention of Philip Reis, and was therefore public property before Bell's patent was issued.

We omit the claim that Bell fraudulently neglected to instruct the examiner in electrical and telephonic science, as one tending only to make the plaintiff's case appear ridiculous. We also omit the question of Gray's rights in the case, because the suit is not brought for Gray's benefit, but only for that of the public.

The first claim of the prosecution might seem at the first glance to have some foundation, from the fact that the word "telephone" had not come into general use, and that Bell therefore described his invention as a system of telegraphy. But a reading of his description shows that the speaking telephone was described so plainly and fully as to admit of no possibility of doubt or mistake. Even had the examiner misapprehended the invention, that alone would not invalidate the patent. Where would litigation end if the validity of every patent depended upon the state of mind of the Patent Office officials when they passed upon the inventions?

The second point is that Bell made use of his fraudulently acquired knowledge of Gray's caveat to amend his own description. If any evidence to prove this was adduced by the prosecution, we have not seen or heard of it. All necessity for looking up any such evidence is, however, done away with by the fact that no essential change was made by Bell in his description, and no alteration in or addition to his claim. The addition consists only in a fuller explanation of the difference between what he called undulatory and pulsatory currents, and added absolutely nothing to the invention. It is one of the many singular inconsistencies in the plaintiff's case that in some passages this very distinction, which they claim to have been borrowed from Gray, is denounced as a worthless pretence.

We now come to what is really the main point of the prosecution, that there was nothing essentially new in Bell's invention, and that his claim of an improvement on Reis's instrument, by substituting an undulatory for a pulsatory current, was a fraudulent pretence. Here we reach the question whether common sense and understanding of the subject are to be presupposed in the judicial mind. If we presuppose them, then the claim that the Reis telephone could speak is hardly more tenable, and is not supported by any more evidence, than the speaking power of the Washington Monument would be if the question of its existence were before a court. The Reis telephone sent electric pulsations through a wire; but these pulsations were all of one kind, and could produce at the end of the wire only a musical note of high or low pitch, like the sound of a tuning-fork. Such an apparatus never could talk, unless by the merest acci-

dent. Bell's invention consisted in giving the electrical undulations the same form as the sound waves emitted in human speech. The difference between the two inventions was neither more nor less than the difference between speech and noise. The validity of Bell's patent as against previous claims of Reis has been so often sustained by the courts that it can no longer be considered an open question.

On what grounds was an application granted when the reasons for it were so entirely untenable? We look in vain for an answer to this question in Mr. Lamar's communication. He enters into no discussion of the arguments, the law, or the evidence so far as this particular case is concerned, and indeed expressly excuses himself from forming or expressing any opinion upon the merits of the case. He does not even say what fraudulent act or what kind of collusion seems to him to have been possible, nor explain how ignorance on the part of the Patent Office could have made fraud on the part of a patentee. Granting all the facts claimed by the prosecution, except the incident of Gray's caveat, of which we have shown the utter groundlessness, no case would be made out except that the Commissioner of Patents blundered into issuing a patent for a well-known invention; a wrong which can be speedily corrected by ordinary legal proceedings. The amusing attempt to show that this supposed blunder was due to fraud on Bell's part is of a kind which would be laughed out of any court in the world; the fraud, consisting not only in neglecting to give the examiner scientific information, but in describing to the Commissioner of Patents a crude and worthless device in order to evade his vigilance, and, when the patent was granted, claiming that the device was a telephone. Mr. Cleveland's Administration has made no greater mistake than that of giving Government support to this ridiculous pretence.

THE SENATE AND THE REMOVALS.

If the report of the Washington correspondent of the *Herald* is to be believed, the Republican Senators agreed, in their consultation on Friday, to subpoena the Cabinet officers to bring with them any papers they may have which will aid in the inquiries about removals which they are setting on foot, but admitted that if the Cabinet officers said the President had the papers, the Senate would be powerless as against him. This is comprehensible. What is not comprehensible is the following further report of the correspondent:

"It was the general opinion in this consultation that, as the President had publicly and often professed a determination to retain in office during their regular terms all capable and proper men and to remove only improper men, these public engagements gave the Senate the right and duty to see to it that proper and capable men are not removed—that, in fact, the President has been and remains faithful to his engagements. If the President will say publicly that he has not found it expedient or possible to keep his promises in this regard, but has, in fact, removed Republicans because they were Republicans, and appointed in their places Democrats because they were Democrats, and for political reasons, in that case the Republican Senator's will, they say, at once confirm every nomination he has made. But they say that their object is, and their determination is, to ascertain whether the President has lived up to his public promises in regard to the civil service, or whether—while still professing