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MONDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 6.

THE COMING SESSION.

Congress reassembles to-day. The session will be a short one, limited by the Constitution to three months, yet it will be quite long enough for the development of many important features of foreign and domestic policy. What Congress will do may be a fruitful subject of speculation, but not of oracular or even of positive announcement. For once the President has kept his own counsel, and the most earnest efforts of political caterers to ferret out the character of the message for the press have been confined to vague surmise, or mere scrutinizing guess-work. As the time draws steadily furnishes the cue to Congress, and we know nothing of his intentions, the most patient may wander in a boundless field of conjecture as to the possible acts of the Government. We have no hint of what Congress will do, but we may form a shrewd idea of what it ought to do.

It ought to throttle the eternal slavery question, when it commences. There is already in existing cause for sectional irritation and excitement. The Kansas question is settled. The people of that Territory have rejected slavery, and there is an end of it. On the plain principle of popular sovereignty the South has no right to complain of the decision. We are disinclined to believe that Kansas will apply for admission into the Union at the present session, but whenever she does, our deliberate conviction is that her prayer should be granted without unnecessary delay, and without the revival of a year's acrimonious and blackguard sectional warfare. People of all parties are getting thoroughly sick of this miserable quarrel. Fair-minded men in the North are in the desire to manufacture political capital.

Congress ought to modify the tariff. We are in favor of a protective tariff; but it is clear that the revenue of the government is inadequate to supply its disbursements. Our present source of public income is duties upon imports. These must be laid so as to yield a large sum to the government out of the stock market. National debts when inevitable, as in case of war, will be always unfortunately borne by the people, but otherwise our rulers have no right to saddle posterity with the burden of their extravagance. In addition to the details of a tariff it is the bounden duty of Congress to discriminate for the most benefit of home industry. First, not so easy to impose a duty on the foreign article as on the raw material—and it is far more equitable.

Congress ought further to increase the navy. Our commercial relations are annually extending, and with a peace establishment of forty ships is ridiculously disproportionate. A principle should be adopted by which a gradual augmentation may be secured to the right arm of our national defence. In the complications and uncertainties of foreign politics, the United States may be unexpectedly forced into hostile relations with other powers. With our present navy there is scarcely a second rate State of Europe that might not contend with us on equal terms. We were rapidly assuming a position among the nations of the world, where we will be required to maintain our dignity as a Government with the foremost. Of what avail will it possess the elements of strength, if we are unable to combine and employ them? Give us a competent navy or no measure.

Congress ought to take a stand on our foreign policy, declaring the representatives of a mighty power. Were Congress true to its mission it would, prior to adjourning, place in train final settlement every difficulty existing between the United States and other nations. It would foster the Central American protectorate, by commanding an intimation to New Granada, and compelling Nicaragua to abide with us upon the ship canal question. It would cast about and measure upon the Mexican imbroglio, with the view that the last census failure should be retrieved, and should feel that their sympathies were strongly to be thrown in favor of peace and order for the future, in default of which we should be driven to the last resort of chastisement. Our long forbearance has unfortunately been misconstrued into cowardice. Our people