

GRIGGS COURIER.

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TERRITORIAL OFFICERS

Governor—Louis K. Church.
Delegated to Congress—O. S. Gifford.
Secretary—M. H. McCormick, Bismarck.
Auditor—E. W. Caldwell, Bismarck.
Treasurer—John D. Benton.
Superintendent of Public Instruction—A. C. F. McClure, Pierre.
Surveyor General—Marie Taylor, Huron.
Attorney General—C. F. Templeton, Fargo.
Judge District Court, Sixth District—Wm. H. Francis, of Bismarck.

COUNTY OFFICERS.

Commissioners—R. C. Cooper, chairman. C. H. Mosley, DeForest Conant, Neils Hemmingsson, John Hoganson.
County Clerk and Register of Deeds—Roller Berg.

Clerk of District Court—J. N. Jorgensen.
Sheriff—M. L. Michael.
District Attorney—Iver Jacobson.
Treasurer—Knud Thompson.
Surveyor—Martin A. Ueland.
Supt. of Schools—Dr. T. F. Kerr.
Judge of Probate—Peter E. Nelson.
Coroner—Dr. G. F. Newell.
Commissioners of Insanity—Peter E. Nelson, T. F. Kerr and Iver Jacobson.

Justices of Peace—F. A. Melgard, Cooperstown, Paul J. Nelson, Rosness; Alonzo Ellis, Willow; Andrew Johnson, Cooperstown; M. Davidson, Galatia.
Constables—O. A. Johnson, Ole O. Groff, Harry Wasser, Gideon Sheldon.

Our Washington Letter.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 12, 1887. Notwithstanding the adjournment of congress I will continue, for a while at least, to send you a weekly Washington letter. Interest in national affairs is perennial, and it should be so with the American citizens of both sexes, and of sufficient intelligence to know what is going on at the headquarters of the great nation, of which the people in such an intimate and responsible way are a part, I can think of no higher duty of the press than to educate its readers and to keep it alive to the fact that they are the constituents, not of a town, a county or a state merely, but of a great nation, essaying the sublime experiment of self government, and that in the government of the United States is embarked a richer and more promising freightage of human hope and endeavor than has before been known in the history of our planet. We read with interest the pages of Roman and Grecian history; we dwell with rapture on the dark romantic volumes of the middle ages, and upon the vivid narrative of the progress of civilization as portrayed by the modern writers of France and of England.

If the noblest study of mankind is man, these can not but be useful, but they are useful especially in that they afford us the means of a comparative study of our time and country. Never before or elsewhere has the touch between the people and the government been so close as it is in the United States. More than ten thousand newspapers, assisted by the telegraph and the latest printing appliances keep the people informed of measures and events transpiring at the capital and the rear and remote parts of the union. No citizen who is not recreant to the dearest trust ever vouchsafed to men can be indifferent to the manner and even to the details of his government. He should study it with the best light his time and means afford, realizing that he cannot escape transmitting it impaired or improved to his posterity. It is not in the power of Jay Gould to give to his children as rich a gift as intelligent, beneficent, enfranchised American citizenship can bestow on the generations to come. The man who confines his attention to his own affairs, no matter how pure and upright his life, can be a good man only in a narrow sense. If he fails to contribute by his voice and his vote to the purification and the intelligent administration of public affairs he hides like a coward while criminals monopolize the polls, and send their kind to the state legislatures and to Washington.

It has been common of late to speak of the wickedness of Washington. The city is no better and no worse than the people make it. You must remember that the citizens of your capital are helpless and are only in a limited sense responsible for their government. There are 250,000 people in the District of Columbia, but they cannot vote. The president appoints three commissioners who are entrusted with the government under laws enacted by congress. Send us a better president and we will have better commissioners, who will in turn make better efforts to suppress the hell of vice and degradation. Mr. Cleveland's intentions are good, but his experience is sadly limited. Many of his appointments, while not positively bad, are weak, ignorant and incompetent. This is notably the case in the commissioner of patents who, however, is about to redeem himself by resigning.

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