

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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Ink Slings.

—The fact that a tariff is beginning to be grasped by the agricultural understanding.

—For a woman whose family are the perennial objects of public charity VICTORIA holds a very high head.

—TANNER with a brilliant coat of whitewash will be one of the most beautiful and interesting objects connected with the Harrison administration.

—The bitter experience of the tariffed housekeeper is not in the least sweetened by the fact that sugar furnishes the medium of one of his heaviest tax burdens.

—Chicago has a very large foot, but we doubt whether she can put it down with sufficient force to compel the Columbus centennial to be held within her borders.

—An increased majority rolled up by the Democrats of Kentucky on Monday is sufficient evidence that the "Star-eyed Goddess" can't be caught napping in the blue grass region.

—The empty stomachs of the working men who are out of employment require more substantial filling than that which is supplied by the tariff resolutions of a Republican State Convention.

—Wages are being whittled down to so fine a point under the Harrison administration that the laborer is beginning to require a microscope to bring them within his ocular comprehension.

—There can be no question that the New Yorkers have the best claim to the Columbus centennial exposition, but their right to ask other people to bear the heft of the expense isn't quite so clear.

—QUAY'S absence from the Convention on Wednesday was conspicuous. But what would have been there for? Weren't the boys told what he wanted them to do, and don't they always obey his orders?

—By the time Harrison gets through his administration "the grand old party" will be badly in need of a dose of Dr. HAMMOND'S elixir of life. But we believe that the Doctor doesn't claim that it can effect a resurrection.

—Spectacles of double magnifying power aren't strong enough to enable the wage-earner to see the benefits that were to result from a Republican tariff victory. LICK'S big California telescope would fail to make them visible.

—The Republican State Convention last Wednesday put BOSS QUAY'S collar on with its accustomed docility, but it is not too much to believe that it can't be put around the neck of the State next November without some lively kicking.

—"Strong platform," says a neighboring Republican paper, speaking of the one issued by the State Convention on Wednesday. Very strong, indeed! That part indorsing QUAY and TANNER is a little too strong for fastidious oratories.

—"The New York Sun gave it as its opinion that Carlisle's and Watterson's 'free trade' foolery justified the Republicans in hoping to carry Kentucky. A Democratic majority of about 30,000 sadly interferes with a very wise 'I told you so' from the sapient Sun.

—"The papers are commenting upon the fact that the author of 'Home, Sweet Home' hadn't a home that he could call his own; but his charming song would not have been a bit more charming if he had been the owner of a Queen Anne villa with all the modern improvements.

—"President HARRISON is to be thanked for appointing as Commissioner of Education Professor W. T. HARRIS who as an earnest tariff reformer showed his faith in the doctrine by voting for CLEVELAND last year. Tariff reform is a matter depending upon education and Professor HARRIS is the right man in the right place.

—"When the honest farmer and the sturdy mechanic see the inroad that the Sugar Trust, the Salt monopoly and other thievish combines are making upon the contents of their pocket-books, it is a good time for them to give CLEVELAND'S tariff reform message another reading. It is a document that affords very instructive information at this period.

—"Just think of it! Sixty thousand coke workers out of employment in Pennsylvania, to say nothing about other classes of idle laborers, while the platform of the Republican State Convention rattles away as glibly about the good which the tariff is doing the working people as if they were getting the two dollars a day and r-st beef that were promised them at the last election.

—"A Republican contemporary, speaking of the Tanner investigating committee, gives vent to the following remarkable expression: "The Democrats and Mugwumps who cackled about the investigation a few days ago, are now holding their breath in death-like stillness."—There is some truth in this. The obvious intention to whitewash TANNER is enough to make the whole country hold its breath.

Backing Out of Their Position.

The Republican organs are showing uneasiness concerning the failure of the tariff to furnish the protection that was promised in the last campaign. Last year it was held by them that the maintenance of what they called protection would insure to the laboring people steady employment and good wages. They insisted that the prosperity of the wage earners depended upon the tariff.

The present depression does not tally with their representations of a year ago. The continuance of the tariff was secured by HARRISON'S election, and yet there are more working people out of employment than there has been for years, and wages are being cut on every hand.

This is an awkward situation for the tariff shriekers, and they attempt to get out of it by saying that wages are a matter regulated by the law of supply and demand. But this is not what they told their deluded followers when they were after their votes last year. The tariff was then represented as being the thing that would secure good wages. The Democrats insisted that a tariff had nothing to do with it, but that wages depended entirely upon the demand for labor. So it is seen that the Republicans are now trying to shield themselves behind the Democratic position on this question.

We observe that one of our Republican neighbors in trying to explain why the tariff promises of a year ago have not materialized, puts it upon the limited demand for labor, saying that "when the demand is large and the supply small the prices are high, and when the demand is small and the supply large the prices are low."

This is good Democratic doctrine, but it is not a nice commentary on the effects of this boasted tariff that after its long supremacy the demand for labor has so diminished that wages have been reduced to the starvation point. Cause and effect in this case are entirely natural. The tariff restrictions have so limited the market for the productions of American industry that it has been overstocked and labor suffers in consequence. Supply and demand certainly govern wages, and, thanks to the operation of the tariff, the labor supply is such that the working people are at the mercy of the employes.

A Farmers' Convention.

That the farmers are learning very rapidly on the tariff question is becoming apparent from various indications. In New York State they are going to make still further advances in knowledge on this subject, as they propose holding a State Farmers' Union at Syracuse on the 6th of next month, at which the subject of the taxes to which they are subjected will be considered, the principal one of which is the tariff tax. In their address calling the meeting they say:

The farming lands of the state have actually decreased in value in the last ten years more than 25 per cent, largely in consequence of increased and unjust taxation. Personal property has actually increased faster during that time than in any other period of our history, and to-day far exceeds in value real estate. At least one-third of the farms and homes of the working people are mortgaged for half their value. Real estate in cities has increased in value, and pays an unjust proportion of the taxes, but the capitalists who own it reap their taxes in increased rents, so that substantially farmers and laborers pay all the taxes.

When the farmers get together in this way the discussion that will ensue will open their eyes to the manner in which they are being robbed under the plea that it is for the benefit of the industries of the country.

—President BENJAMIN HARRISON will this week go on a visit to JAMES G. BLAINE at Bar Harbor. It is scarcely half a year since his inauguration, but he has already been away from his post of duty longer than CLEVELAND was during his entire administration. Frequent pleasure trips have been made, at the government expense, down the Potomac; Cape May has been visited; Deer Park has for the past six weeks divided the President's time with Washington, and now the head of the government will bob up serenely on the rocky shores of Maine, and will be likely to pass the balance of the season there. We are not among those who think that a President should have no recreation, but we allude to Mr. HARRISON'S disposition to be away from his work as a notable contrast to the sturdy manner in which GROVER CLEVELAND stuck to his post of duty.

The "Press" in a Humorous Mood.

By its frequent allusions to the benefits conferred on the working people by a protective tariff, and its disposition to apply the term free trade to tariff reform, the Philadelphia Press has established quite a reputation as a joker. Such humorous efforts have afforded much diversion to that class of its readers who appreciate a joke. The subjoined extract from our jocular contemporary, in which the appointments made by Mr. HARRISON are made the subject of its amusing remarks, must be considered the best thing that the Press has ever gotten off in the funny vein:

Look at the record. A good share of the important offices have been filled, and yet the selections to which even the "Free-trade Democrats have been able to find exception can be counted on the fingers of one hand. There have been no thieves and no gamblers, no ballot-box stuffers and no jail-birds put in office. The country has not been shocked, as it was four years ago, by reading every morning of men of the most objectionable record nominated to responsible positions. The government has moved steadily forward, the mistakes of the last administration have been corrected and the people shown that there is a steady, experienced hand at the helm.

The cream of the above joke rises to the surface in the humorous invitation to "look at the record." The record, so far, isn't a very long one, extending over only about five months, but, short as it is, it justifies the comic treatment of the Press. "A good share of the important offices have been filled," it says. That's so, and prominent among them is the office of Postmaster General, bestowed upon its incumbent for no other reason than that he furnished the bulk of the money without which the predetermined scheme of effecting Mr. HARRISON'S election by purchase could not have been carried out. The humor of the Press's allusion to the high character of the Harrison appointments is especially provocative of merriment when applied to WANAMAKER'S case. It has almost an equally rib-ticking effect in its application to the appointment of CLARKSON. That worthy was QUAY'S partner in putting the campaign boodle where it would produce the most votes, and he did Mr. HARRISON'S cause an eminent service in helping to steal the mailing lists of the Prohibition organ.

And then there's TANNER. The Press must have had TANNER in its eye when it gave vent to its comical laudation of the Harrison appointments. It couldn't have selected a more jocular subject for the diversion of its readers. Although the administration is scarcely six months old the Commissioner of Pensions has already brought such a scandal upon it that a special committee has been appointed to give his conduct a coat of whitewash. TANNER, as a specimen of excellent official selection, is as funny as a character in a comic almanac.

But is he a funnier specimen than GEORGE P. FISHER, whom Mr. HARRISON has appointed First Auditor of the Treasury? FISHER, as District Attorney at Washington, in BOSS SHEPARD'S time, was so evidently in collusion with the Star Route thieves that the New York Tribune denounced him as "the bulwark of the Ring," and "a disgrace to the whole nation," and President GRANT demanded his resignation. Unquestionably FISHER'S case helped to stimulate the flow of the Press's humorous remarks concerning the high character of Mr. HARRISON'S official preferences.

In this connection it wouldn't do to overlook CHARLES HEDGES—and we trust that our jocular contemporary didn't overlook him—whom Mr. HARRISON has appointed chief of a division in the Sixth Auditor's office. On account of disreputable conduct he was dismissed with disgrace from the service of the Associated Press last spring. And what a neat joke our Philadelphia contemporary gets off in the remark that "no thieves and no gamblers, no ballot-box stuffers and no jail-birds" have been put in office since Mr. HARRISON took the reins. This will be enjoyed as something peculiarly facetious by those who are acquainted with the fact that Assistant Post Master General CLARKSON has already given appointments to a burglar, a convicted keeper of a disorderly house and a man who has been punished for sending obscene literature through the mails, with the returns from the criminal calendar far from being all in yet.

The old Philadelphia organ can make itself very entertaining as a joker when it applies itself to that way of amusing its political readers.

An Indictment Against the Sparrows.

The injury which the European sparrows are inflicting upon this country is attracting increased attention as the magnitude of the evil is becoming more obvious. The Department of Agriculture, in giving attention to this matter, makes out a bill of indictment against these feathered invaders that contains a number of very serious counts. They are charged with doing injury to grain, fruit and garden produce, and in addition to this they are held responsible for driving away the native song birds.

The Philadelphia Record thinks it strange that the sparrows should affect the American songsters in this way while in the eastern continent, where they originated, the song birds, such as the linnet, the goldfinch, the bullfinch, the lark, the nightingale, &c., are not disturbed by them. This may be accounted for by the circumstance that in the evolution of nature the song birds and the noisy sparrows of Europe were developed together and became accustomed to each other. The appearance of the noisy and pugnacious intruders in American bird society has taken the natives completely by surprise and disturbed their equanimity.

It is doubtful whether the wide berth that is being given to the interlopers by our songsters is because the latter are forcibly driven away. The bluebird, which appears to be most affected by the sparrows, is a very courageous bird. In several encounters we have observed, individuals of that family have been more than a match for the combined attack of a number of sparrows. But it would seem that the American song birds are withdrawing from contact with the sparrows in sheer disgust with their noisy chattering and general ruffianly conduct.

A Flagrant Case.

Among the office-holders at Washington turned out by the Harrison administration is E. W. OYSTER, a Republican who was permitted to hold on under CLEVELAND. It would have been the correct thing if he had been discharged four years ago, according to a long recognized political rule, but he was retained notwithstanding his politics, as hundreds of other Republicans were retained, and proved himself to be as efficient an officer under a Democratic administration as he had been under several previous Republican administrations. There was no question as to his fitness. But the pressure for places was so great when HARRISON came in that this Republican, in whose case a Democratic administration could overlook his politics for the advantage of the service, was turned neck and heels out of his position. This was bad enough for a party whose candidate and platform had given pledges in favor of civil service reform, but the flagrancy of the case was increased by the Harrison people trumping up a charge that OYSTER had opposed the election of HARRISON and therefore deserved to be turned out. There could not be a more direct admission that they regard the offices as something to be given as a reward for party service.

The Department of Justice (?) at Work.

The country has not forgotten the Star Route rascality which disgraced the administration of the postoffice department during GRANT'S term. BRADY, DORSEY & Co., who were prominent in Republican politics at that time, and have resumed their prominence since the "grand old party" has returned to power under HARRISON, were indicted for robbing the government in the Star Route transactions. Justice failed to inflict proper punishment upon them, although indictments have been hanging over their heads since that time. But as it wouldn't do to have their usefulness to the party hampered by such obstructions as indictments the department of justice has secured in open court a *nolle prosequi* that relieves from prosecution the BRADYS, the DORSEYS and the entire gang whose looting of the postoffice department in the years gone by brought them within the shadow of the State's prison. The Harrison administration needs their services and hastens to put the department of justice to work to shield them from the justice that demanded their punishment years ago.

Philadelphia Waking Up.

It is high time for Philadelphia to make an effort to recover the place she has lost among the commercial cities of the United States. In the first quarter of this century she was in the lead, but now she can be considered hardly a rival to any one of a half dozen cities that have slipped past her in the race. Some of her business men appear to be waking up to this unpleasant and humiliating fact, and are taking steps to regain the superior prominence which their city has been allowed to lose.

The entertainment that was given to western merchants invited to visit the city by the mercantile firm of HOOD, BONBRIGHT & Co., the other day, was a movement for the establishment of closer relations between the wholesale trade of Philadelphia and the retail dealers of the West. The field which such movements as this is intended to reclaim, is one from which Philadelphia for some years past, through the supineness of her business people and the superior activity of her rivals, has not reaped a proper share of advantage.

In other respects the city has allowed herself to fall behind. She has suffered from railroad discrimination without making an earnest effort to prevent it. It has been a pitiful sight to see trade diverted from Philadelphia by railroads in which her people had invested their money. She has negligently lost her grip on the great natural resources of the State of which she is the metropolis, until the coal, the iron and the petroleum of Pennsylvania have contributed more to the prosperity of rivals outside of the State than to her own.

Her shipping has been lost through a want of enterprise in maintaining a position which at one time was the first, and her later distinction of being the leading manufacturing city is no longer hers in consequence of the more energetic rivalry of both New York and Chicago.

It is gratifying to Pennsylvanians, who feel a pride in their metropolis, to observe that her business men are at last awaking from their lethargy and adopting measures that may again place Philadelphia in a leading position among commercial cities.

Not a Serious Dispute.

The Canadians are not pleased with the way one of their sealing ships was overhauled by the United States revenue cutter in Behring Sea, and threaten the vengeance of the English government for such treatment of a ship carrying the English flag. An Ottawa paper says that the American government will have to apologize for the act, and that if this is not done the Yankee navy will be swept from the sea by the superior naval power of England.

It is not in the least probable that so dreadful a thing as this will happen. The British authorities do not appear to be giving themselves much concern about the difficulty into which the Canadian sealer got itself, and if any notice is taken of it we may expect to see it come in the shape of a proposition to negotiate a settlement of the points in dispute concerning the ownership of Behring sea, without any bluster about wiping out the Yankee navy. Nor are the Americans attaching much interest to the case, as it is generally understood by them that the revenue cutter is doing police duty in Behring sea for the benefit of the Alaska Fur Seal monopoly.

—The great JOHN L. SULLIVAN is now an inmate of a Mississippi jail. By Governor LOWRY'S persistence in hunting down the prize-fighters who violated the law of his State, he has succeeded in corraling the most noted of the bruisers, who no doubt will be subjected to the pains and penalties provided by Mississippi law for such an offense as prize-fighting. Whatever opinion of JOHN L. may be entertained by decent people, it must be admitted that there was a certain degree of manliness in the manner in which he submitted to the demands of the law. He made no special efforts to evade it, there was no appearance of shirking in his conduct, and when he found himself in the toils there was no such ruffianly and truculent resistance as might have been expected of a man of his vocation and habits. The most peaceable citizen could not have bowed more submissively to the requirements of the law.

Spawls from the Keystone.

—Rowdies took possession of a Pottstown cemetery on Sunday last and turned it into a beer garden.

—The Easton Express reports that the rains have penetrated "seventeen feet into the bowels of the earth."

—A warrant has been issued by Norris-town Justice for a man charged with blasphemy. He is a fugitive.

—A son of Abram Herr, of Strasburg, Lancaster county, was zored by a bull on Wednesday, and was dangerously hurt.

—Some of the Scranton barbers operate on Sundays, but with the blinds down, in deference to public sentiment.

—Abraham Kindig, of Harleysville, uses a hatchet that is over a hundred years old. It belonged to his grandfather.

—The Lancaster School Board has passed resolutions asking the teachers to use every effort to prevent bating in any form.

—Simon Collins, of Marietta, who is stone-blind, has a patent on a brush handle. He designs boats and works the typewriter.

—Lancaster prison officials are unanimous in the belief that James H. Jacobs, the condemned murderer, is feigning insanity.

—George Calder's cotton-mill, at Lancaster, was sold by the Sheriff last week for \$16,000 subject to two mortgages of \$20,000 each.

—John Kutz, President, and William H. Heffer, Secretary of the Keystone Agricultural Society, both died at Kutztown last week.

—A Bridgeport boy of 4 years was found walking in his sleep through the town at midnight. He told the policeman he was going to pick blackberries.

—Burgess of Newton has directed the High Constable to arrest all persons seen drunk, obstructing the sidewalk or heard swearing on the public streets.

—"A terra cotta lumber company" has been organized by Pittsburgh financiers. The lumber is made of sawdust and clay, and is expected to supersede lath and plaster.

—W. R. Hughes, a contractor of Harrisburg, has brought suit against the clergyman and Trustees of Corpus-Christi Catholic congregation for \$302 for building supplies.

—William Switzer, a Steelton lad, seeing an old box passing down the canal pulled it ashore, and found in it forty-seven fine cat fish, which he disposed of at a profitable figure.

—Mrs. Elizabeth Miller, of Host, Berks county, was stricken with paralysis while returning from a neighbor's on Wednesday, and falling by the roadside died in the arms of a tramp who happened along.

—The Allentown Democrat of this week says: "The practice in this section of feasting at funerals is of long standing, but its propriety is to be doubted, and we think it is about time that it be abandoned."

—At Washington, Pa., the other night a lady lost a pocketbook containing \$3000 during a ride upon the merry-go-round. After a search that made her dizzy the pocketbook was found being kicked around the floor.

—James Huston, New London township, has in his possession the reaping implements of four generations, beginning with his great grandfather, who reaped the very fields that his great-grandson now cultivates.

—Some time in May last Jesse Shalleross, who has an ice-making plant in Coatesville, froze sixteen shad in cakes of ice as an experiment. A few days ago the cakes were cracked open and the shad cooked. They "ate beautiful."

—Mrs. Andrew Guldeman, well known in Reading as the "water-cress woman," while hunting the plant a day or two since, fell into a deep fish-pond, but saved herself from drowning by grasping an overhanging branch of a tree.

—Mrs. Annie Edwards, in order to stir the sympathies of a Pittsburg Squire before whom she had been tried for manslaughter, cut her hair and tried to make it appear a case of hemorrhage. The trick was detected and did not avail.

—Miss Dinnie Kert, of Wilkesbarre, who was buried a couple of days since, was the twelfth member of the family who has died within a few years. Her aged parents, who have but one child remaining, cried bitterly during the services.

—When the fastest train on the Nypano Road thundered into Meadville a couple of days since two of the dirtiest, grimmest boys on earth got off the broad-beams and crawled from under the train. That they escaped death in such a ride is miraculous.

—Some of the soldier element of West Chester find fault with the attitude of the Confederate figure on the monument at the Park. His hand rests over the top of the muzzle of the gun, which is said to be in bad taste from a strict military point of view.

—The pay envelopes in a Pottstown mail became mixed several days ago, and a lad entitled to \$1.54 received \$1.54. Suit was brought and judgment given for the firm, but the sum cannot be collected until the boy becomes of age, which is five years hence.

—Mrs. Swelam, of Pittsburg, feeling nervous two nights ago, looked under her bed before retiring, and found a man hiding there whom she pulled out impulsively and flung him down the stairs before she could collect herself sufficiently to rouse the neighbors.

—Robert Carney, of Minersville, has two thoroughbred silver-haired squire terriers that were born on the day of the flood, and were in a box with their mother. The box floated till it hit against a tree. The mother jumped out on the debris, caught the side of the box with her teeth and held on till all were saved.

—A Pottstown paper prints the following, but no affidavit is appended: "On the farm of D. S. Livengood, near Fogelsville, Montgomery county, one day last week one of his cows gave birth to a pair of twin calves in the morning and another pair in the evening. The one pair was an Alderney and the other a Durham."

—E. Y. Gilbert and Peter Seasholtz were sitting under an awning with their feet against the iron posts at the Merchants Hotel in Pottstown, when one was suddenly doubled up in his chair and the other flung to the pavement. Fighting had struck an electric wire some distance off, and the current had communicated to the awning post.

—William McClellan, the champion cats cradler of South Whitehall, forged ahead of the other cradlers several days since, and on reaching the end of the field he rested on his cradle in waiting for them, meanwhile initiating a harpist on his implement, and in so doing he gave himself such an ugly cut on one of his hands that a doctor had to fix it.

—A citizen of Chambersburg reaching home late at night, when all the lights were out, heard a strange noise in the parlor. He advanced to the door and ordered the burglar to come out and surrender. No response, but the noise continued. Then a pistol-shot rang out—the burglar fled in the parlor ceiling—and the citizen's dog, which had been tearing stuffing from the sofa, came out with a guilty whine, and was kicked out of a side door for the night.