

BY P. GRAY MEEK.

Ink Slings.

The general disagreeableness of this winter lacks a blizzard to make it perfect.

The good resolutions formed at New Year seldom live long enough to be cheered by the early song of the bluebird.

It is to be hoped that MCGINTY has adopted a series of reformatory resolutions with the beginning of the year.

Poor old DOM PEDRO has lost not only his Empire but his Empress also. The Brazilian revolutionists deprived him of the one and death took the other.

The official ladies at Washington are again squabbling over the question of precedence, but they don't raise half the disturbance that the fellows do who are after the offices.

The President may have had a Happy New Year. But whether the balance of the year shall bring him happiness greatly depends upon the conduct of the office seekers.

Mr. BLAINE is a big man among the ordinary run of Republican statesmen, but he is at a disadvantage when attempting to size up with GLADSTONE on a question of political economy.

With corn at 18 cents a bushel and oats at a still lower figure, the Western farmers are using double-magnifying glasses in a vain endeavor to see where the benefits of a high tariff come in.

A certain class of workers in cotton mills are called mule-spinners and they have formed a Union. It won't do for tyrannical employers to fool much around their heels. It would be safer to monkey with a buzz-saw.

It was decided by a Philadelphia court that a member of the Union League could not be expelled from that organization for calling another member a blackguard. Maybe the learned court thought that telling the truth was not a proper cause for expulsion.

The Emperor of Russia is to be crowned King of Poland. From the way the Czar has all along been bossing things in that downtrodden country it would seem that crowning him King will be a superfluous performance.

Execution by electricity may be constitutional, as has at last been decided by the New York Supreme Court, but it will be found to be seriously detrimental to the constitutions of the fellows who shall be subjected to it.

Whatever of fruitfulness may attend the course of 1890 will have nothing to show that will equal the growth of tariff reform, which grows right along regardless of season, and its harvest will come off in November.

The recommendation of the Philadelphia Grand Jury that the whipping post should be used in cases of wife beating, may be considered a homeopathic decision, on the principle that like will cure like. But the remedy shouldn't be applied in homeopathic doses.

This New Year should be to Brother WANAMAKER an especially happy one. His Philadelphia bargain counters never did a bigger business, and he enjoys the peculiar favor of Mr. HARRISON, his official master. Surely the Lord is making things pleasant for holy JOHN.

It is reported that 7000 diamond cutters are out of employment in Amsterdam, the principal market for that variety of precious stone. This probably is because the past year has been rather a dull one for country printers, they consequently not being able to purchase their favorite gem as largely as usual.

About the time we shall be looking for the first snow-drop to appear as the harbinger of approaching spring, we shall likely have one that in size and variety will be anything but vernal, such a one as made its appearance in March, '88. It will be remembered that as a harbinger the latter was an unmitigated imposition.

The New York Sun, denying that corrupt influences were used to affect the last Presidential election, says that "Mr. HARRISON was elected because the people preferred him to Mr. CLEVELAND." If that was the case, didn't they rather singularly show their preference for HARRISON by giving CLEVELAND a hundred thousand majority of the popular vote?

La Grippe, as applied to a prevailing influenza, is not a new term. More than a generation ago a similar epidemic afflicted this country. The people naturally didn't like it and at the same time a great majority of them didn't like the Tyler administration which was then at the head of public affairs. Consequently they associated the two unpleasant things and called the obnoxious disease the Tyler grip. From a similar association the present affliction may come to be known as the Harrison grip.

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It Should Not Be Dropped.

Since we are getting a new navy that will be somewhat in proportion to the might and importance of our country, those who have the management of it are thinking about making changes in the grades and titles of our naval officers. Thus we see there is to be some change made in the class of officers known as Admirals, and it is proposed to abolish the title of Commodore. It is said that since the introduction of Admirals into the naval roster Commodores don't fit in very well between them and the Captains, and for this reason they are going to be dropped. This ought to be avoided if possible. There is no title around which cluster so many of the glories of the American navy as around that of Commodore. The young officers connected with the navy at the beginning of the century were as gallant a set as ever tread the quarter deck, and they blossomed out into the Commodores who humbled the piratical Tripolitans and Algerines and subsequently won a succession of the most brilliant victories over the frigates of Britain that proudly claimed the dominion of the sea. There was Preble, Bainbridge, Hull, Decatur, Lawrence, Stewart, Porter, Chauncey, McDonough, Perry and others of equal fame. What a brilliant galaxy they were and all of them were Commodores. There wasn't an Admiral among them, for that English title had not yet been introduced into our navy, yet the lack of it did not prevent those gallant officers from whaling their English antagonists on whatever sea or lake they caught them. As the term Commodore is associated with the brightest names in the history of our navy it should not be dropped from our naval nomenclature.

An Unwelcome Russian Visitor.

It would not have been in keeping with the extraordinary character of this year if it had wound up without giving us something unusual in the way of an epidemic. It has furnished this in the shape of the Russian influenza, which began in the dominions of the despotic Czar of all the Russias, and after inflicting itself upon the effete monarchies of Europe, will wind up in the land of Yankee Doodle and the Star Spangled Banner. It is a sort of human epizooty, attributable no doubt to the peculiar atmospheric conditions of a season that in some other respects has been peculiar.

In its European course La Grippe, as people who delight in high-sounding phrases call it, has been no respecter of persons, emperors and kings being among its victims as well as common people. The accounts from Europe represent it to have made a pretty general sweep, it proving fatal in many cases, but ordinarily it wasn't more severe than an aggravated form of influenza usually is. Both the Emperor of Russia and the King of Portugal were down with it. The other Europeans who suffered from it are too numerous to mention.

It has now been on American soil for about two weeks with both feet and is getting in its work in great shape. Every newspaper seems to be ambitious of announcing that La Grippe has reached its town. But we are not ambitious in that respect and hope we may not be called upon to announce that it has seriously struck Bellefonte. In New York, Philadelphia and other eastern cities those who are suffering from it are numbered by the thousands, some cases terminating fatally. It is spreading through the country and may be expected to cross the continent with a continuous sneeze and sniffle. Let us be thankful that it is not as serious a matter as an epidemic of cholera or yellow fever would be. This reflection should be something of a solace while La Grippe is subjecting us to its comparatively mild infliction.

In the proposed revision of the tariff by this Republican Congress the various opposing interests will be heard, and already two parties have appeared from Philadelphia asking that the tariff on quinine be restored. Infamous as this request is, we should not be surprised if it should receive respectful attention from the committee, which will incline to any demand that may be made in the interest of "protection."

The Difference.

It is by some considered strange that JEFF DAVIS, the chief representative of the "lost cause" of the rebellion, and General LEE, the principal leader of the defeated rebel armies, will have monuments erected to their memories long before such a tribute is paid to the memory of General GRANT, the great commander of the victorious armies of the Union. The people of the South are going earnestly about giving the deceased ex-President of the Confederacy such a memorial, and LEE already has one of the finest monuments in the country, while GRANT's lone grave in River Side Park remains devoid of monumental honors.

There are several reasons for this. It reflects no discredit upon the Southern people that they entertain peculiarly tender feelings for those who were their leaders in a struggle in which they engaged with such earnestness and valor, and which was attended with such complete disaster. That their cause was lost only makes the more pathetic the memory of those into whose hands they with so much enthusiasm and confidence committed it, and who were its chief representatives. Had they been victorious they would entertain a less tender recollection of their departed chiefs.

On the other hand General GRANT represented the victorious side of the controversy. In his case the same pathetic elements do not exist to prompt a memorial expression. The victory was followed by a great deal of venality which immediately after the war was so fully employed in disposing of the spoils, and since then in devising ways of making the public revenue a vast pension fund, that it completely paralyzed the patriotic sentiment which long ere this should have furnished to the memory of General GRANT a monument suitable to the service he rendered his country. The erection of monuments to JEFFERSON DAVIS and ROBERT E. LEE may justly be considered a sacred duty by the people of the South. But should not this be a reminder that the whole country owes General GRANT a monument which the sham patriotism and venality of those who claim to be his especial admirers have so long neglected?

A Reported Change of View.

The friends of Governor HILL of New York, and we trust they are many in the Democratic party, would have been better pleased if he could have seen his way more clearly on the question of ballot reform when it was brought under his official action. The ballot system which, as now generally practiced, in a great measure perverts the public will as expressed at our elections, has become a leading object of Democratic contention. There is a general expression of the party for such a reform. It may be this consideration that has given occasion for the report that the Governor is going to revise his views on the ballot question and fall in with the movement which he seemed to oppose, but which by this time he must be convinced is sweeping the party right along with it. He cannot fail to see that the mass of the Democratic party of his State want electoral reform and will insist upon having it this winter.

Preparatory to this accomplishment, Senator SAXTON is preparing a bill which will be so framed as to meet all of Governor HILL's former objections except one, and it is not likely in the present state of the party feeling that the one obstacle will prove a barrier to his favorable action.

It is of especial importance that in New York, the great pivotal State, there should be honest elections. It is absolutely necessary as a defense against the corrupting influences of the party that has the backing of the money power. Governor HILL may be the Democratic candidate for President. But whether he or somebody else is, he should know that if bribery and intimidation are eliminated from the elections of his State it is sure to give an unquestionable Democratic majority. The proposed ballot reform is reasonably certain of effecting such an elimination.

DELMATER and HASTINGS played the turtle dove act at a Republican club dinner at West Chester last Tuesday evening.

Why They Are Changing Their Views.

Is it possible that Senator INGALLS, of Kansas, in an interview in the Washington Post the other day, said: "I want to see the tariff reduced to a degree that the revenues of the country will only meet the expenses. I wish to see the tax on whisky and tobacco continued, because they are unnecessary luxuries, and because every dollar raised upon them relieves the tax on necessities of life to that extent."

This comes so near to what the Democrats want with respect to the tariff, and is so close an approach to GROVER CLEVELAND's position on that subject, that it may be asked whether it possibly is an expression of Senator INGALLS' tariff convictions? But when we come to consider the fact that the farmers of Kansas are changing their tariff views, and that upon their favor through their representatives in the State legislature Mr. INGALLS' continuance in the Senate altogether depends, it is more than probable, it is entirely probable, that his views on the tariff question are also undergoing a change.

The elections of last fall developed such an expression of public opinion with respect to taxing the necessities of life and keeping the public revenues within the limit of public expenses, that other Republican statesmen, particularly in the West, may be expected to express sentiments on this subject similar to those that are said to have been expressed by the Kansas Senator.

A First Class Newspaper.

The New Year of 1890 finds the Pittsburg Dispatch maintaining all the excellent qualities which have made it eminent among the leading newspapers of the day. Its daily edition furnishes the general reader with everything that is freshest and most interesting in the line of news, and in addition it gives the latest current ideas through the medium of able correspondents. Its general miscellany of the day's doings is bright and lively, there not being a dull line in it. Its market reports are comprehensive and reliable. Although Republican in politics its editorials are marked by an independence and liberality that lift it high above the level of the organ.

The Sunday edition of the Dispatch has attained a popularity that has secured for it a circulation considerably over 50,000. It is a mammoth twenty-page issue, containing a most varied collection of reading matter suitable to the taste of intelligent readers. The current news is supplied in addition to a great amount of interesting and instructive literature. Those who have had the pleasure and advantage of reading the Dispatch would think that it could not well be improved, but its proprietors promise even greater excellence during the coming year, and there is no doubt that the fullest performance will follow their promise.

Not Likely to Be Successful.

We observe that an effort is going to be made in the Connelville coal region to drive out the Hungarian and other "foreign pauper" laborers who through that section and do much of the work connected with the coal and coke industries. Those who propose to direct this movement declare these people to be "useless as residents" who could do the country no greater good than by leaving it. There can be no question that in many respects they are nuisances, particularly in their turbulent and unruly dispositions. They are also objectionable in the fact that they enable the tariff beneficiaries to derive a double advantage from the so-called protective system. These people are brought over to furnish the cheapest kind of labor to those who require a tariff to secure for them the highest prices for their productions. This circumstance will exert a powerful influence in keeping the Slavs and Huns among us and will tend every year to increase their number. The Order of United American Mechanics are said to intend to head a movement to drive these undesirable people from the country, but we are afraid that their efforts will be futile as against the interest of the favored class who find their profit in cheap labor.

The New Year will furnish new duties.

CHRISTMAS EVE—A NARRATIVE OF NITTANY.

'Twas Christmas eve all the world o'er, For the promise of good will to men, Encircling the earth with its chorus, Re-echoed again and again, Till the islands repeated the story, And they that were dwellers afar, Joined in swelling the anthem anglic, And followed the light of the star. Over hills that were leared by the north-blast, And valleys divested of green, Nature's cloud-wrought wonder of ermine Was spreading its feathery screen, That the sun of the coming morning Might greet with his early light, His earth-bride arrayed for his coming In her mantle of glittering white. Where the patriarch pines of Old Muncy Keep watch over nesting homes, To those who have toiled during summer Christmas cheer doubly welcome comes: But the wing of an angel of anger Had gathered in fury of flood Nittany's harvest 'ere sickle could enter— Had marked even the lintels with blood. The silence that comes with the snow fall Had settled 'round many a hearth; But where once sat the angel of plenty Now brooded the demon of death. A traveler lone in the twilight Sought vainly the landmarks of old, Where fields that were fenceless and barren Their terrible flood-tide told; Till out through the gathering darkness With a welcome in every ray, A light from the loved home window Illumined his desolate way. Long years since his footsteps had trodden The path they were seeking this night; Like a dream of his boyhood's elysium Seemed those beckoning fingers of light. With a hand on the latch uplifted He paused, as a voice in prayer, By feeling and age made feeble, Was borne on the evening air. O Lord, for the loss of all earth-wealth We care not—we count not the cost, If only Thy mercy might bring us In safety our boy who is lost. "Thou knowest, O Lord, where his footsteps Are wandering this hallowed night, O turn them from all that is sinful By Thine arm of omnipotent might." Then a voice joined the father's petition, In a thankful and earnest amen, And the son who had long been a wanderer Had returned to the house-fold again.

Badly Situated.

There should not be a strike of workmen in the Punxsutawny region or anywhere else in this country which is supposed to be in the enjoyment of a protective system especially designed to make that class of citizens prosperous and contented. But, nevertheless, there is such a strike; 1600 men and boys have stopped work because they were not satisfied with their wages; the disturbance threatens to attain still larger proportions and to grow into a protracted struggle which in all probability will end in the poorly provided workmen being starved into accepting the terms of their rich employers. The latter are preparing to master the situation. They have already secured the service of 106 of Pinkerton's force who are on the ground ostensibly to keep the idle men from disturbing the peace, but their real duty will be to assist in evicting the families of the strikers from the houses of the operating companies and to protect the 600 Hungarians and Italians who have been brought on to take their places at the works.

There is but little prospect of this strike of the Punxsutawny miners amounting to anything that will be of benefit to them. The advantages are every year increasing on the side of the employers. If physical force is required they can draw on Pinkerton's standing army for it, and the Hungarian and Italian contingents have grown to such dimensions that they can readily furnish the workmen necessary to supply the places of those who stop work on account of dissatisfaction with their wages. The situation of American workingmen of this class, despite the great American protective system, is far from being an enviable one.

The West has recently been experiencing severer weather than has prevailed on this side of the Alleghenies. Since Christmas there have been heavy falls of snow in the Mississippi valley and blizzards have coursed down the vast plains extending southward from more northern regions. The comparatively high temperature that has so far this season prevailed in the eastern states cannot be expected to continue all winter. We are pretty sure of having further on about as much ice and snow as we shall care to have. If not, it will indeed be a most remarkable winter.

spawls from the Keystone.

- There is a "Prisoner's Choir" in the Doylestown jail.
-The work of the Johnstown flood Commission is ended.
-Honey bees were at work on Christmas near West Chester.
-The paw of a bear was found in a steel trap near Holidaysburg.
-Williamsport's "South Side" is troubled with bold highwaymen.
-The State Home for Disabled Veterans at Brookville will be opened January 17.
-The School Savings Bank system will go into operation at Norristown on January 2.
-Thieves stole a carload of hay from the Fort Wayne freight-yard at Allegheny.
-A particularly choice pair of chickens raised at Colmar, Berks county, sold for \$5.
-Simon Spohn, killed at Reading while picking coal, owned property worth \$40,000.
-A dozen cases of influenza had horses developed at Pottstown in twenty-four hours.
-Pittsburg's business men object to having moving day changed from April 1 to May 1.
-York county tramps emptied a water tank and turned it into a sleeping apartment.
-Five red-haired girls gave a white-horse banner at Williamsport in the cause of charity.
-The editors, reporters, and composers of the Altoona Times went on a strike on Christmas eve.
-The Harrisburg Telegraph complains of the holiday drunkenness in that city among the boys.
-Four generations sat down at the table on Christmas day at the house of C. J. Cooper, Altoona.
-A big bird's nest caught fire in the chimney of a Pittston house and nearly caused a conflagration.
-To save paying an extra fare of 5 cents, William Long jumped off a train moving at full speed at Altoona.
-A deamite at Reading became involved in a fight and withdrew with "rainbow-tinted eyes," a local paper says.
-Pittsburg cork-workers are talking of striking because they do not get paid for their Saturday half-holiday.
-J. L. Detrick, a Pittsburg oil dealer, lives at East Liverpool, 88 miles away, and goes to and from his home each day.
-After many unsuccesses a pane of glass, twelve by fourteen feet, has been turned out at the Standard Works at Butler.
-Diphtheria is prevailing to an alarming extent at Hatfield, Souderton and vicinity along the North Penn Railroad.
-John Eberhard, who is bondsmen for a defaulting Lehigh county Justice of the Peace, has lost his reason from brooding over the matter.
-The funeral of Engineer Music, who was killed in the wreck at Laury's Station, was attended by 3000 persons at Easton on Christmas.
-An Allegheny girl had her pocket picked on a crowded street car, but she pointed out the thief and made him return her pocket book.
-The chickens on a farm near Altoona which is lighted up by a natural gas flame have lost trace of the day and have no regular roosting time.
-Bristol people have been imposed on by tramps, who burned their legs with mustard plasters and said they had been scalded in a railroad accident.
-Having gone to sleep on a cinder dump at Johnstown, a man was covered with hot cinders before his presence was detected, and he was nearly cremated alive.
-John Jackson, a colored resident of Williamsport, who was separated from his mother during the slavery days, has gone to Canada to find her and bring her home.
-Maryed a week ago, a Pittsburg girl has brought suit for desertion against her husband. The action was brought before the same Allderman that married the couple.
-Mayor Pearson, of Allegheny city, is the father of a scheme to have work on roads done by prison gangs, and he will bring the matter before the County Prison Board.
-It is thought that the indiscriminate sale of intoxicants on Christmas at West Chester will result next year in a decrease of the number of licenses issued.
-The Pottstown Miner's Journal names Professor E. O. Lytle, Superintendent of the Millersville Normal School, as a suitable successor to the late Dr. Higbee.
-Simon Spohn, who was once wealthy, and still owns several houses, was run over by a shifting engine of the Reading Railroad at Reading and had both legs cut off.
-William Boileau, living near Amherst, Montgomery county, was killed on Thursday by a tree falling upon him from the base of which he had been prying stones.
-Maggie Mashe, of Pittsburg, has been arrested at her sister's instance charged with having attempted suicide. The attempt, she says, is the outcome of one of Maggie's mishaps.
-A tree partially blown down by the winds of Friday at Williamsport is said to be one of the only pair in this country. They are English black alders, and were imported fifty years ago.
-While descending a stairs at the residence of her son in Penn township, Chester county, on Thursday evening Mrs. Sarah Ann Goodwin, aged 63 years, slipped and fell to the bottom, breaking her neck.
-Mrs. Weiss, of Yorkville, Schuylkill county, received a letter from her son Conrad, in Cincinnati, on Christmas day telling her that he was about to take his life, and that he had forwarded all his effects to her.
-Robert Cornell, the proprietor of the Erie Sunday Globe, has been given the alternative of ceasing the publication or having his name stricken from the rolls of the Presbyterian Church, of which he is a member. He refuses to do either.
-At Pittston there is a man who says he was never ill a minute. He explains his good health by the fact that his mother sewed a rabbit's paw in his clothing when he was a baby and he has never been without it on his person since.
-Although Huntingdon county has been three years without a liquor license, there has been such an increase of drunkenness that it is believed a number of licenses will be granted to reputable places at the next term of Court, and all the Huntingdon hotels will apply.

no paper in...

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