

Ink Stings.

—Will there be any ice this winter? is a nice question. —The crocuses may have occasion to prosecute January for breach of promise. —As the administration flounders deeper into its political difficulties...

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The Grip that Holds Congress and the President.

Congress re-assembled on Monday after its holiday vacation, the number of honorable gentlemen in attendance being considerably reduced by many of its members being down with "the grip." It may be expected that Congress through this entire session will be affected by "the grip," but it will be the grip of the monopolists who will control the tariff legislation that will be under consideration.

Mark One for Hastings.

The Hastings gubernatorial forces have received an important recruit in the person of WENDELL P. BOWMAN, of Philadelphia, Colonel of the First Regiment of the Pennsylvania National Guard, who has come out strong for the young Centre county aspirant for the governorship and has announced himself as a candidate for delegate to the State convention in HASTINGS' interest.

School Savings Banks.

The idea of savings banks connected with the common schools is a good one. They will teach the children thrifty habits and impart to their young minds practical conceptions of business. There is much connected with common school education, as now conducted, that will rather interfere with than promote the scholar's future capacity to grapple with the realities of life.

Matrimonial Folly.

It is now announced that Miss CALDWELL, the rich young American woman who was going to marry a worthless Frenchman known as Prince MURAT, has finally backed out of her risky intention. She may be congratulated on cancelling her purpose of gaining a title by marrying a broken-down rone whose grandfather, with whom the nobility of his family originated, was the son of a French tapster.

A Contrast.

The Altoona Tribune, with the object of making a contrast, remarks: "Only twenty-nine years ago, when the Democratic administration of JAMES BUCHANAN was drawing to a close, the national treasury was bankrupt and the credit of the country was so poor that the government was unable to negotiate a beggarly loan to meet current expenses."

Only Half Right.

"The bills of Senators SHERMAN and CHANDLER to put the elections under Federal control, and the bills of Senators MORGAN, BUTLER and GIBSON to provide for the deportation of the Southern negroes, ought to be burnt in the same heap." We cannot wholly agree with this remark of a contemporary. The proposition to put elections under a central control is entirely and radically wrong, for it would effect that centralization of political power which would antagonize the principle upon which our federal union and popular government were established.

A Monstrous Intrusion into the Field of Politics.

It is announced by Republican papers with considerable placency, that General ALGER, of Michigan, the millionaire Republican aspirant for the Presidency, is about to make the first public movement toward the object of his ambition. Having by means of his money become the Commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, he will soon start out on a grand inspection of the Posts, with the view of working the Prætorian influence for all it is worth.

It is not known to possess a single qualification that would fit him for the high office he seeks, and without his money would not be thought of in that connection, but with his millions and with the backing of the politico-military organization which is fully alive to the advantage of having a President from its own membership and identified with its pecuniary interests, he has a good chance of securing the Republican nomination.

They are having an exciting time in St. Petersburg where many arrests have recently been made of parties charged with having designs upon the life of the Emperor of Russia. The arrests have included members of the imperial household and officers of the army. The attempts to get rid of his imperial majesty, which heretofore have been by means of dynamite, are being diversified by the employment of poison. It can't be said that the emperor is enviably situated.

A Long Case Drawing to a Close.

Last Saturday the arguments of counsel in the Lycoming county contested judicial election case closed, and only the decision of the commission, composed of three learned judges from adjoining counties, is required to bring the proceedings to a finality. The case is a remarkable one. As we understand it, Judge METZGAR's right to sit on the bench is not denied for the reason that he had not a majority of the votes cast for judge, but because of technical defects in the manner of casting some of the votes. It was an unworthy ground of objection and has cost the county much time, trouble and expense.

A Needed Reproof to a Mistaken Leader.

A desire for a reform of the ballot methods that generally exist in this country has taken possession of the Democratic heart. The party is committed to it, the general conviction of its members and the best of its leaders being that the very existence of our free institutions depends upon such a reform. Its opponents consist of those who profit and expect to continue to profit by the corruption of the suffrage and the intimidation of the suffragists which are enabled and facilitated by the present method of conducting our elections.

While the Democracy furnishes conspicuous champions of ballot reform so essentially necessary to the preservation of a free form of government, there are unfortunately a few leaders in the party who seem to forget that true democracy means free government and that an honest ballot is its very life blood. Senator GORMAN, of Maryland, is represented to have advised against ballot reform and counseled Democratic opposition to it in the Maryland legislature before which it will be brought at its next session.

Mr. Cleveland represents a large and increasing class of public men and private citizens who, while thoroughly devoted to the party to which they belong, are patriots rather than partisans, and put the eternal principles of right and justice above considerations of personal success or political expediency. They are reformers, not because they love to pose in a role in which many adventurers have won success, but because they realize that there are many things which earnestly demand reform and which must be reformed if our political system is to be freed from many present evils and relieved of the dangers that threaten our future.

There is a trinity of these reforms with which Mr. Cleveland's name and public life are connected. There are civil service reform, tariff reform and ballot reform, and of each of these Mr. Cleveland has been for years the uncompromising advocate and champion. Important as is each of these, ballot reform, in Maryland at least, is one of the most pressing urgency, not only because of its inherent gravity, but because if the present Legislature adjourns without dealing with the subject satisfactorily it must wait for another two years before it can secure attention.

There cannot be the shadow of a doubt that the people of Maryland want ballot reform based on the Australian election law. It is absurd and insulting to tell them that that is not what they want and that they really need something else. Legislators are the servants of the people, not their dictators. The people of Maryland have been promised something modeled upon this particular law, and they will be satisfied with nothing else. There was a time when doubts were expressed as to the suitability of this law for the conditions which attend elections in this country. It seems that some of our statesmen—those who do not read perhaps—persist in doubting.

This is a true expression on this subject. The Democratic people want a reform of the ballot system that will secure fair and honest elections, and any leader who opposes it will most surely lose their favor.

Spawls from the Keystone.

—Four Pottstown physicians have been sufferers from "Grip." —Grasshoppers were hopping near Manheim on Christmas day. —Lancaster is developing into a prize fighting centre. —Five hundred volumes in a Lancaster public school were destroyed by vandals. —A violent fit of coughing caused the death of John G. Shaffer at Reading. —Nine Reading bachelors, being interviewed, agreed that bachelorhood is a failure. —Influenza loves a shining mark. It has attacked all the newspaper men of Easton. —Reading Knights of Labor want city employers to give preference to city workmen. —A Harrisburg man swore off for eight months, or until the Firemen's Convention at York. —It is asserted that Master Workman Powderly is again a candidate for Mayor of Scranton. —A "dive" of the lowest order was operated at Meadville under the guise of an ice cream saloon. —The deposits on the first day of Norris, town's school savings system amounted to \$217.04. —The Catholic Church at Pottstown realized \$800 by the fair that closed on Saturday night. —An incubator at Doylestown caught fire a few days ago, and a lot of spring chickens were roasted. —Most Chester county farmers have finished the repairing that is not usually done until the spring. —Within five minutes a birth and a death took place in the house of Joseph Young, near Culpville, recently. —A 15-year-old lad of Williamsport is soft on a 35-year-old child that was playing in an opera company there. —Select Councilman Page, of Williamsport, is so heavy that a "nickle-in-the-slot" machine will not weigh him. —Says the Allentown Chronicle: Mark the date and fact—December 31, 1889; Hamilton street annoyingly dusty. —While gathering a nosegay in the fields on Christmas day a Williamsport man captured a three-inch butterfly. —The Amelia S. Given Free Library of 1000 volumes was dedicated at Mount Holly, Cumberland county, on New Year. —The stray bullet from a careless sportsman's gun penetrated a barn door at New London and entered a horse's flesh. —The Conshohocken Record says: "Even the influenza avoids Conshohocken. What have we done to deserve this?" —The death of John Lohan, the gardener of the Capitol grounds in Harrisburg, took place just as the new year was being rung in. —R. M. Gaylor, a barber of Wilkesbarre, was found dead in his shop some days ago, having committed suicide by turning on the gas. —An Erie county farmer, with his ears tied up in a muffler, could not hear the train approaching as he walked along the track, and he was killed. —A fox started a few days ago near the Falls of French Creek led the hunters a chase of 90 miles and then came back nearly to the starting place. —Some of the patients of York county almshouse refuse to take the medicines of the new physician in charge, and are attended by outside doctors. —The following will be probated on Monday at Pittsburg and accepted: Pittsburg, Sept. 2, 1889—If I die I want my wife to have what I got. Reed Myers. —A milkman in Williamsport tried to collect a bill from a woman by knocking her down and taking her pocket-book. He has been held for trial. —Edward Boyer is mysteriously absent from his place as manager of a creamery at Centre Square, Montgomery county. He is accused of being largely in debt. —Rev. M. H. Mill has resigned as pastor of St. Peter's Reformed Church, South Easton, because of dissensions that also caused his predecessor to resign. —N. U. Davis, ticket agent at the Pennsylvania Schuylkill Valley Railroad station at Perkiomen, writes to the Record to deny the statement that he is missing. —Suit for damages has been entered by a Pittsburg clerk against the Pullman Palace Car Company. He was unable to get a berth, although he held a ticket for one. —One of the most famous hunters in Berks county is Isaac Hoffman, of Caernarvon township, whose legs are useless. He crawls over the ground for miles and can climb a tree. —Manager Witt, of the Pittsburg Grand Opera House, presented his employees with a white uniform to wear on duty, but the men refuse to wear it and will strike if he insists. —A new order has just been issued by which all employes wearing uniforms on the Reading Road are required to keep their coats buttoned, so that they preserve their shape. —The report of the auditors of the York County Agricultural Association shows that the profits of the joint county and State fair held last fall were more than double the usual figures. —The only son of ex-Deputy Coroner Hammer, of Quakertown, was killed while crossing the railroad at that place on Tuesday night. Both legs were cut off and the body badly mangled. —Jacob White, of Mont Alto, was about to kill a turkey the day before New Year's day, when he found that she had just laid an egg. On account of this unusual occurrence he spared her life. —Rev. George W. Cumberland, an exhorter of the Church of God, and living near Dawson, has been placed under bail for criminal assault on the 13-year-old child of a man whose hospitality he was enjoying. —Some of the jurymen who convicted John W. Rindy, sentenced to be hanged at Lancaster on February 26 for the murder of his father, will ask the Board of Pardoners to commute his sentence to life imprisonment. —The blockade of freight on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad has reached Allentown, and along the Perkiomen and East Penn Roads hundreds of cars of freight have been sidetracked until the blockade is removed. —Having suddenly lost her reason, a young lady of Chambersburg purchased a big bill of goods from nearly every store in the town. Most of the orders were filled and delivered before her irresponsibility was discovered. —In a letter to a neighbor at Pottstown, Annie Chromo, accused of complicity in the murder of her husband, writes from the Norris-town jail that the ghost of her dead husband visits her every night and prevents her from sleeping.