

Democratic Watchman

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P. GRAY MEEK, Editor.

Meeting of Democratic State Committee.

HARRISBURG, Pa., January 7th, 1890.
The Democratic State Central Committee will meet at the rooms of the Committee, Market Street, Harrisburg, Pa., on Wednesday, January 22d, 1890, at twelve o'clock, noon, to elect one person to serve as Chairman of Democratic Committees, and one person to serve as Permanent Secretary of the State Central Committee, for the ensuing year; and to transact such other business as may properly be brought before the committee.

BENJAMIN M. NEAD, ELLIOTT P. KISNER, Permanent Secretary, Chairman.

A Possible Solution.

The establishment of an African nationality on the great Congo river, an enterprise of which the King of the Belgians is the head and STANLEY the chief manager, may furnish a solution of the problem of negro emigration from this country. Liberia offers no attractions to the American colored man on account of its insignificance, but if the Congo nation should grow to what its projectors intend it to be, it may offer attractions to such of our colored people as would prefer citizenship in a country where they could be at the top of the heap instead of at the bottom.

Probably a Put up Job.

As was first believed, it is likely to turn out that the O'SHEA divorce suit is but another attempt to injure Mr. PARNELL's private reputation and thus assist the determination of his political enemies to drive him out of public life. The Irish leader evinces readiness to meet the charge of criminal intimacy in his relations with Mrs. O'SHEA, bearing himself in a way that by no means looks like guilt. After the scheme of the London Times to defame him, almost any conspiracy may be expected of those who are interested in destroying his prestige and influence as the leader of the Irish cause.

The Kind of Life That is a Failure.

We have received a letter from one of our subscribers in the West, residing at Nantasket, Nebraska, on the line of the Union Pacific railroad, in which he gives the following schedule of the prices the farmers of his section receive for their productions: Shelled corn, 12 cents a bushel; oats 13 cents; wheat 45 to 50 cents; potatoes 15 cents; eggs 12 cents a dozen; butter 12 cents and pork 3 cents a pound, and as to cattle they cannot be given away.
When the farmer on the productive prairies calmly sits down and looks at such figures as the price he gets for the products of his toil, and then contrasts them with the price which a war tariff compels him to pay for the necessities which he does not produce himself, he is forced to the conclusion that agricultural life in the wild and woolly West is a most dismal failure.

Death Dallying With Two Distinguished Congressmen.

It appears certain that the days which remain to two of the oldest and best known members of Congress, WILLIAM D. KELLY and SAMUEL J. RANDALL, one a Republican and the other a Democrat, and both Pennsylvanians and Philadelphians, are few. Mr. KELLY, in addition to the impairment caused by great age, he being seventy-six years old, has for some time been suffering from a malady which almost invariably terminates fatally. He was hardly able to reach Washington at the beginning of the session, and has not had sufficient strength to take part in the business of the House. Mr. RANDALL's health, impaired for some years, has reached a condition since he went to Washington to attend the present Congress that almost precludes the hope that he will be able to continue much longer in public service.

Both these gentlemen have been useful and distinguished in their official stations. Mr. KELLY is the oldest member of the House. He has served his country well so far as the policy of his party would admit of good service. His persistent support of high tariff measures has, in the aggregate, been more of an injury than a benefit to the public interest. Mr. RANDALL is almost as old in the congressional service as Mr. KELLY. His career has been one of great usefulness to his party and his country. It is true he has lagged in the movement for tariff reform, but there can be no question of the sincerity and honesty of the motive for any of his public acts. The popular branch of the federal legislature can not well afford to lose a member of such great experience and distinguished service.

The True Pension Principle.

The Senate has passed Senator QUAY's bill increasing to \$72 a month the pensions of such soldiers and sailors as are totally helpless from injuries received or from disease contracted in the military service of the United States. Such a provision embraces the principle that should be carried out in every pension system. If the bummers and unworthy claimants could be eliminated from the pension rolls there would be more money to give to those who really deserve and need it. This is the Democratic idea of pensions, and QUAY happened to hit it.

The Effect of a Seared Conscience.

If the two individuals who have been elected United States Senators by the illegal Republican majority of the Montana legislature were honorable men they would no more think of accepting senatorial seats thus obtained than an honest man would think of receiving an article which he knew had been taken by a thief from one of his neighbors. But the Republican conscience has been badly seared since the great Presidential theft of 1876, its leaders being willing to avail themselves of the advantage of any plunder they may be able to lay their hands on, and the rank and file of the party have become so demoralized that such villainy appears to meet with their entire approval.

Not Explicit Enough.

Mr. POWDERLY, head of the Knights of Labor, is again manifesting interest in ballot reform and recommending it to his followers. In a communication to the *Scranton Truth* he enlarges upon the necessity of such a reform to restore the purity of our elections. Speaking in such general terms as he employs will not produce any definite results. Why does he not tell his followers that the Republican party is interested in maintaining the present rotten ballot methods and that its leaders are set against reforming them, while on the other hand the Democratic party has made ballot reform one of its leading objects, and that its leaders, with a few unimportant exceptions, are earnest in its support? With such an explicit pointer as this Mr. POWDERLY's manifestation of interest in purer election methods may have some practical effect.

A Conclusion Jumped At.

When there is a climatic freak such as we are experiencing this winter there is sure to be a number of fantastic reasons assigned for it. A change in the course of the Gulf Stream is mentioned by some authorities as the cause of our present winter's mildness, and the Charleston earthquake is given as the agency that change that stream. Of course this conclusion was jumped at without any positive knowledge that such a change had taken place, and now Capt. PECKING, hydrographer of the navy department, says that no observations have been made concerning the Gulf Stream that would warrant the assertion that such a change in its course has taken place.

There are reports from Asia of the rapid spread of the cholera which recently started in India, its usually source, and has extended within the past month through Persia to the Turkish frontier. This is its accustomed route when heading for Europe. If it should continue on its way it would be a more dangerous visitor than the gripple.

Her Own Detective.

A Wronged Wife Follows Her Husband and Secures His Arrest.
WILLIAMSPORT, Pa., Jan. 6.—The wife of Rylie Miles, a resident of Wilkes-Barre, has tracked her faithless husband to this city and had him arrested, together with his paramour, a Mrs. Jenkins. The man left their home, in Luzerne borough, in June last, saying he was going to Johnston, where he could get work. Lately he located at Williamsport, and instead of sending for his wife, as he had promised, he sent for Mrs. Jenkins, who was a "grass widow" and lived across the street. Mrs. Miles suspected the intimacy existing between the pair, and when she saw the woman making preparation to leave the city she followed the trunk and found its destination to be Williamsport. She followed Mrs. Jenkins on the next train and succeeded, with the aid of a detective, in locating the couple.

Mrs. Miles and the detective went to a boarding-house of her husband, and going directly to a room, found Miles and Mrs. Jenkins about to retire. They were both arrested and held for trial.

Senator Butler proposes to amend the bill proposed by Senator Sherman to regulate the election of Congressmen by requiring the Australian system of balloting, as provided in the Massachusetts Election law. If it be a free vote and a fair count Senator Sherman desires, he had better accept the Butler amendment. The Australian plan would work nicely in the South.—*Record.*

Attempted Outrage in a Lonely Farm House.

BORENTOWN, N. J., Jan. 5.—A lonely farm house on the Jobstown turnpike, a few miles from here, was the scene of a desperate struggle yesterday between a young woman, about 25 years of age, and a burly negro tramp, who attempted to assault her.

The woman whose pluck and nerve probably saved her life is Mrs. Harry Harker, who has been married only a few months, and lives with her husband in a farm house just off the public road. She is a slight-built frail looking woman, but has more courage than most men. Yesterday morning her husband went away at an early hour, expecting to be absent all day.

Between 8 and 9 o'clock, Mrs. Harker heard a knock on the rear door. As she stepped into the adjoining room she was surprised to see a strange negro in the room, a short, thick set man, very dark and of a villainous countenance. He was not at all disturbed at being detected, and on being asked what his errand was said:

"Mr. Harker sent me to do some work."
The woman mistrusted him and feared there was trouble ahead. The nearest neighbor was several hundred yards away, and out of hearing. So she resolved to put on a bold front and tell the fellow to leave. He refused to do so. He said he wanted his breakfast and was willing to chop wood enough to pay for it.

There was no alternative but to prepare the meal. The negro watched her all the time, and as she attempted to leave the room he sprang toward her. Quick as a flash she slammed the door, and seizing an iron poker hit the fellow several times. A blow from his fist sent her reeling, followed by a kick which hurt her terribly. Still she fought with the energy of desperation. Finally she gave vent to a series of screams that alarmed the intruder. He threatened to kill her if she did not desist, but she kept on, at which the negro became alarmed and made his escape. No trace of the rascal has been obtained.

The Township Roads.

Philadelphia Press.
The interview with members of the Pennsylvania Road Commission, published yesterday in the *Press*, shows at least that the commissioners are fully imbued with the idea that our present county roads are a disgrace to the State, and that it is sound economy to replace them by something much better. How much better will probably turn on the question of cost. If the townships through which all the roads run must pay all expense of making them first class highways the whole scheme will be resisted strongly by the very people who would be most benefited by the improved roads, but who shrink from the prospective expense. In sparsely populated townships, this method of assessment would make great hardship. Though the residents of a particular township desire the largest share of the benefit from the improvement of its highways they do not get it all. The benefit is a public one and there is force in the suggestion that at least a part of the cost of making a comprehensive improvement in our State roads should be paid out of the State treasury. The roads belong to the State by law and it is not altogether just that it should impose the whole cost of maintaining and improving them on the farmers and other country people through or near whose lands the roads may pass, but who have no exclusive title to their use.

The Whiskey Question in Arkansas.

It may not be generally known that in Arkansas the whiskey problem, which so much vexes the people of other States, has been solved for many years. This solution has been so eminently satisfactory that it has completely eliminated the temperance question from State politics. The legislation which has accomplished this has proceeded from two or three leading ideas. The first is that the road to prohibition is through high license. The license tax has been increased until it is \$1200 per annum in the cities and \$700 in the rural districts.

In addition to this each county must determine biennially at the general election whether licenses shall be granted for the next ensuing two years, and an affirmative vote in favor of license must be cast to authorize the sale of whiskey in the county. In one county at a recent election the people forgot to vote on the question, and the Court held that no license could issue. After license is voted for a given county, it is still within the power of a majority of the adult men and women living within three miles of any church or school house in the county by petition to the county Judge to have the sale of intoxicants excluded from the limits of such local territory.

The advantage of leaving the matter of license or no license to the county rather than to the State is that the State has no power to punish. The county has. The county which has determined by a vote to stop the sale of whiskey may be counted on through her Courts and local officers to enforce the law. The selection of grand and petit jurors is confined to the Judge of the Trial Court, who acts through a commission. If jurors fail in their duty the people know exactly where to place the blame. The law as we have it is so purely Democratic and so efficient in its workings that neither whiskey men nor Prohibitionists are able to find ground for criticism.—*W. S. McCain in N. Y. Evening Post.*

The Cape Cod cranberry crop for the year 1889 has been in excess of any season for the past eight years. The total shipments from stations on the Cape division of the Midland Colony Railroad, exclusive of Middleborough, foot up 90,805 barrels, with an estimate of 175 barrels not shipped up to December 1.

A Missouri tramp who was at the end of his rope gave himself up as a murderer wanted in Maine, and he thus got five months of food and shelter and lionizing before it was ascertained that he had never been as far East as Chicago in his life.

Crazed By Religion.

Brother and Sister Who Wanted to Burn Themselves to Death.

LEAVENWORTH, Kan., Jan. 5.—The vicinity of High Prairie, ten miles from this place, has lately been the scene of a religious revival that has greatly excited the people of that community. In some instances persons have gone crazy with enthusiasm. Word was received here yesterday of two cases of insanity, and the insane persons noticed near losing their lives. During the revival, about two weeks ago, a brother and sister—Frank and Minnie Boland—became so enthusiastic and excited over religion that they lost their reason. As they were living alone no one noticed their condition.

On Tuesday evening two persons who were passing Boland's house noticed smoke issuing from it, and on gaining entrance found a well-kindled fire on the floor of one of the rooms, with the brother and sister in an almost nude condition, singing religious songs and dancing around it seemingly getting ready for cremation. The fire was finally put out, and the brother and sister were overpowered. When questioned, Minnie said the Lord had made the fire, and they would not put it out. Late yesterday afternoon they were placed in jail where they will remain until a method of treatment for them has been decided upon.

Crowding The Learned Professions.

The rush to the learned professions began, it is sometimes affirmed, after the depression in agriculture and the corresponding rebound from the commercial prosperity of fifteen or twenty years ago. This may no doubt be partially true. But as the same phenomenon has been noticed in every other country, the explanation must be sought a little deeper. The real cause will, we venture to think, be found in the ever increasing tendency on the part of the parents and their sons to look to the "gentlemanly professions" instead of the more lucrative and more certain callings of a less "gentled" description. In Germany and America this trait is perhaps exhibited in its most exaggerated form, simply because in those countries professional training is cheap and the preliminary education abundant or easy to attain. Since the School Board brought the three R's within the reach of every child it is notorious that these youthful graduates have displayed a repugnance to the useful lives in which they have been born. They want to "better themselves," becoming city clerks or nursery governesses. It is the first step produced by an unwanted state of affairs. By and by education will become too common to be marketable. It will then be regarded simply as a preliminary to any calling, and not as a necessary antecedent of what the Germans call "bread studies." A carpenter, or a blacksmith, or a machinist, or a shop keeper, will discover that he is none the worse for being a good scholar, and will even find that in the enhanced esteem, the greater pleasure and the enlarged chances in life which it gives him, he is quite as much benefited by his education as if he sought to earn his living by means of it directly.—*London Standard.*

Fatal Accidental Shooting in Williamsport.

Mrs. George Bohart, of Williamsport, 17 years old, was fatally shot on Saturday afternoon in a most singular and distressing manner. The young woman and her husband were handling a shotgun and playfully pointing it at each other for the purpose of frightening the wife's mother, quite an aged lady. The latter became excited and, seizing a broom, ran at the man, who still held the gun, and began pummeling him. One of the blows from the broom handle struck the hammer of the gun, which was discharged. The contents, a heavy her of shot, struck Mrs. Bohart in the side, making a gaping wound around and tearing away a portion of her arm. The physicians say there is scarcely any hope of her recovery. The husband and mother are almost crazed with grief.

Under A Snow Slide.

Seven Persons Killed and Several Houses and a Church Wrecked.

SIERRA CITY, Cal., January 4.—A fatal and destructive snow-slide occurred here yesterday by which six women and a boy were killed, two other persons may die and several houses and the Catholic church were wrecked. The slide commenced at the Sierra Buttes Flume and swept with terrific force down the valley, carrying everything in its path before it. Stout trees were snapped off at the ground like pine sticks. Several people had narrow escapes from death, as the slide came without the slightest warning. It is believed that a Chinaman and a little girl are still in the mass of snow and debris. Fears are entertained that another slide may occur at any moment, and the people are in a great state of anxiety. As soon as possible after the slide yesterday a number of men began the work of digging out the unfortunates who had been caught in it, and in a few hours had taken out the bodies of Mr. Rich, her two daughters, and a son; Miss Ryan, of Downsville, and Mrs. I. T. Mooney, with her daughter, Miss Ethel Langton. The two last named were still breathing when removed from the snow, but efforts at resuscitation proved unavailing. The search for others is still going on, and it is feared that more than are now known may have been swept out of existence in the avalanche.

Don't Want Any Politics in Theirs.

A number of non-partisan Christian Temperance Women of Pennsylvania have determined to withdraw from the National W. C. T. U., and for the purpose have called a meeting of all who are opposed to the partisan policy of that body to meet in convention at the hall of the American Sunday School Union, Philadelphia, on the 16th and 17th of January, 1890, at 10 o'clock a. m., for the purpose of organizing an independent branch.

The Dress Our Fathers Wore.

One hundred years ago the leading men of the United States read in their Bibles that the body is more than raiment, but they dressed according to the advice of worldlywise Polonius.

"Costly thy habit as thy purse can buy,—For the apparel oft proclaims the man." When Governor Bowdoin, a tall, dignified man, reviewed the troops assembled at Cambridge, in 1785, he was dressed in a gray wig, cocked hat, a white broad-cloth coat and waistcoat, red small clothes and black silk stockings.

John Hancock, thin in person, six feet in stature, was very fond of an ornamental dress. He wore a wig when abroad, and a cap when at home. A gentleman who visited Hancock one day at noon in June, 1782, describes him as dressed in a red velvet cap lined with fine white linen, which was turned up two or three inches over the lower edge of the velvet. He also wore a blue damask gown lined with silk; a white stock, a white satin embroidered waistcoat, black satin small clothes, white silk stockings and red morocco slippers.

Washington, at the reception in Philadelphia, was dressed in black velvet; his hair was powdered and gathered behind in a large silk bag. His hands were encased in yellow gloves; he had a cocked hat with a cockade on it, and its edges adorned with a black feather. He wore knee and shoe buckles, and at his left hip appeared a long sword in a polished white leather scabbard, with a polished steel hilt.

John Adams, on the day of his inauguration, was dressed in a full suit of pearl-colored broadcloth, and his hair was powdered. Chief Justice Dana, of Massachusetts, used to wear in winter a white corduroy surtout, lined with fur, and held his hands in a large muff. The Judges of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts wore till 1793, robes of scarlet, faced with black velvet, in winter, and black silk gowns in summer. At the beginning of this century powder for the hair became unfashionable, tying up the hair was abandoned, colored wigs went out of use, buckles disappeared, and knee breeches gave place to trousers.

What the Cows Give Us.

American dairy interests are starting very enormous. They represent a total investment of several times the total bank capital which is a little less than \$971,000,000, while the dairy interests amount to more than \$3,000,000,000. Of course our readers cannot swallow such frightful figures in a lump, and we will therefore, arrange them in several smaller but still heroic doses. The number of milk cows is estimated at 21,000,000. They give each an average of 850 gallons of milk annually. This would make an aggregate milk production of 7,350,000,000 gallons, a miniature ocean, a fair sized Niagara. Four thousand millions are used for cheese, and the remaining 2,650,000,000 pass through the adulterating hands of the milkman and green and down the throats of 60,000,000 men, women and babies in this land of freedom. The quantity of butter manufactured and used is about 1,350,000,000 pounds, and of cheese 6,500,000,000 pounds, the value of our dairy products for the last year was nearly \$500,000,000. This is \$20,000,000 more than the value of our annual wheat yield; while it closely approximates that of our corn crop which is the most valuable of our farm products. To support this immense dairy herd 100,000,000 acres of pasture land are required, worth \$250,000,000. It is easy enough to see, therefore, that 4,000,000 farmers in this country are an important element of our national welfare and prosperity.—*Holstein-Friesian Register.*

Experience and Training in Mechanical Work.

To be a good mechanic, said Sir Benjamin Brown, at the recent meeting of the British Scientific Association, long training is necessary, and work from inferior work. A regular course of progress from one branch to another should be carefully followed, so as to teach every class of work up to the most difficult. In this the real interest of the employer is the same as that of the lad, viz. to learn every step thoroughly, and then pass on to something more difficult. The author contended that a long training in a manufactory is absolutely necessary, and this should be supplemented by theoretical and technical instruction. "It would probably be a good gain to give a lad six or eight months of theoretical teaching after he is out of his apprenticeship. The old fashioned system of apprenticeship, not much shortened, and with very slight modifications, is the only reliable method for either employer or mechanic to learn his business; but, as work has become more scientific and elaborate, it is necessary for any young man who wishes to excel to have a good theoretical and technical training in addition to his factory experience."

An Amorous and Irate Hun Uses His Pistol.

HALLTOWN, Pa., Jan. 2.—Peloc John, a Hungarian of Lewistown, eloped yesterday with his boarding mistress, but was overtaken by the woman's husband (Henoc Peter) who carried his wife back home with him. John remained in town all day, drank a quantity of bad whisky, and went to Lewistown in the evening, swearing that he would again steal Mrs. Peters. When he arrived at the house he was set upon by the husband and thrown outdoors, whereupon he pulled his pistol and began firing through the door. One shot struck a boarder, Wassil Meten, in the right breast, inflicting, it is thought, a fatal wound. John has not been captured.

Had No Idea of Time.

A Milwaukee clergyman who is acquainted with Rev. Mr. Milburn, the blind Chaplain of the House of Representatives, states that the Chaplain has no idea of time. He is liable, it is said, to preach for three straight hours, and he is so confused in regard to day and night that he is likely to start out at midnight for the purpose of making a social call.

The trouble with a man covering up his tracks is that he makes new ones in doing it.—*Achison Globe.*

The "Russian Grip."

In the form in which this disease is now making the circuit of the globe, it is nothing so far as symptoms and effect go, but a bad cold. It begins with watering of the eyes, running of the nose, and general irritation of the mucous membrane of the throat and nostrils. It is attended with the aching bones, burning eyes, dull head, and general weariness and disgust with life that attend a bad cold. It is like hay fever, except that its course is short and it does not appear to have the tendency toward asthma that gives added terror to hay fever. Its indirect effects upon the patient depend upon the circumstances of the attack and the temperament of the victim. It has in many cases abroad been followed by the breaking out of a rash, and other indications of serious affection, but the doctors say that the rash is really only an indication of a feverish tendency in the patient, heightened by the influenza. It has also been stated that pneumonia and pleurisy were natural results of the influenza, but here again the doctors insist that those diseases, where they have followed the influenza, have been due to other causes with which the influenza has slight if any connection. All doctors of eminence here and abroad seem to agree that there is nothing dangerous about the epidemic, and that even its unpleasant effects will last but a short time in each case. From four to ten days is the general period of the disease in Europe. Doctors also say that there is nothing in the climate to make the epidemic particularly severe here. It will probably, they say, be a little milder here than in St. Petersburg, and a little more severe than in Paris.

Last week the New York board of health recommended the following remedy for the disease: "Spray the affected membrane with 10 per cent. solution of quinine freely and frequently, and take four or five times a day a pill made as follows: Quinine, 3 grains; camphor, 1 grain; extract of belladonna, 1/2 grain." But doctors, as usual, differ, and some of them assert that this prescription is not only useless but dangerous.

The Baseness of Some Boys.

Their Latest Device for Making a Panic at a Supper Table.

Chicago Herald.
It takes the average small boy to concoct schemes to surprise his elders. One of the newest schemes of this sort is being practiced by a select coterie of youngsters who reside up on one of the South Side avenues. If they keep it up they will doubtless acquire one of the soundest cases of thumping ever administered to a boy or a set of boys, their modus operandi is this: They first steal, beg or borrow some laths, and on the end of each lath they bunch the remains of a newspaper. Then they prowl about their neighborhood, somewhere near 6 P. M., and peer into unprotected windows. When they see a family at supper they quietly strike matches and ignite their newspapers, and then they elevate their laths in front of the windows and utter the most flendish yells.

This noise attracts the attention of the supper family, and, of course, they see the flaming papers just outside of their windows. For a moment or two they are alarmed by the unusual spectacle, but when the head of the house realizes that he has been scared by a boyish prank he grabs a heavy cane and starts for the door, only to find that the youngsters have made good their escape, accompanying their departure with derisive yell. But some night the man of the house will get a good start, and when he does he will warm the jackets of the youthful creators of a new sensation.

Powderly for Ballot Reform.

General Master Workman T. V. Powderly, of the Knights of Labor, has published in the *Scranton Truth* a long article in favor of ballot reform. In order to bring it about he recommends that citizens should organize ballot reform clubs, pledge every candidate for the Legislature to vote for the Australian system, and at the same time exact from him a pledge not to enter a caucus on this measure. Under the Australian system secrecy will be attained, intimidation will be impossible, attempts at perpetrating fraud will be useless; the occupation of the ward heeler will be gone for he cannot "deliver the goods, and the citizen will rule."

What is Meant by Tariff Reform.

Philadelphia Record.
The organs of protection unceasingly assert that Tariff Reform and Free Trade mean the same thing. What the friends of Tariff Reform do mean is best shown by the practical measures of legislation which they have presented in Congress. Whether these shall lead ultimately to free trade will be for the people themselves to determine. Every measure for reforming the tariff should stand on its merits. What the tariff beneficiaries fear is that if the people should get a taste of Tariff Reform they want more of it. This accounts for the furious opposition in the tariff camp to every measure for mitigating the abuses and inequities of the existing system.

Harrison Protecting Dudley.

Chicago Herald.
The man at the White House who permits and aids the escape of this villain is the same person that is harping about ballot box frauds in the South. The frauds, even in the "shoe string district" of Mississippi in its worst days, were not so famous as the frauds practiced at every precinct in Idaho at his own election last year. Yet, while profoundly moved by the irregularities in the South, he uses his power to shield and protect the author of the frauds in Indiana, where bribery was rife and the ballot-box corrupted to an extent never before known in politics. Says Benjamin Harrison's view of ballot-box fraud affected by his personal interest in the result?

Little girl (who is traveling with her mother in the sleeping car)—I guess I won't have to say my prayers to-night mamma. Mother—Certainly; why not, Flossie? Little girl—Why, in this noise, mamma, God couldn't hear a word I said.