

Ink Slings.

The fellows who have turned up along the Mexican border with five millions of bogus American dollars seem to have a silver policy entirely independent of Secretary WINDOM'S.

It would be too bad if NELSON BLY, in her race around the world, should stick in a snow drift while on the homestretch and within sight of the judges' stand, so to speak.

RUSKIN'S mind is said to have given way. But must there not always have been something the matter with the mind of a person who didn't like America because it contained no ruins?

A faction fight has broken out between the followers of President HARRISON and Gov. HOVEY in Indiana. But as neither of them has much of a following it isn't going to be much of a fight.

With such a new governor as LEON BRETT, the old joke about Jersey being at the side of the United States should be dropped, and the quality of her apple jack should be spoken of with more respect.

What a relief it would be to the feelings of Portugal just now if there were some nation smaller than herself upon which she could vent the wrath which she isn't big enough to vent upon a nation of the size of England.

Philadelphia has looked upon Baltimore as a city whose prosperity was drawn chiefly from the oyster; but in comparing the increase of her trade with that of her Maryland neighbor, the Quaker City has discovered that she herself has been a clam.

The Chief Burgessship of Bellefonte for TUTEX, as suggested by the Keystone Gazette, and the post office for FIEDLER, as bestowed by the Harrison administration, strikes the ordinary understanding as being a rather unequal allotment of the party spoils.

The act of the Canadian Parliament that donates a hundred acres of land to parents having twelve or more children, is intended to stimulate a fecundity among the Kanuck population which ever the rabbits of the Dominion would have no reason to be ashamed of.

The Williamsport G. & B. says that "this is the day of Republican opportunity." That's so; and the eager struggle that is going on to get their snouts in the public swill-trough, is evidence that the party pigs are determined to make the most of their opportunity.

There seemed to be a climatic discrepancy in the announcement that travel in the West was being blockaded by snow drifts at the same time that grasshoppers were hopping in the fields of Pennsylvania and the dandelion was turning its golden eye to the January sun.

Not only has congressman RANDALL'S physical condition improved, but he has made a spiritual advancement by becoming a member of the Presbyterian church. All good Democrats naturally incline to religion, although some of them are a little slow in tumbling to it.

It being a fact that even as far north as Maine the ice-cutting season last year didn't begin until the 13th of February, the backwardness of the ice crop this season should not cause the spoozy young man to despair of being able to fill up his best girl with ice-cream next summer.

The public will be sorry to hear that ex-Senator RIDDLEBERGER of Virginia is about closing his mortal career. Although often annoying, his senatorial pranks afforded much amusement. In the next world it is not likely that he will try the patience of the presiding officer as frequently as he did in the Senate.

Nothing could be more unreasonable than the present frame of mind of the Portuguese populace, which are ready to mob the government for submitting to England's demands in the African dispute, while at the same time they know that if their authorities didn't submit, John Bull would lay their little kingdom over his knee, as it were, and subject it to a sound spanking.

There is a report from London that the Prince and Princess of Wales will pay this country a visit in the spring. It is well that they delayed their coming until we had a Prince of our own who knows how to hobnob with royal personages. RUSSELL will be expected to show an admiring world that in the matter of style an American prince needn't give any odds to princes of European extraction.

The N. Y. Sun sardonically asks Ex-President CLEVELAND to answer Mr. BLAINE'S North American Review argument on Protection. It isn't necessary. Mr. CLEVELAND some two years ago made an argument touching that subject which has pretty generally convinced the people that the Blaine sort of protection is a delusion, if not a positive fraud. The Sun may next want Mr. CLEVELAND to grapple with the Blaine proposition that trusts are strictly private affairs. GROVER just now isn't straining himself by kicking at vacuity.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

VOL. 35. BELLEFONTE, PA., JANUARY 24, 1890. NO. 4.

Death of R. Milton Speer.

To the Democrats of Pennsylvania especially, the news of the death of Hon. R. MILTON SPEER, of Huntingdon, which occurred last Friday, was sad intelligence, although it is equally mourned by his many other friends irrespective of party connection. Although the stroke was sudden, yet for more than a year past he had been suffering from a strange nervous disorder which about a week before his death culminated in a paralytic manifestation that ended fatally in New York city, where he had been taken by his son for medical treatment. It is now believed that his disorder was the result of blood poisoning caused by water conducted through lead pipe which he had been accustomed to drink.

Mr. SPEER, who was not much beyond his fiftieth year, was able and eminent both in politics and the legal profession. He was of Irish stock, his father having migrated in 1820 directly from Belfast to Huntingdon county, where the future Democratic leader and brilliant lawyer was born in 1838. He was left an orphan at an early age and received his education at the academy in Cassville, his native town, in which institution he served as teacher until he entered the law office of WILSON & PETRIKIN, of Huntingdon, in 1857. After his admission to the bar he made rapid progress in gaining a prominent position among the lawyers of his county. In addition to intellectual acuteness, so essential to a successful practice of the legal profession, he was unusually gifted with force and brilliance as a speaker. With such equipment success merely depended upon the earnest application to which he was moved by an honorable ambition. His natural and acquired qualifications eventually placed him at the head of the Huntingdon county bar and among the leading lawyers and politicians of the State.

He was a Democrat in every fiber of his system, and his strong Democratic convictions soon led him into politics. The first position of official trust he held was that of assistant clerk of the House of Representatives at Harrisburg, to which he was elected in January, 1863. After subsequently holding some minor offices he was elected in 1870 to Congress over so able a man and strong a Republican as D. G. MORRELL, and in 1872 was re-elected over A. A. BAKER, in each instance in a district that otherwise was decidedly Republican. In Congress he immediately took high rank as an eloquent and influential member, performing his part with great credit to himself, satisfaction to his constituents, benefit to his country and advantage to the Democracy. He was especially prominent in framing some of the more important pension bills, and his general ability caused him to be recognized as one of the Democratic leaders of the House. His frequent service to his party included attendance as delegate to the national conventions that nominated HORACE GREELEY, General HANCOCK and GROVER CLEVELAND for President.

In addition to being the foremost member of the Huntingdon bar, for twenty years Mr. SPEER was recognized as the Democratic leader of his county. His mental force and persuasive eloquence, together with winning personal manners and the confidence which his honorable character inspired, easily enabled him to hold this position. In his social relations he had all the characteristics of a gentleman, and his excellence shone out as much in his home life as in his intercourse with the public. Not merely his town and county, but the State and the Democratic party, have sustained a great loss in his death. Following so close upon the departure of such able Democrats as CASSIDY and GOWEN, each of them intellectual giants, and of Hon. JOHN G. HALL, the old party in Pennsylvania could ill afford to lose R. MILTON SPEER.

WALKER BLAINE, whose sudden death last week was superinduced by the prevailing influenza, is said to have been a young man of excellent ability and unusually engaging manners, partaking in these respects largely of the characteristics of his distinguished father, who had learned to place much dependence upon his counsel and assistance. The public join with his family in lamenting his untimely death.

Pretorian Guards and Pinkerton Thugs.

Mr. T. P. RYNDER, of Milesburg, writes us asking why we have applied the term "Pretorian guards" to the Grand Army of the Republic, and refrain from condemning the direction of Pinkerton's detectives against workmen engaged in strikes for an increase of wages? In respect to the latter clause of his question, it is evident that Mr. RYNDER is not a close reader of THE WATCHMAN.

The Pretorian Guards were a class of soldiers originally connected with the consular office who in the degenerate days of the Roman government exercised a harmful political influence by setting up or pulling down the supreme authority according to the pay they got for doing the job. When a semi-military organization composed of retired soldiers in our republic act practically as a united body in securing the election of a President, in consideration of unlimited pensions and official spoils as the reward for their service, can not Mr. RYNDER see the parallel between them and the Roman Pretorians? No one knows better than he how the "veterans"—members of the G. A. R.—were told last year that the election of HARRISON would be to their pecuniary advantage in the way of pensions and offices, and what the action of the great majority of them was under such an incentive. It is true that the Pretorian Guards of the Roman decline rendered their political service and earned their pay by means of the sword and spear, but when from the same motive the same effect is produced by means of ballots, what is the difference?

Had Mr. RYNDER been a more careful reader of THE WATCHMAN he would have observed that it never overlooked an opportunity to denounce the employment of the Pinkerton thugs in suppressing the movements of workmen contending for remunerative wages. The interference of such an agency in the struggle between employers and employees is contrary to the spirit of our laws and the purpose of our free institutions, and we have not only denounced so reprehensible a practice, but have condemned the State authorities that have allowed it to be resorted to by the industrial magnates who endeavor to hold the working people in thrall.

Unfortunately many who, like Mr. RYNDER, are loud in denouncing the interference of the Pinkerton force in labor difficulties, give their support to a party under whose policy this evil has come into existence and will continue as long as those are allowed to be in power who discriminate by legislative and executive action in favor of capitalistic employers and incorporated monopolies, and against the people who live by the labor of their hands. Many of the laboring men who are suffering from the Pinkerton outrage helped to elect the State authorities that decline to interpose the power of the law for their protection. In all likelihood they will continue a course so supremely foolish, and we are afraid that Mr. RYNDER will be found with them in such ill-advised and suicidal conduct.

More Talk Won't Do.

Really the gentlemen who manage the legislation of this Republican Congress are in a pitiful dilemma on the vexed and vexatious tariff question. They know that not to reduce the present high rate of duties will be popularly disastrous to them, while equal disaster in the alienation of the money power would attend a material reduction. "Death in the front, destruction in the rear."

A prominent Republican congressman, in answer to the question what his party in Congress intended to do with the tariff in the present session, did not give a very encouraging prospect of a safe emergence from the dilemma, when he said:

We propose to do nothing—but talk about it. With the Republican manufacturers of New England clamoring for free raw materials and the farmers of the West howling for reduced duties, we can not afford to make a record.

This congressman and others like him will in due time discover that such a course as this will not suit the people, who want something more than mere talk on a subject that so closely affects their interests, and will not be satisfied with such treatment of so vital a question, particularly when the Democratic policy holds out to them a reliable offer of substantial reform.

On the Right Track.

The meeting of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union in Philadelphia on the 16th inst., was an important one and may result in much practical good to the cause in which this organization is enlisted. It was determined to divest the work of the Union of everything like partisan methods. Its original purpose was to effect a humane and benevolent object, such as the suppression of the liquor traffic evidently is, whatever may be thought of its practicability. But a set of scheming politicians saw in this benevolent movement an instrument that could be used for a partisan purpose, and they have made the work of these Christian women subserve party interests. Nothing has done more than this to injure the temperance cause as an organized movement. Many conscientious and discerning people would have nothing to do with it when they saw such characters as QUAY and his lieutenants turning it to their political advantage. The ladies of the Christian Temperance Union are wise in seeing the injury that has resulted to their cause from the political entanglement in which it was allowed to become involved, and they are doing well in trying to separate it from such an objectionable environment.

The despotic power exercised by Speaker REED may result in temporary advantage to the majority of the body over which he presides, but in the end he will find that an attempt to play the role of the autocrat over the representatives of a free people will come back like a boomerang upon himself and his party.

A Hopeless Prospect.

The Philadelphia Evening Telegraph, a Republican paper of liberal and enlightened views, speaking of the necessity of revising the tariff and of the present Congress doing anything in that line, says that the existing tariff "is growing obnoxious for the reason that it is discriminatory in favor of a class, the moneyed class, and against the non-moneyed class." This view of its character presents a sufficient reason why it should be reformed, yet the Republican Telegraph does not see much prospect of such reformation, for it believes the committee is not in quest of facts that would make remedial measures appear to be necessary, its hearings having been "all one-sided," the great masses, the tens of millions of consumers, not being represented "at all."

We are surprised that so intelligent a paper as the Telegraph should have expected anything else. For very natural and evident reasons the Republican managers can not handle the tariff question without deference to the money interest to which it is indebted for the means of its political success. After the contributions of "fat" by which the party's path-way to victory was lubricated last year, the trusts and monopolies feel that they have the right to go before the committee and demand the kind of tariff they want, and the party leaders will be compelled to recognize it.

The Telegraph very correctly forecasts the effect of such tariff "revision" as the committee under the circumstances is quite sure to recommend, saying:

If nothing should be done by the present Congress about the tariff, it is confidently believed that not only New York will be a doubtful State in 1892, but Illinois, Iowa and Massachusetts also. The defection in the latter State with respect to free raw materials is serious, and it must be offset by gaining the favor of the masses for a tariff law which, while fully protecting capital and labor, shall not gorge the pockets of an over-protected class. The Western farmers, who want lower duties, must be considered; and all duties which are a hair's breadth above the point of real protection should be reduced. The worst mistake that the majority of Congress could make would be that of neglecting to revise the present unpopular tariff law.

It is positively certain that nothing will be done in the way of amending our defective tariff laws and relieving the people of an oppressive system of taxation until a radical tariff reform is brought about under a Democratic administration of the government.

The Clearfield Republican has entered upon its 63d year. Despite its name it is one of the best Democratic papers in the State. It was christened at a time when the term "Republican" didn't stand for everything that is rotten in politics.

Reasonably Well Off.

Although the late Congressman KELLY was reported to be a poor man, it now turns out that he left quite a handsome estate, but it is not larger than an official who had spent a great portion of his life in the public service could have honestly earned and richly deserved. He was not of the disposition of the BLAINES, SHERMANS and other Republican statesmen who have turned their official opportunities to account in accumulating large fortunes. Mr. KELLY rather belonged to the honest and honorable class of public servants of the Randall and Cox order, who think more of serving their constituents than themselves.

For the Protection of the Boys.

The Woman's Christian Temperance Union at Pittsburg is devoting itself to practical work in endeavoring to secure the enforcement of the law against selling cigarettes to minors. In this the members of that organization will have a chance of being more successful than they have been in grappling with the gigantic liquor traffic. Although the evil is far from being as great as the latter, much good can be done in protecting the youth of the land from the injury that results from the cigarette habit. For the good of the boys we are glad to see that something is being done to make those who sell them this vile form of nicotine poison know and feel that they are breaking the law.

A Vain and Impotent Conclusion.

The long, wearisome and expensive judicial contest in Lycoming county had an almost ludicrous conclusion last Saturday in the rendering of the decision of the majority of the commission by Judge ROCKEFELLER. And it was really not a conclusion, for according to the Judge's deliverance, in which Judge MAYER coincided, the case will have to be gone over again, for, in effect, the burden of proof will be thrown upon Judge METZGAR to show that he was elected, while everybody thought that it was the business of the contestant to show that his opponent was not elected. In these remarkable proceedings the usual rule of evidence seems to be reversed by a dictum which looks very much like a decision that it is incumbent upon a defendant to prove that he is not guilty.

It was never pretended that the intent of a majority of the voters of Lycoming county, as expressed at the ballot box, was not favorable to Judge METZGAR. The ground of contention against his taking the office was an alleged informality in the election requirements. This informality Judge ROCKEFELLER declares to have consisted in defective registration, and after a year of trouble and expense, the question may well be asked why this point was not made sooner? Why was the county turned almost upside down and the treasury drained to reach a conclusion which could have been so easily reached at the start? To Judge BUCHER'S credit, he made a minority report in which he held that the case should have been decided upon the face of the returns, which gave Judge METZGAR a majority.

Those who know Judge ROCKEFELLER and have a knowledge of the correctness with which his clear and incisive mind usually arrives at its conclusions, making him one of our State Judges whose decisions are rarely reversed by the Supreme Court, will be surprised that his decision in this case is marked by such futile impotence. The integrity of his character will not admit of the suspicion that he was influenced by a partisan motive, and hence his judicial conclusion in this matter is the more surprising.

Judge BUCHER appeared to have got hold of the marrow of the question when in his dissenting opinion he said:

I am constrained to differ from the majority in the conclusion rendered, to wit: That the neglect of the County Commissioners to retain in the office the original registry, and the neglect to send out copies to the election officers for the purpose of holding the election, imposes the duty upon him who alleges that he was elected to the office of President Judge to prove it.

It is my conviction that the election returns are prima facie evidence to show who was elected, and that he who alleges this return to be false must prove it.

I emphatically deny the proposition that the absence of the registry lists from the County Commissioners' office shifts the onus upon the party who is declared to be elected to prove that such is the fact and that the return is true.

Spawls from the Keystone.

The gun with which T. H. Betz, of York, took his life was one of his own manufacture.

A stalk of clover with a root four feet in length was plowed up by a farmer of Letterkenney.

The hounds of a fox-hunting party near West Chester became separated, and each pack hounded a fox.

Ladies of the Women's Temperance Union will secure the enforcement of the cigarette law in Pittsburg.

In Bedford county there are forty-nine voters by the same name, all of whom vote the Democratic ticket.

In thirty-five days Mr. Adam Bittinger, of Fayetteville, shot 107 pheasants, 55 partridges and a number of rabbits.

Mrs. John A. Kupp, while crazed with liquor, attempted suicide at Bethlehem, with a razor and by drowning.

The financial report for 1889 for Lancaster county shows a balance in the treasury of \$139,597.70 after expending \$346,651.76.

Two girls beating their way East on a freight train, were observed at Greensburg seated on the ledge between two baggage cars.

The daily forecasts in a Johnstown paper by a weather-wise subscriber are more reliable than those furnished by the Government.

A dog suffering from the grip attracted a sympathetic crowd on a Lancaster thoroughfare. It sneezed sixty times in ten minutes.

The Eastern Express suggests that Allentown people should secure an ambulance before they talk of supporting a baseball nine.

Falling on a circular saw at Moreland, near Lock Haven, last week, John Cornelison was literally sawed to pieces, and died instantly.

While locking a switch at York, William C. King, a railroad brakeman, locked his own foot in the rail and was held while a car crashed into him.

Much annoyance was caused at a funeral at Pottstown by the mistake of the sexton who dug the grave in the wrong lot at the cemetery.

Two Italians at Reading have had each other arrested, one charged with stealing cigarettes and the other with selling them to minors.

A new school-house built at Pittsburg was found to have been constructed over an abandoned mine, and was liable to sink at any minute.

A one legged tramp who jumps on and off trains with the agility of a circus acrobat is known to the train hands of every railroad in the State.

The man traveling over the State posing as a priest escaped from the monastery at Loreto is denounced as a fraud by the brothers of that institution.

A teacher near Allentown suspended a scholar for swearing in Pennsylvania Dutch, and the affair has caused a division in the local School Board.

As he was oiling some machinery Benjamin Krouse, of West Point, was caught in the wheels and dressed off all his clothing except his shoes and stockings.

Work at the Henry Clay shaft, near Shamokin, the largest mine of the Reading Coal and Iron Company employing 1800 men, was suspended indefinitely last week.

Seized with a somnambulist's fit, Joseph Snyder, of Allentown, left a restaurant where he had fallen asleep and walked past his home to Coplaystown, six miles away.

Harvey Hubbs, of Scottsdale, refused his wife and family the necessities of life, while he made beautiful presents to a young girl at Latrobe. He has been arrested.

Dreaming that he would die within a year Levin Schenk, of Bethlehem, caught a slight cold a few days ago, imagined it was his last illness, and died of exhaustion.

Passing through the food with several remarkably thrilling escapes, a big Johnstown mule lived to die an ignominious death by falling down an insignificant hole.

Rev. E. Seip, of Trevorton, has been temporarily suspended from the ministerial functions because he disputed payment of a wash bill and went to law about the matter.

Ellwood Hix, a young man who had enlisted in the United States Army and who had just donated his uniform, was arrested in Reading for failing to provide for his family.

Andrew McFarland, a Scotchman, was arrested in Lancaster on Sunday for swindling Rev. Dr. McCullagh and other persons out of small sums of money by fraudulent representations.

A South Chester resident received a letter from a friend in Tacoma, Wash., where he says it costs 50 cents to get shaved and \$1 for a hair cut. This is at least a good place for barbers.

Ben Hughes, a Reading peddler, is hauled over the streets by a team of goats. A big bull-dog attacked them a few days ago, and Ben is now on a vacation while his goats are recuperating.

Referring to the return from their honeymoon of a couple living in the vicinity of West Grove papers say they were given a serenade that was "hilarious if not unbearably. Much cider was drunk and damage done."

The Franklin Repository makes out a Republican ticket like this: Governor, Charles W. Stone, Warren county; Lieutenant Governor, J. P. S. Gobin, Lebanon county; Secretary of Internal Affairs, John B. Cauffman, Franklin county.

Keys which have been identified as the property of Mrs. H. M. Ogle have been found among a lot of ashes at Johnstown, and it is supposed that the lady was burned to death there, and that the keys are all that's left to tell the story.

Two drunken Hungarians became entangled in each other's arms on a railroad track at Anderson, in front of a train, and were hurled together twenty feet away by the locomotive. Alighting in some mad, they escaped with but few scratches.

The January Quarter Sessions Court began at Lancaster, Pa., with about 1500 cases on the trial list. This is the shortest term of the year and an unusually long list. Nearly all the crimes known to the law except murder are on the list.

Samuel Carpenter, a blacksmith at Pottstown, had a narrow escape from drowning a few days ago, when he was precipitated into a barrel of water. He had been in the habit of sitting on a board laid across the barrel and some joker had sawed the seat partly through.

Editor O. K. Mohr, of the Staflington News, has been sorely afflicted. This is the way he describes it in his own paper: "The editor has at last succumbed, and on Thursday and Friday suffered from the 'grippe,' Saturday got married and on Monday morning got back to the office. All O. K. Mohr's spiritless than ever."