

Electricity has been very useful for the purposes of civilization, but as a substitute for the hangman's rope it seems to be a failure.

The harmony that prevailed in the Democratic convention last Tuesday was entitled to the distinction of being spelt with an H of the largest size.

MUNSON presided over the convention last Tuesday with a dignity that was only equalled by the fairness with which we conducted its deliberations.

The Democrats of Centre county know a good ticket when they see it; and when they get their eyes on such a one, as they do this year, they usually give it a thousand majority.

Commissioner LYMAN is of the opinion that one head is enough for the Civil Service Commission. Would it be much of a loss to the country if the Commission were entirely decapitated?

JAMES CHAMBERS, of Dundee, Scotland, first suggested the use of adhesive postage stamps. It was so good a scheme that it immediately stuck and has been sticking ever since.

The disaffection in the British army, as shown by recent cases of insubordination, would seem to indicate that Tommy Atkins, as a military character, is in a decidedly demoralized condition.

DELAMATER has been indulging in some queer antics among the woolen men, but as is usually the case with those who engage in wool-gathering, the Republican candidate for Governor will be left.

After all, it will be for Mrs. GRANT to determine where the remains of the great general shall rest. On that subject her word will have more weight than the resolutions of half a dozen United States Senates.

When the "green goods" men tried to rope RUSSELL B. HARRISON into a speculation in counterfeit money, they were evidently influenced by the impression which generally prevails that the HARRISONS are "on the make."

In expressing his disapproval of the Force Bill the Pennsylvania Boss shows that on some subjects he doesn't consider it necessary to be silent. It must be an extremely bad measure that can't come up to even the low plane of QUAY's approbation.

Chairman MCKINLEY says that congress will not adjourn before the middle of September, and yet Speaker REED introduced the brutality of his iron-clad rules and the party whip into the proceedings of the House for the alleged purpose of facilitating business.

Foreign nations owe to England over \$15,000,000,000. Old free-trade JOHN BULL, whose pockets are bulging out with superfluous wealth, has advanced much of this immense amount of money for the assistance of nations that have been impoverished by high tariffs.

The decision of the Judges in the Looming Judicial contest has increased Judge Metzger's majority. But this increase doesn't begin to equal the increase of the county expenses brought about by an unnecessary and unwarranted contest of Judge Metzger's election.

Some one who watches such things closely, thinks he detects something inconsistent in President HARRISON issuing a message against the Louisiana lottery that fleeces a comparatively small number of victims, while, at the same time, he favors a monopoly tariff that pillages the public generally.

"Take half of a good cantaloup, fill it with ice-cream, and eat it, and you will think you are in heaven." This is the Georgia idea of celestial bliss, as stated in an Atlanta paper. In Kentucky it wouldn't be considered complete without a little fine old Bourbon as a terminal embellishment.

The American people have but little reason to indulge in merry-making over the birth of an infant industry, for experience has taught them what to expect of the insatiable appetite of the voracious suckling. Its nursing period is usually protracted until both the patient and the pockets of the good-natured nurse are exhausted.

MATTHEW S. QUAY spent last Sabbath with WILLIAM H. KEMBLE at the latter's country residence near Philadelphia. It isn't likely that religious subjects engaged their attention, although it was Sunday. In their congenial converse did they revert to the interesting incident that occurred some years ago when MATT's kind influence with the Pardon Board snatched BILL from the jaws of the penitentiary; or was MATT's narrow escape from the penal institution which justly claimed him on account of his raid on the State treasury, the subject of their reminiscence? It is more likely that these two worthies got together to devise plans for the election of the Republican candidate for Governor, and didn't allow their conversation to go back to the penitentiary incidents of their public careers.

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Sham Reciprocity.

The reciprocity scheme of Mr. BLAINE has greatly complicated the work of the politicians who have undertaken the job of fixing up a tariff to suit the monopolists. Things were going on with satisfactory smoothness until BLAINE got hold of HARRISON at Cape May and induced him to believe that a little free trade of the reciprocal variety injected into the bill would be an improvement.

It is reported that the Secretary got a promise from the President that he would send in a message recommending the engrafting of his reciprocity idea upon the bill and this reported intention of Mr. HARRISON has greatly disturbed the Reed and McKinley gang of political economists whose intention is said to be to badger the President into throwing the Blaine proposition overboard, or, if it is to be recognized, then it is intended to convert reciprocity into a sham by empowering the Executive to determine the conditions upon which reciprocal trade may be carried on with other nations. If, in the judgment of the President it should not appear to be expedient or advantageous to establish reciprocal relations with another nation, or, if once established, he should deem it proper to discontinue them, the matter would be entirely left to his discretion.

Under such regulations a high tariff Executive to impose or remit duties in adjusting the tariff to the action of other nations would be conferring an unprecedented authority over the question of taxation. It would be giving him a power unknown to the constitution.

A Muddled Senator.

Senator CAMERON, of Pennsylvania, did not act as intelligently on the question of reducing the duty on Bessemer iron ores as did Senator DAWES, of Massachusetts. On the question of making the tariff tax less heavy upon such ores the Massachusetts Senator, who is as good a Republican as the Pennsylvania Senator, voted for a reduction because he believed that cheaper Bessemer ore would benefit the steel manufacturing industry of his section. In this belief he was unquestionably correct. If the steel manufacturers can get their ore at a lower cost it will be to that extent a benefit to them and advance the interest of a very important industry.

Senator CAMERON took an opposite view and supported it with so unusual a thing on his part as a speech. It is true it wasn't much of a speech, but in it he managed to say that the workers in the iron mines need the protection afforded by the maintenance of the duty on Bessemer ore, enforcing his argument by the statement that even with the present rate of duty the workers in the Lehigh iron mines are getting but 80 cents a day. The Senator seemed to be ignorant of the fact that the ore produced by the Lehigh miners is not of the Bessemer kind and that therefore the Lehigh miners could not be affected in the least by the reduction of the duty in question; that Pennsylvania does not produce a pound of such ore. On the other hand, the steel works of this State annually use millions of tons of Bessemer ore, most of which is imported; consequently the tariff on it is a burden to their industry, without being in any degree a benefit to the iron miners of the State. Major BENT, President of the steel works at Steelton, who favors free Bessemer ore, says that his works use a million tons of it every year imported from foreign countries, and that if the unnecessary and senseless tariff tax were removed from this raw material, steel of Pennsylvania manufacture could be sold in England at a lower price than the English production.

No doubt Senator CAMERON thinks that the object of his supporting a high tariff is the promotion of American industry. In this matter he does not show as much discrimination as is shown by his Massachusetts colleague. He is willing to impose a heavy burden upon the Pennsylvania steel manufacturers by increasing the cost of their ore without doing the least bit of good to the Pennsylvania ore miners.

The Public Roads.

The Commission created by the State Legislature to consider the condition of the public roads in the State and to devise a plan for their general improvement, has for some months been engaged in the performance of its duty, it having held ten meetings in various parts of the State at which they received the views and opinions of citizens on the subject of a better system of road making. It held its final meeting at Pittsburg on the 8th inst., and from the various sources of information and enlightenment it had the advantage of, it is now prepared to make a report to the Legislature concerning a matter of great material importance to the people.

At the meeting at Pittsburg it appeared from the statements of competent observers that the large majority of country people favor road taxes and State aid, yet they object to the matter being taken out of the hands of the townships. As to each township's ability to pay under the present law there is no provision for the townships borrowing money. It was alleged that at present the road supervisors are unfit for their duties, and the suggestion was made that the counties should appoint some man or men who are practical engineers and would do this work as county officials. The State should help in this matter and distribute the money appropriated in the same manner as the school money is distributed now. The State should help only those townships which help themselves.

The point was made before the commission that the road supervisor, as now empowered, is too much of an autocrat; that, in fact, he is the only man in the United States who can levy taxes and spend the money without giving any more account than can be shown on the face of the receipt. The township auditor ought to make the assessments, or else a local commission should be appointed for the purpose. A strong argument was made against the system of working out the taxes, and that State aid for road purposes should be given to the counties through which it should go to the townships. The money should be appropriated not so much in proportion to road mileage as to the actual work done.

The Commission at its various meetings in different parts of the State has obtained much important information and many valuable suggestions, and, no doubt, many that were not so valuable, and it is to be hoped that it may be able to frame a bill that will assist in solving the problem of good roads in this State. The object should be to secure efficiency without involving oppressive expense.

Too Strong for the Workmen.

The great strike which some days ago caused the suspension of travel on the New York Central Railroad ran its course and proved a failure in the results that were intended to be accomplished by the strikers. It was a crisis brought on by the Knights of Labor in an effort for self-preservation. The New York Central Company had made deliberate war on labor organizations, having practically determined at the beginning of this year to follow the example of the Reading company in waging hostilities against the fraternities into which its employees had formed themselves, and there is every appearance that the management precipitated the strike with a view to bringing a speedy conclusion to their plans. Mr. POWELL says that the Central Company has, since last April, been carrying out this policy by suspending or discharging every man who took a prominent part in the Knights of Labor, or any organization intended for the betterment of the condition of the workmen. The Knights took up the gauntlet, but unfortunately there is every appearance that the corporation is too strong for the workmen.

A Singular Sort of Independent Republican.

Mr. PHILIP C. GARRETT, a former Independent Republican who comes out in a letter in defence of DELAMATER and Quayism, makes a rather abject exhibit of himself. In 1882 he opposed the Republican nominee for Governor because CAMERON had dictated the nomination, but this year he fails to see that DELAMATER was nominated at QUAY'S dictation. He admits to being blind to what is plainly visible to everybody else. What influence has obscured his vision is not apparent.

He assumes the responsibility of denying the charges against candidate DELAMATER, kindly doing for that gentleman what he has not the assurance or the courage to do for himself. His assertion that the clergy and best citizens of Crawford county "indignantly deny their truth," will not answer as a substitute for Mr. DELAMATER'S failure to deny or disprove them. What do the good people of DELAMATER'S county know about the subject matter of his arraignment by ex-Senator EMERY? How were they situated that they should be able to know that QUAY'S nominee has been falsely accused? When a candidate does some fine work in effecting his election by bribery, or a Senator resorts to criminal means of securing desired legislation—both of which is charged against Mr. DELAMATER—he doesn't take the clergy and best citizens of his neighborhood into his confidence, nor have they any means of knowing what he has been doing.

Mr. GARRETT'S definition of an Independent as one who is not always in revolt, but a man of independent thought, who thinks and decides for himself, does not suit his case. In the matter of his candidate for Governor M. S. QUAY has thought and decided for himself.

It was a good county Convention.

It has given us a good ticket, and every good Democrat in the county will take off his coat and go to work for it.

The Lesson of the Alabama Election.

The result of the State election in Alabama last week clearly showed that the Force Bill, although not yet passed, is having the effect of making the solid South more solid. The Republican vote was almost obliterated, the Democratic majority being larger than it was ever known to be before, amounting to more than a hundred thousand. This was brought about not by the intimidation of voters—not by forcible means employed to keep any from the polls—but by thousands of Republican uniting in opinion with the Democrats that the pending Force Bill, if enacted into a law, would be the cause of trouble and distraction to the Southern States, without any advantage to compensate for the injury it would do, and that the most direct and effectual way of expressing disapprobation of such a disturbing measure would be to increase the Democratic majority. A large number of negro voters stayed away from the polls upon the advice of white Republicans whose guidance they have been accustomed to follow.

A most significant feature of the result was the large increase of the Democratic vote in those centers of industry which since the war have been the scenes of the great industrial development of the State. These points are largely populated by men from the North who have gone south to engage in manufactures in that section. In Birmingham, for instance, the chief centre of the Alabama iron industry, where millions of Northern capital are invested, the vote last week was 4,500 Democratic and 120 Republican, and the county in which Birmingham is located gave 10,000 Democratic majority. Leading Republican manufacturers made no opposition to the Democratic ticket, while most of the few blacks who voted openly voted with the Democrats. At Sheffield and Florence, two other manufacturing centers, the same thing occurred.

This state of facts clearly demonstrated that those who were interested in the peace, progress and industrial development of the South, without respect to party, were determined to show at the polls their disapprobation of a measure that would bring to their section the disturbance and disorder of the carpet-bag period.

The Western Revolt Against the McKinley Bill.

Senator PLUMB'S revolt against the kind of tariff revision which has been adopted by the REEDS and the MCKINLEYS, is evoking a hearty response from the Republicans of the western states. The party out in that section has all along wanted a reduction of the war tariff, and they have for some years been kept in line by the promise of tariff revision which they were led to believe would greatly reduce the burden of tariff taxation. That is the way they understood the platform pledge that the tariff would be revised. Naturally, the determination of the party managers to fulfill their campaign obligations to the manufacturers and monopolists by increasing the tariff taxes, instead of reducing them as was impliedly promised, has created a feeling of disappointment and chagrin among western Republicans which is manifesting itself by their approval of Senator PLUMB'S opposition to the McKinley bill. Speaking of the Senator's hostility to the maintenance of the war taxes, the St. Paul Pioneer Press, the leading Republican organ of Minnesota, says:

The McKinley bill is full of faults from beginning to end. What it needs is not revision by the senate committee, but an entire reconstruction.

Concerning the Republican revolt against war duties started by Senator PLUMB, the St. Louis Globe Democrat, the most influential Republican journal of Missouri, has this to say:

The attitude of the Republicans of the West toward the tariff may be outlined in a few words. Revision of the duties to which the party pledged itself in 1888 they interpreted to mean reduction. This is the construction which has been placed on the phrase in this section. Moreover, it is the only construction which is in harmony with either logic or propriety. Every Republican stump speaker who appeared in the West during the canvass of 1888, and every representative Republican newspaper of the West, understood and proclaimed that by revision reduction was indicated. The West insists that, when duties are touched, they shall be lowered.

Kansas is the State where the Republican farmers are in most complete revolt against the continuance of the high tariff burden, and this sentiment has prompted the Atchison Champion, the leading Republican paper of the State, to break out in the following strain, which sounds very much a like free trade tirade:

The Western farmer has no interest whatever in a protective tariff. His interest rather lies in the direction of free trade—of access to all markets—wherever his products may be in demand.

Free trade will give the West the markets of the world, and an opportunity to buy what it requires at less than half it now pays for these same articles.

Lumber, hardware, furniture, clothing, groceries and agricultural implements—these the West needs principally. Free trade will bring these things to us at figures far below protective prices.

The East has grown dangerously rich by means of a protective tariff; now let the West assert itself and use the means at its command to change its economic policy to one more conducive to sectional welfare.

The question is broader than party lines. It is more vital than mere formal political organizations, and more essential than the domination of any particular set of politicians, for it touches on life and is indissolubly interwoven with our existence.

This expression is a true reflex of Republican sentiment in Kansas, and there is no reason to be surprised that with such a stimulus PLUMB kicks at the McKinley bill and even INGALLS hesitates about supporting a measure intended for the exclusive benefit of Eastern monopolists.

The Omaha Bee, which stands at the head of Republican journalism in Nebraska, adds its voice to the western revolt against the McKinley bill, in the following words:

It is of vital importance at this juncture that congress should be clearly advised as to the wishes of the farmers respecting the tariff, and we are entirely confident that the Republican convention could have directly stated the desire of a very large majority of the farmers of Nebraska if it had made an unqualified demand for free sugar, lumber, wool, woolen goods, salt, coal and iron, with perhaps other goods in common use.

There are other western Republican papers which habitually oppose high tariffs, the most prominent and influential among which is, by all odds, the Chicago Tribune. All of these are outspoken in their demand that the platform promise of tariff revision shall be fulfilled by measures of tariff reduction, and that the welfare of the western farmers shall not be sacrificed in order that the manufacturer may be reimbursed for the fat that was fried out of them in the campaign of 1888.

Spawns from the Keystone.

White Caps have broken out anew at Lancaster.

A whole drove of cattle was stolen from an Erie county farm.

A four-pound stone was found in the intestines of a horse at Allentown.

A 22-year-old husband has been arrested for wife desertion at Sharon.

A farmer near Allentown is raising a litter of orphaned pigs on a bottle.

Over 1000 dogs have been registered at Chester under a new licensing act.

A Pittsburg millionaire is looking for his father's grave in the Potter's field there.

Fred McConnell, of Washington, makes a living by eating lamp chimneys on wages.

Reading workmen have organized and will try to elect their own candidates to Councils.

John George, of West Chester, has the first sewing machine ever brought into this county.

Mrs. Sarah Foster, of Shimersville, has a rose-bush bearing two distinct species of flowers.

A swarm of bees entered the cab of a locomotive at Allentown and drove the engineer out.

The "Heavenly Recruits," a new denomination, are holding nightly services at Reading.

Roughs attacked a party of picnickers near Lebanon and brutally beat them, ladies and all.

William Smith, of Delano, Butler county, who assisted in sinking the first oil well, has just died.

The Prohibitionists of Delaware county held an all-day meeting near Linwood on Thursday.

A Chester lady dresses her children in their bathing suits and turns the hose on them on her front lawn.

During a quarrel over a woman a Hungarian, near Latrobe, pushed a crowbar through his opponent's body.

Original-package dealers in Washington county are invariably arrested as soon as they commence business.

James Sullivan has been jailed at Williamsport for distributing liquor with lavish hand to women and children.

While delirious from a fever Charles Bennett, of Williamsport, left his bed and boarded a passenger train in the depot.

The Pittsburg City Councils have been asked to permit only native labor to be employed on the streets of the city.

A bolt of lightning shattered a bed in a Bedford house, but no trace could be found of the entrance of the bolt into the house.

Ex-Senator John J. Patterson was congratulated by the citizens of Millintown the other night, the 60th anniversary of his birth.

The Sheriff has taken possession of the store of C. S. Bares, of Orbisonia, Huntingdon county, on executions amounting to \$7000.

The figure caller at a Mauch Chunk ball had so loved a voice that persons living within two squares were prevented from sleeping.

A 3-year-old child of John Speicher, of Lebanon, ate a box of pills on Wednesday and died yesterday of spasms and exhaustion.

Clara Gable and Mary Delfy, aged 14 and 15 respectively, of Reading, have been arrested for robbing several rooms in the City Hotel.

Easton has a scam who finds pleasure in selling white dresses by throwing licorice juice on them. He sold six in one evening.

Look for my remains in the river" was written on a card found by a McKeesport policeman lying on the river bank near a suit of clothes.

Six prisoners escaped from the Norristown jail last week by tearing boards from the floor and battering a hole through the nine-inch stone wall.

Levi Steffy's farm house at Brecknock was destroyed by a fire started by one of his little daughters, who used coal oil to light a fire in the kitchen stove.

Some thirty Mercersburg boys prepared a sirup which they sold to their companions in bottles. The companions who purchased are now deathly sick.

A mysterious malady has attacked the cattle of Job Hayes, of Marlborough, Chester county. After suffering a few minutes the animals drop dead.

At her wedding a few days ago Lillie Mann of Columbus wore a shawl over 100 years old, and which was worn by her grandmother at her wedding fifty years ago.

Mrs. Kendall, mother of Maude Kendall, who was accidentally shot at a picnic recently, has died of a broken heart at Beaver Falls over her girl's untimely end.

While sleeping in the Pittsburg Railroad station a traveler dreamed that his father was drowning before his eyes, and his pitiful appeals for help almost created a panic.

Daniel Batz, a farmer, living near Douglassville, while attempting to rescue a child from an infuriated mastiff, the other day, was dangerously bitten, as was also the child.

At Centreville, Dauphin county, lives a mule 47 years of age, which did service in both the Mexican war and the Rebellion, and served in both the Confederate and Union ranks.

Becoming frightened at some object in the road the horse of Harry Hallander, of York, started to back, and Hallander and all the members of his family were run into a canal.

The funeral of Hettie Berollet, of Friedensburg, the biggest woman in Berks county, took place last Friday. She weighed 423 pounds. The seat of her favorite chair was three feet wide.

Ira Lutz and William Fry surprised burglars while in the act of pillaging Miller's hardware store, at Kutztown, on Wednesday night. The burglars escaped with \$200 worth of plunder, although Fry wounded one of the thieves with a rifle.

A horse belonging to Davis Strough, a Norristown truck dealer, was poisoned on Saturday night near Bloomsburg. They were fed by some person unknown. The poison was placed in the animal's feed-trough during the night. The horse died.

The Pennsylvania Railroad officials ordered that their lines west of Pittsburg shall refuse to carry liquors in original packages, on the ground that such traffic would amount to a connivance at the infraction of law, even if the new Original Package law had not been passed by Congress.

Elijah Surtser, accompanied by his wife and child, narrowly escaped death on Saturday night near Bloomsburg. They were returning from Millardsville at a late hour. The horse which he was driving became unmanageable and plunged over a thirty-foot embankment, precipitating them to the bottom. They were but slightly injured when found.