

Ink Slings.

It has been discovered that bad Indians haven't been made good by being starved.

CAMERON'S and QUAY'S flunk on the Force Bill question last Monday looked as if the bosses had been bossed.

After WILSON'S escape it was time for Sheriff COOPER to following his example in getting out of jail, which he did on Monday.

It is said that the millionaires will soon be supplanted in financial importance by billionaires. This is a bilious prospect for the country.

The county offices have resumed their old Democratic aspect and the people can be assured of a return to economical and honest methods.

Did JOHNNY DAVENPORT ever expect to see the day when he would be turned out of his job? But JOHNNY must go with the Force Bill.

It is sad, very sad, that Mr. HARRISON has given his word that he wouldn't be a candidate for re-election if the Force Bill shouldn't be passed.

It is suspected that JAMES B. BLAINE'S fine Roman hand is quietly at work pulling the wires in the fight against Senator J. DONALD CAMERON.

In the Behring Sea business there is reason to believe that Mr. BLAINE is less solicitous about the seals than he is anxious to twist the British lion's tail for political effect.

Is one should follow up the wire that is being pulled in the Cameron senatorial contest he would have no reason to be surprised to find BENJAMIN HARRISON tugging at the end of it.

The Force Bill has been side-tracked, a temporary expedient to save it from a collision with the train of public condemnation that is rushing down the main track.

The recent Republican candidate for Governor in this state has the double and doubtful distinction of being the most complete political and financial wreck of this disastrous year.

The new county officers took charge of the county affairs on Monday and thus put an end to a three years' administration that was neither creditable nor ornamental.

An instrument has been constructed that is capable of measuring the millionth of an inch. Probably it is intended to measure HARRISON'S chance of a re-election.

The overslaughting of the Force Bill by the new Silver Bill on Monday killed it as effectually as if a dynamite bomb had been exploded under it "and its funeral's to-morrow."

It is scarcely necessary to become alarmed about the difficulty with England which the Secretary of State is seeming to stir up. There will be no guns fired. He only wants to fire the Irish heart.

The wife of Senator DOLPH, of Oregon, is said to be a farmer's daughter and to have been a dairymaid in her youth. Has DOLPH started this report with the design of making himself solid with the Grangers for a Presidential nomination?

Senator CAMERON is not known to have any music in his soul, but if he should give musical expression to his feelings at this juncture the refrain of his song no doubt would be, "They're after me, they're after me."

The present Congress wouldn't be true to its traditions and to the natural instinct of its leaders if it shouldn't pass a fat Subsidy Bill whereby the pockets of party favorites and campaign contributors shall be well lined.

There is no doubt that CAMERON will go to the Senate for another term of six years, yet the conditions under which he will be re-elected are in marked contrast to what they were when old SMOON handed the Senatorial toga over to his son as a family heirloom without a murmur of dissent from the party.

What should be the occasion for this Republican uprising against the senior Senator? He is no worse now than he has been at any time since his father put him into the Senate, and the party has been accustomed to tumble heels over head in its zealous response to his bidding.

The vote of the new Senators from Idaho against the pet measure of the Administration that juggled the pocket-book States into the Union, was the unkindest cut of all. It was, under the circumstances, positively brutal. How might well indulge in the classical exclamation, "Et tu, Brute!"

It is true that IONATUS DONNELLY was elected President of the Minnesota Farmers' Alliance on account of his zealous support of BACON in the controversy about the authorship of Shakespeare's plays, it will greatly encourage JAMES G. BLAINE who is actively working barrels of pork into his Presidential boom.

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NO. 1.

McKinley's New Year's Gifts.

With the advent of the New Year everybody should be happy, and this universal happiness should be augmented among the wage-earners by the circumstance that they are in the enjoyment of a tariff that was said to have been especially designed to increase their felicity by increasing their wages. But what has the McKinley Christmas tree borne them and what fruit does it offer to gladden their new year? Let us examine it and see what it offers that is calculated to make the wage-earners happy:

Since the McKinley bill went into operation we find the following: A carpet factory in Hartford, Conn., reduced wages 10 per cent; a 20 per cent cut in some of the Paterson, N. J., silk mills; a reduction of wages in a plush mill at Catsanqua, Pa.; 25 cents a week taken off the wages of the girls in the Valley Falls, R. I., woolen mills; about \$3 a week taken off the wages of men employed in a canning establishment in Indianapolis; two and a half cents an hour taken off the wages of carpenters in Cleveland, Ohio; 15 cents a day taken off the wages of spoolers in the Merrimac Mills, Lowell, Mass.; reduction of wages of armature winders in the Thompson-Houston works, Lynn, Mass.; a shave on the wages of 70 girls in Ashland, Pa.; cotton weavers at Landsdale, R. I., have 15 cents a cut taken off their wages and the cuts increased five yards; 20 per cent taken off the wages of carpet tack makers in Birmingham, Conn., and 15 per cent off the wages of women employed in an underwear factory in the same town; a reduction of wages of mule spinners in the Merrimac Mills, Lowell, Mass., and cuts of 10 to 20 per cent in the wages of potters in Trenton, N. J.; a general average of 10 per cent knocked off the wages of 1500 employees in the Pullman Car works; a reduction of 10 per cent in the wages of 2000 employes of CARNEGIE'S steel works, exasperating the imported Hungarians to such an extent that they threatened to burn down the plant; and the CLARKS, for whose benefit there is a high duty on thread, are importing yarns spun in Scotland in order to break down the organization of their American laborers.

These were some of the pretty things that adorned the McKinley Christmas tree. These are the New Year's presents offered to protected working people. They are accompanied by increased prices of the necessities of life, as every householder and shopping woman has had ample occasion to discover. Between decreased wages and increased cost of living McKinley hasn't furnished material for a Happy New Year. Yet he is sure the people will like his bill when they get used to it.

As Sly as Ever.

Whether JAMES G. BLAINE will be a candidate for President in 1892 is a question of public interest. It is certainly a question of great political interest. But Mr. BLAINE is as sly as ever and at this date no fellow can find out what he is going to do two years hence. But a Mr. MONTGOMERY, of Portland, Oregon, professed to a Chicago reporter the other day that he knew what the great Premier's intentions are. He had just come from his presence and was told by him positively that he would not be in the Presidential race, but would devote himself after the expiration of his present official term to his reciprocity scheme. His ambition is to introduce into the markets of South America, on terms of reciprocal commerce, the millions of barrels of flour and pork which we are so abundantly able to supply, but which the South Americans are not now receiving from us.

We infer from this that Mr. BLAINE intends to keep his Presidential boom under cover until Mr. HARRISON'S boom has suffered irreparably from the inclemency of the weather, and he will then bring it out in the early spring of 1892 in all its pristine loveliness, with a neat but not gaudy decoration, consisting of a barrel of flour on one end and a barrel of pork on the other.

In 1840 there were 40 cities in the United States with a population of 10,000 or over. In 1880 this number had increased to 286, and now there are 440 cities of that size, 32 of which are in Pennsylvania.

What Free Silver Coinage Means.

The San Francisco Bulletin, in an article on the Free Coinage of Silver, what it means, and its effect, says, among other things:

There has been a great deal said on the "Free Coinage of Silver" by persons who are not masters of the subject. There have been a great many resolutions adopted in its favor by associations and meetings which plainly enough only understood one side of it. If we take the quotations of silver as a commencement in the effort to gain a proper idea of it, a solid grip on the proposition may be secured. The price of the metal in London, which usually controls the market, yesterday was 48 1/2 pence for an ounce 925 fine—that is to say, the English standard. At this rate the American standard dollar, 312 1/2 grains, 900 fine, is worth 81.8 cents. Under the existing law a man possessed of 81.8 of silver bullion, assuming small amount would be accepted, can obtain just that sum for it at the mint. The government, however, will take his 81.8 cents of silver, convert it into a standard dollar and pay it out for 100 cents. If it do not do that it can issue a paper certificate for a dollar based on it.

The government on the face of the transaction makes the difference between the 81.8 cents which it gives for the silver out of which it makes a standard dollar and the 100 cents at which it pays it out. But it would be powerless to make it "go" at \$1 if it did not hold itself in readiness to give a dollar in gold for 81.8 cents silver dollar, whenever it is presented in certain specified sums. It only makes the difference, therefore, theoretically. If silver should advance to the old parity with gold, it would lose the difference. But Free Coinage of Silver, which we hear so much, makes a violent change in the business. Under it the owner of silver bullion makes the difference, without any obligation as in the case of the government to keep up the price. In this case the man owning 81.8 cents worth of silver bullion, the price being 48 1/2 per ounce, takes it to the mint and gets therefor 81.8 cents, stamped by the government, which he at once passes off on the community at 100 cents.

Free coinage would invite a shower of silver from all parts of the world, and the country would be flooded with standard dollars. How long would it be before a discount on silver dollars would set in? In a short time they would be worth but seventy-five cents, then seventy, and possibly down to fifty cents. This would lead to inflation, for, as the value of money goes down, prices go up. Inflation would send up the price of everything. Men would get more for what they have to sell, but would have to pay more, in proportion, for what they have to buy. After a while the general crash would come, which always follows a period of great inflation. A few would come out of it rich, but the great majority would be the losers, and many would lose all they are worth. Free coinage of silver is one of the wildest financial projects ever suggested; and ruin and desolation would follow it. We hope to see the country saved from this inflation.

There is a horde of pension lawyers in Washington who get from \$150,000 to \$375,000 every week from the soldiers, widows and children whose pensions they draw. Of course it is to be said that if people will insist on being ignorant fools they must expect to be fleeced, but certainly the government, the newspapers, and everybody ought to take pains to scatter the information abroad constantly that no lawyer's help is necessary to secure a pension. Blanks are ready at the pensions bureau at Washington, and anybody who can write can fill them out.

Will He Employ Americans?

Mr. ANDREW CARNEGIE has been recently having a rough experience with the imported Hungarians employed at his celebrated Steel Works. They broke out into a riotous demonstration and threatened to destroy the valuable establishment where the great apostle of protection has made so much of his vast wealth, and he has announced that henceforth no more of that class of labor shall be employed at his works. These people were brought over to take the places of American workmen who wanted more pay than Mr. CARNEGIE was willing to give. Their demand was not unreasonable, and was fully justified by the theory that the tariff was intended to protect the wages of workmen. Hungarians were used to supply their places, but Mr. CARNEGIE would have found these cheap workmen very dear, as a matter of cost, if they had succeeded in destroying his works. He is now scared by the unruly and dangerous Huns and says he will have nothing more to do with them, but does he really intend to employ American workmen in their places and pay them such wages as they should have if there is anything in the claim that tariffs are intended for the benefit of the working people?

Failures in the woolen trade continue and the more woolen manufacturers go into bankruptcy the fewer customers there are for domestic wool. The failure of R. W. Lewis & Son, manufacturers of woolen goods, Birmingham, Conn., proves to be of more consequence than at first reported. The liabilities are now placed at \$70,000 and the assets only \$1,600. EGBERT BARTLETT, the trustee named in the assignment, has declined to serve.

Is There to Be More Naval Jobbery?

Secretary TRACEY has gained some credit for having shown a disposition to follow on the lines laid down by his predecessor, Secretary WHITNEY, in the improvement of the Navy. But there is an appearance that he is about to make a departure which will be a step toward restoring the jobbery and scandals that prevailed in the Department under a number of former Republican Secretaries of the Navy.

The Bethlehem Iron Company has made extensive preparations to furnish the steel plates required for the new ships. These were not produced in this country until Secretary WHITNEY called for bids for their production, moved by a desire that they should be of American make. The Bethlehem Company was the only one that offered to undertake the work, and, upon the encouragement of the Department, made an enormous expenditure for machinery of a size and power never before set in operation in the United States. In his last report Secretary TRACEY finds fault with the Bethlehem Company for the alleged reason that it is backward in delivering the plates, although he well knows that the Company has been preparing as rapidly as possible.

But the reason for this fault finding appears in the fact that Mr. TRACEY has entered in an arrangement with Mr. BLAINE'S friend, ANDREW CARNEGIE, to go into the armor making business. This matter has attracted no attention, but it deserves to be brought before the American people. We do not know which is the more discreditable, the effort to discredit the excellent business scheme of the Democratic administration of the Navy, or the attempt to favor a Republican plutocrat at the expense of the public.

If the Navy Department is to be brought back to the jobbing methods of the old Republican regime the people ought to know it. Mr. WHITNEY elevated the naval work above such jobbery and conducted it on true business principles. He was roundly abused when he insisted upon contracts being honestly carried out, and was charged with having persecuted poor (?) JOHN ROACH.

The Democrats will have control of the next House and it will devolve upon them to furnish the appropriations for the new navy. If assured that TRACEY intends to convert our naval construction once more into a system of partisanship and plunder, they should withhold the money.

Still in Control.

An incident occurred in Philadelphia last week which went to show that bossism among Pennsylvania Republicans is by no means dead, notwithstanding their disastrous experience at the last election, and that QUAY is still recognized as holding the reins. Magistrate ROBERT R. SMITH died last week in that city and although the office made vacant by his decease is purely local, yet as soon as the breath was out of him there commenced a struggle to secure QUAY'S influence in the appointment of a successor to the defunct magistrate. The vacancy was to be filled by an appointee of Governor BEAVER, and when QUAY came to the city last Friday the Continental Hotel was absolutely besieged by the friends of the aspirants for the vacant office who wanted to be ahead in getting the influence of the Boss in securing the appointment. This was virtually an admission by the party workers that the leader whom the people sat down on so hard in November is still in control of the party machine.

The Old Slavery Spirit Rampant," is a startling bloody-shirt headline in the Press. But it would appear from that paper's revolt against the Cameron bondage that the slaves are so capable of...

Proposed Reforms by the State Legislature.

Dispatches from Harrisburg state that plans are afloat for the introduction of bills, at the present session of the Legislature, for ballot reform, Treasury reform, and an amendment to the Brooks liquor law. On the two first questions there is hardly a difference of opinion among fair-minded men, but there is not the same unanimity as regards the third. We doubt the possibility of devising a proper system of ballot reform without the calling of a State convention. The abuses are so flagrant under the present system of voting and so many barriers stand between the ballot box and an honest expression of opinion at the polls, that any plan that will prevent this will be gladly welcomed. To meet the demand the ballot must be secret, a dishonest count or return must be made impossible, and padded lists an equal impossibility. Anything short of this will not satisfy the demand of the people. Can this all be accomplished without a constitutional convention? We doubt it. Treasury reform is equally needed. Recent events, we need not name, show that a new and better method of keeping and disbursing the State's money is demanded by every consideration of justice to the State and to the Treasurer. Men will differ as to just what the details of this change should be. It will be hard to pass any reform Treasury bill that will prevent politicians and their banks from fingering the public money in some way.

In this connection the Legislature should take some action that will compel a better observance of the law in regard to the Sinking Fund balance kept on hand. Instead of going up into the millions, it should be kept down as low as possible. In the matter of keeping and disbursing the State money, no system can be adopted that is superior to that of the United States, known as the sub-treasury system. It has been so successful in the half century it has been in operation, that no one thinks of going back to the old plan, which allowed the banks to handle and make gain out of the public money. Pennsylvania needs a system of this kind. The Legislature should be careful how it fools with the license buzz-saw as provided for in the Brooks law. While it has its defects it is generally approved. The liquor question is one of the most important ones our legislators have to deal with, and is one in which the people take a deep interest. Whatever action be taken should be conservative, and of a character that will act as a check to the growing evil of intemperance; that is, so far as the Legislature has the right to go in that direction.

The price of potatoes has gone up and if this were attributable to the McKinley tariff bill the tariff reformers would have to admit that the farmers had derived some benefit from that measure. But the fact is that the advance in the price of potatoes is due to a short crop, so that the farmers have no occasion for gratitude to Mr. McKINLEY. We have frequently said, and recent events have proved the truth of our assertion, that while the McKinley bill would raise the prices of things the farmer had to buy, it could not raise the price of what he had to sell. If those prices rose, the fact would be due to some other cause than the tariff.

A dispatch from the City of Mexico, December 27, says: "Troops and officials marched through the streets of this city to-day and officially posted the notice that re-election to the presidency of the republic is now permitted by law." If the Force Bill becomes a law troops and Federal officials will march through our cities proclaiming that only Republican ballots are legal and none others will be counted.

It is believed that the motive for the Philadelphia Press's attack on CAMERON with the object of defeating his re-election to the Senate, may be found in the fact that the editor of that paper, Mr. CHARLES EMORY SMITH, holds a prominent official position under President HARRISON who does not maintain a friendly feeling for CAMERON.

Sparrows from the Keystone.

Bear meat is very cheap at Scranton. A mahogany tree grows in Lancaster. Big game is plentiful in the northern part of the State.

Measles are decimating Readings infantile population. Ice is being gathered by torchlight near West Chester.

In Berks county last year 910 marriage licenses were issued. Norristown trap shooters use sparrows now in lieu of pigeons.

Incendiaries are burning Fayette county school-houses. A West Chester girl gave away fifty-seven Christmas presents.

The removal of snow from Pittsburg streets will cost the city \$15,000. A West Chester baker sent a Christmas cake to President Harrison.

Street-car travel at Scranton was abandoned because of the heavy snows. Chester county jurymen drew pay amounting to over \$9000 during the past year.

The streams in the vicinity of Pottsville are to be made richer by 100,000 trout. The Sheriff of Montgomery held 100 sales during last year and sold 75 tracts of land.

While a Shipack farmer was attending church his horse froze to death outside. A lad at York with a pair of skates strapped on his bare feet attracted much comment.

It is said that the Governor has fixed the date for the execution of the Nicely brothers. A Hummelstown farmer has invented a trap which caught seventy-eight rats in ten hours.

A lad at Lititz, just before dying, sang all the carols he had learned for the Christmas celebration. Patrick Cassidy, of Pittsburg, is missing, and his friends think he has been buried in a snow drift.

Berks county farmers are killing their hogs rather than feed them because of the high price of corn. Judge Pershing is in favor of the liquor-license business being taken away from the Courts.

The entire baggage of a party of forty-two Hungarians which arrived at Norristown a few days ago could have been put in a small trunk. Nearly \$100,000 has been spent by Montgomery county farmers in the last five years in freeing bridges and turnpikes and improved roads.

After a week's absence a fine Maltese cat belonging to Charles Willis, of West Chester, was found down the well alive but too weak to walk.

W. C. Freeman, owner of Donaghmore Furnace, Lebanon county, has issued orders to have the furnace blown out for an indefinite period.

John M. Hall, ex-Sheriff of Deaware county, who held office twenty five years ago, fell on the ice at Media and broke his hip. He is 82 years old.

A daughter of Isaac Emore, of Birdsboro, while skating on a milldam disappeared through an air-hole; but Aminon Altright heard her cry for help and rescued her.

Several charges of libel have been brought against Secretary Hoff, of the Merchants' Protective Union of Reading, who compiled a black-list of delinquent dealers of 1100 cities.

A skeleton found in the Mahoning Mountains, near Bloomingdale, is thought to be that of Hugh Harkins, who was last seen three years ago when he was chased by a posse for stealing a team.

Part of the abutment wall of a bridge in Pottsgrove township was torn away and considerable damage done by rabbit hunters who were after a white cotton tail which had taken refuge under it.

Thirteen of the young men engaged in the Galthuchman serenade at the First-Cassel wedding, near Lebanon, on Christmas eve, when a sister of the bride was shot, have been arrested for riot.

Courtney Konealy, of Lackawanna, shot a chicken hawk as it was flying a few days ago, and when it dropped to the ground he found a three-foot rattlesnake in its talons, which he also dispatched.

Last week the pupils in the school at Frog Hollow, taught by Chester Hurling, aged about 18 years, tried to run the school, and on Saturday Hurling committed suicide in a bluekin near Bloomfield.

Harry Lattimer's gambling rooms at Wilkes-Barre were raided by the police, and the proprietor and thirteen citizens arrested. Lattimer was fined \$500 and the others from \$20 to \$50 each.

Chief of Police Hoodmasher, of Weatherly and three officers had a battle with a gang of tramps. Hoodmasher was wounded in the arm and Officer Weiss in the wrist. Fourteen tramps were captured.

Mrs. Margaret Buecher, 70 years old, was fatally burnt, on Monday, at Lancaster, by her clothing catching fire from a piece of paper thrown into the coal bucket by her husband after he had lighted his pipe.

A crozier in an inclog was found on the inside foundation wall of the First Presbyterian Church at Easton, and the removal of the steeple and bell was at once commenced to prevent them from falling outward.

The assignees of Dehmaster & Co., have filed their statement of the assets of the firm. It shows the total assets of the bank and of individual members of the firm to be \$301,000. The total liabilities are estimated at \$1,040,000.

Justice Torn, at Doylestown, has given William Robinson, of Solebury township, a verdict for \$12 against Butcher Lewis Hagaman, of Lush Valley. The Plaintiff sold 84 worth of hogs to Hagaman, who found them spoiled and refused to pay. The verdict represents their value for soap fat.

Israel Gibbs was hitching a horse to a vehicle at Mastersonville, Lancaster county, when the animal kicked him on the head, killing him instantly, and his brother Abraham, who witnessed the occurrence, was so shocked that he suffered a stroke of paralysis and lies in a critical condition.

Henry F. Schmidt and his wife, Caroline, charged with murdering the latter's sister, Emma Etze-emyer, in Chester, on Dec. 4, were given a hearing at Media on a writ of habeas corpus. The taking of the evidence of the Commonwealth was completed, and counsel will argue the case on Friday.

Five young men, of Cumberland county got a lot of whisky and drank it. Harry Stanfer, aged 17, has died from the effects of intoxication and exposure, and Samuel Weaver, another of the party, was so badly frozen that both legs will have to be amputated. The man who furnished the liquor has been arrested.