

Ink Stings.

The blizzards are interfering with the banana's being a sure crop in Dakota. It would appear that MATTHEW STANLEY QUAY was the victim of a wicked partner. QUAY's vindication is very interesting reading, but it does not convince a discerning public that MAT is a martyr. Would it be less offensive to Sir JOHN McDONALD's bumpousness if the United States were annexed to Canada? Whisky and dynamite are a deadly combination that couldn't have been devised by any one but the agent of a whisky trust. February has not fulfilled the predictions of the weather prophets. It has even compromised the wisdom of the ground hog. The weather we had this week was calculated to fool the crocus out of the ground and to inveigle the blue bird into premature song. The little fellows in the Republican party who are denouncing DON CAMERON will want to get under his wing in the next campaign. It is hoped that GORMAN is not fated to become a favorite of the New York Sun. He is too good a man to be sacrificed in that way. The belief that CLEVELAND has committed suicide by writing his silver letter has set DANA to dancing with glee that is more than ghoulish. Mrs. CLEVELAND, it is said, is learning to play the violin. Probably she intends to furnish the music when the Republicans are waltzed out of office in 1893. A New York lawyer, of the name PARSONS, got a fee of \$400,000 for organizing the Sugar Trust. The people help to pay for this when they sweeten their coffee. By buying his own tombstone before he died General SHERMAN may have prevented his memory from being unpleasantly associated with a monument scandal. The colored troops have an advantage over their white fellow soldiers in an Indian war, in that the redskinned enemy consider it "bad medicine" to take a scalp that is covered with wool. The bill to provide every congressman with a clerk failed to pass the House not because the members didn't like the measure, but because they were afraid their constituents wouldn't like it. The nation that believes that England's navy is an effete establishment would be likely to get itself into trouble if, acting upon that impression, it should trifle with the old mistress of the sea. If it wasn't customary for the rain to fall equally on the unjust and the just we would think that the Democrats of Bellefonte received such a Waterloo on Tuesday because it was such a wet day. An English socialist says that the trouble in this country is that there is not enough discontent. He evidently doesn't know anything about the feelings of the politicians who are out of office. It is to be hoped that Mr. CLEVELAND may not be placed in the predicament in which Mr. BLAINE found himself when he was forced to make a frantic appeal for the incineration of his letters. If editor WATTERSON had consulted the Star Eyed Goddess she would have advised him not to write the letter which was sure to cause a coolness between two such distinguished Democrats as himself and Governor HILL. A manager who has a new rendition of Pinafore on the stage in New York insists upon the female singers appearing in tights, but it may be asked in what way is a display of legs essential to the success of a musical performance? It is reported that Emperor WILHELM is strongly disposed to banish BISMARCK from Germany for talking too much. Wouldn't it be the irony of fate if the ex-chancellor should be ignominiously hustled out of the empire which he may be said to have created? A Kansas genius claims to have invented a process that will produce eggs by artificial means and intends to get a patent for it. In view of a competition so ruinous to their industry the hens have reason to cackle their dissent as loudly as the protectionists did in the last Presidential campaign. The Press in a recent issue published a picture showing how the wicked Democrats have gerrymandered Alabama. The politicians of that State have made some unshapely looking districts, but we will leave it to our esteemed contemporary whether their expertness as gerrymanderers surpasses that of the Republicans who in every state where they have had the chance have done a job of that kind.

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Common Sense on the Silver Question.

The very fact that this country produces large quantities of silver naturally leads the people to desire a liberal monetary use of it. It is difficult to make them believe that what nature has so abundantly supplied will be injurious if plentifully used as a circulating medium. Hence the popularity of the proposition of free silver coinage. Subject to certain modifications there seems to be good reason for the demand that silver should be used to the full extent of its production, the same as any other production of the country. That modification should consist in preventing the silver producer from getting more for his product than it is really worth in the market. When a farmer produces a bushel of wheat, the value of which is eighty cents in the market, he gets but eighty cents for it. There is no law, and there shouldn't be any, to compel purchasers to pay for it twenty cents more than the market price. The same rule should obtain in the case of the silver producer. The market price of so much of his production as will make a dollar is somewhere about eighty cents. Why should he get a dollar for it? This is giving him an advantage over the farmer or any other producer that is not right. Eliminate this feature from the free coinage proposition and its object in our opinion is rendered unobjectionable. The silver producer has his commodity for use; the country wants the use of it. Let him take it to the government mints as the farmer takes his grain to the mill. As the farmer doesn't get from the miller more than eighty cents for eighty cents' worth of grain, the silver man should be treated at the mint on the same basis of value. He shouldn't be authorized by law to get more for his product than it is worth in the market. But when the government puts the stamp of a dollar on his silver, eighty cents' worth of it becomes practically worth one hundred cents. Why should he be allowed this 20 per cent bonus? If this unfair advantage should be removed there doesn't seem to be any valid reason why those who produce a precious metal which in all time has been used as money, shouldn't take it to the mints, pay the expense of converting a dollar's worth of it into a dollar's worth of coin, and put it in circulation, either as metallic currency or its representative certificates. This appears to be a common sense solution of the silver coinage question. Of course there are financial experts who see disaster in this plain method of putting silver to its legitimate use. They resort to their finely spun monometallic and bimetallic distinctions, and see a natural antagonism between gold and silver that in their opinion is sure to knock one or the other out. But it may be well to remember that when an enlarged silver coinage was proposed some years ago there were financial alarmists who were sure that it would knock all the gold out of the country; yet, instead of having that effect, after \$450,000,000 of silver has been coined there is more gold in the country than there was when the Bland bill was passed. Nothing else was looked for than that the Republicans would carry the municipal election in Philadelphia on Tuesday. A good deal was said about having a new Philadelphia, but it was too much to expect that any other than the old way of getting it would be tried. EDWIN L. STUART, the Republican candidate for Mayor, beat LADNER, the Democratic candidate, by a majority of about 40,000. Most of the Republican councilmen were elected. The Committee of Fifty, operating for reform, made very little impression upon the result, the councilmanic fight going largely against that organization. There was a heavy falling off in the Democratic vote. The Press doesn't think very highly of Senator QUAY's de'ces. It fears that it "has been delayed too long to do much good," and that what he has now done "should have been done at least ten months ago." The leading party organ of the State has discarded the servility to QUAY and CAMERON which has so long held the Republican press of Pennsylvania in thrall.

Mr. Cleveland and the Silver Question.

The letter of ex-President CLEVELAND to the anti-silver mass meeting in New York last week, expressing his opposition to the free-coinage of silver, has created something of an excitement in political circles and drawn out a variety of views in regard to it. It should not, however, occasion surprise, for it was merely a reiteration of sentiments in regard to silver which Mr. CLEVELAND had previously expressed. Some of his friends appear to believe that he made a mistake in taking the position he has on this question. They fear that it will interfere with his re-nomination for President, even going so far as to say that it puts him entirely out of the question as a candidate, as there is such a determination, particularly in the West and South, for more silver that his expressed opposition to it places him in antagonism to a powerful and growing public sentiment. Probably the ex-President would have acted more prudently for his own good as a Presidential candidate if he hadn't been so candid in giving his silver views, but whether the expression he has made will have an injurious effect upon his candidacy will depend very much upon whether the tariff or the silver question shall be the predominant one in 1892. If the Democratic party a year hence shall continue to consider the reform of unjust and oppressive tariff laws as of paramount importance—if they shall determine to reap the advantage of the economic education which the people have been receiving since 1888—a difference in regard to silver coinage may not prevent Mr. CLEVELAND from being the nominee. Besides, a year's time and the pressing political exigencies of a Presidential campaign may subordinate silver to questions of more urgent importance. It fortunately the fortune of the Democratic party is not dependent upon the availability of any particular candidate. Its principles are broad and there are a number of leaders from whom may be selected a suitable representative of those principles in the coming Presidential contest.

Baby Business.

It was a singular position the Republican State Senators took last week in condemning Governor PATRISON for vetoing the concurrent resolution censuring Senator CAMERON for his action on the Force Bill question. What would they have wanted the Governor to do in the matter? By their own act they forced him into an expression of his sentiments on the subject, for the passage of such a resolution constitutionally required that he should approve or disapprove it. Could they expect that it would meet his approval? As an opponent of the Force Bill, had he any other recourse than to disapprove a resolution which censured Senator CAMERON for being also an opponent of the Force Bill? It was baby business that the Republican Senators engaged in when they condemned the Governor for "doing what they gave him the chance to do and what was entirely in line with his constitutional power and duty. Nothing could have been sillier than to charge him with trying to promote a Presidential boom by the performance of a functional act that was clearly within his official province. There is reason to believe that in the case in question he did what he thought was right without any ulterior purpose.

Mr. Quay's Remarkable Defense.

The public are interested as well as amused by the defense which Senator QUAY made in the Senate on Monday against the charges that have assailed his personal and official reputation. It had been rumored for some months that the Senator would make this defense, but at different times reasons were given for its delay. He has now done what is evidently the best he could do in replying to the bill of indictment upon which he was tried by the people of Pennsylvania last fall and condemned. It will strike the average reader that the Senator did not select the proper time for making his defense. He should have made it last year when the charges were fresh and flying through the country, and the place to make it should have been in the courts, where, if he was innocent, he could have had the evidence to prove that his enemies were libelously and falsely assailing him. That would have been satisfactory to the public, and should have been more satisfactory to himself, than an unsubstantiated denial in the Senate. A sample of this ipse dixit sort of defense appears in what he says in refutation of one of the leading charges against him, as follows: The first assertion concerning my official acts is that at some time or continuously between the years of 1873 and 1882 I alone, or acting with another or others, used the monies of the state of Pennsylvania for speculative or private purposes. I denounce this statement as absolutely false. In 1877 the Democratic party elected a State treasurer and an auditor general and the financial affairs of the commonwealth. A year or two later pending their terms of office I became engaged in stock operations. In some transactions I was associated and jointly interested with the gentleman who was at that time cashier of the state treasury. These transactions proved seriously disastrous and I was compelled to pay a portion of his losses as well as my own. In doing this it became necessary to supply an alleged deficiency he had caused in the treasury as a portion of the fund. For this purpose I borrowed \$100,000 from the gentleman who is at present my colleague in the Senate. I gave him a judgment note therefor, the amount of which note I paid to him dollar for dollar years ago. Not until the beginning of the settlement of our losses was I aware that a deficiency existed, and I had every assurance that my associate was able to carry his share of the losses. My connection thereafter was simply with the aid of friends to raise the necessary funds to supply the deficiency. This is far from being a satisfactory denial of the charge that he had used for a speculative purpose money belonging to the State treasury. It would appear from the Senator's statement that the \$100,000 he admits having borrowed from Senator CAMERON was obtained for the purpose of helping BLAKE WALTERS out of the difficulty he got into through "the alleged deficiency he had caused in the treasury" by losing the money in an unsuccessful speculation. Is it probable that Mr. QUAY acted out of sheer sympathy for WALTERS and hadn't any difficulty of his own in connection with the transaction from which it was necessary to extricate himself? The Senator could have made his innocence more evident to the common understanding of the people if he had vindicated himself in a court of justice. Mr. WAYNE McVEAGH and Senator CAMERON would have been effective witnesses to prove that their assistance was not secured to relieve Mr. QUAY from a treasury deficiency, if the charge to that effect was not true. The Senator takes up, in succession, the other charges that were made against him, and denies them in detail, but such denial under the circumstances attending his case, unsupported by anything like evidence, carries no more weight with it than does the ordinary plea of "not guilty" in the courts. That he was in a deal with the cashier of the State treasury in which the State money was used, without his being cognizant of the criminality of the transaction, hasn't even a shade of plausibility. It was a refreshing sight to see a Pennsylvania Republican congressman administer a good currying to a member of Mr. HARRISON's cabinet, as Mr. DALZELL did to Secretary TRACEY for wrongfully censuring Commander RITZER. The congressman showed that he had a better understanding of the functions of the American flag and of the requirements of national honor than is possessed by one of the most prominent and responsible of the cabinet officers.

Spawls from the Keystone.

Allegheny has 1600 liquor license applications. A Carbondale Justice has not tried a case for over a year. During last year 2,533,894 barrels of beer were made in this State. Mrs. Fisher, of Hummelstown, died while praying at her bedside. A Lock Haven oyster opener found a \$40 pearl in a bivalve recently. Allentown's seventh shoe factory is projected to employ fifty hands. Two young men at Sharpsburg fought a duel with coaching whips. Tax Collector J. O. Sonnenberg, of Bradford, is charged with a \$2000 shortage. The English syndicate won't buy the Crane iron works at Catsaqua. Albert Gerhart's 1-year old baby ate a morphia pill at Wernersville and died. The Laurel Fire Company, of York, has celebrated its 101st anniversary. The fifth convention of Sanitariums will be held at Altoona on May 15 and 16. Four law firms in Delaware county have dissolved since the first of the year. A fall from a Lancaster hay-loft and a broken back killed William Simmons. William L. Scott, of Erie, intends to erect a \$200,000 residence and a \$100,000 hotel. A severe hail-storm swept through the southern end of Lancaster county last week. Rev. George Cooper, of Wilkesbarre, was arrested on the eve of his wedding for forgery. Carnegie, Phipps & Co., are about to take a contract for naval armor involving \$3,500,000. The Farmers' Institute at Kennett Square drew about as many farmers' wives as farmers. Tramp labor on the highways has been unprofitable in Cumberland county and abandoned. Legislators are looking into Norristown's claims for State aid for her asylum and hospital. At the Union Depot in Pittsburg 56,000 pieces of baggage were handled during January. The 10 per cent. reduction still keeps the miners, cokers and operators apart in the coke region. Judge Harry White, of Indiana county, is in the field for the United States District Judgeship. The Economites landed in this country eighty-six years ago, and have property valued at \$15,000,000. A flock of 114 crows which had been caught for trap-shooting at Berkeley escaped a few days ago. James Statton, of Sharpsburg, a 70-year-old storekeeper, attacked and beat a bully who entered his store a few days ago. Widow Muskovich is insane as a result of the Jeannette mine horror. Five boarders perished with her husband. Rich Oliver H. P. Stern's will at Hoken-danqua orders an autopsy upon the decedent within two days after death. David Fox survived last year's Nottingham mine explosion to be killed by a blast near Wilkesbarre on Thursday. While in Senanton a few days ago John L. Sullivan made a generous donation for the families of the miners killed recently. During a fight in a Reading saloon a man and a chair, to which he was holding, were thrown together through a \$75 plate-glass. The three miners rescued alive from the Nanticoke mine will join a museum and exhibit themselves for a term of six months. A peculiar disease is raging among horses in the vicinity of Monongehela City. Many persons report having lost valuable animals. Whooping cough and pneumonia have removed two of Michael A. Foley's children at Reading within a week, and a third may die. Mrs. Sarah Elmer, of Columbia, Lancaster county, was fatal burned by her dress taking fire while she was getting supper on Tuesday. Coffins are ordered and graves dug for all the seventeen entombed miners at Jeannette, whose bodies may be reached by Monday. Robert Wallace, of West New Castle, fell and broke his leg and was compelled to crawl to his home, half a mile away, over the rough road. Lehigh County Auditors have met annually for twenty-five years in a bank. The law stipulates the Court House, and there is a row over it. Peter McManus, a boy 12 years old, broke through the ice at Wilkesbarre on Saturday, and was drowned. He is the son of a prominent man. A stray bullet went through a knot of hair at the back of the head of Mrs. Curtis S. Bare, of Pittsburg, while she sat at a window in Huntington. Free site, free water, no taxes for ten years and \$50,000 cash tempt J. H. Sternbergh to erect his nut and bolt works in a city that rivals Reading. Two masked men broke into the house of I. B. Kinter, of Derry, and for their pains received a terrible beating at the hands of Mr. Kinter and his son. A pin got stuck in young Harry Rittles' throat at Bethel on Christmas. It has just worked out through his larynx. He couldn't swallow, and was half starved. Fifteen persons at Freeport have been held for maliciously poisoning the jail at that place. The color was changed from a sombre red to a dazzling white. Joseph Fisher, of Allentown, has been showered with misfortune. Thieves broke in and stole \$700 recently, and the next day the Sheriff took charge of his place. Congressman Brunner tells Reading American mechanics that he "will favor any reasonable bill to restrict immigration that may be presented in the House." Three of the sixteen Cherryville Cemetery desecrators at Easton were convicted and fined \$15 and costs each. The other thirteen pleaded guilty and got similar sentences. A Hungarian looking for his brother, a victim of the Jeannette mine disaster, was with difficulty restrained in his desperation from jumping down the shaft of the mine. The condition of William West, the condemned murderer at Washington, has assumed such a serious aspect that it is feared he will not live until the time set for his execution. Edward Workheiser and his team dropped through the earth into an abandoned mine sixty feet deep in Williams township, Northampton county. Workmen are digging for them. Ninety million gallons of water had fallen, as late as Monday, to extinguish the fire in No. 4 slope, opposite Nanticoke though it is expected to die out before the 100,000,000 gallon mark is reached.