

Ink Slings.

—The difficulty with Italy has blown over and Baron FAVA sorrowfully wishes that he hadn't been in it.

—The ill feeling which HARRISON displays toward BLAINE in regard to reciprocity is no doubt reciprocated.

—It will be a wise trout that shall regard with suspicion the seductive fly that ripples the surface of the water on 15th of April.

—The newest ladies' plaid hose come as high in price as \$7 a pair. How high they come otherwise it is not supposable that we should know.

—BENJAMIN HARRISON is by no means a humorous character, but there is a probability of his affording the country a great deal of fun in 1892.

—The very fact that an Australian ballot law would dislocate the crank of his machine is sufficient reason for the Republican managers opposing such a measure.

—Soon the grass will be greening along the highways, but what avails its succulence which has been made contraband to the poor man's cow by the fence law of 1889?

—The \$12,000 connected with the China Mission is sufficient to induce the Honorable HENRY W. BLAIR to run the risk of a snubbing from the indignant Celestials.

—If the blackthorn has effectually knocked out PARNELL it can be forgiven for all the cracked crowns it has been responsible for in the lively annals of old Ireland.

—If the Star-Eyed Goddess can't see any danger in the stream of foreign criminals, anarchists and paupers that is pouring in upon our shores, she might as well have no eyes.

—By accepting him as the United States Minister the Chinese government would teach a lesson of magnanimity that might not be lost upon even so small a mind as BLAIR'S.

—The news that he is no longer excluded from the German empire will hardly evoke a grunt of satisfaction from the American hog, although it means dollars to his owner.

—It was the experience of history that the STUARTS made abominable rulers. May it be Philadelphia's experience that there is at least one STUART whose rule will not be an abomination.

—The expense imposed upon Westmoreland county and the State of Pennsylvania by the Hungarian riot in the coke region is an illustration of the economy of imported cheap labor.

—There is so much politics in Philadelphia policemen that the Mayor may find that nothing short of a surgical operation, such as cutting off their heads officially, will take it out of them.

—Hon. WARNER MILLER'S life has been checkered with hazardous adventures. The peril of shipwreck has followed the danger he encountered in falling "outside the breastworks."

—In appointing GEORGE RONEY, one of DAVE MARTIN'S lieutenants, as director of public safety, Mayor STUART of Philadelphia spells reform with so small an r that it is positively microscopic.

—WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON was dead exactly fifty years last Saturday. After the expiration of his Presidential term BENJAMIN HARRISON will be as dead politically as his grand-father is physically. Both deaths entirely natural.

—P. T. BARNUM has gone where it may be believed all good showmen go, and probably it would have been a satisfaction if he could have taken his circus with him, but it is questionable whether "the greatest show on earth" would furnish suitable amusement for the angels.

—The Galena is by no means a hopeless wreck. There is enough left of her to warrant repairs that will employ a force of political workmen sufficiently numerous to carry the congressional district where her hulk may be located, if it should be close. Not everything is worthless that is wrecked.

—EDMUNDS' retirement from the Senate will be sweetened by the reflection that he did the handsome thing for the maple sugar of his native State, and his memory will fondly revert to the "cold tea" which so often soiled the weary hours of senatorial duty.

—One of the amusing features of the next Presidential campaign would be the predicament of the New York Sun if CLEVELAND should be nominated. The fun of such a dilemma would make it almost worth while to nominate GROVER even if other considerations shouldn't recommend him.

—MR. BLAINE'S inquiry about the Italian murderers who escaped from this country and whom the Italian authorities refused to give up, looks very much like an afterthought consequent upon Italy's prompt action in the Mafia matter, and is entitled only to such credit as belongs to delayed duty.

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Election of United States Senators by the People.

The prevailing influences that elect United States Senators, and the character which that body has assumed under those influences, lead reflective minds to consider the necessity of a change in the method of electing the senatorial representatives of the States. Money in too many instances has become the means of electing these representatives, and the Senate is rapidly degenerating into a millionaire's club. This evil is attributable to the purchasable character of the State legislatures to which has been committed the power of choosing United States Senators. The remedy would be to transfer this power directly to the people.

On this subject congressman HORMAN, of Indiana, than whom there could not be better authority, in a recent interview said:

I will venture my reputation for good judgment upon the prediction that almost the first thing done at the opening of the Fifty-second Congress will be the passage of a resolution to amend the Constitution, requiring the election of Senators by the people, and it will become a law. There is a strong sentiment in favor of it and the change is almost at hand. The measure will be introduced in the House as soon as Congress meets and there will be little delay in its passage. It will go to the Senate early enough to give them plenty of time to act upon it, and Senators, whether they like it or not, cannot afford to defeat the measure. A popular sentiment will demand the change, and for Senators to oppose it would be construed to signify a fear on their part to trust their fates to the will of the people. I predict that the present method of electing Senators will very soon be done away with.

From the experience we have of such elections there are few who will not admit that a change would be beneficial. The Doylestown Democrat, however, opposes the proposed change for the reason that "it would be a step, and a pretty long one, toward changing constitutional methods, and might lead, finally, to an infringement of State rights." The error of this position consists in the idea that changing the elective power from the State legislatures to the people would antagonize and overthrow the principle of State sovereignty that is represented by the Senate. Are not the people the sovereigns, and would not senatorial representatives elected directly by the people represent the sovereignty and protect the rights of the States as well as it can be done through the delegated medium of State legislatures? We think that it would be really a higher expression and more direct manifestation of State sovereignty.

It is well enough to consider the intention of the framers of the constitution who designed that the Senate should represent the States in their sovereign capacity, as the Democrat commendably does; but it was impossible for them to conceive of the conditions that exist at present in the Republic and influence the election of United States Senators. The wildest fancy at that time could not picture the growth of wealth and of the money power which eventually should control the action of legislatures and make the election of United States Senators a matter of purchase. Would the fathers have considered a collection of millionaires, holding their senatorial positions through the power of their money, as legitimately representing the sovereignty of the States? This is the evil that is to be overcome, and isn't it a blind and unreasoning subservience to the work of the founders to allow the continuance of an evil which they would have avoided if they could have foreseen it?

—On the 6th inst. the Grand Army of the Republic celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of its establishment, the first post having been formed at Decatur, Illinois, on the 6th of April, 1865, with a dozen charter members. At its last annual meeting in Boston it was reported to have a membership of 427,931. This organization has no doubt been productive of some good, particularly as an order personally beneficial to its members. But as it has been used as a political machine, and has been chiefly instrumental in inflicting the country with an extravagant, reckless and oppressive pension system, the general effect of its influence has been injurious. A factitious sentiment of patriotism and the fear of political consequences have shielded it from the criticism it deserves.

It Should Be Stopped.

The two terrible incidents of the lynching of Italians at New Orleans and the shooting of Hungarians in the coke region for conduct on their part that made such violence unavoidable, imperatively call for some action by congress that will stop the immigration of a class whose presence here under any circumstance is not desirable, and who are proving to be a dangerous element in our population.

The influx of this class of immigrants is increasing alarmingly each year, that of the Italians amounting to over 39,000 in 1890, while the Slavic immigration almost equals that of the Dagoes. These people are ignorant, debased and to a large extent criminal. They are unfit to be citizens and are dangerous as residents. Many of those who come from Italy are assassins and galley slaves who have been compelled to leave their native country on account of the commission of crimes. The Mafia at New Orleans belong to this class, and doubtless other sections of our country contain members of the same criminal association. Why should the United States furnish an asylum for such people? Is there any good reason why our country should be overrun by European barbarians, assassins and pauper laborers?

There is, however, a reason why they are among us. Certain interests that derive great advantage from the protection which a high tariff affords, want the additional advantage of cheap labor, and it is through this source that this obnoxious immigration receives encouragement and assistance. Laws have been passed to prevent the importation of contract laborers, but there is evidence that they are evaded. The situation, however, has reached a stage that calls for stringent action in this matter, and if Congress shall fail to adopt measures that will check the influx of this kind of people it will be criminally indifferent to the welfare and safety of the country.

Election Expenses.

The Ballot Reform Association of Pennsylvania, after having furnished the Legislature with a bill for the establishment of the Australian ballot system, has supplemented this work by bringing before that body another bill which is intended to compel candidates and their agents to publish a statement of all money received and paid out by them in election campaigns.

The Association appears to be moved by a commendable disposition to improve our election methods, and it certainly deserves better treatment than it is receiving from the majority in the Legislature which has emasculated its ballot bill with the object of making it less effective as against electoral corruption and dishonesty, and would like to sidetrack it entirely if it could see a way of dodging public condemnation. We have shown in a former article on this subject that an alteration has been made in the bill with the evidently deliberate intention of retaining to a considerable extent the advantage of bribery at the polls—an advantage which the dishonesty of a party that controls large sums of money cannot afford to lose. The association, if it has any influence with the majority in the Legislature, should exert it to prevent the emasculation of its ballot bill, if there is any probability of its being passed at all.

But the bill relating to candidates' expenses is a good one if its provisions are as reported in the papers. We have not seen it, but an exchange summarizes its most important features as follows:

Sections two and three require candidates, organizations, committees or bodies of citizens acting in a political capacity, to file within ten days after any primary, municipal or general election a statement in detail, showing all moneys expended, to whom paid, and for what purpose, together with receipts or vouchers for all payments exceeding twenty dollars. The statements of political organizations or committees must also contain a detailed statement of all moneys received and by whom paid. These statements are to be sworn to by the candidates and officers of organizations or committees making them. When relating to the election of State officers, members of Congress and of the two Houses of the State Legislature they must be filed with the Secretary of the Commonwealth, and, when relating to other officers, with the county commissioners of the county in which the election takes place. The statements must be preserved for the term of six years, and be open to the inspection of any citizen. The penalties for the violation of this act is a fine not

exceeding \$1,000, or imprisonment for not more than one year, or both, and, in case of a candidate, forfeiture of the office to which he is elected.

Surely something should be done to reduce election expenses and relieve candidates of much of the burden they are now compelled to bear, and, what is of more account, prevent the corruption that results from the use of money in our elections. But the ingenuity of those who rely upon money to secure their political ends is so skillful in its expedients that it is doubtful whether any law, however stringent, could entirely prevent corrupt practices at the polls.

Honesty the Best Protection.

A journal which contends that the money of the State should be held in safer custody than is afforded by the present loose and insecure manner of keeping it, seems to think that one way of effecting its greater safety would be to double the salary of the State Treasurer. We agree with this anxious contemporary that the money in the treasury should be more effectively protected, but we fail to see how increasing the salary of the Treasurer from \$5,000 to \$10,000 will increase the protection required. Considering the work he has to perform, the salary of the Treasurer is ample. The work of the office is attended to by the chief clerk or cashier, assisted by subordinate clerks, the Treasurer dropping in occasionally to see how his subordinates are getting on with their duties. The sense of his responsibility is the only incentive to a careful supervision of his office, and is it likely that it would be improved by doubling his pay? If \$5,000 will not make him a safe custodian it is nonsense to think that \$10,000 would do it.

The salary was increased some years ago from \$1,000 to \$5,000 with the belief that the increased pay would leave him no excuse for speculating with the State money; but it does not seem to have had that effect, nor is it likely that a further increase would produce the desired result. There are bank cashiers whose salaries don't begin to equal the pay of the State Treasurer, and yet the money of such institutions are safe in the hands of the cashiers that are honest. If there is no honesty, of course there is no safety, whatever the salary may be.

A Like Effect.

Mexico has a tariff, and judging from the extent of the duties imposed, it is a very "protective" one. On \$26,518,664 worth of goods imported in 1889 there were collected duties amounting to \$22,477,962, or an average of nearly 90 per cent. As the foreign importer is as little disposed to pay the duty under the Mexican as he is under the American tariff, notwithstanding the pretty fiction that he is such an accommodating individual, the Mexicans therefore find the price of their imported commodities nearly doubled by their tariff. And what benefit have they to set off this imposition? It has had the effect of inducing Englishmen, Germans and Americans to establish some factories, and large profits are made, but they go to the countries where the proprietors are from, and the poorly paid operatives are among the victimized consumers who are taxed for the benefit of these foreign capitalists.

The same thing to a considerable extent is going on in the United States. The enormous profits which our high tariff affords are inducing foreign capitalists to go into manufacturing in this country. Small wages are paid to labor, even imported pauper labor being used for the purpose; great gains are made through the effect of a monopoly tariff, and capitalists in England pocket the resultant wealth. We are much like Mexico in this respect, and from the same cause—exorbitant tariff duties which increase the price of the things that are needed for the every day use of the people, while the gains go into a comparatively few pockets.

—The Republican "steering committee" in the State Legislature have a troublesome time with the Baker ballot bill. They would like to steer past any measure that would furnish ballot reform, and they would do so if there wasn't danger of exciting public wrath. The upshot of the dilemma will likely be a ballot reform bill that will reform as little as possible.

A Question of Duty.

It having been reported that unless the Legislature pass apportionment bills that the Governor can approve he will call an extra session, the Press severely denounces such a contingency and refers to "the extravagant folly of eight years ago." It was Republican delinquency that compelled the Governor to call the extra session of 1883. Whether upon a repetition of that delinquency he will adopt a course similar to that of eight years ago, remains to be seen, but it isn't probable. In regard to what the Press has termed extravagant folly, the Pittsburg Dispatch forcibly says:

The Governor at that time called the Legislature together to perform a constitutional duty which it had left undone. The act was brought up against him in the last campaign, and it was promptly answered that when a Governor calls upon a Legislature to do work required by the constitution, the Legislature is responsible for the extravagances it commits. We have failed to find in the vote of the people at the last State election any evidence that the people condemned the Governor for the extravagant folly of the party friends of the Press.

We will let our readers determine which of these two Republican papers has the clearer and more correct idea of a Governor's duty under the circumstance of a Legislature failing to do its duty with respect to apportionment bills.

A Commentary on Imported Cheap Labor.

The bloodshed that has attended the strike in the Westmoreland coke region is deplorable, but it was the natural consequence of the excited condition of a multitude of ignorant men who believed that they had been wronged in the matter of wages. As long as this belief impelled them to go no further than to stop working for wages they considered insufficient, they could not be charged with doing anything wrong. But when it prompted them to riot and the destruction of property, they became wrong doers and invited the violence by which their violent proceedings were met and repelled. Bloodshed followed as inevitably as one evil begets another.

The people who lost their lives at Morewood by being fired upon by the Sheriff's deputies were exclusively foreigners, belonging to the class that has been brought from Europe to give coal operators and other industrial proprietors the benefit of cheap labor. The real purpose of their importation was effected for a while, to the detriment of the native laborer, but eventually this ignorant mass, imported for its cheapness, learned to ask for better wages, and the refusal to comply with its demands brought on the difficulty which has resulted in the stoppage of industrial operations, riot, destruction of property and loss of life. Altogether it is a nice commentary on the benefits of cheap labor imported for the advantage of tariff protected operators.

Naval Improvement.

There can be no denying that the threatening attitude which Italy appeared to be taking on the Mafia question produced something of a scare in view of our defenseless situation as against a strong naval power. We were conscious that we had no navy worth speaking of, while our antagonist had one of the strongest in the world, and hence the alarm. Fortunately the danger of a collision with a power so evidently superior has passed, if it ever existed, and the frightful presence of the Italian iron-clads in our waters, with no means of resisting them, will not be realized.

After such a warning as this there is no doubt that there will be an urgent demand in the next congress for a more plentiful supply of ships capable of meeting the formidable vessels of Europe. Under the stimulus of this recent experience the danger is that the matter of naval improvement will be urged to a needless extent, and that unnecessary expense will be incurred. There is need of a larger and more efficient navy, but its enlargement should not go beyond the construction of a sufficient number of the larger class of ships to protect our exposed seaports, with an adequate contingent of cruisers to take care of our foreign commerce when a reduction of the present restrictive tariff will allow us to have a foreign commerce. The navy we should build should be exclusively for a defensive purpose.

Spawls from the Keystone.

—Pottsville's new grain elevator will cost \$23,000.

—A wessel at Schartzelsville killed sixty chickens.

—The grain outlook in Berks county is promising.

—The cigarette law is being enforced at Williamsport.

—A firm at Hereford will propagate skunks for their fur.

—A new opera house occupies the old jail site in Lebanon.

—Carlisle's Agricultural Society starts with a \$12,000 capital.

—The pesky sparrow is devouring Dauphin county pear buds.

—An East Bangor bull gored a 3-year-old Italian girl to death.

—Pittsburgh's total revenues during the last year were \$1,722,924.

—Reading's estimated expenses for the coming year are \$44,950.

—The grip is causing havoc at Dryville, on the East Penn Railroad.

—Tioga county, the Wellsboro Gazette says, is without a licensed saloon.

—Wyoming Valley Methodists want admit women to the General Conference.

—During last month 2392 yards of carpet were made in the Allentown jail.

—Miss Alice Townes, of Pittsburg, dropped dead while preparing for a wedding.

—A Bethlehem saloon keeper prohibits gaming in his place on church holidays.

—The anniversary of Lee's surrender, April 9, will be observed by Columbia veterans.

—Robert White, an epileptic patient at the Wilkesbarre Hospital, had forty spasms a day.

—Eighty-year-old Mrs. Jacob Dubbs, of Fredericksburg, was killed by falling downstairs.

—Over \$70,000 were paid into the the Lancaster County Treasury by liquor dealers this spring.

—The Commission to revise the Mine laws will ask for the appointment of more Mine Inspectors.

—Howard Kauffman, son of Engineer Kauffman, of Sunbury, was killed by eating wild parsnips.

—Benjamin Buckwalter has just paid his fifty-second annual subscription to the Lancaster Examiner.

—Wads of cotton disguised as chicken croquets was an April 1 tid-bit on the bill of fare at a Lebanon hotel.

—Paris Haldeman, President of the Chickies Iron Company, sailed on his thirty-fifth trip to Europe last Monday.

—A 17-year-old suicide in Washington county broke his neck and severed his jugular with the same bullet.

—A general alarm of fire called out the people of Northumberland on the 1st to learn that it was an April fool joke.

—Asher Renner, of Easton, who shot himself a few days ago, says he did it to escape arrest for deserting his wife.

—John Schlosser, an Allentown cobbler and barber, was mending a pair of shoes on Tuesday when he dropped dead.

—A country milk wagon was struck by a train at Lancaster, and the ground around was strewn with milk and money.

—The famous nickel mines at Gap, Lancaster county, are shut down because the ore is now too poor to be profitable.

—The trial at Washington of Kincaid for the murder of Tanbree was again interrupted by the illness of one of the jurors.

—A young man not yet of age testified before the Pittsburg License Court that he could buy liquor anywhere in the city.

—Twenty-five military companies have asked for permission to parade on Decoration day as escorts to Grand Army Posts.

—During the past sixty days 127½ tons of mail matter was sent from and received at Lancaster on the through trains.

—Louisa Hoffer, the oldest Moravian and one of the first white children, born in South Bethlehem, died Tuesday, aged 32.

—A Lancaster man recently received \$30 through the mail, with a letter stating that it was stolen from him forty years ago.

—The opponents of Burgess Riley, of South Chester, have presented a petition to the county court asking that his license be revoked.

—A Jersey Central Railroad brakeman fell from his car and was dragged, five miles, over the stones and ties, clinging to the brake-chain.

—At McKeesport, John A. Musgrave has been arrested for raising a one dollar silver certificate to a five dollar note and passing it as such.

—Robert Herman's horse tripped over a railroad bridge at Slatop, stepped through rolled over and fell, thirty feet on his back to another railroad track.

—T. O. Vanalen, the head of the firm of Vanalen & Co., operators of the Northumberland Iron and Nail Works, at Northumberland, died in Danville on Monday.

—"Charlie Guttersnipe," a Lancaster character, has been evicted from the miserable shanty he called home, and he and his family are now living in a barn.

—Mary Anne Dener, of Macungie, bequeathed \$5 to each of her children, and the rest of her estate was apportioned among the children of a deceased son.

—Charles Lowellyn, of Washington county, is a lightning calculator of a pronounced type. The boy is only 5 years old, but can solve the most difficult problems of mathematics.

—Peter Gernet, a farmer of Hanoverville, Northampton county, was found dead in a field Tuesday evening with a revolver by his side and a bullet in his head. No cause is known.

—Leaping from an uncontrolled timber train-car that darted down the mountain side at Glen Union, Clinton county, Superintendent Harry M. Grove fell under the wheels and lost his life.

—Alice Lehn, aged 19, tried to pull a gun from under a bed at her home, near Harrisburg. The piece was discharged and the load entered her right breast, inflicting a terrible wound, but she will recover.

—William Sweet, of Oil City, a brakeman, had his head cut off by a train on Sat. day week. Harry Meadows took his place, and was killed in precisely the same manner by the same train a few days later.

—The sheepskin deeds considerably over 100 years old were placed on record a few days ago for the first time at Pottsville. By one of them thirty-two acres in Burrowsick was conveyed for the consideration of five shillings.

—Joseph Johannes, a Hun with pneumonia, was cast out of a quarryman's boarding-house, on the Lehigh Mountain, as being unable to pay. He lay for three days and nights on the ground in a floorless quarry shanty, and was then taken to the Lehigh County Almshouse.