

Ink Slings.

—Switzerland, which celebrated its six hundredth anniversary last Saturday, as a republic is like the Irishman's pig —"little, but old."

—TOM PLATT is again attaining an elevation as questionable in its character as that which he reached in '81 by means of a step ladder.

—A Pittsburg heiress has married the tattooed man of a dime museum. Her taste is similar to that of the Republicans who are in love with BLAINE.

—If WANAMAKER would have been with QUAY and CAMERON at Donegal last Sunday the sabbatarian character of the meeting would have been complete.

—Such is the abhorrence for the nude along Asbury beach that the mermaids can't flip their tails above the water without exciting the protest of the deacons.

—In these canning days the low price of sugar doesn't sweeten the temper of the housewife when she thinks that cans would be cheaper if it wasn't for McKINLEY.

—Mr. HARRISON's great luck in catching crabs at Cape May is ominously suggestive. Things are going backward as regards his chance for a re-nomination.

—A contemporary charges PARNELL with pulling down the temple of Irish home-rule. Maybe this Samson parallel is attributable to PARNELL's having been shorn by a DELLILAH.

—CLEVELAND, HILL, HARRISON and BLAINE are all at the seashore straining their ears to hear what the wild waves may have to say about the prospect of the next Presidential campaign.

—PHIL ARMOUR and JAMES WHITCOMB RILEY sailed in the same steamer from Europe last Saturday. In this realistic age it is difficult to prevent the juxtaposition of pork and poetry.

SAM LOSCH scalped his enemies in the Schuylkill county Republican convention last Tuesday. If his foes had gotten away with SAM's scalp it would have been a barren victory, for there is no hair on it.

—The commendation of Senator GORMAN by the Maryland Democratic State committee for his having defeated the odious Force bill, was as great a compliment as was ever paid to American patriotism and statesmanship.

—CLARKSON has biased his way to the head of the Republican National Committee by the keen edge of his snickersnee. He has become head-man of the committee by his having been headman of the post office department.

—No one should indulge the delusion that the morality of the Republican National Committee has been improved by the withdrawal of QUAY and DUDLEY. The only difference is that its rascally methods will not be as effective.

—Chestnut trees are reported as doing their full duty this year, and there is going to be an abundant yield. There doesn't seem to be any production that will detract from the prolific record of 1891, the Republican vote alone excepted.

—As sentorian as is the voice of Representative FOW it is not far-reaching enough to reverberate across the Atlantic and arouse GEORGE HANDY SMITH to consciousness of neglected duty in not being on hand to assist in investigating the State treasury crookedness.

—General GREGG, who has consented to be the Republican candidate for Auditor General, distinguished himself by his connection with the cavalry, but those who can't see that he is QUAY's candidate display a guileless innocence that entitles them to be classed among the infant-ry.

—The Treasury Department has given instruction to the New York custom house to remit the duty in the special case of a kinkajou imported for the Washington Zoo. As everything else is tariffed there is no reason to be surprised that kinkajous are also on the list, although it is difficult to see what infant industry is benefited thereby. Probably the remission of the duty on the kinkajou is a concession to Mr. BLAINE's reciprocity policy, with the ultimate object of encouraging a foreign demand for the American gasticuts.

—Our really honest and fair-minded Republican contemporary, the *Altoona Tribune*, after saying that Philadelphia "has been in the hands of common thieves," advises the people of that city, of both parties, to rise up and oust the rascals. The city government of Philadelphia has for years been exclusively in the hands of the Republicans—"common thieves," if the *Tribune* wishes to have it put in that way. It is only since the interjection of a Democratic official by Governor PATTISON's appointment of a city treasurer that the public is being enabled to get some idea of the extent of this thieving.

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The Watchman and a Constitutional Convention.

The Pittsburg *Times* has certainly given this paper a very casual reading or it would not have committed the error of placing it on its list of papers opposing a Constitutional Convention. The WATCHMAN is not opposed to a Constitutional Convention. It has given what other journals say regarding the probable cost of a convention; it has stated what other papers allege—that the corporations of the State are in favor of remodeling the present constitution—an allegation that has no foundation, and one that but few will believe; but in no way or at no time has it expressed opposition to the movement, nor does it expect to.

To the contrary, the WATCHMAN is in favor of a Constitutional Convention. It believes it necessary that there should be one.

It believes that Article V, which fixes the population necessary to constitute a Judicial district at 40,000, should be changed so as to prevent a further increase of Judges and give those we have something to do.

It believes that section seven of Article III should be so modified that country districts could receive some benefit from legislation, and the interests of the people in sparsely settled communities and sections be cared for and protected to the same extent as are the interests of the residents of our large cities and densely populated districts.

It believes that Article VIII should be so altered and amended that such reform in our method of voting and the manner in which the vote is counted and returned, should be made as would secure a secret and fair ballot and an honest return of the result.

It believes that other changes in the fundamental law—possibly not so pressing as those indicated—could be made that would benefit the people and protect the State.

It believes that the Democratic party, through the action of its organizations, and the promises and professions of its speakers and candidates in the campaign of last fall, stands pledged on this question, and believing this, it will, when the time comes, give do the movement in favor of calling a constitutional convention, an honest, open and sincere support, unless the character of the delegates selected to make up that convention are men notoriously unfit to perform the important work expected of such a body.

—The United States are not the only country that is going to celebrate the great discovery of CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS. It is going to be commemorated by a historical exhibition at Madrid in Spain, and by an all-around industrial exhibition at Genoa in Italy. It is highly fitting that the Spaniards and Italian should make these demonstrations, as they were so closely associated with COLUMBUS's great achievement, but the Chicago Exhibition will dwarf every other held in honor of COLUMBUS.

—Nothing could be a better illustration of the utter disregard for facts too often shown in party convention resolutions, than is given in a resolution passed by the Centre county Republican convention this week, which expressed "a sense of the benefits conferred upon the industries of Pennsylvania by the McKinley tariff, and of the great extension of our commerce and the cheapening of prices which have followed the reciprocity system inaugurated by that measure."—The facts are that in no instance have reciprocity arrangements been perfected with any nation to the extent of having any effect whatever at this time, and it is the experience of purchasers that prices have generally been increased since the McKinley bill went into operation.

Quay's Game.

The game which manager QUAY is going to play this year in Pennsylvania is quite transparent. No one with a grain of political sagacity can experience any difficulty in seeing through it. The impression has been created that his candidate for Auditor General was Senator MYLIN, of Lancaster, and for State Treasurer Speaker THOMPSON, of Warren, or Captain JOHN W. MORRISON, of Allegheny. These names have been given out as the choice of the Boss, but later on it is made to appear that he has yielded his determination to rule nominations and will not demand the choice of his favorites. He is not going to interfere, it is said; he will not repeat the dictation of last year; the party will be left free to choose its own ticket; and under such circumstances General GREGG, of Reading, and GILES D. PRICE, of Erie, are announced as likely to go on the ticket free of boss dictation.

This is a cunning game intended to disguise the continued power of QUAY in controlling the party nominations. It is pretty well understood that the choice of GREGG and PRICE will be merely a change of instruments in the hands of the Boss, and is approved by him because it will serve as a means of deceiving the voters who are disposed to rebel against the nomination of open and avowed tools of QUAY, such as MYLIN, THOMPSON or MORRISON are known to be.

In speaking of this deception, a prominent Independent Republican of Philadelphia said some days ago: "It is quite amusing to watch the side shows and plays of Senator QUAY and his friends to mislead the public; and it is almost certain to prove about as successful as the efforts of the ostrich to conceal its body by hiding its head in the sand. The convention to be held at Harrisburg on August 19 will be as completely under QUAY's domination as was the convention last year when DELAMATER was nominated. QUAY himself will be absent, just as he was absent last year; but it will be QUAY's convention, QUAY's Chairman, QUAY's candidates and QUAY's platform. Pains will be taken through the newspapers to conceal the fact; but the outcome will be exactly what QUAY either wishes or approves. It is true he will give the Republican party better men as candidates than under ordinary circumstances. This he will do to increase his chances of retaining his control of the State. If he wins he will be stronger than ever; if he loses he will be broken. QUAY himself appreciates this, and he will give desperate battle with the people to continue the supremacy of Quayism in Pennsylvania."

—At the Maryland State convention at Baltimore the *Sun* polled the delegates on their personal preferences for President, getting the views of 150. CLEVELAND led with 65, while Senator GORMAN showed up with 60, Governor HILL 2, and the remainder undecided and for the party's candidate.

—The free trade idea in Mr. BLAINE's reciprocity policy is working out its results. A commercial treaty has been made with Spain in which the restrictive features of the McKinley tariff are to some extent dropped in the trade intercourse between the islands of Cuba and Porto Rico and the United States, with the undoubted effect of benefiting all parties concerned. For a long time these islands have been afflicted with many of the evils of a high tariff, from which the free trade secured by reciprocity will relieve them.

—Under the new constitution of Mississippi it is requisite to pay a poll tax four months before election day in order to secure a vote. The effect of this provision considerably thins out the list of voters. A great many negroes will not pay this tax, and as a result the voting population of the State show a white majority at about 50,000. This may cause a howl among the bayonet politicians, but the same principle was endorsed in Pennsylvania two years ago when the people determined by an immense majority that those who didn't pay just such a tax should not be allowed to vote. There should be no exception made in favor of the vagabond negroes of the South.

How the Quaker City Goose Has Been Plucked.

City Treasurer WRIGHT, of Philadelphia, continues to make remarkable discoveries. In addition to having discovered that the books of the last half dozen Republican city treasurers are not to be found, he is making some rich finds in the Mercantile Appraisers' department. He has found out that the Appraisers' lists have been enormously padded by putting names on them that should not have been there—the names of persons, many of whom were dead, many bogus, and many others who were not doing business at all, or not enough to warrant their enrollment. Names appear to have been put on the lists merely for the sake of getting the 62½ cents allowed for each name. Last year, after this fee was allowed the thrifty Appraisers, they deliberately set about striking off 10,367 names, which, at 62½ cents a name, afforded a clear steal of \$6476.25. In addition to this "stealage" for the benefit of the Appraisers, the names that had no right to be on the lists—put there merely for profitable padding—were published at a cost of \$1.50 each, giving favored newspapers a share of the swag to the amount of \$15,543. Auditor General McCAMANT denies having got any share of this plunder, but is not sure that some of it may not have been used for political purposes. This thing has been going on for years.

As an illustration of the bogus character of these Appraisers' lists, it appears that after more than 10,000 names had been stricken off there were 6559 left on to be prosecuted as delinquents. The suits were given to city magistrates—ward politicians, no doubt, who had a claim to being greased in the way of fees—and out of these suits but \$2,725.50 was collected at a cost of \$31,194.20. The State was out \$28,467.70 in this one item, but the magistrates were "in it" to that extent. This job was apportioned among nine magistrates; each had 725 cases allotted to him; on an average each collected 27, and after turning over a modicum of costs to the city treasury, each made an average of \$2,245 on the deal. The constables, for serving the writs and exonerations in these cases, received \$20,199.70. They had to have their little "divvy" too, as a reward for political service. In all, Treasurer WRIGHT estimates that \$66,000 of State money was wasted in this way last year. The Treasurer mildly uses the word "wasted" in this connection, but "stolen" is the proper term.

—The Democrats of Maryland held their State convention on Thursday of last week, nominated Frank Brown for Governor, and adopted a platform that lacks directness on the silver question. The nominee is a farmer, and, in all relations, is a man above reproach. Senator GORMAN was endorsed for reelection to that high position, and the enthusiasm the mention of his name evoked is evidence of the strong hold he has on "My Maryland."

Erhardt's Protest.

The spoils system has forced collector ERHARDT out of the New York custom house. He was a good officer, honest and efficient in the discharge of his duty as far as he was allowed to discharge it; but out of regard for his reputation as a public officer he was compelled to resign when he found that his office was controlled by machine politicians in the interest of machine politics, while he was held responsible for its management and for the doings of 1500 employees who were under the control of TOM PLATT, the chief representative and dispenser of the administration patronage in the State of New York. In his letter to the President resigning the office of collector, Mr. ERHARDT says that he cannot consent to occupy an office which he is not allowed to control.

In his eagerness for a re-nomination Mr. HARRISON has forgotten his promise that his administration would be conducted on civil service reform principles, and is using the offices as a means of continuing his official tenure. The New York custom house, the most important and influential official establishment in the country, has been handed over to PLATT to be used instrumentally in making New York solid for HARRISON's re-nomination. ERHARDT's resignation is a protest against such debauchery of the civil service.

Looking After the Stolen Money.

Governor PATTISON, with a solicitude for the interest of the State becoming a careful and honest chief executive, and with the object of getting to the bottom of the Keystone Bank rottenness which has caused the loss of a large amount of money to the State, has written a letter to "Secretary" of the Treasury FOSTER asking for the power of appointing a committee of citizens to examine the books of that bank for the purpose of tracing the State funds deposited therein by BARDSLEY, which has so mysteriously disappeared. The apparent loss to the commonwealth and to the city of Philadelphia is about \$1,500,000, in which loss the State is largely concerned, directly and indirectly.

The affairs of the bank are now in the hands of a receiver and consequently under the jurisdiction of the Treasury department. It will require the consent of the Secretary of the Treasury to enable the Governor to effect the object he proposes in the interest of the plundered State; but if his request is allowed, the committee which he will appoint to examine the books, papers and accounts of the bank relative to the deposits of public money made therein by BARDSLEY, may discover what became of the money thus deposited, and the same be recovered if possible. It is to be hoped that Secretary FOSTER will accede to the Governor's request, so that the stolen State money may be traced, even if the thieves have gotten away with it so completely that it can't be recovered. There will be something gained at least in finding out who the rascals are.

—Since the above was written Secretary FOSTER has given his consent to have the affairs of the bank investigated by a committee, as requested by the Governor.

—Some political observers profess to regard the removal of ERHARDT and the substitution of FASSETT in his place, as collector of New York, as a good piece of strategy, displaying President HARRISON's sagacity as a political manager. They claim that it gives the President a stronger hold on the National Executive committee, and at the same time disconcerts the Blaine faction. Whatever may be its effect in these respects it certainly secures the Tom Platt machine for HARRISON in 1892. It also presents Mr. HARRISON in the light of a high official ready to resort to a low order of politics, and going back on his promise of civil service reform for the purpose of securing a reelection.

He Will Be Surprised.

HON. GEORGE HANDY SMITH, who is now enjoying the pleasures of a European tour, will be surprised to hear a certain item of news from the Keystone State. As chairman of the legislative committee appointed to investigate the management of the State Treasury and the Auditor General's department, he went off to foreign lands when he should have staid at home and called his committee together for business; but at the very time when he thinks that he has succeeded in dodging this unpleasant duty—unpleasant to himself and his party—the Democrats of the committee determine to get together and go on with the investigation. This may be a little irregular, but it seems to be the only thing that can be done under the circumstances in the interest of the plundered people. It will surprise Mr. SMITH when he hears of it in Europe.

He Puts His Foot on It.

State Chairman KERR makes it distinctly understood that under no circumstances will he allow himself to be a candidate for Auditor General in the coming campaign. His name appears to have been brought into prominence in connection with that office without reference to his own wish or interest, to suit a purpose with which he was in no way connected, and he has come to the conclusion that it is about time to stop its being used in that way. He is a candidate for clerk of the House of Representatives, with excellent prospects of an election, and the urging of his nomination for Auditor General was taking liberties with him that he is not willing to tolerate.

Spawls from the Keystone.

—Pottsville brewers have raised the price of beer.

—Horse thieves are stealing the choicest animals at Norristown.

—Lycoming county's tax levy was increased from 4 mills to 5 this year.

—In Reading thirty children under 3 years died during the past week.

—William Funk, a Carlisle contractor, is missing, with about \$4000 debts.

—Mr. and Mrs. John Beigler, of Lancaster celebrated their golden wedding.

—The Potato yield in Northern Berks county will average 125 bushels to the acre.

—Ellen Sawyer, of Bowers' Station, aged fifteen months, ate caustic soda and died.

—Ex-Governor St. John, of Kansas, addressed the temperance people at Mount Gettysburg.

—A big blacksnake was found in a hen's nest by Mrs. George Ruth, of Yellow House.

—Thieves have recently broken into railroad stations at Douglassville and Birdsboro.

—Four deaths from diphtheria have occurred since Saturday on one small street in Scranton.

—The Soldiers' Orphans' Sixteeners will hold a reunion in Reading on August 18, 19 and 20.

—From four and a half acres of small fruit E. C. Brinser, of Middletown, realized \$800 this season.

—A crazy Hun, armed with a big knife, is making life miserable for the people near Hazleton.

—A boiler full of hot coffee scalded to death the 2-year-old baby of James Hoisby, of Philadelphia.

—The new railroad through the breast of the fatal Johnstown dam was opened for business Saturday.

—Oil wells are being sunk in Berks county.

—There are forty-five cases of typhoid fever at Cressona.

—Stuart Wiley, of Lancaster, tried to swim the Conestoga Creek after a wounded bird and was drowned.

—Station Agent Frank Mitchell at Skinner's Eddy has disappeared, leaving his books badly mixed up.

—While in a street car in Reading, Rueben H. Brady, aged 55 years, choked to death from asthmatic coughing.

—Rheumatic cramps attacked Lewis Keefer while at work on a roof in Williamsport, and he fell to the ground.

—A mad bull drove J. M. Bennethum, of Reading, into a tree in a field and kept him there for two hours.

—Edward Martin, one of Pottsville's most competent letter-carriers, has been decapitated for being a Democrat.

—Bowmanite trustees have been sued at Mauch Chunk by the "Antis" to get possession of an Evangelical Church.

—A fallen tree pinned Charles Campbell to the ground on Cedar Run, above Williamsport and dislocated his thigh.

—A woman giving the name of Mrs. Garrigahan was arrested in Tunkhannock, charged with passing a forged check.

—Alfred W. Swartz, salesman for Hantsch & Rhein, cigar manufacturers, was arrested in Reading for embezzling \$300.

—Samuel Schenck, of Princeton, was arrested in Reading for stealing a chest from his grandfather containing \$700.

—The great anthracite furnace at Kutztown, which was wrecked years ago by an explosion, is to be started up again.

—George W. Curran, John Wolf and Dick Russell have been sent to jail at Hazleton for robbing Dodson's clothing store.

—"Death from alcoholism and exposure" was the coroner's verdict in the case of Adam Twarkesky, a Bear Meadow Hun.

—A turkey hen belonging to Monroe Kisting, of Berneville, has adopted 112 young chickens, and leads them to the field daily.

—An amputated leg was the penalty paid by Abner Morgan, of Philadelphia, for a stolen ride on the Lebanon Valley Railroad.

—Falling to kill himself with a suicidal bullet on Wednesday night, John Leisey, of Hinkletown, tried to drown himself.

—A footpad sand-bagged Walter Koller, son of Williamsport's Mayor, while he lay in a hammock, and robbed him of his money.

—Among the old files in Clerk W. H. Sallada's office, at Reading, is the original petition for laying out that town, being signed in 1760.

—Eighteen-year-old John Christian, of Pottsville, fractured his skull in a collision with another young man while playing baseball.

—The Pittston Borough Councils were ordered by the Court to open a certain street, and now the Court has granted an injunction restraining them.

—The skeleton found at Manheim is believed to be that of a driver who disappeared many years ago, having been robbed of a large sum of money.

—Three cows belonging to John F. Mesch, near Pottstown, were driven into an abandoned cellar by an unknown person and nearly died of starvation.

—John Mettenger, an escaped maniac from the Harrisburg Insane Asylum, has caused great alarm at Ashland. He hides in a cave and makes nightly raids on the town.

—The ground around Richardson colliery at Glen Carbon is settling deeper and deeper and cave-ins are frequent. Fears for the whole valley are entertained.

—At Montrose the Grand Jury has found eight bills for embezzlement against Daniel Summers and Tracy Hayden, bankers, who failed and left their depositors to whistle.

—The Newbergers, of New York, stopped with an injunction other Directors of the Pennsylvania, Lehigh and Eastern Railroads, from holding a meeting and voting stock in Wilkesbarre.

—Joseph C. Moritz, an Easton painter, was committed to jail on a serious charge. While intoxicated he attempted to assault an aged lady and drew a revolver on an old man who interfered. He then fired five shots at a party of boys without effect.

—The strike of the Pittsburg bricklayers was three months out Saturday. The bosses are full of fight and determined to refuse the men's terms. President Barnes, of the Builders' exchange, said that \$100,000 would be expended in the future, if necessary, to win the fight.

—In June Lee Babcock's husband was sent to the Norristown jail for three years for horse stealing. The woman after a few weeks' courtship with a lover went to Camden and was married. She did not even go to the trouble of getting a divorce. Now there is trouble.