

Democratic Watchman.

BY P. GRAY MEEK.

Ink Slings.

—Spring is billed for the 21st of March.

—This is St. PATRICK'S day. Are you green enough?

—A patriot indeed is the Democrat who isn't looking for something.

—For the next four years, at least Republicans will have the opportunity of finding the plums that grow on this tree.

—If the Spring continues so backward we will be overwhelmed with poetry, grind organs and circus posters all at once.

—My, oh my, won't some of those old Republican fixtures (?) about the Senate bump when they get their yellow envelopes.

—There is only one class of people who grumble at Democratic government, and that is the one to which the High Sheriffs belong. Good Democratic times make poor business in the Sheriff's office.

—Philadelphia, not satisfied with dog shows, horse shows, chrysanthemum shows, and food shows now proposes holding a candy show. If many young ladies visit it the candy will not have much of a show we fear.

—It is a source of the greatest concern to political gossips to know just what transpired between CLEVELAND and HILL the other day, but in all their talk we'll bet neither one of them confessed that he regretted the past.

—The Building Commission fight is still going on in the Legislature at Harrisburg and if the Commission is abolished a great many Republican lieutenants in the Quaker City will lose their commissions also.

—Slang has it that there are "hatchet faced" individuals and there are "chicken faced" individuals, and verily we believe, if for we see a composite photo of both in many of the ministerial physiognomies that are now in Bellefonte.

—Poor France—Internal dissension, scandal and state enemies have shaken the very foundations of her Republican institutions. It is not her form of government that has caused her demoralization. It is her impulsive, unthinking people.

—There is no use beating around the bush about it the WATCHMAN frankly tells the five thousand fourth-class postmasters who have sent in their resignations to Mr. BISSELL that their lately conceived idea that they are no longer needed does them credit.

—With ten thousand people in the city of Washington, alone, suffering from disease brought on by exposure at the Inauguration it would not take long to thin our population down to any desired figure if the same percentage of fatalities results. All we would need, would be to have the clerk of the weather play his cards into the undertaker's hands.

—A report from the Philadelphia mint, is to the effect that there is stored in its vaults bullion amounting, in value, to \$150,000,000 added to which there is \$50,000,000 in minted silver there for safe keeping. In face of all the public theivery, which has included everything from public funds to ballot boxes, in that city it is a question whether such an immense amount of silver is safe down there.

—The contemplated iron ore trust, which had about formed in the Lake Superior region to deprive the consumers of the benefit which will necessarily arise from the recent ore finds, has already met its champion in Democracy. It was the intention of the Democracy to keep the prices of ore up and pocket the difference in mining, but Democratic legislation, in the prospect of putting iron ore on the free list, has snipped their flower in the bud.

—Governor PATTERSON might call the attention of the Legislature to the fact that this great commonwealth has but one representative in the upper house of Congress. A successor to Mr. QUAY should be elected. His name is not on the Senate roster and as he prefers having a good time in Florida to serving in the office he had himself elected to, his party should take prompt action on his apparent resignation.

—The scare that newspaper men were not to be favored with public offices under the present administration turned out to be only a scare, and now everyone is looking for the source whence such buncombe emanated. Surely there is not one class of men who labor more zealously for party success than the editors of party organs and if they were to be denied office, simply because they would be therefore under particular obligations to the administration conferring them, we would like to know, if every other good Democrat would not find himself in the same position. A Democratic paper will be Democratic, whether in or out, and knows but one ambition and that, party success.

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Postmaster General Bissell's Policy.

The Postmaster General's announcement that he is not disposed to give the post-offices to business men will meet the approval of those who look at the official questions in the right light. The reason assigned for this conclusion is that, as a rule, when a business man is appointed to a post-office, or any other office, for that matter, he delegates some irresponsible, and often incompetent deputy or clerk, to perform the duties. It is natural that this should be so, for his business will not allow him to give personal attention to the office. A business man has enough to employ his attention in attending to his business. If his attention is divided between an office and his business one or the other is neglected, and it is usually the office that suffers.

Some of the most indifferent officeholders that can be found in the civil service are business men whose appointment to official positions is enmeshed to be so elevating and beneficial to the service, while, the most vigilant, painstaking and efficient incumbents belong to the class of party workers who have been given office as a reward for political service. Take the Philadelphia post-office as an illustration. The appointment of WILLIAM F. HARRITY to the postmastership in that city, in the first CLEVELAND administration, was a reward for party work and it could be considered in every sense a political appointment. The city never had a better postmaster. He gave the office his personal attention and its business was conducted carefully and with a thorough regard to the public accommodation and benefit. As a politician it was Mr. HARRITY's ambition to make a high official record for himself, and to reflect credit upon the party that put him in office. On the other hand, the great business man, JOHN FIELD, is now postmaster of Philadelphia and there has been continual complaint of neglect, bad management, and indifference to public accommodation, since he has been at the head of that office. Mr. FIELD has so much business of his own that he cannot give his undivided attention to the business of his office, and consequently has handed it over to his subordinates.

Postmaster General Bissell's decision should explode the nonsensical idea that business men are fitter for official stations than politicians. Usually the party worker is the fittest man to hold an office. He has time to attend to his duties and an incentive to perform them well, for his own reputation and for the credit of his party. The fact that he takes an interest in politics shows that he is a public spirited man, for what is politics but the management of public affairs without which government could not go on? That he is not as honest, and as competent for official duty, as the average business man, is a delusive idea entertained by high-flying theorists.

A Plea for the Keeley Institute.

The rapidly increasing number of institutions which Mr. KEELEY has been establishing in the cities of the United States has brought forth considerable comment on the prospective future of his work as evidenced by the effect the bichloride of gold cure for intemperance has had on those who have already taken it. The pessimist calls it a "fake," the rival specialist calls it the money making scheme of a quack and the friends of the habitual drunkard, who has gone back to drink after a KEELEY course, vents their disgust in abuse of the man who compounded the anti-drink mixture.

The institutes have been administering the gold cure for four years now, and in that time eighty-six thousand people have taken it. Of this great army, afflicted with the terrible curse, but five per cent. has relapsed to the habit. And when we remember the many stages of the patient and the comparative age of the treatment this showing seems wonderful. The most sanguine can not expect perfection in such a short time. Experience alone will bring that success which Mr. KEELEY is laboring so zealously to obtain. Even should he discover improvements for his method of treatment it is not at all probable that the percentage will be perceptibly lowered, for five per cent. of failures is as low as skeptics should demand.

Why do people condemn the treatment in the face of its apparent success? Think of nearly eighty-two thousand persons cured of the awful habit of using opiates and liquors; think of the happiness brought back to homes which have been desolate for years; think of the wives' children's, mothers' fathers' hearts gladdened at the sight of the loved ones reclaimed; think of the welfare of communities and the country and revise your opinion of the KEELEY institutes.

The injury that has been done them thus far can, nearly all of it, be traced to those miserable wretches who have no principles and no mind, who took the cure merely to blot themselves with the "surfeit" rum which it allows and then to condemn it because of their mental and moral idiocy.

In upholding the treatment a graduate recently said: "KEELEY can't remove mountains, nor can he put principles in men. Why bless your dear, pious soul didn't one of the apostles betray his Lord? You would not, therefore, say there was no efficacy in the religion of the Bible, would you? But this degenerate was one in twelve, while the KEELEY retrogrades are but one in twenty. There was one commendable thing about Judas, however; he went and hanged himself and that's what our back sliders ought to do also. Their friends would then be relieved of a burden and their community would suffer no loss."

There is far more truth in this expression than we care to acknowledge, but before we condemn Mr. KEELEY and his gold cure it might be well to give him a fair chance. What matters it what the cost may have been if one soul is saved from a drunkard's grave?

Republicanism, What Art Thou Coming to?

No one has cared to deny that corruption has been the sole means by which the Republican party has been held together for years, but it has remained for the past week to disclose the most monstrous rottenness in government that has ever disgraced a free people. This last monstrous proceeding, by which all former arbitrary actions which have characterized that party ever since its organization pale into insignificance, is one of the most damnable and altogether disreputable undertakings in its history.

In order to steal a constitutional majority in the State Legislature they have traduced the will of the people of Westmoreland county, of Crawford county and are now going to try the notorious work in Lancaster and Montgomery counties, where they will unseat Democratic members of the Legislature and put in enough Republicans to give them a two-thirds majority with which to pass their bills over the Governor's veto.

The United States Treasury, the one man Legislature, and the stolen Philadelphia ballot boxes are but naught in comparison to this last crowning insult to the people of the commonwealth.

Fearing that the Governor would not sign their bill to gerrymander the State apportionments as suits their purposes they have effectually dislodged his prerogative and perverted the wishes of the people. Not content with unseating Messrs. WAUGHMAN and BARNHART, of Westmoreland, they have infamously disgraced the State by giving ANDREWS, of Crawford, a seat in the Legislature to which he is no more entitled than a Fiji Islander. Then they propose extending their manipulations into Lancaster and Montgomery counties where they have two puppets who are willing to impose themselves on the people through the chicanery of a disreputable organization.

What the end of the whole thing will be is a query, but it is evidently the last kick of a dying party, for surely the people of Pennsylvania will not countenance such proceedings. It is time to stop such high handed work and the way to put an end to it forever is to quench the party that has given it birth.

—The determination of the Reading to pay only five per cent. to stockholders of the Lehigh Valley, unless the latter railroad earns a larger dividend will materially improve the condition of the insolvent road.

The Disposition of the Offices.

It cannot be doubted that under the present administration there will be a fair and equitable disposition of the offices among those who are entitled to them under a Democratic President. There is necessarily some delay at the beginning of the term when so many things have to be considered and adjusted, and so many conflicting claims have to be compromised. An obstacle to immediate changes is presented in certain civil service rules which have come to be recognized as part of the law, and which cannot be disregarded. Many of the appointive offices have fixed terms attached to them and they must be allowed to run their full term unless causes affecting the integrity or fitness of incumbents may justify earlier removal. This rule, grafted on the civil service law within the past decade, affects all the important appointments, outside of cabinet officers, and accounts for officials of opposite politics to an administration holding their tenure over into the term of that administration. Many of the appointees of CLEVELAND's first term held over for a considerable length of time in the succeeding HARRISON administration, which, consequently throws the tenure of their Republican successors into the present CLEVELAND administration. The rule if observed makes this unavoidable.

The situation is now quite different from what it was under the old civil service regulations, when the end of an administration ended the terms of all officers holding places ended that administration, and there was a regular turning out of all who were not in accord with the policy of the incoming power. After all, it strikes us that it was about the fairest and most satisfactory arrangement, and it cannot be shown that under it the official duties were not as well performed as they now are under the more fine spun civil service theories. But new rules, backed by law, are in existence, and as they must be observed it is unreasonable to be dissatisfied with the slower movements in making official changes.

The Course Defined.

The course which President CLEVELAND intends to pursue in regard to the federal appointments is now clearly understood. Of course a great pressure has been brought to bear upon him, and there is a great concourse of office-seekers at the national capital, but it is not greater, nor is it as greedy as the horde that beset HARRISON four years ago to get back into the places of which they had had the exclusive enjoyment for a quarter of a century.

Mr. CLEVELAND is candid in letting the applicants for office understand what they have to expect. There is nothing in his expression that is to be understood that the places will not be filled by Democrats, but it is evident that present incumbents will be allowed to fill out their full terms, unless there is cause for their removal, an observance of the civil service rules which will cause delay in making the changes which Democrats have a right to expect, and which should take place under a Democratic administration.

But it is reported as the determination of the President not to favor with re-appointments those who had the benefit of the offices under his first administration. If the President is reported correctly there is to be a new deal in the giving out of the offices. There may be exceptions in cases of persons of eminent ability, whose service to the government is desirable, but as a rule there is fairness and justness in the President's determination not to heap favors on the same set of men. Such favoritism tends to create dissatisfaction, and it moreover has a tendency to build up an office-holding class, which is objectionable under a popular form of government.

—Among the bills lately introduced in the Legislature none will meet with the heartier approval of the mercantile classes throughout the State than the one presented the other day by Senator BROWN and Representative DUBBS. If it should become a law all the selling, hawking or peddling of merchandise over the country by peddlers without a license would at once be stopped and the farming classes thus relieved of an interminable nuisance and the regular merchants of a horde of irresponsible trade killers.

The Conditions are Different Now, You Know.

From The Philadelphia Evening Telegraph. It has been said that Judge Gresham is in favor of the annexation of Hawaii, and that he expressed the hope that the Senate would ratify the treaty negotiated by President Harrison. If this is true of the Judge in his capacity of a private citizen he does not seem disposed to commit himself to the same position in his capacity as Secretary of State. In an interview with the Sandwich Island Commissioners yesterday, he was, if correctly reported, anything but enthusiastic in favor of annexation. He distinctly told the Commissioners that this matter was one to be thought over with deliberation, and so far from being ready to ratify the treaty, even if it had not been already withdrawn, he considered that the first requirement on the part of our Government was to know more about the business than we now know. That is to say, in the opinion of the Secretary of State, the ratification of the treaty placed before the Senate would have been premature. We are not ready for annexation as yet, and do not propose to make up our minds on the subject until we learn more about it. There is no occasion for haste. We can well afford to act deliberately; and as to the Hawaiians—well, they must practice the virtue of patience.

The Dress Suits the Woman.

From The Philadelphia Times. The fashion of women's dress, with its constant changes and the frequent recurrence to former types, cannot be entirely accidental or capricious. It always bears some relation, however obscure, to social conditions and ideals. It is easy to trace, for example, the imitation of classical forms out of which developed the gowns of the Empire, and the change from these to the fashions of the restoration and the Romantic period, which are more nearly the model of what are commonly called "Empire gowns" to day. Upon these, with their puffed sleeves and full skirts, came the lace and flounces of the middle of the century, and the growing fulness of the skirts, that went along with growing luxuriance of life, brought about in time the crinoline and hoops of the second Empire. Then came the "defiance," the gradual simplification of costume and again its gradual decoration and the revival of the fashions of the earlier half of the century. Apparently a point has now been reached when crinoline is coming into use again, and there is a kind of panic lest hoops shall follow.

No one to Win it Now.

From The Williamsport Times. There is a custom in France of awarding prizes by the government as "rewards of goodness." These prizes go as near as can be ascertained to those most deserving of such recognition. As an evidence of faithful distribution, the report shows that seventy-two out of eighty-four go to women most of them poor, struggling daughters who have added to their own burdens the care of helpless parents, brothers or others near of kin. Could not such a custom be adopted with good results in other countries? France shows in this friendship for the poor and tried.

Editor Magee Evidently Isn't After an Office.

From The Perry County Democrat. That President Cleveland is one of the most prudent men that ever ran for and was elected to a high office in this Republic is clearly demonstrated by the withholding of his estimate of the value of the political services of editors until after he was nominated, elected and inaugurated President of the United States.

All in the Fold.

From The York Gazette. The Hon. David Bennett Hill has called upon President Cleveland. The senator doubtless did not care to be the only Democrat not satisfied with Cleveland's election, and he promptly gets into line.

We guess the Democratic party is together now.

Right in His Line of Business.

From The Westmoreland Democrat. No fear need be entertained that Secretary Gresham will not oust Republicans from office. He did all in his power to aid in jolting Harrison out, and it will be a real pleasure for the Secretary to also bounce Benjamin's friends and appointees.

We Don't Want the Old Coats It's the Office We Want.

From The Conestoga Courier. The Pennsylvania politicians who are casting lots for the raiment of Republican office-holders in this State, should not entirely lose sight of the fact that they are only clerks in the clothing shop, and that Grover is the head of the firm.

The Heads Will Fly.

From The Philadelphia Evening Herald. There is every reason to believe that Maxwell will handle the axe well.

Spawls from the Keystone.

—Lancaster tobacco growers complain of a dull market.

—Lancaster is suffering from an epidemic of diphtheria.

—By falling down an elevator shaft at Bethlehem, Jacob Schwerin lost his life.

—A charter was issued Friday to the Pittsburg Trust Company, capital \$50,000.

—An order was given on Friday in Reading to vaccinate every pupil of the public schools.

—Things are so slow in Pittsburg that a prisoner, J. P. Fix, was taken to jail in a hearse.

—The alleged Leechburg bank robbers, now in Kittanning jail, were tried on Wednesday.

—Mayor elect John B. Hinkson, of Chester Saturday appointed J. R. Bagshaw Chief of Police.

—Edward Brennan, Shamokin, was Friday appointed mine inspector of the anthracite district.

—At a public sale in Reading, C. S. Frame's effects, 100,000 cigars were knocked down for \$22,000.

—Over 25,000 acres of woodland were sold by the Economites to Wheeler & Dusenbury, Oil City.

—E. W. Clark & Co., of Philadelphia, are behind the big Traction Railway movement in Reading.

—The headless body of Terrence McCarthy was found alongside the railroad track at Wyoming.

—The fruit crop in the State will be big, say the farmers in their reports to Cyrus T. Fox of Reading.

—About \$100 worth of stamps were stolen from the Mt. Wolf, York County, post office, Monday night.

—A technical error in letting a sewer contract cost East End property owners in Pittsburg about \$50,000.

—Fatal injuries were sustained by Mrs. Alexander Baxter, of Bradport, by falling 50 feet from a bridge.

—The Pottsville Water Company will rebuild their large reservoir above St. Clair, which burnt last June.

—A coroner's jury decided that J. M. Hill killed his companion, Mrs. Rosa Rotler, in an Allegheny City park.

—For falsely causing the arrest of Jacob Snyder, Reuben Shultz, Lancaster, has been sued for \$3000 damages.

—Scarlet fever in the Pottsville Children's Home has carried off little Dollie Rich, and another child is dangerously low.

—Accused of having robbed Harry Smee's store, William Wentzel, his wife and daughter were arrested near Reading Saturday.

—Four widows of miners drowned in the Lytle colliery at Primrose last April have sued the company for \$10,000 damages.

—A mammoth engine, weighing 150 tons will be put in one of the Philadelphia and Reading company's mines at Pottsville.

—The largest run of coal in the Reading Railroad Company's history, 67 trains, has just been hauled from the Gordon Plane.

—A barrette for the Amphitrite weighing 75 tons and worth \$30,000 was shipped from the Bethlehem Iron Works Friday to Norfolk.

—The Blair County Agriculture Society held an important meeting Saturday at Hollidaysburg, and elected T. J. Ross president.

—It has developed that Professor Stephenson, who recently fled from Williamsport, forged the names of several people on notes.

—The Bartram family, of Delaware county, arranged Saturday for a reunion of the descendants of the great botanist, John Bartram.

—Conductor William Rath, at Easton, of the New Jersey Central Railroad, stepped from his train in frost of another, and had both legs cut off.

—In trying to dig out an ice jam in Chapman's Quarry mill race at Bethlehem, Charles A. Camp was overcome by the flood and perished.

—The street car company in Williamsport has discovered that its conductors have collected a number of counterfeit nickels and quarters.

—Berks County Democrats will hold their convention June 6, and none but delegates and reporters will be allowed in the convention hall.

—Three robbers bound and gagged the watchman of the Hackett Coke Company's store at Pottsville, Washington County, and stole \$200.

—Charles Welderhold, of Pottsville, who was robbed of \$200 at the inauguration, has identified the pickpocket at Wilmington, Del., and recovered all but \$1.

—Captain Pharoas Brubaker, who was imprisoned in Honduras, has notified his brother at Lime Rock, Lancaster County, that he is free and on his way home.

—There is a lively railway scrimmage in Harrisburg, where the Philadelphia and Reading is trying to prevent the Citizens' Electric Railway from crossing its tracks.

—William H. Cuthforth, of Edlystone, has entered suit against the Pennsylvania Railroad for damages for injuries received at the Chester station about six weeks ago.

—The People's Party Executive Committee will, on March 22, at Franklin, fix a day for the State Convention, when Congressman J. C. Sibley will be nominated for Governor.

—"Uncle" John Casson, of Bedford, says that from thirty to forty Republicans will join him in voting against the seating of William Andrews in the lower house of the legislature.

—Ande Ferdinand, a laborer on the Frankford branch of the Reading Railroad, was stabbed in the breast early Monday morning by a fellow workman during a quarrel over some food.

—Little Mamie Ramsey, daughter of Samuel Ramsey, Hatfield, Montgomery County, died suddenly, but the coroner Friday found that her death had resulted from a natural cause.

—Dispatcher John R. Murr was placed on trial, at Norristown, Monday morning on the charge of having caused the recent Rose Glen disaster on the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad.

—Alexander Maxwell, of Shamokin, who was injured, together with a number of young ladies last October by a Reading freight train colliding with his carriage, instituted suit against the Reading Company Monday for \$10,000 damages.

—Celia Cavenaugh, the young colored girl who abandoned her infant in the snow at Swarthmore a few weeks ago, pleaded guilty to the charge of manslaughter Monday in Judge Clayton's court at Media, and was sentenced to two years in the County Prison.