

Ink Slings.

—Is man mortal when he makes an ass of himself?

—Surely no one can say that as a topic of conversation the weather has been a very dry subject for the past few days.

—The Columbian souvenir half-dollars will soon be ornamenting children's ready made clothing if they continue depreciating in value.

—Next Tuesday will be the Glorious Fourth. It seems a strange coincidence that fourth and full should both begin with the same letter.

—If it were not for the choir there would be very little fire in church organizations, other than the flames which the devil usually shoots in.

—Only sixteen days of the trout fishing season remains. They are fraught with glorious possibilities for those who want to try the elasticity of our language.

—Governor ATGELD, of Illinois, says it would take a Chicago newspaper man three weeks to cut through his hide with an ax. Such a confession explains all.

—There are supposed to be two days in every year when one is excusable for getting drunk, Fourth of July and New Year's. Some people don't adhere very strictly to the rule.

—Gen. J. P. S. GOBIN, the Lebanon Senator, politician and great man, will be hunting his hole when he sees how nicely he was bounced out of his seat in the World's Fair commission.

—The colt, Boundless, which won the American Derby race in Chicago, on Saturday, won \$50,000 for its owner. Horse racing must be better than banking in the Windy city just now.

—It is rumored that PECK has gone to Europe to gather labor statistics for the next campaign. If he catches the cholera his trip won't have been considered fruitless by his own managers.

—The Georgia editor who is building a lecture on "Never take the Cork-screw from its Case," from which he expects to grow famous, no doubt has conceived the idea that the cork-screw should never have a case.

—The awful calamity which befell the English navy last week, when the Victoria was sunk off Tripoli and carried over three hundred and sixty souls to the bottom of the Mediterranean with her, is looked upon with sorrow by every civilized nation.

—"Everything goes at the summer resorts," but nothing with the same rapidity as the editor's nickels. This bit of information was picked up at Atlantic City last week when the State editors were there and compelled to quench their own thirst.

—LIZZIE BORDEN'S mails are said to be enormous. Congratulations, suggestions for the future and offers of marriage all pour in on her daily, but LIZZIE would be a big fool to share her glory (?) with any of the fools who thus foolishly offer to marry her.

—China has prohibited the sale of American oil in retaliation for the GEARY act. It is really too bad that the pig tails have taken oil as their first step against us, because, with it ruled out, we will have nothing to pour on the troubled waters of the Chinese.

—The determination of India to suspend the free coinage of silver has created considerable excitement in this country, but it is not likely that it will affect the sixty cent dollar, as some people ironically call them, for which we give a hundred cents worth of labor.

—It is now assured that the German army bill will have a majority at the coming session of the Reichstag. Emperor WILLIAM will come out on top after all, though it was at first thought that the Germans would have the courage to rebuke his domineering course.

—It must surely have been his conception of the eternal fitness of things that prompted the editor of the Magnet to make an onslaught on the poor man's cow last week. We were in ignorance, however, that the temperance organ intended excluding milk as a beverage.

—With the Republican State Convention in August and the Democratic convention not until September the campaign will be an unusually short one. Political managers have thus unwittingly done much for the improvement of State morals. The shorter the fight the less the lying.

—PECK, the Rhode Island veteran who is drawing a pension of four dollars per month because of baldness, has put a very low price on his bravery. It is quite evident if he has no scars the only way he could have lost his hair was that it dropped out from fright. Uncle SAM can surely afford to pay that pension simply for the sake of knowing what a coward this man PECK must have been

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Practical Pension Reform.

When General GARFIELD, in a speech in the House of Representatives in 1883, said that the pension expenditures, which were then less than \$30,000,000 per annum, were "swollen beyond all account," and that "more frauds were being perpetrated on the government by claim agents in different portions of the country than from almost any other single source," he had at that time no conception of what those frauds would amount to when the annual pension expenditure should be swollen to \$180,000,000 which was the amount in RAUM's last year, nor could he foresee the extent to which they would assist in swelling that vast expense.

A Democratic administration is now engaged in exposing this unlimited source of corrupt expenditures. The investigations that are being made by Pension Commissioner LOCHRES, illustrates the urgent necessity for pension reform, and vindicates the position taken by President CLEVELAND against the government being robbed by as rascally a set of claim agents as ever plundered a treasury. The process of exposure and correction will be necessarily slow, but it will be thorough, as it is intended to examine and revise the entire pension lists and drop those who have been dishonestly placed upon what should be a roll of honor.

As an illustration of the character of this work now in progress, we need but allude to the discoveries of frauds perpetrated in the obtaining of pensions by DRURY, the Norfolk pension attorney. The crookedness practiced in that district was so glaring as to immediately force itself upon the attention of Commissioner LOCHRES, prompting him to enter into a course of investigation which has uncovered an alarming amount of fraud. Out of 214 cases which DRURY had succeeded in having granted by the Pension Department, but three turn out to have been valid, the balance having been obtained by misrepresentation and perjured testimony, and therefore have been stricken from the roll. Fifteen arrests have been made in connection with these frauds, and before the investigation is concluded it is expected, that at least twenty more will be made. The amount of dishonest claims immediately stopped by these proceedings reach \$100,000, and it is estimated that by the overhauling of the lists in the Norfolk districts, which DRURY and his assistants have been padding with fraudulent pensions, \$600,000 will be saved to the government.

Commissioner RAUM evidently knew, or should have known that these frauds were being practiced. His attention was called to them, and out of the whole corrupt list he consented to strike off four. When complaints were made against DRURY's proceedings, RAUM allowed him to turn his business over to another person who continued it with DRURY's assistance. The most scandalous thing connected with this affair is that when DRURY, some three or four years ago, was convicted of procuring pensions by fraud, he was pardoned by President HARRISON and allowed to resume his plundering operations. The Democratic administration has undertaken a stupendous task in cleansing the Augean stable of pension corruption. It can be done only by a thorough revision of the lists, and striking from the lists those who have no right to be there, and whose presence there is an insult and injury to worthy pensioners. Of 1000 names, subjected to the examiners in Washington last week, it is said 25 per cent will be dropped on account of being fraudulently, or in other respects improperly pensioned under the Disability act of 1890. The work of overhauling has commenced in Philadelphia and between 50 and 60 improper pensions have been so far suspended, and reports from other districts show a similar proportion of suspensions. It is believed that the pensions of at least 150,000 persons granted under RAUM's order No. 164, by which he took upon himself to re-rate and increase the payment without authority of law, will either be stopped or reduced. There is no exaggeration in the belief that at least one-third of the immense pension expenditures represents that much theft, and a stop must be put to this source of plunder.

Under a Democratic administration

pension reform will go hand in hand with the reform of other abuses in the government.

Death of Hon. William Mutchler.

The Democratic as well as the general public interests of Pennsylvania have sustained a great loss in the death of William MUTCHLER, congressman from the Eighth District, which occurred suddenly at his home in Easton last Friday. The deceased had been prominent in political and public affairs for many years, serving the people in various official stations, and giving the advantage of his counsel and experience to the political party with which he has been so long and honorably connected.

Mr. MUTCHLER, both in conviction and in practice, was a Democrat of the truest type. He originated from that Democratic element which is so strong in the district represented by him in Congress, and of whose Democracy he was a worthy and trusted leader. He entered its ranks while still a youth, and in early manhood was entrusted with positions of responsibility. Before he was thirty he was placed in the important offices of Deputy Sheriff and Prothonotary by the Democrats of his county, soon followed by the responsible duties of Collector of Internal Revenue, and such were the efficiency and fidelity with which these trusts were performed, and the confidence in which he was held by his party, that they called him to the higher duty of representing them in the national House of Representatives, a position to which he was elected for four terms, serving in that capacity at the time of his lamented death. This confidence in him was not limited to the Democrats of his district, for the Democracy of the State evinced their appreciation of his ability and trustworthiness when they called him to the chairmanship of the State Committee, and for years he was a leader in their councils and political movements.

When such a public character is removed from the scene of his activity, it constitutes a loss that is not easily repaired. His service will be missed not only by his party and his immediate constituents, but by the people of the State at large, for it cannot be controverted that he who faithfully and efficiently performs his duty to Democratic principles amply fills the measure of his duty to the public interest. Mr. MUTCHLER served his State and country by serving the Democratic party.

The Drill Iron Market.

The depressed condition of the iron business at present presages a gloomy winter trade. Every day large furnaces throughout the country are being blown out not alone on account of low prices, but for lack of orders, or prospects of an early revival of business into which this article enters.

It has been said that prices will advance after July 1st, but the mere statement carries no assurance of the fact, consequently iron manufacturers everywhere are working off their reserve stock in preference to piling up more for a market which they have little hope of finding soon.

The iron business is not alone, however, for a general depression exists in all branches of trade. Manufacturers are working short, fearful to branch out under the unfavorable conditions which overshadow the markets everywhere. Just when there will be a break is hard to tell, but for the good of the country we hope the optimistic view of the situation will obtain and better prices will rule with the beginning of next month.

While we are getting in our work on the "heathen Chinese," along the Pacific coast, his ancestors and family who worship at the shrine of Joss are squaring the account by crucifying our missionaries and making it uncomfortably warm for others of our people who have business in the land of the pig-tail. Possibly the sensible thing for us to do, would be to re-consider some of our ideas on the subject of Chinese exclusion, or write farewell letters to those of our friends who are engaged in skinning, or eating, the wooden-shod subjects of the Chinese Empire.

Unreliable Battleships.

The terrible calamity that befell the English warship Victoria last week in the Mediterranean, by which one of the most powerful vessels of the British navy was sent to irretrievable destruction, may be justly placed among the most appalling disasters in naval history. The horror of this occurrence is not merely confined to the loss of life, which in itself is a frightful feature, but it is increased by the fact that a nation which depends so much upon its navy for its defence, has been made to see that its great armored ships, built at such vast expense, are not reliable, they being in danger of being sent to the bottom by merely coming in contact with each other. How therefore can they be expected to stand the methods of attack that will be employed against them in actual warfare? No wonder that Britannia has been thrown into consternation by this fatal accident to one of her greatest battleships, and particularly by the way it was brought about. Having discarded her old naval system of wooden vessels, which in past times served so well for her defence, she has substituted steel ships of modern pattern, adding one monster after another to her navy until she thought she stood pre-eminent among the naval powers. But her operation in this line proves to be merely an experiment, for there has been no test of what these ships, burdened with their weight of armor and overlaid with huge cannon, will be able to do in actual warfare, or what reliance may be placed in them when subjected to the rough usages of battle. It is seen, however, that they carry such an element of danger in their construction, that when coming in collision in peaceful manoeuvres they are liable to send each other to the bottom. What would be their fate if rammed by an enemy in a hostile encounter?

The incident of the destruction of the Victoria leads to the alarming apprehension that the new war vessels built with so much expense may prove to be useless for practical warfare, and may compel an entirely new system of naval construction. It is easy to see what a plight England must be placed in by such a contingency. She would at once be dethroned from the prominence of her naval supremacy, and would be no stronger than the nation that would provide itself with an outfit of vessels of small size, but with sufficient ramming capacity to stove in the sides of her metallic monsters, as iron pots may be smashed with a sledge hammer.

Admiral AMEXEN, of the United States Navy, has all along maintained that the system of constructing metallic warships of the character now in vogue is defective, its only effect being to furnish the nations with unwieldy and vulnerable hulks that may be easily destroyed by floating rams propelled by steam, and entirely devoid of heavy ordnance. At his instance the United States government has built a vessel of the ram variety, the Katabdin, and his proposition may solve the solution of coast and harbor defence, without incurring the vast expense of building huge steel clad battleships, whose efficacy in encounter of battle is entirely unreliable when it is seen that they are in danger of sinking each other by collision in ordinary naval manoeuvres.

The Philadelphia papers are just now trying to persuade the people of the Quaker city that the city itself should step in and help support the Zoological gardens from its plethoric purse. Since the Zoo won't pay its own expenses it must be considered a white elephant on the hands of a private concern, but certainly one which Philadelphia would find profit in maintaining, if for no other purpose than to afford an opportunity for practical study in natural history for her school children.

It might be the proper policy for comptroller ECKLES to hurry up his appointments of bank examiners and get some fellows into these positions who would know the condition of the banks, they are supposed to have supervision over before they break. The present lot of examiners don't seem to find out anything until after the bank closes, and then about all they know is what everybody else understands, and that is that it is "busted."

The Happy Negro of Georgia.

From the Atlanta Constitution. In the South there is no longer a race problem. The negro has settled down contentedly in a sphere that stills him, and no complaint is heard. As we write the negro teachers are holding a convention here, reading papers on "Discipline in Primary Schools," "Phonetics," and "Industrial Education," and delivering addresses on "The Georgia Negro as an Author," "The Georgia Negro in Journalism," and "The Georgia Negro as a Poet." The Negro Press Association is also in session, and the members have endorsed the course of Governor Northen the Constitution, and other leading Southern newspapers toward their race, and have passed a resolution favoring the use of the word "negro" instead of any other term to describe their people.

Silence the Calamity Howlers.

From the Memphis Commercial. There are wrongs to be righted by legislation and dangers to be removed, but a great deal of the financial stringency and alarm which created it was purely fictitious. The conditions are all favorable for a prosperous era. If the fellows who are now engaged in ringing alarm bells and howling out doleful prophecies don't scare the people into a panic there will be no panic and no serious trouble. The chances are that they will not be able to do anything of the kind. The people are ready to throw boojicks and things at these disturbers of their peace. The people have not only recovered from their temporary fright, but they are mad at the fellows who tried to scare them. The worst has passed and the future is all right.

We'll Bet She Wished She Was Single Again.

From the Philadelphia Record. The Infanta in a farewell letter to Senor Cuyas says "It would require more than Longfellow's thorough knowledge of English, Dapew's imagination and Mary Anderson's sentimentality of expression to express all the feelings which I entertain for this country." The tribute to Mr. Dapew's imagination is all the more flattering when it is remembered that it was worked unusually hard for facts in the late canvass, and was therefore, not at its very best estate when Princess Eulalia called.

Political Services Splendidly Rewarded.

From the Omaha World-Herald. CLAY CENTRE, Neb. June 17.—(To the Editor of the World Herald)—Has Col. Frank P. Ireland been appointed to any office or received any recognition for his splendid efforts for Democracy in the last campaign? P. M. D. Col. Ireland has neither received nor asked for an appointment. It was Mrs. Cleveland herself who said that if Col. Ireland was a fair sample of the Nebraska citizen "Nebraska should be as proud of her gentlemen as of her corn." This is enough for any ordinary man, and Col. Ireland is not at all inclined to be hoggish.

Misfit Professions.

From the San Antonio Express. Mistaken ambition is spoiling too many good ditchers and delvers to make poor politicians and professional men. It is putting too many in the pulpit who could serve the Lord much better planting the mild-eyed potato or harvesting the useful hoop pole. It is causing too many young ladies to rush into literature instead of the laundry, to become "poets of passion" instead of authors of pie.

They Dread the Result.

From the Louisville Courier-Journal. From the frantic vituperation and vicious lies which the Republican organs of New York city are heaping upon the men who are investigating the administration of the New York Custom House it would appear that there is a discommoding suspicion thereabouts that the investigation is going to amount to something.

Old Times and The New.

From the Larned, Kansas, Eagle-Optic. Simon Cameron prophesied in 1834 that the child was born who would be able to breakfast in Harrisburg and take supper in Philadelphia and his prediction was considered a good subject for railway. But a person can travel five times faster now than Mr. Cameron dared prophesy.

Some are Born Lucky.

From the Butler Herald. Last week an embezzler was convicted in Rome and sentenced to six years and eight months imprisonment. No, it was the embezzler's cashier that got that sentence. The boss in the transaction got ten years. If Mr. Delamater were a Roman, ? ? ? ?

Words for the Money Lender.

From the Marietta, Ga., Journal. Don't crowd any creditor during this money stringency. Help him to tide over all embarrassments until the congested money in centers of trade begins to flow out for the crops yet to be made.

Spawls from the Keystone.

—The eagle screamed at Reading, July 4.
—An escaped circus lion is killing cattle in Fayette County.
—A Pittsburg infant has been named after Princess Eulalia.

—Coal mining operations in the Clearfield district are slow.
—A \$12,000 statue of Asa Packer will adorn the Lehigh University campus.

—Sickness induced James Turby, near Bloomsburg, to hang himself.
—A runaway mine wagon crushed to death Thomas Williams of Mt. Carmel.

—Six-year-old Frank Ludwig, of Allegheny City, was gored to death by a cow.
—Walter Grove, the young Bristol cornetist, fell from a cherry tree and may die.

—Calvary Episcopal Church, at Rockdale celebrated its 60th birthday anniversary.
—8200 people asked to be permitted to see Pietro Bucciari, hanged yesterday in Reading.

—Mrs. John Schwartz was burned to death while lighting a fire in Lancaster with kerosene.
—Sanatoga, near Pottstown, has been selected as the camp ground for the Sixth Regiment.

—Little Ralph Huber tumbled into the Schuikill River at Reading and was taken out a corpse.
—Congressman Marriot Brosius, of Lancaster, was made a Doctor of Laws by Ursinus College.

—Northampton County lawyers adopted an eulogistic minute on the late Congressman Mutchler.

—The Presbyterians of Hastings are about to build a handsome church in that place to cost about \$10,000.

—After having been struck by a mine car at Mt. Carmel, William Platt, a door boy, died in a few minutes.

—An idleness of two months in the Reading's Reliance Colliery at Mt. Carmel was broken Monday.

—The bridge across the Schuikill River at Reading, which collapsed recently, was Saturday sold for \$174.

—The old Reading bridge over the Schuikill that collapsed and was sold for \$174 was burned Saturday night.

—A score of Berks countians are anxious to become attached to the Internal Revenue office in Philadelphia.

—The manufacturer and the Amalgamated association are each holding out for the respective wage scales.

—The case of Joseph Salus, of Philadelphia, in prison for manslaughter, was considered by the Parson Board yesterday.

—"Doctors" Augustus Dietrich and Frank. lin Wood were seized in Phoenixville for selling alleged bogus sarsaparilla.

—While in Pittsburg Prince Polenoff, of Russia, ordered two blooming mills, to cost \$50,000, for his iron works at home.

—Accused of robbing Nicholas Wade, of Johnstown, Howard and Albert Kinsey, of Lancaster, were seized by the police.

—Rev. Dr. Robert H. Fulton, of Philadelphia, preached the baccalaureate sermon Sunday for the Hill School, at Pottstown.

—A fine of \$25 is suggested in Tioga county to be imposed upon the men who dig up the public roads when they "work" them.

—One of the kangaroos that escaped from the wrecked circus at Tyrone is prowling about York County, near Paradise.

—Dr. Wyckoff was convicted at Kittanning of murder in the second degree as a result of the Leechburg murder and bank robbery.

—Samuel Hartman has been appointed a member of the Valley Forge Commission to succeed his brother Lin, who resigned.

—A charter was granted to the Merchants and Manufacturers' Electric Light, Heat and Power Company, of Erie; capital, \$50,000.

—The horse Max Wissel was driving ran away in Reading, and the unfortunate victim was so badly trampled that he cannot live.

—Twenty carpenters at the New Jersey Central's car shops, at Ashley, were dismissed, they say, because members of a Grievance Committee.

—Superintendent Wilbur's special car was wrecked on the Harvey Lake branch of the Lehigh Valley, and Brakeman Lewis Huntzenger had a leg cut off.

—The watchman on the railroad bridge across the Susquehanna river at Columbia makes seventeen trips each day, which is equal to twenty-one miles.

—H. M. Lowry, of Indiana, was elected State commander of the Sons of Veterans at the annual encampment held in Honesdale. He is the proprietor and editor of the Indiana Times.

—The Juniata Valley Editorial Association has selected Bedford Springs as the objective point for holding its annual excursion, which will take place this year during the latter part of August.

—Jacob Semler, one of Bedford's oldest citizens, died Thursday night in his 78th year. He has been living a retired life for some years. In politics he was a leading Democrat and at times held different county offices.

—Thomas Evans, although a cripple from his recent accident, is a terror to snakes, says the Coalport Standard. On Monday he visited a rattlesnake den on Wilmer run, and, with his right arm in a sling, killed thirty-five rattlers. He brought the skins of most of the larger ones home, which he will have tanned.

—Bradford, Crawford, Erie, McKean, Mercer, Potter, Pike, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga Venango, Warren, Wayne and Wyoming counties conduct their schools on the summer and winter term system. This, the Superintendent of Public Instruction thinks, should be discontinued, and instructions have been issued to the school boards to provide for a continuous term of not less than six months.

—Ten years ago Miss Barbara Maxson, daughter of John Maxson, who resides in the vicinity of Zook Brown's grounds, in Antrim township, says the Chambersburg Public Opinion, was taken with a severe attack of typhoid fever. During her sickness at that time she lost her speech entirely, remaining in that unfortunate condition for ten years—until last Sunday one week ago when she was taken with that dread disease (typhoid fever), and the following Tuesday evening, to the surprise of all the family, she began talking in her former distinct voice, as she did before the attack ten years ago. She is a respected and an intelligent lady of about 25 years, and is greatly elated that she recovered the use of her voice. Her brother, David, is also confined to his bed at present with typhoid fever.