

**Ink Stings.**  
—Marbles ought to be plenty in this country. So many people seem to have lost theirs.

—An appropriation of \$1,000,000 is wanted in Kentucky to furnish a State canal. The colonels have no other use for water.

—Talk about hard times, why money is cheaper in New York to-day than it is in London, which is supposed to be the centre of the financial world.

—The CARNEGIE armor plate scandal still sends out a few faint puffs of smoke that leads us to believe that it might be worth while for Congress to go into the matter thoroughly. Where there is smoke it is well to look for fire.

—South Carolina is once again the scene of old time liquor dispensations. Saloons are opening up everywhere and Governor TILLMAN, so far as paying any attention to them is concerned, seems to have lost his other eye.

—It is said that twenty thousand people die annually from snake bite in India. The Temperance people have not furnished us with an estimate of the number who die in the United States from the effects of "snake bite."

—Citizen GEORGE FRANCIS TRAIN has joined the COXEY movement and will try to share some of the notoriety enjoyed just now by the blooming Ohio fanatic. What the government needs just now is a place like a dog pound so fellows affected with the rabies can be caught and put out of the way.

—It is possible that Senator MILLS will answer DAVID B. HILL's attack on the WILSON bill and if he does, we hope the able Southerner will lay the peanut politician from New York, out so flat he will never have the brazenness to open his mouth again in the traitorous manner that characterized his recent deliverance.

—A German has invented a bullet proof coat for the secret of which that government has offered him three hundred million marks. It is altogether probable that if Emperor WILLIAM were to learn how to make bullet proof coats he would soon fit out his army and march into France, but the French could enlist a few of their anarchists who would soon blow up a German army, notwithstanding the coats.

—The colored preacher pension agent who was sentenced to twenty-eight years in the penitentiary at Chattanooga, Tenn., the other day for being mixed up in fourteen fraudulent pension claims will begin to think he had better have staid at his old business. Colored preachers who presume on their proverbial handiness at small game—chickens for instance—will do well to think twice before getting in with pension sharks.

—Uncle SAM has always been a little slow in passing around honors, which possibly accounts for his recent nomination of a number of officers for brevet grades for gallant service in Indian campaigns. Most of the officers are dead now and it may seem useless to bestow titles on the dead, but who knows what weight they will have with St. PETER, when those old warriors come to present their credentials on the last day.

—Thus far the great strike of the coal miners has had a very encouraging effect on those who hope to see the operators succeed to their demands, and as long as the mine workers keep from unlawful proceedings they will have the sympathy of every-one who realizes the scanty pittance which they receive for their labor. There seems to be a possibility of their winning this fight, for the operators have never before been in such a demoralized condition.

—The Legislature of the Buckeye State on Tuesday granted the women out there the right to vote at school elections. The bill became a law at once so that Ohio women can now march up to the polls, peddle bad whiskey, dispense cigars and chew tobacco, while the returns are being counted, with as much gusto as the most vulgar ward heeler. But no, being allowed to vote themselves school directors, they will soon educate the coming generation into giving them a full and free franchise.

—RUDYARD KIPLING in a recent interview with a London reporter said: "There is a dyspepsia epidemic in America. They don't understand our comfort. Everything is too temporary for that. They are in a railway station waiting room stage of civilization, and it is hardly worth while yet for any one to settle down and be solidly comfortable. America feels like one vast camp." Which, alas seems too true. The American people live too fast. Not half of us spend as much time at table as our constitutions demand and the result is that we are worn out before we fairly reach the age when we might enjoy the fruits of our labors. The Englishman's comparison of our life to a "vast camp" is a happy one, for half of us have camp fires in our stomach; and all because we make them do the work that the Creator designed for our teeth.

**Tramp Influence Upon Congress.**

The alarming tendency of the vagabonds of the country to make their way to Washington with the object of influencing the action of Congress is beginning to attract the serious attention which the dangerous character of such a movement deserves. At first the idea of gangs of tramps organizing a demonstration of this nature and moving towards the seat of government was regarded in a humorous light and was made the subject of jocular comment in the newspapers. Such treatment of this disorder, and the misguided newspaper enterprise which has heralded the movements of COXEY's vagabonds, has given them encouragement and helped to stimulate this disorderly purpose.

It is now beginning to occur to sensible people that there is danger in this thing. It cannot be otherwise than that if such proceedings are permitted to go on they will be repeated and grow more formidable and dangerous with every repetition. The tramp element of the country will habitually march to Washington to take a hand in the government.

It is not hard to see from what source this disorder has sprang. Congress for years has been subjected to outside influence. It has been the custom of Republicanism to allow the committee rooms and the lobbies of Congress to be crowded by favorite parties intent upon affecting the action of Congress for their special behoof. When tariff beneficiaries and the recipients of subsidies have been invited to throng the capitol for the purpose of presenting their claims and influencing congressional action favorably to their interests, why should it not occur to the tramps and dangerous characters of the country that they have just as good a right to appear in the national capitol and exert a pressure upon the law-making body? When the supporters of tariff taxation are invited to make an imposing demonstration in Washington with the view of interfering with a tariff reform bill, why should it not enter the heads of the vagabonds that they also have interests which they may enforce by a threatening display of numbers at the seat of the government?

These evils are propagated and stimulated by example, and this is a peculiar danger in a popular government. The Republicans have set the example of encouraging and providing for special interests, giving those interests every facility for bringing their influence to bear upon the law-making power, and now the tramps have concluded that it is their turn.

**Fining The Absentees.**  
Congressman WOLVERTON, of this State, has again shown his usefulness and fidelity as a representative of the people, by presenting to the House the report of the Judiciary committee recommending the revival of the law that imposed a fine upon members for absence from the House without a valid excuse. A rule to this effect was adopted in 1856, but was allowed to fall into disuse.

The revival of such a restraint upon absenteeism will have a good effect in promoting the efficient action of Congress. It is sentimentally contended, by those who object to such expedients, that a sense of duty and a regard for the obligation of their trust should be sufficient to ensure the attendance of members, and that measures of a punitive and compulsory character are an offensive encroachment upon their personal independence. This will do as a matter of sentiment, but the actual experience is that a more substantial restraint is required to prevent some members from neglecting their representative duty. It is better that a fine be imposed, and a quorum counted than that legislation should be blocked by absenteeism and contumacious filibustering. The people pay their representatives liberally and are entitled to their full service.

We can imagine with what satisfaction Congressman WOLVERTON, who means business in everything he undertakes, introduced the report for the revival of a law which, if enforced will make the laggards come up to their work.

—Read the WATCHMAN.

**The Bituminous Coal Strike.**

The strike of the soft coal miners, which is now on, including all the bituminous regions of the country, is one of the most extensive movements of the kind that has ever occurred in the mining industry. It is hard to conjecture how long it will last, or what will be its effect. Demonstrations of this kind have seldom accomplished their object, and have usually been more injurious than beneficial to those who have engaged in them.

One thing at least is made evident by this movement, and that is, that the workmen in the protected industry of coal mining are not satisfied with the wages they are getting. It is not under a low Democratic tariff that they are kicking about inadequate pay, but under the highest tariff ever known, by which liberal provision is made for the protection of the coal interest, and which is said to have been intended to secure ample wages for the coal miners.

Somebody is getting the benefit of this protection, but the strike of the workmen in the protected industry indicates that they are not receiving a due portion of the advantage. When a tariff is laid which increases the profits in a certain line of production, and the working people complain that they are inadequately paid, there can be no other conclusion than that the profits are absorbed by the magnates who manage the operations. Such apparently being the case, the workers object to being "dead heads in the enterprise."

Whether it is wise for the miners to strike is another question. The experience they have had in such undertakings is not of a character that should encourage them to repeat it. A long continuance of tariff favoritism has made the operators so rich that they are able to stand out against their employees in a strike, to whom a cessation of work for any length of time means starvation.

**Praise for the Income Tax.**  
Although the Philadelphia Record is decidedly down on a United States income tax it admires the efficacy of the same method of raising revenue as practical in England.

It being estimated that the expenses of the English government for the coming year will be £5,000,000 more than they were in the preceding year, the authorities propose to secure the required increase by adding one penny in the pound to the income tax, and by a slight increase in the taxes on inheritances and on spirits and beer. This way of meeting a deficiency is so highly approved by the Record that it says: "The British system of taxation is admirable, at least in its simplicity and convenience."

It is indeed admirable, and the feature in it that is most to be admired is the provision it makes for raising revenue through the medium of a tax on incomes in preference to taxing the necessities of the working people by means of tariff. The revenues of the British government are largely supplied by the taxation of incomes. Although aristocratic in its character it justly regards wealth as the proper source from which government should chiefly derive its support, and in this respect it sets an example to Democratic America which exempts the wealthy and taxes the general mass, irrespective of their pecuniary circumstances, through the agency of tariffs.

Our Philadelphia contemporary has much to say about the cumbersome, inconvenient and inquisitorial character of an American income tax, yet it is pleased with the "simplicity and convenience" with which the English raise revenue by that means of taxation. Does it not look like a quibble to say that the same revenue method cannot be attended with the same convenience and simplicity in this country?

—The resignation of Dr. PEPPER as head of the University of Pennsylvania, takes from that institution a man of wonderful administrative ability and one whose individual reputation has begotten much of the repute which the University enjoys. It will lose a great man, but he will become greater in devoting himself exclusively to the field of science.

**Some Corporation Injuries.**

It is undeniable that large business enterprises are more helpful to a country than small ones, yet in many ways they are injurious and this is the reason people come to look upon them as preys upon the public. The massing of capital for the purpose of conducting specific branches of trade will result in good for a land, as long as the corporations investing it do not resolve themselves into trusts and monopolies. It will result in good so far as an improvement in manufactures or public service is helped by the employment of unlimited capital. Just as the enormous wealth that backs the Pennsylvania Railroad company has made it the most efficient public carrier in the world. But withal there can be no doubt of the ill effects which allied capital brings about occasionally. An excellent illustration of which we find in the present strike which involves nearly half a million coal miners and threatens to tie up many of our railroads and manufactories for want of coal.

Had it not been for the larger syndicates, operating Pennsylvania coal fields, there would have been no trouble. They caused it all. It is not the little operator who employs a hundred or more men. He is all right and were it not for membership in the United Mine Workers Association his miners would be working to-day. But when one man quits all must quit.

Such operators as the BERWIND, WHITE CO. and BELL, LEWIS & YATES go into the market and take contracts below the smaller bidders. The result is they have to cut down expenses and make up the deficit out of the miners pockets. This state of things has been carried on until the miners of Pennsylvania have become veritable slaves. The price of mining has been repeatedly cut down until it has at last reached a point where subsistence is impossible and the miners propose forcing the operators to a recognition of their rights to a living, if nothing more.

A large percentage of the smaller operators in the State had been paying 50 cts. per ton when the large corporations declared a reduction of 5 cts. and many of them continued paying 50 cts. even after a second 5 ct. reduction by their larger competitors and the workmen in these large mines, refusing to accept wages on which they cannot live, struck and were supported by all the members of the National Association. Thus it will be seen that while corporations are benefits in many ways, yet there are others in which they are decidedly injurious.

The present strike, unless settled soon, will result in direful business distress for many railroads and other industries using bituminous coal as fuel will have to suspend.

**Lynch Law in Ohio.**

Two lynchings in Ohio in six months is a record which the people of the Buckeye State have but little reason to be proud of. One of these cases of lawless punishment having occurred in that focus of Ohio Republicanism, the Western Reserve, the victim having been a negro, it looks as if "Southern barbarism" is being practiced by the old time Abolitionists of that region.

Governor MCKINLEY's attention having been called to these violent infringements of the law he acknowledged his inability to prevent them, saying, as is very true, that "the law lodges no power in such cases in the hands of the Governor." He admits that all he can do is to use his influence with those whose duty it is to investigate such cases and to enforce the law.

The same difficulty exists with the authorities in the Southern States, who have been roundly abused by Republican newspapers for not doing that which in such cases of lawlessness Governor MCKINLEY says he is unable to do.

But notwithstanding this acknowledged incapacity of authority, an earnest effort, backed by public sentiment, should be made, east, west, north and south, to put an end to the operations of Judge LYON. Surely it is not beyond the power of legislation to check these lawless demonstrations.

—Do you read the WATCHMAN.

**Smarties Called Down.**

From the West Chester Jeffersonian.  
There is a class of smart folk who take a special delight in giving wrong information to reporters. Not long ago one of this kind was prosecuted by the Scranton Times for imposing a fraudulent marriage story upon one of its reporters. Now the Williamsport Gazette and Bulletin has entered suit against a party who thought it would be a good joke to have it printed that the wife of a gentleman, more or less well known, had given birth to four children. The item, says the Reading Times, was a good one if true, and as the reporter had no reason at the time to suppose he was being imposed upon he used it in his newspaper, as would have been done anywhere. It turned out that there was no truth whatever in the report. As the newspaper did not propose to be used in that way to assist funny people in their low and disgraceful jokes or the wicked in their malice, it took very prompt and commendable steps under the law to vindicate itself by causing the arrest of the loose-mouthed man who deceived the reporter. It was what every newspaper under like circumstances should do, and these people who are busy manufacturing news for others to assume responsibility for would then soon understand the danger of it.

**An Impetus to American Wool.**

From the Chambersburg Democratic News.  
How does the following suit the Ohio Wool men? They never seem satisfied. The American Consul at Bradford, England seems to be a man who is on the lookout for the best interests of his country. "The American Consul at Bradford, England, reports that the manufacturers in that city assert that the moment the tariff bill becomes a law the prices of American wool will revive, and several of them are so strong in this belief that they have made large investments in wool now held in Philadelphia and Boston. They insist that the new impetus given to manufactures by free raw material will cause larger quantities of the United States grown article to be mixed with fine foreign wools, and that the demand for American wools for hosiery purposes will immediately set in on the English market. It is already proposed by wool dealers in England to exchange the grades of wool more suitable for dress goods and cloths for the American wool, adapted for hosiery and other purposes. They argue that this will at once bring about renewed activity in the trade and raise prices."

**Falling Off on the Winning Side of the Fence.**

From the Philadelphia Times.  
David Martin has a heap of political sense and he has no intention of monkeying with Grow whatever Magee or anyone else may do. It was against his judgment that Delamater was forced on the Republican ticket in 1890, although he took his orders like a little man and helped to do it. He doesn't want any more of that kind of experience and he makes haste to say he is for Grow because he is the most popular candidate that can be placed on the ticket. Martin has learned in the school of experience that it is bad policy to turn down a candidate the people want for one whom nobody cares a fig about. Grow won't be turned down this year if Martin's advice is taken, as it probably will be.

**Democratic Railings, not Despotism.**

From the Connellsville Courier.  
The Democrats in Congress have cut the Gordian Knot that bound them to helplessness in the matter of doing business in a very proper and common sense way, and it wasn't Tom Reed's way, either, as our Republican friends would have the country believe. The good results of the Reed rule have been obtained without its bad methods.

**Yes, Verily What Is It.**

From the Clarion Democrat.  
Senator Hill is the author of the dramatic statement, "I am a Democrat." The Republican Boss of New York state, Thomas C. Platt, certifies to the correctness of the statement by having his legislature endorse Mr. Hill's actions, and all the high tariff organs join in the howl of "amen." What is Democracy?

**Raises a Bigger Lump than Corbett.**

From the Oseola Courier-Leader.  
Somebody has just discovered that an ordinary bee when not loaded weighs one five-thousandth of a pound. Loaded or unloaded when he strikes a small boy he seems to weigh five thousand pounds.

**He Doesn't Know What Democrat Means.**

From the Connellsville Courier.  
Senator Hill made himself famous once by the declaration, "I am a Democrat." The distinguished Senator from New York may be a Democrat, but it's a mighty poor kind.

—Editor Jim Goodlander, of the Clearfield Republican, is just home from the California Mid-Winter Fair and pronounces it a "Colossal fake."

—If you want printing of any description the WATCHMAN office is the place to have it done.

**Spawls from the Keystone.**

—A big brewery will be built at Mahanoy City.

—Reading Councils refuse to put up cash for free public baths.

—The big fire is still raging in the St. Nicholas mine, near Ashland.

—An electric car terribly injured Mrs. George N. Moyer, in Reading.

—There was another cave-in Monday in the fatal Gaylord mine at Plymouth.

—Steel Roller George Long lost a leg in the rolls in Lebanon's East End Mill.

—Trinity Lutheran Church, Reading, will celebrate its centennial on May 20.

—William O. Bateman was killed in the Short Mountain Colliery, near Williams-town.

—Endeavoring to mount a moving train at Centralia, little Daniel Sullivan was killed.

—Pennsylvania Railroad Agent S. G. Grieb has disappeared from Marysville Station.

—Ninety per cent. of the men, Rev. G. T. Street, of Allegheny county, says, are profane.

—The Reading Archdeaconry of the Episcopal Church began its sessions Monday in Lebanon.

—Refusing to have his injured hand amputated J. C. McClain, of Altoona, has died of lockjaw.

—There is a movement in Luzerne County to abolish the kissing of the Bible in taking an oath.

—A dozen men and several women, accused of many robberies, were Monday jailed at Ebensburg.

—Schuylkill county commissioners Saturday appointed 25 wardens to prevent or fight forest fires.

—Attorney General Hensel has purchased a fine farm near Kinzer's station, Lancaster county.

—Aged Thomas Ward, who lived unhappily at Mahanoy City, swallowed parison green and will die.

—Mrs. Elliott F. Shepard, of New York, has given \$1000 to found a Shepard scholarship at Lafayette College.

—Berks county Christian Endeavors, in their meeting at Reading, engaged in a competitive "drawing social."

—The funeral at Reading on Saturday of county Recorder I. W. Keim was one of the largest ever seen there.

—An hour after eating strychnine pills for candy the four-year-old daughter of W. J. Burns, Hazelton, was dead.

—A Wilkesbarre justice refused to punish Michael Buckelaw, who stole a sack of flour to feed his starving family.

—An explosion in a stone quarry started people in Lancaster county Monday, who thought it was an earthquake.

—A coal train's wreck blocked the Philadelphia and Erie Railroad a few miles west of Williamsport Tuesday.

—Iron manufacturers in the Lebanon Valley buy pig metal in the South which is delivered at the mills for \$10.25 a ton.

—In trying to destroy the lice in a hen's nest farmer Baublitz, near York, set his barn on fire and it was totally destroyed.

—Stockholders of the Schuylkill Valley Electric Railway Company have voted to increase the bonded indebtedness \$55,000.

—A Philadelphia boy, Frank Abbott, was sent home from Reading Monday where he says he was enticed by a stranger.

—Congressman Baltzhoover Monday evening left his Carlisle home for Washington, but had to return on account of a relapse.

—For practicing medicine without a license, C. R. Hemperly, of Union, township, Lebanon county, was arrested on Monday.

—Governor Pattison says the Wernersville Insane Asylum will be ready for about 80 patients in from three to five weeks.

—All the Chinamen, except two, who are ex-convicts, in the Pittsburgh district will register before the time limit expires on May 3.

—Police are stationed at St. Mary's Polish Church, in Reading, every Sunday, and many people are objecting to the extra expense.

—Running back in front of a runaway horse to save his marbles, 10-year-old John Holloway was fatally hurt at Mahanoy City.

—The body of Evan G. Hanaker, of Clearfield, who disappeared a month ago, was found Saturday in the Susquehanna River, near Columbia.

—Rev. Dr. George T. Parves, of Princeton Seminary, will preach the baccalaureate sermon at Lafayette College commencement, on June 17.

—Two men chased to the Welsh Mountain and fired three shots at a fender who assaulted Mrs. Robert Lloyd, near Caerhadden (Berks county) quarries.

—A committee of the State Music Teachers' Association is at Harrisburg in the interest of music as a regular public school study in Pennsylvania.

—A temporary injunction was Saturday granted at Williamsport to prevent the sale of the Williamsport Passenger Railway to a Philadelphia syndicate.

—Thomas V. Cooper is a leading stockholder in the Guarantors' Liability Indemnity Company, of Philadelphia, capital \$200,000 which was chartered Saturday.

—After an investigation by the Prison Board of Luzerne county, Warden Jones and Watchman Fallon were exonerated from the charge of cruelty made by prisoners.

—Fourteen-year-old Morris Dickert disappeared from his home in Allentown and came back with a dime novel tale that he had been kidnapped and taken to West Bethlehem.

—S. L. Snyder, of Clearfield, has been granted a patent for a screw driver, and Messrs. J. P. Wynn and J. W. Gillespie, of Lock Haven, have just had a new pipe wrench patented.

—Harrisburg's Boot and Shoe Manufacturing Company is to have the largest plant of its kind in the world, to turn out 25,000 pairs of shoes weekly—more than double its present capacity.

—A young woman by the name of Fanny Huling has been victimizing the merchants of Renovo and Lock Haven by obtaining goods under false pretense. She was arrested on Friday but was let off by her brother paying all claims.