Democratic Watchman.

BY P. GRAY MEEK.

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Ink Slings.

—QUAY thinks he is still in the presidential race, but then no one will deny him the right to guess again.

—It is strange that with a daily death rate in the world of 98,848 the arch fiend HOLMES should live until May 7th.

—Allegheny county milk dealers have been notified that they must have their cattle tested. This means their cattle, not their pumps.

—It is announced now that Congress doesn't intend to adjourn soon. How long, O, Lord! must this burdened country bear such a trial?

—The unraveling of the Centre county Republican muddle would make a good prize problem for some journal interested in knowing what has stirred it up.

—It is strange that fishermen have never referred to the stories of big catches that are found in the Bible as an apology for the accounts of their first day of the season's work.

—Throwing the discus was one of the pastimes of the ancient athlete. Though the practice is still in vogue in some parts, mud flinging has become a far more popular business, whether for sport or animosity.

—A new town, exclusively for colored people, is being incorporated in Kansas, ten miles east of Topeka. There are to be several small manufactories and, of course, plenty of crap shootin' establishments.

—ARNOLD will be the Republican nominee for Congress from this district, but not before he has assigned to REEDER the power to dispense patronage in Centre county should a time ever come when there will be any pap in the bowl for Republicans.

—The quickest way to settle the money question would be to substitute brass for silver. It is cheap, of course, but put sixteen parts of good, every-day unalloyed American brass up against anything you like and it will hold its own every time.

—The fifty members of the salvation army, who were fined from $5 to $10 each at Malden, Mass., the other day for making music (?) on the streets of that puritanical town, will possibly try to get even by demanding a rebate from good old St. PETER.

—As a white-washer HOLMES discounts the state senatorial investigation committee. If he daubs it on in sheol like he has in his "confession" his nibs, the satan, will have to keep up a big fire, else the walls won't be half as black as they are said to be.

—Boston is about to make a building limit whereby no building of more than eighty feet in height will be permissible. The idea of an inanimate object seeking a higher elevation than the æsthetic Boston nose. It is little wonder that such restriction has been made.

—The fact that a Missouri Democrat threw a glass of water in the face of the chairman of the state convention at Sedalia, on Wednesday, shows to what pitch the fight between the gold and silver people down there has worked itself. Had such an act been committed in Kentucky it would have been considered a mortal insult, no doubt.

—The burglars who tried to break into the private cars occupied by Dr. CHAUNCEY DEPEW and Mr. VANDERBILT, while standing in the Chicago yards the other evening, were really precipitate in their haste to get away when CHAUNCEY got awake. Chicago thieves are no fools. How were they to know that he didn't want to tell them a story, and that he merely wanted to try a big revolver on them.

—Mr. ARNOLD has possibly explained to Hon. JOHN PATTON, of Curwensville, by this time that it was only buncombe when ELI TOWNSEND, the spokesman of the ARNOLD ring in the convention, on Tuesday, announced that he, Mr. ARNOLD, was "the ONLY Congressman" this district has ever had. JOHN PATTON is not to be sneezed at as a factor in politics in Clearfield and it is hardly likely that ARNOLD will countenance such a rubbing of his fur the wrong way—when the conditions are such as they are.

—The Olympian games that were a national festival in Greece until the fourth century have been revived and it was quite in keeping with the revival that the athletes from the youngest country should have carried off the palm. This revival of those ancient Grecian games has started people to reading and almost the first thing that meets the eye is a pledge that all contestants had to give that they would not "throw" any of the events they entered. From this it would seem that many of our modern athletes had very early examplars in the business of selling races, etc.

—The Republicans of Centre country are finding out that theirs is not a bed of roses by a good deal. Between the leaders there seems to be more than a little trouble and the rank and file hardly knows where it is from one day's end to another. To try to unravel the complication is enough to send one to the mad house. For instance, HASTINGS is (?) a QUAY man, but his friends here are all for MCKINLEY. ARNOLD is a QUAY man, yet HASTINGS' lieutenants all worked against him and for REEDER, HASTINGS' Asst. Adj. Gen. Now, if by some hook or crook, REEDER should be the nominee of the Republicans for Congress, what would HASTINGS' do in the event of certain conditions that are very likely to confront him?

Dangerous to Its Handlers.

That it is dangerous to play with such a political edged-tool as a secret organization is becoming obvious to the Republican leaders, and the MCKINLEYITES are beginning to hedge on it by pretending to be opposed to such an alliance, while they secretly maintain, the closest relations with the new Know Nothingism.

This relationship manifests itself in all sections of the country. Col. MCCLURE, who recently spent some weeks in the South and looked over the political field in that quarter, found that MCKINLEY money, a year ago, covered the South and corraled most of the Republican leaders, and that the ground thus gained in advance is being held by the A. P. A. in the interest of MCKINLEY on a cash basis. The Colonel goes on to say: "The same developments have been made in the North. It is only within a few weeks that the friends of the other prominent candidates for President have discovered that the A. P. A. organizations are enlisted for MCKINLEY. It has aroused intense bitterness among the friends of MCKINLEY'S rivals, and has chilled the ardor of very many fair-minded Republicans who would be quite willing to accept MCKINLEY if fairly nominated by the honest expressions of the Republican party."

While there may be an advantage in this alliance, the MCKINLEYITES are beginning to see its disadvantage, as is evidenced by their endeavor to cover their A. P. A. connection with a blind. The bulk of the American people cannot approve of religious proscription as a political force, and it is for this reason that an alliance with a proscriptive organization for a political purpose is a weapon that is calculated to do as much harm as good to those who employ it.

Organizations that have religious bigotry as their motive and sectarian persecution as their object must necessarily co-operate in political contests with the Republican party. They have no affinity with Democracy. Their nature is entirely opposite to Democratic nature. When they act in politics they must naturally conflict with the principles and purposes of the Democratic party. It was so in the days of Know-Nothingism; it is so at this time, when a later organization has arisen with its schemes of sectarian hatred and religious proscription.

But there are many Republicans to whom their party's alliance with such an organization is repulsive. An illustration of this creditable fact was furnished in the local elections at Youngstown, Ohio, week before last. The A. P. A., by its effective secret methods, controlled the local Republican organization and named the candidate for mayor. Independent Republicans united with the Democrats in taking up this dark-lantern challenge, and elected the Democratic candidate easily in a contest that brought out the largest vote ever cast in the city that is usually carried by the Republicans.

The true American sentiment that revolts at dark and sneaking methods is as likely to express its disapprobation of such methods on the wider field of a national election as through the more limited medium of a municipal contest.

Jeffersonian Reminiscence.

The celebration of the birthday of THOS. JEFFERSON, at Montecello, Va., last Monday, was a fitting tribute to the memory of the father of American Democracy, and an event most opportune at this time when an assertion of Democratic principles and a confirmation of Democratic methods are so necessary for the welfare of the republic.

There have been many commemorations of the anniversary of JEFFERSON'S birth; Democrats have always delighted to honor it, but this year it was an inspiration that led them to have an especial assemblage at his old home and within sight of his tomb, and rededicate themselves to the work of maintaining the principles which he imparted to our institutions.

The celebrants on this occasion were the members of the national association of Democratic clubs, among whom are included some of the leading Democrats of the United States. The orators were ex-Gov. RUSSELL and Senator DANIEL, representing the commonwealths of Massachusetts and Virginia which were foremost in the time that tried men souls when the declaration of independence was evolved from the mind and heart of the great apostle of Democracy, whose birth they commemorated.

Such a demonstration will have a good effect at this time. It will reinvigorate the old JEFFERSONIAN faith. It will remind the people of their duty to principles that are the true basis of popular government. They need such a reminder at a time when a set of corrupt politicians are engaged in a shameless scramble for the presidential office and are using corrupt means to obtain the highest position in the government.

A return to the principles of JEFFERSON is necessary to counteract the debauchery of MCKINLEYISM and to shield the country against the general demoralization of Republican methods.

Potatoes and Protection.

Last year's crop of potatoes was the largest ever produced in this country. It amounted to over 400,000,000 bushels, the consequence being that the tubers have been a drug on the market. The average crop is about 250,000,000 bushels and when the unusual yield of last year produced 115,000,000 in excess of ordinary requirements, an unusually low price was the necessary result of such an over supply.

It is well enough to keep this fact in view, for in a few months, in the heat of the campaign, Republican orators will be going through the country telling the farmers that it was the fault of the WILSON tariff that they did not get a better price for last year's potato crop.

The New York *Tribune* testifies to the enormous yield of potatoes in 1895 by giving the figures in regard to it. It says that they are "fully 40 per cent cheaper now than they were on a corresponding date of last year," a fact which it attributes entirely to the recent enormous crop of 400,000,000 bushels.

In view of this fact what humbug there is in the claim of the protectionists that potatoes need protection. With the object of making the farmers believe that it is a great benefit to them a duty of 15 cents a bushel has been put on potatoes to shield them from foreign competition, when according to the *Tribune's* admission the yield has been so plentiful that "enormous quantities have been fed to live stock or left to decay in the ground, and in their anxiety to sell their crop the farmers have kept the market continually overburdened and there is now a large surplus stock on hand."

There are but few years in which the farmers of this country are not able to more than supply the home demand not only for potatoes but all other kinds of agricultural products. They need no tariff protection, but an attempt is made to beguile them into a support of general tariff spoliation by putting duties on their productions which are in no danger of foreign competition.

But in regard to potatoes, do not be surprised if, in the course of the coming campaign, the voice of the calamity howler will be heard in the rural districts denouncing the WILSON tariff as being responsible for the low price of the potato crop.

Settling the Cuban Trouble.

Spain is virtually bankrupt and without the means of continuing much longer her effort to suppress the Cuban insurrection. Being aware of this fact, if she is approached in a conciliatory manner, she may be induced to gracefully yield the point which she is conscious of not being able to carry by force of arms.

It would seem to be the President's purpose to effect a settlement of the bloody controversy in that manner. He will not do anything rash in exercising the power with which Congress has invested him in this matter. By proper approach Spain may be made to admit the hopelessness of her struggle, and the United States, instead of being an arbitrary intervener in the difficulty, may be instrumental in bringing about an amicable understanding between the two conflicting parties that are ravaging Cuba with their bloody strife.

The United States are not bent upon the acquisition of the island. It would be offensive in this country to charge it with such a mercenary motive; but if Spain could be induced to concede to the Cubans the right of autonomy, granting all the reforms that are necessary for the well being and good government of the island, and retaining over it only that kind of sovereignty which England retains in Canada, such a settlement, we think, would satisfy all the interest that Americans can legitimately take in the controversy; and it looks as if the President, instead of resorting to offensive measures, will endeavor to bring about such a conciliatory settlement.

——It has been said that the friends of Mr. REEDER were very wrathy because Mr. ARNOLD presumed (?) to be in attendance at the Republican convention in Centre county, a part of the congressional district he represents. That is all very fine, but when this same Mr. ARNOLD had fifty out of the one hundred and twenty-two delegates in that convention all ready to fight for anything he wanted, he would have been a fine leader, indeed, had he not been there to encourage them.

——WILLIAM I. SWOOPE Esq., once lawyer to a Centre county clientage, later catering to the wants of lawing Clearfielders, then a campaigner for Republicanism, afterwards editor of the *Raftsman's Journal* and finally clerk to a House committee at Harrisburg in which position his services were not remunerated half as liberally as he thought they should have been, is now on the lecture platform. The subject of his pet theme is: "The needs of the hour."

——The *Gazette* acknowledges its inability to solve the Republican congressional problem and tries to lard it over, but that won't do.

It Was Jefferson's Idea.

In attempting to reply to the suggestion of Ex-Lieut. Governor BLACK that the proper solution of the money question is to submit the issue to the people in the election of Representatives to Congress, and pledge the candidate for President not to interpose a veto of such financial legislation as Congress may enact, the Philadelphia *Times* asks: "what would JEFFERSON have thought of the principle that whatever financial vagaries may be wormed through Congress should be accepted by the government?"

Judging from the facts that JEFFERSON is generally believed to have had much to do with the framing of the constitution; that he lived for many years after its adoption; that he was twice President under it, and that at no time during his long life or public career did he advocate a change in that instrument that confers upon Congress not only the *sole* power to coin money but to "regulate the value thereof," we should imagine that he thought the principle about right.

If the *Times* has any information to the contrary, or if it knows of any other authority, than that pointed out by Mr. BLACK, having the power to enact financial legislation—or such "vagaries" as are necessary to legalize the coinage of money and regulate the values thereof, it should give it to the public.

And if the coinage of money and the regulation of its value are duties of Congress, and of its only—why should not the question as to what kind of money the people should have be determined in the election of Representatives to Congress, and the President be pledged to allow the people to have just such money as they would instruct their Representatives to give them?

If there is any "principle" at all in this question, it is the principle that "this is a government of the people, by the people and for the people" and that the people have the right to have just such money as they desire, whether it is gold, or silver, or both, the bankers or the silver producers to the contrary notwithstanding.

Mr. BLACK'S suggestion would only secure to the people the rights and powers that is generally believed belong to them under the constitution. It is Democratic, and if the party is winner it will be adopted.

Interesting Facts.

We had occasion to mention, some weeks ago, the interesting fact that the EDGAR A. THOMPSON steel works had filled a contract with the Japanese government for 10,000 tons of steel rails. It secured the contract by being able to furnish the rails, delivered in Japan, for $2.18 per ton less than the English competitors could supply them. This was done under a Democratic tariff which reduced the MCKINLEY protective duty on steel rails, but by no means diminished the EDGAR A. THOMPSON steel works, nor interfered with its ability to undersell the English in a foreign market.

This is an interesting fact, but here is another one. A contract has been made to ship 1,000 tons of Alabama pig iron to England, to be followed by others if the quality is satisfactory. The price is entirely agreeable to the English purchasers, as it is below the English price. And yet we will soon hear the MCKINLEY howlers vociferating for a higher duty on pig iron to protect it from English competition.

And we have still another interesting fact. The Grand Trunk railway of Canada has placed an order for 15,000 tons of steel rails with the Illinois steel company, of Chicago, at prices lower than those which English rails can be furnished at Montreal or Quebec.

In view of these facts, well may the *Engineering and Mining Journal* exclaim: "The important point proved by these cases is that our works are able, at the present time, to turn out iron and steel at costs which enable them to compete with the English and other European mills on grounds which they have always considered their own."

So much for the prosperity of the iron and steel trade under a Democratic tariff.

——When the returns came in from the Republican primaries in Howard and ARNOLD and QUAY were seen to be such easy winners there were a few people in Bellefonte who took on a new measure of respect for Col. DUNHAM and his *Hornet's* business end.

——There was one man in his element on Tuesday. AL. DALE wash appy and every time his crowd showed fight he whooped-er-up for keeps.

——The rumor is current, in Clearfield, that Hon. JAMES KERR has declined to be a candidate for nomination for Congress in this district.

——Subscribe for the WATCHMAN.

A Satisfactory Appointment.

From the Pittsburg Post.

The president made an important appointment yesterday in naming General Fitzhugh Lee, of Virginia, as consul-general at Havana, in place of Mr. R. G. Williams, resigned, after holding the office for 12 years. "Fitz" Lee, as he is familiarly called, is a nephew of the Confederate general, Robert E. Lee. He left the old army in 1861 to take part in the civil war on the southern side, and at the close of the war, after distinguished service, was in command of the Confederate cavalry. After the war he took active part in State politics, and in 1885 was elected governor of Virginia. His military service, as well as his prominent part in civil affairs, gives some significance to the appointment.

A Fine Sentiment, But it Will Be Scoffed At.

From the Altoona Tribune.

There is neither room nor necessity in this town for another drinking club, and especially for one under the guise of a Republican society. So far as the *Tribune* knows there has never been a Republican club in this county which provided intoxicating drinks for its members. If the individuals who are talking of organizing such an institution in this town will stop and think a moment they will halt where they are or not mix the name of the Republican party in it. A Republican club organized to make drunkards out of mothers' boys would not be a very popular institution in this town.

Always Something to Kick About.

From the Pittsburg Post.

Potatoes are so cheap in some parts of New York that farmers are throwing them away or burning them for fuel, as they frequently do corn in the west. An auction sale disposed of a big lot at 3 cents a bushel, and sales are reported at $2 a ton. The McKinleyites blame the low price of potatoes on the reduced tariff. They should blame the Great Power that smiled on the country with crops bountiful beyond precedent. People who buy potatoes don't find low prices a misfortune. The trouble is, their transportation is so costly that all parts of the country are not benefited by the low prices as some regions.

The Magnet Says: You are Fresh, Col. Reeder.

From the Centre Magnet.

Isn't it a little fresh in Col. or Lieut. W. F. Reeder to want the nomination for Congress. Some people never have enough and the law firm to which Governor Hastings belongs seems determined to monopolize everything. One would think that when the senior member of the firm has such a conspicuous position the lesser lights would be content to stay at home and practice law. Next thing we know Harry Quigley will be asking for the nomination for State Senator.

Campaign Capital Looking Up.

From the Brookville Democrat.

In order to give the democrats the right to circulate it under a Congressional frank, Representative Dinsmore, of Ark., had Senator Chandler's interview charging McKinley with being a boodle candidate read as a part of his speech against the resolution censuring Ambassador Bayard, which the house adopted. Chandler's charges are explicit and emphatic, and if McKinley gets the republican nomination this interview will make a corking campaign document for use against him.

Trouble in Illinois.

From the Peoria, Ill., Journal—Republican.

Tanner as governor with another boodling legislature means death to the republican party in Illinois for a quarter of a century. If the democrats act with wisdom at their state convention Tanner will never be governor of this state. No never. It will require more than the Chicago toughs' derrick and the ex-boodle legislature to hoist Tanner into the governor's chair.

Big Guns Don't Last Long.

From Information.

It is calculated that a modern gun, throwing a 2,200-pound projectile with an initial velocity of 1,970 feet per second, develops 24,000,000 horse-power. This, however, is less than 1-100 second at each discharge, and as the gun is ruined by 100 shots, the total period of active work of this terrible engine of destruction is one second!

The Current Is Changing.

If the Republicans were not so completely overtaken by crazy confidence it might be of benefit to them to consider the import of recent elections. They are straws which might teach them that a change has taken place in the current.

There have been striking Democratic gains in local elections in New York, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin and several other States. They certainly mean something that does not comport with the overconfidence of the Republican party. It was the sagacious TILDEN who said: "Study the town elections if you would catch the drift of politics," and the drift, this spring, at various and widely separate points, has been decidedly in favor of the Democrats.

In New York State the Democratic gains have been general and in many instances overwhelming. Much of this is due no doubt, to the RAINES bill, but that is the chief of many Republican causes that has brought about this result. The elections in the cities and towns already heard from have given an expression that may be taken as a forerunner of the expression that will be heard throughout New York State next November. The party cause must be rather flabby if it can't resist defeat on a side issue.

Spawls from the Keystone.

—An overdose of laudanum killed Thomas Lewis, at Trevorton.

—Robbers raided four Shamokin stores, securing $500 worth of booty.

—Two Allegheny City election officers were arrested for alleged irregularities.

—The Lancaster fee cases were argued before deputy attorney general Elkin.

—Aged Abraham Heck, of Auburn, fell into the Schuylkill Canal and was drowned.

—Allegheny City orders the cows owned by some milkmen to be examined for tuberculosis.

—A Pennsylvania railroad fireman. N. S. Deckerhoof, was killed by the cars at Altoona.

—In a runaway at Lebanon, young Joseph Dougherty was thrown from a wagon and killed.

—The Delaware county teachers' association held its annual meeting Saturday at Hinkson's corner.

—Police protected the Salvation Army, which started Saturday night on a crusade for souls in Bristol.

—Knights of the Golden Eagle are preparing at Reading for the State conclave, to occur there next October.

—Bishop Hoban conducted the ceremonies Saturday, consecrating the new bell on the Catholic church at Ashley.

—Janitor J. E. Best, in the Harrisburg high school building, fell from a ladder and was so badly injured he will likely die.

—The Immigration Inspector at Pittsburg is investigating the charge that women of easy virtue are imported from Canada.

—Richard and John Gaughan, brothers, miners in the Pine Brook shaft, at Scranton were crushed to death by a fall of roof, Tuesday.

—Adam Thomas of Harrisburg, aged 60 years, committed suicide Tuesday by taking strychnine. He was troubled over financial matters.

—The last meeting of the Board of Accounts during State Treasurer Jackson's term was held Monday. 20 State tax cases were decided.

—Judge Simonton, at Harrisburg, mandamused the Attorney General, requiring him to investigate the charges of alleged railway stock frauds in Reading.

—Governor Hastings has fixed Thursday, June 30, for the execution of Joseph Orosz, at Pittsburgh. On the same day George Windisch will be hanged at Wilkesbarre.

—Masked burglars are terrozing residents of Muncy. Sunday night half a dozen of houses were entered by unknown parties who wore moccasins. They secured very little for their trouble.

—The Williamsport papers are bragging about the business done in the postoffice during 1895. The postal receipts were over $100,000 and the money order business almost $177,000. Thirty-five persons are employed.

—Pennsylvania railroad engineers are at work on the Susquehanna river between Cherrytree and Burnside. Our predictions may yet come true and we can go to Cherrytree by rail independent of Bradley junction.

"Bellefontaine, O.," was the place the Chicago *Tribune* put the story of Ettlinger's deeds. It is hardly worth while kicking about a French paper locating Pennsylvania in Philadelphia when such errors of locality are made nearer home.

—During a fire in Williamsport on Saturday morning Mrs. W. B. Rockey narrowly escaped death from suffocation. She is an invalid and only after the greatest difficulty was she carried from the building, which was damaged to the extent of $500 by the flames and water.

—The editor of the Martinsburg *Herald* was married last week and he celebrated the event by printing the *Herald* on pink paper. That lively shade would contrast beautifully with the deep, dark hue of the editorial blues that so often sieze upon the average newspaper man.

—The corner stone of the new Methodist church at Ironsville, near Tyrone will be laid with appropriate and impressive ceremonies at 3 o'clock next Sunday afternoon. Besides the pastor, Rev. D. F. Kapp, it is expected that Rev. Dr. D. S. Monroe, presiding elder, of Altoona, and Rev. Horace L. Jacobs, of Tyrone, will be present and deliver addresses.

—John and Minnie B, Ale, of Warriorsmark, have a little daughter, Esther Eugenia, 4 years old, that can spell in the first speller and can sing any tune she hears once from beginning to end, and keep the right tune and time. She sings soprano, her father bass and her mother alto, and her little sister, Eulalia Maud, not yet three years old, can keep the tune herself and knows the alphabet entirely.

—A number of places have been visited recently with a view to selecting a place to hold the July encampment of the Penna. National Guard. Several places are on tiptoe about the matter, and are making efforts to secure the encampment, Lewistown being the most active perhaps. But without being in possession of any information, we'll venture the prediction that Mount Gretna will be selected, even if that place has got to be a chestnut.

—A farmer named William Dunlap, near Williamsport, cut round pieces from an inch board and fitted them in the bottom of measures which he used for dealing out apples to customers in that city. He was discovered and fined $5 and costs, a total of about $9. He was given the minimum punishment under the law, it being his first offence so far as known, but under the city ordinances he could have been fined as much as $500, while the commonwealth statues provide a fine of $250 and imprisonment.

—An exchange says: On the summit of a hill in central Potter county, Pa., are four springs, so near together that a person may carry water in the hollow of his hand from one of them and drop some of it in the other three. In one of these springs the Allegheny river has its source. Another is the fountain head of the Genesee river. In the third the Sinnemahoning creek rises, and the forth Pine creek. The waters thus started from one spring have their outlet in the Gulf of Mexico, those of another in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and those of the other two in the Chesapeake Bay.