

Ink Stings.

MACEO has the record of dying and coming to life again, all within twenty-four hours.

The man with the No. 6 hat and the 56 girth has it in him, some where, but certainly not in his head.

The grinder's department of the national axe-factory is working full time in the lobbies of the capitol at Washington.

How will this sound after January 15th: J. THOMAS MITCHELL, commissioner's clerk. Do you think it will sound that way?

The "cackling of the geese saved Rome," but the cackling of the geese is not calculated to save the morals of some men who live on Bishop street.

It is bad enough to see snakes but what a frightful condition that young man, in Bedford, must have been in when four live, wriggling reptiles escaped from his insides.

A Chicago justice fined a woman \$10 because she owned a cock that crowed at an unseemly hour in the morning. It is getting pretty tough when women are held accountable for the doings of their roosters.

Senator CAMERON has wakened up and has introduced a resolution into the Senate declaring that the independence of Cuba shall be recognized. Is CAMERON joining the jingoes, or is this a slick bid for his own seat in the Senate?

When the tax payers of Centre county get through with this contest for sheriff they will make it a point never to let another Republican get so near election as MILLER did. After paying fifteen or twenty thousand dollars in costs there will be an end of 16 majorities. After that they will be sixteen hundred.

Chicago is going to have a free silver church. What a happy thought. Possibly some of the ministers who have been helping HANNA and his gold theory for the past few months would like to have a little free silver. In fact we have yet to see the preacher whose begging propensity is not about on a par with any other accomplishment he may have.

Congress being in session the Cuban question is, for the time being, eclipsed, but the news makers are desperate in the attempt to keep it before the people. The latest story is to the effect that the patriot general MACEO has been killed. These Cubans are like the proverbial cat. All of them seem to have nine lives, for every time they are "killed" they show up again.

Our Governor has a fine sense of humor. His latest joke is to the effect that he does not intend being a candidate for the United States Senate because he feels that it is his duty to serve the people of Pennsylvania who made him Governor by the largest majority ever given any candidate. It's all right, Governor, if you want to be Senator we'll excuse you from further duty at Harrisburg.

Butler's council having passed a curfew ordinance, the people of that town are mad because they say such an edict will have a tendency toward making law breakers out of their children. The ordinance requires that a bell is to be rung every evening at eight o'clock, after which time all children under a certain age must be off the streets. Between the public school kid catchers and this law the lot of the Butler kid must be anything but a happy one.

Nebraska intends profiting by the mistake Kansas made in passing laws that affected both debtor and creditor class. Already that State is beginning to insure eastern investors that there will be nothing to fear in the form of legislation that might be injurious to Nebraska securities. What she needs is not assurance that her obligations will not be legislated out of existence, but more money so that her people can get something with which to wipe them out.

Many counties throughout the State are complaining that the State funds for public school purposes are not forthcoming. In view of the fact that Dec. 1st the official report of the State treasurer showed a balance of \$4,250,257 in the various State depositories, this dereliction looks very much as if the money is being used for other purposes than those for which it is collected. When the State claims to have so much money to its credit what can be the object in withholding funds that are due the various counties. Such action is hampering the work of public schools very materially in some districts.

The Cambria iron company's great plant at Johnstown was closed on the day it was visited by a delegation of Japanese scientists and now it is rumored that the company did not care to have the Japs learn too much about how steel is made there. Inasmuch as the object of the visit was thus frustrated it might have been in order for Dr. ELDER, the Johnstown sound money-tariff agitator, to have told the visitors how easy it is for that big place to shut down and start up again. It will be remembered that it stopped, a few days before the election, just long enough to give the doctor a chance to write a column story for the Philadelphia *Press* about the way in which the free silver scare was depressing everything, but unfortunately for the force of his argument the plant had resumed almost before the article was put in print.

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The Republican Ticket.

Whatever may be the result of the contest that Mr. A. V. MILLER and his Republican friends are trying to force upon the county, the Democracy will be in no way responsible for it. The costs which must run up into thousands of dollars and must be paid by the taxpayers; the local bitterness engendered; the besmirching of character; the suspicion of rascality; the charges of fraud and the whole train of foul things that beset communities and set neighbor against neighbor, that comes with election contests, will be chargeable solely to the greed of a few Republicans for office, and the general willingness of that party to saddle taxes upon the public.

There is no one, not particularly interested in getting ABRAM MILLER into a public office, but is confident that the returns of the last election for this county, as made and tested to, are honest in every instance and express the will of the people. But this does not suit Republican leaders and unless some unexpected ruling occurs the county is to be put to thousands of dollars of expense to prove that its election boards are honest, or to the same expense to give a defeated candidate an office upon technicalities.

But be the result as it may, as we have stated, the entire responsibility of that result, with all its costs and taxes and evils, will be upon the Republicans. *It will be a contest of Republicans, with Republicans, for a Republican—AND THE PEOPLE MUST FOOT THE BILL.*

It is asked for by a fairly defeated Republican; Republican lawyers advise that it be pushed along; Republican voters petition for it; of the twenty-six districts in which charges of fraud are made, twenty-four have Republican election boards; and upon the proceedings a Republican judge will determine whether the cost of a contest is to be fastened upon the tax-payers of the county, or whether the allegations of fraud are of too visionary a character to warrant this expense.

It is right that the tax-payers should know these facts. They are the interested ones. It is upon them that the great burden of expense will fall. It is from them that the taxes will be gathered to pay lawyers fees, and witness fees, and mileage, and court costs, and constable costs and the scores of other necessary expenses following in the wake of a general contest, that will drag along for months and may not be ended until the Supreme court passes its judgment upon questions at issue, years hence.

And all this expenditure upon the people to give ABRAM V. MILLER an office, through possible technicalities, when the tax-payers of the county refused, twice within thirteen months, to elect him to one. And all this trouble and expense and disgrace upon the county, because one lot of Republicans charge *their own* election boards with being too ignorant to know how to count the ballots, and with conspiring to defeat *their own* candidate. Surely the Republican party of this county is getting into deep water.

Electoral Ignorance.

It is announced from Washington that the leading colored Republican club of that city, which was established in 1895 for the purpose of furthering MCKINLEY's election, opposes the suggestion of a colored man as a member of MCKINLEY's cabinet. It proposes that the new President should give a number of colored men a share of the loaves and fishes rather than to heap all the honor on one by a cabinet appointment.

Do these deluded darkies think they have the slightest show for a cabinet office, or for any official positions which white Republicans may consider worth occupying? Though they elect Republican Presidents it is foolish for them to expect any of the offices, except such as are of a menial character, and their chances for even such are slim in competition with Republicans of the low-down order who are willing to clean official cupids.

The colored brothers gave MCKINLEY more than the popular majority that elected him. The last census showed that there were 1,700,000 negroes in the country qualified to vote, and it is within bounds to say that of this number at least 1,200,000 voted at the last election, and, as they are practically solid for Republican candidates, it is obvious that the votes they cast for MCKINLEY numbered almost half a million more than his popular majority, which has settled down to about 700,000.

The addition of the vast mass of negro ignorance to the voting population of the country is one of the crimes which the Republican party has committed against the Republic. They are committing another by utilizing the semi-barbarous hordes of Dagos and Huns as voting material, that ignorant mass having been secured by purchase and intimidation at the last election, and were used conjointly with the negroes in outvoting the intelligent artisans and farmers who supported the Democratic ticket and constitutional bimetallism.

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

State Library

101-96

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Will Cuba Have Home Rule?

It would seem from President CLEVELAND'S message to Congress that the only settlement of the Cuban question to which the United States can be a party must be effected through Spain's offering the Island home rule. In fact, it is announced that our government has already made advances to Spain with the hope of bringing about such a result. Home rule for Cuba would mean self-government with a recognition of the sovereignty of Spain. But before the latter would grant such a concession Cuba would have to guarantee a satisfactory execution of government for herself and it is in this guarantee that the President suggests that the United States might help adjust the trouble without violation of neutrality laws.

If Cuba were granted home rule it is indicated that "the United States would endeavor to find a way, not objectionable to Spain, of furnishing guarantee" that the government of the island would be properly executed. This is the furthest to which the President goes in his message. There is but one conclusion that can be drawn, and it is: that belligerent rights are not to be extended by the present administration, at least.

After reciting that at least from \$30,000,000 to \$50,000,000 of American capital are invested in plantations and in railroads, mining and other business enterprises on the island and that the volume of trade between the United States and Cuba, which amounted to about \$64,000,000, rose, in 1893, to about \$103,000,000, the President asserts that the Cubans have been able to maintain no civil government and that the only government that exists, if there be any, is enforced by the Spanish. It is his belief that Spain would be easily able to suppress the uprising were the rebels to come out of the hills and give fair fight, but that being secure in their ambuscades and succored from all quarters there is no telling when an end will be made of the costly conflict.

Looking at the situation from this point of view the President is convinced that the United States can take no other part in the trouble than in the way suggested in his message. He realizes the jeopardy in which millions of our capital are placed, yet he believes that the peculiar obligations of the laws of nations make it impossible for us to interfere except on the lines suggested.

Future Probabilities.

As there is scarcely a possibility of any revenue legislation during this winter's session of Congress, there is every probability of an extra session being called very soon after MCKINLEY'S inauguration. This will be done in order to effect the increase of tariff duties which was the chief purpose of MCKINLEY'S election. Between now and then there is but little likelihood of an improvement in business, but more likely that it will be a tough winter for the business interests, and that labor will find it a season of very rough sledding. The "advance agent of prosperity" will not furnish that article so far in advance.

But the relief that has been promised is to be furnished by means of more tariff taxation, and with that object there is every indication that Congress will be called together some time in next April or May. How business will be benefited by the agitation of the tariff in a special session, which will probably be prolonged all summer, we will leave to the imagination of our readers, and if, after such disturbance, shall have continued for months, the trusts and monopolies which put their money in MCKINLEY'S election shall succeed in securing an increase of tariff boundaries, it is not difficult to foresee what kind of "prosperity" will result from that method of obtaining it.

While this kind of a remedy is being resorted to the business depression will grow worse as the inevitable consequence of a contracted currency. The relief that may be expected is a further contraction by the retirement of the greenbacks, if the Wall street money sharks are allowed to perfect their scheme of cornering the currency.

It is beginning to be suspected that Prince LOUIS de Savoy has brought his ship over here for other than nautical purposes. His ship goes from one port to another, but the Prince spends most of his time on land, and the way he cuts the pigeon wing at social functions given in his honor by American swells, affords ground for the report that his chief object is to replenish the Savoy exchequer by marrying one of our multi-millionaire heiresses. The House of Savoy is not any too rich, and if the object of his visit is a matrimonial speculation, all that he has got to do is to let his purpose be known and the daughters of our Standard oil and trust plutocrats will tumble over each other in their struggle to lay their wealth, unencumbered by an income tax, and themselves, at his royal feet.

Republican Luck.

In two very remarkable instances the luck of the Republican party has been far beyond what its merits deserved. It will be remembered that immediately after the passage of the MCKINLEY tariff law, this country was blessed with one of the most abundant wheat crops that was ever bestowed upon her by a bountiful Providence, while in the same year, 1891, the crops of Europe were in a great measure a failure. It was the year when Russia, which usually exports such large quantities of wheat, had so short a crop that some of her districts were overtaken by famine.

As a consequence of such a situation the export of American wheat and other cereals was immense, the excess in value over the exportation of ordinary years having been over \$150,000,000. This unusual balance in our favor, with its consequent effect in promoting the business of the country, was declared by the protectionists to have been the result of the MCKINLEY tariff. Nevertheless, by the time the HARRISON administration closed, on the 4th of March, 1893, there wasn't a vestige left of this prosperity; industry was paralyzed, the national treasury was depleted, and a complete wreck was thrown on the hands of the incoming CLEVELAND administration. The party, however, whose management had brought about this condition got out of office in time enough to dodge the crash which they had been the cause of, and managed to create the impression that the bare fact of a Democratic administration coming into power had caused the ruin.

It is a remarkable coincidence that just when this fraudulent old party has recovered control of the government there is another crop failure abroad that occasions an unusual demand for our grain, which a great yield enables us to abundantly supply. The benefit which the country will derive from this lucky circumstance will surely be claimed as having resulted from MCKINLEY'S election. Even before the voting came off the advance in the price of wheat, caused by the foreign crop failure, was credited to MCKINLEY'S prospective success, and there were some farmers who were fooled by such an absurd claim.

But the benefits of the great grain exportations that are now going on will be as vanishing as were those of the year 1891, when the value of our exports exceeded those of ordinary years by nearly two hundred millions. After the unusual demand abroad has been supplied wheat will drop to the price to which the contracting effect of the gold standard has brought it, together with that of other agricultural products, and restored MCKINLEY'S will be attended with the same paralyzing consequences that brought the country to the ragged edge of an impending panic at the close of the HARRISON administration.

Protection to monopolies and a currency controlled by gold bug influence are not the agencies calculated to restore the country's prosperity. The Republican party was lucky in the two instances we have cited, but its luck was a misfortune to the country.

Fifty Years an Editor.

The esteem in which Colonel ALEXANDER K. MCCLURE, editor of the Philadelphia *Times*, is held by his newspaper friends found fitting expression in the magnificent banquet that was given in the honor of his fifty years' service, at the Walton, on Wednesday night. Three hundred and fifty of the most distinguished writers of the State were present to congratulate the veteran editor on the wonderful career which he has made for himself.

When a lad of 19 years he issued the first number of the *Juniata Sentinel*, at Millington, on Dec. 9th, 1846. The struggles of his early venture were very much the same as those that harry the country editor of to-day, but Col. MCCLURE was the one among thousands destined for a greater work. His ambition has been achieved and through the years that he has directed the policy of the great Philadelphia daily, his has been a potent factor in the business, social, political and Christian spheres of the country. The *Times* spreads MCCLURE'S enlightening thoughts to thousands, every day, and who can calculate the public benefit.

While there was gladness and good fellowship expressed in this anniversary it is a sad thought that comes to us when we realize that Col. MCCLURE'S days of service in the ranks are drawing to a close. Those who have known him as friend bear that esteem "that can perish only when the gathering shadows shall have settled into the night that comes to purple the better morn."

It seems that Mr. MILLS would resort to heroic remedy in the Cuban affair. He wants the President to take possession of the island by force. While we deplore the awful strife that is fast wrecking that land we are not in sympathy with a movement to attach it to the United States. Our territory is quite extended enough, particularly when there is such marked evidence of a growing tendency to dissatisfaction among our people, no matter what the condition of affairs.

The Prayer of the Men Who Want to Make Abe Miller Sheriff.

The Grounds on Which These Men Purpose Piling Costs on Centre County—Where They Cry Fraud in Republican Districts.

To the Honorable the Judges of the Court of Quarter Sessions of the Peace, in and for the county of Centre :

The petition of the undersigned, more than twenty-five in number, and all citizens and qualified electors of the said county of Centre and State of Pennsylvania, respectively represents:

That the officers of the general election held for said county of Centre on the 3rd day of November, 1896, have certified and returned that at said election W. M. Cronister received four thousand seven hundred and seventy-two votes for the office of sheriff of said county, and Abram V. Miller received four thousand, seven hundred and fifty-six votes for the said office of sheriff. That your petitioners are citizens and qualified electors of the said county of Centre, and that they each and all voted at said general election in the county of Centre, held on the 3rd day of November aforesaid.

The petitioners complain that the said election was rendered illegal; that the return of the said election is false, and that the said Abram V. Miller was duly elected sheriff of said county at said election, and not the said W. M. Cronister. That the respective election officers of the various election precincts in the county of Centre, at the said election held on the 3rd day of November last past, received, counted and returned a large number of votes as cast for the said W. M. Cronister, for the office of sheriff of said county, which said voter were illegal, improperly received, counted and returned for the said W. M. Cronister for sheriff of said county, and which were afterwards computed, counted and declared by the Court of Common Pleas, of Centre county, at the said election held on the 3rd day of November last past, received, counted and returned a large number of votes as cast for the said W. M. 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