

—There is only one way to have friends. Be a friend yourself.

—Cabinet making is not one of the easiest trades to learn and Mr. MCKINLEY is finding it out about as fast as it is possible for him to do so.

—Judging from the court records of York county the BUZZARDS must be almost as plentiful and pestiferous in that locality as they are in the southern States.

—If this Legislature re-apportions the State it will simply be a scheme to gerrymander a few more seats for Republican Assemblymen and Senators.

—MARK HANNA is ill. Poor MARK. He survived the pre-election troubles that "Cousin OSBORNE" brought about, but the office seekers and protection seekers now are more than his puny (?) constitution can stand.

—Two tramps attempted suicide by throwing themselves in front of an express train, on Long Island, the other day. It is presumed that they were hunting warm winter quarters, but their attempt failed, as the train would not kill them.

—MCKINLEY was formally elected President, on Tuesday, when the electors of the various States assembled for the purpose of voting the instructions given them last November. Now that the last formality has been gone through with what is there to stay his promised property?

—If succession in control means anything young SEELEY, the New York swell, must be a descendant of PHARAOH. The latter had Egypt, all together, long centuries ago, while SEELEY had "Little Egypt" in the "altogether," at a banquet, in New York, recently.

—Side by side, in the columns of the Altoona papers the other morning, were accounts of a woman starving to death in that city and of the amount that had been subscribed to the quick charity fund. They had better make their charity a little quicker up there or give it another name.

—The New York swells who are just now having their depraved minds vented in the police courts of that city ought to be shunned by society every where, but it is a sad commentary on American women that they will be rather "the fad" than despised, after having been shown up as vulgar libidinals.

—The currency contractors met in Indianapolis, on Wednesday, to continue their plans of making the dollars scarcer and harder to get. This over-weening desire for "honest" money will end up by making a dishonest people. All must live and if there is not some way of obtaining an honest livelihood other means will be taken.

—A new arbitration treaty has been signed whereby all matters of difference between the United States and Great Britain are to be submitted to a board of judges employed for the purpose of sitting as arbiters. If all nations would adopt such a method of settling disputes there would be no need of navies and standing armies.

—It was a matter to be wondered at when it was first announced that the Bucknell glee club would give a concert, at State College, next Friday night, but since it has been discovered that the club is composed entirely of young ladies a different phase is put on the announcement. In State's eyes Bucknell men are not of much use, but her girls—Well, that's different, you know.

—Senator HILL's resolution to fix the term of fourth class post-masters at four years is a good one and should be passed. It would be fair to both parties and would put an end to much trouble and injustice. The idea is to appoint all fourth class post-masters to a four year's term, except in case of appointments to fill vacancies. In such cases the limit will be the unexpired term.

—The sailor who recently set out for the island of Juan Fernandez and, getting drunk en route, was unable to find the place and returned with the startling story that the island of "Robison Crusoe" had been swallowed up by the sea, must have been feeling very much like the fellow who goes home drunk at night and, standing in the middle of the floor to wait until his bed gets around to him, jumps, to find it gone out from under him.

—The Princess de Chimay, who eloped, last summer, with a Hungarian gypsy musician, has grown tired of her lover and now wants a divorce. After she gets it she is to receive \$750 a night for being a living picture in a Berlin winter garden. Talk about workmanship enhancing the value of raw material; here the Berliners are willing to put up \$750 a night, to see what that musically inclined Dago saw every day, for months, for nothing.

—It was one of the favorite Republican cries, last fall, to compare Mr. MCKINLEY's actions, during the sixties, with Mr. BRYAN'S. Mr. MCKINLEY was a very good soldier, while his opponent was too young to go to war. It was a great Republican stroke to blaze away on this story, but if the Major has so much of the soldier blood in him why is it that so many of his shrewdest party party men decline to enter his cabinet for service? They know what the next four years will bring forth and do not care to be in the grave that Republicanism must now dig for itself, since it is pledged to a single standard of currency.

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A Question of Currency Reform.

It has been seldom in years that we have been able to agree with the views of the New York Sun, yet we can, to a certain extent, coincide with it when it says: "the talk about the need of reforming our currency has no basis of fact or reason on which to rest." The kind of currency reform talk to which the Sun alludes, is that which is heard in goldite circles about the necessity of "the government going out of the banking business," and the expediency of re-issuing the greenbacks, in order to relieve it of the banking function, and to place the currency more thoroughly upon the gold basis.

Much is said about the great harm resulting from the government having half a dozen or more different kinds of money afloat, and the urgency there is for the reformation of such a diversified system by calling in all the government paper money and simplifying the currency by confining the paper circulation to the issues of the bank, the whole business to be regulated by the gold standard.

The Sun is right in saying that this kind of talk is hush. It might have gone further and said that those who talk this way are interested in producing a contraction that will bring the currency more completely under the control of a money trust that has its head quarters in Wall street.

There is no harm or danger in the government's diversified system of paper money, consisting of the greenback legal tender, treasury notes, silver certificates, and three or four other kinds, (although this system could be simplified) if they are let alone to perform their function as a circulating medium, based upon the credit of the government, without attempting to give them the unnecessary value of gold by the assumption of ultimate redemption in that kind of coin.

If this varied paper circulation has been troublesome and injurious it has only been in consequence of the futile attempt to maintain a stock of gold in the treasury sufficient to keep it on a par with that metal. The assumption of such a performance is a deception, a regular financial fake, for the reason that there is not enough gold available for such a purpose without continual loans that subject the government to the expensive extortion of the money lenders.

But if the treasury authorities were to use the option given them by law to employ either kind of the lawful coinage of the country, silver as well as gold, for the redemption of its paper money, the trouble and injury alleged to be connected with the existing system of currency, and clearly due to the requirement of gold redemption, would be entirely removed.

But to such a proposition the goldites put in the horrifying protest that if the greenbacks and other government notes were to be redeemed in silver it would cut the value of everything in two and hopelessly ruin the country. The people, who by this time should have recovered from the effect of the 53-cent dollar hoax which the goldites so adroitly employed in the recent campaign, should not be in a mood to be frightened by the humbug representation that the redemption of the government paper money in silver would diminish its purchasing value.

We believe that neither the majority of the people nor a majority of Congress are favorable to the kind of "currency reform" which the gold contractionists want to effect by putting the legal tender notes, more familiarly known as greenbacks, out of circulation. What is needed to restore the prosperity of the country is rather an extension than a contraction of the circulating medium. There is no legitimate call for "the government to go out of the banking business" in the sense implied by the demand of the contractionists, and there is no public interest that demands that the function of issuing paper money should be limited to the banks.

The business welfare of the country will be promoted by keeping afloat every dollar of paper money which the government has in circulation, with an untrammelled exercise of its option to redeem its notes either with gold or silver, to suit existing exigencies, as authorized by law and additionally sanctioned by the MATTHEWS resolution.

—The suspension of labor at many of the penal institutions in the country is playing sad havoc with a number of the inmates. Legislatures have prohibited prison labor with the hope of protecting honest labor, but in doing so they have taken away from convicts a means of passing away time, while incarcerated, that is likely to have its ill effects on the minds of man. It is a question whether a greater good is not done humanity by permitting convict labor, if for no other reason than that it inculcates good habits in long term men, than by legislating against it for the benefit of outside industry.

—Talk about the inhuman methods of punishing crime in olden times. The rack, the screw, the iron woman, and stock were as nothing compared to the way bigamists are punished in Hungary. Awful, awful! They are made to live in the same house with all of their wives at the same time.

Walcott's Mission.

Senator WALCOTT is off on his mission to Europe, the purpose of which is to secure the co-operation of the bimetallicists of the old country in bringing about an international agreement by which silver shall be restored to its former monetary standing relatively to gold. His movement is based on a resolution passed in the Senate, upon which a committee was appointed to determine what may be done towards carrying out the pledge in the St. Louis platform committing the Republican party to bimetallicism by international agreement. WALCOTT has gone abroad to see how foreign governments may be disposed to join in a movement to which the Republicans pledged themselves for political reasons connected with a presidential campaign, but which can hardly be considered binding upon European gold-bugs.

Since his arrival on the other side of the Atlantic he is meeting with no encouragement in that quarter. The leaders of the English money market give him no countenance, whatever, and there is but little prospect of his getting a better reception in other European countries from those interests which are reaping an advantage from the exclusive gold policy. The money changers and bond dealers have as much the upper hand in Europe as they have in this country, and it is too much for Senator WALCOTT to expect that he can persuade them to join in a movement that would diminish their profits.

The Republicans can't be given credit with meaning anything serious when they declared for international bimetallicism in their platform. It was put in for a campaign purpose, and it is not to be expected that they will make very strenuous exertions to induce the European nations to go into a conference with the United States for the restoration of the monetary equality of silver.

That the double standard of value will in time be restored scarcely admits of a doubt. A few more years of the contracting and depressing effects of the restrictive gold policy will compel the American people to put silver back in its old place in the currency, and they will do it without waiting to see what Europe will have to say about it. BRYAN advocated the right policy when he declared that this country is able to go it alone in re-establishing the silver standard, and when the people of the United States shall make up their minds to carry out this policy the nations of Europe will not be long in seeing the commercial advantage it will give this nation and will be compelled to adopt it in defence of their own interests.

Anti-Trust Legislation.

The success of the anti-trust law passed by the Legislature of Georgia, which is driving the trusts out of that State, has encouraged the introduction of a bill in the Indiana Legislature, framed on similar lines, with the object of producing the same effect in suppressing those trade conspiracies in Indiana.

The trusts have been able to maintain their monopolies simply because there has been no earnest legislation for their suppression. They have been able to exert such influence upon legislation that when attempts were made to pass anti-trust laws it was always managed to make them so defective that they were found to be inoperative. The courts have also been too much inclined to interpret such enactments in favor of the monopolies. Some State Legislatures, among which that of Pennsylvania has been conspicuous in its favoritism to monopolistic extortion, have persistently refrained from doing anything for the defence of the people against this form of robbery, but, on the other hand, have displayed a readiness to protect monopoly by favorable legislation. In this State both the Legislature and the Executive have shown this reprehensible disposition in their concessions to the interest of the Standard oil company, the most gigantic trust and typical monopoly of the age.

That the Georgia anti-trust law has proved successful is because it was framed with an earnest intention to effect its object. The bill introduced in the Indiana Legislature, on the same subject, appears to be similarly in earnest, and, if passed, will no doubt be equally successful in producing its intended results.

But while these remedial measures are being taken by State Legislatures to protect the people from the extortion of the trusts, it is discouraging to see the national Legislature preparing for the increase of tariff duties which furnish these monopolistic combinations the encouragement and protection under which they are enabled to practice their robbery. There is but faint hope of relief from the trust evil when MCKINLEYISM, restored to power, invites the various monopolies to appear before the Ways and Means committee and name the rate of tariff duties under which they will be best able to continue their spoliations.

—Subscribe for the WATCHMAN.

The Expense of the Greenback Circulation.

A Philadelphia contemporary that has been conspicuous in its support of the gold standard, and severe in its denunciation of the free silver "repudiationists," now extends its reproof to those who are opposed to the retirement of the greenbacks. It scolds the claim that the government legal tender notes are a cheap and reliable kind of currency, and that inasmuch as they bear no interest and are acceptable in all business transactions, it is desirable on that account to rather enlarge than reduce the volume of their circulation. Instead of this being true it declares that the facts are directly opposite; that the greenbacks are an expensive form of currency, having cost the government, and consequently the people, many millions of dollars to keep them in circulation, and that therefore their retirement would be a public benefit.

To support this charge it gives the figures to show what it has cost to maintain the gold reserve for greenback redemption, and succeeds in demonstrating that since 1877 the cost and liability incurred by redeeming the greenbacks in gold amounted to the enormous sum of \$1,081,881,562. Certainly this is an expense too great to be incurred for the purpose of keeping a paper currency afloat, but was there any necessity for incurring that expense? Is there not some other way of backing up the greenback circulation than by piling up a great heap of gold in the treasury, the maintenance of which is so advantageous to the gold speculators and so expensive to the government? Such an expense would be inexcusable even if it were required by law, but it is incurred without legal sanction, for there is no law that requires the payment of the greenbacks in gold. The provision of the law that such obligations of the government are redeemable in "lawful coin" of the United States has been perverted to the advantage of the gold dealers who make a profit out of loans made to maintain the reserve, and this perversion is perpetrated in defiance of a resolution of Congress which declared that silver was as lawful a coin as gold in redeeming the government's paper obligations.

It is true that the circulation of the government's legal tenders has been very expensive, but this expense has been incurred in catering to the gold interest. It is a sequence of the crime of demonetization. If silver had been allowed to retain its position in our monetary system and had been used co-ordinately with gold, as the option of the government, in redeeming the greenbacks, the millions that have gone to the gold sharks on profits in loans would have been saved.

Rain-bow Promises.

The Republicans are building high on the prospect that the Senate will fail to confirm a large number of appointees, named by President CLEVELAND, prior to the meeting of Congress, and thus leave many positions to be filled by President MCKINLEY that fairly belonged to his successor and his supporters. This hope, of the hungry brigade, is based upon the fact that Senator WALCOTT, who is chairman of the committee on post-offices and post roads, is absent in Europe and will not return, before the 4th of March, to call a meeting of his committee and without a meeting of and a favorable report from the committee, the names of Mr. CLEVELAND'S appointees will not be presented to the Senate for confirmation. Should there be anything in this reasoning of the Republican's it would leave President MCKINLEY to name, at once, post-masters for the following points in Pennsylvania, the salaries of which range from \$6,000 to \$1,000: Mount Jewett, Darby, Bryn Mawr, Milford, Bridgeport, Newtown, Jermyn, Columbus, Sunbury, Williamstown Mount Jay, Minersville, Montoursville, Phillipsburg, Evans City, Union City, Saltsburg, Slippery Rock, Galeson, Wilmington, Dunbar, Etna, Peckville, Derry Station, New Bloomfield, Lykens and Lititz.

It is hardly probable that the present occupants of these offices will be foolish enough to loose sleep over the visionary hopes of Republican aspirants, that a Senate committee will fail to meet during an entire session of Congress because of the absence of its chairman. To do so would indicate that they know about as much of parliamentary proceedings, and of the necessity of committee work, as the gold standard advocates did of the conditions necessary to the prosperity of the country.

We like to see people hopeful and happy and for this reason would advise the fellows who expect to get these places, in consequence of the failure of the Senate committee to meet, to spit on their hands and tighten their grip on the hopes they have. It's a very slippery, doubtful one and is about as likely to be realized as the one that lures children to seek the golden treasure at the rain-bow's end.

—In selecting JOHN SHEERMAN as the head of his official family President-elect MCKINLEY has left no room for doubt as to the Republicanism of it.

Kind Words for the Watchman from Many Journalists.

Our readers have all seen and appreciated, we trust, the recent Christmas number of this paper. When it was decided to issue it in the form that proved so highly satisfactory to all, no splurge was intended, nor no effort made to parade it for public attention. It was simply one of the many departures that the WATCHMAN is continually making for the benefit of its patrons. Many congratulatory expressions have been received concerning the issue, but we appreciate, more than all, the kind words that our fellow journalists have said, although without solicitation. They are in a position to pass upon the merit of a paper better than any other class of readers, hence we publish extracts from a few of the ones we have received:

It Improves With Age.

From the Lock Haven Democrat. The Bellefonte WATCHMAN, that staunch Democratic weekly, has completed the forty first year of its existence, and it celebrated its anniversary by appearing in an enlarged form of sixteen pages, with brilliantly illuminated Christmas covers. The WATCHMAN improves with age in the vigorous tone and independent spirit of its editorials and in the freshness of its local news. The WATCHMAN is an old standby in Centre county, and we can only wish it a never ending continuance of its prosperity and popularity.

One of the Handsomest.

From the Williamsport Sun. A number of newspapers of the State issued special Christmas editions, and that of the Bellefonte WATCHMAN, in its various colors, is one of the handsomest that reached the Sun office.

It Did Take in This State.

From the Lancaster Intelligencer. Eugene Field observed that "any color, so long as its red, is the color that goes out West," and the remark might as well be applied to many parts of the East, for it is very certain that the lurid scarlet cover of the Bellefonte DEMOCRATIC WATCHMAN'S Christmas number would go like a house afire anywhere in Pennsylvania.

A Beautiful Specimen of the Printing Art.

From the Huntingdon News. The Bellefonte WATCHMAN did itself proud in getting out a Christmas number with illuminated cover, and 15 pages of reading and advertising matter. It is a beautiful specimen of the printing art, and makes the shine off special numbers that have been issued from more pretentious city offices.

A Rich Treat.

From the Greensburg Democrat. A rich treat was given its readers by that sterling journal, The DEMOCRATIC WATCHMAN, of Bellefonte, Pa., in its Christmas issue. It was very neat in appearance and admirable in contents.

An Ideal Country Paper.

From the Phillipsburg Ledger. The DEMOCRATIC WATCHMAN, which is always easily in the lead in good looks, outshone itself in the Christmas number. It was gorgeous in a brilliant "poster" cover and contained sixteen pages of choice reading matter. Barring its politics the WATCHMAN is an ideal country paper, and its thriving condition is the result of brains and grit, which deserve all the prosperity there is going.

One of the Best in the State.

From the Jersey Shore Herald. Last week's edition of the Bellefonte WATCHMAN was beautiful in art as well as mechanical workmanship. It made up 16 pages with handsome colored covers, and reflects great credit upon the enterprise and taste of the proprietor, Hon. P. Gray MEEK, and his assistants. The WATCHMAN, is one of the best newspapers published in the State.

A Vision of Bright Color.

From the Conneville Courier. The holiday issue of the Bellefonte DEMOCRATIC WATCHMAN is a 16 page paper and is a vision of bright color and new type. The cover is in three colors and is one of the finest seen this year.

Its Rank is Foremost.

From the Altoona News. We congratulate the Bellefonte WATCHMAN for successfully rounding out the forty-first year of its existence. As a bright, interesting weekly journal it ranks among the foremost in the Keystone Commonwealth.

And the Scribes Are Not too Good to be Angels.

From the Bellefonte Keystone Gazette. This week the WATCHMAN reached its readers in what they term a Christmas edition. It contains a large amount of extra local advertisements and reading matter especially adapted for the festivities of the holidays. The red and highly decorated cover is what takes the eye of the people in general and makes the edition very conspicuous. It is neat and tidy, well edited and is praise-worthy of those who had it in charge. On the front cover is an angel reaching for something—but not by any means for the gentlemen scribes of the paper.

A Splendid Specimen of the Printer's Art.

From the Bellefonte Daily News. Last week the staunch old DEMOCRATIC WATCHMAN celebrated the happy Christmas time and its forty-first anniversary by appearing in an enlarged form. There were sixteen pages of interesting reading and advertising matter with beautifully illuminated Christmas covers. It is a splendid specimen of the printer's art, and we congratulate Brother MEEK on his effort.

Spawls from the Keystone.

—The Supreme court began its sessions in Scranton Monday.

—W. J. Clark was appointed fourth-class postmaster at Leech's Corner on Monday.

—Bella Trexell, an Allentown saleswoman, died of blood poisoning caused by a pin scratch.

—York has reached the bonded debt limit created by councils, and any increase must be voted by the people.

—Three turret plates for the battleship Iowa were shipped from the Bethlehem iron works to Cramps on Monday.

—Schrader, the "healer," has opened a room in the Rise block, Lebanon, and expects to remain there a week.

—By a fall of coal at Monitor colliery, near Ashland, Michael Travinski, a miner, was instantly killed Monday.

—Larry McCullune, of the Union water works, Lebanon, was probably fatally gored by a maddened bull on Saturday.

—Nathan Dresher, of Allentown, has had one family as tenants on his farm at Longswamp continuously for 65 years.

—The Lehigh zinc works has abandoned the jiggling department at its Bethlehem plant, the work being transferred to New Jersey.

—J. Ross Decker, son of ex-Assemblyman James D. Decker, of Pond Eddy, was killed Monday by a dynamite explosion in his stone quarry.

—Application for a new trial has been made at Pittsburg in case of professor C. D. Bogart, convicted of assaulting 13-year-old Clara Vates.

—Three valuable horses, belonging to Coxe Bros. & Co., of Drifton, broke loose Tuesday day morning and were killed by a train on the Lehigh Valley Railroad.

—Harry W. Seigrist, has been chosen treasurer of the Cornwall & Lebanon railroad, to succeed Allen D. Hoffer, who resigned because of his brother's stealing.

—The 16-year-old son of John W. Yeager, of Steelton, was instantly killed by being struck by a Pennsylvania railroad freight train, which was making a "flying switch."

While painting the cupola of the Warwick furnace, Pottstown, Edward Strough was overcome by furnace gas and narrowly escaped falling to the ground 60 feet below.

—Councilman J. H. Deiffenderfer, of Milton, fell dead on the street in that place Friday. He was standing near a window and when he fell he struck the pane of glass, breaking it. He was a prominent Odd Fellow. His age was 44 years.

—At Sunbury several doctors removed from the upper part of the back of O. P. Renn, bridge carpenter in the employ of the Pennsylvania railroad, a tumor as large as a child's head. The operation was a success and the patient is getting along nicely.

—A large number of cross ties are being delivered at different points along the Beech Creek railroad. They are consigned to Graham and Porte, who, it is said, have contracted to furnish the Beech Creek company with 10,000 ties for use the present year.

—Arrangements are being perfected to have the new Odd Fellows' Orphans' Home, at Sunbury, completed by April 1. J. L. Miller, of Sunbury, has been elected superintendent of the Home, at a salary of \$800, and his wife has been elected matron, at a salary of \$200 a year.

—A good bit has been said and printed about the state of Pennsylvania paying or not paying the transportation for the National Guard to Washington on the inaugural occasion. The truth is the state never did pay the transportation of its Guard to Washington to take part in the 4th of March proceeding. Neither did it ever pay the men of the Guard for their time or even bear their expenses.

—The depositors of the defunct bank of Gardner, Morrow & Co., will receive 17 cents on the dollar out of the bank assets. The depositors have petitioned to court to impound a casket belonging to the late Judge James Gardner, senior member of the firm, which is believed to contain \$100,000 in United States bonds. The casket is to be opened by Judge Bailey in the presence of the interested parties.

—In payment of an election bet, Walter Shooter, proprietor of the City hotel, Williamsport, at a roasted crow Monday night, in the presence of a number of friends. Prior to the November election Mr. Shooter and H. Jules Mailoux, in speaking of the contest for sheriff between Crow and Ashbridge in Philadelphia, became so warm in the support of their favorites that each wagered with the other that the one whose favorite lost the fight, would eat a dish of crow.

—Through Congressman Hicks the people of Altoona are pushing hard for the public building which has been on the string of hope for several years. A bill is now pending in the lower house of congress, presented by Hicks on the 6th of last month, which provides for an appropriation of \$125,000 for the purpose. Postmaster Wilson's statement in answer to certain questions concerning the present postoffice facilities, etc., which indicate that the matter is being seriously considered in Washington.

—The coal mines at Robertsdale and Woodvale shaft employed 500 men. The "drivers" at Robertsdale slope struck on Tuesday because one of their number was given a different rule to drive, and the slope has been closed since that time. On Saturday morning the Woodvale shaft "drivers" refused to work through sympathy and now all the mines are closed. The mines had been only working two days a week and the "drivers" struck just as they began working on a large order which would have kept them steadily employed.

—Frank N. Moore, special agent of the department of agriculture, while going the rounds of the candy trade, discovered in the analysis on candy that a large per centage contained rum and brandy. This candy sells for 40 and 50 cents a pound, and the dealers say it is largely sought after by boys and girls between the ages of ten and sixteen. Mr. Moore also had a sample of rock and rye drops which got its name from the fact that no rock and rye was found in its ingredients, but instead contained a liberal quantity of tartaric acid.