

BY P. GRAY MEEK.

Ink Slings.

If England would help the cause of silver in India she would not now be called upon to support a half famished, financially wrecked colony.

Sheriff TAMSEN, of New York, ought to go into business as a sieve maker. The frequency with which prisoners escape from him indicates that he would do well in such a line.

PENROSE has been formally elected Senator, QUAY is happy, so happy that he has to run off to Florida to stay until March 4th. He is paid for doing that, you know.

JOHN SHERMAN thinks there is such a thing as men remaining too long in public life, but unfortunately JOHN is human and sees every other man's faults, while totally blind to his own.

Sauer-kraut is now on the list for protection when McKinley gets in. It won't be long until the American back-bone will need the stiffening which nothing but a tariff seems able to give.

The principal business transacted at Harrisburg this week was the handing out of rewards, in the shape of official appointments, to those who had been faithful to QUAY, in his PENROSE fight.

The generous and forgiving nature of true Democracy had the first test of its feelings towards the ex-gold bolters, at DuBoise, last week, when one of them returned to the free silver ring and received a conciliatory nomination.

Massachusetts leads the van of States with 1,472 twins and 7 triplets born within her borders during 1896. The Yankees are nothing if not ingenious. Then they are so proud that they must even have their babies different from those of other States.

There is one thing very certain about Representative McELHENY's, of Pittsburgh, proposed bill to stop "treating" in Pennsylvania. If it ever becomes a law McELHENY will become a dead duck in the political puddle. Politics and "treating" are too near akin to stand separation.

The population of the United States is increasing at the rate of over a million a year, by births alone. It will soon be necessary to legislate in regulation of the size of families or the United States will rapidly drift into that over populous condition that is the greatest drawback to China and India.

MARY E. HORART wants to become a United States Senator and is now trying to persuade the Washington Legislature to elect her. Though it does not seem quite the right thing for a woman it is very certain that she would never traduce the dignity of the Senate chamber by such language as was used there by INGALLS and TILLMAN.

So the Governor has declined a cabinet position, so they say. QUAY and PENROSE were in Canton, last week, on his behalf and while the outcome of their visit is not known it has been announced that the Governor will not accept a cabinet office, preferring to repute the people who elected him by the largest majority ever given a candidate. Things have changed since then and we imagine the people would sputter if he would go.

A resolution was presented in Congress, on Tuesday, by Representative STONE, of Pennsylvania, calling upon the President to invite an expression of opinion from foreign powers looking to the adoption of international coins, that would pass current in all countries adopting them. This would be very nice for the customs duties, tourists and counterfeits, but the bankers would wonder where their share of the benefit would come in.

The everlasting fault of looking for mites in other people's eyes affects nations just as much as individuals. In her speech at the opening of the British parliament, on Tuesday, the Queen refers to the purpose of the great powers to bring Turkey to a sense of her duty. Shades of our ancestors, bear witness to England's tyranny to the American colonies and her outrageous treatment of Ireland. Though Turkey need look nothing after VICTORIA had better sweep her own house before she offers her services to others.

The sound money league of Philadelphia might find employment for their speaking FRIDAY, THUR. C. KNAUF, during the inter-campaign seasons, by having him figure out why it is that people are starving, right here in Pennsylvania, when the great cry of over production is going up as the excuse for idle factories all over the land. Can there be such a thing as over production when millions are in want? No, it is under consumption and it exists because there is not enough money with which to satisfy the needs of the people.

Two new road bills having been introduced before the Pennsylvania Legislature it is not likely that we will have any COXEY "good roads" movements until their fate, at least, is known. Senator BROWN is father of the bills, the first of which calls for an annual state appropriation of \$1,000,000 to be expended on the various roads of the State, through the supervisors, in proportion to the number of miles of highway in each township. All roads to be made 12 feet wide and each county convention of supervisors to have an engineer and treasurer, and native tax payers to be given preference in employment.

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Reform on the Goldbug Plan.

The currency reformers have held their convention at Indianapolis and the reform they propose is just what could be expected of parties strictly devoted to the gold interest. The material of which that assemblage was composed chiefly consisted of representatives of the moneyed class, who spoke and acted for the syndicates, corporations and banking institutions which contributed the funds that secured a victory for the goldbugs in the recent presidential election. Therefore it is not surprising that the leading propositions they made for a reform of the currency were that the present gold standard should be maintained, that steps should be taken for the retirement of the greenbacks, and that the national banking system should be so enlarged as to multiply the number of national banks and confine to them the function of issuing the paper circulation of the country.

It is not easy to see at what point reform makes its appearance in this programme. The gold standard has been maintained since 1873, yet the financial and monetary difficulties have been on the increase until the country finds itself in its present plight. How will this be remedied by continuing the system under which the general financial and business situation has become, year by year, more embarrassed and depressed? For the correction of such a disorder the Indianapolis goldites recommend persistence in the monetary standard that has been largely instrumental in causing the trouble. Their decision, in regard to the maintenance of the gold standard, is merely an endorsement of the policy of Wall street, promotive of the interest of the MORGANS and that fraternity of money changers, against which six and a half millions of American citizens recorded their opposition at the last elections.

The Indianapolis currency tinkers recommend, as a further remedial measure, the retirement of the government legal tender notes. They base the expediency of this proposition on the trouble, expense and danger involved in the necessity of keeping these notes on a par with gold. It is very true that this is troublesome, expensive and dangerous, but is it not so by reason of the exclusive gold standard which has been adopted in the redemption of those notes? Would there be any trouble of that kind if the treasury authorities were to use their lawful option in redeeming the paper money of the government with either the gold or silver coinage of the country?

The millions of citizens who voted against the goldbug policy at the last election will not agree to the Indianapolis suggestion to increase the bonded debt some for hundred millions of dollars by borrowing gold sufficient to redeem the greenbacks and retire them. It is undesirable to increase the interest-bearing indebtedness of the government in time of peace, but to pile up that debt for no other purpose than to deprive this country of the best, most convenient, cheapest and safest money it ever had, and for no other reason than to confirm the power of the goldbugs in controlling the monetary situation, as a proposition that is not likely to meet the approval of the American people.

Spain's Offer of Reform.
It is scarcely possible that the trouble in Cuba can be settled by the offer of reforms on the part of the Spanish government. A recent ministerial meeting at Madrid, presided over by the Queen Regent, appears to have acted upon the presumption that the dissatisfaction prevailing on the island ought to be removed by such reformatory measures as the Spanish authorities may see fit to grant to the insurrectionists. But the Spaniards delude themselves in believing that there can be any efficacy in such a recourse at the present stage of the contention that has been going on in Cuba for two years.

The chief obstacle to a settlement of the Cuban trouble by a promise of reform in Spain is that the Cubans have no confidence in Spanish promises. They were deluded into laying down their arms in 1878, after a struggle of nearly ten years, by a pledge, on the part of the Spaniards, that the grievances which were the cause of the insurrection at that time would be remedied. This promise was entirely disregarded. If there was any change in the Spanish method of governing the island, its oppressiveness was rather increased than diminished.

The policy of plundering the Cubans for the benefit of the home government went on with unabated rapacity.

With such experience it is extremely improbable that any offered concessions will weaken the determination of the Cuban patriots to continue their rebellion against the Spanish domination. The condition that the proposed reforms will not be granted until they lay down their arms and cease their resistance to the authority of Spain, is properly offensive to combatants who would have had no concessions offered them if they had not resisted, and the lack of good faith on the part of the Spaniards in fulfilling their former promises, would justify the Cubans in rejecting any offers made by Spain under the stress of her present embarrassment.

The fact is that the Cuban patriots are not fighting for reform of government, under Spanish rule, but for complete national independence, and may Providence grant them what they have so far a right to.

What a sorry state of affairs exists in Altoona. A short time ago a woman starved to death up there, because their quick charity dispensation was no quicker than the average district messenger boy, and now an Italian rookery has been uncovered where little girls, ranging in age from eleven to fifteen years, have been enticed and seduced.

Preparing to Fight Again.

Our esteemed contemporary, the Philadelphia Record, is not as cock sure that free silver is dead as it was immediately after the election, but is constrained to remark that "passing events are making it extremely probable that the country will be compelled, once more, in spite of the sound money victory of last November, to meet the free silver heresy."

In all probability the country will have such an encounter, and the almost absolute certainty of its occurrence is due to the character of the "sound money victory of last November," which the Record appears to think should have settled the doom of free silver.

When that victory is examined it looks more like a defeat for the goldites. They had the assistance of the entire money power of the country. Every trust, moneyed corporation and interested monopoly upheld the gold standard.

The mighty agency of banded wealth supported the cause of the goldbugs. It was backed by the corrupting influence of a boodle fund amounting to millions of dollars. The mass of the ignorant population was influenced, either by fear or by purchase, to give their votes for what they were told was "honest money." A system of intimidation, deception and bribery was put in operation that affected every class liable to be influenced by such agencies, and to complete the force which the money power was able to exert in the cause of gold monometalism, the most influential newspapers of the country, almost as a unit, supported the goldite interest and employed every means of misrepresenting the cause for which the supporters of free silver were contending. Back of all this was the organization of a powerful but corrupt political party, thoroughly disciplined, fanatically devoted to the moneyed interests and the cause of monopoly, and directed by the most skillful and unscrupulous political managers.

When, after all such appliances of victory, it is found that if the nigger and Dago vote were subtracted from the goldite vote it would be in a minority of nearly a million, there is but little reason for our esteemed Philadelphia contemporaries to be surprised that the fight will be continued in support of what it calls the "free silver heresy."

Such a victory, instead of being a discomfiture, is rather an encouragement to the vanquished to fight again, with a most reasonable assurance that they will rout their enemy the next time.

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Corruption That Needs Correction.

A resolution introduced in the Senate asking for an investigation of the methods employed in the election of McKinley remains to be acted upon before the close of the session, and if pushed with the earnestness which its importance demands the development of the corruption employed to bring about a victory for the trusts and bank syndicates will startle the honest sentiment of the country. Several speeches will be delivered in the Senate on this subject, which will create a great political sensation. The speakers will include senators JONES, of Arkansas, and TELLER, of Colorado, who have had agents at work ever since the result of the election was announced, investigating and gathering facts to be used in the speeches they intend to make, and to throw light upon the subject investigated.

If it is worth while for the American people to preserve their free institutions from the dry rot of corruption, it is high time for them to set about putting a stop to the vicious practices which are being habitually resorted to in carrying presidential elections. If the republic is worth anything to them they are called upon to prevent its destruction which is threatened by the operation of the boulders who influence the result of political contests by the money they put into them, making the government a matter of purchase.

The progress which this crime against the republic is making is really appalling, and the alarm which it should excite has reason to become the greater when it is seen that the Republican party has deliberately and methodically adopted such practices as its method of determining political contests and electing the President. This political crime first developed large proportions in HARRISON's election when shame had so far departed from the management of the Republican campaign that a corruption fund of four hundred thousand dollars was openly employed as a means of deciding the result. Its use for that purpose was avowed, and the man who came to the rescue of the party with this corrupting appliance was regarded as having performed a service that entitled him to a seat in the cabinet.

Evils, if unchecked, always grow, and, as an illustration of the growth of this danger to our popular institutions, it is seen that the crime, that was committed in making the presidential election of 1888 a question of money, is repeated with increased enormity, attaining the fearful proportions of a boodle campaign, in 1896, in which millions of dollars were used to determine the result by influences most glaringly corrupt and vicious in their character.

There is not an intelligent American citizen who can not see what such a system of electoral crime will result in if allowed to go on. It must end in the ruin of our popular form of government, with plutocratic power substituted for the will of the people.

It Should Be No Speculation Scheme.

The readers of Gov. HASTING's last message will warmly approve his suggestion that the State should buy some millions of acres of waste land and go into arboriculture, on a wholesale plan, for the purpose of replanting the forests which have been removed by lumber operations.

Many arguments can be advanced in support of such a project, such as the necessity of restoring the timber exhausted by reckless management in the past; the preservation of the streams that are being dried up in consequence of the removal of the forests; the prevention of floods that have become more destructive since the mountains and valleys have been stripped of their trees, and the conservation of equable climatic conditions that are being changed for the worse by such denudation.

These are plausible reasons why the State should buy millions of acres of exhausted timber lands and get to planting trees, and if the object can only be accomplished without the speculation jobbery, usually attendant upon such undertakings, the State should greatly benefit by its success. Surely something should be done to protect what little forest land we have left from the fires that are yearly leaving them nothing but desolate wastes. If the Governor can have adopted some plan whereby this can be accomplished, without the usual public robbery that follows such efforts, he will have accomplished a purpose for which coming generations will have reason to thank him.

More Hope for Al. Dale's Postmastership.

From the York Gazette.

The press reports say Senator Quay was manifestly dissatisfied when he left McKinley's house, after a long secret interview with him on Saturday. Every politician in this state will be guessing just what caused this mood in the senator. It would make the Wanamaker crowd wild with delight if events prove that McKinley has decided to ignore Quay after he has made one of his henchmen his colleague in the Senate. But they will hardly be given such a pleasure. The President-elect may be a man born to make mistakes, but he would hardly undertake to distribute patronage in Pennsylvania against Quay's wishes.

Two "Boss" Ruled States.

From Harper's Weekly.

Each of the two most populous and wealthy States in the Union is dominated by a political boss. They are not new States. They are as old as the government. In their day they have been conspicuous in patriotic uprisings. They are now not only inhabited by prosperous and intelligent people, but they are centres of education and refinement. In each State are great cities, whose society is adorned by men of learning on the bench and at the bar, in medicine and at the pulpit, and by honorable and distinguished men of business. One of these cities is the metropolis of the country. And both New York and Philadelphia boast of universities which rank among the first in the Union.

A picture of these two democracies might truly set forth which would induce the stranger to believe that here, if anywhere, the ideals of popular government have been realized. But in reality there is nothing baser or more revolting in modern life than the political conditions of the States of New York and Pennsylvania.

The government of the State of New York is controlled by Thomas C. Platt, and that of the State of Pennsylvania by Matthew S. Quay, as completely as if they were meddlesome despots, ruled by resolute and irresponsible monarchs.

So far as Mr. Platt is concerned, he is as yet under no obligation to render an account of his stewardship. In law he is merely a private citizen; in fact he is the ruler of New York. With Mr. Quay it is somewhat different. He is a United States Senator, and must therefore present himself from time to time for re-election. Perhaps this explains the fact that some opposition to his rule has been manifested in the Pennsylvania Legislature. Despite this opposition at Harrisburg, however, which is ineffective, the laws of these two great states are those which Mr. Platt and Senator Quay dictate. The officers of the States, from the Governors down, are the men whom these two "bosses" appoint. The United States Senators are those whom the Legislature elect at the dictation of the real rulers of the State.

On the 5th of this month Senator Quay's progress in the Legislature of Pennsylvania chose for United States Senator a young man named Boile Penrose, against whose candidacy for the Mayoralty of Philadelphia the virtuous voters of that city protested effectively. On the same day the young man whom Platt has made Governor of New York sent a message to the Legislature, in which, for the delectation of his master, he had inserted an ignorant assault on the merit system of the civil service.

During the winter, it is expected that this Governor will appoint to responsible offices the men whom Platt selects, no matter how unfit or how corrupt they may be. It is expected that the Legislature will pass the laws that Mr. Platt desires. The statute book of the session will be the work of Thomas C. Platt. He will give the Great New York its charter. He will bestow upon the liquor interests whatever he sees fit.

The millions borrowed for canal improvement will be expended by his creatures. He will decree what taxes shall be imposed upon the people, and the manner in which the money shall be expended. The like will happen in Pennsylvania as to every matter in which Senator Quay may be.

In these two states the form of popular government is preserved, but the substance is lost. The people do not govern themselves. They do not make their own laws through their representatives. They have no representatives except in name. They are governed by machines, which, in their turn, are controlled by two men of evil character and reputation.

In all the history of popular government nothing so utterly abominable and disheartening has been known. Tammany was vile, but its power and influence was limited. Here we have Tammany methods and corruptions spread over these two great, intelligent, and wealthy States.

If the majority of the voters of New York and Pennsylvania possess any of the virtue that was manifested by the voters of this city in 1894, they will be so thoroughly aroused by the spectacle of defiant bosses and servile obedience which is presented at Albany and Harrisburg, that the struggle for good government will enter upon a new stage, and acquire a new impulse and a new fury of just and righteous indignation.

If such be the result of the shame of this winter, we may sustain the evil days better because of the confident hope that eventually good is to come out of them.

One of Shermans Conditions.

From the New York Journal.

It seems that Sherman will go into the cabinet provided Mr. Foraker's hired man, who is holding the position of Governor of Ohio, will agree to appoint that eminent tribune of the people, Mr. Mark Hanna, to the vacancy that will be caused in the United States Senate. This is but one of the many little incidents which are keeping step with the return of prosperity.

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