

Democratic Watchman.

BY P. GRAY MEEK.

Ink Slings.

—Those who mistake that Methodist SWALLOW for a "gillie-loo" bird are not close students of ornithology.

—Governor HASTINGS has vetoed the resolution requiring the employment of none but Pennsylvanians on the building of the new capitol.

—The next thing WEYLER will be after the L. A. W. to help him wear the road smooth between Havana and the territory occupied by the Cuban patriots.

—About the most creditable thing the state Legislature has done, this session, was to sit down on such a fool measure as the prevention of foot ball in the State.

—It is a pity that Greece isn't powerful enough to lick every power that is interfering in Turkey's behalf. If she were, however, the unspeakable Turk would have few friends.

—The Cretan situation remains unchanged. Greece still defies the powers and they talk war with far greater ferocity and less intention to fight than CORBETT and FITZ-SIMMONS ever did.

—It is generally supposed to be rich living that gave ex-President CLEVELAND the gout, but it is a well established fact that poor living is what gave the party he represented the go(o)ut.

—T. P. RYDER'S Erie Echo is just now busying itself with a movement to divide Pennsylvania into two States. It is very likely that the Echo will be the only thing that is busied much in such a movement.

—And now they want to cram SMALL'S Hand Book into the heads of hygienic, calisthenic, industrial art bedridden public school children. Why not include the *Legislative Record* and kill them off in an easier manner.

—With only a boundary line between the States 70,000 persons are starving in Chicago while corn can't be sold at 9 cents a bushel in Iowa. Prosperity, well dost thou hide thy head in the face of economic conditions that can make such a result possible.

—Philadelphiaans are still crazed with the notion that the capitol ought to be moved to their city. There is one thing that would be corrected if such a move were made: English papers that insist in asserting that Pennsylvania is in Philadelphia would not be guilty of making such blundering geographical mistakes longer, for the State would then surely be swallowed up in that city.

—When the whistles began blowing and the bells began ringing to celebrate McKNINLEY's oath of office taking, at noon, yesterday, lots of Bellefonte Republicans tumbled pell-mell into the streets not knowing the cause and thinking a fire was burning the town down.

Well, there was a fire,
But it was out;
It was GROVER,
And it was a case of fire out.

—The fellow who flagged the McKNINLEY special, as it was speeding through Westmoreland county, Monday night, says he thought it was the Greensburg accommodation, known to travelers as the "bummer." A fine coincidence, indeed. That promised McKNINLEY train of prosperity has been flagged, somewhere, for four months now and it is significant that the train hauling its engine should have been mistaken for the "bummer."

—In answer to the New York *World's* query as to whom he thought would be the next Democratic presidential nominee, present conditions prevailing, MATT SAVAGE, secretary of the Democratic State Central committee, concluded his belief that BRYAN would be the man by saying: "The people are thinking, but not working." What oceans of truth there are in that trite sentence and their mighty waves will sweep McKNINLEYism out of existence four years hence.

—If the news of to-day were hurried back into the musty depths of mythology old DAN TUCKER would doubtless sadly shake his head as he read the news of the forming of a corn-stalk trust. In DAN's days there was but one use to which the corn stalks was put and that was in making fiddles that he was wont to scrape with a shoe-string bow. Now a company has been formed, with a capital of \$50,000,000, to extract a pitch from them that will be used as a sheathing for war vessels.

—If Legislators would busy themselves seeing that the laws that have already been enacted are enforced, instead of trying to gain notoriety by the introduction of fool measures, they would serve the people better and disprove the growing belief that most of them are birds of the long-eared, rope-tail variety. The idea of passing laws making it a crime to publish accounts of prize fights, pictures of unwilling subjects, etc. Why they might just as well pass a law prohibiting the publication of newspapers at all then the poor editors would have time to run for the Legislature too.

—One of the last official acts of President CLEVELAND was to veto the immigration bill. He did that on Tuesday afternoon because he thought the provisions of the measure too harsh. According to his idea the conditions that made the settlement of America an asylum for all peoples still obtain and they should be just as welcome to-day as they were when the Plymouth colonist landed. The President does not seem to have deemed the crowded condition of that asylum as sufficient cause for relieving it by restricted immigration.

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McKinley's Cuban Policy.

WILLIAM MCKINLEY is now President of the United States. It is quite clearly understood what will be his economic policy. The name MCKINLEY is the synonym of tariff, and there is not the slightest probability of his going back on his protection record. As to his monetary policy there is not the same certainty. He had a strong leaning towards silver, previous to his nomination, but it is not likely that the influences which had so much to do with his election will allow his administration to desert the interest of the goldbug.

Consul General LEE has been a witness of these indignities and injuries to American citizens at the hands of the Spanish authorities. He has protested against them, and given his own government notice of their perpetration. In this he has done his duty, but while his protests appear to have been indifferently treated by the Spaniards, the information he has given the authorities at Washington has not been followed by that prompt and decisive action which should be looked for when American citizenship has been outraged by a foreign power.

There has been an evident absence of that support which Consul General LEE had a right to expect in his treatment of the RUIZ case. He urged immediate and vigorous action. He demanded an incisive investigation that would go right to the bottom of the horrible circumstances of RUIZ's death, which bore so strongly the appearance of his having been driven to death, in his lonely prison cell, by brutal means. He required of the Spanish authorities the exhuming and examination of the body so that it might be determined by what means his death had been produced. The Spaniards shuffled with this demand and evaded it by claiming that RUIZ had committed suicide, but the Washington authorities should have given the Consul General the most vigorous backing in his efforts to get at the bottom of this dark case. This, however, they do not seem to have been done, as would appear from Gen. LEE's dissatisfaction with the support he has received from his superiors. There must have been some remissness at headquarters when an officer of Consul General LEE's fidelity and honor found himself placed in a situation that almost induced him to abandon his post.

In political and economic questions we are not likely to agree with the new President, but we would be greatly pleased to see him adopt a manly and courageous, fair policy in regard to Cuba.

The Fight is Not Done.

Contrary to the fatuous belief of the goldbugs after the election that the cause of free silver had been crushed by the result of the presidential contest, the fight for the money of the constitution still goes on. There is no abatement of the efforts nor weakening of determination of those whose purpose is to restore silver to its place in the currency from which it was deposed by the crime of demonetization.

When WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN, in an address he made in New York last week, said, "I want to say to those who have fought for free silver that the fight is not done," he employed an almost needless expression. The very nature of the contention will not admit of its cessation. It cannot stop until a great wrong shall have been righted and a great public necessity satisfied. It is not out of place for the gallant leader of the free silver cause in the recent contest, to declare that "the fight is not done," but there is not an intelligent supporter of that cause who, after the defeat of last November, was not fully assured that the fight had just begun.

Nothing could have been more stolid than the belief of the goldbugs that the purchased result of the presidential election—a verdict that had been secured by the corrupt expenditure of millions of dollars—had put an end to the contention for the money of the constitution. There was never anything so foolish as the belief of the bank syndicates, money lenders, and bond dealers, that the conviction of six millions and a half of voters, as expressed at the ballot box, would be abandoned after having been outvoted through such corrupt agencies.

The fact is that the spirit of those who are in revolt against the iniquitous oppression and financial injury of the gold standard are more determined than ever. The gold contractionists are beginning to discover that this is the fact, and they will make the further discovery that as time advances and continues its development of the disastrous effects of their constrictive monetary policy, the strength of the free silver force will correspondingly increase until the wrong of silver demonetization shall be righted by the ballots of the people.

A bill has been introduced in the Minnesota state Legislature providing for the suppression of female fools, such as the ones who send flowers, angel-cake, and plush bound volumes of KEATS to condemned wife beaters and murderers, unless they be near relatives. Now if some brother Legislator would introduce a bill in the Minnesota Legislature for the suppression of fool Legislators the people of that State and many others would be spared the ignominy of finding themselves represented by men of such light calibre. The fools who pamper depraved convicts are to be pitied, not legislated against unless it be by creating asylums where their mild forms of insanity might be treated.

—Subscribe for the WATCHMAN.

Defective Cuban Policy.

There has been an unfortunate, if not culpable, weakness on the part of the authorities at Washington in their protection of American citizens in Cuba against Spanish outrages. Evidence is abundantly at hand to prove that Americans have been subjected by the Spaniards to ill treatment of the most brutal character. Spanish ill will towards every thing American has not been confined to personal insult, but it has, in numerous cases, assumed the more outrageous form of imprisonment and capital punishment.

Consul General LEE has been a witness of these indignities and injuries to American citizens at the hands of the Spanish authorities. He has protested against them, and given his own government notice of their perpetration. In this he has done his duty, but while his protests appear to have been indifferently treated by the Spaniards, the information he has given the authorities at Washington has not been followed by that prompt and decisive action which should be looked for when American citizenship has been outraged by a foreign power.

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We are regrettably forced to the conclusion that in some most essential respects the course which ex-President CLEVELAND pursued in his Cuban policy was lamentably weak and far from being creditable. He may have found in the rules of international comity and in the obligations of treaties with Spain ample justification for not interfering in the contention between Spain and her revolting Cuban subjects, but surely neither the law of nations nor the restraint of treaties required him to be indifferent and inactive when American citizens were being subjected to outrages by the brutal minions of the Spanish government.

It looks very much as if the late President was as unfortunate in his Cuban as in his monetary policy.

This is Financiering for You.

The report of the Bellefonte borough treasurer discloses a condition of affairs in the borough finances that is anything but credit to the Finance committee of council. According to his statement the borough sinking fund has been drawn upon and, even now, is depleted more than half of its amount in payment of running expenses. When the sinking fund was created it was designed to be set apart entirely from use until for redeeming the borough bonds shall come. Instead the amount has been repeatedly encroached upon until now not half of it remains in the treasurer's hands, while a debt burdened borough is the borrower.

Why council should have authorized the use of sinking fund money is a question that will appeal to everyone who knows the purpose for which it was created. If the taxes are insufficient to maintain the borough expenses levy larger ones, but do not set aside a stipulated sum every year then turn around and use it up again.

When it becomes necessary to make up this deficiency in the sinking fund what will have to be done? A higher millage will have to be assessed or expenses cut down and for doing that future councilmen will be censured for the short sightedness that seems to have ruled the last body.

One can readily imagine how fast the sinking fund will grow when money is taken out of it for current expenses, then the interest, due it on such loans, is taken out of it to be paid back and we would not be surprised if the money for the last appropriation of \$2,000 to the fund is taken from it also.

If we are to have a sinking fund let it remain a sinking fund, undisturbed, and when the borough's receipts do not meet expenditures curtail the latter or levy more taxes.

—Subscribe for the WATCHMAN.

The State Administration Stirred Up.

Preacher SWALLOW, editor of the *Pennsylvania Methodist*, has stirred up the official menagerie at Harrisburg with a long pole and set the animals to lashing their tails and howling furiously. This he has done by setting forth, categorically and circumstantially, a long array of charges against the state officials, including executive, legislative and departmental functionaries, which charges, if true, would render them amenable for maladministration, malfeasance, and almost every other form of offense which public officials could be guilty of.

If the reverend accuser was sure of his proof, and hadn't it ready to hand, he certainly started out in a hazardous adventure when he made such direct and sweeping accusations. It is certainly no light matter to publicly assert, through the medium of the press, that money has been paid out of the state treasury to parties who rendered the State no service; that receipts have been required to be signed for two, three and even four times as much money as the parties signing them received for service rendered the State; that the State has been robbed in the furnishing of the public buildings at Harrisburg and in the supplies for the Soldiers' Orphans' schools; that in the purchases of material and labor for making additions to the capitol building, Governor's mansion, and work done on the capitol grounds, even including the alterations in Grace church now used by the Legislature, the cost to the State has been two, three, four and even eight times as much as it should have been, the excessive profits having been divided among certain officials; and lastly that the burning of the capitol was not entirely an accident.

These are very bold charges and Rev. SWALLOW must have the courage of his convictions in making them. The entire state government appears to be included in his bill of indictment.

To say that the implicated parties are howling mad would be using a term that would inadequately describe their feelings. They propose to crush the offending preacher from the word go, and therefore he was promptly brought before the investigating committee that is working on QUAY'S great "form job," and after receiving a severe overhauling, was informed of the penalty he might expect for libelling the Republican managers of the state government. This treatment was supplemented by prosecutions brought against him for defamation of official character by members of the state administration, from Governor HASTINGS down to custodian DELANEY. This may be an ebullition of virtuous indignation, or it may be mere bluff. Time will tell.

If Rev. SWALLOW is sure of his charges and can prove them he will do the people of the State a great service. If he has made his charges at random, basing them merely upon the general belief that the state government is a rotten affair, and fails to substantiate them by proof, he may have gotten himself into a serious scrape. The implicated parties will show him no mercy. Let us hope that the right side in this issue will win.

Convicted by Their Reputation.

It seems almost incredible that there are American journals that act as apologists for the atrocious conduct of the Spaniards in Cuba, in their treatment of American prisoners, but there are publications that endeavor to make it appear that the reports of such outrages are gross exaggerations, and in most cases are the inventions of interested Cuban partisans and sensational newspapers. The fact that the indignant protests of Consul General LEE have been excited by these atrocities, and that he has called for vigorous measures to check, if not to redress them, has no weight with the apologists as evidence of the truth of what is charged against the Spanish ruffians in Cuba.

A Philadelphia paper, belonging to this apologetic class, is not willing to credit the reports of Spanish illtreatment of Americans for the reason that it cannot believe that so brave and chivalrous and necessarily humane a people, as it makes out the Spaniard's to be, could be guilty of the atrocities which they are charged with practicing upon the American prisoners.

Such talk as this is merely glossing the Spaniards' true character. The Don may be outward appearance a well mannered and chivalric personage but history has given repeated proof that he is capable of almost any cruelty and is restrained by no considerations of humanity when religious intolerance, political tyranny, or personal jealousy and suspicion prompts him to the commission of dark and bloody deeds. The fact is that the charges that have been brought against the Spaniards, in regard to their treatment of prisoners, whether American or Cuban, find their strongest corroborations in the historic cruelty of the Spanish nature.

—If they do pass a law prohibiting spitting in public places what is a fellow going to do when he bites into a wormy chestnut, swallow it?

"Our" Jim's Reply to D. E. Democrat.

In a recent issue we took the opportunity of calling the attention of his Centre county constituency to the honors that were being bestowed upon Hon. JAMES SCHOFIELD during this session of the state Legislature. There was nothing more than what might have been expected for such an agreeable gentleman, yet a correspondent in the *Bituminous Record* made the reference an excuse for flinging insinuations of a dishonest nature at Mr. SCHOFIELD.

The WATCHMAN did not do much such an attack worthy of notice, in fact there having been nothing in Mr. SCHOFIELD's course at Harrisburg to warrant it we intended to leave the matter drop, until the following communication was received. It will explain to the Philippiburg inquirer that Mr. SCHOFIELD needs no one to champion his cause and is only too anxious to have the public know any position he might take, while a Representative at Harrisburg:

Editor WATCHMAN:—In a recent issue of a reputed newspaper, called the *Bituminous Record*, published at Philippiburg, the writer notices an uncalled for and slanderous attack on me in my official capacity, endeavoring to cast reflection on my political standing. In the first place, and to make a long story short, if the author of the attack on me in the *Bituminous Record* will do himself the honor to sign his actual name to any articles for publication or to a personal letter of inquiry I will be only too glad to furnish him with all the information he or any of his associates may desire. But so long as the above stated individual sails under a false and fictitious cognomen, just so long it will be impossible for me to answer his inquiries.

Come out from behind the bush, give us your name and open your warfare in the broad daylight of publicity, after which it will be possible for me to reply, but not before. I never engage in a controversy or political warfare except in open public for the inspection and decision of all those concerned. In the mean time I am only too anxious to fully explain my political position.

Yours truly,

JAS. SCHOFIELD,

Harrisburg, Pa., Feb. 28th, '97.

The Way Prosperity is Advancing.

One of the folly lessons of the last presidential campaign is just being learned by the employees of the American Ax and Tool company, at Mill Hall, Pa. Last fall they were told that the only way to insure permanent employment for themselves at good wages was to support the McKNINLEY party. They did it, but are possibly beginning to suffer twinges of remorse already, as the following communication will show.

"A few days before the last presidential election the American Ax and Tool Co., at their factory, at Mill Hall, Pa., issued the following circular and gave one, in an envelope to each employee.

"FELLOW CITIZENS:—Employees of the American Ax and Tool Co., at Mill Hall, Pa., I concur in the statement that notwithstanding the situation of business brought on our country by the Wilson tariff bill of the present administration, you have had steady employment, promptly paid for in money as good as gold, and that there never has been a time since the manufacture of axes in Mill Hall, forty-five years ago, when a day's labor would buy more of the necessities and comforts of life than it will to-day.

While you have been fortunate in having plenty of work up to the present time the prospects for the future are extremely discouraging. The orders of the American Ax and Tool Co., here, as elsewhere, are cancelled or withheld, so that there is no more work in store awaiting the results of the coming election.

The platform of the Bryan party, boldly antagonistic to the policies of the nation, administered by the Republican and Democratic parties, is presented for your suffrage with the delusive promise of its orators that they have a plan of giving you money that you never earned. Do not be deceived by the pamphlets that they only give you to gain, the only possible way of offering you a condition will be on the rising tide of prosperity that will follow the election of Wm. McKinley to the Presidency of the United States backed by a working majority in Congress.

Yours truly,

ROBERT MANN,

Mill Hall, Pa., Oct. 30, '96.

Now, on the first of March, three days before McKNINLEY's inauguration, they passed a notice of a reduction in the wages of their employees running from 8% per cent. to 20 per cent. affecting nearly the whole force of workmen.