

BY P. GRAY MEEK.

Ink Slings.

—And, lo, the SWALLOW becometh the cat bird!

—Can it be that this restoration of confidence is making times so hard that mother nature has even to soak her earth?

—March was tottering on the legs of old age, but lion-like one grand effort was made, on Wednesday, and spring was knocked out as effectually as FITZSIMONS did the business for CORBETT.

—Liquors and wines of all kinds have been scratched from the White House menu since the advent of the MCKINLEYS. So much to their credit, but we quake for the President's future, as the shade of the departed HAYES rises up before us to proclaim: I did that, too, and spent my old age in raising chickens.

—Governor PINGREE, of Michigan, knows how to keep on top if he didn't know how to work it to hold the gubernatorial office and be mayor of Detroit at the same time. Though the supreme court ousted him from the latter office he manipulated the nominating convention and named his own successor.

—The headman of the new administration, in other words the fourth assistant post-master general, is JOSEPH L. BRISTOW, of Kansas. Quite appropriate that the political headman of MCKINLEYISM should have been elected from a State where blood seems to be the one thing they all know and think about.

—President MCKINLEY is of the opinion that lynchings should not be tolerated in a great and civilized country like this. He is right, but there is only one way to prevent them and that is to knock the leaden heels off of justice. Take away the technical loop-holes through which criminals are allowed to slip and make an end of delaying lawyers.

—If work is to be stopped in all penal institutions our penitentiaries will soon become incubators for maniacs. Give the prisoners something to do that will preserve their minds to them, at least, and if needs be let the product of their labor be given, free, to charitable institutions in the State. Rob a convict of his mind and you take away a channel through which he suffers most of his punishment.

—The announcement that the gold Democrats are not to receive any reward from the present administration, for their service last fall, is being sent out from Washington. This ought not to be discouraging news to our PALMER and BUCKNER friends. They weren't working for rewards. They were working for a continuation of the gold standard and these prolifically good times we are having—Nit.

—The United States naval officers will not have much ground for laughing at the Turkish seamen who ran one of the Sultan's big battle ships into a bridge a few days ago. It has come to such a pitch with our boats that they are getting afraid to send them out of sight of land, for nearly every one of them ventures seaward it runs aground on the way out or has an accident after getting into deep water.

—The joint Senate and House committees appointed by the Legislature to investigate the state treasury and the auditor general's department have reported. As was expected it is the most lavish case of white-washing that has come before the public in years. The report is sixty thousand words long, without the six thousand seven hundred pages of testimony. The committee needn't have gone so far around the bush about it, everybody knew that they were not expected to find anything wrong.

—If a new capitol is to be built we move that two great bronze statues of THOMAS KENAN, of Pittsburgh, be ordered and set in niches, one immediately behind the speaker's chair in both House and Senate, there to stand as lasting memorials to an honest man and an ever present monitor for extravagant Legislators. Think of it! This man KENAN actually paid back to the State an unexpended balance of \$7,500, left over from the Atlanta exposition commission. Such a thing has never been heard of before in Pennsylvania.

—When the DINGLEY bill is passed and becomes operative the United States manufacturer, who made slaves of his men by coercing them to vote for MCKINLEY, will not be expected to complain if France and Germany both institute a system of reprisals on American trade. If both those countries were to retaliate by discriminating against agricultural, petroleum and food products from the United States, who would be the loser? We tell you that last year our exports exceeded our imports by \$350,000,000. Now answer the question for yourself.

—There seems to be a scarcity of desirable men for office in the business men's league party of the Republican party of Pennsylvania. So it would appear from the number of times WANAMAKER has to be called upon to supply their needs for a candidate. Just now they are talking about reforming the state treasury and WANAMAKER is the only man they can think of as a desirable candidate. Probably that is because JOHN can command more boodle than any of the rest of them when it comes to a case of supplying the sinews of war.

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The President and International Bimetalism.

It is said that President MCKINLEY has hurried up the appointment of the ministers to foreign countries in order that they may be at their posts as soon as possible to urge the governments of Europe to join with the United States in an international conference for the restoration of bimetalism of the monetary systems of the nations which have demonetized silver. Senator WOLCOTT, who was sent abroad to ascertain the sentiments of European money authorities in regard to silver, has made his report to the President, and it may be supposed to have been of such a character as to encourage him in his design to get the nations together in an international bimetallic conference.

This movement on the part of President MCKINLEY may be supposed to be based on the pledge in the last Republican platform favorable to bimetalism, if it could be brought about by international agreement. The party managers who put that clause in the platform can be credited with no other design than to retain the votes of those who believed in the advantage of silver as a co-ordinate part of the currency, and were willing to vote the Republican ticket if they were given assurance that the party would do something for the restoration of bimetalism. While the platform makers may be believed to have been insincere in making this pledge, as the gold-bug interest dominated their convention, President MCKINLEY appears to take it seriously, and in doing so he shows that he is influenced by that free silver sentiment to which he so often gave expression in speech and action previous to his nomination for the Presidency.

It is understood that his line of action will be to take the initiative in the movement for an international conference, extending an invitation to European governments to send delegates to meet representatives of the United States in a convention to be held at Washington to confer upon the question of the rehabilitation of silver as standard money. There is a bare possibility of such a movement producing its intended result. Those who control the monetary situation abroad are perfectly content with the advantage which the gold standard gives them over a debtor nation like the United States, and are but little inclined to agree to have it changed. The President would stand a better chance to secure attention to his invitation if he should accompany it with the notice that if there shall not be European co-operation the United States will act alone in restoring to its currency the use of silver as a standard money at such a ratio as the relative value of gold and silver would warrant. The assurance that such would be the action of this government would drive the European nations to a similar course as a matter of self defense against the commercial and industrial advantage which bimetalism would give the United States.

But would President MCKINLEY dare to give this notice to European governments, and act upon it, after the gold-bug influence, which elected him, had assured the people that the restoration of silver to its old place in the currency was simply repudiation and anarchy, that it would cut the workingmen's dollar in two, and reduce by at least one-half the value of their deposits in the savings banks?

There is every probability that it is reserved for the next administration to prove the complete hungriness of the gold monometallists by restoring the money of the constitution and making free silver the monetary policy of the government, to the great advantage of the country's general interest.

Its Enemies Working for Free Silver.

The severe thrusts which WILLIAM J. BRYAN, in his recent speeches, has been aiming at the trusts and other monopolistic combines, with but little allusion to the silver question, has led some of his enemies to infer that he is abandoning the cause of free silver.

There could not be a greater delusion than this. The robberies that are being practiced by the trusts furnish a subject for denunciation that is always in order, and at this time, when new tariff measures are about to be enacted that will afford these monopolies additional encouragement and protection, there is more immediate occasion for Mr. BRYAN to make them the object of his denunciation than there is for him to speak on the money question.

All things have their season. The cause of free silver, even though its supporters are not saying as much about it as they did during the last campaign, is far from being neglected. Its opponents are furnishing the strongest arguments in its favor. By the restoration of their monopoly tariff, which will increase the business depression and make the times harder, the enemies of the free silver policy will convince the public mind that their tariff nostrum cannot cure the industrial and financial ailment, and will confirm the fact, that nothing but

the restoration of silver to its old place in the currency, and a general enlargement and cheapening of the circulating medium, will restore the prosperity of the country. There is not much occasion for Mr. BRYAN to talk while the enemies of free silver are doing this work that is so calculated to advance the free silver cause. When the effect of this work is fully shown in the increased industrial depression and the continued distressful condition of the people, then will the advocates of free silver be heard, with increased emphasis and unquestionable result. Their cause can afford to wait for the blasting effects of a combined MCKINLEY tariff and gold-bug currency contraction.

The Swallow Libel Suits.

We have given it as our opinion that the state officials didn't show themselves off to the best advantage by rushing into court with libel suits against Rev. Dr. SWALLOW. He made charges against them, or rather against their method of public service, which, if untrue, could have been shown to be such in a way more convincing to the public than through the medium of prosecutions for libel. Besides, in their proceedings there was the appearance of an intention to overwhelm the doctor with the penalties of the law, rather than a desire to furnish the public with satisfactory assurance that he was wrong in his charges.

The verdict in the first suit, relating to the soldiers' orphans schools, rendered on Tuesday, leaves the issue undetermined, so far as concerns the impression on the public mind. Dr. SWALLOW is declared by the jury to be not guilty of libel, and although the verdict is modified by the cost being put upon him, its import to the public mind will be that the accuser had some ground for making his charges. The result leaves a very unsatisfactory situation for the prosecutors.

In regard to the second suit, that brought by superintendent DELANEY, the court could have very properly handed it over to the investigation asked for by the resolution of representative NESBIT on a charge made by him in the House, last week, which was a good deal more specific than the charges made against superintendent DELANEY by Rev. SWALLOW. He asked for an investigation of allegations that were being made to the effect that among the items of material for the altering of Grace church for the use of the Legislature, there were many thousands of feet of lumber charged to the State which could not be found, and that \$55 per thousand was charged for lumber which was claimed could be purchased at \$15 per thousand.

DELANEY's case, which was brought to court for his official vindication, would be a more proper subject for the consideration of the investigating committee asked for by representative NESBIT's resolution.

Every intelligent observer of these court proceedings must be forced to the conclusion that the state officials blundered in bringing libel suits against Dr. SWALLOW.

Judge Shiras and the Income Tax.

The people have a right to be interested in the question whether JUDGE SHIRAS was the member of the Supreme court of the United States whose change of position on the question of the constitutionality of the income tax law, at the last moment, led to the United States government the advantage of that fair and equitable method of taxation, and took from the shoulders of the wealthy the tax burden which they should share with the poorer class of citizens.

There are circumstances which point to JUDGE SHIRAS as the member of the court who made that fateful change. He has been openly charged in the House of Representatives, by two reputable Congressmen, with having altered the opinion which he had at first assumed that the revenue tax law was constitutional, going over to the side of wealth in that momentous issue, at the eleventh hour, and determining the question by his vote.

The proceedings on the occasion of the decision were secret, and the judge, although solicited for an expression on the subject, will not say whether he did or didn't do this thing. In deference to the opinion of the great majority of the American people who believe that this was wrong, justice SHIRAS should not deem it beneath his judicial dignity to make some expression that would assure them that he was not the judge who made the change that was so beneficial to the interest of wealth. The absence of such assurance may lead them to believe that he was that judge, and to put their own construction upon his motive.

—It is gratifying to know that at least two of the five United States justices of the Supreme court who have gone on record as being against rail-road pools were also in favor of an income tax. They are HARLAN of Kentucky; and Brown, of Michigan. The other three are FULLER, of Illinois; BREWER, of Kansas; and PECKHAM, of New York.

The Gold Standard in Japan.

The supporters of gold monometallism were premature in their report that Japan had adopted the gold standard. This was announced some weeks ago, but it had nothing more to support it than the circumstance that a bill proposing to change the bimetallic system of Japan had been introduced in the parliament of that country.

The Japanese surely have no visible reason for a change in their monetary policy. Their country has been extremely prosperous under the double standard. Within the past twenty years, with gold and silver on an equality in their monetary system, they have made the most remarkable progress in manufactures, commerce, internal improvements and general trade interests. By comparing their great industrial and commercial development and general business prosperity during that time with the condition of nations which in the same period have had the exclusive gold standard, the shrewd Japs will find but little in the comparison to encourage them to discard the double advantage of bimetalism. It is something over twenty years since the United States discarded silver as a standard money. Has prosperity been so evident a consequence of this policy that the Japanese should want to take it as an example? It is a fact, which may not escape their notice, that while their own country has marvelously progressed with the two metals equally recognized as standard money, the industrial and commercial condition of the United States has gradually declined under gold monometallism.

As an explanation of the movement in the Japan parliament to adopt the gold standard it may be remarked that the great material development of that country has been attended by a remarkable growth of the banking interest, which is responsible for this movement the purpose of which is to demonetize silver and place the currency of the country on a gold basis which could be more readily controlled. The bankers of Japan would find their profit in a contraction of the currency, the same as have those of the United States and Europe who brought about the demonetization of silver; but it is to be seen whether the usually shrewd Japs will allow their money changers to enjoy such a special advantage at the expense of the general public interest.

A Job in Contemplation.

Nothing could more strikingly display the complete dependence of our state authorities on the will and wish of Senator M. S. QUAY than the spectacle that was presented, the other day, by a delegation of our state lawmakers going to Washington to learn what the Senator wants done in regard to the building of the new state capitol. They report that they had a conference with him on this subject, and it is to be inferred that they propose to act in the matter according to his direction.

To a majority of the citizens of the State it will be a query what QUAY has to do with a work of this kind, and what authority he has over it which requires that he should be consulted. The people have their representatives in the Legislature who are expected to provide for the building of that structure in a manner that will give satisfaction, and it is not necessary that it should be done to suit Senator QUAY. The people want a creditable building, but they don't want its construction to furnish an opportunity for discreditable jobbery.

If the Governor and Legislature do their duty this can be effected without the assistance of M. S. QUAY, or any other party boss. Interference from such a source would have a suspicious look. Up to this time there has been an appearance in the proceedings relative to the new capitol that has not been very assuring to those who want its construction to be an honest job. At the very start there was an attempt to give the contract to favored parties, without competition, and since the detection of the trick by which that was intended to be effected, there is evident maneuvering going on to put the work in charge of a commission something like the one which has made a twenty-four years' job of the Philadelphia city hall, costing over eighteen millions of dollars.

The Governor assumes to be opposed to these schemes. We trust that he is sincere in his opposition, and will use his veto if the corrupt inclinations of the Legislature should induce it to pass a bill that would enable a set of jobbers to plunder the State in the building of its new capitol.

—The bill providing for the appointment of a county detective in counties having a population of not more than 150,000 has passed the Senate finally. Should the House concur the detectives will be appointed by the court of quarter sessions and will have the same power as constables.

—Read the best and most reliable news. It will be found in the WATCHMAN.

The Governor Will Have His Way.

From the Philadelphia Times.
As predicted, the Legislators at Harrisburg have concluded that Governor Hastings was right about the kind of new capitol building that will be suitable for the sittings of future Legislatures. The House by a decisive majority has recalled its refusal to confer with the Governor on the subject, and a bill to carry out the Governor's plan to erect a new capitol at a total cost not exceeding \$550,000 has been introduced into the Senate and is likely to pass that body without serious opposition. There will still be some attempts by members of the House to secure a compromise on a million-dollar capitol and a big legislative building commission, but the Governor's plan will be adopted without important modifications.

The cause of this change of base on the part of the members is obvious. The smaller capitol can be erected in time for the next regular session without increasing taxation. The people of Pennsylvania are not in a mood to welcome or even submit to an increase of their tax burdens. Governor Hastings understood popular sentiment on this subject better than the members of the Legislature did, and the latter understand it now. They have been hearing from their constituents with the usual result. What their constituents want they will conclude they want, too, and this means that a modest but entirely sufficient capitol building will be erected.

It is fortunate that the capitol question has been practically settled at this early day. There will be no more time frittered away deciding what is best to be done. Time is important in this case, for there won't be any to spare if a new capitol is to be erected and fitted up before January 1st, 1899, when the next regular session of the Legislature will assemble. The advantage of the early decision is that plans can be prepared at once and work begun with the opening of the summer season.

The Verdict in the Swallow Libel Suit.

From the Lancaster Intelligencer.

That Harrisburg jury which acquitted Dr. Swallow of libeling the state officials in charge of soldiers' schools, evidently found that he had cause for his accusations against their management; but they also found, when they decided that he should pay the costs, that he had not had sufficient cause to justify his assertions in all their length and breadth. The evidence did not show that the charges against the board of managers were well founded, but indicated some irregularities among the subordinates. The jury evidently believed that Dr. Swallow made his publication in good faith and in pursuance of what he conceived to be a public duty; and the jury was about right.

And Bully Wagner of Bellefonte Was One of Them.

From the Lancaster Intelligencer.

We think we live in an enlightened age and belong to a city and nation on the very cusp of the locomotive of progress, but it is somewhat humiliating to find a collection of our fellow-citizens gazing open-mouthed at the planet Venus, now rarely brilliant in the evening sky, and explaining their unusual interest in things celestial by gravely repeating that they have been told the thing is a new electric light, sent up by a Pittsburg genius who is about ready to take contracts for the illumination of Pennsylvania and adjoining States.

The Kind of Law-makers We Have.

From the Hazleton Plain-Speaker.

In the Pennsylvania Legislature will be found one gambler, one base-ball umpire, one preacher, eight men who declare they are 'gentlemen,' nineteen without occupations, twenty-seven lawyers and one pugilist. Of the members three were convicted of larceny, one was tried for murder and acquitted, three have been in insane asylums, while eight have been at Keely cures and four are divorced.

Times Have Changed Since Then.

From the Greensburg Democrat.

In our neighboring town of Indiana is a glass factory that paid its employees in gold just before the November election. The object was to show how abundant the yellow coin is, and advance the interest of McKinley. Just now that factory is not paying its employees in any kind of money. In fact, it is closed down, the reason given being 'lack of orders.'

Present School Term Stays.

The Bill to Increase the Minimum Term from Six to Seven Months is Killed in the House.

HARRISBURG, March 23.—By a vote of 93 to 78 the House to-day killed a bill increasing the minimum school term in the State from 6 to 7 months. This measure has been up at every session for ten years and has always been knocked out by the rural members. Twelve years ago the term was increased from 5 to 6 months, and legislation on this point has since been enacted.

Mr. Hermann, of Snyder, led the opposition to-day and won after a hard fight. The bill was called up for third reading and final passage by chairman Hammond, of the education committee. Mr. Seyfert, of Lancaster, started a long discussion with an earnest speech in favor of the proposition. He showed that 27 other States in the Union have longer school terms than Pennsylvania, and that 28 per cent. of the schools in this State are only kept open six months a year. He spoke of the greatness of Pennsylvania in everything but her educational facilities, and declared an increase of one month a year in the school term would make very little difference in the taxes. Mr. Hermann replied to Mr. Seyfert, and was followed by Mr. Martin, of Lawrence, another rural member. The discussion lasted nearly two hours and was closed with an earnest plea for the bill by chairman Hammond.

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Spawls from the Keystone.

—Gas has been reduced to \$1.25 per thousand feet in Scranton.

—Oil well drillers in Eldred, McKean county, struck a promising vein of gold quartz.

—The East German conference of Methodists convened at Scranton yesterday.

—Fakirs who did business on curbstones in Reading have been driven off by the police.

—Mayor Brant has promised the York ministers to recommend the passage of a curfew ordinance.

—Reading army and navy veterans have organized a command, and will probably name it after General Gregg.

—A dividend of 45 per cent., making 75 cent. altogether, has been declared in favor of the stockholders of the First National bank of Clearfield.

—The Buhl steel mill at Sharon, and the South Sharon steel works, will have their new plants ready to start with about 500 men in a month or so.

—Judge Scott, at Easton, awarded the Evangelical association (the Esler-Bowman faction) title to the church at Danielsville claimed by the Dubistes.

—Prison warden Wright, of the Western penitentiary, has gone to Harrisburg to join in a general protest of prison keepers against the Seyfert prison bill.

—Foreign roughs, bent on revenge, stoned John Dougher's house, at Wyoming, and knocked down a lamp that set Mrs. Dougher on fire and severely burned her.

—In connection with charges on which she was invited to leave the Lutheran church, 80-year old Mrs. Catherine Miller, of Wilkes-Barre, has sued her pastor, Rev. Paul Rowalt, for \$5,000 damages.

—While John Borden was shooting sparrows near Lickdale, Lebanon county, he accidentally shot his young friend, Harry Peffy, and the latter may die. The shooter is crazed with grief.

—Highwaymen on the railroad track at Reading made Andrew Smith, colored, of Philadelphia, take off all his clothes but his undergarments, and left him to wander till the police sought relief for him.

—The Northwestern mining and exchange company has purchased a 2,000-acre coal tract to the south of Brookwayville, Clearfield county, and various adjacent railroads are likely to extend spurs into the region as it develops.

—Governor Hastings on Wednesday made the following appointments for members of the state board of medical examiners, representing the Eclectic medical society of Pennsylvania; C. M. Ewing, Tyrone; L. P. O'Neal, Mechanicsburg; H. Yeagley, Lancaster.

—At Williamsport Sunday, a young man, Clarence Ingersoll by name, underwent an operation for a perforation of the bowel, caused by three attacks of appendicitis. When the surgeons made the incision it was found that the appendix completely encircled a knuckle of the intestine like a ring and that both had become perforated. Although in a serious condition, it is believed the patient will recover.

—It is forty-one years since the town of Everett, Bedford county, Pa., was incorporated as Blood Run, and twenty-four years since it was given its present name. Bloody Run was far to the front on the occasion of the chicken raid in secession war times, when the militia men rallied for the defense of their personal belongings against a flanking enemy impudently and defiantly moving on Pennsylvania highways.

—Announcement is made by the Pennsylvania board of fish commissioners that they can receive no further applications for brook trout; they state that the applications for this species of fish now on hand are more than double the supply from the two hatcheries. The commission further authorizes the statement that if their bills now before the Legislature become enacted, they will, within two years, be able to supply nearly if not more than double the number of trout fry they can now, with scarcely an appreciable increase in expense.

—A few days ago Mrs. John Fox, of Defiance, Bedford county, having placed a pot of meat with a tightly closed lid upon the kitchen stove, returned after a short absence and found the room filled with smoke. The water in the pot was exhausted and the pot and contents were burning. Mrs. Fox picked up the pot to carry it outside, but when the overheated pot came in contact with the cold air it exploded, the hot grease being thrown over the lady's face and hands. She was very seriously burned.

—Altoona police raided a stable in the eighth ward of that city on Saturday night where a prize fight was in progress just after midnight. A hundred or more citizens were pretty badly scared, some of them, strange to say, being somewhat prominent in business in the mountain city. To hear from the blue coats the fellows secreted themselves wherever they could find a place to crawl into, some covering themselves over with oats in a bin, others crawling under the hay in the mow, etc. etc. But it was left for one man to select a bad corner to hide in. He ran into a stall occupied by a mischievous horse and the animal jerked the trousers nearly off him and inflicted a wound that will cause him to have no use for a chair the next week or so.

—There is great excitement in the Bedford region over the discovery of gold in the Tussey mountain. P. H. Schuss and D. Y. Swayne, of Huntington, and C. M. Halderman, of Bedford, have sunk a shaft to a depth of eighty feet, which reveals a bed of heavy red shale, containing 20 per cent. of copper and some gold. From the side of the mountain two tunnels, each 100 feet in length, have been dug, and in them is found a gray quartz which contains a high per cent. of gold. Prof. M. G. Ihseng, mining engineer at the Pennsylvania State College, assayed a sealed check sample containing \$513 in gold per ton. Prof. Ihseng said: "I do not know that the sample I assayed came from Tussey mountain, though I believe the person who sent it to me is confident that it did. I assayed another rock which showed only \$11 worth of gold to the ton. Even if the gold does not run higher than that the mine will pay, if properly worked." It is the intention of the owners to continue prospecting and investigating.