

BY P. GRAY MEEK.

Ink Slings.

It is all right to send money to the suffering Americans in Cuba, but it is all wrong to advertise such a scheme for producing sufferers.

A decided slump is reported in the price of seats for the Queen's jubilee in London. And this reminds us that ALBERT EDWARD would give most anything for the one that his aged mamma now sits on.

Imaginary detectives have been chasing imaginary fire-bugs about Bellefonte for months and the idle gossiping people are fairly consumed with imaginary clues. But gossips will gossip while wise men are dumb.

The auditor general of the State has been figuring and estimates that on November 30th, 1897, there will be a deficit of \$3,664,954.18 in the state treasury. Yet the plan to give the ANDREWS investigation steal \$65,000 still goes on.

It smacks of the cunning of "the old man" to call his new leaders to conference by the sea. He feared some of them were getting a little too fresh, no doubt, and wanted them down at Brigantine Beach, so that they could be salted, just a little.

Now that the United States has voted \$50,000 for the relief of her very poor in Cuba all the Cuban poor are hunting up claims to American citizenship and the first thing Spain knows she won't have any Cuban subjects to oppress, they will all be, ipso facto, citizens of the United States.

And still the deluge of expense incurred by the present rascally Legislature pours onto the overburdened tax-payers of the State. The latest evidence of robbery appears in the announcement that it has cost \$56,590.30 to remodel Grace church for the use of the Legislature.

A legislative crisis is said to be at hand in the Pennsylvania Legislature and it is probable that a recess of several weeks or months will be taken to allow time for the troubles that have been brewing to blow over. What a God-send if they would take a recess and forget to reassemble.

Statistics show that it costs the American boys and girls just \$30,000,000 a year to get married and then the next year they pay their share of the \$25,000,000, annually, that it costs for the kids of America to be born, then the disconsolate daddies get drunk at an annual cost of \$900,000,000 and the undertakers of the United States do the rest for \$75,000,000 a year.

C. B. GOULD, the editor of the Cameron County Press died at his home in Emporium, on Tuesday morning, with heart disease. He had been identified with the Press from its founding, in 1866, and his direction of that journal had much effect upon the development of Cameron county. Mr. GOULD was 70 years old and was known among newspaper men all over the State.

The question of controlling Greek finances is talked of as being made an international matter and the question at once arises in the mind of the Americans who followed the last political campaign in this country: Why not let the gold-blotocrats manage it? They are regular peaches as financiers. The condition of the United States, to-day, explains what we mean.

The supreme court of the United States has ruled that it is in the power of the President to remove any federal employe, no matter whether the four years term of office to which they have been appointed has expired or not. This ruling will doubtless cause tremors to creep up and down the backs of many Democrats whose terms have not expired.

The Senate has passed the bill appropriating \$65,000 for the payment of the expenses of the QUAY-ANDREWS fake investigation committee. At the time the committee was appointed it was promised that it would not cost the State a cent, but some men are liars and now they want \$485.75 for each hour of the fifty-seven sessions that were held. A good, round price to pay for a good time that a lot of those political roosters had while sojourning in Philadelphia.

Williamsport has a PINGREE potato patch and the newspapers of that city are all puffed up because very few poor people have made application for ground. They are congratulating themselves that it is an indication that they have few poor people down there. "What fools these mortals be." Why it is no more an indication that they have few poor down there because only few are willing to raise potatoes on free land than it would be an indication that tomatoes are going to be hatched out of chicken eggs if one were heard making love to his maria on the henry roof.

The ANDREWS investigation committee expense bill is about the boldest bit of robbery that has ever been attempted upon the state treasury and it will only be through the prompt action of people of the State that this scheme to appropriate public funds for the payment of private obligations will be checked. It has been announced that QUAY will go to Harrisburg to line up his men in favor of the bill and even if the Governor should veto it it will be passed over his head. The taxpayers of the Commonwealth should arouse themselves to defeat such plundering of their money. No matter who the Legislator or what servile tool he may be of the "old man" his constituents will have failed in their duty to themselves if they do not force him to realize that his position on this steal will be at the price of his seat in the House.

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National Honor and Public Credit.

In no State in the Union were the voters at the last presidential election more earnestly exhorted to "maintain the national honor" and "preserve the nation's credit" by voting the Republican ticket, than they were in Illinois. That these "patriotic" appeals, backed by MARK HANNA's campaign boodle, had their effect in that State was shown in the large majority given for MCKINLEY and in the election of a Republican Governor and Legislature.

Illinois was thus rescued from the hands of the "anarchists" and "repudiators," and enrolled in the list of States which were arrayed under HANNA's leadership on the side of "honest money" and the "nation's honor."

As every great achievement produces corresponding results the state of affairs existing in the present Illinois Legislature may be regarded as one of the glorious consequences resulting from the Republicans gaining control of the state government. During the present session of that body it is observed that people from all parts of the State are on the road traveling to Springfield for the purpose of protesting against the various rascally schemes that are being concocted in the interest of corporations and the monied syndicates that are able to prey on legislation. The Chicago people have been compelled to employ detectives to watch the scamps who are ready to sell corporate franchises that would sacrifice the interest of the city, and a number of these huckstering lawmakers have been arrested and are under bail for having been bribed by a Chicago street railroad company, the evidence against them having been secured through the agency of the detectives.

It may strike the Illinois voters that they made a few errors in their political calculations last year, but may they not be unreasonable in objecting to the proceedings of the Republican Legislature and state administration? What they are going on at the state capitol may be the Republican method of preserving the honor of the nation. Taking this view of the matter, it does not become those who put that party into power in the State to be making a fuss about the way things are being done at Springfield.

The same way of keeping the national honor and the public credit up to a high pitch is in force at all the state capitols where Republican Legislatures are doing business. This high toned work is in full swing at Harrisburg, where a committee is preparing to whitewash a case of bribery involving the snug amount of \$50,000 and at Albany, it manifests itself in a dike with a gas trust, and other legislative transactions of a character calculated to vindicate the claim of the Republican party that the honor of the nation, and the public credit, both state and national, are in its special keeping.

Drains Upon the Gold Reserve. It is refreshing to see an able writer like WILLIAM J. BRYAN take hold of and disprove the fallacious claim of chairman DINGLEY that the gold bonds were issued on account of a deficit in the revenues, and that the drain on the gold reserve will cease when the revenue produced by his tariff shall remove everything like a deficit. Mr. BRYAN shows that the run on the stock of gold in the treasury began before there was a deficiency of revenue, and it stopped when the deficit was the greatest. There could not be better proof that the raids on the reserve had no connection with the low condition of the general fund.

The fact is that when the government pursues a monetary policy that requires a reserve of gold for the redemption of a large paper circulation, a run on that reserve is likely to occur at any time, whether the revenues of the government are at a high or a low ebb. Then it is seen that at this very time, when the condition of the revenue is such that there is no longer a deficiency, large amounts of gold are withdrawn from the reserve for the purpose of exportation.

These gold raids may arise from various causes. They may be made by gold speculators. The gold may also be withdrawn for legitimate business purposes. A depletion of the revenue may be effected by bank syndicates with the object of compelling the government to make more gold loans by which they may profit. Or foreign governments in want of gold may find our reserve a handy source from which they may supply their own deficiency. It is quite clear that as long as gold is exclusively required to redeem the paper obligations of the government the reserve is liable to depletion, whether there is a surplus or a deficit of revenue. Gold loans will have to be resorted to for the maintenance of such a system, with all the expense, disturbance and inconvenience they involve. This could be easily, safely and lawfully avoided by the treasury authorities using their legal discretion in redeeming the paper of the government with either silver or gold.

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Senator Gobin's Indiscretion.

State Senator GOBIN has learned, to his cost, that it is not safe for a Republican politician to interfere with crooked schemes that may be going on in the state Legislature, with the object of preventing or exposing them. It is seldom that there is such interference from a Republican source, but the Senator tried it in the case of the insurance scandal and received more kicks than thanks for meddling with a matter which the average lawmaker at Harrisburg thinks should be kept as quiet as possible. He moved for the appointment of a committee to investigate the charge that \$50,000 had been corruptly used to influence the action of Senators in regard to certain insurance legislation. Rumors were afloat that such an amount of boodle had been used for that purpose, but he should have known better than to busy himself with a matter of that kind, thereby making himself obnoxious by his interference when other Senators had struck so soft a snap.

That he didn't make any friends by it was proven when the committee was appointed. It is the custom that the mover for the appointment of a committee is made its chairman. But his fellow committee-men evidently didn't approve of his conduct. They wouldn't have him for chairman, but turned him down and selected another party for that position whose idea of investigation in such cases consists in a liberal use of white wash.

The Senator has had trouble with the committee ever since it was formed. It has completely soured on him, and he is so thoroughly convinced that its membership was selected to defeat the object of its appointment that he has withdrawn from it and will have nothing more to do with it.

Senator GOBIN has been long enough connected with Republican politics to have been more prudent. We might have known that he would make trouble for himself and get his associates down on him by such an indiscreet act as his asking to have a case of bribery investigated. By such indiscretion he may lose the nomination for auditor general for which he is an aspirant.

The Course That Will Insure Success.

The New York Journal has sought the opinion of leading Democrats as to the course which the party should pursue in order to secure success in the elections this year, and the general response is that there should be no receding from the ground taken last year.

There is much practical wisdom in the expression of Governor JOHNSTON, of Alabama, who advises the widest latitude in the councils of the party but after the majority shall have decided upon the policies to be pursued there should be prompt acquiescence in the decision, and hearty co-operation by all carrying out the expressed will of the majority.

Such a course would not only be Democratic in principle, but it would be in accordance with Democratic practice. The will of the majority is the motive power of Democracy, and obedience to that will constitutes its essential principle. The great mistake of Mr. CLEVELAND and his followers last year was that they were not willing to submit to the majority. They set up a monetary doctrine that allied them with the money power and the bank syndicates in opposition to the Democratic doctrine that silver as well as gold is the money of the constitution. Because the majority would not yield to them Mr. CLEVELAND and his small band of followers antagonized the Democratic nomination and platform.

Among other expressions of Gov. TAYLOR, of Tennessee, advising that the party should present a united front to the enemy, he says that there is only one common ground for Democrats, and that is "eternal war upon the high protective tariff, the combines, the civil service fraud, the Republican party in general and the devil in particular."

This is, in itself, an excellent and comprehensive platform for the party to stand on and we may remark, in this connection, that when the Democracy fights the Republican party and the devil it contends with the same enemy, as there is no perceptible difference between them.

Senator QUAY's having recommended a woman to be postmistress of Stouchsburg, Pa., seems to put a different phase on his supposed estimation of the value of women as public servants. It was only a few years ago that his son RICHARD distinguished himself by having a number of department women about Washington discharged and his papa backed him up in it too.

Governor HASTINGS has signed the bill requiring Small's Hand-book to be kept in every school in the State. As a reference book for matters pertaining to state government nothing more complete or reliable is published and as it is intended merely for reference purposes in the schools the plan to have it there is a good one.

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The Crowning Disgrace.

The defeat of the ballot reform bill was the worst act that has been committed by our worthless state Legislature. Its general conduct has been bad, but when it deliberately preserves the vicious features of the ballot law for the advantage of its party, maintaining the defects that enable bribery and intimidation to be practiced in the elections, it shows its utter loss of shame, and exhibits the full extent of its debasement. The deliberation displayed in such wrong-doing is almost incredible. The election law of this State, enacted on the Australian plan, was intended to secure the purity of the ballot by securing its secrecy and shielding it against corrupting and intimidating influences. The Australian ballot bill was originally drawn to secure this purpose, which is absolutely indispensable to good government; but there were political interests, identified with Republican supremacy in the State, which prompted such changes in the bill that when it was passed it was found to have been shorn of those features that were intended to secure uncorrupted and uncoerced suffrage.

This election law, emasculated in such a way as to destroy secrecy and facilitate bribery and intimidation in the interest of the Republican party, has been in operation for some years, with such effect that the voter is confused by the arrangement of the ballot sheets, and restrained in his choice by the way the party tickets are grouped, and the great objects of preventing the briber and bull-dozer from exerting their influence is defeated by a privilege that enables them to do their work more effectually than under the old law. The arrangement that allows voters to be "assisted" is a device that has actually increased corruption and coercion in our elections.

These abuses have been apparent to every intelligent and honest citizen of the State, ever since the present vitiated election law has been in operation, and the demand for their correction has been general among those who want our elections to be fairly and honestly conducted. To effect this good purpose the reform ballot bill was introduced in the present Legislature.

It is hardly conceivable that there should be a lawmaking body so utterly lost to the sense of shame and so thoroughly base as to defeat such a measure demanded by every consideration of honest politics and good government. But this worthless Legislature was capable of doing so disgraceful an act. One of the republican Representatives, LEYTL, of Huntingdon, actually declared on the floor of the House that the Republican party of this State could not afford to dispense with the advantage which it derived from the electoral abuses of the present law.

Actuated by so shameful a motive this Republican Legislature filled the measure of its infamy by overflowing by maintaining an election law that confuses the voter by a complicated ballot, restrains the freedom of his electoral choice, and increases the facility with which the elections may be corrupted.

Did the Philadelphia Office Seekers Dog the President?

It is an unsettled question whether the office-seekers did or did not greatly annoy President MCKINLEY while he was in Philadelphia attending the unveiling of WASHINGTON monument.

After his return to Washington it was published that hungry applicants for federal appointments dogged him from the time he entered the Quaker city until his special train carried him back to Washington. Then this disgraceful announcement was made, the Philadelphia papers, and those who had the President in charge while he was in the city, appreciating the shameful light in which it placed Philadelphia hospitality, came out with flat denials of the truth of such a representation, declaring that while the President was their guest he was not beset by office-seekers.

Which story is to be believed? Considering the boldness and pertinacity of the hungry horde of spoilsmen, was it physically possible to keep them from dogging the dispenser of the offices while he was in Philadelphia? Besides, a cabinet officer who was along with the President is reported as saying: "It mattered not whether the President was at his hotel, in a club, or even on the grandstand where the exercises of unveiling the monument took place, someone was sure to be on hand to proffer claims for official preferment.

With assertion on one side and denial on the other, the question is an open one. But whether the place-hunters did or did not worry the President in Philadelphia, it would not have been much out of place if the thousands of workmen of that city who are out of employment would have called on him and given him a polite hint that they are getting very tired waiting for the prosperity he promised them.

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Only Waiting.

From the Louisville Dispatch. We are waiting—only waiting— For the promised days to come— For they said when birds were mating We would hear the busy hum Of machinery put in motion. And the shuttle and the loom Would dispel all doubtful notion Of McKinley's business boom.

An Answer.

From the Chicago Inter-Ocean. 'Tis true we now are waiting For the promised days to come; 'Tis true, as you are stating, That in business there's no hum; But in answer to your cackle We reiterate our guess, That prosperity you'll tackle In a twelve-month more or less— By the way, who mixed this mess?

Hush Your Business.

From the Philadelphia Times. There are buds that long for blooming, Yet whose leaves fail to expand; There are ships love sends a sailing, That oft never reach the land; O'er the songs sweet hope sings to us Come the minor tones of woe— And I guess or play the prophet Is not wise unless you know.

Urged Hastings to Sign.

HARRISBURG, May 24.—To-day a delegation of 150 representatives of labor unions appeared before the Governor to request him to sign the Weiler bill, permitting employes of corporations to form and join labor unions without fear of dismissal. There were representatives from the brotherhood of locomotive engineers, railroad trainmen, order of conductors, order of telegraphers, brotherhood of brakemen, typographical union, molders' union and other organizations, men coming from Philadelphia, Pittsburg, Allegheny, Reading, Columbia, Lancaster, Erie and other cities, as well as from Harrisburg, to urge favorable action by the chief executive. They were headed by Senator Kauffman, of Lancaster, who took an active part in securing the passage of the bill in the senate; Representative Weiler, of Carbon, the author of the bill; President Chance, of the labor league, and William Beck, of Columbia, a railroad engineer. All of these made speeches to the Governor in the large reception room, which was crowded.

The Governor gave the men a cordial reception, and, after hearing their arguments, told them that he had not yet had the bill in his possession, but he would give it careful consideration. "If," said the Governor, "I find that this bill is for the good of labor in this State and for the best interests of the Commonwealth, I shall have no hesitancy in signing it, but if I find that it is going to work an injury and that it will not be beneficial to the workmen of the State, I shall not hesitate to veto it, I want you to understand it now. You may remember that in my inaugural address I said that I favored organized labor just as capital should, for through organization much good may be accomplished."

President Has Power.

WASHINGTON, May 24th.—In the United States supreme court to-day justice Peckham handed down the opinion of the court in the case of L. E. Parsons, late district attorney for the Northern district of Alabama, appealed from the court of claims. The decision was adverse to Parson's claim that he was entitled, under section 769 of the revise statutes, to hold his office for four years, notwithstanding the President's order of removal.

Justice Peckham said that, while the appointment was for four years, it might be terminated earlier, at the discretion of the President. The judgement of the court of claims was affirmed.

The determination of this case has been looked forward to with interest because of its possible effect upon the removal of the office holders incident to the change of administration. Parsons was removed from the office of United States district attorney of Alabama in 1893, having been appointed in 1890. He wrote a letter to the President, refusing to surrender the place on the ground that as he had been appointed for a term of four years the President had no right to remove him before the expiration of that term. He has fought the case through the various federal courts on this theory, losing in the lower courts, as he did to-day in the supreme court. Parsons has, however, not been in possession of the office during the contest. On the day that he was removed, Ernest O'Neil was appointed to succeed him and to him Parsons surrendered the office after an order was issued by the circuit court to do so. He prosecuted the case on another basis from that time.

An Enormous Deficit.

HARRISBURG, May 26th.—Auditor-general Mylin has made an official statement of the state revenues, and according to his estimates there will be a deficit on November 30th, 1897, of \$3,664,954.18. The estimated receipts for the fiscal year are \$9,724,929; balance in the hands of May 30th, 1897, \$4,468,758.87; payments due, quarter ending May 31st, 1897, \$1,000,000; payments due for six months to November 30th, 1897, \$9,937,182; leaving a deficit of \$3,664,954.18. In this computation the money to be derived from the direct inheritance tax is not included.

The figures which make up the amounts that are supposed to be paid between June 1st and November 3rd, 1897, are interesting. They include these: Cost of Legislature, present session, \$600,000; legislative record, \$36,000; judiciary, \$334,000; national guard, \$175,000; public schools, \$5,680,063; Grace church, for Legislature, \$56,000; repairs to house of representatives, burned \$15,000. New capitol building, \$250,000, half of the entire cost.

To-night Governor Hastings, the state treasurer, the auditor-general and chairman Marshall, of the house appropriations committee, held another conference on the question of raising revenue.

Spawls from the Keystone.

—Wilkesbarre will have a fine new opera house, to cost \$45,000.

—Pittsburg's filtration commission has approved plans for a pure water filter.

—The State Board of Health began its annual meeting at Johnstown Monday night.

—Harrisburg shoe merchants say they have good evidence of a revival of business.

—Robbers broke into Abramson's store, at St. Clair, and stole \$100 worth of boots and shoes.

—A formidable independent organization—the Bronze club—has been organized at Allentown.

—Insane Adam Elby was arrested while desecrating graves in a cemetery at Wilkesbarre.

—Burglars got \$34 and other valuables from the Chestnut avenue hotel, Altoona, and \$10 from a cigar store near by.

—By his will banker George K. Reed, of Lancaster, left \$20,000 to be divided in small sums between various charities.

—A charter has been granted to the Argyle slate company, of Bangor, Northampton county, with \$50,000 capital.

—While fixing a gun as a trap to kill game in the woods, George Herr was himself killed by it at Trout Run, Lycoming county.

—Coal dirt has choked the channel of Blue Mountain dam, north of Hamberg, and boating on the Schuylkill canal is at a standstill.

—Ferdinand Moersch, aged 78, of Pittsburg, fell from a window a year ago, and has since had suicidal mania. Saturday he shot himself dead.

—Miss Elizabeth A. Behney, of Half Way, near Lebanon, was married Saturday to Geo. Douglas Coover, publisher of the Myerstown Enterprise.

—Baptists have raised \$200,000 of the \$250,000 to meet John D. Rockefeller's quarter of a million-dollar gift to missions, as announced at the Pittsburg meetings.

—Having forgotten to turn off the gas in his room, Charles R. Higgs, a well known young man, was found dead in bed in Wilkesbarre.

—Bidders for the work of removing the burned capitol ruins at Harrisburg have been busy measuring and examining the spot for several days.

—Earl Whitman, representative from the Fourth legislative district, Schuylkill county, fell from his ice house at his home at Amsdale and fractured his arm.

—President D. B. Purinton, of Denison University, Granville, O., was knocked down by a fire engine in Pittsburg, his nose broken and otherwise badly bruised.

—John Baum, of Palmyra, was perhaps fatally hurt near Annyville by his horse dashing over a 40-foot embankment into a stone quarry during a heavy storm at night.

—St. Paul's Evangelical church was dedicated Sunday at Annyville, presiding elder T. L. Hendy, Rev. J. H. Williams and Rev. C. K. Fehr conducted the dedicatory services.

—Colonel W. J. Harvey, president of Wilkesbarre's city council, and a number of other citizens had their pockets picked on a crowded street car returning from a ball game in that city Saturday.

—On the ground that no plans were submitted, and the specifications were changed, the new steel bridge across the Schuylkill, at Bern, Berks county, has been rejected by the county viewers.

—Nora Kisser, an alleged accomplice, has informed federal officials that for many years, at a point near Bradford, she aided Daniel Wilder in making bogus dollars and other coins. Wilder is under arrest.

—J. M. Howe, of Patton, is the possessor of a queer freak of nature in the form of a canary bird that was hatched with only one wing and one foot. It is over three weeks old and is as lively as the rest of its nest mates.

—Governor Hastings Monday evening tendered a reception at the executive mansion, Harrisburg, to General John R. Brooke, of the United States army, whom the President appointed major general on Tuesday.

—Richard Burns, but 15 years old, has again been committed to prison by a Shenandoah justice, charged with breaking into a coalery carpenter shop and getting tools with which he entered and robbed a barber shop.

—At Curwensville, Saturday, Otto Froyd while sitting on his bed in his room fired a shot into his head. His brother ran towards him and found the suicide dying with the revolver in his hand. He expired shortly after.

—Latimer Biberger is the name of the Muncy boy who was accidentally shot over a week ago. Difficultly was experienced in probing for the ball, so on Saturday the X-rays was applied when the bullet was located near the bone a few inches below the point where it entered the leg. The ball was removed.

—Near Galeton, Potter county, last week a young son of Mr. Blakesly picked up a stone about the size of a hen's egg. Bright yellow specks appearing in the stone, the quartz was sent to Binghamton, N. Y. When assayed thirty cents worth of gold was found in the stone.

—At Ridgway a little boy named James Hanscom, while fishing, tumbled into Hyde's dam. He caught hold of a log as he came up the first time, but it turned and the boy went down again. A dog, an English spaniel, then jumped into the water, caught hold of the boy's clothing and kept him afloat until help arrived.

—At Easton last week the case of William White, of Glendon, who brought suit against the Lehigh valley railroad company to recover \$10,000 damages for the death of his wife near the Lucy Furnace station, in November, 1892, was tried. The facts are that Mrs. White had been in Easton on a shopping excursion, and in the evening had started for her home, near Lucy Furnace, with her purchases, on a Lehigh valley passenger train. The body of his wife was discovered on the track by Mr. White, who had gone to meet her. A coroner's inquest was held, the jury censuring the railroad company for not keeping a watchman at the crossing. The jury after deliberating four hours rendered a verdict in favor of Mr. White for \$2,000.