

Ink Slings.

If all the gudgeons that were taken in at a recent charity fair in this place had been packed and salted the poor of the town would have had fish enough to last until spring, and some to spare.

This thing of talking of a cold-snap is certainly a wrong use of words. The least popular things we know of are these spasmodic drops in the temperature and to our mind they are anything but snaps.

The permission of the formation of a milk trust in New York city is another one of the pernicious sops which Republicanism throws out to monopolists to secure their support of corruptionists like HANNA.

The vinegar spirited old knockers who want to do away with the Santa Claus myth can be put down as members of that tight chested species who look over the tops of their glasses for fear of wearing them out.

How unnatural for a barkeeper to be turning to chalk, yet they say there is one in St. Louis who is undergoing such a singular metamorphosis. Now if it were a milk-man the strange occurrence might be easier explained.

MARK HANNA does not stand nearly so much in danger of losing his seat in the United States Senate as he does in losing a portion of his bank account. It must be one or the other and MARK'S past record leads us to believe that it will be the other.

The Governor got sick at Chattanooga, while he was down there to the unveiling of those Pennsylvania monuments. The South seems to prove a regular "knock-out" drop for our executive. You will remember how sick he got the last time he was down there.

The horse show is captivating New York society this week, and while the equine beauties are being lavished with flowers and caresses thousands of poor souls are wandering about the streets of the great metropolis with not a crust of bread at home to eat.

Illinois has come to the front with a woman who wants \$75,000 for a factured heart. Western woman have always been given notoriety because of their large feet, but here is one who makes a bid for fame on an entirely new basis. Her great gall is remarkable.

Seventeen dollars a head for naturalization papers in Philadelphia is putting the price of citizenship pretty high down there, especially when every ballot box scandal they have uncovered developed the fact that half the pug dogs in the town are registered voters.

The revival season has commenced in all parts of the country and to every sincere conversion that is made there will be hundreds of the kind that will only last until the warm weather sets in again and there is no further need for humbugging good, christian people into misguided charities.

The Chicago youth who gaily waved an "adiu" to his sweet heart, with whom he had quarreled, and cried "I'm off," as he swallowed a bottle of carbonic acid, certainly made a tragic end of himself. But if self murderers go where they say they do he'll have a hot time waiting for her coming.

Our esteemed contemporary, the Philadelphia Times, thinks it a singular freak of nature that a St. Louis barkeeper should be "turning to chalk." Nothing strange about it. It only remains for a few more months of Republican rule and every other kind of business man in the country will be "turning to chalk"—it down.

JOHNNY WANAMAKER is just home from a flying trip abroad. While in London he attended the Lord Mayor's banquet and we wouldn't be a bit surprised to see it reproduced in one of his big Philadelphia store windows, as a Christmas catch. Those English things go, you know, and JOHNNY don't hesitate when he thinks a thing will go.

The action of school masters and Legislatures, in all parts of the country, trying to prohibit the game of foot-ball because several fatalities have occurred from it appears ridiculous, when every one knows that the children are just as liable to kill themselves sliding down cellar doors—providing they strike a splinter that is large enough.

When President McKINLEY and his Republican friends want to lay claim to bringing about \$1 wheat they should see to it that the Republican press does not publish such telegraphic reports as we found in it on Wednesday. The report of foreign wheat crop failures shows that France fell 17 per cent. lower than her average for ten years and Russia fell 26 per cent. lower. When it is known that these two countries grow more than one-fourth of the world's supply the true reason for the high price of that cereal in this country is readily seen.

Former secretary of the navy WM. C. WHITNEY has just wakened up to say that new issues are wanted to insure the success of the Democratic party in 1900. New issues are not so sorely needed as new Democrats. Not the kind who are fattened by their party and then turn about to bite the hand that fed them. The old issues are good enough, but with them give us some new old-time Democrats, like the ones who stood up to the rack through thick and thin and not the paper skinned-all-wise sort who imagine themselves bigger than their party.

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Improbability of Currency Legislation.

It is not probable that there will be much business done during the next session of Congress. The chief object that was designed to be secured by the election of McKINLEY was effected in the special session last summer by the passage of the tariff bill for which the trusts and other forms of protected monopoly had contributed their money to MARK HANNA'S electoral corruption fund. This debt having been paid by the enactment of the DINGLEY bill, and the tariff disposed of to the advantage of its beneficiaries, there is but little likelihood of the next Congress giving its attention to legislation of much importance.

A great deal is said about the urgency of currency reform. As a preliminary movement to the tinkering of our monetary system plans for the improvement of the currency are being prepared for presentation to Congress, a self-constituted currency commission having been busy at this work for some months past. Secretary GAGE is also formulating a scheme of currency reform, and between the secretary and the commission the national lawmakers will not lack a currency reform bill if they shall be disposed to give their attention to that subject, which is not likely.

Both the secretary's and the commission's schemes are laid strictly on the line of gold monometallism. Their inspiration is derived directly from Wall street. They suggest no other interest worth attending to than that of the bankers, and they would convey the idea that any other currency than gold, or national bank notes based on gold bonds, is unsound, insecure and deficient. The fact that this nation, for more than seventy-five years, did business without any breach of "the public faith" or violation of "the national honor," with a currency in which silver was on an equality with gold in the monetary function is entirely ignored by these gold bug currency reformers.

Secretary GAGE'S scheme is, of course, based on the retirement of the legal tender government notes. The gold policy necessarily requires contraction as indispensable to the project of adjusting the amount of circulation to the narrow basis of the gold standard. This can be best effected, according to the GAGE plan, by calling in and permanently cancelling as a circulating medium the \$800,000,000 of green backs and other government paper money, leaving it to the national banks to supply the paper circulation, not in such manner and quantity as will best serve the public needs, but rather with the object of promoting the advantage of the bankers. This is in line with the scheme of contraction which is the essential principle of the gold policy.

When Congress shall get together next month the kind of currency reform proposed by the secretary of the treasury and the gold bug commission will be submitted for its consideration. If we mistake not it will hardly receive respectful, certainly not serious attention. The majority in either branch of Congress, is not willing to discard the government paper circulation, which is safe, convenient and inexpensive, and load the people with the expense of \$800,000,000 gold bonds to serve as the basis of a national bank currency. The banks may be useful in their place, but they are not worth such a cost to the people.

Meaningless Talk to the Farmers.

It could not be made out very clearly what Governor HASTINGS was driving at in the speech he recently made to the State Grange, but it looked a good deal as if his main object was to honey-fuddle the farmers. None of his remarks were of any value to them, consisting of generalities that were far from glittering, their purport being decidedly obscure.

As if he was imparting to his hearers a truth with which they were unacquainted, he declared that the farmer had the right to sell his products in the best markets, untrammelled by legislation. No one disputes the fact that he has this right, but has he the opportunity to exercise it without being trammelled when tariff laws are placed between him and his foreign market to which he must look for the sale of his surplus products? In view of this fact, which the Governor should be aware of, such a remark about the farmers having the right to sell in the best markets sounded a good deal as if his excellency was talking at them through his hat.

He also declared to his agricultural hearers that when public servants were not performing their duty it became incumbent upon the farmers to assist in turning them out. We doubt not but that the farmers are aware that they possess this power, and it must be said that they have been greatly remiss in not exercising it as they should by turning out the rascals who have so long been misgoverning this State. Probably they will do it next year when Governor HASTINGS' successor is to be elected.

The Bellefonte council is not exactly going to the dogs, yet it is getting dangerously near the demitton-bow-wow.

Danger to the Cuban Cause.

The prospects of the Cuban patriots are not as encouraging at this moment as the friends of human liberty could wish. The greatest danger to their cause is the possibility that the administration at Washington may lend a too willing ear to the fair promises of more humane methods and better treatment of the Cuban people which the Spanish authorities have made in reply to the demands of our government concerning the Cuban situation. Spanish nature renders it improbable that these promises will be fulfilled.

There is danger in the conciliatory tone of the Spanish reply. It admits the right of the United States to interfere for the protection of Americans in Cuba, and to demand a mitigation of the excessive measures that have desolated the island with the object of suppressing the insurrection, and at the same time have been greatly injurious to American interests. It promises reforms in the local government; the people are to be allowed to control their internal affairs, and concessions are to be made which should have the effect of pacifying the rebellious people. But while this Spanish communication to our government extends the assurance that less objectionable methods will hereafter characterize the operations against the insurgents, and that better treatment will be accorded to Americans in Cuba, whom the Spaniards have included among the victims of their oppressive measures, the Spanish ministry makes the unreasonable and offensive demands that our government shall exercise greater diligence in preventing the departure of filibustering expeditions from our shores.

There is undoubtedly a hidden object in this demand. The Spaniards are fully aware that this government has made every effort to fulfill the requirements of neutrality and to live up to its treaty obligations, both the CLEVELAND and McKINLEY administrations almost abasing themselves in the public duty they have done in the service of the Spanish government by intercepting filibusters. That Spain should demand more of this service can have no other object than to justify the nonfulfillment of her promises of better conduct in Cuba on the grounds that the American government failed in her obligations as a neutral power, in not preventing the escape of filibusters from our ports.

The greatest danger to the Cuban cause is in the success which the Spaniards may have in deceiving our government with false promises. While the administration may be lulled into supineness by the belief that Spain will accord the Cubans better treatment the island may be again brought under her despotic heel.

A Monopolistic Atrocity.

There is something peculiarly atrocious in the suggestion of a milk trust. Of all the schemes of monopoly and conspiracies to rob consumers, it has in it least of the milk of human kindness, as it involves an attempt to forestall one of the prime necessities of life and an article indispensable to the sustenance of children.

Repulsive as such a monopoly appears to be, a combination is about being formed that is designed to bring the entire milk supply of Greater New York under the control of a trust. An English syndicate is said to be backing the project, and if effected on the scale proposed it will bring under its power all the dealers who have been supplying the three million people of New York with the lactical liquid. Those who will not yield submission to the trust will be driven out of the business by the same coercive process as the sugar trust has employed in controlling the market, and the Standard oil company has resorted to in breaking down competition.

Supplying so vast a population with so necessary and generally used article as milk will be an immense business, and to those who will have the monopoly of such a trade it will be the source of unlimited wealth. It appears from the agreement which the dealers will be required to sign that it is to be run on almost precisely the same lines as is the sugar trust. A rise in the price is proposed that will make their milk cost the people of New York over \$9,000,000 a year more than it does under the old system of supplying it.

The growth of the trusts, of which this is another instance, is one of the greatest evils of the times. Such combinations are clearly unlawful, as they operate in restraint of trade, which is contrary to the spirit of the common law and conflicts with the provisions of both state and federal statutes.

But monopoly has become bold, overbearing and defiant. It has been nurtured by the policy of a powerful political party. It has grown strong under tariffs that have invested it with privileges and afforded it protection. It has secured immunity by contributing to the election funds of a successful party, and has become so assured of its power to control the business of the country through the agency of the trusts that it feels itself strong enough to defy both the government and the people.

A Perfunctory Mission.

The commissioners whom President McKINLEY sent to Europe, ostensibly to induce European governments to co-operate with the United States in restoring silver to its former status as standard money, have returned home and are unable to report that they met with any success in their mission. They went abroad very shortly after the commencement of Mr. McKINLEY'S term of office, their appointment for the special work assigned them having been among the first of the President's official acts.

They seem to have attended to the business of their mission zealously and faithfully. Their initial operations appear to have made a decided impression upon European monetary authorities, the French, particularly, being favorably disposed towards entering into an international agreement for the restoration of bimetallicism, while English financial authorities of a high order, both in the government and the bank of England, were induced, through the influence of the American commission, to go so far as to announce their intention of favoring silver to the extent of making that metal a part of the reserve of the Bank of England and again opening the mints in India to the coinage of silver.

The commission was meeting with encouraging success in the influence it was exerting upon the English monetary authorities when the money lords of Lombard street, who have more than a billion dollars in foreign investments, most of it in the United States, the interest on which is almost doubled by the gold standard, took alarm at the movements of the American commission and actually bulldozed the English authorities into rejecting bimetallicism, pretty much in the same way in which the bank syndicates and money dealers of Wall street bulldozed the American people into rejecting free silver at the last presidential election.

It was largely on this account that the American commissioners have returned home with the acknowledgement of their failure to induce European governments to join in an international bimetallic arrangement. President McKINLEY last week sent for Senator WOLCOTT, the head of the unsuccessful commission, with the object, it is said, of learning the particulars of his mission. If the President is curious to know why it failed it may not be necessary for him to look outside of his own administration for at least a part of the cause of its failure. When the American commissioners were endeavoring to influence European governments to enter into an agreement with the United States for the restoration of silver to its old place in the currency of commercial nations, what effect must have been produced on the minds of European financiers by the movement of President McKINLEY'S secretary of the treasury which in its purpose was directly opposite to that in which the commission was engaged abroad? While the commissioners were urging the governments of Europe to join with the United States in adopting the policy of bimetallicism the chief treasury officer of the McKINLEY administration was seen arranging measures for a more thorough enforcement of the gold policy in this country. Was not such contradictory action on the part of the administration calculated to discredit the purpose of the American bimetallic commission in European estimation, and create the damaging impression among foreign financiers that the interest of the McKINLEY administration in international bimetallicism was only a sham?

It is quite evident that the authorities at Washington do not entertain the idea of international bimetallicism with the least sincerity. The mission to Europe in the alleged interest of silver, which has cost the government considerable expense, was a deception, a mere perfunctory compliance with a pledge in the Republican platform that was never intended to be fulfilled. It was necessary in the last presidential campaign to hold a certain Republican element that wanted something done for silver, and with that object the promise of bimetallicism by international agreement was made in the platform. That it was made merely to deceive was evidenced by the fact that while the commission was sent to Europe for the sake of appearance the real purpose of the administration was shown by secretary GAGE'S arranging for the more thorough confirmation of gold monometallism by the retirement of the greenbacks and the cancellation of every kind of government paper money.

Through a singular case of mental inadvertence one of the writers of the WATCHMAN made the ASTORS owners of the New York Central rail-road, in an editorial article explaining how that corporation had been trying to excuse its own negligence in keeping its tracks in safe condition by blaming the frightful Garrison accident, of a few weeks ago, on dynamites. Most every one who read it must have realized that it was nothing more than a slip that placed the ASTORS in control of a great corporation of which the VANDERBILT ownership is so generally known.

American Social Reform.

From a Pamphlet by B. J. Hoffacker.

Can American social reform be brought about without riots, strikes and all the evil which most attend such civil disturbance? Suggestions made are the basis of a great deal of education. It must be admitted that the early suggestions, received at home, influence our future. Americans have suggested to their children, "attain a higher education," without carefully considering their qualification or fitness. We can see the result of such early suggestions in education of royalty. From infancy they are taught they are superior to their fellows. Suggestion or education might teach them equality. Our wealthy classes are making the mistake, also many imitators with us are making the same error, suggesting to their children they must not work at manual labor, but urging them to join the already overcrowded professions.

That this social problem is one which is earnestly considered by Americans there can be no doubt; possibly by bringing it still nearer home does the writer venture a few suggestions, which may result in a discussion of the subject among ourselves. Americans, by birth or choice, who are willing to make any sacrifice to shield their country and homes from danger, every effort should be made to have those within our homes pure and happy; an example which cannot help but raise the moral standard of humanity.

In the education and elevation of man there is plenty of room up higher; the doors of our large cities and manufacturing centers. This has been principally brought about by too much emigration; especially since the war have they arrived in such numbers that we cannot absorb them; hence our special tenement districts, for each nationality, in our large cities, in some parts of the existence of the "American declaration of equality" is unknown. Why treat them so liberally by allowing them to continue to flow in, a menace to our institutions and liberty? It must be admitted these people have an ambition to improve their condition by coming to this country, but they are also gradually crowded down lower by new arrivals. This is further encouraged by our tariff laws our statesmen claim are made to protect American labor. How? By encouraging our heavily protected trusts and manufacturing combinations to employ cheap labor from Europe and Asia. These trusts are represented by a class of pocket patriots who have amassed millions under our system of protection. Is there a limit to their greed? Can any amount be set at which their selfishness will halt? It would be well to investigate the "trusts," show actual value of their plants, wages paid, dividends, and show result to actual capital invested. This is further by comparison, as the result of our tariff. It would show the patriotism of these patriots, and cause of their intense alarm when their interests are in danger by any unfavorable legislation.

Immigration will finally cease when we reach the foreign level. There is no other alternative unless we stop it entirely (perhaps except educational or property qualifications). American labor should follow the example of "trusts" by excluding foreign competition. Why not? Why should Americans be protected and labor receive no consideration? Selfishness seems to be the main cause of our trouble. Perhaps this can be directed to aid us in our reforms. Let us educate our youth to a higher standard by suggesting a more humane treatment of one another. The conditions can exist with a tremendous surplus, created by the labor and industry of the people. This very overproduction should be reason for suffering for want of just such surplus is surely a contradiction—it would seem rather underconsumption. Until surplus is consumed has the conditions continue; with charity workmen are enabled to tide over or help consume. Charity is steadily increasing and our American standard of independence is decreasing. We don't want such a dependent class. Very little patriotism or loyalty can be expected from them, should our country require it in any emergency.

Let Us Hope for the Best.

From the Philadelphia Press.

The hope that the Yale-Harvard football contest of last Saturday would show that all "trusts" paid, divinely, and gentlemanly manner seems to have been realized. It was witnessed by one of the largest audiences ever gathered on such an occasion. The enthusiasm was great and the game was warmly contested and at times exciting. The fact that neither side was able to score shows how determined the struggle was. And yet there has been no complaint of rough or brutal playing and the injuries to the players were so slight as to keep no one of them from duty or playing again. Such an exhibition of how football can be played is worth a great deal to the game. It will disarm criticism and serves as a model after which other colleges can copy. The two years' suspension of athletic relations between Yale and Harvard has been a good purpose. It has started the game on a new career and free from most all objectionable features.

The golden jubilee edition of the Freeport, Illinois, Bulletin is one of the very latest creditable performances of energetic newspaper makers. It appears in the form of a twenty-four page edition, with an unique poster cover in gold and black and a miniature of the first page of the Bulletin, as it appeared on its fiftieth anniversary. It is a combined industrial, biographical and historical number and Messrs. POFFENBERGER, STIVER and ROCKEY, the publishers, have a right to feel proud of it. Mr. P. O. STIVER is a native of Centre county, being a brother of Mrs. J. E. WARD, of this place.

Through the courtesy of Hon. ROBERT M. FOSTER, of State College, we have been presented with a Small's Legislative Handbook, for 1897, the most useful compilation of statistics of Pennsylvania that is published.

Spawls from the Keystone.

—Daniel Clark, aged 37, was killed by a train at Freeport.

—W. H. Schmitt has been appointed a fourth-class postmaster at Patterson.

—Reading firemen are arranging for a sesquicentennial celebration next year.

—Elizabeth McClure, aged 21, committed suicide in a Pittsburg cafe because of jealousy of a young man.

—Matthew Delaney, aged 40, was ground to pieces by a freight train that he tried to board at Shenandoah.

—W. H. Waltz, the well-known architect and builder, of Williamsport, is seriously ill with typhoid fever.

—Benjamin Clark, aged 87, was burned to death by the destruction of his house at Franklin, Venango county.

—Stricken with paralysis, Monday J. Harmon Bosler, a prominent capitalist of Carlisle, is in a critical condition.

—John Logan, in his eighty-sixth year, has been postmaster at Crossroads, York county, continuously since 1839.

—At Bristol Monday William Nolf, for 25 years a lock tender on the Delaware division canal, fell into the lock and drowned.

—By the explosion of a vat in a brewery at Hazleton, Tuesday, Harry Messing was hurled against a wall and badly injured.

—The contribution box, containing a considerable sum of money, was stolen Sunday night from St. Aloysius, Catholic church, Pottstown.

—By the explosion of a lamp at her home in Mahanoy City, Miss Hannah Reifsnnyder received probably fatal burns about limbs and abdomen.

—Miss May McHale, of Pottsville, fell in alighting from a train at Mahanoy City, fracturing her hip and sustaining other serious injuries.

—The Gettysburg bible society, on Sunday night, celebrated its forty-sixth anniversary with sermons by Revs. George M. Glenn and Dr. Eli Huber.

—Two peddlers of musical instruments were arrested at Weatherly Wednesday for passing counterfeit money. They refused to give their names.

—A warrant has been issued at the instance of William K. Gates, of Lebanon, for the arrest of Assemblyman P. H. Reinhard for embezzling \$36.05.

—While walking along the road at Mahanoy City Mrs. Meoney was struck by a runaway horse and had four ribs fractured and her head and limbs lacerated.

—The 274 teachers of Lebanon were present at the opening of the county institute in Lebanon Monday and were welcomed in an address by Prof. J. E. Alleman.

—The dry goods merchants of Chambersburg have signed an agreement not to use any periodical tickets in the future. The other merchants will do the same.

—Six cows on the farm of Snyder Renninger, Berks county, having been declared suffering with tuberculosis, were killed by direction of the Department of Agriculture.

—The treasurer of Delaware county has been directed by the State to collect the annual tax from a number of Chester pool and billiard room proprietors who sought to evade payment.

—A report from Winterburn to the effect that Mrs. Evans, aged 63, a few days ago went into the woods, chopped down three good sized pine trees, saved them into blocks and split the blocks for her winter's supply of fire wood.

—For the month of October there were 447 wells completed in the Pennsylvania oil fields, including 104 dusters, and the new production was placed at 13,029 barrels. As compared with the September report, there is a decline of 43 wells, 2 4 barrels production and 36 dry holes.

—The borough of Mifflinburg has just purchased from Ryan, Thompson & Co., Williamsport, for \$400, ten acres adjoining the Buffalo mills, about eight miles northwest of Mifflinburg, near the head of Buffalo creek. A reservoir is to be constructed there and the water piped to Mifflinburg to supply the borough. Nearly all of the right of way has been secured over the route. Active operations will likely begin early next spring.

—Harry Ginsburg, a peddler, who keeps a small store at Mifflinburg, was nearly killed by highwaymen near that place Saturday. He was on his way home from one of his trips. While in the Penn's-valley narrows he was held up by three masked men, each carrying a Winchester rifle. While one of the men held his horse the other two dragged him from his wagon. They beat him so badly that he became unconscious. While they were in the act of going through his clothing they were scared away by travelers through the narrows. Ginsburg had a large sum of money on his person, but it was not discovered.

—Goaded to desperation by the tantalizing tactics of the 4 year old son of Otto Lundburg, Mary Boemer, aged 17, at Ridgway, burned out one of the little fellow's eyes, and, it is feared, has left him mentally wrecked. The boy and several companions, encouraged by young Miss Boemer's contumacious attitude at their annoying remarks, continued the sport until the girl decided on heroic means for ridding herself of her tormentors. Procuring a sharp pointed poker, she heated it and thrust the sizzling iron through a hole in a fence through which young Lundburg was peering at her in childish glee because of her anger. The hot poker entered the boy's eye, completely burning it out, and inflicting other injuries that, should he survive, will leave him an imbecile.

—A clever forgery was perpetrated on the proprietor of the Armstrong hotel at Johnstown recently and the owner of a clothing house in that town suffered in consequence. A well dressed man stopped at the hotel as a guest and during the day asked for some hotel stationery. He filled out one of the sheets, bearing the business address of the hotel, signed the order with the proprietor's name, and presented the order for some clothing at one of the stores. The desired goods were given the swindler, as the hotel proprietor had been in the habit of presenting similar orders, and the merchant was not suspicious of the bogus order. Later in the day the deception was discovered in escaping with the goods and as yet has not been intercepted.