

Ink Slings.

A holy war is reported to be in progress in Persia, which leads us to wonder what kind of a war it would be, if it were not holy.

Senator MORGAN, of Alabama, says that Mr. CLEVELAND favored Hawaiian annexation and Mr. CLEVELAND has replied that he did not. One of the gentlemen is— Which one is it?

If General MILES has done what he is reported to have done, in telling foreign powers all about our military and naval weaknesses, he had better be put to work on the government wood-pile, where he will have something more to do than talk.

When the county will pay \$95.17 costs to convict and board a creature in jail for seven months it is pretty evident that such depraved instruction in physiology as a study of anatomical peninsulas involves is not the kind that will be tolerated in Bellefonte.

It is reported that perfumed butter is thefad among society people of Clearfield. The smart set of that town needn't imagine they are the only mud on the banks of the Susquehanna, for there isn't a boarding house in the country that hasn't had perfumed butter often.

No sooner had the Maine reached the port of Havana than the restlessness in that city ceased and all became as quiet as the grave. Both the Spaniards and Cubans have a respect for Maine, since the Hon. THOMAS BRACKETT REED first seized the Congress of the United States.

The increase of half a mill in the assessments for 1898 and the raising of the valuation of much of the farm land in the county is the first real bitter dose that the farmers have had to drink from the cup of happiness they thought they had filled to the brim when they elected a Republican board of commissioners for Centre county. It won't be the last of the gall either.

The Senate's having given six hours to the debate of Senator TELLER'S resolution, providing that the government may pay the principal and interest of the bonds of the United States in silver, shows what way the wind blows in the upper house of Congress. Of course there is no hope of it carrying, but the Republicans realize that they must do something for silver and hope, by thus dallying with the question, to fool the people.

The removal of secretary GAGE of the treasury will not have the effect of fooling the people into the belief that the present administration is favorable to bimetalism. President MCKINLEY has read the hand writing on the wall and will probably try to bolster up a claim that he is ready to help the cause of silver. Mr. HANNA is back of the President and is not likely to permit any monkey business, as the goldites call "this silver idea."

Between throwing bouquets at himself and his desperate endeavor to stuff Congressman ARNOLD with flap-doodle the editor of the Gazette has found time to tell the people that he has added "two handsome porches and a balcony" to his home and has had the whole place "painted in colonial style." We trust that our up-town friend won't accuse us of piracy for taking this bit of very important news to the public from his columns and giving it to our readers. It would really be an injustice to our friend if everybody were not told of his two porches, balcony and white paint.

The Ravenna, Ohio, woman who applied for a divorce because her husband had lived with her for forty years and never taken her any place, not even to church, ought to get what she is after. A woman who will get up and get breakfast three hundred and sixty five days a year, darn socks, sew on buttons and keep the bed warm for such an ingrate ought to be free. By all the records of matrimony this is the first case of a woman complaining because her man doesn't take her to church. The rule is for the man to complain because his wife takes him there.

The United States, the largest, most glorious and freest Republic on earth, will soon be known as the big baby if this monkey business with Spain isn't stopped. The idea of allowing a petered out old monarchy like that of Spain to bully Uncle SAM around is something like the man who rides the pony in the circus parade and steers a big elephant in whatever direction he chooses by gouging it with a pike. The only difference is that the elephant has a thick hide and is not known to possess any pride, while Uncle SAM is supposed to have some, even if it isn't much in evidence just now.

It is said that the actress ANNA HELD, during a recent visit to Pittsburgh, invited seven newspaper reporters to see her bathe in a tub of hot milk. ANNA has claimed that the hot milk baths have been the producers of her exceptional beauty, but little credence was placed in the rumor that she actually did use cow's milk as a lavature. Even this latest story is hardly credible, for we can scarcely believe that the actress would do such a thing as invite newspaper men to see her bathe—even for advertisement sake—And if they did see her paddling in the luscious fluid of the cow they ought to have cracked her a couple of times with the end of a knotted towel and made her smart for such immodesty.

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Disgraceful Action on the Cuban Question.

There is something peculiarly contemptible in the position in which the controlling party in Congress has set itself against the cause of Cuban independence. The odious spirit that crops out in this opposition was especially noticeable in the proceedings in the House last week, when the Democrats sought to attach to a pending bill a clause that would have recognized the belligerency of the Cuban patriots.

This proposition brought out in its most repulsive light the partisan spirit and hypocritical pretension of the Republicans on a question affecting the rights and liberty of an oppressed people. Speaker REED promptly exerted his despotic power against this Democratic movement to secure for the Cuban belligerents the right of recognition which they have undeniably gained by three years' resistance to the Spanish power. He held the Republican majority in the House to the disreputable task of sustaining the Spanish cause. They readily responded to the speaker's whip, arraying themselves in solid line on the side of the oppressors of the Cuban people.

The position taken by the Republicans on that occasion was the more shameful for the reason that it was prompted by the meanest kind of partisanship. When the CLEVELAND administration failed to extend to the patriotic Cubans the assistance which their cause appeared to deserve, it was subjected to the severest Republican censure for its apparent remissness. In and out of Congress the Republicans heaped upon CLEVELAND the odium of being in sympathy with Spanish oppression, and it was proclaimed by them as a national disgrace that the government withheld the recognition that was due to a people fighting for their freedom.

When the tone and conduct of the Republican ginges at that time is compared with the present administration's compliance with the interests of Spain, and the complacency with which the majority in Congress supports the President's policy of non-interference, the spirit that prompted Republican talk and conduct as if they had at heart the cause of a people struggling for the rights of self government, is shown up in a light that proves it to have been a fraud, and exposes it to the contempt of true and honorable Americans.

An Unfit Judicial Appointment.

The evident reasons why it was improper to elevate Attorney General MCKENNA to a seat on the bench of the United States Supreme court did not deter the President from appointing him to a position for which he is so clearly unfitted, nor prevented the Senate's confirmation of so unsuitable an appointment.

No man should be selected for that highest place in the country's judiciary unless he is unquestionably known to possess the very highest judicial qualifications. But Mr. MCKENNA is by no means distinguished for his ability as a lawyer and jurist. On the contrary his legal and judicial reputation is of so ordinary a grade that the lawyers and political men of the Pacific States, where his professional life has been passed, were so convinced of his unfitness for a high judiciary station that they almost unanimously joined in a protest against his election to the United States Supreme court. This should have been a sufficient bar to his appointment.

But an equally cogent objection to him, as a member of the highest court in the land, is the known fact of his having been the attorney of trusts and monopolies through whose influence and in whose interest he was given the Attorney Generalship. The same agency that secured him that position has demanded the advantage to its interests which his presence on the bench of the Supreme court will afford the monopolies. That high tribunal is already too strongly inclined to favor monopolistic capital and aggressive wealth, without adding to its membership a professional advocate and supporter of the trusts.

But if there were no other objections to MCKENNA'S judicial elevation his unfitness would be sufficiently proven by the moral obtuseness and partisan depravity displayed by him when, after MARK HANNA had secured the Ohio senatorial election by evident bribery, he congratulatoryly telegraphed to the Buckeye bootler: "Everything good in politics has triumphed with you."

Heaven help the country when a man who approves of boodle practices and includes bribery among the good things in politics is elevated to its highest judicial tribunal!

The Republican meaning of "prosperity" is the accumulation of great wealth by an especially favored class. The term "business interests," by the same interpretation, means the benefit which high tariffs confer upon the trusts and the gold standard contributors to the Wall street money dealers.

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A Republican Governor's Lament.

Governor PINGREE, of Michigan, is certainly an object of political commiseration. As a Republican Governor he acknowledges that he is holding office under a party that he has reason to be ashamed of. He is conscious of belonging to a political organization that is guilty of practices which are injurious to public interests, ruinous to political morals, and dangerous to free government and popular institutions.

In an address he recently made on a public occasion he bewailed his unfortunate and lamentable situation as a functionary holding his official position in a party into which, as he said, "have flocked birds of evil omen, driving out the rightful owners." He laments the intrusion of such disreputable material, declaring that "to-day all the trusts, all the monopolies, every agency which has been bleeding the country, has taken refuge under the wing of the Republican party, because they fear the Democratic party, which kicked them out."

But when he finds himself disgusted with such a situation in his party, and along with other Republicans, as he says, is "sick of being compelled to condone and defend the trusts," surely he, and the Republicans who feel as he does, can find refuge by going over to the party that has "kicked out" the evil agencies that "have taken refuge under the wing of the Republican party."

The Governor does not draw an incorrect picture of the corrupt and debased influences that have secured control of his party. They display their supremacy over it in the passage of monopoly tariffs; in the enactment of laws and decisions of courts that afford protection to "every agency that has been bleeding the country; in the corrupt methods by which the United States Senate is filled with plutocrats and monopolists, and in the care that is taken to fortify the advantage of encroaching corporations and greedy capital by putting the agents of trusts and moneyed syndicates in high judicial stations.

The influences that have produced these evils in his party have become obvious to the Governor of Michigan, but when he sees, as he admits, that "the monopolist, the franchise-grabber, the lobbyist, and the political bootler" have become the controlling power in his party, what use is there in wasting his breath in lamentation when his plain duty as an honest man and patriotic citizen is to leave such a party and do all he can to prevent its longer ruling and ruining the country.

President McKinley Becomes Venture-Some.

At last the administration has overcome its fear of the mighty Spanish nation and ventured to send an American man-of-war to the harbor of Havana. The feelings of the American people will be relieved by this evidence that the United States are not so much afraid of Spain as to keep the navy that bears the star spangled banner entirely away from where its service is needed to defend American lives and properties against Spanish violation and spoliation.

It has certainly been very humiliating to American sailors that their navy, whose fame is associated with such glorious traditions, should be put to no better service than doing police duty on the high seas for the benefit of Spain. Other nations claimed the right to have warships at Havana and had them there. Americans were being threatened with death and destruction at that point. No other nation had so much occasion for naval defense in Cuban waters. But the Spaniards warned American ships to keep away, even declaring that if one should approach Havana it would be a cause for war. Probably the battleship Maine would not have been ordered there last Monday if consul general LEE had not telegraphed that the lives of Americans were in danger and that he would resign his post if they were not offered protection.

It is well that something happened that compelled the administration to pluck up courage, and we will now see whether war will result from this act of temerity.

TAMMANY displayed its charitable disposition by distributing among the poor of New York city \$20,000 that was left over after the municipal campaign. Such a surplus of election funds is usually divided as campaign swag among politicians of the Philadelphia stripe, but TAMMANY put it to charitable use. That much abused organization has now raised, by district assessment among its members, \$20,000 for the Cuban relief fund. The compassion of the Tiger extends not merely to the suffering poor of New York city, but also to the starving people of Cuba.

One of the New England cotton mills whose hands have struck against a reduction of wages was paying its employees at the rate of \$600 a week while its annual dividends were amounting to 16 per cent. A ratio of 16 to 6 doesn't appear to be exactly the fair thing although it may conform to the DINGLEY idea of prosperity.

The Silver Resolution in the Senate.

Senator QUAY has been severely berated by the Philadelphia Ledger for having voted in favor of bringing before the Senate the TELLER resolution which declares the government bonds to be payable in silver.

For having so voted the Pennsylvania Senator is charged with being unfaithful to Republican doctrine and principles. But he can hardly be adjudged as guilty of such unfaithfulness when it is seen that the TELLER resolution is precisely the same as the MATTHEWS resolution for which a majority of the Republicans in Congress voted in 1878, who appeared to regard it as good financial policy and sound Republican doctrine that gold and silver were equally applicable to the payment of the government's obligations. It is remembered that that was about the time when the government concluded to resume specie payments, after a long period of suspension, and it would seem that in order to prevent a goldbug impression that gold alone should be used in resuming the payment of specie, and to make it clearly understood that the term "coin," in the phraseology of the law, meant silver as well as gold, the STANLEY MATTHEWS resolution was passed declaring that it was optional with the government to use either kind of metallic money in making its payments.

It may be claimed that the situation is now different from what it was when the MATTHEWS resolution was passed. It is true that the situation has been considerably changed by the goldbug influence creating the impression that it is a terribly improper and unlawful thing for the government to make its payments in anything else than gold, by such impression and by the act of demonetization beating down the value of the white metal in the market; but the law is still the same as the MATTHEWS resolution declared it to be, therefore justifying the position taken by the TELLER resolution that the government bonds are payable in silver.

This resolution, it should be observed, does not commit the government to silver payment, but it is intended to be declaratory of the fact that such payment would not be contrary to the law, and therefore "not in violation of the public faith, nor in derogation of the rights of the public creditors."

How to Remedy the Wage Trouble.

The President believes that a solution of the wage trouble will be furnished by the passage of the bill restricting foreign immigration. In his opinion the rush of foreign immigrants to our shores interferes with the DINGLEY tariff's conferring the full measure of its benefit upon the American workmen.

It is expected in administration circles that by the passage of the bill that will keep out foreign laborers relief will be afforded to the New England cotton mill hands who find their wages cut within four months after the mill owners were given the highest protection that was ever conferred upon them by a tariff.

But according to the explanation of the cotton manufacturers it is the competition of the southern factories that has compelled them to reduce the wages of their working people, and if this is so it is difficult to see what foreign immigration has to do with it. The blame will have to be saddled on the "pauper labor" of the South.

In a recent suit before the Schuylkill county court, against two of the county commissioners for having illegally disbursed and extravagantly expended county money, it came out in the testimony of one of the witnesses that when a committee of the Schuylkill county bar went to Harrisburg to oppose the passage of the new county bill the sum of \$200 was demanded by a member of the Legislature for his influence and vote against the bill. Such evidence of thrift on the part of lawmakers in the present period of legislative degeneracy should not surprise the people. Lawmaking has reached that stage in which its product must be purchased the same as other commodities in the market.

The intrusion of silver into the Senate this week by the introduction of TELLER'S resolution set the Hawaiian scheme of "leprosy and loot" aside for the time being and even eclipsed the importance of the Cuban question. Silver is a subject that is supposed to have had the life crushed out of it by the result of the last presidential election, but for a corpse it displays remarkable animation. It promises to be the liveliest thing above ground for the next two years.

When the payment of pensions from the 1st of July to the end of 1897 amounted to \$68,000,000, and in the same time the entire revenue from customs was only \$53,000,000, a situation was produced that made a deficit the only thing that could be looked for under the circumstances. With the pension rolls filled with a miscellaneous class of bummers and underserving claimants there will have to be new forms of taxation devised to meet the scandalous expense.

Two Sides of the Shield.

From the Pittsburg Post. What a cheery view Governor Hastings gave of the material prosperity of Pennsylvania in his speech at the banquet in Philadelphia on Tuesday evening. "We possess fully one-tenth the value of all the farm lands in all the States of the Union," he said, "we produce two-thirds of all the steel consumed in the United States; and Philadelphia, itself, produced nearly one-fourth of the total quantity of woolen goods, one-fifth of all the textiles and almost one-half of all the carpets made in America."

Yet we have been there and are so busy doing these things, the Governor might have added, we have permitted our state and municipal governments to fall into the hands of combines of selfish and spoils-seeking ringsters and jobbers, who rule them on the most debasing principles known to a free people anywhere. In contrast with the material prosperity of the State, look at conditions at Harrisburg during the last session of our incapable and corrupt Legislature. If our cities are prosperous, see at what cost in reckless taxation, profligate expenditure and government by machine oligarchies.

The shield has two sides. The material prosperity of the Commonwealth has been mastered by the intelligence and conscience of the State sacrificing its obligations to maintain honest and efficient government, and allowing the administration of State and cities to fall into the hands of contractors intent on plunder and power.

"If I have the land, go hastening I'll a prey, where wealth accumulates and men decay." Rejection of civic duties is the evidence of decay.

The Government Should Get Boffins for Such Men.

From the Waterbury, S. D., Times. Sometimes we think, that one thing which makes hard times harder, is the number of baby men running about. You can hear them squall almost any time of day or night. By baby men, we mean those fellows who are easily knocked out. Here come two specimens: One who quits work for a week or two on account of a frosted finger. A man who lies abed 'til nine o'clock on account of the cold. One who is jealous because his neighbor is getting to the front by hard work. A man who is afraid he will sell his hands. One who wants someone else to support him. A man who blames his wife for being poor. One who blames the government because his ancestors did not leave him any money. A strong, healthy man who cries because he is tired. A man who gets sick for want of exercise. One who will not hustle. The dulle and the dandy. The sluggard and the whiner; soft men who are afraid to run, jump or kick.

Pretty men who are just too sweet to live. Toadies, siliies and foolies. The world is full of baby men, and there is no use looking for the millennium, nor even for extra good times 'till they are grown up.

That's What He'll Do, Brother.

From the Troy, Ohio, Democrat. It is amusing to read some of the congratulations sent to Hanna. One of the county papers says: "The Republican party still lives." Tom Platt wires: "Your success has saved the party." According to that, the Republican party came into this world of being laid under the sod, and must be on its last legs. When Bryan gets after it in 1900 he'll wipe it off the face of the earth.

Gage's Days Thought to be Numbered.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26.—The annual banquet of the Pittsburg chamber of commerce, March 19, will this year be made nationally notable, because Secretary of the Treasury, William Gage has accepted the invitation sent him to be present and make a speech, which no doubt will be on the financial question.

The acceptance of this invitation for a date nearly two months ahead indicates that Secretary Gage does not share the feeling, somewhat common here, that his career as head of the treasury department is drawing to a close.

There can be no doubt the Republican Senators, who are known as McKinley bimetalists, would like to see Mr. Gage displaced as secretary of the Treasury, because of his declarations in favor of committing the government more fully to the gold standard—declarations which make it exceedingly difficult for those Senators to keep up the pretense that there is still hope for international bimetalism, and that they and the administration are working to obtain an international agreement.

These Senators are known to be at work with the object of undermining Mr. Gage with the President, by convincing the latter that if he does not make a change in his Secretary of the Treasury he will seriously embarrass his present administration and destroy any chance that may exist of a second McKinley administration.

Several recent events are pointed to as indicative that the President has come around to the bimetalist Senators' views, and has entered upon a course of action calculated to bring about the resignation of Mr. Gage.

Most notable of these events was the sudden removal, day before yesterday, of director of the mint Preston, an official who, in common with Secretary Gage, was denounced as a stumbling block to bimetalism by Senator Wolcott in this recent speech in the Senate.

It has been stated that the man selected to succeed Mr. Preston, Mr. Roberts, of Iowa, was selected by Secretary Gage himself. But this statement is denied on good authority, and it is even said that the Secretary did not know Preston's removal was contemplated until a few hours before the name of his successor was sent to the Senate.

If these things are true, they furnish good ground for the belief that Secretary Gage is between two fires—the capitol on one side and the white horse on the other.

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Spawls from the Keystone.

—Stroudsburg swarms with tramps, and robberies are frequent.

—Mrs. Sallie Cox is still an applicant for the Pittsburg post-office.

—Henry H. Jackson has donated a lot in Reading as a site for a Republican club house.

—A design has been adopted for a soldiers' monument, to be erected at McConnellsburg.

—John Yost was stricken with paralysis during service in the M. E. church, Bristol, Sunday.

—Falling 40 feet over an embankment, Philip Grey, aged 33, of Schuylkill Haven, was killed.

—John Roach, a one-armed peddler, died at Scranton, Sunday, of wounds inflicted by a highwayman.

—Stephen Pettit, of Espy, Columbia county, has declared himself an independent candidate for poor director.

—Rev. Joseph Martin was locked out of the church of God, at York, on Sunday and preached in the open air.

—Jeremiah Beard, 25 years a justice of the peace at Birdsboro, has given up the office on account of failing health.

—Sixteen new members were received into the M. E. church at Bristol Monday, the result of a recent revival.

—A discovery of quartz rock, rich in free gold, has been made four miles north of Franklin, in Venango county.

—Charles Kehler, a prominent resident of Mt. Carmel, was found dead on Mt. Carmel Mountain Monday afternoon.

—The blast furnace of the Warwick iron company, at Pottstown, last week made the remarkable yield of 1410 tons of pig iron.

—The capacity of the Lehman machine works, at Williamsport, has been more than doubled, giving employment to 100 hands.

—George Brooke, president of the E. & G. Brooke iron company, at Birdsboro, since 1876, has resigned and is succeeded by Edward Brooke.

— Snyder county has a jail without a single inmate, and has \$1,400 surplus in its treasury. It is said, too, that cob-weeds grow on the district attorney's desk.

—Michael Kohl, who died several days ago, near Kontersville, Bucks county, at the age of 84, enjoyed the distinction of never having ridden in a railroad car.

—Capitalists of Reading are securing options on farms between that place and Temple, with a view to constructing a boulevard 80 feet wide and three and a-half miles long.

—The Luther League of the Spring City Lutheran church celebrated its anniversary Sunday. The address of the evening was delivered by Rev. A. S. Fitchner, of Norris-town.

—The condition of the venerable Bishop McGovern, at Harrisburg, has become so serious, that his relatives have been summoned to his bedside. His illness is owing to a general breaking down of the system. The formal announcement of his sickness was made Sunday at Harrisburg.

—William Fairman, of Pottsville, one of Jefferson county's criminal lawyers, has been convicted of unprofessional conduct in accepting unlawful fees. He was sentenced to be disbursed for a period of nine months and to pay three-fourths of the costs of prosecution. The prosecutor, W. C. Schaffer, was struck for the remaining costs.

—Rafting is a thing of the past on the Susquehanna and the sweet days gone by when the white mustached young man could glide into Lock Haven on a raft, get his hair cut, buy a new suit of clothes four sizes too big for him and return with a black mustache as a regular lady killer, are now but fading recollections of those exciting rafting days.

—A large pine stub was sent to the Hopkins saw mill, near Reynoldsville, a few days ago. The log scaled 3,120 feet. It was cut on the Degan and McDonald job near Falls Creek. The log was too large to float down the stream from the camp to Sandy Lick creek, and it was hauled down by three teams, and dumped into the Sandy to be floated down to the mill.

—The new census gives Richburg, a mile north of Bolivar, 401 population. In 1881 Richburg had 8,000 population, and was the largest village in McKean county. With the decay of the oil boom the population faded away, though the village is still larger than it was before the oil boom came. Among the remaining relics of bygone days are a brick bank building and a \$10,000 church.

—Joseph Handley, of Philadelphia, who was the biggest man in the city, was buried Sunday in Holy Cross cemetery. He weighed nearly 600 pounds and was over four feet broad across the shoulders. The coffin in which he was placed was made especially and measured seven feet in length and four and a-half in width. The coffin, together with the corpse, weighed 1,200 pounds and was wheeled into the church on a truck. The deceased was 48 years of age and was on the police force under Mayor Fox.

—The Pennsylvania state association of school directors will hold their annual convention at Harrisburg, Wednesday, February 9th. This association is composed of representatives from the boards of education of Philadelphia, Pittsburg and Allegheny cities, and organized county associations of school directors in cities and boroughs having separate teachers' institutes, with the state, county, city, borough and township superintendents as advisory members. This meeting promises to be largely attended.

—James Barnes, who was arrested in Altoona last Tuesday night, and held at a run-away at the police headquarters until Thursday was killed Saturday afternoon at Warrior Ridge, Huntingdon county. A freight train on which he was riding pulled in on a siding and he dismounted and was run down by No. 13, mail, and died shortly afterwards. Barnes went east when he left Altoona and spent Thursday night at Tyrone and Friday night at Huntingdon. He was 16 years old, had long, light brown, curly hair, weighed 140 pounds and stood five feet four inches. He had blue eyes and a full, round, good-looking face. He possessed a handkerchief with "Neville" in ink in one corner. He wore a Hamberg laydown collar.