

Ink Slings.

-CORBETT'S retirement from the prize ring has a sort of punctured tire effect upon the public. It looks like a plain case of running out of wind.

-Why don't the county commissioners itemize their statement so that the tax payers can see how much it cost to let a gang of Republican roosters try to shove Abe Miller onto them as the sheriff they didn't elect.

-ELI TOWNSEND, the orator of the Philadelphia Republican delegation to the county convention, when Wm. C. ARNOLD was placed in nomination against Col. WILBUR F. REEDER, has announced himself as an aspirant for legislative honors. It is quite likely that Col. REEDER'S friends will see to it that TOWNSEND don't get there ELL.

-Stand up, Mr. Commissioners, and tell the public exactly what is covered up in that item on your statement that pays out \$3,132.75 of the people's money and explains itself under the ambiguous words "sundry costs." If it is the expense in the shrievally contest and the CORNELLY trials why try to hide it. Be honest with the people. They were honest with you when they voted you into office.

-It is quite evident that the gold financiers are all very young men or if any of them are of mature years they are afflicted with short memories. The Congressmen and gold monopolists who are howling now against our paying our obligations in fifty-three cent dollars seem to be unacquainted with the fact that during the war foreign investors bought our bonds at thirty-nine cents and even thirty-three cents on the dollar.

-The commissioners' statement shows a balance in the county treasury of \$15,959.91. What manner of financing is it that requires increased valuation and millage when such a balance is in the treasury? The commissioners explain by saying that they anticipate great expenses this year, but the secret of the story lies in the fact that that balance, that looks so big on paper, isn't a balance at all. There are outstanding bills that will be due before the middle of March that will eat up every cent of it and more too.

-Speaker REED, with the truly despotic spirit of a Czar, determined that when the TELLER resolution reached the House he would sit down on it in a manner that would leave no doubt of his ability to control the Republican majority in the interest of the gold-bug millionaires. Whether his purpose is to strike down the money of the constitution, or to assist the Spaniards in striking down the oppressed people of Cuba, he can depend upon being backed by his Republican lackies in the House of Representatives.

-HENRY W. MARTIN, an attaché of the United States consulate at Paris, has made a pretty spectacle of himself by getting mixed up in a gambling embroglio with sir ROBERT PEEL, an English baronet. MARTIN slapped PEEL'S face, called him a coward and challenged him to a duel, all of which was very brave, but inasmuch as the Englishman has declined to meet him there is nothing left for the American but the unenviable notoriety he has given himself and the snitch he has placed on his government by placing himself in a position where fights over the gambling table are possible.

-The latest information concerning the defunct bank and trust company of which Mr. SINGERLY, of the Philadelphia Record, was at the head, is to the effect that the creditors will lose nothing. While many sympathize with Mr. SINGERLY in his financial embarrassment and it is generally known that it was wholly through unselfish and public spirited endeavor that it was brought on the fact that no one will lose, as a result of the failure, is certainly very gratifying to the gentleman's friends, as this announcement will stop the carping of such vicious characters as have been prone to making all manner of groundless charges.

-That accomplished artist in the production of polished phraseology, Mr. ARTHUR McEWEN, who so entertainingly constructed the editorials of the New York Journal, has stirred up a hornet's nest by a tentative criticism of WILLIAM J. BRYAN'S adherence to the ratio of 16 to 1. His strictures have evoked a storm of protests from correspondents of the Journal who won't allow any reflection upon the free silver champion to go unrebuked. If Mr. McEWEN'S experiment upon Democratic feeling has been productive of nothing else it at least has served to show the folly of attempting to impair the confidence of the Democracy in Mr. BRYAN'S leadership.

-The Centre county delegation to the WANAMAKER gubernatorial boom launching, in Philadelphia, on Wednesday, was made up of Col. WM. SHORLIDGE and JOHN C. MILLER, from Bellefonte, and G. H. LICHTENTHALER, J. H. TURNBACH and JOHN G. PLATT, Philadelphia. All of the gentlemen are Republicans, all of them voted for the party and methods they met to condemn and when the platform they endorsed is read there is certainly an appearance of hypocrisy in the movement that took them to Philadelphia. The Republicans of Centre county, as well as those in all parts of the State, condemned themselves when they denounced the "General Assembly of '97," when they called attention "to the disgraceful condition of politics in our State," and when they alluded to the rottenness and plundering at Harrisburg.

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The President Congratulates the Plutocrats.

When President McKINLEY arose to make his address at the sumptuous dinner given by the national association of manufacturers, at the Waldorf-Astoria hotel in New York, he had great reason to feel good. With sixty trusts represented at the feast and the company aggregating nine hundred millions in wealth, he found himself surrounded by the class for whose benefit Republican policies are shaped, and whose money put him in the presidential office which he is administering in their interest. He was sure that such remarks as he might make about "honest money," "protection to American industry," and "the preservation of the national honor," would evoke hearty applause from the plutocrats and monopolists who contributed so liberally to MARK HANNA'S campaign corruption fund.

He started his address in a congratulatory strain, as well he might when confronted by the well-fed and sleek condition of the festive company that surrounded him. He noted with satisfaction their improved appearance, saying, "you are more cheerful in countenance, more buoyant in spirit, more hopeful in manner, and more confident in purpose." And why shouldn't they be all this? They have succeeded in having a tariff bill passed that enlarges the opportunities of monopoly and subjects the people more completely to the grip of the trusts. They have succeeded by boodle methods in putting the government under the control of a plutocratic oligarchy that proposes to adjust the currency in the interest of the money changers. The United States treasury has been put in charge of a banker from whom they expect such action as will place the gold standard on a more thorough basis and bring the currency more completely under Wall street management. They are having assurance that the trusts and the money interests will be protected and promoted by the federal courts being filled with judicial agents of monopolistic corporations and the control of wealth in the United States Senate confirmed by the purchase of seats in that body.

Under such auspicious circumstances, and with such encouraging prospects, there were good and substantial reasons for President McKINLEY to note that the plutocrats whom he addressed, and whose money had put him in the office which he is administering for their benefit, were cheerful in countenance, hopeful in manner, and confident in purpose.

Outrageous Injustice.

The French government shows up so badly in the DREYFUS affair that the friends of France, of whom there are so many in this country, are grieved that so great a nation should have its fame tarnished by the heinous wrong that has been inflicted in its name upon an evidently innocent man.

From all that has been made to appear in the case there is no evidence to prove captain DREYFUS guilty of the offense for which he is being subjected to such cruel punishment; but appearances strengthen the belief that he is being made to suffer for the misdeed of another party. The entire character of the proceedings against him looked as if the design was to find a victim whose conviction was required to cover the guilt of others and to relieve certain military authorities from an embarrassing position.

When to such great personal injustice committed by the government is added the prejudice and clamor of the France people against the victim of this foul wrong, the popular hostility to captain DREYFUS being chiefly on account of his being a Jew, a picture is presented that is positively disgraceful to the French nation.

Instead of calmly treating a case that has every appearance of being a gross piece of injustice, and showing a disposition to remedy the wrong that has been done, the French people become furiously excited in upholding the outrage, making it the occasion for one of those popular disturbances which almost justify the belief that the French character is unfit for popular self government.

-The Democrats of Philadelphia have a chance of effecting something at the coming city election if they are true to their opportunity. The Republican factionists are flourishing their knives at each other. They are arrayed in two opposition gangs who would be greatly delighted if they could cut each other's throats. The party organization is more completely divided than it ever was before in its long career of misrule and plunder, and while the combiners and anti-combiners are at daggers points the better element of the party is being drawn off into an independent movement. The Democratic nominees for the two city offices have a chance of being elected if the party can get itself together in an earnest and honest determination to support the party ticket, and discard the inclination to trade and dickie that has made Philadelphia Democracy the weak and contemptible thing which it is so long been.

Monetary Clap-Trap.

When President McKINLEY, in his address at the Waldorf-Astoria banquet, which was punctuated with the popping of corks and the applause of delighted millionaires, declared that the money of the United States must be the best money in the world, he was not sufficiently explicit in specifying the kind that he considered the best. Was it with the object of securing the best money in the world that he sent a monetary commission to Europe to secure by international agreement a bimetallic currency in which gold and silver would be equal as standard money? Or was the best money his object when he placed a goldbug banker at the head of the treasury who immediately upon his induction into office began to arrange for putting the gold standard on a more thorough basis, and for ignoring silver more completely in our system of currency? If it is to be supposed that in both of these movements it was the President's purpose to secure the best money in the world he is made to appear as attempting to effect that object by methods of an entirely opposite and conflicting character.

The fact is that in his remarks on the currency in the banquet address the President indulged in a lot of glittering generalities and meaningless platitudes. The bankers and trust managers who applauded his expressions were feeling good from the effect of champagne and luxurious viands and were not in condition to observe that what he said about "the honest standard of commercial honesty and national honor," and the United States money being "forever unquestioned and unassailable," was empty clap-trap that failed to denote any clear and definite position on the money question, but left it in doubt whether the President was the more in earnest when he sent WOLCOTT to Europe to secure the adoption of a bimetallic currency, or when he put GAGE at the head of the treasury to maintain the gold standard.

More Evidences of McKinley Prosperity.

The experience which the New England cotton mill workers are having with McKINLEY'S kind of prosperity is a striking contradiction of what was promised by the "advance agent" who assured the country that he was the fore-runner of better times. When men who had been getting but \$8 a week find this small wage reduced 10 per cent they are given a practical illustration of the deception of high tariff benefits.

This is indeed a singular condition of prosperity, and its remarkable character as an evidence of the prosperous condition of labor is made the more noticeable by the fact that it is not confined to but one branch of industry. Following close upon the reduction of wages in the cotton mills the Wheeling iron and steel company posted a notice of a 10 to 20 per cent reduction in wages, showing that prosperity of the McKINLEY stripe is hitting the metal workers as well as the cotton spinners. In a manner similar to that in which the New England cotton mill strikers resisted the wage-cutting method of making them prosperous, the workmen in the Wheeling iron and steel company's mills threw down their tools immediately after the notice that their wages were to be reduced, and it may be presumed that they indulged in some vigorous remarks about the DINGLEY tariff and "the advance agent of prosperity."

At almost the very moment when the Wheeling workmen were being notified that their wages would be reduced President McKINLEY was addressing the real beneficiaries of the DINGLEY tariff at a Belshazzar's feast in New York at which monopolistic wealth was represented to the amount of hundreds of millions.

The Delusion of Autonomy.

The situation in Havana is a constant menace to the lives of American residents, also involving the American consul general in serious danger, as he is likely to be made the victim of the fury of the Spanish mob excited to exasperation by their hatred of the United States.

This violence springs from the fierce opposition of both the Spanish residents and the Spanish soldiers to the scheme of setting the Cuban difficulty through the agency of autonomy. It was their antipathy to this scheme that aroused the mob in Havana to its deeds of violence some weeks ago, and it is feared by governor general BLANCO that a similar spirit of opposition to an autonomous government for Cuba will excite the Spanish soldiers to revolt.

When there is displayed on the Spanish side so violent an opposition to pacifying the island by the autonomous process, and on the other hand the Cuban rebels declare that death awaits any one who shall dare to approach them with the offer of autonomy, how fatuous it appears on the part of our government to expect that Spain's sham offer of home rule will settle the Cuban trouble and so pacify the island that it will be unnecessary for our government to interfere for the relief of an oppressed people and the protection of its own interest.

Development of the Capitol Job.

The commissioners who have charge of the construction of the new state capitol have decided to build it of white marble. An edifice constructed of such material will certainly be very fine, but it is a question how it can be built with the amount of money appropriated for the purpose. After the rather suspicious misfortune that caused the destruction of the old capitol the people would take it to believe that the new one that would take its place would not be allowed to cost more than \$550,000, but every movement that has been made towards reconstruction bears evidence of a design to make a job of it that will cost many times that amount of money and prove to be a Klondyke to the ring of politicians and contractors who will be given a share of the spoils.

All the preliminary movements point to an intention to prolong the job through a protracted period at an expense of millions to the state tax-payers. The plans are evidently designed for a building capable of indefinite expansion and unlimited cost, the original appropriation serving as merely the initial outlay for a structure that is proposed to be made a source of wealth to at least a generation of jobbers.

How such pillaging enterprises are conducted at the public expense, and are continued during a long series of years, is exemplified in the prolonged jobbery that has made the New York state capitol and the Philadelphia city hall each cost from \$20,000,000 to \$22,000,000.

That a scheme with such profits in view may have been an inducement to the burning of the old capitol building is not a violent supposition, and it scarcely required the pointed charges of Rev. SWALLOW to create the quite general belief that the fire which destroyed that old historic structure was of incendiary origin.

In the building of the new capitol the tax-payers of Pennsylvania are confronted by the prospect of being saddled by an expense that will extend into the dim future. If they continue to give majorities for the party that is responsible for such plundering jobs of which the Philadelphia city hall is an example, they will have themselves to blame for the cost that will be heaped upon them.

Designed to Gag the Press.

There is pending in the New York Legislature a bill whose purpose is to strike at the liberty of the press. It is veiled under the ostensible object of restraining the abuses of free publication, but its effect would be to abridge that freedom in discussing public measures and criticizing the action and conduct of public men in print without which good government could not be maintained nor civil liberty preserved.

At the last session of the same Legislature a bill was introduced and came near being passed the object of which was to prevent the publication of personal cartoons in the newspapers, but the present bill is of wider scope and proposes to trench more fully and directly upon the right of free publication required for the preservation of public liberty. This last bill, as was the one of the previous session, is instigated by boss PLATT and other political leaders whose public misdeeds have been exposed by the pen and pencil of journalism, and who would secure immunity from merited exposure and censure by gagging the press.

This cannot be allowed. There may be some abuses in a free press, but there could be no abuse so harmful to free government and subversive of popular rights as the abuse resulting from a gag law that would prescribe the limit to which the press might go in discussing public measures and criticizing public men.

The bill which PLATT and his political pals are trying to jam through proposes to fix such a limit, and would visit with fine and imprisonment the journalist who should picture in their true colors—the corrupt party boss, the campaign boodler, the legislative servant of trusts, the judicial tool of monopolies, the purchaser of senatorial seats, and the various other foul actors in public life that are doing so much to corrupt the politics and injure public institutions of the country.

Even the abuses of yellow journalism may be endured rather than that there should be the least encroachment upon the freedom of the press which is the palladium of civil liberty.

-The promptness with which the TELLER resolution was brought into the House after it had passed the Senate was designed to show the fidelity of the Republican party to the moneyed interests that dominate the country's finances and control the government. There was something repulsively brutal in the manner in which Czar REED compelled his congressional helots to bow to this power, and to slavishly retrace the freer vote of Republican Congressmen who in 1873 passed by a great majority the same resolution against which, under the speaker's lash, a unanimous party vote was cast last Monday.

-The motive for keeping New Mexico, Arizona and Oklahoma out of the Union is easily understood. All three of those territories are anxious to assume the dignity of Statehood and are knocking at the door of Congress with that object. If they could assure the speaker of the House that their senatorial and representative delegations would be at the service of the gold-bugs and the trusts he would withdraw his edict that is standing in the way of their admission; but as they would send free silver Senators and Representatives to Washington, who would stand for the money of the constitution and oppose the monopolies, the tyrant of the House decrees that they shall not come into the Union.

-Col. WILLIAM SHORLIDGE went to Philadelphia, Tuesday morning, to be present at the meeting of the business men's league in the Bourse. How the Colonel expects to go to the Legislature as a regular Republican when he runs around attending such irregular conventions is more than we are able to comprehend.

-The new American wire trust has begun pulling wires already and the price of both wire and nails has taken a decided jump. The trust controls the entire product in America so the consumers can expect to have their legs pulled good.

The Unpopularity of The Army.

General Miles opposes the proposition to take Governor's Island for a park because "within range" of that pestiferous army post the United States has \$148,000,000 in gold and silver, and no where save on Governor's Island is there convenient place for stationing troops to guard this treasure and the immense accumulations of private funds in the banks and safe deposit vaults of the Wall street district.

In brief, General Miles has no higher conception of the duties of the United States Army than to regard it as a police force maintained to avert domestic outrage and to be used as an engine against our own people. It is to protect the treasure of the Wall street region against a foreign post. He knows perfectly well that if a foreign man-of-war ever came within range of the antiquated guns on the island the post would be evacuated. What he wants is a convenient spot where troops may be kept ready to reply to the demands of some Federal Judge attempting government by force, or to be used as a menace of despotism.

It is this readiness of certain generals and some Presidents to thrust upon the army the functions of a police force that has made that branch of the United States armed service widely unpopular. For years it has been tacitly admitted by the Federal authorities that the army was maintained chiefly, if not wholly, as a safeguard against the American people—that as a force filled with latent antagonism to the very people who give it being, authority and support. That this has been the theory of the army authorities is manifested by the maintenance of large bodies of troops near the large cities, by the constant practice of street formations, riot drills and the like, and by innumerable indiscreet utterances of army officers, among whom General Miles is easily first in loquacity. The result is that the army is regarded with suspicion in many quarters, that it is charged with being un-American, and that appropriations for its support or for its increase are the most difficult of all measures to put through Congress. It is not only necessary to contrast the enthusiasm with which Americans view the growth of the new navy with the hostility which is manifested toward any proposition to enlarge the army, but to be convinced that the people regard that it is a menace to despotism, and the other as a menace of despotism.

Much has been said of late of the need for the reorganization of the army. The first step essential to progress in that direction is effectually to rid the people of the idea that the army is to be used against them, that it is a menace to liberty, a threat to local government.

Cold Water for the Klondyke Fever.

Only 7 per cent. of those persons who entered the Klondyke region during the past year have been able to earn a living; no new discoveries of placers have been made during the eight months preceding Nov. 2nd last; all old claims have been taken up; there is no chance for employment for any number of people in any capacity; there is not now, nor likely to be within twelve months, adequate means of supplying food and shelter for the people now in Alaska or in the northwestern territory, and the lawless characters are hanging together for the purpose of robbery—such are the reports received by special courier from captain Ray, the representative of the war department at Dawson city. And yet, as indicated by the wreck of the steamer Corona, a rush has already been begun for that country, where there is nothing to eat, no work to do and no security for life or property.

Treachery, the Spanish Method.

It now turns out that general Nestor Aranguren, the Cuban brigadier, was betrayed into the hands of the Spaniards and met his death through treachery. This method of overcoming an enemy is in keeping with the Spanish character. This seldom, if ever, attack an enemy in an open, manly way, if some mean subterfuge can be resorted to. With the overwhelming Spanish force they have, why do they not seek the insurgents in their mountain resort? No! the Spaniard prefers other methods—bribery, treachery and divers means the true soldier spurns. Can the God of battle smile on such methods? We do not believe he will.

Spawls from the Keystone.

-The Brandywine fire company, of Coatesville, will apply for a charter.  
-A "Jack the Hugger" who frightened Bristol women turns out to be a girl.  
-The Delaware river steamboats have been running so far all winter—an unusual thing.  
-The Clinton county fire brick company, of Lock Haven, will erect extensive kilns at Mill Hall.  
-The Sandy run collieries, at Hazleton, which have been idle nearly six weeks, resumed work Tuesday.  
-The Steel woolen manufacturing firm at Bristol is storing large quantities of wool in the old Bristol rink.  
-At West Chester on Monday John Penn was sentenced to five years in the eastern penitentiary for stealing a bull.  
-The free postal delivery service, which was to have begun in Bloomsburg, Monday, has been indefinitely postponed.  
-William Wallakouries, aged 9, was suffocated under a flow of coal from a chute in a West Shenandoah colliery Tuesday.  
-The state optical society held its semi-annual examination at Harrisburg Tuesday, A. Martin, of Philadelphia, presiding.  
-A Schuylkill county coroner's jury decided that there was no evidence that Philip Gray's death could be charged against his wife.  
-South Bethlehem is threatened with a loss of the Lehigh zinc works, employing nearly 1000 hands, which may move to another locality.  
-Attacked by a vicious horse, Dr. J. R. Trunkmiller, of Slonaker, Chester county, had a leg broken and was otherwise seriously injured.  
-Harry Eschbach, aged 60, of New Berlinville, Berks county, died of a heart trouble Sunday evening while seated at the table eating supper.  
-Cornelius Schaefer, a Deer valley farmer, was fatally injured in a runaway Sunday night. His horse became frightened at a locomotive whistle.  
-William and George Wilkins and Lewis Levine, boys, were arrested Monday at Altoona, for burglaries netting them \$12 and a quantity of candy.  
-Senator Taylor, of Pottstown, has gone to Matanzas, Cuba, to prepare for taking up his residence there shortly, as consul to the province of Matanzas.  
-President Dolan, of the United mine-workers of America, has called a state convention of miners, at Altoona, on February 15th, to elect state officers.  
-William Crumrein, of Parkesburg, a laborer of the Pennsylvania railroad, was struck by a train at that place Monday evening, and had his head cut off.  
-Harry Hofaker, 20 years old, fell under a Northern Central train, near New Freedom station, York county, Sunday night, and was run over. He will probably die.  
-Six Pittsburg men have fitted out an expedition at a cost of \$10,000 to find \$40,000,000 of gold, said to have been lost in the Pacific from Peru and Chili sixty years ago.  
-At Wilkesbarre, Monday, Roman Van Lovan was convicted for breaking into Jonas Long's son's store, and Albert Ferris, indicted for the same offense, was acquitted.  
-The brotherhood of St. Andrew, of the Trinity Episcopal church, Pottsville, celebrated its second anniversary Sunday, Bishop Coleman, of Delaware, preaching the anniversary sermon.  
-Owing to the immense traffic of freight and coal trains over the Philadelphia and Reading railway through Schuylkill county, the past week, orders have been issued to work all repair shops full time.  
-Despondent over failure in business, and unable to secure employment, Adolph Weber, aged 40, of Baltimore, Md., committed suicide Monday night at Glen Rocks, York county, by swallowing laudanum.  
-The enthronization of the Right Rev. Ethelbert Talbot, D. D., L. L. D., as bishop of the Central Pennsylvania Diocese of the Protestant Episcopal church, took place in the church of the Nativity, South Bethlehem, Wednesday morning.  
-The five engines now being built by the Schenectady Locomotive works for the Beech Creek railroad will be completed in about ten days. They are the twelve wheel Mastodon model, weigh 75 tons, carry 180 pounds steam pressure, and can pull 23 hundred tons on a dead level. They cost \$11,000 each.  
-On Friday a horse belonging to George L. Russell, of Lewistown, driven by John Hoot, became frightened by the upsetting of a sleigh to which it was attached and ran away. The animal ran onto the railroad bridge and dropped through, breaking one of its legs. It was shot and fell into the water.  
-At the wedding of Miss Grace E. Fisher to Howard L. Swineford at Williamsport Thursday evening, as the bridal party entered the parlor, Mrs. Fisher, the bride's mother swooned at the bride's feet. The bride, dropping the bunch of roses she carried and bursting into tears, fell upon her knees and lifted her mother's head in her lap. Miss Edith Fisher, the bridesmaid, a sister of the bride, also fainted. It required nearly an hour to restore the mother, after which the wedding proceeded.  
-Chief engineer Brown, of the Pennsylvania railroad, has just completed his report for the year 1897, and furnishes some interesting information regarding the physical condition of that corporation, which, it is believed, is the largest in the world. If all the tracks of the Pennsylvania company were laid in a straight line they would reach from London to San Francisco and return and have something for sidings at the big cities. The total length is 15,736 miles.  
-The Methodist, Presbyterian and Baptist churches of Clearfield have been conducting very vigorous revival services for the past several months and 207 persons have joined the Methodist church, 60 the Baptist and twenty the Presbyterian, making a total of 287 additions to the church people of the town. We may reasonably hope to see a marked improvement in the morals of our neighboring town in consequence. The editors of that place should rejoice, because, of course, all these good people will feel it their duty "to owe no man anything" and will make haste to settle with the printer.