

Our friend, up town, the editor of the Gazette, must have gotten a portion of his "two columns of hot stuff" into his eyes, or else the white paint on those two "new porches and a balcony" must have turned his head a trifle, for after a vain effort to justify the extravagance of the commissioner's during the past year he winds up by abusing poor JIM CORNELLY, who is in jail and has no bearing on the case, whatever.

The Phillipsburg Republicans never miss an opportunity of showing their love for ARNOLD and QUAY. Mr. TURNBACH, of that place, was a delegate to the anti-QUAY meeting at the Bourse, in Philadelphia, two weeks ago. Mr. TURNBACH was a candidate for school director in Phillipsburg, on Tuesday. Mr. TURNBACH was defeated in a Republican town, but it is a QUAY town and that accounts for his defeat.

When we read the head lines of the leaders in the Gazette last week we imagined that the editor of that paper was going to make it so hot for us that we could have eaten blocks of ice and hawked up boiling water, but upon investigation we found that it was all head and nothing more. Gas and worn-out homilies are the Gazette's stock in trade, so that no one pays much attention to what it says.

The destruction of the battleship Maine, in Havana harbor, has complicated the Cuban situation seriously and tended to widen the breach between the United States and Spain. Of course the Cubans will take advantage of the great disaster to further their cause, by suggestions of all manner of Spanish plots for the demolition of our great battleship. Whatever may have been the cause it is evident that our floating bulwarks have as much to fear from the inside as from the out. If it was the Maine's magazine that exploded then negligence of some sort is responsible for the several hundred lives that were lost and the destruction of a \$5,000,000 boat. Why not call this war. It has cost the United States almost as many lives as have been lost in battle since the Spaniards and Cubans flew to arms.

The circumstance that LEITER, the Napoleonic plunger in the wheat market, holds 17,000,000 bushels of a most necessary article of food for speculative purposes, is not a pleasant thing for the American people to contemplate. This is too large an amount for a legitimate object of trade. Its possession is not intended to meet the current demands of the market; but it is held as a restriction upon trade, simply cornered and kept out of the market until LEITER may be able to realize some millions of dollars out of it. The millers are complaining that the best qualities of wheat are being withheld by this speculator; the farmers whose toil produced the grain are not benefited a cent by his operation. The profit will all go to this greedy representative of a class whose monopolistic gains constitute the "business interests" which Republican policies are intended to promote.

The evidence in the trial of sheriff MARTIN and his brigade of deputies clearly demonstrates the fact that the situation at Lattimer didn't require the rifle practice that caused the death of twenty-one miners and the wounding of half a hundred more. To check violent demonstrations and protect property from threatened destruction, which is alleged to have been the mission of the sheriff and his posse, hardly required a volley of rifle shots into the backs of men who were running away. It has become quite evident from facts when MARTIN and his men went to Lattimer they had their rifles loaded for miners and were anxious to shoot the game they were gunning for.

Senator THURSTON, in his Lincoln day speech, got off a lot of clap-trap among which may be included his remark that "every mother who bore her son on American soil can fondly hope that he will one day become President." At a former period in our history every American mother could indulge in that kind of a hope, but public affairs have been brought to such a condition that the Presidency can be reached only through the influence of the money power. Its attainment is to be accomplished, not by the exertion of honest ambition, but through the corrupting agency of vast campaign funds contributed by corporations, trusts and bank syndicates to carry presidential elections. About as much as the average American mother may hope for is that the greedy monopolies will allow her son to have a chance to make a living.

It is rather late for the administration to become indignant at the offensive expression of the Spanish Minister. He should long ago have been regarded as persona non grata at Washington for his undisguised contempt, not only for the American government but for the American people as well. While he was known to entertain such feelings, and took but little pains to conceal them, there was no protest against Spain's maintaining at our capital a Minister of so offensive a disposition. Some years ago he wrote a book in which insulting language was applied to the American people, and particularly to American women. A government having a proper regard for its people would have objected to his diplomatic presence at Washington on that account, without waiting for him to complete his offense by insulting the President.

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16 to 1 An Honest Ratio.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN, in support of the ratio of 16 to 1, declares that "the friends of the gold standard know that the debtor, whether a public debtor or a private debtor, meets all the requirements of the law, moral as well as statutory, when he discharges his obligation according to the terms of the contract." The Philadelphia Record is neither ingenuous nor felicitous when in replying to this proposition it says: "The friends of the gold standard and the friends of honest dealing know that it would be a dishonest proceeding to take advantage of the fall in silver to pay debts with it at the ratio of 16 to 1 when the true ratio is 32 to 1."

If the ratio is 32 to 1 the opponents of the gold standard know that that is not the true and honest ratio that would exist if it had not been made so by methods that purposely depressed the value of silver and correspondingly appreciated the value of gold. They believe, and have reasonable justification for their belief, that if the cause of the depression of the value of silver were removed by restoring it to all the uses that can give it value, chief of which is its unrestricted coinage and use as money, it would speedily return to the ratio of 16 to 1 which was maintained for centuries before the gold monopolists succeeded in reducing its value by demonetization.

The supporters of free silver coinage do not want to take advantage of the fall in silver to pay their debts with it at a depreciated value. They want to retrieve it from a fall in value that has been factitiously produced, and they propose to do this by fully restoring its monetary function. When debts, public as well as private, are again made fully payable in silver, as Mr. BRYAN contends they should be, that is about all that will be required to bring the ratio back to 16 to 1.

The money monopolists, whose selfish interests are promoted by the appreciation of gold, have caused the depreciation of silver by their manipulation of the standards, and the seamps take advantage of their own wrong by degrading the monetary quality of a metal whose value they have managed to depreciate, to the detriment of general interests, but to the advantage of their own.

In Trouble of Her Own Creating.

Poor old party-ridden and ring-ruled Philadelphia is suffering the penalty that is due her for her partisan stupidity and folly. She has so constantly rolled up big Republican majorities and put the machinery of the party so completely in the control of such political characters as those that compose the combine, that she now finds it impossible to get out of their thievish clutches.

They have stolen her gas works after having so destroyed its value as to make it questionable whether it was worth keeping. With the object of securing more plunder they have imposed an immense loan upon her in spite of the majority who voted against it and found themselves counted out. They are compelling her citizens to drink water that is dirty enough to turn the stomachs of pigs and so full of disease germs that a glass of it is sufficient to produce a case of typhoid fever, their purpose being to so disgust the population with the water that is supplied them that they will be willing to hand over for a nominal sum a highly valuable water franchise to the ring of city plunderers who are in the scheme.

The Quaker city, through her fanatical party spirit, has put herself in the clutches of these political bandits who have so arranged their machine that she finds it impossible to effect her release.

Discreditable Appointments.

No other administration ever made appointments in the civil service as discreditable in their character as some which McKINLEY is turning out. In many instances official fitness is entirely disregarded, while in cases, such as that of DEMAS, of Louisiana, where the office is given in payment of services rendered in nominating McKINLEY, as per contract with MARK HANNA, decency is ignored.

The disgraceful character of many of these appointments is due to their being given to parties to whom the President is indebted for dirty work. Unfitness in point of qualification, where the appointee is not personally disreputable, is in many instances chargeable to Republican Senators and Congressmen who want the places for themselves, and are entirely indifferent as to whether they are competent to perform the duties or not.

A disgraceful case of this kind is presented in the appointment of GEORGE M. BOWERS, of West Virginia, to the responsible and important office of United States fish commissioner. For an office of this kind the incumbent should have some scientific knowledge of fishes, but Senator ELKINS wanted BOWERS appointed in return for political service, and so President McKINLEY sent his name to the Senate for fish commissioner, although what he knows about fish scarcely enables him to tell the difference between a fresh shad and a salt mackerel.

The Capitol Scheme of Plunder.

The decision of Judge SIMONTON, of the Dauphin county court, that the capitol building commission can not be prevented by injunction from going on with the structure according to the plan they have adopted may prepare the people of the State to expect an expense to be saddled on them in the construction of a building that will run into the millions. The scheme which the action of the commission has developed is to extend the appropriated \$550,000 on a structure that will require additions and be adapted to infinite extensions.

The suspicious delay in beginning the work that has consumed more than a year appears to have been required for the perfecting of the scheme by which the intention of a reasonably expensive building may be defeated, and a job worth millions to a ring of public plunderers be forced upon the tax-payers of the State.

If the Governor was really sincere in his desire to limit the cost of the building to \$550,000, he finds that his intention has been circumvented by parties who are interested in a more extravagant outlay in this work, and if there was sincerity in the injunction by which he has sought to restrain their scheme of plunder, his movement is found to be unavailing. There is no doubt that Judge SIMONTON rendered a proper decision under the circumstances, as it may be believed that the schemers who employed a whole year in maturing their plan devised it with a skill that would put it beyond the interference of the courts. How such immunity from legal restraint may be secured could be learned from the example of the Philadelphia city hall building commission which has gone on, year after year, squandering the city's money on that structure despite the efforts to restrain them in the courts and by legislative action.

The programme of protracted pillage in this capitol job is now developing itself. The plans are designed for the expenditure of an unlimited amount of money after the originally appropriated \$550,000 shall have been exhausted on the initial building that will be merely the nucleus of an indefinitely extended and extravagantly expensive pile.

The rascals who set fire to the old capitol had visions of spoils that would be continued for at least a quarter of a century and which nothing short of millions would satisfy. To what extent the incendiaries who directly applied the torch will profit from the destruction of the old capitol will never be known. They probably had no more than an indefinite intention of making a job that would be profitable to such Republican party workers as could manage to get a hand in it. Success in carrying out such a scheme to the full limit of its design will depend on the compliance of future Legislators in making appropriations that will prolong the job; but there will be no difficulty in getting all the money needed for this scheme of spoliation if the people shall continue sending to Harrisburg the kind of Legislators upon whom Republican majorities for some years past have conferred the law-making power.

De Lome's Offense.

The letter of Minister DE LOME, which has created such a diplomatic flurry, presented a phase of the Cuban question of which the American people have but little reason to be proud. The weak, vacillating and really contemptible line of policy in regard to Cuba which this administration has pursued, encouraged if it did not justify the insulting language which the Spanish Minister applied to the head of that administration and the President of the United States, in the letter that has caused so great a commotion.

When the agent of the Spanish government at our capital witnessed the servility of the Washington authorities in serving the interests of Spain, and observed how the power of this government was employed in the Spanish interest, how the least sign of friendly feeling for the Cuban patriots was withheld through fear that it might offend the Spaniards, and how easily the President allowed himself to be deceived by the promise of autonomous reforms which the Spanish government never intended to fulfill and could not perform even if it were disposed—when he has had this evidence of weakness and incapacity under his observation ever since the beginning of the present administration it was not astonishing that the Spanish Minister should have contracted a contemptuous opinion of President McKINLEY.

But this offense consisted in the expression of this opinion. It is undiplomatic for the Minister of another nation to allude offensively to the head of the government to which he is accredited even in a private letter. It is an insult to a nation to have its chief officer called "a weak and low politician" by the representative of another power, though there may be some truth in the assertion. National dignity required that such an offense should be reprobated and that DE LOME should be reproved by instant dismissal for having been too free in writing his opinion of our President.

Tom Cooper Offers to be the Republican Moses.

The fight that is going on among the aged commander-in-chief of the Salvation Army at Pittsburg recently. General Booth is one of the most distinguished men of his time and the work that he has done has been one of the most conspicuous features of this generation. He had labored hard and zealously for the uplifting of humanity and what he has done has not been without beneficial results. He is styled "general," but his character is far from being of a warlike nature. His ways have always been those of peace and in that line he has won distinguished victories. There is certainly a difference of opinion as to the advisability of the way that the Salvation Army does its work, but there can be no two opinions as to the kindly manner in which it aims at what it considers the benefiting of humanity. General Booth has met with many obstacles in his work. His labors and those of his disciples have met with much opposition, but they have not become discouraged thereby, but are still pushing onward in spite of all obstructions.

Their determination is invincible, and the methods which they take to surmount opposition to them are of a very effective character. What they have accomplished has made the fact evident that peaceful means are sometimes the best to accomplish a purpose, let it be what it may. It is an interesting work which General Booth has been engaged in now for many years. He has believed in calling not the just but the vilest sinners to repentance, and has acted accordingly.

A Mighty Agency for Good.

From the Altoona Times. A warm welcome was accorded to the aged commander-in-chief of the Salvation Army at Pittsburg recently. General Booth is one of the most distinguished men of his time and the work that he has done has been one of the most conspicuous features of this generation. He had labored hard and zealously for the uplifting of humanity and what he has done has not been without beneficial results. He is styled "general," but his character is far from being of a warlike nature. His ways have always been those of peace and in that line he has won distinguished victories. There is certainly a difference of opinion as to the advisability of the way that the Salvation Army does its work, but there can be no two opinions as to the kindly manner in which it aims at what it considers the benefiting of humanity. General Booth has met with many obstacles in his work. His labors and those of his disciples have met with much opposition, but they have not become discouraged thereby, but are still pushing onward in spite of all obstructions.

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One Corporation Allowed to Go \$6,500,000 Short on a Debt to the Government.

From the Pittsburg Post. The administration's dealing with the Kansas Pacific, having agreed to settle a thirteen million debt for half that sum, is regarded as a great victory for the jobbers and the corporation. At the last moment, after having stood out for full payment, the attorney general telegraphed from Washington to accept the half-pay proposition. The effect of this is seen in the advance of Kansas Pacific bonds from below par in ten days to 115. There is prospect of an interesting talk over this in Congress during the week. The close alliance of McKinley with the corporation interest is seen in almost everything that he does in which government financial interests are involved against those of the great corporations that elected him. Gratitude is certainly one of the major virtues, but the people suffer. There has never been a President in our history who has made such a bold dash for a re-nomination by favoring certain great financial interests. He believes in protection of that kind.

Will We Have to Do Away with Our Cigars Some Day.

From the Doylestown Democrat. In New York, there is already talk of gross during the week. The close alliance of McKinley with the corporation interest is seen in almost everything that he does in which government financial interests are involved against those of the great corporations that elected him. Gratitude is certainly one of the major virtues, but the people suffer. There has never been a President in our history who has made such a bold dash for a re-nomination by favoring certain great financial interests. He believes in protection of that kind.

Prosperity is Striking Them Hard.

From the Cambria Freeman. In the first year since Mr. McKinley's accession a wave of Republican "prosperity" has struck New England—struck it such a blow that the industries of that section will do well if they ever recover from the terrible results. The blow has not fallen on the cotton mill operatives alone, but on nearly every productive industry in that section.

Death Blow to Striking.

BOSTON, Mass., Feb. 15.—The great strike of nearly 150,000 cotton mill operatives throughout New England, as recommended by the federation of labor, cannot materialize. If it did, it might, and undoubtedly would, result in the great New England cotton manufacturing plants being removed to Georgia, where wages are lower and profits higher. Besides, many of the local unions won't agree to make so great a sacrifice, mainly in order to aid New Bedford's 9,000 strikers.

The reason of the mill proprietors for reducing the wages of nearly all New England cotton manufacturing operatives were brought out in bold relief yesterday at the annual meeting of the Massachusetts cotton mills, of Lowell, and the annual meeting of the year's business of the two mills were presented to the stockholders, and these showed the disparity between northern and southern wages and the depressed condition of the trade.

Treaty for Annexing Hawaii is Dead.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—The Hawaiian annexation treaty is dead and will shortly be buried, while the annexationists will press a bill or resolution of annexation in its place which they expect eventually to get through both Houses, President McKinley's approval being assumed in advance. If it were not for President McKinley the bill would be dead as the treaty, for nothing but the influence of the administration would get it through the House, where Speaker Reed stands across its path.

Speaker Reed is giving the annexationists more concern than all the rest of the opposition put together, for without at least some relaxation of his opposition the legislation they desire cannot be gotten through the House. They are depending on the influence of the administration to affect the speaker's attitude sufficiently to make him willing to let the bill go through rather than break openly with President McKinley.

Spawls from the Keystone.

—New Hope, Bucks county, is to have a daily paper.  
—Over 300,000 tons of ice have been stored at Tobyhanna this winter.  
—Frank O'Donnell, aged 14, was run over by two mine cars, at Du Bois, Wednesday.  
—Rev. Edmund Butz and wife on Tuesday celebrated their golden wedding at Allentown.  
—Prison warden-elect, Wenrich, at Reading, has named warden Isaac G. Kintzer as his deputy.  
—A 4-year-old daughter of Jacob Smith, of Meyerstown, was fatally burned by falling against a stove.

—Jonathan Wolfe, 87 years old, of Hofferville, Montgomery county, is cutting a new set of teeth.  
—The Portland lumber company is to erect a fifty-press kindling wood factory at their Elk county mills.  
—The Lehigh Valley railroad station at Catsasquaque was entered on Sunday by a thief, who stole \$34.71.

—Postmaster Harry G. Walter, of Lebanon, has appointed his son, William W. Walter, assistant postmaster.  
—The Bucks county fishermen's protective association has elected Lewis H. Clemens president.  
—George Bauer, of Mauch Chunk, aged 18, had a leg mangled by cars at Catsasquaque, necessitating amputation.  
—The clothing store of D. A. Bingham, at Jersey Shore, was robbed of \$500 worth of merchandise on Sunday.

—The New York car works company, of Buffalo, N. Y., will build a plant at New Castle, to employ 3500 men.  
—Avondale's town council has decided to tax telegraph, electric light and telephone poles 50 cents each per year.  
—Dr. Alexander Allison, the recently elected pastor of Bristol Presbyterian church, entered upon his duties Sunday.  
—Marriages are brisk at Bristol. It is said that 400 valentines—not all comic—have passed through the Bristol postoffice.

—George Oloskha was killed and George Hayucha and Anthony B. Lasjok fatally injured by cars at Wyoming yesterday.  
—Pupils of the Reading schools are to be drilled preparatory to taking part in that city's sesqui-centennial parade, in June.  
—Daisy Carter, a veteran of the one hundred and fourth Pennsylvania regiment, died at the Bucks county hospital on Friday.  
—Thieves looted the Andenreid school building at Hazleton, on Saturday, and turned on the water, flooding the building. Loss, \$1500.

—It has been found that the man killed on the Pennsylvania railroad, at Butzbach's Landing, Luzerne county, was Evan Evans, of Plainsville.  
—Patrick Healey, who was burned by the explosion in the Dodson mine, at Plymouth, died Monday from his injuries making the second victim.  
—Allentown has received \$13,450.28 from state treasurer Haywood, the amount of the city's share of the State's public schools appropriation.

—Card-playing tramps, near Dillerville, Lancaster county, stoned a passenger train Sunday, and one of the stones narrowly missed killing a passenger.  
—Seven steam-fitters made a narrow escape from death Wednesday night at the Penn. bolt and nut works, at Lebanon, by the blowing out of a joint of a boiler.  
—Burglars on Tuesday night blew open the safe of the Reading railroad company and United States express company, at Lebanon, securing money and valuables.  
—A runaway engine on the Pittsburg, Fort Wayne & Chicago railroad, collided with another locomotive Wednesday at Allegheny, and both were wrecked.

—Former State Senator H. D. Saylor, recently appointed consul to Matanzas, Cuba, has returned to his home in Pottstown after an unofficial visit to Matanzas.  
—Albert W. Dwy, a Quay leader of Columbia county, was admitted to the bar on Saturday. He is a son of the late ex-Judge George C. Dwy, of Indianapolis, Ind.  
—Rev. J. L. Liboll, of Philadelphia, participated in the exercises incident to the reopening of the Lutheran church at Shiremanstown, near Carlisle, on Sunday.

—Senator Fling, of Pittsburg, has lost a partner, James J. Booth, who has resigned from his contracting firm, and the Senator's son has taken his place. Magee is in it.  
—Gowan post, Grand Army of the Republic, of Pottsville, has taken action opposing Senator Penrose's bill for placing unlisted male hospital nurses on the pension roll.

—C. R. Yost's grain warehouse, George Martin's jewelry store and Jerome Emerick's smokehouse, at Meyerstown, were looted Tuesday night by burglars, who secured much booty.  
—John McGrann, 21 years old, has been arrested, charged with setting fire to the club house on Seventh street, near Washington, Reading, on Saturday night. The fire loss was \$2,000.

—The funeral of Mrs. Ernestine Weis, of Dingman's Ferry, was suddenly postponed during the services on Sunday, daughters of the woman averring that they believed she was in a trance.  
—Burglars broke into Bingham's gents furnishing and tobacco store at Jersey Shore Sunday. All the silk handkerchiefs, a lot of underwear and clothing and several hats were taken. Meerchaum pipes to the value of seventy-five dollars were stolen, and \$100 worth of jewelry is missing. The aggregate thefts will amount to over \$300. There is no clue to the robbers. Entrance to the store was effected through a rear window.

—At Carlin, fifteen miles south of Hollidaysburg, Sunday, a solid lime stone hill, 175 feet high, 100 feet long and 125 feet deep, moved from its base and went crashing into the valley below. There were 150,000 tons of loose rock in the avalanche, and the thunderous noise was heard for many miles. The Hungarians who work in the quarries there were away on a Sunday excursion, or there would have been wholesale slaughter.