

Ink Slings.

—Oh, the fishermen are many 'long old Spring Creek. From their pockets comes the smell of bad, bad rum.

—While Congress waits the Spanish flotilla draws nearer to Cuba and thousands of starving reconcentrados draw nearer to death.

—It is no crime to be wealthy, but you will observe that political reformers are seldom struck with the reform notion until after they are well off in this world's goods.

—'Dixie' and 'Marching Through Georgia' will make a combination of martial tunes, for the United States army in action against a foreign foe, so significant that the whole world might listen and learn.

—When AL DALE began his fight for QUAY in Centre county you would have been called a fool had you predicted that in so short a time as two years the county would be electing QUAY delegates, yet that is about what it will do at the coming convention.

—The regular Republican machine would cheerfully put up the \$100,000 necessary to run Dr. SWALLOW'S campaign, for after the fight for State Treasurer last fall they will be convinced that there are thousands of Democratic fools who will be crazy enough to desert a good Democrat to vote for a man who has no show of election.

—The Rev. Dr. SWALLOW announces that he "will sacrifice his love of retirement on the altar of his love of country, even if it implies a chastened ambition to manage for the right rather than be managed for the wrong." The sentiment is very pretty and reads fine, but that "love of retirement" is all in his eye.

—The Republican idea of reform is indeed a peculiar one. No matter who the reformer may be, nor what he intends to reform, if he is a Republican he is all right. Now JOHN WANAMAKER is the original corrupter of Presidential elections, yet he is being exalted now as the honest man of Pennsylvania politics simply because he is telling on the other rascals, knowing full well that they can't get back at him because the story of that \$400,000 campaign fund he raised to elect HARRISON is too stale for use.

—We have never seen it claimed by biographers nor by ancient historians that they had milliners in the days of the Master, but there must have been something to justify all this running amuck of the true intent of Easter Sunday. The day has come to be more of a milliner's show than a service commemorating the ascension and we are at a loss to know what view our Presbyterian friends take of it. According to their doctrine they have to accept this millinery digression as part of the divine order of things.

—The Philadelphia Inquirer remarks that "prosperity in Centre county is shown by the transfer of \$80,876 worth of real estate and abundance of money among the farmers." The Inquirer must have a corner on this prosperity information, for no one up here knows anything about it. The fact that the \$80,876 worth of real estate was probably worth \$161,752 ten years ago tells the story of Centre county prosperity in an emphatically negative way and "the abundance of money among the farmers" is, like the moonlight on the banks of Wabash, only to sing about.

—Utter destitution, caused by their three month's strike for higher wages, have forced most of the New England cotton mill hands back to work on their old terms, thoroughly convinced that they had been fooled by a certain "advance agent of prosperity." They are poorer in their pecuniary condition, but they have gained something in experience which has taught them that labor is sure to be the loser in a contest with capital.

—The meanest thing they could call an American down in Havana, before they all left there on Sunday was "pig." Now we confess that it isn't very pleasant to have the American people spoken of collectively as "pig," but we must confess that there are a few individuals among us at whom we could right cheerfully join a Spanish jeer of pig. We mean the fellows who are always berating their home papers for not boosting the town and saying nice things about them and their business, but who forget all about home interests, when the time comes to buy their stationery and they have a chance to save five cents on a thousand of paper or envelopes by sending out of town for them.

—Brother WANAMAKER is telling so many scandalous things from the stump about the complete rottenness of Republican administration in this State that it ought to cause a regular stampede from the ranks of the corrupt old party. But unfortunately it won't. The bulk of the membership of the organization delights in wearing the party collar. They don't know how it feels to own themselves, and don't want to experience the sense of freedom. Their support will enable the boss to rule the state convention and make the state ticket, and the only chance of defeating it lies in a union of all the elements that are opposed to a continuance of the base and degrading machine rule.

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Nearly Another Postponement.

McKINLEY'S message to Congress on the Spanish difficulty came near being postponed again last Monday. Its appearance on that date was promised without fail, but at a cabinet meeting on Sunday McKINLEY laid before it the information that Spain had offered to proclaim an armistice in Cuba, a circumstance which made it advisable not to send in the message on Monday, as promised, but to procrastinate a little longer.

This proposition was actually agreed to by the cabinet, and there would have been another fooling of the public, if at this juncture a delegation of Senators had not called to see the President in regard to the pending Spanish difficulty. They told him that further delay in his communicating with Congress was out of the question, and that if the sending of the message was again postponed it would be perfectly impossible to control that body. It was upon their insistence that another trespass upon the patience of Congress was not inflicted.

And what was the character of the communication from Spain that caused President McKINLEY to again halt in his duty of resenting Spanish injury and insult? It was simply another piece of Spanish deception in the promise of an armistice to be proclaimed in Cuba, which could be of no value or account unless agreed to by the Cubans, who spurn all Spanish schemes and will be satisfied with nothing but independence.

McKINLEY, however, was willing to halt the action of this government, and again disappoint the anxious expectation of the American people, on the flimsy basis of such a Spanish offer.

A Man of Heroic Mould.

After sticking to his post with unflinching courage, and a determination to do his duty whatever might be the danger of his situation, Consul General LEE retired from Havana, with his trust faithfully and heroically discharged, a trust that required the sagacity of a diplomatist and the courage of a soldier.

No other servant of the American government, acting in a civil capacity, was ever assigned so delicate and dangerous a duty. To Consul General LEE was entrusted the guardianship of American interests, involving questions of both life and property, at a point where they were threatened by authorities and agencies scarcely more than half civilized, and influenced by a fierce hatred for the people and nation he represented. The task assigned him by his government was to see that no wrong was done to American citizenship in Cuba, and to safe-guard the life and property of Americans by his interposition with local authorities whose hostility towards our government and people was undisguised and was with difficulty restrained.

No man with less courage, tact and cool determination than was displayed by Gen. LEE in dealing with crafty and bloodthirsty Spaniards, could have served his government so efficiently in a position so difficult and dangerous. Even after Spanish savagery and treachery, which his tact and courage so long restrained, culminated in the unprecedented crime in Havana harbor, he remained calmly and heroically at his post, attending to every detail of the situation that required faithful and unflinching supervision and direction, until he had provided for the safety of every American in Havana, and was the last to leave the scene where he had shirked no duty and quailed before no danger.

The best days of our republic could not furnish men of more heroic mould than General Fitz Hugh LEE.

A Meeting of the County Committee.

County chairman HUGH S. TAYLOR has called a meeting of the Democratic county committee to be held in this place on Monday evening, April 25th, for the purpose of having a general discussion of a plan of campaign for this fall, as well as to take some action on the division of the delegates from Walker township in conformity with the recent division of that township into precincts.

The time selected by chairman TAYLOR might seem to some as a little early, but aside from the fact that no time is too early to begin good work it is particularly opportune because of its being court week and only six weeks ahead of the county convention, on June 14th. The meeting should be attended by a representative from every precinct in the county. The Democracy of Centre county has fooled long enough, in fact too long, for in truth it is just wakening up to the realization that hustle and not the "oh, everything's all right" policy is what is needed.

We have two assemblies, a prothonotary and a district attorney to elect in the county this fall and we want to elect them, besides doing our share towards the redemption of the congressional and senatorial districts. Conditions are particularly favorable for the Democracy, but no matter how much good fortune may come the way of the party it won't win if it don't work. Let there be a full representation at the meeting on the 25th. A battle well begun is more than half won.

Raising Money for War Purposes.

War expenses will necessitate an increase of revenue, and measures with that object in view are being proposed. There are a number of ways in which the government may secure an increase of funds, some of which are decidedly objectionable. The proposition to raise more revenue by increasing the tariff duties, or enlarging the number of dutiable commodities, would be extremely unpopular, as the people are already sufficiently burdened by that kind of taxation. It is a burden that bears most heavily on the common people, the wealthy being comparatively exempt from its exactions.

The least objectionable and burdensome way of raising revenue for war purposes, or any other government use, is by taxing things that can least stand it. The food, raiment and general necessities of the people are not among the things that can best stand taxation, although Republican tariff-makers have made them the principal source of revenue. More should be raised from internal taxes, which it has been Republican policy to greatly reduce or to abolish entirely. Beer, whiskey and tobacco could bear an increased tax better than the clothing of the working man, and would furnish a large increase of revenue without anybody being oppressed.

There are taxes which effect the wealthy that should be again revived upon such subjects as property transfers, contracts, bank checks, promissory notes, and like instruments employed in financial transactions. But the tax by which the revenue could be most justly raised for government purposes is an income tax, from which wealth has succeeded in being exempted by influence it was able to exert upon the highest judiciary. Justice will not be done in the exercise of the taxing power until the constitution is so amended as to render the income tax unquestionably valid in point of constitutionality.

Taxation could be so adjusted as to raise sufficient revenue for war purposes, without a sale of bonds, but if the government should be compelled to resort to that method of raising money there should be no such favoritism shown as would repeat the enormous profits made by the MORGAN syndicate in recent bond sales. The people should have the opportunity of becoming the creditors of their government by popularizing the loans which it may be necessary to make for war purposes.

The Logic of Wanamaker's Movement.

WANAMAKER opened his gubernatorial campaign with speeches in Lancaster county, which did not produce the gratifying results he expected, as he was thoroughly beaten at the primaries that immediately followed. Evidently the Lancaster county Republicans had no confidence in his promised reform, or preferred to continue QUAY'S corrupt management. It is probable that they didn't believe that "honest JOHN" would be any improvement on the dishonest boss.

But notwithstanding the Lancaster county setback the "reform" candidate for Governor continues his stump speaking with the object of showing the Republicans what rascally administrations their party has been giving the State. He told them in a speech at Conshohocken, last Saturday, how public money has been squandered, how rascals in high places have been protected from prosecution and punishment, how the elective franchise has been debauched under machine rule, and various other public iniquities attributable to QUAY'S one man power.

In communicating these things to his hearers WANAMAKER tells them nothing that is new. Every citizen of the State is well aware of the corruptions of its government. Under these circumstances what will be WANAMAKER'S logical duty as a reformer if he shall fail to make the nomination for Governor? He would be duty bound, not only to oppose the nominee of this corrupt boss, but to take an active part in his defeat, and advise all other honest Republicans to do the same.

If it is merely his intention to run for the party nomination, and, if defeated, to fall in and help to elect the regular party ticket, his posing on the stump as a censor of machine abuses is but a sham, and the role of reformer which he assumes to play will stamp him as an impostor. The truth of what he is telling about the iniquities of machine rule will hold him to the duty of opposing a machine state ticket, which there is every probability of being nominated by the state convention. WANAMAKER can't decently escape this logical consequence of his movement alleged to be for reform.

—The only man thus far whose heroism in the pending Spanish difficulty has won the applause of the people is an old Confederate. But FITZHUGH LEE is honored in both the North and the South, and his courageous example will have imitators in both sections of our common country.

—Subscribe for the WATCHMAN.

Wanamaker's Ineffectual Reform.

JOHN WANAMAKER is conducting his campaign for the Governorship on the proposition that the state government under the management of the QUAY machine is corrupt in every respect and injurious to public interests. The speeches he is making from the stump are a correct arraignment of a dishonest gang of politicians whose official practices have no other object than private plunder, and whose government of the State have resulted in the debasement of its politics, the prostitution of its legislative bodies, the squandering of its revenues, and the increase of the tax burden upon the shoulders of its people.

Mr. WANAMAKER goes into details in telling his audiences how this disgraceful state of affairs has been brought about. He gives the full particulars. He omits no item in his statement of legislative profligacies and administrative misdemeanors. The whole rotten thing he duly ascribes to the machine rule by which the State is governed. But does he array any facts before the public view that had not been previously disclosed? Has he told the people anything in regard to the prevailing corruptions that they did not already know? The WATCHMAN had expatiated upon these evils and abuses in the state government long before Mr. JOHN WANAMAKER found it to be his interest to inveigh against them from the stump, and, in fact, when he was cheek by jowl politically with the corrupt characters whom he now denounces. There was a not Democratic journal or speaker in the State that did not anticipate JOHN WANAMAKER in ascribing to its true cause the debased condition of Pennsylvania's state government.

What remedy does he propose for this political and governmental degradation? Can it be corrected by taking the state administration from the control of one set of Republican politicians and giving it to another. The common sense of the people should be able to see that this would not make any practical difference. The evil is a radical one. It has its existence in the organic demoralization of Pennsylvania Republicanism. Better state government cannot be secured until that party is put completely out of power in the State, and kept out indefinitely. Action on the part of the people that will effect this object is the action best adapted to the present situation. Can it be effected by independent movement that will divide the forces operating against the strongly organized machine, or by a co-operation of all the reform elements with the Democratic organization which has in the past sufficiently proven its disposition and ability to give the State good government?

A Mistaken Reformer.

Doctor SWALLOW is no doubt sincere in his hostility to the state corruptionists, and earnestly desires to see their dishonest rule brought to an end, but it is questionable whether he is pursuing the right course to effect that end. Last year the prominence he gained by his attack on the ringsters, and the prosecutions they brought against him in the courts, gave him a popular standing that put him forward as a candidate for a state office. The vote that was given him was phenomenally large, but it was absolutely wasted ammunition as far as state reform was concerned. It served to show the personal popularity he had gained by his attack on the rotten gang that ran the state machine, but in removing those corrupt men from power it did not produce the least effect. It really did the cause of reform harm in that it divided the vote which should have been united for the overthrow of the machine.

Doctor SWALLOW'S candidacy last year was a miss-shot if it was aimed against the corrupt machine which he proposed to antagonize. His candidacy for Governor this year, if state reform is to be the object, will be a greater mistake than was his candidacy for a minor state office last year. If he should succeed in drawing as large a vote for Governor, it would be more through his instrumentality that reform in the state government would be defeated, and the machine enabled to remain in power than through any other agency.

It is beginning to look as if there is more self-seeking in Doctor SWALLOW'S gubernatorial ambition than real interest in the welfare of the State. He is displaying too ready a willingness to enter the political arena, evincing more the spirit of the politician than the reformer. If reform is really what is needed, it should occur to Doctor SWALLOW that there is less chance of securing it with a divided than with a united force fighting the party that is responsible for corrupt state government.

—England's love for the United States is being emphatically displayed every day. England has her weather eye on the spot where the rich girls are found who are ready to buy the impoverished titles she has to sell with a man hanging onto them.

—Subscribe for the WATCHMAN.

Why McKinley Truckles to Spain.

WILLIAM McKINLEY, as President of the United States, has shown but a scant amount of zeal in defending his country against Spanish injury and insult. There have been dodging and shuffling, backing and filling, evasions and subterfuges in the entire course of his action in dealing with the insolent and treacherous Spaniards. Plutocratic considerations have been dead weights upon his patriotism. Such foul agents of national dishonor in the interest of pelf as the HANNAS, ELKINSES, and the syndicate of contributors to his election fund, have held him back lest his action, that would represent the patriotic feelings of the people, and express the sentiments of the nation, might be injurious to wealth.

This is the reason why McKINLEY has been a skulker during the entire course of the pending difficulty with Spain. He has surpassed GROVER CLEVELAND in serving Spanish interests. He continued in that base service long after it had become a national disgrace. His truckling subservience has been responsible for a large share of the atrocities committed by the Spaniards on the Cuban people. A less cowardly posture on his part would have diminished the inhumanities practiced upon the reconcentrados. A firmer and more determined line of action would have prevented the conditions that required the presence of the Maine at Havana and resulted in her destruction and the murder of hundreds of our sailors. With a less weak and cowardly character in the Presidency none of these enormities could have occurred. His disgrace culminated in his treatment of the Maine horror. American feeling was outraged by the wording of his message which classed that unparalleled crime as a matter that could be entrusted to Spanish honor and justice for rectification.

The weeks that have passed since the Havana horror have been taken up with exhibitions of his weakness and vacillation. The measures he has proposed have been intended solely for delay. With this object Congress was asked to suspend its action. One delay has followed another, the disappointment of Congress and the disgust of the people, until the long promised and frequently postponed message was handed in last Monday, in which McKINLEY asks to be invested with power, not to drive the Spaniards out of Cuba, but to put an end to the Cuban patriots struggle for their freedom. This would be virtually the effect of giving him the right of intervention without recognition of Cuban independence.

Such a proposition could be intended for no other purpose than to cause confusion and more delay. It is designed to spring an issue over which there may be contention and division in Congress. The money interests which would sooner have the country disgraced than to risk having their accumulations interfered with by the disturbance of war, seem determined to use the man whom they have put in the presidential office as the agent in forcing a dishonorable peace upon this nation.

For National Honor Alone.

If McKINLEY should carry out the programme of national disgrace which his plutocratic owners are putting him up to, it would create such a feeling of indignation among patriotic American citizens that his party would be visited by overwhelming defeat at the next election. There would be scarcely a corporal's guard of Republicans returned to Congress. Though this would be to the practical advantage of the Democrats, they want to reap no party gain from their country's dishonor.

It is on account of the patriotism that has always distinguished the old historic party that its members, in Congress and out, stand as a solid phalanx in support of every measure that may be required to chastise the treacherous enemy who have dishonored our country's flag and murdered its defenders by blowing up one of the ships of its navy.

The Democrats in Congress, if they have enough patriotic Republicans to back them, will not allow McKINLEY to disgrace the nation in this matter.

—A thirty page souvenir number of the Connellsville Courier has just been issued in magazine form and bears the mark of superiority that characterizes that journal. It has special reference to the past, present and future of the Connellsville coke region and was compiled by R. T. McMANTGAL, who will be remembered as the editor of an industrial edition of the Keystone Gazette, published several years ago. The souvenir will prove particularly valuable to the people of the coke regions, where the Courier is recognized as the trade journal. It is an attractive form and so substantially bound in an illuminated cover that it should be a very handy reference book.

—To-day the Cuban war liar is along the banks of a trout stream making ground for fabrication after the war is settled.

Spawls from the Keystone.

—A new silk mill is to be built at Hazleton. —Thieves are operating in the suburbs of Lancaster.

—South Scranton has organized a bachelors' club.

—Scranton will spend \$90,000 on new municipal buildings.

—Bristol storekeepers sold 2000 Easter eggs on Saturday last.

—Butler citizens have voted in favor of Simon Frankel for postmaster.

—Reading's new public library will be ready for occupancy on May 1st.

—Five hundred boiler-makers at Erie on Saturday struck for an advance.

—M. P. Quinn has declined the appointment of county commissioner of Montgomery county.

—Mr. and Mrs. James I. Blakslee celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary at Mauch Chunk Sunday.

—James H. Edwards, secretary of the Reading Y. M. C. A., is one of the Red Cross representatives in Cuba.

—John Monar, a Slavish miner, was instantly killed yesterday in the Cambria mill mine at Johnstown.

—Two miners at Ridgway, Elk county, James and Joseph Goodyear, were killed by the falling of rock in a mine.

—D. P. Guise, the well known Williamsport contractor has failed, and his property has been seized by the sheriff.

—The Neversink mountain railroad, near Reading, has undergone extensive repairs, and is ready to accommodate summer travel.

—Mrs. Mary Zolander, while walking on the tracks of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western railroad, at Wilkesbarre, was killed.

—Sergeant Kline, of the Wilkesbarre police force, is organizing a regiment for war. The Iberian rifles have also tendered their services.

—The Mack Wood working company, at Weatherly has started a force of 60 men working 12 hours a day to fill the large orders on hand.

—Two and three-quarter days per week is the working time among the Reading colliers for April, but no orders have been received for May.

—The saloon of Peter M. Dago, at Exeter, Luzerne county, was blown up on Saturday night by dynamite, and the occupants narrowly escaped death.

—The fifth annual session of the Chester teachers' institute convened in the Chester grammar school Monday, and will continue in session until to-day.

—Samuel Swartz, the Jersey Shore young man who was seriously injured several days ago by jumping off a freight train at Williamsport, died in the hospital in that city Sunday night.

—At Scranton a defendant in a civil suit, who was charged with damaging trees, resurrected a law of 1735 which provides freedom from arrest to any person who holds property to the amount of \$250, or \$50.

—While Lewis Keating, a Hungarian, was unloading coal on the Goodyear railroad at Galeton, Saturday, he was run over by three cars. His skull was crushed. He was 35 years old. His wife and two children survive.

—John Nicely, known as "Saw Mill John," Ligonier township, Westmoreland county, has three cows that gave birth to nine calves within a year. Eleven months ago they each gave birth to a calf, and last week they each had twins.

—Lewistown council has passed a curfew ordinance, in which the penalty for violation is fixed at \$5. The parent allowing or permitting children under 16 years of age to roam the streets after the hours named in the ordinance are subject to just twice the fine—\$10.

—At Jersey Shore Friday last Mrs. Geo. Bridge, wife of a Beech Creek brakeman, heard her six months old child coughing as though it was choking. She ran up to the room and found the child apparently sleeping. She picked it up and was horrified to find it dead.

—At the request of the commissioners of Blair county, a number of counties throughout the state have agreed to proportionately contribute to the expense of testing the alien tax law at the court of last resort, and the test case of Juniata limestone company vs. Blair county will be passed upon by that tribunal at an early date.

—The report of the department of agriculture for April 1st makes the average condition of winter wheat \$5 against \$1.4 last April and 77.1 on April 1st, 1896. The leading winter wheat states report averages as follows: Pennsylvania, 92; Ohio, 80; Michigan, 92; Indiana, 87; Illinois, 75; Missouri, 81; Kansas, 101; California, 62.

—Sherman Dunn, a colored man who was until recently porter at the Arlington hotel, Tyrone, was taken to the Altoona hospital from Tyrone last night suffering from a gun shot wound of the left hand. He was fooling with a pistol some days ago and accidentally shot himself. Lack of care caused the wound to become infected, and as a result he is now a raving maniac from the injury.

—The 26th inst. is the date fixed for the execution of the two murderers, Rockwell and Banza, at Ridgway, Elk county. Attorney E. J. Wimmer, the Star says, is hopeful that the hanging will not take place and as the attorney for the condemned men expects to go to Harrisburg this week to urge Governor Hastings to grant a reprieve in the Rockwell case. If he is successful, he will also go before the Board of Pardons and ask that Rockwell's sentence be commuted to imprisonment for life.

—The constables throughout the State are receiving a circular from the state commissioners of forestry, calling their attention to two acts passed by the last Legislature, making constables ex-officio fire wardens. They must report to court the first week of quarter sessions of any forest or timber land fires. If they extinguish any fires they will be compensated at fifteen cents per hour, and assistants will receive twelve cents an hour. Any person who is called upon to act as an assistant must either serve or undergo a fine and imprisonment. No county is to pay more than \$500 in one year for such work. One-half of the amount for such work is to be paid by the county and the other half by the State.