

BY P. GRAY MEEK.

Task Sings.

Most anyone can have blue blood now-a-days, and goose-flesh too for that matter.

If the Rt. Hon. CHOBY CHAMBERLAIN keeps on he will have the whole earth under his hypnotic spell.

Cold waves are following so hard upon the heels of one another that there seems to be no chance for slush at all.

The fellow with the stack of chips that he can't see over isn't the only duffer with cold feet this kind of weather.

The message was long enough, but its entire length could not have impressed itself on the public mind, for no one seems to have heard of it since last week.

It is too bad that Genl. GARCIA had to die just at the time when his mind would have been of greatest use to the people for whom he had fought so long.

Spain could possibly settle her disputes about who was responsible for her troubles with this country by charging them up to Columbus. He discovered us and he can't kick.

This cold weather seems to be on the side of contraction. How they can talk expansion at Washington when nature, herself, is setting an example just the reverse is hard to figure out.

The Hawaiian promoters are getting ready to spring that bunch of islands onto the people as a State. The only statehood that their half civilized blacks are eligible to enter is the state of chaotic internal troubles.

Ephraim Keigwin, the "marrying squire of Jeffersonville, Indiana," is dead but the nine thousand couples he married in his life time will stand as a conglomerate monument to his memory until their seed shall peter out.

While Senator VEST says he would die rather than be an expansionist it is not likely that MARK HANNA and President McKINLEY will change their imperialistic policy to save the State of Missouri the expense of a public funeral.

QUAY ought to get a change of venue and have his case tried before that Omaha judge who has just ruled that poker isn't a gambling game. He would be very apt to hand down a decree that shaking a plum isn't evidence that the shaker is after plums.

About one more certiorari and Mr. QUAY will be the dearest political duck that ever floated on the top of the filthy Republican puddle. All a leader needs to do is to show the white feather once and a thousand of his band are ready, in a minute, to grab his scalping knife and be big injun themselves.

This thing of the women petitioning Congress to have Utah's new Senator, BRIGHAM H. ROBERTS, unseated because he has three wives is a very inconsiderate bit of business. In the first place, see what he has done to relieve the congested ranks of the independent order of sitting sisters and, secondly, with three of them on his hands, he has troubles enough of his own.

It is estimated that it will cost us \$799,000,000 to get our new empire started and then after it is started it will require \$200,000,000 worth of grease every year to keep it slipping along without any friction. Mr. QUAY is doubtless thinking that owning a State is pretty dear business, but with such figures staring them in the face what will the American people think of owning an empire.

The killing of a French citizen in Havana, Sunday night, during a shooting contest between Cubans and Spanish officers, because the former wanted to close the Tacon theatre out of respect to Gen. GARCIA's death, will hardly result in international complications with France. Inasmuch as the evacuation commission has not finished its work at Havana, the United States cannot be held sponsor for doings there.

Young JOE LEITER, who undertook to corner the wheat market last spring and did succeed in cornering himself, is about to go into a new speculation. He is going to organize a great company for the introduction of compressed air motor carriages in English cities. Inasmuch as JOE has been keeping very quiet since he got his wings clipped in that wheat deal we suppose he has been compressing the air for the new motors.

The story is in circulation that JOHN WANAMAKER has a desire to be President? What is there so remarkable in such a desire? Ambition is a good thing, when directed along the right lines. Now HANNA was ambitious to own a President and QUAY was ambitious to own a Governor. Ambitions of this latter sort are not praiseworthy, but the trouble is the people didn't see it that way until after they had been gratified.

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Worth Investigating.

Last week the WATCHMAN referred to the effort now being made to awaken the people to the necessity of needed changes in our election laws.

These purposes are: First—registration laws that will prevent false registration and padded registration lists.

Second—tax-laws that will prevent political parties or politicians from bribing voters by the payment of their taxes.

Third—election laws that will prevent the bribe giver, or his agent, going into the booth to see that the fellow he has bribed votes as he has agreed to.

Fourth—laws that will insure an honest count and correct return of the vote as cast.

Unless effective changes can be secured it would be better to make none at all. Our people have become accustomed to present methods of voting, and but few, except those who have a purpose in view, have any excuse for not fully understanding how to cast their ballots properly.

We can correct the false registration of voters by making personal registration a necessity. We can stop the purchase of votes, accomplished through the payment of taxes, by requiring every man to pay his own taxes. But we cannot prevent the bribery of voters as long as we have a system that gives an excuse for voters to ask for aid, in marking their tickets, nor can we refuse that aid if the ticket is such that there is any question about the proper manner of marking it.

In New York the system of voting by machinery has been tested in many of the districts in the western part of the State, and in every instance it has proven a success. The machine used there is a simple "push the button" arrangement, that requires no ballots, but records the vote in figures, and when the voting is done shows the number of votes cast for each candidate plainly set forth in figures, and in a way that there can be no alteration of results, or any opportunity given for fraudulent returns.

Would not this New York system bear looking into?

To be sure a constitutional amendment would be necessary before any system of voting, other than by ballot, could be adopted in this State. But this should not deter us from having the best that is known, if it can be ascertained what that is, and where it can be found. A thorough investigation of this New York system could be made by the coming Legislature, and if found practicable and adequate, an amendment to the constitution, striking out the requirement that "all voting shall be by ballot," could be proposed by that body and submitted to the people, and if ratified by them, could be passed finally by the Legislature of 1900 and the State would be placed at the beginning of the new century in a position to adopt any method of voting that would prevent the evils and frauds of our present system.

In the mean time, such alterations in our election laws as will prevent, or make more difficult of accomplishment, such wrongs as the present law allows and encourages, could be made; and both registration and tax-laws so amended that personal registration and personal tax-paying would be required of all voters.

If you want fine work done of every description the WATCHMAN office is the place to come.

Fears a Trial.

When Senator QUAY and his son RICHARD were arrested for conspiring to use the State's money, for their own private gain, their friends and their attorneys all protested most vehemently how untrue and malicious the charges were, and how great was their anxiety for the earliest opportunity to show them such. They alleged themselves ready and willing to meet the charges any day. In fact the public was given to understand that the prosecution could not be too quick in presenting its evidence, and that in defense of their own characters the accused demanded a prompt and public trial, without delay, and in any court before which it suited to produce the testimony.

The efforts that have been made by Senator QUAY'S lawyers to delay action, and their last resort of appealing to the Supreme court, for the issue of a rule which, if successful, will result in preventing a trial, places the matter in a very different light now. They show, not only, that the pretense of demanding a speedy trial was the blindest kind of a bluff, but that if trial can be avoided Senator QUAY is willing to rest under the suspicions of the guilt a technical ending of the case would leave hanging over him, rather than run the risk of conviction that he feels would be the result of a fair and impartial trial.

There is now no doubting the position Senator QUAY has placed himself in, by this last move to avoid trial, nor will there be a question in the mind of any reasonable citizen as to the truth of the charges preferred. Senator QUAY'S action settles that. If they were not true he would be only too glad to have the earliest opportunity to show their falsity; but as his course shows that his efforts are not to vindicate his good name or the honorable position he holds, but through technicalities of the law, to prevent conviction for the crime charged, what other opinion can the public have than that he is guilty? If he is not, there could be no fear of conviction—no reason to try to avoid the fullest, the most public and the earliest trial that could be had.

In Senator QUAY'S action he has admitted his own guilt. In his efforts to avoid a trial he shows his fear of conviction.

Cuba's Best Leader Gone.

One of the saddest features of the Cuban affair occurred in Washington on Sunday when General CALIXTO GARCIA laid down his life, a victim of the vigorous climate of the North. The death of the valiant old leader is singularly unfortunate at this time, both to the United States and Cuba. For of all her representative men he was the one best fitted to undertake the making of a government for the island.

Having given a life time to her struggles for freedom General GARCIA was called from the scene just when the hope that inspired him through years of carnage was beginning to light up the future of his beloved land.

So far, we have not heard a single "gold standard" advocate—they were the fellows who found "anarchy" written all over the Chicago platform because of its criticism of the courts—open his mouth to protest against the suspicions that are being aroused as to, and the doubts that are being cast upon, the honor, the integrity and the purity of the judiciary here in our own Commonwealth.

Won't some of them come to the front and call a halt to this work that is breeding revolution and anarchy, by teaching the people to believe that there is something rotten in our courts, that all our judges are not pure as angels, and that other motives, than the general good of society, sometimes actuates those who wear the judicial ermine?

It is high time that those who believe in the infallibility of the judiciary get into line again. "Anarchy" seems to be running wild, if honest criticism of the courts is anarchy.

And such they say it was in 1896.

How "Anarchy" is Progressing.

How quickly some people can forget. It is but a year and a half since we were in the midst of an exciting presidential election. The Chicago platform arraigned the courts for their presumptions interference with the rights of the citizens, by process of injunction. For that arraignment, if one could have believed the criticisms and denunciation of the opposition, our whole governmental system was endangered, and the dignity, integrity and usefulness of the courts threatened. No words were strong enough to voice, the condemnation of that platform expression, by those who upheld the judicial outrages that it denounced.

At that time a temperate criticism, of the usurpation of power by the courts, was an attack upon our entire judiciary system—an attempt to discredit its actions and to lessen the respect the people entertained for the acts of those upon the bench. In fact it was "anarchy."

It is somewhat different now, particularly with the contending Republican factions in this State. One set, the QUAY gang, cannot say harsh enough things, or make cruel enough insinuations about the influences that induced judge FINLETTER to refuse to quash the QUAY indictments. And the other fellows cannot find language severe enough to express their condemnation of the action of Supreme court judges, GREEN and WILLIAMS, for interfering in the matter and trying to save QUAY, by granting a rule which is intended to take the case out of the lower court and end it without a hearing.

In this connection, it is of but little difference which of these sides is right, or which wrong. It is only a matter of how quick, the opponents of the Chicago platform, who used the plank criticizing the judiciary, as an argument showing that those who favored it were endorsing anarchy, and the destruction of our courts, can forget the position they then took, and how "anarchistic" and "revolutionary" they can become, themselves, when judicial opinions, and acts, are not just what they approve of.

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If Massachusetts Democrats could only do as well at the general elections as they do at the local ones, there would be some hope that the political cloud, that is hanging over New England, is showing signs of rising. On Tuesday of last week the city and town elections in that State were held. Towns there correspond with townships in Pennsylvania. In nearly every instance large Democratic gains were shown and in many places overwhelming Democratic victories were won. A dozen or more cities that have submitted to Republican rule for many years, selected Democratic mayors, and Democratic boards of councilmen and aldermen, and the few that were formerly Democratic emphasized their faith in Democratic principles by doubling their majorities. In not a single instance did the Republicans show any gains, or even hold their own.

Papers from that section say that the result means a very loud protest against the kind of prosperity this HANNA-ized administration has given the eastern portion of this country.

The Black Sheep and the White.

From the Lancaster Intelligencer. If our judges do not look out we may find some day that the larger part of the honest men in the community are in the penitentiaries. We all know that the number of men who ought to be there, in the general opinion, is very great; and that there has long been a prevalent impression that a good many are there more by mistake than by fault, since their fault is by no means greater than may be safely imputed to the average man.

The conviction of the cashier of the Chestnut street bank, by direction of Judge Butler, is particularly calculated to give ground for this statement. There is nothing doubtful about this case. The exact degree of this man's wrong doing is clearly understood. He was the official of the bank upon whom it fell to make the returns of its condition called for by the law. He made returns, which were not correct, under the direction of his superior officer, the president of the bank, who had borrowed more money from the bank than the law allowed one man to borrow. Yet the loans made to him were believed to be entirely secure. Furthermore, the national authority, to whom the bank made its returns under the law, was fully acquainted with these excessive loans to the president of the bank; and the cashier's official report did not deceive him. No one was deceived about anything, save as to the wealth of the president of the bank.

The president of the bank escaped the court by death. The cashier, who presented the highest testimonials of good character, is convicted. And yet everyone understands that he is guilty of doing nothing that the generality of honest cashiers would not have done in his place. In truth we should have done differently, in view of the manifest fact that his technically false report of the condition of the bank was not really a false report to the government officials, who year after year had accepted it, knowing wherein it was incorrect.

Judge Butler says that this knowledge made no difference in the cashier's guilt, since the statute declared his duty; and his superior officers were not empowered by the law to modify or change it. No doubt that is true. Probably the comptroller of the currency had no right to knowingly accept an incorrect report from the bank cashier; but yet it seems clear to the ordinary mind that a cashier who makes a return called for by the law to the comptroller, stating therein what he knows the comptroller knows to be incorrect; and who is permitted by the comptroller to do this for years; and who does it without guilty purpose, by direction of the bank's president; and without suspicion that the bank will suffer by it, is not guilty of any moral crime; and if he is sent to prison for it, will go there with a clear conscience and a white soul so far as this crime is concerned.

Cost of Our New Empire.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Cost. Items include: For the Philippines, Hecker-Alger Cuban railway, Puerto Rican railway, Cuba and Puerto Rican telegraph lines, Hawaiian-Philippines-San Francisco, Telegraph and railway lines in Philippines, Subsidies for steamship lines to our West Indian dependencies, Subsidies for Pacific lines, Subsidies under the President's plan for a general revival of merchant marine, Revenue cutter service on East and West Indies, Expansion of navy (next five years), Expansion of army under Alger plan (next five years), Sanitation, sewers, etc., in tropical cities, Fortifications, dry docks, barracks, etc., at Pearl Harbor, Pago Pago, Manila, Subig Bay, Havana, Santiago, San Juan.

Care has been taken to underestimate the large items. Provision has not been made for an empire on an imperial scale, but with the idea that Congress will only do what is absolutely necessary and pressing, what is done without a dollar being wasted or stolen.

Such items as the \$20,000,000 annual increase of pensions, the increased cost of all the civil departments, the improvements, coast defenses, etc., etc., here at home have all been omitted.

After the empire is well under way its annual cost may be reduced to Senator Hale's figure—\$200,000,000 a year, in addition to our present expenditures. But before that time can come the empire must be put in order. And it is this "setting up housekeeping" that will necessarily fall upon the United States and their home people in the next ten years.

Be Careful About Confering Statehood.

From the New York Press. The ultimate purpose of the commission is to start the Sandwich islands on a swift run up the road to statehood. Having resolved citizenship into them, they will be entitled to have full representation in the Senate and the House of Representatives; and somebody, a sugar corporation or some other commercial political institution, will have two votes in the United States Senate to offset New York's votes, or Pennsylvania's, or Massachusetts'.

Spawls from the Keystone.

Gas exploding in a sewer at Ashland wrecked the house of George Dush. Agnes W. Wallace was Tuesday appointed fourth-class postmaster at Dorranceton. In the mines at Harwood, Luzerne county, Jacob Fletchick was crushed under a mass of coal. Fatal injuries were sustained by Mrs. Mary Andrews, of Beaver Meadow, Carbon county, by a fall down stairs. Two masked men at Jenneville, Luzerne county, held up James O'Donnell and relieved him of his watch and \$15. In a runaway accident near Espey, Columbia county, Nevin McKemey was fatally injured and two companions were hurt.

An effort will be made at the coming session of the Legislature for the repeal of the prohibitory-liquor law in Potter county. W. R. Longstreet, of Mansfield, was appointed superintendent of the Tioga county schools, to fill the unexpired term of H. E. Ruesley, resigned.

A fire broke out Tuesday in the Pennsylvania coal company's No. 6 mine, at Tucerman, Luzerne county, and the workings may have to be flooded. Edward Moran, who stabbed his brother-in-law, Thomas Gilligan, at Scranton, last September, causing his almost instant death, was put on trial Monday, judge Yerkes, of Bucks, sitting on the bench.

Robert McIlheney, and John Wright, John Moore, Thomas McCann and Samuel Stewart were killed in a powder explosion at Dupont's powder mill, near Philadelphia.

Counsel for Ralph W. Wireback, convicted of the murder of bank president David B. Landis, at Lancaster, Tuesday appealed his case to the Supreme court.

A verdict of manslaughter was returned in Court at Scranton Monday, in the case of Joseph Keller, who shot Peter Mayer, in a fight over some pigeons at Dunmore.

Joseph Balone, who assaulted the daughter of Frank Artol, at Trescow, Carbon county, had to be hurried to the Mauch Chunk Jail to prevent a mob from lynching him.

The Presbytery of Carlisle Tuesday evening celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the ordination to the ministry of Rev. James P. Kennedy, the blind preacher and author, of Chambersburg.

Allen N. Taylor, who in the forties was manager of the stage routes between Williamsport and Tyrone, and Williamsport and Harrisburg, died in Williamsport last Thursday in his 82d year.

Mrs. Amanda Kridler, of Farrandville, plucked from her orange tree Saturday morning an orange. The tree blossomed in March last and the sample taken off that morning was as large as a small sized apple. The tree is four years old.

Mrs. Hain, of near Montgomery, hicoughed incessantly for nine months. She was taken to the Williamsport hospital last week. Although very near death's door, it is believed her life can be saved.

Save your 1898 calendars. They will answer four years 1919, 1921, 1927, 1929, 1949, 1955 and 1993, as the days of the week will fall on the same days of the month and the holidays will fall on the same days this year.

The latest swindle going the rounds is a fellow with a supply of lima beans saturated with oil of cinnamon, which he sells at ten cents each, with the story that his brother brought a quantity from Manila and that they are a sure protection against mites.

W. E. Parsons, a huckster of near Watstown, while driving to Williamsport Saturday, was struck by News Express east of that city. The wagon was demolished and the dead body of Mr. Parsons was carried a short distance on the pilot. His head was crushed. His wife and child survives. He was 23 years old. The remains were afterwards sent home. Mr. Parsons's horses escaped injury.

Jennie Miller, of Bradford, has had her left leg amputated at the hip. It is about five years since she fell on a slippery side walk in that city and became a cripple for life. She was taken to the hospital, and after many weeks of suffering, was able to leave that institution. Since that time she walked very slowly with the aid of crutches. Suit was instituted against the city for damages. A jury awarded her \$3,000. The case was appealed, and a short time ago the supreme court affirmed the decision of the lower court.

At Roulette, Potter county, Thursday, Fred Razy, angered over his sister's refusal to discard the attention of Isaac Lyman, attempted to shoot her. Finding his sister in a room by herself, Razy discharged a gun at her, but she knocked the weapon aside, and the bullet sped wide of its mark. Mrs. Razy, the mother, then interfered and the young man chased both women from the house, firing another ineffective shot. Shortly afterward he appeared upon the street, armed with a gun. Unexpectedly he met Lyman, his sister's lover. Without the slightest warning he aimed the gun at him, but the weapon missed fire. The men grappled and a desperate struggle ensued. A constable and a party of citizens interfered and overpowered Razy and tied his hands and feet with cords.

A ruffian named Henry Smith, of Johnson, Tuesday attacked and threatened to kill Mrs. Emma Dill, cashier of an Altoona restaurant. He had ordered and eaten his breakfast, but when the cashier demanded pay for the meal Smith grabbed her and threw her down on a table, scattering the dishes over the floor. Mrs. Dill screamed and her daughter hurried down from upstairs. Addressing the girl, "If you holler, I'll shoot you, too," shouted Smith, as he rushed into the room, reaching for a revolver in his hip pocket. The woman broke loose from the brute's grasp, gave the alarm and officers soon appeared and arrested Smith. In default of payment of fifteen dollars fine imposed by the mayor for disturbing the peace of Altoona, Smith is now in jail at Hollidaysburg. Mrs. Dill will likely make a commonwealth charge against him. A smart young fellow named George Mackey attempted to interfere in behalf of Smith, and an officer caught him by the collar and very properly gave him a good shaking, then marched him off to the lockup along with Smith. Mackey went to jail also, because he failed to produce fifteen dollars fine.