

Ink Stings.

There will be no holes in the stockings that will be hung up Sunday night.

In the language of the streets the best shop lifter certainly is a "jimmy."

The new financial bill went through with a rush and it left a crash in its wake.

Don't make your good resolutions too early or you might have them broken before New Years.

QUAY is still on the outside and every day the chances for his staying there are growing stronger.

Philadelphia is about the only city that Republican politicians can see on the map these days.

Yesterday was the shortest day of the year of 1899, but it was quite long enough to be remembered as one of September's best productions dropped at the wane of December.

Hadn't KIPLING better pass around the hat again. The list of "absentminded beggars" in South Africa is growing so large that their wants will keep several hats moving all the time.

That Burlington, Vermont, Bishop who died recently; leaving the public to discover that his supposed \$2,000,000 fortune really amounted to only \$2.12, must have had all the fun of having a millionaire's deference without the annoyance of taking care of such a vast fortune.

Republican apologists are now saying that the terrible slump in the values of stocks on Monday was due to a money scarcity. O ho! So they admit that money is too scarce, with the very same breath that they approve the passage of a financial bill that is calculated to make it still scarcer.

Mrs. ROY DEVEREUX, the London woman who is a correspondent for the Post of that city, is in America and says that while in the Transvaal, a year ago, she learned that "the best people down there consider KRUGER a fanatic and an ignorant person." What if he is. Such "ignorance" only goes to emphasize JOHN BULL'S stupidity.

Representative HALL has been placed upon the committee of Mines and Mining and expenditures in the Post Office Department. We venture the assertion that there is not another member on either of these committees who will perform the duties devolving upon him more faithfully and intelligently than will the member from this district. What JIM HALL undertakes or is expected to do, he does thoroughly and does well.

The Republicans have fixed Philadelphia as the place, and the 17th of June as the time, for holding their convention to re-nominate MCKINLEY and to endorse imperialism, trusts and expansion. It is probable that the Democrats will hold their convention a few weeks earlier. They will nominate the candidate who will be the next President of the United States, and this, without doubt, if the trusts and the new currency bill get in their work properly.

The passing of the new Republican financial bill that went through the House on Monday, with every Republican vote and those of a few free Democrats, had its echo on Wall street where one hundred million dollars were lost in stocks. Secretary of the Treasury GAGE had to go to the rescue of his banking and brokering friends, in order to hold up their heads under this first blow that Republican—expansion in land, contraction in money—policy has given the business of the country.

The killing of Gen. LAWTON, the bravest and most intrepid of our commanders in the Philippines, within fifteen miles of Manila, seems to indicate that the war isn't as near over as the expansionists would have us believe. They realize that things must be made look very rosy, if Mr. MCKINLEY is to be re-elected and have been doing their best to shed the brightest rays on the situation possible, but the death of Gen. LAWTON, so near to Manila and when "the war is practically over," will cast a shadow of awful portend on their hopes.

The press censors in Manila are certainly not being watched close enough by the administration. Just when the MCKINLEYists had about deceived the people into believing that the Filipino war is over here comes the shocking announcement of Gen. LAWTON'S being killed within fifteen miles of Manila, and the news of an almost successful attempt the rebels had made to capture our new navy yard and arsenal at Cavite. Surely there is something wrong. The administration censor will be decapitated for leaving such bits of information of the true situation in the Philippines leak-out.

Every man who was elected to Congress last fall, by the Democrats of Pennsylvania, voted solidly against the Republican bill to contract the currency of the country. For this action they deserve the thanks and are entitled to the respect of every man who is interested in the welfare of his country. They did all in their power to stay a money panic and to prevent a scarcity of currency that will bring ruin to many and distress to all, but they were out-voted and the consequence that will follow legislation that is designed purposely to benefit a few, must fall solely upon the heads of Republican Representatives. Every Republican Congressman from this State, McALEER included, voted for the bill.

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The Statesmanship of Expansionists.

Two weeks ago the WATCHMAN presented figures showing that up to that time our efforts to subjugate the Filipinos, and take control of the Philippine Islands, had cost us over one hundred millions of dollars.

And after we own and control them—what then? The expenses of a large standing army to keep these new-made Americans in subjugation will have to be met.

To many these amounts, when put together, will seem a pretty large sum, for the control of a lot of islands, every foot of the territory of which is owned by individuals and not an acre of which will belong to the government.

In other acquisitions we secured land. Those lands were sold to our people for homes, thus returning to the government more than their original cost.

A sample of the financial astuteness that governs the craze for expansion, now upon the administration, is shown in the treaty that secured us the Sulu islands and that makes us sponsors for the do-less savages, and the Malay pirates who use them as their hiding places.

Their influence on trade or their value as strategic points amount to less than fly specks. They are inhabited by races of untamed and unclothed savages.

They are a people who use no implements, for they make or grow nothing that requires implements. They use no furniture, for they have no homes to put it in.

They will buy no clothes, for a full dress with them consists of a breech-clout. They will take none of our shoes, for they wear none.

They will require no books, for they cannot read. They will want no iron, for they build nothing. They will make no demand for wheat, for they live on roots, nuts and fruit and a missionary roast when they can catch one to cook.

And as it is with food and clothing, iron and machinery, so it will be with everything else we have to sell. Sulu islanders will not want it, because they don't know what it is for, don't need it, don't use it and could not pay for it if they did.

In fact, the trade of the tramps of this country, or that of the impecunious inmates of our pauper houses, would be a bonanza in comparison with that of the Sulu island.

And yet for the glory of governing these people, without a return of any kind, except the promise that the United States flag shall be allowed to float over the Sultan's harem and the wooden gods his heathen subjects worship, Mr. MCKINLEY has bargained to pay the sum of \$13,920 yearly and to "respect and defend the rights, dignities and customs of the Sultan and his Daloo."

And these "rights" are to have as many wives as their beastly passions desire; their "dignities" consist of wearing a breech-clout as a full dress and their "customs" cover all manner of privileges, from owning and holding slaves to roasting and eating missionaries.

And this treaty is called statesmanship. It is of the same kind that has spent a hundred million of dollars and sacrificed thousands upon thousands of precious lives to subjugate and control the Filipino people.

There is nothing like an eclipse to make people look up.

Always ahead of all the rest the Philadelphia Record Almanac has come to our desk, teeming with its weight of salient information. The Record Almanac's value is not to be measured by the number of pages it contains, for its conciseness and rare adaptability to everyday wants make the 134 pages in it as useful as some cumbersome books of the same sort contain a thousand or more.

The teachers might at least have explained why they voted down the school children's offering to the Curtin monument fund.

Amendments Won't Accomplish the Purpose.

The Philadelphia Ballot Reform Association has just given to the public a lengthy manifesto telling about the needs of reform, the great work it has done in that direction, and pointing out how, with a few amendments, the present election law can be made to work the wonders, it would have accomplished, in the matter of securing honest elections.

If it were not for the fact that we know that the men belonging to this Association are thoroughly honest, not only in their desire for reform, but in their belief that they know exactly how they can secure it, we would take it that they are poking fun at themselves or ironically referring to the miserable failure that has so far met their efforts in this line.

It is possible for men to be honest and to be deceived. And we take it that if there are any such in this Commonwealth they are the men who claim to be the Ballot Reform Association, and who imagine that the present system of voting is a better and more honest one than the one it succeeded.

In fact, if they would get down from the visionary greatness, that their imaginations clothe them in, and take a practical lesson or two from some ordinary politician, who knows the means that are used and the methods that are resorted to to accomplish results at elections, he would show them, in less time than it required to write their last circular, that the present law, which is a creation of their imaginative minds, is the weakest and worst measure of the kind that disgraces the statute books of any State.

It would be a waste of time to refer, even as we have done in this short space, to the action of these reformers were it not for the fact that their address is but the beginning of an effort, they intend putting forth, to continue the present rotten system of voting by making a few minor amendments to the law now in force.

It might to some extent secure some improvement on the present system, because any change would be an improvement on that, but it would not insure what the people of the State want or what is needed to guarantee honest elections.

To make certain of this, our whole rotten system must be abandoned and radical changes made in election methods from the registry of voters to the certifying of returns. These changes should be such as will require the personal registration of every voter; that will take from the courts the power to revise or change a ticket, for technical reasons, after it has been named at the primaries; that will make bribery in the booths impossible; that will simplify voting so that every citizen can cast his ballot correctly without assistance; that will insure the secrecy of the ballot and finally, that will guarantee a correct and prompt return of the vote.

These are the changes we need, and they are changes that can never be secured by any amendment to our present system of voting.

That the men who constitute the Ballot Reform Association deserve credit for their intentions no one will deny, but after the experience we have had under the law they formulated and forced upon us in 1893, the people may well pray to be spared the infliction of other election laws emanating from the same source.

That annual newspaper black-mailer, known as ROWELL'S American Newspaper Directory, is sending out its demands again for information as to the business of each individual publisher throughout the country.

For years this firm of advertising leeches, that puts out this publication, has been holding the press of the country up threatening that if affidavits as to the circulation of each paper are not furnished them, they will fix and publish it at such figures as they see proper.

The circulation of any publication is the private property of its publisher, and Messrs. ROWELL & Co. have no more business to publish anything about it—unless they are its recognized representatives—than we have to attempt to tell the public the amount of their bank account.

There is a time for all things, and the time for the Independents to lay the foundation for success is when the election boards, that control the voting and make a return of the vote, are chosen.

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May Prove An Eye Opener.

It is now currently reported and is getting to be very generally believed that ex-Senator QUAY, finding it impossible to secure a seat in the United States Senate through the appointment by his Governor, will withdraw his papers from Washington and request the re-convening of the Legislature, to try his luck again before that body.

Such is the condition of Pennsylvania politics and such the extent of the political subservience of the people that whatever the boss' demands are—no matter how outrageous or oppressive they may be—they go, and that is the end of it.

Last week, in order to escape the expense of counsel to argue his claim before the Senate committee, he had Attorney General ELKIN appear as the representative of the State, in his behalf, thus saddling upon the taxpayers of the Commonwealth his individual expenses, in a case in which the representatives of these same taxpayers turned him down.

What seems strangest to us, in this connection, is that men who claim to have the intelligence and independence that the taxpayers of Pennsylvania are usually credited with, go on year after year blindly and bigotedly voting for a party that robs, and imposes upon, them as Mr. QUAY'S Republican party does.

Hit the Right Spot First.

New York brokers have been the loudest yelpers in the country for the single gold standard and the withdrawal of the green back currency from circulation.

On Monday the Republicans in Congress passed their currency bill, which includes these two features, and Wall street securities and speculative stocks shrank, in listed value, over one hundred millions of dollars in less time than it took Congress to pass the bill.

Brokers offered as high as 115 per cent. for money to tide them over the panic, but could not secure it and to-day many men who were in comfortable circumstances on Monday morning, and who thought the gold standard a great thing, are financial wrecks.

While the effects of "single standard" legislation struck the right spot first, and the country has little reason to mourn over Wall street's losses, it is sure to settle down, sooner or later, in the same effective manner, upon every interest, every industry and every enterprise in the country, except that of speculators in money.

They are the ones who will benefit by the contraction of the currency. The people are the ones who will suffer.

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The Institute of the Public School Teachers of Centre County.

The Teachers are Having a Successful Week.—All but six of them Enrolled.—Good Instructors and Good Entertainments Combine to Make Amusing and Instructive Sessions.

The fifty-third annual session of the public school teachers of Centre county convened in the court house in Bellefonte, on Monday morning, and the week started off auspiciously with a fair December day and a good attendance.

There was no regular session in the morning, all the time being taken up with enrollment and organization but at 1:30 in the afternoon county superintendent Gramley called his corps to order and they settled down at once to work.

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Spawls from the Keystone.

While Reuben Bellas, of Orangeville, Columbia county, was engaged in changing the shafts on a buggy he suddenly dropped dead.

Anna, a young daughter of William Hartzel, was suddenly stricken with blindness while at work in the silk mill at Bloomsburg.

Ex-Governor Beaver delivered an address on "Washington as a private citizen" before the students at Girard College last Thursday evening.

Governor Stone has reappointed C. K. Sober game commissioner. Mr. Sober was appointed for the three year term by Governor Hasting, and he is the proper person for the position.

Judge Mayer has handed down an opinion in the excessive fee case of Lycoming county vs ex-prothonotary Hopkins. The decision awards Hopkins \$1,000. The award is received with satisfaction by Mr. Hopkins.

John C. Miller, 83 years old, of Cherry Springs, near Coudersport, is dying of blood poisoning. While using a jack to remove his boots, one of them slipped and a nail in his heel scratched a toe on the other foot.

Nellie Wolf, a dining room girl at the Gamble house, Jersey Shore, who had been in a catleptic slumber from Sunday night December 3rd, until Saturday evening, Dec. 9th, awoke then and is now as wide awake as anybody.

Fire of supposed incendiary origin totally destroyed the large saw and bone mills located on the Conewago Creek, near New Oxford York county, and owned by Captain A. W. Eichelberger, of Hanover. The loss is estimated at \$3,000.

Mayor Nichols, of Wilkesbarre, has notified his policemen that he would discharge the whole force if they did not enforce the law against violators of the liquor law, who, he said, comprised three-fourths of those engaged in the traffic in that city.

At the December term of the Pike county courts, County Surveyor Westbrook, who was elected prothonotary, resigned the former office and Judge Purdy appointed Frank Schorr, secretary of the Democratic county committee, to fill the vacancy.

The Harter brothers, lumberman, have purchased of Joel Bailly, of Philadelphia, a tract of 4016 acres of timber land in Little Sugar Valley, Centre county, for \$10,000. The purchasers will at once begin lumbering operations on the tract.

At Jersey Shore Monday while Jennie Bower, a domestic, was working in the woodshed near the house, a bullet struck her in the right arm. The wound is not a serious one. The bullet came from a Flobert rifle in the hands of Fred Lentz, who was practicing in a lot near by.

William Kearon, of Harwood, an ex-gunner in the United States navy, is organizing a company of volunteers to go to South Africa and fight with the Boers. He says he has been commissioned to form a force 300 strong and has already secured seventeen men in Harwood alone.

The brick block of Mrs. Carrie Sypher, on Main street, Jersey Shore, was badly damaged by fire Sunday afternoon, and the occupants of the building, M. L. Staver, insurance agent, and P. O. Buck, merchant tailor, both suffered considerable loss from flames and water.

The new Catholic church at Spangler was dedicated with imposing ceremonies Sunday. The services were in charge of Rev. Leander Schmeer, O. S. B., archabbot of St. Vincent, assisted by numerous visiting priests. The sermon was preached by Rev. P. Edward O. S. B., St. Vincent college.

Michael Bonnell, of Waterville, Lycoming county, was found dead in bed Monday morning, death being due to apoplexy. He was a veteran of the Civil war, having served three years and participated in twenty-three engagements. He served as postmaster for twenty years, his first appointment being made by President Grant.

Isaac Birrillo, who was convicted at the November term of court for the murder of his wife at Blossburg on July 5th, by setting fire to her clothes and holding her hands while she burned, was brought into court at Wellsboro Friday for sentence. Before Judge Mitchell pronounced his doom Birrillo protested his innocence. He received his sentence of death with composure.

At Renovo Monday morning Harry, the 8-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Brown, with several companions climbed up the steepest part of the mountain opposite Fifteenth street. Suddenly Harry stumbled and he tumbled head over heels to the bottom, a distance of over 200 feet. His skull was fractured. When picked up he was unconscious. His recovery is doubtful.

Sheriff Farnsworth and deputy Sheriff Stevens returned Friday night with Roy Deziel and James McCormick, who escaped from the county jail at Coudersport Thursday night. The men were recaptured, after a desperate fight, in a "pig's ear" near Costello, and in the struggle McCormick's face and head were badly bruised. The officers were guided in the pursuit by tracks in the snow.

Herbert Wilson, a justice of the peace and school teacher, of Barree township, Huntingdon county, has left for parts unknown. He was a collector of the delinquent county tax in his township certified out by the county treasurer, in which he is a defaulter to the amount of \$600 to \$800. The county commissioners promptly notified his bondsmen of the fact that they would be expected to make good the deficit, and they took charge of his unfinished collections.

The Philadelphia and Reading railway is experimenting with a device for ridding smoking cars of smoke. The idea is in the shape of a fan. There are three of them and they are similar to electric fans. They have two blades and are worked by an air wheel which is stationed on the roof of the car. The faster the car moves the greater the speed of the fan, and a continuous circulation is kept up which forces the smoke out through the ventilators or rear windows of the car. These fans are now being experimented with on some of the through cars between Philadelphia and Pottsville, and results have been very satisfactory.