

Ink Slings.

Oh, Spring! Spring! Beautiful Spring! I tell you poets ain't doin' a thing, in our rhymes and our metres.

—What are we going to do about the Philippines if war breaks out in Kentucky? —So far as devotion on the I part of it is concerned most people are idolatrous.

—The formation of a snuff trust is calculated to make it cost more, even to sneeze.

—It remains to be seen what the Boers will do when it comes to fighting on their own stone pile.

—The music that has caught the public ear all over the world is the grand overture "Peace," by KRUGER and STEYN.

—Those Dublin fustlers in South Africa won't dare display much green tomorrow else their camp will be taken for a Boer laager.

—Many a son of the "rale ould sod," in honor of his patron god, round an antique lid of silky sheen, will be wearin' o' the green—to-morrow.

—One o' the most interesting features of the Kentucky episode, from the politician's point of view, which one of the Governors will get the salary.

—President McKINLEY wanted war with which to glorify himself into a second term. He must have all the glory he wants by this time, but the glorious war won't stop.

—With the HANNA ship subsidy bill, the Porto Rican tariff and the HAY treaty night-mares all haunting him the poor President will likely go to grass before long.

—The fellows who said that the fighting in the Philippines "is over" are not talking just now. They have probably decided to wait a bit, before they make any more predictions.

—Because he wouldn't permit corset advertisements in the Topeka Daily Capital is no proof that the seven day editor Rev. SHELDON prefers women who are not so "straight laced."

—A sure sign of good times confronts the house-wife these days in her search for a man to carry the winter's ashes out of the cellar. Her own, of course, is too busy to even think of it.

—The Boers have sent their appeal for peace to SALISBURY and the English premier says: NIT, OOM PAUL, your cities must fall and you and STEYN bite the dust; you gave us a chase, a fearful fierce pace, now pay TOMMY ATKINS you must.

—The Chicago Rabbi who said that "it is impudence for Rev. SHELDON to say that he will run a paper as Jesus would," because Jesus wouldn't run a paper at all!

—Surely the way to peace is to quit fighting for that to which we have neither right nor title.

—Let Mr. McKINLEY withdraw his troops to the fortifications and surroundings that he paid \$20,000,000 for, and was all that Spain could give possession of at the time the purchase was made, and the war will be over.

—With at least one other Republican attorney setting up pins for 1904 Judge LOVE's position is such as to make him appreciate very fully how the aspirants for County Commissioner feel while perched on the anxious bench, straining their optics for his preferential finger.

—With only a twelve inch width of the home plate to put the ball over next season, instead of the seventeen inches from corner to corner as in the past, the National League pitchers will have to shake out a few of their old kinks and send the horse hide along straighter lines.

—Is was not to be expected that in the light of recent degradations uncovered in her Chinese quarter a Philadelphia jury would declare "Sapho" immoral. From one of those Race street den view points the vulgar dramatization of Daudet's novel might rather be considered immortal.

—Who is endeavoring to make "money the master, everything else servant?" now, Mr. President? You said that once of CLEVELAND and that defunct statesman's political ghost ought to frighten you into eating your own words.

—It has not been reported that Governor TAYLOR, of Kentucky, has said to Governor BECKHAM, of Kentucky, what the Governor of South Carolina, once said to the Governor of North Carolina. Though neither one has invited the other to take a drink they can hardly be called Kentuckians, if they are letting a little matter of that sort interfere.

—MAURICE GRAU, the impresario, says the plan to have a grand opera sung in English would "be a failure because it is considered beneath an artist's dignity to sing in English." Is that so? We notice that it isn't beneath their dignity to take pay in English and when it doesn't come just as fast as the "artists" think it should they are usually not too artistic to set up a howl in the worst kind of Billingsgate.

—The fact that the government is about to step in and pay the owner of the Calaveras grove of big trees, in California, \$1,000,000 for his wooden monstrosities, in order to save them from the saw mill, ought to remind the public that trees every where should be saved for more reasons than as curios. Floods, droughts and cyclones follow where the woodsman's ax has laid bare a forest. Few people realize the effect that deforesting has on climatic and physical conditions, but the line from cause to effect is unmistakably marked.

Democratic Watchman

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NO. 11.

The Road to Peace.

For once the Philadelphia Record is right. In its issue of the 9th inst. in referring to the rumor that in consequence of the debilitated condition of the men on duty in the Philippines a number of regiments would be ordered home it says: "the more that are brought home the more peace there will be on those islands."

This is undoubtedly correct. It is the way peace can be restored; the way it should be restored, the humane, manly, courageous way to end the trouble. If we did not have troops there trouble would be unknown. We could own and occupy and control all that Spain had to sell us, and all the title we received covered, without the use of a single gun or the presence of an armed soldier.

It is not the Filipinos who are disputing our title to, or our control of, the property and rights Spain sold us that makes the war. For there is no dispute about that. At the time we paid \$20,000,000 to Spain for her rights and possessions in the Philippines they consisted of two old fortifications—one at Manila, the other at Cavite, their approaches and the territory they command. These we have and no one disputes our right to them, nor has any effort ever been made, or threatened, to wrest them from us.

It is our efforts to get more than Spain had to sell us that makes the trouble. Our attempts to take that which could not be sold us—the right of men to self government—and the devastation of their towns and cities; the desolation of their homes; the confiscation of their property; the desecration of their churches and the pillage and plunder, destruction and death, that follows an army of invasion in its effort to accomplish this purpose, that is responsible for it.

Place an American citizen to-day in the position we have placed the Filipino and he would fight as long as his home was threatened or his country invaded. If an army of foreigners—people whom we know not and to whom we were in no way indebted—were invading our country, laying waste our fields, burning our cities, despoiling our homes, murdering our men and driving women and children to the fields and mountains, where is the American who would not resent it as long as God gave him life, and implements of war could be had.

Have we a right to require of others that to which we would not submit ourselves? Surely the way to peace is to quit fighting for that to which we have neither right nor title.

Let Mr. McKINLEY withdraw his troops to the fortifications and surroundings that he paid \$20,000,000 for, and was all that Spain could give possession of at the time the purchase was made, and the war will be over. He will have "cooling stations" and a "foot hold in the far east for American commerce," and he can keep the American flag floating over every foot of territory he has title to, and over the harems of the Sultan of Sulu in addition, and there will be no more war about it.

And it is his duty to do it. The life of one American soldier, and the recognition of the right of self government, should be of more consequence in the estimation of a just and christian people, than all the glory, victories and values that a war of conquest can bring.

Right for Once.

An effort is being made by friends of those who imagine they can capture the position made vacant by the death of Congressman HARMER to fill Governor STONE order a special election to fill the vacancy. For once Gov. STONE shows signs of having sense, and has so far refused to consider such action. We hope he will continue in the same state of mental balance.

The expense of a special election would not be less than \$25,000. This would be the price the people would have to pay for another Republican vote in a body that has too many of that kind already. It would be paying for something that even the party that would have the benefit of the vote don't need, and surely no one else is anxious about it. The fact that the district in which the vacancy exists is almost certain to secure, as a Representative, some Republican who does not train with Mr. QUAY's machine, is possibly the reason that Governor STONE is exhibiting a little horse-sense in the matter. But whether that is the cause, or some weightier motive influences him, the people without respect to party or faction will generally approve of his determination to allow the vacancy to exist until it is filled at the regular election.

—We certainly intended no affront when we mentioned SAM B. MILLER's name among those who are after the office of County Commissioner in last week's issue. That worthy gentleman was highly offended, however, and we grovel in the dust beseeching his forgiveness. We might have known that SAM isn't "after office and has no claim on that one," because he always was different from most Republicans, who are after anything they can get.

American Sentiment Misrepresented.

If American citizens, when they went up the Klondyke river to Dawson City had demanded the right to vote and make laws for the English territory from which they expected to dig and take gold, and when refused, unless they swore allegiance to the English government, had resorted to war to enforce their right to do so, they would have done just what the British did in South Africa. It is a case exactly similar that has made the war between England and the South African Republics. A case with no more right in it on the part of the English government, than there would have been for the United States to have sent its armies up into Alaska, under the pretext of protecting American rights, for the purpose of stealing the gold mines of the Klondyke region and becoming the possessors of the supposed wealth of that frozen country.

There is not an Englishman on God's green earth, no matter where he may be located, but would have protested against such an act. There is not a reasonable minded American living who would have approved such a movement.

And yet we find England to-day attempting just such an outrage on a helpless, struggling Republic in South Africa, with the people howling themselves hoarse with approval, and to our shame see our government look on without a sign of disapproval, and fearing or refusing to speak a word of protest.

It is neither the will nor wish of the people of this country, that its sympathy and support should go out to England in their brutal contest for the possession of the wealth, and the destruction of the South African Republics. That is the work of an administration that seeks an alliance with, and the praise of, the English government, and the efforts of those who have forgotten the principle upon which their government was founded and who belie the feelings and misrepresent the desire of the American people.

The time is not far distant when American sentiment, outside of administration circles, can be tested on these and other questions lying closely beside them. When it arrives Mr. McKINLEY, Mr. HANNA, Mr. HAY and other apologists for British efforts to destroy free governments in distant Africa, will ascertain how far they are from representing the honest American sentiment.

—The Sugar valley boy who just fastened a piece of iron to a rail on the Northern Central R. R. some weeks ago because he "didn't think" will have plenty of time to "think," after he gets into the Huntington reformatory, to which place he has been sentenced, how thoughtless he was in not having thought.

The Gold Standard Adopted.

Yesterday the Republican single standard law went into effect. It makes good the basis of all currency now in circulation, and provides that all debts, public or private, and all claims of any sort shall be payable in gold. In addition, it offers a premium, to those who can raise \$25,000, to go into the National banking business, and gives the Secretary of the Treasury unlimited power to issue interest bearing bonds to purchase gold for the purpose of keeping the reserve up to a certain figure.

The effect of this law will not be fully felt until the greenbacks or legal tender currency of the country has been pretty generally retired. Then will come the demand of creditors for gold, in payment of debts, and where the people are to get that is the mystery that no one now can solve.

Under this new legislation National banks can organize on a capital of \$25,000. They will pay government bonds to that amount; interest at the rate of two per cent. will be paid them on these bonds and \$25,000 of National bank notes will be given them to lend to the people at whatever rate of interest they can secure. There is no security required of these banks for depositors and the individual who places his earnings and profits in them, takes his own risk and must suffer his own losses. The banker is given interest at both ends; two per cent, indirectly from the people through the government on the bonds his bank is based on, and from six per cent, to whatever rate of interest he can get from the people directly for the use of the currency the government gives him and for which the bonds are held as security.

As Democrats, we have reason to be thankful that this bill has passed. It removes all cause for differences among us on the money question, for the reason that it fixes and fastens financial legislation upon us that cannot be changed during the next four years, and leaves us to unite on other questions equally, if not more, important to the preservation of the government and the good of the people. If, in four years, this bill has proven beneficial to the country, there will be no question to raise about it; we will all be for it. If it has not its failure will leave the Democracy united on the money question and the Republican party damned by the ill their legislation inflicted.

Keeping Up Their Majority.

Whenever a Republican member of Congress dies, and there is any doubt about the political complexion of his successor the House immediately proceeds to contest the seat of some Democrat and gives his place to a waiting Republican. When one gets a little independent and votes or speaks against some action of his party the cold chills run down the backs of the majority and they proceed to fortify themselves by turning another Democrat out and putting another Republican in. When one of them goes out on a "bat" and there is no certainty when he will return, sufficiently sober to know to vote when his name is called, another contest is made and out goes another Democrat. And then when deaths, and drunks, and disappearances, or independents, shorten their majority to an unsafe extent they do the same thing over and another Democrat is added to the list of the ousted.

And so it goes. Every week chronicling the departure of some Democrat from the place to which he was elected, and every week putting in a Republican who wasn't elected, but who will draw the salary and assist in maintaining the Republican majority.

Last week, for various causes unknown to us, the Republican majority got down to seven, on a test vote. There had not been many deaths but there must have been many drunks, for the usual excess is from fifteen to twenty. Immediately work was begun to strengthen their lines, and two Democratic Members representing southern constituencies were placed upon the sliding board; the salary list knows them not now, nor will their voices or votes again be heard in opposition to Republican measures and Republican thievery.

It is an easy way to keep up a safe working majority—a sure way. It is not so cowardly or deceptive as the Philadelphia plan of making Republican majorities by stuffing ballot boxes and accepting the returns of "dummy" election officers, nor is it as dangerous or threatening as Republican methods, to retain power in Kentucky, by resorting to assassination and protecting the assassins with the state militia and previous pardons; but it is just as vicious, unjust and outrageous, and deserves the execration of every honest citizen, as much as either Philadelphia or Kentucky infamies do.

A Record Unequaled in Infamy.

The record Republicanism has made in Kentucky during the past six months is one that will not be "pointed to with pride" by those who are in the habit of going into ecstasies over everything that is done by that party. Beginning with barefaced frauds and military intimidation at the polls, it followed this up by premeditated and planned assassination; then exerted every effort to cover the crime and aid the escape of its tools who had committed it; hiding behind a partisan militia it usurped legislative authority and defied judicial investigation, and to cap the climax of its infamy, attempted to pardon, in advance of arrest, indictment or trial, the red handed criminals it had selected to do murder, that its ends might be accomplished. Possibly a more damnable, wicked and cowardly conspiracy to retain power has been made in some period of the world's history but if it has the historians have failed to record the fact.

Not Any of That for Daniel.

We don't take very much stock in the report that our townsman, ex-Gov. HASTINGS, will enter the lists as a Republican candidate for the Vice Presidency. Gov. HASTINGS, may be rich, ambitious and aspiring, but he is not an idiot. He knows when he is up against a machine, like the QUAY combination, what it means in Pennsylvania, and he knows too that without Pennsylvania at his back he would have about the same chance in the race that a shirtless man would have in a run through a briar patch.

Without any knowledge of his purposes we rather imagine that Gov. HASTINGS does not propose putting himself at the mercy of what Mr. QUAY's friends would evidently do to him if they could get him into a contest for state recognition. He has a pretty firm grip now on his party in this congressional district and, unless political rumors are all wrong, it looks very much as if he would aspire to a seat in Congress, rather than make the hopeless attempt to preside over the Senate. Neither one of the places, according to his belief, would be any too important for him to have; but the question as to which he would be the most likely to get is what will control his final determination. This he knows is not the vice presidential nomination and for this reason it will be found that the ex-Governor is not now and will not be an aspirant for that position. He may try to get into Congress, but trying and getting there, he will find to be two very different matters.

Subcribe for the WATCHMAN.

St. Patrick's Day.

On March 17 Irishmen and the Descendants of Irishmen All the World Over Celebrate the Reputed Birthday of St. Patrick. But What of St. Patrick.

There is much in the conflicting histories of St. Patrick that is purely legendary. Some historians, such as Cusack, appear to attach importance to the mere tradition features. There seems to be no record of the date of his birth; consequently it is that of his death that is observed. But even here there is conflict. Some authorities hold that he was born at Boullogne-Sur-Mer in the year 372; others that Kirk-Patrick, Scotland, was his birthplace, in the year 373; the same discrepancy applies to the year of his death, although Ulster, in the north of Ireland, is set down as the place, in the year 493, on the date of the 17th of March.

Wonderful miracles are recounted of St. Patrick during his childhood, such as turning snakes into curds and whey; replenishing a fire with blocks of ice; turning water into honey and wonderful works of that character. But Mr. Cusack, in his exhaustive life of the saint, raises the question of where you are going to leave off if you begin doubting miracles, and he quotes from the lives of many other saints to show that miracles were as common to them as they were to St. Patrick, his general conclusion being that the St. Patrick miracles are as authentic as those of other saints.

St. Patrick's name originally was Succuth, and it was Pope Celestine who gave him the name of Patricius, under which he was canonized.

When he was sixteen years old some Irish pirates descended on the French coast and, in company with a number of other prisoners, carried him off to Ireland, where they sold the whole batch into slavery. St. Patrick seems to have abandoned miracles for a time, and took his luck with the rest of the slaves, and very hard luck it was. At last he managed to escape, and made his way to Scotland; but it was not long before another gang of Irish pirates descended on the Scottish coast and bore him off to Ireland and to slavery again. A second time he escaped, and a second time he went to Scotland. Here again on this occasion it was that he resolved to devote his life to missionary work among the Irish. He was ordained, and, after a long preparation, was consecrated a bishop. Then he visited France and Italy, and in 432 he went to Ireland for good and all. His missionary work was crowned with success. He baptized the kings of Dublin and Munster, and he performed the same office for the seven sons of the king of Connaught. His good work continued until he was credited with the conversion into Christianity of the greater part of the inhabitants of the island, although it is well established that there were other missionary laborers in the field. St. Bernard says that his metropolitan see was at Armagh, and that he appointed several other bishops who formed a council to settle the discipline of the church.

In his old age he gave away the land which had been bestowed upon him as foundations for churches and for cloisters for both sexes, some of which flourished for three centuries after his death. He had personally suffered from the piratical practices of the natives, and from the slavery which was the chief incentive to their maintenance, and he did a great deal to suppress both the one and the other.

It had been St. Patrick's wish to die at Armagh, the scene of his many and long labors; but it was otherwise ordained and he gave up the ghost at Saul.

Just About The Size of It.

From the York Gazette.

"An almost unparalleled falling off in the applications that have been made to the building department for permits to put up new structures" in Boston is noted by the Boston Herald. And a similar complaint comes from Chicago. The Chicago Public very sagely suggests that the chief cause is the enhanced price of building materials—lumber, steel, iron, &c. These higher prices, amounting in some instances to double the former prices, would very naturally check building. Similar phenomena are beginning to be noticed in other branches of industry.

Look out! Get ready for the same old campaign chestnut. Pretty soon we will be told that the market is overstocked, and that the wise fools will talk about over-production. Then prices will begin to tumble and here and there will be a "shut down," and a "wage cut," and a "strike." And then we will be told that fear of Democratic success has paralyzed business and that "hard times" are on us again unless we re-elect HANNA's man, McKINLEY. See if this isn't just what happens.

And the whole thing will be one to the greed of the trusts in the exercise of the power given them by the DIXON bill. Then gong, gong, gong, until the people can't stand it any longer and enterprise slackens, and the blame is put on the wicked Democrats.

—The latest exhibition of the extent to which Republicans will defy popular will and outrage constitutional rights is furnished by the action of Congress in unseating Congressman YOUNG, of Virginia, and giving his place to RICHARD A. WISE, on Monday last. This is the second contest that the House has determined between these two candidates. Mr. YOUNG was elected to the Fifty-fifth Congress, but was unseated April 26th, 1898, in favor of WISE. He was re-elected to the Fifty-sixth Congress, receiving 12,183 votes to 6,264 for WISE. Republican, and 3,445 votes for W. S. HOLLAND, Republican, a majority of nearly 6,000 over WISE and of nearly 3,000 over both of his opponents.

—The story is going the rounds that a thief recently entered the office of the Oval Ledger and captured twenty-six dollars. We say story, because we doubt the truth of any fairy tale like this that attempts to lead the people to believe that any country editor in Pennsylvania ever had twenty-six at one time.

Spawls from the Keystone.

—Charles F. Smith, a prominent and well known farmer of Allegheny township, Somerset county, died on Sunday. He is survived by his wife and by twelve children—five daughters and seven sons—by a former wife.

—A national bank, with \$500,000 capital, will begin business May 1st, at Lewistown, with these officers: Samuel Watt, president; E. W. Jacob, vice president; H. J. Culbertson, James H. Mann, A. Reed Hayes and M. Milleisen, directors.

—Newport held a special election on Tuesday of last week to vote for or against the issuing of bonds to the extent of \$16,000, for the purpose of sewerage of the town. There were 310 votes cast. The vote was 169 for and 141 against, a majority of 28 for the issuing of the bonds.

—A feminine fakir is victimizing dress-makers in neighboring counties by calling on them and announcing that she is deputy factory inspector, and that she is collecting a three dollar tax which has recently been imposed by the State. The game has been successfully worked in some sections, and the woman is still at large and may come this way.

—The Bedford county Democratic committee on Saturday re-elected Edward F. Kerr, chairman, fixed August 7th for the county convention and adopted resolutions endorsing the candidacy of William J. Bryan for President, and denouncing the administration for its Philippine policy and for defending trusts.

—A very serious accident occurred at Scotia, Friday, in which Mrs. Stewart Heberling and her little daughter were badly scalded. Mrs. Heberling was preparing dinner and had an air-tight pot of beans on cooking when suddenly the pot exploded and the scalding water was thrown all over her. The unfortunate woman's face, neck, arms and shoulders were terribly scalded. The little girl, who was standing near, was also badly scalded and suffered greatly.

—Census enumerators will be furnished with badges by the government which are to be worn in a conspicuous place so as to be plainly seen and which will be their credentials for gathering statistics. These badges will be made of pure German silver one and one-fourth inches wide by one and five-eighths inches long, shield shaped, surmounted with an eagle and bearing the words "United States Census, 1900." An order has already been placed for 16,000 by the directors of the census.

—Deputy United States Marshall John Roe arrested John Fowler, alias John Cavanaugh at Ebersburg Friday, on a charge of robbing the postoffices at Hastings, Spangler and Barnesboro. The prisoner was taken to Altoona on Philadelphia express and taken before United States Commissioner, A. P. MacLeod, who held him in \$1,000 bail for a hearing on March 23rd, at 1 o'clock in the afternoon. The crimes for which Fowler was arrested were committed in December, 1899, and were particularly bold. The post-offices were broken into shortly after closing hours and in all about \$1,000 was secured.

—Mrs. Phoebe Kepner, wife of A. Kepner, of Marsh Hill, Lycoming county, attempted suicide Friday afternoon by shooting herself. Mrs. Kepner was ill in bed. She requested a neighbor, who was with her, to go down stairs for a drink of water. During the neighbor's absence, Mrs. Kepner discharged the ball from a thirty-two calibre revolver through her body. The bullet entered the left breast above the heart and came out below the left shoulder blade. It is believed the wound is fatal. Mrs. Kepner is supposed to have been temporarily insane when she committed the deed. She has a child and is about 38 years old.

—On Thursday morning at Belleville, Mifflin county, fire destroyed the old warehouse of Samuel Watts, a dwelling house adjoining also belonging to Mr. Watts, and did considerable damage to his new warehouse connected with his general store. The family occupying the dwelling house had moved out the day before. The old warehouse was used by the two sons of Mr. Watts for the grain business in which they had recently started, and they had wheat stored in it to the value of about \$700. S. G. Hoffacker, who formerly occupied the building as a canning factory, lost all his books and papers. The total loss was about \$2,000, with no insurance.

—The Pennsylvania railroad company will, within the next two years, build a bridge across the Susquehanna river at Rockville, to replace the present bridge running from Rockville to Marysville, a short distance above Harrisburg. The new bridge will be built a short distance east of the present structure. It will be over 3,000 feet long and will take forty-eight arches to cross the river. This will be one of the longest stone bridges on the Pennsylvania system. The present structure has been in service since about 1873. Work on the new bridge will be begun this year, and the company expects to have a third of it completed by Dec. 31st.

—Up to a few days ago Vernon Crawford, the 16 year old son of Robert Crawford, of Pitohole, near Oil City, had the distinction of having two of the largest toes that were probably ever hitched to humanity. They weighed, together with the fact that they made it impossible for him to wear a shoe, caused him to seek relief, and the troublesome mammoth appendages were amputated by Dr. Guy L. McCutcheon, at the Oil City hospital. One of the toes was six inches long, three and one-eighth inches wide by three and one-eighth thick. The other was a little less in length, but was three and one-half inches wide by three and one-eighth inches thick. They are preserved in alcohol at the office of the operating surgeon.

—A dispatch from Tacoma, Wash., states: Frank Sprague shot and killed Mrs. Guy T. Gale and then killed himself at Gale's logging camp, about seven miles from Tacoma. Sprague arrived there on Sunday from Cross Forks, Pa., where it is claimed he met Mrs. Gale and was a suitor for her hand before she married Gale last November. Sprague took a boat for the logging camp and soon found his way to the Gale house. Mr. Gale was in the woods at the time, but went to the house on an errand, and was informed by Mrs. Gale that Sprague was inside, but would soon depart. Mrs. Gale re-entered the house and was at once shot by Sprague. The victim staggered out of the house and died in her husband's arms. Sprague then came to the door, but seeing Gale, turned back and shot himself. Mrs. Gale's maiden name was Gertie Richardson, and she has a mother and brother living at Cedar Run, Pa.