

Highwaymen on Bellefonte streets! Now don't that make some of you timid girls think of sleeping with a light in your bedroom.

A Bellefonte was remarked, on Tuesday, that Centre county's Representative, Mr. THOMPSON, is probably well of his lumbago on one side, but whether it is the QUAY or Insurgent side he can't tell.

WILLIE WAY-OUT ASTOR, the man without a country, is trying to buy a place in London society again. He has given \$25,000 to the Princess of Wales fund for the families of soldiers in the South African war.

Uncle SAM has decided to try to stop the war in the Philippines by deporting the Filipinos to the island of Guam. Wouldn't it be better to let the Filipinos where they are and deport our soldiers to the United States of America?

Representative WELTY, of Franklin county, says he agreed to vote for QUAY because he lost his head. It is probable that if his constituents had known that he was to lose it so soon they would have spared themselves the ignominy of being misrepresented by such a man and given him the ax, themselves, at the election.

Bishop POTTER, of New York, was over to Philadelphia on Wednesday night inaugurating a crusade against vice. He was enthusiastically received by the Philadelphians, probably because it was a tacit acknowledgement, on the part of an eminent New Yorker, that the Quaker city does have enough get up in her to be bad.

Queen WILHELMINA, of Holland, has at last secured consent of her people to get married. Mr. ASTOR has given her ball in New York and increased "the Four Hundred" to five, and sister MARY ELLEN LEASE has decided to give up the stump and go home to mind her children. It is well that the twentieth century is delivered of three such momentous events thus early in her life.

HOBSON achieved greatness by his bravery in the harbor of Santiago; then lost it by the silly practice of kissing French girls. DEWEY became the public idol by his clever strategy in Manila bay; and fell shattered to the ground when he gave that house to his wife. JOHN THOMPSON became popular in Centre county because he was a good fellow; things are different now because he got an attack of lumbago.

This Congress has at least done something that will make it a truly memorable one. On Wednesday the Senate concurred in the House bill to abolish the canteen in our armies and that "vicious and vile system" that has been a canker in the flesh of a pure government will have to go. President MCKINLEY'S War Secretary, Mr. ROOT, was for retaining the canteen and making bar keepers out of boys who had enlisted to fight for their country, but the Senate and Congress were above the persuasions of the brewers and distillers and honor has won for once.

The people of York county, says the York Gazette, "are entirely satisfied with the action of their Representatives in the Legislature." Possibly they are, but we doubt it. We have, however, known persons who have lived in such surroundings and amid stenches so long that they could neither appreciate nor distinguish the odor of a rose bud from that of a phosphate factory. Possibly the people of that county who are satisfied with the action of their Representatives are in such a condition.

It looks very much as if the burr under the tail of the Republican filly in Pennsylvania is not to be removed. There are but three votes needed to keep it just where it is, and cash can get these needed three. What a kicking and cawing we may expect to see, if the animal is able to hold out, and the burr keeps strictly to business! In fact there is no telling what fan there is ahead for the people. At least for those who don't care what comes of Mr. QUAY or the party that would be so delighted to get rid of him.

While PHILIP D. ARMOUR, the millionaire Chicago pork packer was "a little short on church duties," as he himself said shortly before his death, the millions he left to charities ought to be a passport that St. PETER could honor without scruple. Probably Mr ARMOUR'S personal efforts could not have accomplished one millionth part of the good the funds he has left for that purpose will do. He was not a bad man in any sense and who can say that he will not reap an eternal harvest from the seed sown in his will giving so much to charities.

The character of the present administration finds no worse commentary than is to be seen in several orders recently issued in the army. Former President HARRISON has been by no means backward in asserting that the constitution must follow the flag. If such is held to be the case then President MCKINLEY will be adjudged guilty of violating the constitution in his regulations concerning the acquisition of Porto Rico and the Philippines. The question is soon to be decided by the Supreme court. Only a few days ago RUSSELL HARRISON, a son of the former President, was relieved from duty in the Philippines and at the same time two sons of two associate justices of the Supreme court were ordered to the Orient for service in fat army offices. A bad post could almost see through this move.

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Amendments That Don't Improve.

The adoption of the Australian voting system, as is now being urged by the so called Ballot Reform Association, would remedy the wrongs committed at local and general elections in this State, we have serious doubts. That system, as we understand it, and as it is proposed to be enacted into law, differs from our present method only in the make up, or form in which the ticket is printed. It groups the candidates for any one office all under the head of that office, in place of separating them into columns according to their political affiliations, thus requiring the voter to select from the whole number of candidates for the position, the name or names of those he desires to vote for, and to place a mark opposite each one.

This is the one material change that is suggested, and in what manner it would prevent the rottenness and wrongs that are so prevalent at elections, and which it is intended to cure, we are frank to admit is a mystery to us. Its adoption would not do away with the outrages upon the rights of the people that arise from the arbitrary ruling of partisan courts as to the names entitled to be printed upon a ticket.

It would not prevent the opportunities for bribery now given by allowing the voter assistance in the booth. It would not prevent the substitution of marked unofficial ballots, for the unmarked official one handed the voter by the election board.

It would not insure an honest count and a correct return of the votes cast. And if it prevents none of these wrongs, wherein does it reform our present fraud-breeding and disgraceful system.

As we read the suggested amendments they continue the same power in the hands of the courts that they now possess—to practically select the candidate for all parties in cases that are brought before them, and to prohibit the printing of tickets for others than those whom they designate as the proper nominees. If the courts are to be continued as the final arbiters of who the people shall have upon their ticket, or how it shall be made, then the law should fix uniform rules for making nominations and name the time at which nominating conventions should meet; and the power of the courts should be confined to questions growing out of the violations of these rules. At present party usages, alleged customs, unpublished rules, and technicalities of all sorts are used as a basis for judicial interferences and furnish abundant excuses for decisions that are asked for and granted solely for partisan purposes.

To group the ticket, as is proposed, simply means that every voter must remember the names of every candidate upon the ticket for whom he desires to vote, have intelligence enough to select those names from among many more and place his mark opposite to each one.

We venture the assertion that in years in which there may be State, district and county tickets to be elected, not one voter in ten can recall every name upon the ticket that he desires to vote for.

In the midst of the excitement around him, the cramped condition he is generally placed in and the dread of making mistakes that cling to most persons while in the booth, he must wade through forty or fifty names to find those he expects to support, how many are there who can do it without error, or who will bother about others, than a few of the most hotly contended positions? Under our present system it takes any ordinary voter from three to five minutes to mark a single cross at the top of his ticket. With this additional duty of hunting out the name of each candidate he intends voting for from among the many on the ticket, the time now occupied in voting will be quadrupled, and five times the booths and double the number of election districts, at present needed, will be required to poll the vote.

In addition to these objections such a grouping of candidates will only serve to mystify voters and furnish additional excuses for demanding assistance, a matter which loose election boards and political workers will be only too glad to take advantage of. Then to lessen the opportunities for bribery, that permitting assistance in the booth affords, the proposed amendments limits assistance to those who will swear they cannot read the ticket and to those who are physically disabled. Is there a man in the State who believes that an individual who would accept a bribe would not swear falsely? Wherein then will the administration of an oath keep the briber from the booth to mark the ticket of the poor wretch his money has purchased? Does not this provision simply offer a prize for perjury while it in no way prevents the individual who has paid a price for a vote from knowing that it was cast as promised. The way to amend this section of the present law, to make it effective,

would be to prevent any assistance to any one except those physically unable to mark a ballot. This might practically disfranchise some, but it would be their own fault. Their ignorance would be to blame for it.

As to other amendments suggested the WATCHMAN may have more to say in the future. It is free to express the opinion, however, that if we cannot get something better than the proposed changes it would be wise to wait until the adoption of the pending constitutional amendments which will permit of voting by machinery and adopt that method.

Mr. QUAY is not elected yet, but his friends are boasting of his strength and popularity, as if he was the idol that all men worship. It is possible that he may succeed, but with his party in the majority in the State almost 300,000, and controlling over three-fourths of the members of the Legislature, we don't see where the popularity comes in that must win by bribery, and skin through with a barely sufficient vote to elect. A candidate who can command the support of but 127 out of 193 of his own partisan workers is not entitled to much of a chronicle for his personal popularity, nor is there much to blow about of political strength.

Working For Its Own Defeat. It is but eighteen years ago that President ARTHUR attempted to stay the tide of congressional extravagance and save the Republican party a deserved defeat by vetoing a wasteful River and Harbor appropriation bill. That year a Republican Congress proposed expending but \$19,000,000 in this way. It was a largely Republican Congress and it passed its measure over the veto of the President. The answer of the people to this act of Republican extravagance, less than one year thereafter, was the election of a Democratic President and a Democratic House and such changes in State Legislatures as gave the Senate to the Democrats a few years later.

And this was but eighteen years ago. The present Congress is Republican by a less majority than was the 47th. There is no greater demand, in a public way, for improvements to our rivers and harbors, than there was then. In fact, the demand is less, for improvements have been going on every year since, and they are now in very different condition from what they were in 1883.

But Republican Representatives now propose expending \$50,000,000 the coming year in the same way—forty millions more than the 47th Congress squandered for this purpose and brought around the deserved defeat of the party it represented.

It looks as if the 56th Congress was determined to do that which the 47th accomplished so easily—arouse the people to the enormity of the extravagance and profligacy of the party in power, and furnish reasons for a political revolution that will leave nothing of Republicanism but a memory of its wrongs, and the burdens of taxation that its reckless use of public moneys placed upon the shoulders of the people.

In this it is doing good work for the Democracy. May it succeed in insuring its own defeat.

Dr. GEO. W. ATHERTON, president of The Pennsylvania State College, has just published a neat brochure on the legislative career of the late JUSTIN J. MORRELL. The author takes up the life of the eminent statesman from the time of his birth at Stafford, Vermont, April 14th, 1810, and follows it to the close of what he considers "one of the most fruitful legislative careers thus far recorded in our congressional history." The principal object of the sketch is to show the effect that JUSTIN MORRELL'S forty-four years of continuous service in both branches of Congress had upon free institutions of learning in the United States. Sprung from an humble origin, with very meagre means of satisfying his craving for knowledge it seems but a natural sequence that Mr. MORRELL should have been the father of the Land Grant Act of 1862, which might aptly be called the corner stone laying of a great system of public educational institutions the future usefulness of which no mind can estimate. The Pennsylvania State College is one of the institutions founded by the MORRELL Act.

Congress has passed a bill fixing the number of members of that body at 386 in place of 357 as now constituted. If the measure becomes a law Pennsylvania will have 32 Congressmen, hereafter, an increase of two. This will better its condition no one will pretend. It will make a place for politicians to squabble over—a fat position for two more men and add to the public expenditures the amounts they will draw in salaries, mileage, stationery, etc., but where the benefit to the people or the Commonwealth will come in is not observable.

A Hypocritical Pretense.

It is not much that need be said about the efforts of northern Republicans to create race bitterness throughout the South on account of laws that limit the ballot, in a number of those States, to those who can read and write. The object and the hypocrisy of the movers in this work are both apparent.

Here in Pennsylvania, where the negro vote is showing signs of dissatisfaction with Republican treatment, they are expected to be lined up solidly again for whatever that party demands, by the cry that their race is to be disfranchised throughout the South, where Democracy is in the control. The individual who comes to the front in Congress, in this effort, is the Representative from the Dauphin district, M. E. OLMSTEAD, and he has a double purpose in view. The one is to keep the colored vote of the State solid for the party that it has so long clung to and from which it has received so little recognition. The other is to insure its sympathy and support for himself, an aspirant for the Republican nomination for Governor.

These are the actuating motives that move Mr. OLMSTEAD. They are as apparent as the sun on a cloudless day. If he were opposed to the disfranchisement of any citizen, or objected to wrongs that are perpetrated by stultifying the power of the ballot he would find plenty to do right here at home in correcting those wrongs.

The difference between the wrong done to the man who is prevented from voting by reason of the lack of qualification and that committed against the citizen who is qualified and casts a ballot that is miscounted, thrown-out, or made nugatory by reason of fraudulent votes that are allowed to be cast against it, is so small that we doubt if even these Republican blowers, for universal suffrage in the South, could distinguish it. And right here in Pennsylvania, through the aid of imported repeaters, intimidation, false counting—methods by which the Republican machine profits, there are more white men practically disfranchised every election, than there are negroes prevented from voting in all the States of the South put together.

If it is a crime to openly and frankly franchise ignorance in the South, through constitutional amendments, what would you call the sneaking, law defying disfranchisement of the tens of thousands of intelligent white men of Pennsylvania, who are nullified every election through the fraudulent practices that are endorsed and gloried in by the Republican party?

It is in their methods at home and their pretenses of demanding fair play for those whom they would make believe are wronged by other States, that the Pennsylvania Republicans demonstrate their hypocrisy.

Stretching It Too Far.

A movement is on foot in Chester county to test the right of the members of the Legislature, from that county, to act as such on the ground that they secured their nomination and election by reason of a pledge or promise given to support Mr. QUAY for election to the United States Senate. A nice case is cooked up in this instance on the presumption that it is a violation of law for candidates to make any pledge or promise for the purpose of securing votes. A decision to this effect, we believe, was rendered by a Berks county judge, in a Lebanon county contest, last fall.

If such is the case and the Chester county Independents can prevent the men, elected to the Legislature last fall from that county, acting as Representatives, because they have given a pledge of the kind, we have fallen upon queer times indeed.

The law to which reference is made was intended, to prevent bribery—to prevent the securing of votes for nomination or election through promises of positions or something else of value. It was not enacted for the purpose of preventing a constituency knowing exactly where those seeking nominations stood on public questions. If we are to consider that a pledge to do that which the people of the county desire is a crime, then how in the name of common sense is any body of voters to know what is to be expected of those they choose as Representatives?

In this business of challenging the right of candidates to avow their preferences, and pledge their actions, we fear the Chester county Independents are "biting off more than they can chew." It is a dangerous position to take, and one which, if sustained by the courts, would allow every rapscallion who could manage to be elected, to betray the people who voted for him without violating a pledge or breaking a promise. It would be forcing the public to elect Representatives, as they would buy a "pig in a poke," without knowing what they were getting, or what they might expect.

No law was ever passed with such a crazy intent as this, and if the laws we have can be constructed to sustain any such a belief the sooner they are wiped from the statute books the better.

A Song of Assuilation.

S. Francis Ingersole in Pittsburg Post. Sing a song of war time, Hard-tack tough and dry, Four-and-twenty aged cows Ground up into hay. Before the can was opened The smell began to "sing," Waiting in swamp and thicket For Uncle Sam to bring? The King was in the Capitol, Counting o'er his money, The generals were in their tents, Eating bread and honey, The soldier boys in storm and sun, No shelter but the sky, By hunger torn, and fevered thirst, In scores lie down to die.

Sing a song of battle: Where neither shot nor shell, Nor deadly Mause bullet; Is heard, nor by fiends of hell, E'er waged such deadly warfare As foes, unseem and gant; Lurking in swamp and thicket Grim Pestilence and Want.

Sing a song of heroes, Who lie beneath the waves; Who for the name and kindred, Sleep in their Southern graves, Who, for a cause unrighteous, Died, and suffered, bled and died; Pleading in vain for succor, So heartlessly denied. Sing a song of triumphs: Nay! 'Tis no victory gained, Why a Nation's honor, By dastard greed is stained, And where our country's manhood, Is barred not for rights, But cruel, rank oppression, And wrong upheld by might.

Hoisting the Danger Signal.

The River and Harbor bill which President ARTHUR vetoed, which the Forty-seventh Congress passed over his veto, and which at the election occurring a few months later swept the Republicans out of power in the House of Representatives, was the most extravagant ever enacted up to that time. Yet it appropriated less than \$19,000,000.

The River and Harbor bill just reported to the House by the committee of which Mr. BYRON of Ohio is the chairman is a sixty-million-dollar measure. It appropriates directly for the next fiscal year not less than \$22,792,711. It gives authority for incurring obligations under the continuing contract system, for work to be done after June 30th, 1902, amounting to \$37,142,704. The total actually carried by this bill is \$59,935,415.

The country should understand that the proposition is, and whether the river and harbor business is tending. Some of the proposed improvements are legitimate and absolutely necessary. Others, judging by all precedent and by the unvarying habits of the nation in Congress whenever the pork barrel is opened and the logs set a-rolling, are of the Cheesequake order. The aggregate is stupendous.

It exceeds the total expenditures of the Federal Government for all purposes, including interest on the public debt, in any year of the nation's existence up to 1856, less the national debt, existing in 1856, at the end of half a century ago.

This River and Harbor appropriation of 1901, direct and obligatory for the future, is about twelve times as great as the total expenditures of the United States Government, exclusive of interest, in the corresponding year of the last century.

It exceeds by more than \$5,000,000 the entire expenditures of the United States Government for all purposes in 1847, the year of the war with Mexico.

It is only the beginning. An endless prospect of swiftly increasing annual demands of the same sort is indicated by the committee's report that the total amount required for river and harbor work already planned by the engineers and already definitely estimated as to cost by the War Department now approximates three hundred million dollars. And when that \$300,000,000 has been spent, if spent it is, there will be creeks and bayous and inlets enough left on the map, and local hunger enough for Government appropriation for the benefit of the respective localities, to consume twice and thrice \$300,000,000. No end is in sight now. No end will be in sight a hundred years hence.

Let Congress think before it votes. We recall again to the attention of the Republic the warning against extravagant appropriations with which President MCKINLEY concluded his recent official discourse upon the state of the country.

A Weak Advocate of a Righteous Proposition.

From the Harrisburg Star-Independent. It would probably be impossible to imagine anything of less importance than the opinion of Senator Hoar, of Massachusetts, on any subject. If any other Senator in Congress had expressed the idea that the government of the United States is under formal obligations to withdraw from the Philippines and leave the natives to their own resources, it would be sufficient. But such a sentiment coming from the Senator from Massachusetts is not worth noticing. Every body knows that his complete slavery to party will force him to reverse himself whenever the exigencies of politics require a change now or hereafter.

But there is a good deal of reason in the suggestion, nevertheless, and though Mr. Hoar will vote against his own motion at the first crack of the party whip, the substance of his amendment to the army reorganization bill is certain to attract widespread popular attention in the near future. His proposition is that no part of the increased army be used in the Philippines and that only such force be maintained there as is necessary "to keep order in places now under the peaceable control of the United States," and it is rapidly increasing in favor among the people. But it will not be adopted as long as Senator Hoar is its champion, unless, of course, it should become the party policy.

Subscribe for the WATCHMAN.

Spawns from the Keystone.

The new bank and trust company's building at Greensburg was damaged to the extent of \$1,000 by fire which started at the foot of the elevator Monday morning.

Capitalists are buying up the coal islands along the line of the West Branch Valley railroad between Clearfield and Karthaus railroad. There will be three bridges on the new road, one at Wolf Run one at Lick Run and the other at Shawsville.

Robert Gearhart, who is 84 years old, recently walked from his home in Brush Creek township to McConnellsburg, and back, making a round trip of fifty-two miles. He is the father of twenty-eight children and has never been ill in his life.

John Moist, Samuel Strouf and John I. Kaufman were arrested on the charge of hunting deer with dogs on Thanksgiving day. At the hearing Saturday night Justice R. W. Patton, of Lewistown, fined the sportsmen \$100 each and the payment of the costs.

On last Wednesday morning the tannery at Rainsburg, Bedford county, owned by Homer Cessna, was totally destroyed by fire, as were also the stables of George Strickey, William Smith and Harry Amos. The total loss will approximate \$3,000, partly covered by insurance.

The Presbyterian Sunday school at Lewistown on Sunday celebrated its 60th anniversary, and D. W. Woods entered upon his forty-sixth year as its superintendent. The school contributed \$500 the past year for missions in addition to supporting a missionary in Japan.

Rev. David T. Neely, pastor of the Presbyterian church at Millroy, Millifin county, recently declined a call from the Presbyterian church at Punxsutawney and accepted a call to a Presbyterian church in Baltimore. His resignation was read to the Millroy charge to take effect the last Sunday of January.

John J. Sadder, alias "Pegleg," will be changed in the jail at Greensburg next Thursday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock, unless granted another respite by the Governor. Sadder maintains he is innocent of the crime of murder in the eyes of the law, having shot in self-defense, and says he will not give up hope until the last.

James McLaughlin, a street car conductor in Lock Haven, was badly hurt at the power house Sunday evening. A car was being transferred to another track, and the current being on, unknown to him, when he stepped between the cars and put the trolley on the wire the cars came together. McLaughlin's right leg was caught at the thigh and squeezed so hard that the flesh was broken.

William Hinkley, the well-known passenger conductor, found a purse containing \$4,800 on the seat of a coach near Northumberland a few days ago. He turned it into the office at Harrisburg, when he learned that the owner had already been telegraphing for it. The owner was on his way to Watsonstown, where he intended purchasing property. He did not discover his loss until after leaving the train.

State Senator Charles A. Muehlbrunner will introduce a bill at the coming session of the Legislature to provide military training in the public schools. He says such training will improve the physique of children and give them some idea of military life. The bill will provide that in every public school district there shall be military instruction under the direction of a commissioned officer of the National guard. The law may leave the matter of such education optional with the directors of each district.

The latest stroke of the Pennsylvania railroad company, in the coal and lumber fields of Somerset county, revived the Midland railroad project, partly carried to completion in Bedford and Blair counties, a few years ago. Pennsylvania will extend its lines to Central City, near the Somerset and Bedford line, and to this end, it is rumored, an immense force of men and teams has been sent into the territory, and work is expected to begin at once. It is said that fully 300 horses were loaded at Windber last week, destined for work on the extension.

George F. Reynolds, a young man of Bolivar, is reported to have had a thrilling experience and remarkable escape from death last Friday. The youth was going up to the top of an inclined plane in an empty car, when the down-bound loaded car became unmanageable by reason of the disarrangement of the brakes, and the one in which Reynolds was riding plunged into the small building at the top of the plane. The young man was thrown about twenty feet in the air and landed on another car. Both arms were crushed and the youth's face and shoulders badly bruised.

Matthew Grier, brother of the late L. G. Grier, died at his home at Mountain Seminary, Birmingham, Sunday morning, aged 78 years. He had been a resident of that place, and was connected with the Seminary about forty years, since his brother had taken charge of it. Surviving him are two brothers, Dr. J. Grier, Pasadena, California, and Dr. Philip Grier, of New Jersey; and one sister, Mrs. Vantress, of Raritan, N. J. The funeral services were conducted by Rev. H. H. Henry, at the home of A. R. Grier at Birmingham, at 7 o'clock Monday evening. Burial was made at the cemetery at Doylestown Tuesday morning.

A dynamite explosion at Philson's, Somerset county, Sunday morning, resulted in the instant death of Michael Ferrick and a colored man. The men were employed by B. O. O'Connor, a contractor who is excavating for an extra track on the Baltimore and Ohio railroad at Philson's. A foreman on Saturday had put a cap in a stick of dynamite and then put it in a bucket. Sunday Ferrick and the negro put the bucket on a stove to thaw the dynamite, not knowing it contained the cap. The explosion which resulted was terrific, wrecking the building besides killing the two workmen.

While standing on the running board of an engine that was going at the rate of 15 miles an hour, J. C. Giles, a brakeman in the employ of the New York Central railroad and residing at Jersey Shore, formerly of Philadelphia, was thrown head-first to the ground above Newberry Junction Saturday evening. He landed fair on his face, sustaining painful injuries. A gash was cut alongside of his nose, both cheeks were lacerated and his head and body more or less bruised. He will be able to resume his duties, it is thought, in a day or two.