

BY P. GRAY MEEK.

ink Sings.

Is this winter or do we only imagine that it is?

QUAY is still boss of Pennsylvania Republicanism and the Philadelphia Inquirer is the big winner in a fight that it, alone among metropolitan dailies, espoused.

Kidnapers have appeared in Williamsport but their first attempt didn't prove any more successful than was the attempt of our own Col. REEDER to carry off JOHNNY THOMPSON from his home in Philipsburg a few nights ago.

THOMPSON preferred the QUAY special train to the one that HASTINGS sent to carry him to Harrisburg, but the young Legislator thereby cut himself out of any future chance of riding to political success on a HASTINGS band wagon.

A negro was burned at the stake near Leavenworth, Kansas, on Tuesday, for having assaulted and killed a white girl. While his fate was none too horrible for him Republican papers won't have nearly so much to say about it, since it occurred in Republican Kansas as they would have had the burning been done in Democratic Texas.

MOLLISTER, KEER, CAMPBELL and DEATH, the four Patterson, N. J., sports who gave JENNIE BOSSCHETER, the pretty mill girl, knock-out drops, and then attempted to assault her while she lay dying in their arms are likely to meet their knock-out at the hands of Jersey justice. The drops will come later, when the sheriff pulls the bolts under the scaffold.

Whether it is "barbarous," "brutal" or "vicious" the hazing at West Point ought to be stopped. That Academy is supported by the government for the purpose of making soldiers and no part of the make-up of valiant, chivalrous soldiers depends upon such atrocious hazing as throws young men into convulsions from the pain they are called upon to endure.

Of course we have no idea of exorcising THOMPSON but it looks as if it is a case of "the kettle calling the pot black" in that HASTINGS man rears up because THOMPSON broke his pledge to them. What occasion had they to extort a pledge from him at all if they intended standing true to the pledges they had made to the QUAY people when they made the "harmony deal"?

The Duchess of Marlborough, see CONSUELA VANDERBILT, was thrown from her horse while hunting on Tuesday. In taking a fence the hunter fell and rolled clear over the Duchess, who escaped unhurt. This is merely an incident in the life of the American multi-millionaire but it goes to show that it takes more than the trifling matter of a horse rolling on her to injure a woman who is so well weighted with "trocks."

The Democratic Legislators who voted with the QUAY Republicans to organize the House and elect QUAY to the United States Senate were formally read out of the party by their more honorable colleagues on Wednesday. Kicked out by Democrats whom they betrayed and spurned by Republicans to whom they sold all of honor and manhood. Surely vengeance is swift in overhauling such traducers of public morality.

The defeat of Senator CHANDLER, of New Hampshire, for re-election to the United States Senate is likely to hurt no one quite as much as the Senator, himself. As an example of narrow partisanship he was almost unrivaled and was of too small a calibre for the office he held. CHANDLER it was who instituted the proceedings that made HAYES President, after TILDEN had been elected by the people, and CHANDLER it was who made as poor a Secretary of the Navy as the country ever had.

All honor to Senator PETERGREW for his courage in calling a halt to the confirmation of the appointment of JAMES S. HARLAN, a son of Justice HARLAN of the United States Supreme Court, to be Attorney General for Porto Rico. The appointment is in extremely bad taste at this time because the case of Porto Rico's status under the constitution is now pending in the court in which Justice HARLAN sits. The appointment looks almost in the nature of a bribe, though we trust that our highest tribunal is above such influences.

All this fuss and precipitate haste in getting QUAY elected to represent the people of Pennsylvania in the United States Senate seems to have been without warrant, either of any desire on the part of the "old man" to serve his constituents or the need of any service by his constituents. He was elected Tuesday afternoon, he got his credentials and started for Washington on Wednesday, Thursday he was sworn into the Senate and to-day he starts for St. Lucie, Florida, to catch tarpon and—to the health of his constituents.

The Daily News is becoming noted for its humor. On Tuesday it announced that Hon. Wm. M. ALLISON had departed that morning on a regular train for Harrisburg. Of course if the News says so it is so, but no matter if he did go on a regular train he voted with the Insurgents all the same. Then in the same issue our sprightly little contemporary intimates that ex-Congressman ARNOLD hoo-waggled Col. CLEARWATER into contesting Congressman HALL's seat so that he, ARNOLD, could "cotton out" the \$2,000 fees allowed by Congress in such cases. Now this might be intended to jar ARNOLD and CLEARWATER, how about it Mr. HARRIS?

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A Simple Ballot that Will Not Disfranchise.

In changing and amending the election laws—a matter that is one of the duties expected of the present Legislature—it should be kept in mind that the rights to be exercised under the laws are not for any particular few, but for the many, for the illiterate as well as the educated; for the man who fails to read and think as well as for him who informs himself on all questions. The methods adopted should be as simple, as practical and as easily understood as it is possible to make them.

Under the constitution every citizen of the State of the age of twenty-one who pays a state or county tax and has resided in the district in which he attempts to vote, for 60 days, has the right to cast a ballot. No law can disfranchise him; and if the methods adopted, under the laws regulating elections are so complicated that there are any questions as to the correct way of making or depositing a ballot correctly he has, and in all justice should continue to have, the right to demand and be allowed assistance.

And right here is where the first trouble is met; to allow that assistance is to continue opportunities for the greatest wrongs perpetrated under our present system; to deny it is to practically disfranchise the voter. This latter we cannot do. For, as we please as this idea, there is no more right to disfranchise an individual, who has qualified as an elector, by adopting methods of voting that he cannot understand and at the same time denying him such assistance as will enable him to exercise that right, than there is to pass a plain statute abolishing this constitutional privilege.

It is this condition of affairs that creates the difficulties that the Legislature must meet in any effort it may make to secure better election laws.

Neither the one we now have, nor the one proposed by the Ballot Reform Association, is so simple that the ordinary citizen, who gives but little thought and has but few opportunities to study and understand their requirements, can exercise the right of suffrage without a doubt as to whether he can correctly mark his ballot or not. Both are complicated. Both require the marking of ballots in a way that only men of intelligence and experience can understand.

To persist in this system and to change it so as to do away with political columns and distinctions and require the hunting out from among all the names upon a ticket those which the voter desires to support and placing a mark opposite each, is only to continue an excuse for assistance, and so long as this is needed and furnished in the privacy of the booth, just so long will bribers find a way to get in their nefarious, and intimidations to carry out their disgraceful and ball-dozing methods.

What is needed is the simplest method that can be devised. A method that the most ignorant voter can understand, and that will leave no excuse for anyone to enter a booth to mark another's ticket, except in cases where physical disabilities of a voter prevent him doing it for himself.

Could not this be accomplished by placing an emblem, such as could be readily recognized, at the head of each political ticket, with a place for a single mark underneath it, and that mark to count for the entire ticket, and then prohibit any assistance in the booth, except for visible physical disability.

The man who cuts his ticket, who usually thinks he is wiser than his party and is sure he knows better than the political organization to which he professes to belong, who would make good officials, should know enough to vote any kind of a ticket. He should be able to vote his way whether the ticket is in groups headed by the names of the offices to be filled or whether it is made up under its proper political heading, with an emblem showing its distinct political character. He is not the fellow who needs to be bothered about it. It is the other chap, who is wanted to vote according as his principles dictate and wants to do it in the easiest and safest manner imaginable, whose demands should be heeded.

Reform in Philadelphia. The Manufacturers' Club of Philadelphia held a meeting Saturday evening for the purpose of considering the question of joining with the Municipal League of that city in its proposed crusade for the suppression of political crimes. There were a number of gentlemen present and, as usual, they talked unctiously about the duty of citizenship in such crises as those now impending in that city. They discussed the obvious venality of the municipal administration and deprecated the debasing influence of such things on public morals. They even went so far as to declare that it is the bounden duty of good citizens to antagonize such things.

But it is safe to say that the Philadelphia Manufacturers' club will not give any material assistance to the reformers in Philadelphia. The members realize, no doubt, that there wouldn't be much danger to party interests in such a step, for as a matter of fact the greatest peril to the Republican party of Philadelphia to-day is in the atrocious venality of the present municipal administration, and they know that a body is always better after a cancer has been cut away. But the Manufacturer's club will leave the surgical work to somebody else. It will take no chances of offending Mr. QUAY's friend Mr. ASHBURDGE by curtailing his opportunities to build up a machine.

There is one call, however, to which every member of the Manufacturers' club will respond with promptness and dispatch. That is, they will answer as a unit to an alarm of danger to the tariff. If a tariff reform candidate is nominated for Congress in any district in this broad land and the chairman of the Republican congressional committee appeals to them for money to buy votes in order to defeat him, they will hasten forward with their checks. The Union League and the Manufacturers' club furnished the money to organize the corrupt machine which enables the polling in the city of Philadelphia alone, of 80,000 fraudulent votes every year, and in joining a crusade in behalf of political virtue it would simply be overturning its own work.

The River and Harbor Bill.

During the debate on the River and Harbor bill in the House of Representatives at Washington the other day a western Member declared that the measure provided a considerable appropriation for the improvement of a stream in Ohio which couldn't be found on the maps. Well, what do the western gentlemen expect with respect to Ohio? That State is favored by government in every possible way. It not only gets vastly more than its proportion of the offices, but it gets appropriations for public buildings, contracts and waterways in much greater proportion than other States.

Besides the utility of a public improvement is not to be considered when Ohio is considered. As a matter of fact that is true of all localities in connection with the River and Harbor bill, and it has always been so. The River and Harbor bill is a sort of vehicle for conveying consolation to the disappointed. If a Member fails to get what he would like in the Executive Department he is reconciled by liberal treatment in the River and Harbor bill, if there be any rivers and harbors in his district. If there doesn't happen to be such a thing as a river within the radius he gets an appropriation smaller, of course, but satisfying, nevertheless, for some imaginary stream.

The River and Harbor bill this year is bigger than usual but that is easily accounted for. There were more disappointments than common and it takes money in proportion to the number of payments to make. But paying Ohio men by appropriations to imaginary streams is a just cause of complaint for the reason that comparatively speaking that State has few or disappointments and, besides, as some Members no doubt reason, MARK HANNA ought to settle with Ohio claimants "outside of court" so to speak. He is striking for a vast subsidy himself and in consideration of help for that he ought to take care of all Ohio beggars.

The Mennonites and Adventists have been setting dates for it frequently during the last ten years; Lieut. TOTTEX, of Yale, has announced its imminence on several occasions and some time ago a big comet that was zigzagging around among the planets in the peaceful pursuit of their nebular orbits was supposed to be coming so close to old Earth that it would squeeze the atmosphere down on us to smothering. All these symptoms of the millennium have been heralded abroad, frightening the credulous and sending the wicked to their knees, only to leave the world laughing at such false prophets, but there's something awful going to happen soon now. You can mark that down. Whether the millennium is going to come, whether QUAY is going to go fishing or whether Spring creek is going to flow, bank-full of MATHEW VOLK's lager beer, we can't tell, but something's going to happen, all right, all right. You ask, why? We answer: Because the signs are up. Why last week a lot of people presented a Pennsylvanian editor with one thousand dollars in cash without asking for as much as a mortgage on his shiny coat-tails and scarcely had the earth stopped thrilling with excitement over that incident when a gentleman brought a box of ten-cent cigars into this office and left them. There were days, in the good old times, when the biggest pumpkins, apples and cabbages, the tallest corn and best of everything was fit only for the editor, but those days are long since departed and when such breaks occur in the narrow sphere of selfishness the world is moving in to-day, as were those of last week, we can come to but one conclusion, and that is that the world is every coming to an end or something else very wonderful is going to happen.

The Election of Quay.

By the vote of the General Assembly in separate bodies on Tuesday Colonel MATHEW STANLEY QUAY, as his admirers like to hear him called, was elected as Senator in Congress for the term which expires on March 4th, 1905, the labor of the joint session on Wednesday having been purely perfunctory, or to speak more accurately merely declaratory. No joint ballot was taken on the Senatorship this year, for none was necessary, and contrary to popular expectation the result was achieved in a single roll call. Two years ago the balloting began on the 16th of January and continued until the close of the session, and during all that prolonged period the most bitter feeling was maintained.

The election of QUAY in the light of present information is a reproach on the State of Pennsylvania. Previous to his last election he was suspected of loose political morals and there was suspicion among the better informed men of affairs in the State that his methods would not bear scrutiny. But within the past three or four years the infamy of his life has been laid bare and he escaped conviction of a grave crime only by pleading the statute of limitations. One after another of his abuses of public trust and betrayals of popular confidence has been laid bare within recent years and the enormity of his offenses revolted decent public opinion from one end of the State to another.

But in the face of these facts he has been elected to represent the State of Pennsylvania in the United States Senate. Notwithstanding these humiliating truths he has been selected out of the more than 700,000 Republican voters of Pennsylvania for the highest honor in the gift of the party and the shame of it must be shared by the more than 6,000,000 people of the Grand old Keystone Commonwealth. It is a matter of pride to the WATCHMAN, as it must be to all the Democrats of the State, that one party is in no way responsible for the dishonor that is implied. Of the entire list of Members and Senators of that faith there was revealed by the vote one miserable Judas, GALVIN, of Schuylkill, and if he will complete the parallel by hanging himself to a suicide's grave we can forgive him. WASHINGTON, of Crawford, betrayed those who elected him, of course, but thank Heaven he wasn't a Democrat.

McKinley's Attempt at Bribery.

The most flagrant attempt to influence official action by the use of political patronage ever revealed in the history of this country has just been made by President MCKINLEY. Within a week he has appointed to important and lucrative offices in the colonial service of the government the sons of two of the Justices of the Supreme Court. At the time the appointments were made the question of the validity of the colonial establishments was being argued before the court of which the fathers of the young men are members. Upon the decision of the court depends the tenure of the offices to which the young men were appointed and thus the Judges who will pass upon the question are made to have a personal and pecuniary interest in the decision they are called on to make.

Can any body imagine a greater measure of political and moral turpitude than is involved in this attempt to influence the decision of a court? Both by statutory and common law the bribery of an official, with the view of influencing his action, is a crime. Under the fundamental law of Pennsylvania, and morally, the giving or promising to give an office to influence a citizen or official in his political or official action is corrupt solicitation. What other interpretation can be put on this audacious attempt of the President to influence the decision of the Supreme Court on an important pending question, other than that it was an attempt to bribe the court to a decision contrary to the law. That was plainly the intent of the President and the success or failure of the scheme depends upon the integrity of the judges interested.

But whether the purpose is fulfilled or defeated the moral degradation of the perpetrator of the crime is the same. It may be that Justice MCKENNA will not sell his honor and barter away his judicial character for a position for his son, however lucrative, and we hope and believe that Justice HARLAN will not yield his conscience and conviction at so low a price either. They are both fairly good Judges and HARLAN is a lawyer of profound ability. But they are human and susceptible to the influence of humanity. MCKINLEY, who appointed one of them, manifestly estimated that the bribe would have the effect desired to be accomplished and the public will not know how accurately he judged until the court has rendered its decision on the cases now pending before a tribunal of which these two Judges are members.

The Philadelphia Inquirer has read the Insurgents out of the Republican party in Pennsylvania, but they will probably continue to play tar-bucket for the QUAY wagon, on which they will not be permitted to have a decent seat at all.

Representative Thompson Stands By His First Pledge.

The Star Reporter Among Centre County Legislators Celebrates A Visit From a Sick Bed and Speaks to Quay in a Pullman Car.

Some men are born great, some achieve greatness and others have greatness thrust upon them. In this latter class may be included Representative JOHN K. THOMPSON, of Philipsburg, who was born in Half-moon township, became popular as a traveling salesman, had his title to fortune temporarily stemmed when William T. Speer defeated him for County Treasurer, on Nov. 24th, 1890, by a majority of 425 votes, but rolled on to fame and was elected to the Legislature on Nov. 6th, 1900, by a majority of 77 votes.

There was a glorious future spread out before a young man, but the words "Marshall" and "Kootz" proved the shibboleth that has revealed him to the world and shattered his future beyond the ken of man. For he was unable to say either and shirked his duty at the opening of the session.

Mr. Thompson was elected through the successful workings of the notorious "harmony deal" between the two Republican factions of Centre county. It would be a matter of supererogation to recount the many phases of that incident at this time. As to whether it was fair and square the leaders who carried it into execution alone know. However, while the Hastings people fell certain, beyond the peradventure of a doubt, that Mr. Allison, their choice for one candidate, would stick through thick and thin, recent developments have brought to light the fact that they thought they had given the Love wing of the party a gold brick in Mr. Thompson, who was chosen as the representative of the latter faction.

Both were elected and, no matter what private understandings may have been, the campaign was carried on for them on the assumption that Allison would vote with the Insurgents and Thompson with the Stalwarts.

When the Legislature was about to convene the process of counting noses began for the purpose of ascertaining whether Quay's man, Pipe-line Marshall, would be elected speaker of the House or whether Gen. Kootz would be the successful aspirant and carry with him all the power and prestige of that important office. As the speaker of the session drew high bids, the speaker claimed Thompson, but Thompson was nowhere to be found. Inquiry discovered him to be at home sick with lumbago.

Whether he contracted it from natural causes or whether it resulted—as a Bellefonte Stalwart facetiously remarked—in consequence of a strain sustained in the effort to carry heavy water on both shoulders we know not. But it is a fact that on Sunday night, Dec. 30th, Col. Wilbur S. Cressler, pole horse of the Hastings chariot, went flying to Philipsburg on a special train to carry Representative Thompson to Harrisburg to be present at the opening of the session. What followed is well known. Thompson declined to go and there was a small riot in his home where the Hastings people were importuning and the Stalwarts pumping hot air into everyone's sight in the middle of the night.

This special returned empty. It might have been because it was only a combination of sick and passenger coach, it might have been because Mr. Thompson was too sick to go and it might have been because the wrong people were after him. However, as to the latter reason, they must have had some assurance that he would not as they wouldn't else they would not have made such a dash for him or had the audacity to publish the following pledge, which appeared in the Philadelphia Press the next day.

Philadelphia, Pa., Dec. 15th, 1900. I, the undersigned member of the next General Assembly of Pennsylvania, pledge myself that I will not, under any circumstances vote for the election of M. S. Quay for United States Senator, nor will I enter any caucuses called and controlled in his behalf, nor will I evade the organization of the next Assembly, and pledge myself to vote against all Quay candidates in organizing the same; nor will I vote for Marshall for Speaker.

JOHN K. THOMPSON. The publication of this pledge was hailed by the Press as a victory by the action of W. E. Gray, who is said to have appeared in the Republican caucus to personate Thompson and when he was unmasked by John Short, a Pittsburgh Dispatch staff correspondent, he made the assertion that he would vouch for Thompson's voting for Quay when the time came. At this time Mr. Thompson must have given the Quay people a pledge. In fact Mr. Gray has repeatedly asserted that he had done so and has even gone so far as to offer—mark you, we only use the word offer because most of you know Mr. Gray—to bet \$500 that Thompson would vote for Quay.

Spawns from the Keystone.

A thirty-five thousand dollar monument will be erected in Highland Park, Pittsburg, in memory of Col. A. L. Hawkins and the dead soldiers of the Tenth Pennsylvania Regiment.

Guests were arriving at the home of T. S. Gussler to celebrate his birthday anniversary Tuesday at Sunbury, when he suddenly dropped dead from a hemorrhage of the lungs. Gussler was 71 years old.

The general store of the Medix Run Lumber company was destroyed by fire Tuesday morning. Cause, defective flue. Loss, \$10,000. The family of Roy Harrison, who resided in the building, made narrow escapes.

Harry Longert, aged 16 years, while driving two horses across the Northern Central tracks at Canton Monday, was struck by a freight train. Both horses were killed, the buggy was demolished and Longert was hurled 100 feet into the air. His skull was fractured and he was terribly bruised about the body. He has been taken to the hospital at Williamsport, where he lies unconscious.

Matthew Pletcher, of Coalport, committed suicide a few nights ago by jumping into a well on the property of a neighbor. The well was about 25 feet deep and contained ten feet of water. He was in the well about half an hour when the body was discovered by some one who went to the well for water. The deceased had been ill for a long time and was suffering from mental trouble. He was aged 50 years.

At the abattoirs of William Burk & Brother, Philadelphia, on Thursday, was slaughtered a steer that was said to be the largest in the world. The steer was bought at the Pittsburg live stock show, and was awarded the official blue ribbon, \$50 in cash and a silver cup, given by the Hotel Shenley, of Pittsburg. Alec, the steer, weighed 2,750 pounds. The dressed beef that came from him was 1,971 pounds in weight. The animal was raised at Marietta, Lancaster county.

Considerable speculation is being indulged in as to whether the National Guard of Pennsylvania will go to the inauguration. There has been no official information given out, and all stories as to who will go, or whether any of the guard will go is based on the fact that the adjutant general was in Washington last week looking around to see what sort of accommodations could be secured for the boys if it should finally be determined that the guard or any part of it shall attend the inauguration.

Norman Davis, a 15-year-old son of O. J. Davis, of Buffington, was killed by the accidental discharge of a toy gun of his own making. The lad was fond of working with and planning machinery. From a piece of bicycle tubing he made a gun or pistol. It was made to explode by the force of a strong spring striking a match head placed in a firepan. The weapon was loaded with powder, buckshot and slugs. When handling it the whole load was discharged into his stomach, killing him instantly.

Rev. Francis Murphy, who became chaplain of the Fifth regiment in the Spanish war service, after the resignation of Chaplain Hartman, sailed recently for New Zealand and Australia. He is known all over the American continent as one of the most popular men in the temperance field. It is his sympathy and warmth of heart which have made his success. "I go," said Mr. Murphy, "to promulgate the principles of love and good will among men, hoping thus to redeem them from the curse of intemperance. The work I shall carry on is one of peace and persuasion, not of radical method. I do not believe the temperance cause can be successfully carried out by the enactment of drastic prohibitive laws. Every man must be a law unto himself. He must frame the principles of his life upon the word of God. The holy messages of the Scriptures must not be brought to him with the violence of argumentative combat. They must come in the spirit of love and quiet, persuasive reason. The new age is to be one of reason and persuasion."

After almost two years of freedom, Edward Viard was arrested at Ashtota, Somerset county, Saturday night by Detective Charles Helberg, of Clearfield. Viard broke jail at Clearfield April 4th, 1898. He is confined there on a charge of bigamy, it is said, and on one or two other charges. It was during the term of the jail and D. D. Gingery that he escaped from the jail and Mr. Gingery, whose term of office has now expired, went to Johnstown on Monday to take Viard back to Clearfield, arriving with him there on Tuesday. The warrant for the arrest of Viard was issued by Daniel Connelly, a justice of the peace at Clearfield. Viard will have to face his old charges now that he is once more at Clearfield. Viard said that he had been working for the Babcock Lumber company at Ashtota almost a year, but declined to state where he had been in the interval between that time and the date he broke jail. He had also apparently forgotten the charge against him at Clearfield. He said that he was working on night turn at Ashtota, when he was arrested. He is a shrewd looking man of over 30.

Half crazed with rum, penniless, despondent and friendless, an unknown man, giving his name as John McCormick, deliberately hurled a brickbat through a large plate glass window in the front of the post office building at Hollidaysburg about 9 o'clock on Saturday night. He had previously visited the jail and wanted entertainment for the night, which, of course, was refused. He declared that he would do something that would bring about his admittance. He also went to Squire Lowery's office and asked to be committed to jail. He visited Snyder's drug store and threatened to break a window in some store, so that he might be arrested. He departed from there and a few minutes afterwards carried out his threats as above indicated and then walked into the office at the American House, seated himself in an arm chair and calmly awaited the arrival of Officer McGraw, who escorted him to jail. He said he desired to be incarcerated until next spring and for that reason made the attack on the post office so that he would be tried in the United States court. The glass was valued at \$50, but the upper part can be saved, the lower part only being shattered. He registered at the hotel in the name of John McCormick. On his person, however, were found several cards bearing the name of J. C. Roe, of Philipsburg.