

Ink Stings.

I thought I was her Valentine, 'Til yesterday rolled around And a chump with fine nose and sleigh, Caused her to throw me down.
A Harrisburg telegram in a Philadelphia newspaper states that Judge LOVE spent a pleasant half hour with Governor STONE in Harrisburg last Thursday. Our honorable court probably went down to get patted on the back.
The great blanket steel trust that is about forming, with a capital of \$947,000, is another unmistakable finger board on the road to the ultimate control of all nature's products and resources in this country by a very few men.
Absent mindedness is now said to be a sign of superior intelligence and that probably accounts for the fact that so many good men go wrong. It is so natural, don't you know, just to pick up another man's wife or his money in a fit of absent mindedness.
The sparrow shoot the Sportsmen's League is to hold here on Feb. 22nd will be an interesting event because the local gunners have never tried to shoot anything so small. Sparrows are the next thing to chippies, but they are a good deal harder to hit.
The Republican gave Mr. W. E. GRAY's senatorial aspirations a sort of a set back yesterday morning. While the official organ of Republicanism in Centre county didn't say it QUAY in such words, yet its meaning is—No QUAY money need apply—was quite apparent.
It must have been a great surprise to McKINLEY, when the electoral vote was officially counted on Wednesday and it was found that he was really elected President. Everybody else was under the impression that it had been HANNA who was elected.
The kids will all stand on their heads, And race wildly up and down, When, with fierce (?) bloodhound and donkey, A Tom show comes to town.
It was only natural to start the rumor that JOHN L. POWERS, who is under indictment for participating in the murder of Governor GOEBEL, of Kentucky, is in hiding in one of the Departments at the Pennsylvania capitol. A more notorious gang of rogues never had a rendezvous anywhere than is the one at Harrisburg now and a murderer or so would not beighen the color of the crowd very much either.
The present Legislature has already rushed through jobs adding \$500,000 a year to the burden of the taxpayers of Pennsylvania and \$6,000,000 is to be appropriated so that the thieves can have opportunity of filling their pockets under the guise of completing the new capitol; that was supposed to have been completed with the \$500,000 originally appropriated for that purpose.
If Minister WU, the Chinese representative at Washington, had simply said, when he declined the invitation to the banquet in New York, in honor of General OTIS, that he didn't like OTIS, there would have been thousands of others, not Chinamen, who would have added, "Them's my sentiments too." But Mr. WU has gotten into diplomatic trouble for saying the same thing in other words and the endorsement of the people won't help him out of his difficulty.
Mr. HAGE, chairman of the lower house of the Danish Parliament, is of the opinion that the Danish West Indies ought to be sold. He very frankly says that they are a source of constant loss to his government and he believes they should be sold to the United States. Goodness, we must be getting a reputation abroad for being "easy" when the Danes come right out, open and above board, and say that they will get rid of their losing ventures by selling them to us. And Mr. McKINLEY will very probably turn the old motto: "A fool and his money are soon parted," to the wall while he makes the purchase.
It has been demonstrated that if the recent sun-flashes, that were believed to be signals from inhabitants of Mars, were really sun-flashes they must have required mirrors covering a surface of one hundred square miles for accomplishment. This announcement is made with a view to discrediting the belief, but what does a hundred square miles of mirror amount to? Martian scientists. If the people on that planet have reached the advanced stage of enlightenment some give them credit with having, why it wouldn't out any more figure in their calculations than does the glass ceiling in PADDY HOOLIGAN'S saloon in ours.
The proposed establishment of camps in the state forest reservations, where persons suffering with pulmonary troubles may go and live an out-of-door life, will probably be realized early in the spring. State Forestry Commissioner ROTHBROCK has already given public utterance to his plans for such camps and in an interview, a few days ago, said that the first one would quite probably be made on the Clinton county reservation, where there is an altitude of two thousand feet above sea level and the State owns forty-five thousand acres of ground. These camps are to be set up by the State. A large tent, on a permanent foundation, with dry wooden floor is to open onto a covered walk. The tents are to be pitched about fifteen feet apart and are to be maintained by the State; free of charge, for the use of consumptives. The latter will have to provide their own cooking utensils and food.

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The Pittsburg Charter.

It is confidently expected that the so-called "ripper" bill will be railroaded through the Senate this week, and unless Senators FLINN and MAGEE, of Pittsburg, bow their necks to the yoke of the machine it will probably pass the House within a fortnight. The "ripper" bill is really a bill for the government of Pittsburg. It gets its name from the fact that if it passes in its present form it will "rip the present government of that city up the back," and tear it out by the roots. That is a most commendable consummation. The government of Pittsburg is the most atrocious combination of legalized plunderers that was ever organized on earth, with the probable exception of the government of Philadelphia. If there was nothing to consider, therefore, except the ripping up and tearing out, every good citizen might view the process with perfect complacency. But the trouble is that that will only be half of the harvest of the crusade of spite and the carnival of malice which is involved in the pending legislation. The object of the QUAY heeled who have undertaken this work is not to reform the government of Pittsburg. The aim of the machine adherents is not to put practiced plunderers out and install honest and fair-minded men in their places. On the contrary the palpable purpose is to put men equally corrupt and just as obnoxious in power in order that part of the proceeds of their predatory operation may be put into the corruption fund with which to debauch the elections and corrupt the local governments in other parts of the State. Not only that but it proposes to rip up the constitution of the State and tear out by the roots the precedents of all time in the achievement of the purpose. It is an uninviting feast which both factions set out. Singularly enough the vast majority of the people of Pittsburg favor the passage of the "ripper," with all its objections and enormity. HAMLET said the troubles of present life "make us bear the ills we have rather than fly to others that we know not of." But these people have suffered so much that admonition is lost on them. They know that Governor STONE will give them a vicious government in exchange for the corrupt one they have. But the reason that STONE's plunderers will be novices in the art and before they can perfect their machine the people will have a chance to assert themselves. They are probably right in that estimate but there is great danger and infinite risk in the undertaking. When the constitution is violated there is no telling what evil will follow and it is always better to be on the safe side. But things can hardly be made worse than they are at present.
The congressional apportionment bill passed the Senate finally on Tuesday. Senator HEINLE spoke and voted against the measure.
An Odious Bill.
The confidence of the machine in its ability to run things in its own way during the present session of the Legislature is revealed in the bill introduced the other day by Mr. BEACOM, of Westmoreland county, creating the offices of Excise Commissioners. Ten years ago no man would have dared introduce such a measure, any more than he would have dared to introduce a bill providing for the protection of brothels or one paying a bounty to gambling dens. It is not alone that the moral sentiment of the State is outraged by so manifest a purpose to subvert the restrictive features of the Brook's license law, but the purpose of making the liquor trade an element in the political capital of the machine is clearly disclosed.
The bill provides for three Excise Commissioners in each county in whom is invested the power of granting or refusing to grant licenses to sell liquor. Can anybody imagine the result of such an innovation in this State. In the first place it is safe to conjecture that nine out of ten of the Commissioners would be liquor dealers themselves, or men under the control of the dealers. That would be the end of restraints on the liquor traffic. Whiskey would then become literally as free as water, and the only condition that could possibly be imposed on the applicant for license would be that he would render faithful and unquestioned service to the machine thereafter.
Mr. BEACOM, the sponsor of this odious bill in the Legislature, is the ex-State Treasurer and a leader of the QUAY forces on the floor of the House. There is no shrinking now from responsibility for bad legislation or attempts to pervert the laws of the State. The man who can do most for the machine is the one that gets closest in to the affections of the boss, and a little splotch of immorality is no draw-back to his advancement. It didn't use to be that way. There was a time that the leaders were obliged to keep up the pretense of decency. But that sort of thing is no help now. In fact, it excites a doubt of the sincerity of the friendship professed. "Birds of a feather flock together."

Carnival of Profligacy.

No session of the Legislature in the history of the State has ever made such raids on the Treasury as the present one is likely to do. Aside from the capital construction bill, which will carry an appropriation of \$6,000,000, other bills have been introduced involving appropriations of three or four millions, and the Legislature has only been in actual session eighteen days. After the spring elections are over the looting will begin in real earnest and the bosses will indulge in a carnival of spoils. The money will flow from the treasury in a golden flood-tide and the rate of taxation will be multiplied in proportion.
Thus far bills have been introduced creating new offices the salaries of which will aggregate nearly half a million dollars. The new court bill in Philadelphia provides for three judges, two clerks, five tip-staves for three judges, two clerks, five tip-staves and half a dozen criers and other hangers on. The bill providing for commissions to issue licenses creates five or six new offices in every county of the State and from ten to two dozen in some of them. The bill to create a bureau of building and loan associations in the Banking Department makes room for half a dozen new and high salaried officers, and other bills add to the number of new places.
How are the people to escape from the burdens of this omnivorous Legislature? It is said that "Whom the gods would destroy, they first make mad," and the wild plunges into the pool of profligacy which have been and will be made by the Legislature indicates that the QUAY machine is in a paroxysm of rabies. But the people will have to pay the bills they contract. For the next dozen years the burdens will be heavy to bear. The people brought the burdens upon themselves, however, and have themselves to blame if they are heavy. There was warning enough to admonish them, but they wanted QUAYISM it appears.
Representative FOX, of Dauphin county, has introduced a measure in the Legislature that is designed for the protection of the raccoon. The raccoon is becoming a scarce mammal in Pennsylvania, but it is like everything else. It is being run out by that old Republican coon that dominates the State so effectually.
Don't Extend the Season.
The Grange, which is usually reasonable and just in its demands for legislation, is not going to meet with much sympathy in its plan to have the game season kept open until Dec. 31st. The only plea that is put forth for this extension is that under the present limit the farmer's boy does not have time to get out to hunt before the season closes, which contention is not founded on fact, so far as Centre county is concerned. We venture the assertion that in this locality quite as much game, if not more, is captured by the farmer's boy as the town "game hog," as the Patron is pleased to call him, gets. The open season is not made to suit the convenience of any class of hunters and should not. It is regulated by the habits of the birds and animals classed under the law as game, and should not be extended for the convenience of the farmer's boy, any more than it should be made to suit that of clerks, mechanics or any other class of men who can occasionally get a day off to go hunting. When the latter do it they have to lose their day's time and go when they can. While we have no desire to detract from the pleasure of the country boy's life we are opposed to this extension of the game season for several reasons.
In the first place the benefit of recent legislation, shortening the seasons, is just beginning to be apparent in the increased amount of game in the forests, fields and streams of the State.
The present season is fair to all hunters or sportsmen, since they are put on an equal footing. And there doesn't seem to be any reasonable demand for extending it.
There are just as many true sportsmen among the farmer boys as there are in the towns and we feel confident that the majority of them will not be in favor of lengthening the season, for it is apparent that while it might give them a few days more after their fall work is done, and they have nothing in particular to do, it also extends the time during which the "game hog," of which the Patron complains, can kill.
Legislating a game season to suit the convenience of one class of hunters would be about as reasonable as a request on our part to have no penalties or big demonstrations anywhere on Thursday, because it is our busy day and we can't get away handily.
The first duty of a citizen is to vote for the men who make and enforce the laws under which he must live in abeyance. The ones with which he comes most directly in contact are the ones enacted for townships and borough guidance. On next Tuesday township and borough officials are to be elected. See to it that you go to the polls that day.

Sham Battle in Congress.

There has been a good deal of curious sparring in the House at Washington during the past several days, and the cause and consequence of which are equally subjects of conjecture. The matter over which these surprising incidents have taken place is the revenue reduction bill. A disagreement between the House and Senate over the question has led to such parliamentary complications on one hand and spirited antagonisms on the other that the passage of the bill is at present a matter of doubt. In fact it will require the hardest kind of compromise work to reconcile the differences.
The ostensible cause of complaint on the part of the House is that the Senate transcended its right and violated the constitution by not amending the House bill but substituting a measure of its own creation. There is something in this complaint and there was a time when it would have been pressed vigorously and earnestly. But there is nobody in the House now who cares anything for the constitution and few who have any regard for the dignity of the body they serve in. There are a good many, however, and they are not on the black list at the White House, who would be glad to find some excuse for defeating the revenue reduction bill, and are quite as willing to accept one excuse as another for their action.
The truth of the matter is that there is grave peril in revenue reduction at this time and the problem is how to get away from the pledge. Appropriations have been running wild in both Houses and revenue reduction, however small the amount, is perilous, for it may involve a deficit and there is no telling what the result of that would be on the next election for Congressmen. With a revenue reduction of from forty to fifty millions a deficit is inevitable. The Secretary of the Treasury estimated a falling off in revenues for this year, as compared with last, of from thirty to forty millions. The surplus of last year was about twenty millions and the estimate for this year about fifty. But the appropriations this year have exceeded those of last by nearly three hundred millions and if the revenues are decreased fifty to seventy there will be such disaster as no living man has ever witnessed.
This is probably the real reason for the sham battle now in progress between the Senate and the House of Representatives on the revenue reduction bill. The administration doesn't want any reduction, and hopes to put the onus of failure on Congress. Some of the members of both branches are willing to shoulder the responsibility and offer themselves as vicarious sacrifices to party duty. But others are not ready for the self-abnegation and are voting with the Democrats to force the issue. Altogether it is a rather pretty fight and the average citizen doesn't care much which side wins.
The Label Repeal Bill.
The "order" in the House of Representatives in Harrisburg this week is the GRADY bill for the repeal of the libel law of 1897. Senator QUAY has given the measure the favor of his approval, and the machine feels confident that it will be passed. Practically all the QUAY adherents on the floor will vote for it, and it is expected that most of the Democrats who supported the Philadelphia court bill will again come to the front in the interest of boss rule and bad government.
Colonel THOMAS V. COOPER, of Delaware county, has broken out of the pasture, however, and the friends of a free and untrammelled press hope much from his influence and example. Mr. COOPER is a man of ability, eloquence and courage, and he declares that he will exhaust all his resources in a fight to defeat the bill. He may succeed and in the effort will have the moral support of the best element of the people in all parts of the State. But candor compels the admission that moral support doesn't cut much figure in a QUAY Legislature.
If the people of the State had had time to crystallize public sentiment, the GRADY bill wouldn't have had much in either branch of the Legislature. But the matter wasn't taken seriously at first and now the facts were revealed it had gone too far to stop it in the Senate. It is not certain that it can be stopped in the House for the opposition is not organized yet. But with so respectable a man as THOMAS V. COOPER to direct the battle there is always a chance of victory.
We sincerely hope his expectations will not be disappointed. The passage of such a measure at this time would be a severe, if not a serious blow, to civil liberty for it would stifle the freedom of the press.
There are 14,379,078 children in the public schools of the United States and it costs, on an average, \$18.92 a year for each one of them, but no government can regret money spent on the education of its people.
Subscribe for the WATCHMAN.

The Wanderer.

Written for the WATCHMAN by WILL TRUCKEN-SHILLER.
Where the Allegheny mountains Rise toward the realms of snow, And the Susquehanna river Murmurs in the vale below, There I left my gentle darling, In the long, long time ago.
Many weary years I wandered, In strange countries far away, But my heart for home was longing, While my feet went far astray. Drawn by my homesick yearning— I returned again to-day.
When I asked my sweet old mother, While I stroked her silvered head, "Where is Nora?" fast the tear drops Down her cheeks ran, as she said: "Of a broken heart your darling Lies up in the church-yard, dead. On the morrow I shall wander From my old home once again, With the memory of my darling Bringing only grief and pain. Oh! that I at rest were lying Where my loved one long has lain."
Foreign Smarts are Attractive.
From the Pittsburg Dispatch.
The explanation of the countess Francaelli Cebo, that American girls marry rich foreigners on account of the superior culture of the latter, naturally raises a flutter among the American masculinity. The fact that the Countess makes this invidious comparison, after a view of the Chicago men, may be regarded in some quarters as explanatory; but somehow it fails to appease Chicago.
At all events, the information is interesting. Culture is defined as "the systematic improvement and refinement of the mind," or its result in "learning and taste." We are therefore informed by the lady of exotic title that the two Dukes of Marlborough, and Duke of Manchester, Count Boni de Hatzfeldt and one or two others devoted their adolescent years to learning and mental cultivation so as to surpass the collegiate lights, the literary men and the scientific experts of our country. Otherwise the heiresses must have married the professors and literary men—that is, if the latter would consent, which there is strong reason to believe they would.
Certainly the Duke of Manchester's taste in bull pups and one or two of those Constables whose wives have come home out of objections to personal castigation indicate a strenuousness of culture abroad to which this country has never arisen.
To Cure the Disease Remove the Cause.
From the Pittsburg Post.
The National bank cashiers of Massachusetts have been eating a big dinner at Boston, and between the sherry and champagne resolved that the federal taxes on bank capital and surplus and the stamp tax on checks should be repealed. On which the Springfield Republican asks: "Would it not be a little more reasonable to resolve first against the war which makes the taxes necessary? If these particular taxes are repealed some other taxes, equally burdensome or unjust, must be retained or newly imposed. Let the grumblers on the war taxes begin with the war, and thus show that they possess a little knowledge and sense of things."
Expecting Bonquets From Cuba.
From the Bloomfield, Indiana, Democrat.
As a pretext to hold on to Cuba against our solemn promise, to withdraw as soon as a constitutional government was established, the administration people are now complaining that Cuba entirely ignores the United States in her new constitution and is ungrateful. Why should Cuba mention the United States in her constitution any more than the United States would under obligations to consider Cuba if she was forming a new constitution? Such talk as that is only a pretext to get out of doing what we solemnly agreed to do and more; it is rank nonsense.
New Judiciary District.
Centre County Embraced Within the New Limits.
The House of Congress at Washington has passed Representative Cunnell's bill for the creation of a new federal judiciary district in Pennsylvania. It now remains for the Senate to pass the measure before it becomes operative. The bill as passed by the House, places in the new judicial district Lackawanna, Wyoming, Bradford, Monroe, Wayne, Pike, Susquehanna, Carbon, Tioga, Potter, Cameron, Clinton, Lycoming, Centre, Union, Snyder, Mifflin, Northumberland, Montour, Columbia, Sullivan, Luzerne, Dauphin, Lebanon, Perry, Huntingdon, Fulton, Franklin, Adams, York and Cumberland counties. The district is to be a part of the Third judicial circuit, and court will be held therein as follows: At Scranton on the first Monday of March and October each year; at Williamsport, second Monday of January and June; at Harrisburg the first Monday of May and second Monday of November in each year. The sessions will continue for such periods as the judges shall determine.
The bill creates in addition to a new judgeship a new district attorneyship, marshalship and court clerkship. It is also provided that the organization and first session of the courts of the Middle district shall be held at Harrisburg on the first Monday of March next, 1901.
The Electoral Vote Counted.
WASHINGTON, February 13.—The ceremony of counting the electoral vote for President and Vice President, cast at the election last fall, took place in the hall of the House of Representatives to-day at a joint session of the Senate and House.
At the conclusion of the count, President pro tem Frye, of the Senate, declared William McKinley elect President and Theodore Roosevelt Vice President of the United States, and dissolved the joint session. The total electoral vote recorded was 447. Of this McKinley received 292 and Bryan 155.

Spawls from the Keystone.

It is stated that the tunnels of the new railroad between Clearfield and Karthaus will require six hundred car loads of cement and at least that much powder.
Two brothers, William and George McMullen, each lost a finger within an hour a few days ago. William cut a finger off his right hand with a circular saw; George cut a finger off his left hand with a hatchet. Both men reside at Shade Gr.
The State forestry commission recently purchased a tract of land of about 4,000 acres from Dr. P. F. Hyatt. The tract is situated in Hartley township, Union county, Armagh township, Mifflin county; and Haines township, Centre county; The land is denuded timber land.
The improvements on the middle division of the Pennsylvania railroad between Juniata bridge and Aqueduct, Mt. Union and at Lewistown narrows and Spruce Creek will cost the company upwards of a million of dollars. Hundreds of men will be given employment for from six months to a year.
The Lock Haven street railway has passed into the hands of a new company, composed of Judge C. A. Mayer and Jacob Scott, of Lock Haven; W. B. Given, of Columbia, and Senator J. Henry Cochran, of Williamsport. It is said the road will be extended to Williamsport in the near future.
A Jersey Shore woman saw a neighbor coming in last week for a call and left and told the hired girl to tell the visitor that she was not at home. She made her exit into the bedroom. The neighbor said she was in no hurry and sat down to wait. She kept that woman in the bedroom four hours and the room was cold.
According to the DuBois Courier a new Y. M. C. A. building is to be erected in that place at a cost of \$18,000. The building will be 110 feet long and 40 feet wide, three stories above the street level. The plans are now being prepared and work on the new building will be commenced as soon as the weather permits.
Herman P. Transue, the Clinton county young man who had his back broken by a tree falling on him ten weeks ago, is still living and is reported to be gaining some strength, but is still paralyzed from the seat of the injury down. The accident occurred ten weeks ago while the young man was at work for Knecht brothers. Arrangements are being made to take him to the German hospital in Philadelphia.
Dislodgment of a toothfilling in its contact with a hard substance has nettled Mrs. George Netherton, of Wyoming near Wilkesbarre, the sum of \$300. While dining with a neighbor a few days ago her teeth struck one large and six smaller pearls as she was eating a small raw oyster. Mrs. Netherton was surprised to learn from a Philadelphia expert that the largest pearl was worth \$125, and the others a proportionate amount.
On a wager of \$1,000 that he can walk from Newton Highlands, Mass., to San Francisco, Cal., in a year, Arthur Stanley Metcalf arrived in Carlisle Sunday evening. He left Newton Highlands on January 1st, and has since covered the six hundred miles. He started from there Sunday morning for Wheeling, W. Va. While in Carlisle he had a local magistrate sign a list which he carries to authenticate his visits to the various towns.
Two towns in Somerset county—Somerset and Berlin—have women on their official ballots for school directors, and they will be voted for at the spring election. Mrs. Emma Hay, Mrs. Minerva Ruppel, Mrs. Ella Walker and Mrs. A. C. Floto have the distinction of being the first women ever nominated upon a political ticket in that county. The first two named are on the Somerset Democratic ticket and the other two candidates are on the Prohibition ticket for Berlin.
Mrs. John B. Phillips, a well known lady of Clarion, was one of a sleigh party that drove to Slipg Saturday for dinner. On the return trip the sled was upset in a snow drift. Mrs. Phillips was thrown down and three or four others fell on her. She was one of the first to extricate herself, and declared she was not hurt, but in less than five minutes after the time of the accident she fell over dead. An examination disclosed the fact that her neck had been broken.
The James Wilson who died in the Allegheny penitentiary last week, turns out to be John Stafford, of Lawrence township, Clearfield county. Stafford was 55 year old. He left home many years ago, fell into evil ways, and was sent to the penitentiary in 1876 for burglary. Desiring to conceal his crime he corresponded with his parents under the name of Wilson. The first his parents knew of their son's disgrace was when the warden wrote them notifying them of his illness and death.
An odd sleighing accident occurred on North Penn street, Hollidaysburg, Saturday night, William Shade, of Altoona, accompanied by a young lady, was driving up the Presbyterian church hill at the same time a Logan Valley car was approaching at the brow of the hill. The glare of the car's headlight frightened the horse, and despite the efforts of Mr. Shade to back it out of danger it would not budge from the track. The sleigh was struck by the car and carried a distance of seventy-five feet, the sleigh being reduced to kindling wood in the collision. The lady occupant of a severe fright suffered no mishap. The horse was rescued from the fender, none the worse for its trip as an involuntary passenger down the hill.
A letter from corporal John C. Davison, Philippine Island, to his father, R. G. Davison, of Tyrone, written in December, speaks of a natural fort about eighteen miles from the camp of Company G, Forty-third U. S. Volunteers. Recently the insurgents were driven from it. "In the fort were found about twenty wooden cannon and 'blind' rapid firing gun, the latter being about six feet long and two feet wide, with three cog wheels inside with bamboo ratchet which when put in motion by means of a crank attachment makes a great noise. The cannon are made of mahogany logs about two feet long and eight inches thick, having a two inch bore, which is lined with brass. The breech is mortised and in this is attached an old gun lock with iron wedge, a man being used to put the gun off. If the Philippine soldiers were armed as we are they would wipe the force in these islands out of existence. They know how to fight but have nothing but bolos and diggers to fight with, except a few guns that Dewey gave them. It has not been hot here for about a week. The nights are cool and nice, and we can sleep good."