

Ink Blots.

The wise man never tells what he doesn't know. He lets others find it out, if they can.

The next time they have thirteen hours to waste in the United States Senate Teddy will probably be "it." It will be up to him to tell a few Rocky mountain lion tales.

It is a poor system that keeps Admiral SCHLEY from enjoying the substantial earnings of his Santiago victory because Admiral SAMPSON made such a consummate ass of himself.

Why don't the North American investigate that Indiana mob that burned a negro at the stake. If left to a vote we'll bet the bad blacks would rather be pelted up in South Carolina than burned up in Indiana.

It rained in Washington on Monday. Rained in torrents. Old mother Nature shed copious tears at the sight of the one glorious, free Republic on the face of the earth laying down the bars for tyranny to step in.

From the number of "close slaves" KITCHENER tells the British war office has given DEWEY are we constrained to observe that probably KITCHENER would make a better barber than field marshal for the English.

Senator CARTER, of Montana, took thirteen hours to do it, but he talked the River and Harbor bill to death at the last session of the Senate of the fifty-sixth Congress. There are times when talk is cheap, but that one was worth five millions to Uncle SAM.

The President has renamed all of the members of his former official family. So far as his cabinet is concerned the best production of the oriental necromancer never divulged more bewildering or deceptive studies than does this cabinet of President MCKINLEY'S.

The Illinois man who killed his wife and three children and only got twenty-one years in the penitentiary for it, evidently knew little about the kind of justice they mete out there, else he would have included a few more innocents in his murderous list and gone free.

It might be well for the citizens of the United States to begin to look after their own freedom a little. The administration seems determined to make vassals out of the Filipinos and Cubans and it becomes us to look, lest we be made bondsmen of this tyrant on the royal road to ruin.

The Erie Echo, T. P. RYNDER'S paper, has declared for CAMERON for Governor, TOM COOPER for State Treasurer and says that Democratic state chairman RILLINO will have to step down and out. Since when has "Toady" become grand. Ponce Ba of both parties in Pennsylvania?

According to the triennial assessment for 1901 valuations were dropped \$290,347 in Centre county under the return for 1897. If this could be successfully carried out without a corresponding increase in millage it would be a very evident indication that local government is becoming more economical.

It might be a little wise for some one to be careful about buying pills for a few days. Burglars stole a cheese from a Coleville store on Wednesday night and the purchase of such medicine at this time might furnish a clew for some Hawkshaw to run the thief down with. Stranger things than that have happened.

While Emperor WILLIAM was driving in Bremen on Wednesday some one of his loving subjects threw a piece of iron at his imperial majesty. The missile struck him on the cheek, but the Emperor drove on without noticing the incident. BISMARCK had an "iron heel" but WILLIAM goes the old Chancellor a few better when he presents a cheek so impervious to iron as his appears to be.

Minister WU, the Chinese representative at Washington, stood out in the rain during the inaugural ceremony on Monday and got his lovely silk petticoats all wet. The ladies, of course, were shocked at such carelessness, but perhaps WU was just thinking how much nicer it was to be out, even in a Washington rain, than to be at home during the great reign of terror that is now spreading consternation throughout the Flowery Kingdom.

The inaugural ceremonies and parade were very fine, but of course they didn't quite equal those of King Edward VII, in the matter of monarchical pomp and trappings. HANNA is new at the managerial business yet, but give the old boy a chance and he'll be making both the German and English inaugural ceremonies look like a tawdry wagon show parade by the time he gets MCKINLEY fixed up as King of the United States and Emperor of all the Philippines, Porto Rico, Cuba and Hawaii.

Do you suppose that President MCKINLEY really regarded seriously what he was doing and saying at Washington on Monday, when he was swearing to "keep, inviolate, the constitution of the United States," and later raising his voice for "free Cuba"? He either labors under a misunderstanding as to what an oath means or he has had little regard for it in the past, else there would be none of this Philippine, Cuban, Porto Rican embroglio for his people to be paying taxes and pensions to get out of for years to come.

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McKinley's Inaugural Speeches.

President MCKINLEY in his second inaugural address sustains his reputation as a "phrase-maker." "It encourages me for the great task which I undertake," he says "to believe those who voluntarily committed to me the trust imposed upon the chief executive of the Republic will give to me generous support in my duties to preserve, protect and defend the constitution of the United States." What unmitigated cant? While he was making that high-sounding sentence he was conscious that every principle asserted in the constitution which he has taken a solemn oath to "preserve, protect and defend." has been violated by him at every turn in which the interests of the trusts and the inclinations of the imperialists took the opposite course.

MCKINLEY has always been what is called "a fair spoken man." That is to say he has always been generous with promises and quoting the Scripture to sustain a pretense, he is ever watchful for opportunities to dodge his obligations. From the beginning of his first administration, four years ago, until its close at noon on Monday his public record is one of equivocation. Accepting the pledge of Congress that the Spanish war would not be employed for purposes of territorial acquisition, the sound of Dewey's guns in Manila harbor had not died out before he was scheming to justify the conquest of the archipelago. Even now professing to welcome the obligation, to give freedom and independence to Cuba, he is striving by every available means to continue the exercise of sovereignty and control there.

That industrial and commercial conditions have changed for the better since the inauguration of four years ago is true and we have probably no just right to complain that President MCKINLEY claims for the economic policies his administration has supported credit for the improvement. As a matter of fact neither MCKINLEY nor his policies have had anything to do with the betterment of conditions. Soon after he became President the country became involved in war and the preparations for action set industrial life in motion. But he admits that he did all he could to avert the war, so he is not entitled to the credit for the consequences of it. "I did all that in honor could be done," he says in his inaugural speech, "to avert the war, but without avail. It became inevitable." So it did, but he is hardly justified for claiming credit for the industrial results under the circumstances.

War Policies Make Strange Friends.

BENJAMIN HARRISON is throwing harpoons into the body of the President and turning them around in the wound. In an article in the North American Review for March the ex-President discusses the subject of an Anglo-American alliance in which he indulges in some charmingly plain language. "Is it quite logical," he asks "to use the recent display of friendliness by Great Britain, as a sponge with which to wipe from the tablets of memory the decisive intervention of France during the Revolution, and the helpful friendliness of Russia during the Civil war?" These are pertinent questions at this time, when Great Britain wants moral support in its campaign of original aggression in South Africa.

The manifest purpose of both MCKINLEY and CHAMBERLAIN is to support a doubtful proposition. In the Spanish war we undertook to perform an act of benevolence in behalf of an oppressed people, the Cubans. Before the conflict had reached the second stage our earth hunger had been aroused and we determined while keeping in a qualified way the pledge made with respect to Cuba, to take all the other territory belonging to Spain that we could get our hands on. That was keeping the promise to the hope which was being broken to the ear. In other words it was changing our war of benevolence to one of conquest without violating the letter of the pledge.

To make an excuse for this perversion of plans we accept the friendliness of Great Britain as a settlement of our obligations to France and Russia, though we cannot disguise the fact that the new friendship is tainted with selfishness.

From the beginning of her colonial experiments Great Britain has held that the power to take conveyed legitimate title to the property taken. She has never taken the time to consider equities and she welcomes the development of a similar policy here, because it implies acquiescence in the proposition. This country has held, on the other hand, to the notion that the just powers of government are derived from the consent of the governed. As ex-President HARRISON states if we now adopt the British theory we abandon the American theory, for they are opposite as the antipodes. The question is then which of the proposed contracting parties has changed? We shall watch and wait with interest an answer to these questions.

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Cheated of Their Price.

The defeat of the river and harbor bill has excited much indignation among Senators, we are formed, and certain Democratic Senators are particularly disappointed and chagrined. The bill provided for the appropriation of fifty or sixty millions of dollars, the money to be expended on streams, docks, bridges and improvements of one kind or another in various sections of the country. The River and Harbor bill is the great boodle measure of Congress. The money is practically disbursed under the direction of Senators and Representatives, and is even better than the distribution of seeds for getting votes. In fact, a portion of it frequently lodges permanently in the pockets of the Senators and Members.

The bill this year was a particularly juicy one. It allowed thousands of dollars to go for the improvement of streams of which there is no record at all. Everybody knows how easy a thing that is. But the measure was held back from the start as a lever to promote other legislation. For some weeks it was used freely to work support for the ship-subsidy bill and there was a time that the indications pointed to the passage of that measure on account of it. But other questions came up of even greater importance. The conferring on the President of imperial power in Cuba and the Philippines became the burning issue and certain Democrats were assured of the passage of the river and harbor bill in consideration of consent to such amendments to the army appropriation bill.

Having betrayed their party for the price referred to it is small wonder that such Democratic Senators are indignant now that the bill failed. Senator CARTER, of Montana, wanted certain appropriations in the bill and they having been refused he made up his mind to defeat the measure which he did by talking against time for thirteen hours. It was rather tough on the disappointed Senators, but they will get little sympathy for under the rule of honor among thieves they ought to have divided with CARTER. But aside from that the public will probably rejoice in their defeat, for a man who buys "green goods" deserves to be cheated.

Senator Clark in Trouble Again.

WILLIAM A. CLARK, of Montana, was sworn in as a Senator in Congress on Monday, but his seat is to be contested. It is claimed that some of the votes which procured his election were not honestly or properly influenced. He paid money, it is alleged, to get his friends into the Legislature, and though there was no organized opposition to his election it is held by some, especially Mr. WILLIAM E. CHANDLER, of New Hampshire, that having bribed Senators and Representatives in the Legislature, he has no right to sit in the Senate. If the accusations are just he ought not to be allowed to sit in the chamber a day.

But as the boys say "there are others," and what reason is there for objecting to the presence of Mr. CLARK that does not apply with equal force to the presence of Mr. QUAY, of Pennsylvania. It will be remembered that during the Congress just ended an herculean attempt was made to keep Mr. CLARK in the Senate, though he then was accused of bribery, and the friends of Senator QUAY were in the deal with the understanding that if CLARK stayed in he would vote to let QUAY in too. They were partners in a corrupt deal then that failed, and they are precisely on the same level now and should be kept in or thrown out together.

The worst that has been said of CLARK is that he bribed members of the Legislature to vote for him. How else did QUAY get the votes of Senator WASHBURN and Representative GALVIN for his election. No attempt has been made to collect evidence on the subject for it is known that QUAY will be seated whether his election was improperly procured or not. But why should there be a difference between the treatment of him and CLARK? Is it that the Standard Oil trust and the Sugar trust want one in the chamber and desire to keep the other out. That would appear to be the truth, but it is hardly a just way of dealing with the subject.

Overseer of the poor JOHN TRAFORD, who retired from office on Monday, went out with a record of which any man could feel proud. His administration was both conscientious and economical, he paid all of the debts of the department during his tenure and left a neat balance for his successor, in place of the debts he found when inducted into office. A combination of singular circumstances in politics defeated him, but he has nothing to apologize for in his official career.

Prof. COLES, the weather prophet up at Kingston, who for several years past has regularly predicted pestilence, plagues, earthquakes and everything but blood on the moon, has gone to his last repose. And we trust it will be a more peaceful one than that he predicted for men on earth.

A Few of the Reforms Needed.

The WATCHMAN is free to admit that it has no faith in either of the pretenses of ballot reform now before the Legislature. The one, that presented by the Independents and ballot reformers is more of an effort to blot out parties, than to prohibit fraud; while the other, that of the machine, is only intended to enlarge and perpetuate the wrongs of our present rotten system. If there is anything this country needs, any safeguard that it should encourage and protect, it is that of good, healthy and vigorous party organization. In this alone is their any certainty of honest administration and just government. Blot out political parties and you remove all fear that those in power have of the people and all hope of successful opposition to corrupt rule and mal-administration of public affairs.

A large majority of the voters of the Commonwealth are members of one or the other of the different political organizations that present tickets. Three-fourths of the people vote straight party tickets, and these three-fourths have a right to have the ballot so arranged and printed that a single mark will indicate a vote for the whole.

To simplify the ballot so that the most illiterate could vote without assistance, it should be arranged in political columns with an emblem over each, printed in such a manner that a mark upon or within the emblem would indicate a vote for the entire ticket underneath it.

In short, here is what the WATCHMAN would suggest would prove at least partial reforms, so far as they go.—It has no hope of getting real reform.

Provide a simple and effective way of nominating candidates so that the people can place upon their tickets whom they please. Make no restrictions as to the same name being upon different tickets. Print the ticket with stub and ticket numbered to correspond. This is to prevent the use of other than official ballots. Arrange the ticket in political columns, with an emblem, say an elephant for the Republicans, a rooster for the Democrats and such representative illustration as other organizations might select, and that the most illiterate voter can distinguish, over each and leave one mark indicate a vote for the entire ticket. This would do away with any excuse for assistance in the booth, except for physical disability.

Allow no one to go into a booth with a voter, only in such cases where visible physical disability makes it impossible to mark his own ballot. This, to a great extent, would prevent bribery and the intimidation of voters. It would at least prevent the election laws being used as an aid and cover for such wrongs.

Require the courts, upon the petition of a fixed number of citizens of any district, to open the ballot boxes, and in the presence of the public, examine and recount the votes. This, to a certain extent, would be a deterrent to false counting and fraudulent returns.

These provisions ought to be in any law that is to be enacted.

Legislative Pinchers in Sight.

The Legislature reassembled on Tuesday evening after a few days off to attend the inauguration at Washington and there is an implied promise that from this time to the end of the session there will be something like strict attention to business. Thus far there has been an extraordinary disregard of the claims of duty on the Senators and Representatives. Hitherto the selfish interest which they had in their own bills have kept the Houses in session, but this year both were willing to adjourn on the slightest provocation and more than half the time has been spent away.

Moreover it is about time to begin operations on the "pinch" bills that have been introduced, and that will keep the statesmen at the capital. There are several particularly interesting specimens of that kind of legislative rooster. One of these is a bill to require every dealer in cigarettes to pay a license of \$250 a year. That would be equivalent to prohibiting the sale of cigarettes altogether. But that was not the intention. On the contrary the scheme was to make the dealers in cigarettes pay for the defeat of the bill. How far the enterprise has succeeded remains to be seen.

Another of the "pinchers" is a bill requiring secret societies and benevolent associations to pay a prohibitive license. That one can be worked in both ways and probably is being farmed for all it is worth. That is to say insurance companies are asked to pay for passing it and members of the associations are invited to contribute a fund for its defeat. Both ought to refuse, but probably they will be afraid to do so, and this pinch will become a very profitable one, unless those interested will be able to secure its defeat without contributing money which is possible through exposing the fraud.

Judge Love Gets a Jolt.

From the Harrisburg Independent. Judge Love, of Centre county, got a judicial thump from the Supreme court in Philadelphia Monday which is likely to make him dizzy for some time. The occasion was another step in the inquiry with respect to the Governor's right to cut items. Attorney General Elkin had refused to allow any case to be argued except that which was originally heard before Judge Love, in Centre county. The court reversed and rebuked the Attorney General by overruling his decision and allowing the Montgomery county cases to be argued. If the hearing in the Supreme court had been confined to the Centre county case it would have been "dead easy" for Mr. Elkin. Representing both ends of the middle he could have prevented the introduction of any questions other than such as would have guaranteed him the best of it. In fact it may assume that under such circumstances the court would have been obliged to give its unqualified endorsement to such part of the Governor's action as came within its view and the result of the litigation would thus have taken on the character of a splendid victory.

But the action of the court yesterday in admitting the Montgomery county cases into the consideration and allowing Mr. Kratz to participate in the argument assures that the Governor's action will be upheld by the Attorney General run away from in the Dauphin court and admitted the Governor's error by overpaying the appropriations if his veto was valid and putting the costs of his folly on the State. This issue of the controversy will be pretty severe on Judge Love, but when a man perverts the bench to the uses of politics he deserves a hard thump.

It Comes High But We Must Have It.

From the Lancaster Intelligencer. Some, who habitually try to measure everything in dollars, are guessing the cost of the second inauguration of President McKinley, and their estimates reach three million dollars. When all points are considered, this does not seem extravagant figures for the ceremonies attending the virtual enthronement of an oriental sovereign, who is also confirmed as the chief executive of a great Republic, and has received from an obedient Congress appropriations aggregating more than a billion and a half for a single session. Surely a potentate who, though he may not be his own master, is so absolute in the sovereignty of his distant empire, and so powerful, for the time at least, in bending to his will the representatives of a great people, is properly celebrated with dazzling splendor and martial pomp. We do not grudge him the paltry three millions or so that may have been spent upon this inauguration, although we may be pleased to contrast it with that of President Jefferson, with its procession of one great man on horseback, and no brass bands. We do not kick at the cost, for Congress has kicked out the bung of our treasury barrel; but we may be pardoned some uneasiness, in view of the evidence that the trusts are in control, and that a rampant jingo imperialism is strongly on the march. Such things cannot be measured in millions or billions of dollars.

The Big Fish Eat the Little Fish Always.

From the Boston Advertiser. Dr. Lyman Abbott's theory, as to the right of civilized nations to take away territories from barbaric nations, is very interesting in that it shows a special system of ethics which are not applicable to men. If a more civilized nation has the right to take away the property of a less civilized nation, then the more civilized man has a right to take away the property of the less civilized man in order to use it to better advantage. A nation is nothing more than a group of men who are bound together by a common interest in a certain government. It appears, therefore, that while Dr. Abbott's theory is rather novel in this age, it was once held very widely. It concerns the "right" by which the Roman Patrician governed the plebeian, and the noble governed the serf, in former periods of the world's history. It is strange only in that most people thought that the world had altogether outgrown it.

Turn About is Fair Play.

From the Westmoreland Democrat. Because his horse could not pull the overloaded wagon, to which the animal had been hitched, Edward Bailey, of New Utrecht, Pa., gave the brute a vicious kick in the stomach. The horse then gave Bailey a kick in return. As last accounts the horse was getting better, but fears were entertained that Bailey would die.

Grangers and Legislation.

HARRISBURG, March 6.—A meeting of the executive committee of the Pennsylvania State Grange was held in this city today to consider certain bills pending before the Legislature. A resolution was adopted favoring an amendment to the Snyder oleo bill providing that whenever the license to manufacture or sell oleo shall be granted it shall be advertised in the county for which license is issued. Resolutions were also adopted opposing the road commission good roads bill; the creation of useless offices; the enactment of a law to permit the farmer to sell the vinegar when made pure from the fruit of his own orchard; favoring the enactment of the Australian or Massachusetts ballot laws or return to the old system; endorsing the Cressy tax bill and the Tyler pure food bill.

Small Pox in York County.

YORK, March 6.—Two cases of small pox have been discovered in Cardol township, this county. The victims are two brothers, John and Adam Shell, who have been employed in the steel works at Steelton. The state authorities have caused the house in which they are confined to be quarantined.

Spawns from the Keystone.

—Fire destroyed the building occupied by Fry's furniture store and Speer's meat market at DuBois Friday. Loss \$8,000.

—The New York Central road will put in the block signal system along the Fall Brook and Beech Creek lines. Operations have already begun at Newberry. The Fall Brook line will be equipped first. The block stations will be about five miles apart.

—At Renovo Friday morning, Marjorie Geary, the little six year old daughter of C. F. Geary, fell on the sidewalk and broke her left arm and also sprained her wrist badly. A singular circumstance is that it is the third time the same arm has been broken.

—A movement is on foot having for its object the division of Patton into wards and a petition will be presented to Judge Barker of Ebensburg, at the next term of court, asking that the prayer of the petitioners be granted. The petition has been signed by most of the business men of that town.

—Work on the West Branch railroad is being pushed rapidly at present in spite of the cold weather. The New York Central has extended the time for the completion of the road six months, and the contractors will now have to July 1st, 1902, to complete their work. It will take every day of the time.

—A. J. Graham, of Philipsburg, has closed a contract for supplying powder, dynamite and other explosives to be used in the construction of the West Branch Valley railroad. The aggregate value of the explosives contracted for is \$100,000, which is equal to one-twenty-fifth of the contract price of the coal.

—With the determination and discipline of fire-fighters, yet with the same grace with which they danced around the fire pole last spring, over 200 Bryn Mawr college students Wednesday tugged at the fire hose, fought the flames and prevented the destruction of one of the pretty cottages on the college campus.

—The Barclay heirs of Bedford have sold a tract of timber land near Rainsburg, Bedford county, to P. H. Cotner, of Danville, for \$5,000. The timber will be cut by J. T. Fitzsimmons, of Shellsburg. It is estimated that there will be from 800,000 to 1,000,000 feet of lumber on the tract. From sixteen to twenty men will be employed.

—P. McManus & Co., contractors, employing nearly 1,000 men, will shortly begin the work of grading through the Lewistown Narrows for two additional tracks on the Pennsylvania railroad. This will be one of the largest operations ever undertaken on the division. The side of the Blue mountains will be cut away a distance of six miles, and it will require a year to complete the work.

—At Johnsburg the body of John Fean, who for a number of years has been a machine tender at the Clarion mills, Clinton county, was found Tuesday afternoon of last week by some workmen in the Clarion river, back of the ball ground. Fean had been missing since Saturday night and the police were on the lookout for him. The coroner's jury rendered a verdict that Fean had fallen from a porch and dislocated his neck.

—The residence of Dr. Lincoln Halley, professor of history in Bucknell University, Lewisburg, was burned to the ground Thursday of last week, together with all its contents. Mrs. Halley and two children were asleep in the upper story when the fire was discovered by the servant girl, Lizzie Zimmerman. The hallway was filled with smoke and the servant girl rushed through it and awoke Mrs. Halley and the children. One of the latter was rescued with difficulty, the girl being overcome by smoke.

—Spangler was visited on Thursday morning of last week by the greatest and costliest fire in its history, the large oil plant of Denlinger Bros., being totally destroyed, with a loss of \$10,000. The blaze started from a fire which had been kindled under a huge tank of railroad oil to make it flow more freely to the oil house. In some manner a portion of the oil ignited and the fire communicated to the building, which in a few minutes was in a mass of flames. A large number of oil barrels were rolled out of the structure and saved. It is said the insurance on the building and contents was about \$7,500. The plant will be reconstructed at once.

—E. B. Stewinhaus, of Chicago, was the victim of a remarkable accident early Sunday morning. He was a passenger on the Chicago and St. Louis express, occupying a lower berth in the sleeper. When the train was near Cresson, Mr. Stewinhaus, who was struggling in a nightmare, kicked so hard that he broke in the car window at his berth. His left foot went through the heavy glass and his leg was frightfully cut. A blood vessel was severed. A physician of Johnstown was telegraphed ahead to meet the train there. When he entered the car a sickening sight met his gaze. The coach was red with blood, and it was not until Pittsburg was reached that the physician was able to relieve the greatly weakened man. Mr. Stewinhaus was sent to the West Penn hospital.

—The announcement of a proposed European tour by Rev. Father John Boyle, pastor of St. John's Roman Catholic church, Johnstown, may have for the members of his charge a deeper significance than the well-earned vacation of a beloved pastor. In all probability, it is said, Father Boyle will return as first Bishop of the new Altoona Diocese, which has been discussed among the clergy of Archbishop P. J. Ryan's province and also at Rome for some time. The seat of the new diocese will be Altoona, it is said, and it is also stated that the promulgation of its formation will be made at Rome in about two months. The new diocese will be formed by taking Cambria, Somerset, Bedford and Blair counties from the Pittsburgh jurisdiction and Centre, Clinton and Fulton counties from the Harrisburg See.

—Walter L. Main, the well known circus man, has applied for a divorce from his wife. The papers were filed in Ashtabula county, Ohio. Main states that his wife is in California and refuses longer to live with him. She traveled with the circus many years and assisted greatly in amassing the \$500,000 which Main has made in the show business. She is well educated and can speak several languages. When the train was wrecked on the Bald Eagle Valley road several years ago, Mrs. Main was one of the first to gain her presence of mind, and without fear of being attacked or thinking of the narrow escape, she immediately left her private car and went in among the animals, giving orders to a gang of men who were willing to do her bidding. As a result of her presence of mind, many of the beasts were captured.