

Ink Stings.

Monday started the lazy resident on his search for the shady side of the street.

Mr. QUAY'S stomach is said to be out of order again. Another delay in getting ballot reform to the front will doubtless be the result.

Compared to the mixup there is at Harrisburg as to the best manner of reforming the ballot, the Chinese question is a very plain proposition.

Speaking of "closed" things the closest thing we know of now is the President's mouth about the fulfillment of the promises made as to the object of the war with Spain.

The bout between Col. QUAY and Col. GUFFEY about the ring is scheduled to come off next Monday at Harrisburg. Both principals, it is said, have trained down to the finest points, and the general opinion seems to prevail that the result will be a draw—that it is a "draw" for a gullible public.

Any capital city becomes bad enough through the influx of lobbyists, heelers and dependents of the party in power that are attracted to it, but God save the Commonwealth the fate of falling completely into the power of Philadelphia political methods and restrain the removal of the capitol to that city.

Up to this time the Filipinos have cost us \$202,573,000 in money and 3,028 lives of officers and men, and the value of which is inestimable. You will remember that when we settled with Spain we bought those Filipinos for \$20,000,000 or \$2 a head, and the price has swelled to \$20 a head and we haven't got them yet.

There are people who object to a constitutional convention, because they fear Senator QUAY'S influence would control its work. Possibly it would. But then a QUAY convention and a QUAY constitution might not, after all, be out of place in Pennsylvania. It would, at least, enable a QUAY Supreme court and the constitution to get along without serious differences.

It is wonderful how independent some newspapers can be when independence costs nothing and harms no cause. Our neighbor—the Republican—is just now alive with the bacilli of independence; but wait until within a few weeks of the election and see how its threatening horns vanish and how pitifully it will plead for "harmony" in the ranks of QUAY Republicanism.

Prof. ELIJAH R. CROOK, the Chicago gentleman who confessed before a class of girls a few days ago, that he had never uttered an oath, taken a chew of tobacco, smoked a cigar, downed a drink of liquor or kissed a girl, is a victim of cruel fate. Why he might have traveled around and merely taken the overflow from HOBSON, rather than have remained in ignorance of the blissful delights of the osculatory, conjunctiveness.

Harvard University is about to confer the degree of doctor of laws on President McKINLEY. It would be far more to the point were that institution to supply a doctor for some of the laws that McKINLEY has already had passed. Possibly "old JOHN HARVARD" has an idea that if they doctor the President he will be warranted in burying some of his governmental mistakes.

COOPER says it will be three months more before he will get DON CAMERON groomed into a clean candidate for Governor, a candidate who will be against all "pinch or grab" legislation. Herculean work. The Hon. THOMAS always was a wonder. Had he lived in Bible times there never would have been any reference to the impossibility of the leopard's changing its spots, for TOM would have been there to tell how he made CAMERON a clean candidate.

The proposed change of the plans of statutory hall of the capitol at Washington, by which the famous whispering galleries will be destroyed is not meeting with general approbation. We can see no reason, however, why the absence of the whispering galleries should cause any inconvenience or lack of attraction. So far as the Senators or Congressmen, themselves, are concerned they will be able to hear the faintest whisper of a cup of "cold tea," whether the galleries are there or not.

Among the dodgers when the oleomargarine bill was before the Legislature on Wednesday last was Gov. HASTINGS' "harmony" candidate, Mr. JNO. K. THOMPSON. The Republican farmers who voted for him last fall to insure "harmony" in the ranks of their party, will find some difficulty in figuring out to their satisfaction how the "harmony" that would cheapen their butter, for the advantage of oleomargarine manufacturers, benefits them. But it is the kind that the ex-Governor bunched them with at the last election and we presume they will be ready for another dose of the same kind of deception when the time to administer it comes round. Some people are known to be so "broad minded" that they are always willing to let their own affairs go to the devil if they can serve or please some one else by doing so. And we imagine that many of the fellows who voted for THOMPSON last fall, if they ever come to have sense enough to know what is best for their own interests, will eventually reach the conclusion that they were members of that class.

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After the Right Thing.

It is difficult to see either the justice or the good judgment displayed by Democratic papers in jumping onto ex-Lieut. Governor BLACK, as some of them are doing, simply because he does not believe, as many profess to, in the efficacy of the proposed ballot reform legislation, and because he has expressed himself in favor of a revision of the present constitution. Mr. BLACK'S comity may not be represented in the Legislature as it should be—there are many other localities in the same fix. He may not agree with many so-called ballot reformers as to what will insure real ballot reform, but he these facts as they may, there are pressing demands outside of changes in our system of voting, that call for immediate and decided restraints either to the constitution or to the power that construes it.

We may need new election laws and need them badly; we may need a different registration law and need it at once; but above and beyond both of these we need a curb to the unlimited authority the courts have assumed and a limit of some kind to the extent to which these tribunals can be multiplied.

When we come to remember that in Pennsylvania, with its less than six and a third million population, there are more judges upon the bench than the English have to dispense justice to all the people of England, Ireland and Wales; and take into consideration the additional fact that fully one-half the judges now upon the bench have nothing to do for three-fourths of the year, but draw their salaries, we can imagine the extent to which the wrong of the increase of the judiciary has been carried under the present constitution. And it is still going on and will be continued so long as the bars are crowded with lawyers itching for judicial salaries, and others hoping to benefit by the distribution of the clientage of those elevated to the bench, unless a check is put to it by a change of the constitution. In fact, a few years more at the same pace we have been, and are now, going in the matter of extending the authority and increasing the number of judges and Pennsylvania will be worse judge-ridden than Mexico was priest-ridden prior to the days of DIAZ.

Mr. BLACK may be wrong in some of his positions but in favoring a convention to amend or change our present constitution, if for no other purpose than to limit the number and the power of the judiciary, he is decidedly right.

The Capitol Removal Bill.

The joke of the present session of the Legislature is the capitol removal bill introduced by Representative VOORHEES, of Philadelphia on Monday night of last week. Nobody paid much attention to it at the time, for it has been known for years that VOORHEES has had an ambition to become a humorist and most of his jokes required a diagram. This one was without the customary key, so far as the naked eye could discern, and no attention was paid to it at first. But on Saturday last he had a meeting of the Philadelphia Senators and Representatives at the Mayor's office in Philadelphia, and as they buried all differences and joined in for "the old flag and an appropriation," the outside world has begun to take some interest in the matter.

There is nothing funnier in the history of the Pennsylvania Legislature than the periodical movements for the removal of the capitol to Philadelphia. A few years ago the people of Philadelphia were in the habit of sending a bright young fellow to the Legislature occasionally. It is not invidious to say that that habit has been abandoned, and during the last dozen years the most stupid fellows have been elected from that city. It is not difficult to account for this fact, however. The local bosses have had complete control of the political machinery of the city and have chosen only such men for Representatives as were willing to yield every resemblance of manhood and acknowledge the control of the machine. Of course such fellows were without wit, humor or anything else that implied liberty of thought or conscience and the restraint has only been broken during the present session by this little harmless joke of Mr. VOORHEES.

But joking aside there could be nothing more absurd than the proposition to remove the capitol of the State to Philadelphia. It would mean the unconscious looting of the people of the State for at least a quarter of a century for the construction of capitol buildings. For nearly that long a time the city hall of Philadelphia has been in process of construction, already more than twenty millions of dollars have been spent on it, and nobody will undertake to say now when it will be completed or how much money will yet be required to finish the work. If the Legislature would authorize the removal of the capitol and charge any sort of a commission with the authority to construct the necessary buildings, it would mean the expenditure of any number of millions of dollars and the robbery of the people for at least three generations.

The Cuban Commissioners.

The Cuban commissioners reached Washington on Wednesday of last week, were wined, dined and bunched to the full extent of the ability of the McKINLEY administration and returned home on Wednesday of the present week. These commissioners were supposed to represent the Cuban constitutional convention.

Their business in this country was to influence the President to relax the conditions laid down in the PLATT amendments to the army appropriation bill. Who induced them to come or what reason they had to hope for the achievement of their mission has not been revealed, but it is safe to say they accomplished nothing and returned home satisfied.

In the first place the President has no authority to alter an act of Congress. The PLATT amendment defines the conditions upon which the American troops will be withdrawn from Cuba and there is no power able to alter them except Congress. But when the Cuban constitutional convention refused to accept the conditions the body was induced to send commissioners to the President. He gave them a dinner and a large amount of flattery, and others were expected to do the rest. The rest was additional dinners, continued flattery, unending promises, and such social bribery as was supposed would accomplish the purpose.

The magnificence of the presidential train which left Washington on Monday for a four weeks' junket, with the presidential party on board, was expected to have a good deal of influence on the minds of these commissioners. They were used to a good deal of "fuss and feathers" during WEYLER'S term of office as Captain General of the island and it was expected would be impressed with the superior luxury and greater grandeur of McKINLEY'S outfit.

How well the scheme worked no one yet knows. How greatly they were impressed or whether they were impressed at all is a matter of conjecture only. For they were wise enough to keep their own counsel, and discreet enough not to slop over, even if they were filled to overflowing with good things and promises of what we would do for them and theirs. In this there is bitter disappointment in administration circles. But it is deserved. The beguiling them to Washington for purposes obviously immoral is cruel and inexcusable.

An honorable fulfillment of our pledges would be infinitely more to the credit of the government.

A bill that passed the House finally on Wednesday will be interesting to our sportsmen because it makes it unlawful to shoot deer with any weapon containing more than one bullet, shot or missile for each load fired. This, if it becomes a law, will put the buckshot hunter clear out of it and force all to the use of the rifle.

Morgan's Curious Confession.

Mr. J. PIERPONT MORGAN has found a new world to conquer and has set about to conquer it. That is to say he has purchased at an expense of five or ten millions of dollars, it doesn't matter much which amount, one of the most extensive British steamship lines. The bargain was made a day or two ago and a million and a quarter paid down to bind it, after which Mr. MORGAN notified the other shareholders in the concern that he is ready to take their stock at the same price. It needs only to be added that they are at liberty to deliver the shares and take the money or keep them and submit to his management of their property.

There is nothing very strange in this transaction. Mr. MORGAN knows that it is a perfectly safe investment. The increasing volume of international trade which this country is acquiring assures plenty of work for the steamships at remunerative rates, and it would be impossible to find a safer or cleaner investment. As a matter of fact Mr. MORGAN has already announced that he will at once proceed to greatly increase the fleets of his company by adding new ships as fast as he can procure them. There will be work for all vessels that can be got and though they won't sail under the American flag, they will earn money for their American owners.

But the incident suggests curious thoughts. Not long ago a lot of American capitalists, among whom Mr. MORGAN was conspicuous, were appealing to Congress with all sorts of arguments for an immense subsidy for a steamship trust that had been formed to absorb the Hanna if it had been granted. Mr. MARK HANNA, the personal representative and mouth-piece of the present Republican administration, was a principal and most earnest advocate of this subsidy.

Bribery in the Legislature.

It comes to us from Harrisburg, and from what we believe to be an authentic source, that while the "oleo" bill was under consideration in the House on Tuesday a member of that body went to the Senate and offered to sell the votes of himself and two others in opposition to the measure for a cash price. The person to whom the offer is said to have been made is a Senator whose business gave him a pecuniary interest in the defeat of the bill. As a matter of fact he is a manufacturer of oleo in Allegheny city, and the passage of the bill would have greatly impaired his business. But he had the courage to refuse to deal with the corruptionist who offered to sell him the three votes.

We say the Senator in question had the courage to decline to deal with the miserable reprobate but he hadn't the courage to perform his full duty. If he had taken the contemptible wretch by the collar, forced him before the bar of the House and denounced him as a briber and poltroon, he would then have measured up to the standard that fits men to perform the duties of a Legislator. But he failed in that and the public is left to conjecture as to whether he refused to deal because the number of votes offered were insufficient to accomplish the purpose or for the reason that he wouldn't save his business at the expense of his honor and manhood.

The man who is alleged to have offered the votes for sale is a pretended Democrat who represents a Democratic constituency in the Legislature. He is one of the gang that the wretched QUAY contingent has counted as one of its own ever since the beginning of the present session. And if this story is correct, deserves to be doubly disgraced by every honest man in the Commonwealth. Such creatures are entitled to only the contempt their acts merit, and to be classed as fit followers of LENO, WAGON-SELLER and MANEAR who were forced into infamous seclusion years ago. Even the pitiable and universally despised WASHBURN is no worse. We withhold the name only because of a want of positive proof of the shameful transaction.

An Inexcusable Wrong.

Northumberland county, whose judge has been able to attend all the work that came before his court and to pocket extra salaries for holding courts, for judges in other counties, averaging over \$1,500 a year for the past six years, is asking an additional law judge. In all probability it will get it. At least a bill to that effect passed the House at Harrisburg on Tuesday, and as the Senate is as absolutely and as obsequiously under the control of the QUAY ring as is the body that has already acted upon this measure, the chances are ten to one that this additional outrage will be perpetrated against the taxpayers of the State.

We have heard it repeated that "time at last makes all things even," but if the evening up process, in this business of creating unnecessary judicial positions, is not soon begun, time and eternity both will be too short to properly square the account the people of Pennsylvania will have against the ring and the roosters that have done them these wrongs.

Colonel Cooper's Task.

Colonel TOM COOPER, of Delaware county, the whilom "red-headed and hopeful angel of reconciliation," is still tugging away at Senator CAMERON with the hope of ultimately dragging him back into the political arena as a candidate for Governor. The ex-Senator, more or less foxy himself, has not consented as yet, but like a trout in the brook, is nibbling at the bait. The Colonel, according to the newspapers, paid a visit to the Senator the other day with the view of talking the matter over. They talked it over and under, according to the papers, but arrived at no conclusion.

But it can be confidently said that Colonel COOPER made considerable progress with his enterprise, nevertheless. He found Mr. CAMERON working in his garden, and when the radiant face of his visitor loomed into view he laid down his spade and proceeded to talk about the matter in mind. There was no reluctance in the matter, we are assured. He relinquished his work cheerfully, we are led to believe, and rather enjoyed the opportunity to talk about being a candidate for Governor. Maybe he rolled the title under his tongue like a sweet morsel and laid the reasoning to his soul as a flattering unctious.

This we interpret as an unfailing sign that CAMERON, like our late friend BARKUS, "is willin'." That being the case half of Colonel COOPER'S task is done. All that now remains for him to accomplish is to get the public into the same frame of mind as himself. When he accomplishes that the nomination will follow and the people will have a chance to determine whether they are willing to exchange QUAY for CAMERON as a boss. The record of the ex-Senator is ample evidence that there is little choice between them, but they have the right to make the choice or as an alternative "take to the woods."

To Be Expected.

It is reported that the Supreme court stands four to three in favor of the Pittsburgh ripper. We don't wonder a particle at this information. A Supreme court that can stand for a ring-Governor's veto against constitutional limitations, and the precedents of decades, can stand for any kind of political devilment that comes to the top, without either lowering its dignity or lessening any respect that people may have for it. Judicial bodies can get to that point that further descent is impossible, and public opinion has come to the conclusion that the highest court in the State has about reached that low condition.

The Pittsburgh "ripper," that robs the people of a city of the right to elect their own municipal officers, is no greater outrage against constitutional rights, or the principles of Republican government than the clothing of a Governor with authority to usurp the powers of the Legislature. This has been done, and we may look for things to "rip" generally hereafter.

It seems about time to shut up the legislative shop when they are running as short of matter out of which to make laws as they seem to be at Harrisburg. On Monday Rep. HENDERSON, of Allegheny, introduced a measure to enable homeless or landless people to appropriate any house, lot or farm, not personally occupied by the owner, after making a tender of its assessed value. Of course such an act would have a tendency to raise assessments to nearer the actual value of property, but it could never be thought of seriously as a law, because of its manifest injustice.

It may seem to be a queer situation, but, nevertheless, there is no denying the fact that since the McKINLEY outfit started on its trans-continental trip the principal thing at the front has been the rear platform.

If The Capitol Must Be Moved Move It to Bellefonte.

Hotel keepers and others in Harrisburg who have more or less interest in the retention of the present location of the State capitol were doubtless thrown into some alarm by the apparent unanimity of the movement of the Philadelphia legislative delegation on Saturday last to establish the seat of government in Fairmount Park. Although there was not the least difference in the meeting as to the propriety of donating Memorial Hall, with sufficient surrounding grounds for capitol purposes, very considerable disagreement prevailed as to the reasons for removal. Mayor Ashbridge, who is nothing if not patriotic and public-spirited, said that the measure was not for Philadelphia but for the entire State of Pennsylvania. He did not think that the removal would be of any great material benefit to Philadelphia—which is quite true. The Mayor, therefore, warned his fellow movers against inviting attack by making this a Philadelphia movement instead of one for the material and moral gain of the whole people.

But the next orator completely spoiled the effect of this disinterested speech by a glowing description of the great advantages which would follow removal of the capitol to Philadelphia in the liberal expenditure of money for magnificent public buildings, which would contribute to the architectural adornment of the city. He said that the Legislature would be justly criticized for expending \$5,000,000 in a city the size of Harrisburg, while it would be applauded for the expenditure of \$10,000,000 on a capitol in Philadelphia "to maintain the dignity of the great Commonwealth."

Finally it appeared that the main reason of the Philadelphia members for desiring the removal of the capitol is the inconvenience they experience in traveling free every week from Philadelphia to Harrisburg. Instead of going to Harrisburg every Monday evening (generally Tuesday morning) and returning Friday afternoon it would be so pleasant to have the capitol at their doors. The members from the northern and western parts of the State might object that what would increase the comfort of the Philadelphia members would increase their own inconvenience and expenses. It has been suggested that the capitol removal would not only enhance the comfort of the Philadelphia delegation, but would also elevate its character. This is a strong consideration, and if such an object could be assured it ought to be decisive for the change. But the members from the interior will be apt to regard the proposed removal of the capitol as a rather precarious means of improving the political and moral standard of the Philadelphia representation in the Legislature.

Poor Philadelphia Needs It.

The possibilities in the new capitol job are exceeded only by the possibilities in the scheme of removing the seat of government to Philadelphia. The vista of jobbery which this proposition holds before the hungry eyes is beautiful and unlimited. When we think of the Philadelphia city hall, started thirty years ago at an estimated cost of \$5,000,000 and still unfinished after spending nearly five times that amount, we do not feel very enthusiastic over the idea of letting a similar "little old man of the sea" get his legs around the neck of the State. A suitable location in Philadelphia would cost an enormous sum and jobs galore; and as for the building, this generation would do the beginning of it but not likely the end of it.

The proposition may be only a bluff. No one imagines that the people of the State, outside of Philadelphia, would consent to a change of capitol. Harrisburg is centrally located and is the most convenient point in the State. It is safe to predict that it will remain the capitol for many years to come.

Spawls from the Keystone.

A Beech Creek train bumped into a herd of cows near Patton, a few days ago. Four cows were instantly killed, a heifer had a leg broken and was afterwards shot.

George Beck, employed at the Coleman saw mill, near Summerville, Clearfield county, was caught in the machinery while oiling a shafting and squeezed to death.

At Sinnemahoning Monday F. H. Hands came was found dead with his bicycle on top of him. No one saw him, the young man came to his death, but it is supposed that he was attacked by heart disease while riding his wheel, and fell dead.

F. P. Smith, of Wallacetown; Robert France, foreman of the Wallacetown Fire Brick company, and J. H. Ackley, of Boggs township, were one week on the head waters of Deer creek and each of the above men caught fifteen dozen trout.

The York Bridge company has received the contract to construct an iron bridge across Coalamus creek at Weiser's mill, to take place of the stone bridge at that place. It is an inter-county bridge for Juniata and Snyder counties. The contract price is \$3,600.

The mangled body of a man was found on the railroad tracks at Trimmer's Rock, below Newport, early Sunday morning. A letter addressed to James McFadden, Burnham, Mifflin county, Pa., and postmarked Lebanon, Pa., were the only clues of identification.

The kidnaping fiend has struck Blair county. Monday Dr. William B. Miller, Altoona's widely known dentist, received a letter saying that if he did not put up \$5,000 his son would be stolen. He is not paying much attention to the matter and considers it somewhat of a hoax.

Lock Haven is after the encampment of the Third Brigade, N. G. P., for this summer, and the citizens have already taken steps to secure it. A committee has been appointed to visit Harrisburg and lay the matter before Governor Stone and his military council. General Gobin, brigade commander, is said to favor the selection of Lock Haven for the brigade encampment.

Percy, the 5 year old son of John Zimmerman, was terribly bitten Tuesday by a bull dog belonging to Mrs. Frank Lenhart, Lewisburg, to whose residence the boy had been sent on an errand. Passersby were attracted by the screams of the child and rescued him, but not before he had been horribly bitten about the head. It is thought he will recover. The dog was shot.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Moon, of Black Hole valley, Lycoming county, who were so unfortunate as to lose their home and almost everything they had a short time ago, have found money believed to have been destroyed. In screening the ashes they found \$40 in gold which William Hummel gave them. Bank officials at Montgomery say the money is all right. Two pieces are burned a little at the edges.

Thomas Simpson died Saturday at his home, about a mile from the town of Indiana, aged about 45 years. Several weeks ago while Mr. Simpson was grubbing stumps he pricked his finger, but went on with his work. In a few days blood poison resulted and his right hand was amputated. The poison had communicated to the arm, however, and a few days ago the arm was taken off at the shoulder, but his life could not be saved.

When the cellars for Els Conner's new houses on Chestnut street Lewistown were excavated, a stone was dug up that has the exact shape and appearance of a human skull, and the probabilities are that it is part of the petrified head of an aboriginal resident of that section. It shows the hair about the forehead, the depressions below the temples, and eye sockets so naturally that it does not seem possible that its shape could be produced by accident. What would the original possessor of the head think if he could be waked up now and view the scenes about his long time grave?

Monday night Edmunds, the young man who was shot in the mix up with the tramps at Clearfield Saturday evening, was reported as showing signs of improvement, but his physicians still regard his condition as very uncertain, if not critical. Layton who was shot in the leg, is not dangerously wounded and is getting along right well. The hoboes arrested were given a hearing Monday evening and three of them were recommitted to jail to await trial at court. The others were released. The principals gave their names Francis Kennedy, of South Dakota, and William Collins, an Englishman having no residence in this country, Collins was identified as one of the parties who did the shooting.

A fight between two dozen tramps and a number of the employes of the Clearfield fire brick works, near that place, Saturday night, resulted in one of the men belonging to the works being fatally shot and another seriously wounded. The tramps and the brick-makers met near the Clearfield and Mahoning bridge. Both parties had been drinking and a quarrel ensued. The tramps opened fire with revolvers, it is alleged, and their opponents, not being armed, responded with stones. G. M. Eadiston was shot through the head and will die. A man named Layton was shot through the legs. A posse was formed by the sheriff of the county and thirteen tramps answering the description of those who participated in the affray were run down and placed under arrest.

Tuesday morning, April 23rd, Mrs. John Minnich, of Bedford, went up to the attic of her house with a bucketful of water and a lighted lamp to do some cleaning. While at work she made a misstep and fell downstairs, overturning the lamp, which exploded and set fire to her clothing and a bureau filled with bed clothes. When she fell upon her put out the fire which was consuming her dress. After a heroic and apparently hopeless struggle, the two sons succeeded in subduing the flames. Mrs. Minnich was seriously injured, her head being cut and bruised and her hands and feet burned. She was in a critical condition, but is improving. The bureau and its contents, three dresses, some wearing apparel and other things, were consumed.