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The Centre Democrat.

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Editorial.

ENGLISH nobility play baccarat for amusement and profit; American politicians prefer the old reliable game known as "poker," every time.

ON Tuesday the great baccarat trial in London came to a close. The jury retired and fifteen minutes later returned with a verdict against Sir William Gordon Cumming, which means that they find that he is guilty of cheating.

JAMES Milliken left on Monday for the West and no doubt will take with him several hundred extra copies of county papers containing his article on legal tender, to distribute broadcast among his silver acquaintances in that country.

THE Prince of Wales was compelled to appear in court last week and was subject to the taunts and insults of the attorneys. There was a time royalty was considered far above such things; but the world is growing wiser and democracy is spreading.

On July 4th next, and thereafter, the flag of the United States will contain forty-four stars. Wyoming was not admitted until after July 31st of last year, and the United States law prescribed that the star for a new state shall be admitted to the flag the next fourth of July following its admission.

BLAINE has gone to his home at Bar Harbor, Maine, to recuperate as his health is somewhat broken down from overwork. As Blaine presidential stock has been on the advance of late, the Harrisons are very much afraid lest Benjamin should not receive a re-nomination. There will be a lively canvass made for delegates between the Blaine and Harrison forces from this on.

THE republicans in Union and Snyder counties are very much dissatisfied with the recent judicial apportionment of the state which makes those counties a new district and insures the re-election of Judge Bucher, a democrat, in a republican district. The district is all right, only Bucher is such a popular democrat that everybody is for him and no republican can hold his party vote against him.

EVERYBODY should take notice that the clam has joined the oyster in retiring from business during the months without an "r." Governor Pattison has signed the bill making it unlawful to sell clams and oysters in this State during June, July and August. Lovers of the bivalves, however, will still find them in profusion at the seaside resorts, for New Jersey makes no such laws.

A bank-cashier story from the South has a pleasing variation from the usual form. The cashier had served for many years, had been compelled to retire from his place and soon afterward committed suicide. The incidents are unfortunately not peculiar thus far, but in this case an examination of the cashier's accounts showed that instead of a deficiency there was a credit of \$70,000 in his favor on the books of the bank. The despondency which caused his violent act was simply due to the feeling of regret that old age prevented him from longer performing the duties which he had faithfully discharged for so many years.

Facts About Taxes.

For the next two years our Government will spend annually more than \$500,000,000.

To pay one year's expenses of the Government it will take nearly the combined wheat and oats crop.

Our annual output of gold, silver, copper, iron, coal, petroleum and lead will not foot our tax bill for twelve months. Nor can we do it with a year's product of cotton, wool, rye, barley, wine, potatoes and tobacco.

The combined capitalization of our national banks is \$500,000,000. One year's taxes will nearly swallow it up.

Now, all this is the Federal tax. We have also to pay city, county and State taxes.

We pretend to be a nation of plain people, with no aristocracy, no princes, no standing army and no expensive frills, and yet our taxes are more enormous than those of Austria, Germany or Great Britain.

REPLY TO MILLIKEN.

THE NEW YORK TRIBUNE'S ESTIMATE.

It First Published Milliken's article and then gave him an Editorial Slap—Belleville's Political Economist Dwindles.

Last week three of our county papers were induced to publish an extended and labored article from the pen of Jas. Milliken, of this place. The article was headed "Law and Legal Tender Money," and was an attempt to make the innocent reader believe that what the silver men advocated in regard to the kind and amount of currency the government should adopt was right. The silver men of the country want to make a great deal of money out of a free coinage bill which would compel the government to give them a dollar for every eighty cents worth of silver they produce. This would be the greatest swindle of the age and is advocated with the most brazen-faced effrontery of modern times. The silver men in their greed ask the government, which in fact is nothing more than sixty-four millions of people taken collectively, to pay them a bonus of 20 cents on every 80 cents worth of silver mined by them.

In this way the government would be made a dealer in silver to bolster the silver interests, at the expense of the people. By free coinage the government would turn all the raw silver sold to it into debased coin—80 cents worth of silver stamped as worth one dollar. And worst of all, the government would be required to coin silver into debased currency and return it to the owner free—with at least 25 per cent. of its original value added to it by the government's stamp. Mr. Milliken, we are told, is largely interested in silver operations in the far west and naturally would find it to his interest to see such a measure adopted. His characteristic greed is well displayed in this instance where he, with other heartless financiers of his ilk, stand ready to scrape the very cuticle of the nation and heap more burdens upon the wage earners and toilers—the only wealth producers of the country. Mr. Milliken with his customary egotism boasts in print of the merit and ability of his effusion. We are told that he begged the proprietor of the *North American Review* to accept his article, but it was rejected. Next it was taken to the *Forum* and there it was considered not of sufficient merit and was again rejected. In his despair he carried it to the office of the *New York Tribune* and finally it was given space there, for which he no doubt paid well, as he did to have it inserted in some of our county papers. As the *New York Tribune* is the leading and recognized journal of the republican party, founded by Horace Greeley and the mouthpiece of the present administration, its editorial comments bear with them more than usual significance. And this is what they think of Prince Milliken and his article.

From the N. Y. Tribune, May 18, '91.

MORE MONEY FANATICISM.

Between the extravagances of Mr. Milliken, whose letter is printed on the fifth page, and the extravagances of Mr. Atkinson, whom he criticises, it is rather hard to choose. Indeed it is extremely difficult to comprehend how a man of average sanity and common-sense can get into a state of mind to say some of the things that Mr. Milliken does say, to all appearance with absolute sincerity of conviction. His notion that paper can be and is "coined," and made absolutely money, by receiving the stamp of the Government, is contradicted, as he well knows, by the language which the Government itself has placed upon every note issued by it. The notes do not declare "this is one dollar," more or less, but "the United States will pay one dollar," more or less. It requires more than ordinary irresponsibility of mind to ignore this obvious declaration by the Government, in order to assume that the stamp imprinted has transformed a piece of paper into money.

There is not the slightest support in the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States for the assertion that the legal-tender paper issued by the Government is money, in the sense in which the Constitution empowers Congress to coin money and regulate the value thereof. The Supreme Court recognizes only the power of the United States to issue its evidences of debt, and to require the settlement of public or private obligations. Neither is the criticism of Mr. Atkinson, on account of his statement that "gold is the standard of the world's commerce," by any means more reasonable than the statement itself. The word standard is apt to be confusing to the majority. Sometimes it means measure of value, but sometimes it bears to the mind a very different signification. What Mr. Atkinson meant was not that gold was the only money in circulation, having power by its volume to control prices, for Mr. Atkinson knows, as Mr. Milliken ought to, that all the gold, and all the silver, and

all the paper, and a considerable part of the outstanding credits besides, operate in the market to affect prices. What Mr. Atkinson meant was that the world's commerce accepted gold as the measure of values, in transactions of great magnitude and number, in which, as a rule, no gold whatever is employed. The money of account in this and in other countries really includes a great deal that Government neither creates nor recognizes. But the money which the commerce of the world accepts as its measure of value is that to which transactions are adjusted and by which they are governed. It is in this sense and in no other that sane men propose to employ the gold standard only. It seems amazing and almost incomprehensible folly in Mr. Milliken and other men like him to imagine that prices must necessarily be depressed by the use of gold alone as a standard, when the purchasing power belongs to and is held by all the paper in circulation and a large body of the commercial credits. These do the buying, and prices are affected by the volume of these, and not by the volume in circulation of a particular kind of coin. Does Mr. Milliken really imagine that doubling the number of yardsticks in the country would double the yards in every piece of cloth?

It is hard to conceive of a more foolish statute than the one proposed in Pennsylvania, and advocated with such frantic enthusiasm by the writer, namely, an act to forbid individuals from making contracts to pay gold or any other specific form of money. The theory on which such an enactment is urged happens to be fully exposed by the statement of Mr. Milliken, who says: "The statutes of the State govern the construction, validity and obligation of contracts, and under those privileges the declared policy of the Government is daily nullified by the making of special contracts, payable in specially designated pieces of gold, nevertheless money, and by this avoidance of the law usury is attempted and the public welfare is attacked." No man can point out wherein usury is accomplished or in any way facilitated by the making of specific contracts to pay in gold, or in any other thing upon which the parties may agree. No one can suggest how the Government is in the least degree assailed in its policy by such contracts. Yet Mr. Milliken imagines that individuals ought to be arbitrarily robbed of their right to make such contracts as they may agree upon between themselves. The sole motive for such an arbitrary injustice is to force into circulation and more general use some kind of money which the common-sense of the business community does not desire, will not accept, and which is therefore, in spite of all enactments, comparatively discredited.

OBJECTIONABLE IMMIGRATION.

There are two classes of so-called immigrants who are particularly and rightfully repugnant to the American people. One of these classes is composed of mechanics, artisans and laborers who are enterprising enough to take advantage of the difference in wages between America and European countries during the busy season. Every spring brings over thousands of this class, who pay their way, but come cheaply as steered passengers, secure remunerative employment through the summer months, spend little beyond their actual living expenses, and return home to pass the winter in comparative leisure and enjoy their earnings. These men come in direct competition with the American workman, share his wages, and even help to depreciate them, and escape most of the burdens which are placed upon the native mechanic and labor in the name of protection. There is nothing to prevent their coming, and their number are increasing every year. But objectionable as this growing class is to American workmen and American interests, it is every way desirable compared with the other, which consists of a type of tramps absolutely. This latter class does not have the merit of even representing skilled labor, as is the case of the English, Scotch and German stonemasons and metal workers. In speaking of them the Dingley report on the subject of immigration says: "What amazes is the size of the counter current. Sometimes as many as 1,000 Italians came back from the United States to Naples in the month of December. When they have made a few dollars in the United States beyond the present wants they hasten to their old homes. They love to spend their savings in Italy; it seems to them almost a sacrifice to spend them elsewhere." These people are of the worst possible type. While they are in this country they are either vagabonds or practically serfs. They work in hordes under the charge of a master contractor. They spend next to nothing of their scanty earnings, and when the season is over they return to their haunts in the old world. Their annual voyage costs them less than they would spend if they stayed among us, and so they go and come, a fifth, reeking tide of humanity, with no purpose of becoming citizens, and with no other object than to acquire the scant means necessary to enable them to pass a season of idleness in their native land. They are tenfold more objectionable than contract laborers, but no effort is made to keep them out.

—The Manchester (N. H.) Union.

THE BACCARAT SCANDAL.

The game of baccarat is an old one, said to have been introduced into France from Italy several hundred years ago. It is a comparatively simple game, and would have no interest except for the element of gambling. One person acts as "banker" and deals out two cards to each player, including. Before the hands are examined, each player puts in front of him the stake he desires to play for. The objects to get nine, nineteen or twenty-nine. The face cards count ten and the others according to the number of pips or spots upon them. A player may call for two more cards, at the risk of exceeding twenty-nine, which forfeits his stake. When the hands are examined the banker pays all who hold better hands than his, and takes from the others the amount of their stakes.

According to the testimony of Mr. Arthur Stanley Wilson, baccarat was played at Tranby Croft, the house of his father and mother in 1889; but his father objected to it, and it was not played again until last September. Then upon the occasion of the visit of Prince of Wales, a game was made, presumably for his amusement and incidental profit. He acted as banker, and Sir William Gordon Cumming was among the players.

Mr. Wilson testified yesterday that on two separate evenings, September 8 and 9, Sir William cheated, in the following manner: After the hands were taken up, if he had a very good one, he would increase his stake by dropping or pushing forward a "counter," representing more money, in addition to the stake he had first put forward. If his hand was a poor one his stake would thus be small, while if he won his stake would be large.

Mr. Wilson says he noticed this action of Sir William on the first night, and mentioned it to Mr. Levett and to his mother. The next night both Mr. Levett and Mr. Green noticed the same thing. Then, in order to avoid a "scandal" which would distress Mrs. Wilson and would unpleasantly involve the Prince, Sir William Gordon Cumming was interviewed privately, and on the advice of Gen. Williams and Lord Coventry signed a paper declaring he would never play cards again.

This, it was supposed, would hush up the matter; but somehow it got out. Cheating at cards is considered dishonorable in English society, and Sir William knew that unless he could clear his reputation he would be cast out of that Englishman's paradise, his club, and would be compelled to resign his commission in the army. So he brought suit for slander, and it is this suit that is now on trial. Sir William Gordon Cumming is technically the plaintiff, but really it is he who is on trial, and not the nominal defendants.

The real point of interest in this case, however, does not lie in the guilt or innocence of the plaintiff. Its most notable feature is the disclosure it makes of the character of the "Prince of Wales set." Where the Prince is there is gambling. The "set" gamble, presumably, in order to kill time. It would be uncharitable to suppose that they do it in order to keep the Prince in pocket money, and, besides, there is no evidence to show that he wins more than he loses.

This is the set to which some Americans have been and are anxious to introduce their sons, and especially their daughters. It is the set especially whose manners the Anglomaniacs of this country aim to copy. Its influence for evil is not limited by the boundaries of England, or even those of the British Empire.

It is perhaps needless to say that there is "society" in England, of the highest sort, that takes no part in these things, and into which neither the Prince's "set" nor the Prince himself is received on terms of intimacy.

Light is a good thing, and the failure to hush up this baccarat scandal, and the light it shed upon the manners and customs of a certain portion of the English "aristocracy," ought to have a good effect, of the "awful example" sort, both in England and in this country.—*New York Mail and Express.*

—It certainly is encouraging to see the clouds of smoke arise from the Valentine Iron Company's furnace, and the vast body of men going and coming from their work.

—Lewin keeps things a moving; they never rehandle or repack goods. They sell off their stock before the close of the season and replace it again and again. They sell cheap and do a big business.

—Belleville has, at least, twenty-five bicyclists and the number is rapidly increasing.

A MAD MAN RUNS A TRAIN.

WILD RIDE BEHIND A CRAZY ENGINEER.

Conductor and Fireman Watch the Man at the Throttle—Wilkesbarre Without a Crash—An Exciting Trip.

With his hands on the throttle a crazy engineer on the Pennsylvania Railroad made the run of an express train between Pottsville and Wilkesbarre last Friday, guarded by the conductor and fireman. It was an exciting and sensational passage.

The train was made up of a baggage car, smoker and two day coaches, and at 12:30 o'clock left the Pottsville station. Engineer Elmer, who had run on the Pennsylvania road for many years, was considered one of the most competent men in the service. He talked pleasantly to the fireman, and there was nothing like insanity until, after running a few miles, Elmer stopped the train. In explanation he told conductor Zach Moyer that there was a freight ahead, and without orders he would not proceed.

NOT THE JOKE IT SEEMED. Moyer, thinking the man was joking, laughed, and said it was all right ahead. Thereupon the trip was resumed.

New Castle was reached, and again Elmer asked for orders. Moyer's suspicions were aroused, and during the run to Morea he watched Elmer's movements from the baggage car. The engineer shifted about in the cab, and at times acted as if he were about to leap from the cab window. In running a long stretch of track he suddenly stopped the train, and said the water for the boiler was low, although the tank was almost full.

Up to this time the passengers knew nothing of Elmer's strange antics. Then the fact leaked out, and it was with fear that they remained seated as the train rushed along. Conductor Moyer and the fireman came to the conclusion that Elmer's mind was deranged.

THREE MEN AT THE THROTTLE. Then Moyer climbed into the cab and sat beside the crazy man, who seemed pleased to have company. Time and again he tried to stop the train, however, claiming that the water was about out and freight trains were ahead.

The conductor watched the throttle as a hawk would watch a scared chicken, and whenever the crazy man would put on an extra head of steam the other men shut it off.

By flattery, pleading and resorting to numerous stratagems the train was brought safely into Wilkesbarre. During the perilous ride Elmer was in a good humor and offered no resistance. That night he was taken to Sunbury and the next evening sent to Philadelphia, where he will probably be sent to Kirkbride.

Train 12 on Pennsylvania R. R.

The new passenger train which was placed in service on the 25th inst., by the Pennsylvania Railroad Co., has proven a great convenience to the traveling public. This train leaves Williamsport at 4 p. m. daily except Sunday, arriving at Watstown 4:45 p. m., Sunbury 5:21 p. m., Millersburg 6:16 p. m., Harrisburg 7:05 p. m., making direct connections at Watstown to and from all points on Wilkesbarre & Western Ry. At Sunbury for all points in the coal regions, arriving at Wilkesbarre 7:50 p. m., Scranton 9:01 p. m., Hazleton via Nescopee 7:56 p. m., Pottsville 9:05 p. m., arriving at Shamokin 6:20 p. m., Mt. Carmel 6:55 p. m., at Millersburg for points on Summit Branch R. R., arriving at Lykens 7:18 p. m., Williamsport 7:30 p. m. and at Harrisburg for the East, South and West, arriving at Philadelphia 10:55 p. m., Baltimore 10:40 p. m., Chambersburg 9:25 p. m., Hagerstown 10:20 p. m., Pittsburg 2 a. m. Train 112 now leaves Belleville 2 p. m. connecting at Montandon and train leaving Scranton 2:38 p. m., Wilkesbarre 3:12 p. m. connects at Sunbury with this new train from Williamsport for all points South, East and West.

The public will notice the close connections made at all junction points. The connection at Harrisburg with train 21 is a great convenience for parties going West. Passengers from the coal regions can now leave Wilkesbarre 7:05 a. m. Pottsville 6 a. m., Hazleton 7:10 a. m., connecting at Sunbury with News Express arriving at Williamsport 11:15 a. m., returning leave Williamsport same day on new train at 4 p. m.

—Good stock in every pair of shoes sold at Mingle's store.

The Centre Democrat and the *Philad. Weekly Times* one year for \$1.45.

Harrisburg Mentionings.

Misses Sophia and Nan. McEwen started for an extended visit among friends in and about Easton. They sold their farm some months ago to Samuel Hoy, who now occupies and tills the soil of one of the finest and best farms in this part of Nitany Valley. Sam., your choice was a good one and a very desirable place to live, especially in the warm months of summer.

Our worthy merchant, "Hoy," is doing a fine and rushing business and sells at the lowest prices; all who call are well suited. Anyone can buy; one price for all. Before purchasing elsewhere call and get prices.

Mr. William Bartley is working with Carpenter Garret this summer at his trade, and is doing good work. They will soon begin Treasurer Granley's barn, one mile west of this place. Besides Will's championship as a workman, he possesses principles truly democratic, and never fails to do his part of the work on election day.

We are glad to meet the faces of Mr. Joe Beck, of Illinois, and his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Wells Beck and her two children, of the same state. They have come for a short visit among friends and relatives, of Snyder town, Mr. Beck's birth place. They will only stay until the last of this month, as they are traveling on excursion rates. Mr. Beck is looking quite well, the only unnatural feature being his silvery locks, which tell and remind us that old age is advancing. But his jovial manner is still so familiar that one forgets these present features and thinks only of the past. Long may you live and enjoy the honorable days of old age, is the wish of your many friends. JOE.

Nitty Items.

We have hopes for one young man of this place; he nearly broke his neck trying to get away from his shadow the other night. But, presto, how brave he was about it the next day.

The Misses Alma Zimmerman and Laura Johnson, of Jacksonville, were the guests of A. A. Fletcher over Sunday. A number of our young fraternity gathered in the evening whom the latter lady very agreeably entertained by rendering some very fine music, both vocal and instrumental.

Had lots of cheek—the fellow whose face came in contact with the rear end of a bumble bee, while he was fishing on Monday.

Some of the long-wished-for rain has at last arrived and now the gaunt and hungry steer can smack his lips in the anticipation of a good hay crop.

Jacob Lose is on the sick list at present.

The latest—taffy served on ice. News is scarce this week because we sent nine of our reporters to Danville lately, and the rest are on a drunk.

Well Burt, we talked to you about smoking, with tears in our eyes, but you would smoke and get—sick.

If you want anymore you can sing it yourself.

JUNEHAWKER.

N. B. We have removed our business office from our old address to rooms over Nihart's blacksmith shop. Main entrance at rear door.

New Summer Excursion-Route Book.

The Pennsylvania Railroad's summer excursion-route book for the season of 1891, just from the press, is undoubtedly one of the most elaborate reference compendiums issued by any railroad company in the world. The company this year has used new illustrations, printed on a very high grade of paper, while a decided departure from the old cover heretofore binding the work is seen in the new one, which is beautifully illuminated, and would do credit to the brush of a Rossi, so cleverly French is it in every detail. The new map embraces a territory from Canada to the Carolina, and from the British possession of New Brunswick to beyond the Great Salt Lake. When comparison is made with this volume of 272 pages, 100 illustrations, and over 1500 routes, a book which enters its year of manhood the first day of June, 1891, and the tiny pamphlet of 24 pages and 63 routes issued twenty-one years ago by the Pennsylvania Railroad, and considered at that time a marvelous departure in railroad advertising, the growth is hardly credible.

—Mr. Christ, Smith, of this place, the young man who so skillfully manipulates the bass violin, will play that instrument with the Reitmeyer orchestra at the commencement exercises of Bucknell University, Lewisburg, June 23rd. Christ is getting right in it.

—George Downing disposed of his home on Bishop street to John Keichline and expects to move to Altoona where a daughter, Mrs. Hoover, resides.