

TO-MORROW'S DISPATCH Will, as usual, be made up into THREE PARTS, containing TWENTY-FOUR 8-column pages. This means 192 columns of READING MATTER. Scattered through this mammoth number will be found the HOLIDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS of Pittsburgh and Allegheny's LEADING HOUSES. Every line will be represented. All in search of HOLIDAY BARGAINS will find TO-MORROW'S DISPATCH a splendid SHOPPING GUIDE. The Literary and News Features of TO-MORROW'S DISPATCH will be found equal to previous issues in every department. Every No. 9 of Newspaper and Magazine Literature will be found in TO-MORROW'S DISPATCH. The special contributions will be Entertaining, instructive, Amusing. Nothing not calculated to be spread before young and old is permitted to enter the columns of THE DISPATCH. All classes are entered to except the morbid. TO-MORROW'S 24-PAGE ISSUE should, in fact, find readers everywhere.

The Dispatch.

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PITTSBURGH, SATURDAY, DEC. 13, 1890.

A QUESTION OF FACT.

The plans for improving the rivers of the Mississippi and controlling the floods are so far developed in the third paper of this issue, that a clear general idea of their nature can be formed, and intelligent discussion begun as to their practicability. The plan briefly stated is this: To convert the water course into storage reservoirs by movable dams, to supplement the storage so obtained with small basins at the heads of the streams. The idea of controlling floods by means of reservoirs is not new, having been proposed for the Ohio river in 1849 by Mr. Charles Ellet, and later by Mr. Edward Morris, distinguished engineers of that time; these reservoirs, however, were not to be in the ordinary sense of the term. The plan when proposed was vigorously assailed and finally abandoned. The estimate of its cost for \$215,000,000 for the Ohio river alone, to control the outflow, then estimated at only one-third of what is now known to be necessary.

The plan of movable dams to improve the river for purposes of navigation we believe to be approved by the best engineering talent of the time, its estimated cost as applied to the Ohio being \$70,000,000. The new combination of the old ideas, as set forth in these papers, appears plausible to say the least, and reduces the problem to a question of fact, which may be considered under three heads.

(a) Is it practicable to obtain the necessary storage capacity in the way proposed? The volume of water necessary is determined by General Greeley, from the gauging of the Mississippi River Commission, at something over 18 cubic miles for the Ohio Valley alone, in which the great floods of the Mississippi originate. This question can probably be settled from surveys already made, which ought to give the cubic volume of water courses.

(b) Is it practicable to construct and operate movable dams of the great size necessary to accomplish the object? The papers are to contain drawings of dams which the author believes to be practicable, and no more expensive than those proposed to give six feet of water only in the Ohio to render that stream navigable. It is hoped that these designs or others will meet every requirement, and criticism is invited when they are so far unfolded that they may be intelligently comprehended.

(c) Can the improvement be made at a cost commercially possible? The solution of the mechanical problem will probably solve this also. It is well to bear in mind, in this connection, that the plan is not alone to control the floods, but also to so deepen and improve the water courses that they will form channels of the shallowest, such as the plan for storing the reservoirs and adding to the value of the system as a means for controlling the floods, its great value in developing our internal water ways to their greatest possible carrying capacity, so protecting us from the destructive violence of natural forces, and at the same time freeing us from our present thralldom to greedy corporations.

tion more broadly than any other authority has yet done. This widespread attempt to nullify the law was plainly founded upon a belief that its penalties would not be enforced. If the law is to be of any value whatever in checking the evils of discrimination, that idea must receive the convincing disproof of the imposition of the penalties on every railroad official who undertakes to violate it. The plea in the case decided by Judge Gresham were interposed to prevent the enforcement of the penalties, and that Judge with his usual directness has swept away the legal cobwebs which were spun to prevent the enforcement of the law.

As these cases will be to the United States Supreme Court on writ of habeas corpus, it may be hoped that an early decision will be obtained that will make it possible to enforce the law. But the United States Supreme Court has of late years come to be a very uncertain body.

NEW POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE. A novel development in State politics is afforded by the formal declaration of the Pennsylvania Independence by both its Senators. A good many other people have made assertions to this effect; but when we discover the journal which only a few weeks ago was in the forefront of the fight as a Republican organ, attacking the political attitude of both Senators Cameron and Quay, it awakens in the mind distinct reminiscences of the days of 1852.

The reasons why our Senators are regarded by the Press as misrepresenting the people of Pennsylvania is the rather unique one that they do not support the Federal elections bill, and that Senator Cameron supports free coinage of silver. It might be supposed that issues could be raised on which the appeal from the Senators to the people could be taken more successfully. The little matter of corporate supremacy in this land, the questions of conducting public affairs in the interest of the people and not of favored classes, and the removal of the offices from politics, are all matters on which an outspoken journal could criticize its own party leaders with the assurance of party support. But our Philadelphia cotemporary is not jumping on Messrs. Quay and Cameron for any such barren idealities as this. The counts of its indictment are the last session through the machinations of Mr. Quay and Mr. Cameron, and (2) Mr. Cameron not only supports free coinage, but is reported to be co-operating with free coinage Senators to defeat the elections bill and get through a free coinage measure. On these grounds the Press jumps at the leaders and proprietors of Pennsylvania Republicans, in the following savage style:

Is this leadership which the foremost Republican State in the Union accepts as representing its interests? Is it not outrageous that the Pennsylvania Senators should be so far from representing the people as to support a tariff question up, and that Senators from other States are left to defend its interests? Are our Senators to go further and actively conspire to defeat a measure to which the people have so earnestly recommended in two messages? It is time for the Pennsylvania Senators to halt.

The first criticism which we have to make on the Press' deliverance is as to the fitness of its concluding figure of speech. We do not think that even from its own view it really wants the Pennsylvania Senators to halt. They have been halting on the election bill and on the money question, and are pitching into them for. If our cotemporary will select its political metaphors a little more carefully, we will consent to let it fight out with Senators Quay and Cameron the question whether there is that passionate hankering for the Federal elections bill or that indignant repugnance to free coinage that it imagines to exist among the Republicans of Pennsylvania.

But we must urge upon our cotemporary the reflection that it makes this arraignment at the wrong time of the year. It really believes that Quay and Cameron are representing the State of Pennsylvania, a very effective way to have said so was last fall, when one Senator was trying to win victory for his personal and political machine, and the other was seeking to secure State legislators in favor of his re-election. Other junctures of the same sort have occurred at biennial periods for the last six years or so, when an outspoken paper could have impressed its disciplinary views with reference to the Senators very forcibly on the public. But the insurrectionary Republican organ has been faithful to the work of preserving the Quay and Cameron power, and only delivers itself in this fighting style after the battle is over. If the article quoted in this issue was published last October, it would have been very much more effective.

Our cotemporary in this way assumes a solitary, gloomy and peculiar position. It has recently abjured Independent Republicanism, forsworn the Mugwumps, and always reviled the Democracy. Now it turns around and jumps with both feet impartially on the leaders of both wings of Pennsylvania Republicanism. We do not assert that there is anything derogatory in its inability to find among the politicians of this State to whom it can tie. We always had a feeling of sympathy and admiration for the man who for eleven obstinate men on the jury with him.

A YEAR OF PROSPERITY. It is worth while to look back over the year drawing to a close. Such a year of prosperity and progress has never been known in Pittsburgh before. A review of the year in detail which appears in another column is most pleasant reading. It shows that everybody who wanted to work found it and at fair wages. There have been no disastrous strikes, no profitless conflicts between capital and labor; harmony has reigned in all the relations of men in this community for a year past. Among other gratifying signs of the period is the purchase of building lots by workmen. It is safe to say that more Pittsburghers own their own homes to-day than at any time in the history of the city. In 1891, more so violent departures from the record of 1890 in Pittsburgh we shall be more than content.

Mr. B. W. Gilmer, the editor of the Century Magazine, commenced his literary career as a reporter at a small salary on a Newark newspaper. He is the son of a Methodist clergyman, and was for a time employed in connection with one of the New Jersey railroads in a subordinate position. THE WIDOW OF GENERAL CUSTER says that he was the first of American army officers to experiment on the rattlesnake as an entree. His cook prepared the dish under protest, and as the general was eating the dainty he saw the alarmed negro cautiously peering in through a crack of the tent, doubtless expecting to see his master drop down in a fit. THE NEW CAROL, on which Thomas A. Edison works several novels, has been working conjointly, will probably be ready for the press in January. Mr. Edison has taken the time to study the work, and his drawings on his imagination has hit upon a number of clever electrical devices which he has considered it worth while to patent. The book will be issued in a few days.

SNAP SHOTS IN SEASON.

WITHOUT doubt Charles Stewart Parnell is the great modern seizer. It's in the air, isn't it? Not the front, but Christmas, and you. You feel it, don't you? And so do you, and you. You can't help but feel it. You can see it, too, in the faces of the children, in the features of the aged, in the looks of the youths and maidens, in the eyes of fathers and mothers. But the surest sign is in the big bundles in the arms of the smiling, contented-looking people who dodge in and out the doors of shops and steer their way through the swift moving crowds on the pavements. Again you see it in the anxious gaze of the groups standing before the big windows filled with the handiwork of the men and women who ply the tools and the looms, stir the fires and feed the machines of the world. How they do look through the big frost-stratified plate-glass windows to be sure. Some, many, more of the pity, must be satisfied with a look. A wall of gold stands between their eyes and the glass. Still their faces seem pleased enough to watch the show. They are not disappointed. Others go inside and gratify their every wish. That's all right, too. The dollars they spend keep the looms bright, the shuttles flying, the machines oiled, the fires bright, and the fingers busy. The heavier the golden shower the brighter the tollers of the home and the fuller its Christmas tree. So spend away, you of the dollar, and don't let the merry bells jingle. And don't let the merry bells jingle. And don't let the merry bells jingle. And don't let the merry bells jingle.

PHOTOGRAPHERS manage to make a living by making faces. They follow between two fires gets the best of the blizzard. They are careful, they know how to keep their kitchen utensils shining is a woman of bright ideas. THE Senate is out of Plumb on account of the force bill. PARNELL has given the world a first-class Irish stew. It All Depends. Let the blizzard sing loud as it pleases, Let it blow from north until night, We don't mind the ice or the breezes So long as the fire shines bright. When the snow falls the merry bells jingle, And jollity everywhere reigns; But, heaven! how frosty air's single When there's not any gas in the mains! AN optical delusion—A glass eye. We wonder what Suici would give for a dish of succotash. NEW YORK has certainly secured Grant's remains. Now she should put something over to let the people know where the hero's dust lies. THE worst thing in the mine pie is the dream. MONEY is tight now that a great many brokers are forced to draw on their imaginations. SOMEbody has figured that London's smoke holds nearly 300 tons, and that the materials it contains are worth \$10,000,000. But the calculations end in smoke for all that. HARD CASE—That turned out at a mint. If the weather could be passed through the clearing house it might be improved. Laughing Water Clearest. Work without murmuring day after day, Play when you can get a chance, Laugh with the laughters who strive to be gay, And when the merriment is done, Do more to relieve the stringency than any quantity of legislation. The first effect of which would be to make the gold go out of the country.

THE Governments of the South American republics are sending commissioners to Europe to induce immigration to their countries. Since the United States has no longer any desire for the services of the South American immigrants, under the policy of reciprocity. SOME people never are satisfied. Two years ago a large and enthusiastic element was declaring its readiness to fight to get into Oklahoma. Now the same people are being got out of it. Two and a half millions in gold are coming across the Atlantic, the tide of exchange having turned the flow of the precious metal in that direction. It is time to relieve the stringency than any quantity of legislation. The first effect of which would be to make the gold go out of the country.

THE fight between the Irish factions was appropriately begun in Kilkenny; but the proverbial Kilkenny method of warfare seems to have been tried in the money question. It is certainly to be hoped that the politicians will get out of the year with a year from the Pennsylvania Republicanism. We do not assert that there is anything derogatory in its inability to find among the politicians of this State to whom it can tie. We always had a feeling of sympathy and admiration for the man who for eleven obstinate men on the jury with him.

THE British Consul at Galveston seems to be anything but persona grata to the Governor of Texas. A NEW ORLEANS professor of what he calls "the new astronomy" predicts that at some time in the future, the sun will rise in the West. Possibly even this will take place when the man who forecasts the weather by telegraph nuts and over-head electric wires. PERSONAL INTELLIGENCE. FEW people are aware that Prof. Sumner, of Yale College, is an Episcopal clergyman. A PROPOSAL of the Ames-West wedding in Boston, the father of the happy groom, Mr. F. L. Ames, has settled the sum of \$1,000,000 upon his son as his share in the joyous occasion. NATHAN MATTHEWS, Jr., Mayor-elect of Boston, is a lawyer who gives special attention to equity cases, and has the care of some large trust funds. He studied at Harvard and Leipzig, and is 37 years old. MR. GLADSTONE is arranging for a grand dinner at the Hotel Waldorf for the Christmas holidays, and, incidentally, the guests will celebrate his birthday. The G. O. M. will be 81 years old on the 29th inst. MR. B. W. GILMER, the editor of the Century Magazine, commenced his literary career as a reporter at a small salary on a Newark newspaper. He is the son of a Methodist clergyman, and was for a time employed in connection with one of the New Jersey railroads in a subordinate position. THE WIDOW OF GENERAL CUSTER says that he was the first of American army officers to experiment on the rattlesnake as an entree. His cook prepared the dish under protest, and as the general was eating the dainty he saw the alarmed negro cautiously peering in through a crack of the tent, doubtless expecting to see his master drop down in a fit. THE NEW CAROL, on which Thomas A. Edison works several novels, has been working conjointly, will probably be ready for the press in January. Mr. Edison has taken the time to study the work, and his drawings on his imagination has hit upon a number of clever electrical devices which he has considered it worth while to patent. The book will be issued in a few days.

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OUR MAIL POUGH.

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THE TOPICAL TALKER.

Disappointing. HE was desperately in earnest, and was an attentive listener. All sorts of subjects he liked and could talk about. She was a puzzling sort of a girl. Her low, broad forehead and large brown eyes spoke of intellectuality; she was dressed in excellent taste; a modest silver-gray gown, low, and the absence of jewelry confirmed the promise of her face. And yet he had tried her on books, on the opera, on the culture of orchids—their best was famous for her orchids—and her responses had shown neither enthusiasm nor knowledge. Above the corner of the music room in which they were sitting hung a small portrait of a man with a white beard and a long white hair, and a dome-shaped hat, and a long white hair, and a dome-shaped hat, and a long white hair, and a dome-shaped hat.

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