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The Dispatch.

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PITTSBURG, SATURDAY, FEB. 28, 1891.

WESTERN MORTGAGE SHARKS.

That much disputed subject of farm mortgages is receiving light from the partial Census returns. Alabama and Iowa furnish illustrations of the condition respectively of Southern and Western agriculture.

The inquiry took its rise out of disputes on the prosperity of the agricultural interests. Representatives of the farmers asserted that they were squeezed to death by mortgages, while the opposing interest denied this. The presumption that the farmers knew more about the existence of mortgages than their opponents is measurably borne out by the Iowa return, which is not the State where the evil is reported worst. On the other hand, the totals from Alabama reveal an unexpected condition of solvency. The total of real estate mortgages in the Southern State is $39,000,000 in round numbers. This covers only one-twentieth of the acreage of that State, and amounts to $26 per capita of population, or $130 for each family of five. In Iowa, where the expectation would be to find affairs better, the mortgages reach $189,000,000, covering one-tenth of the acreage and amounting to $104 per capita or $520 per family. The possibilities of usury and mortgage sharkism are illustrated by the statement that interest charges range in Alabama from 1 to 40 per cent; while in Iowa the range is 1 to 20 per cent.

It is enough to raise suspicions of the accuracy of the figures to find it asserted that a State like Alabama, which was in the depths of bankruptcy twenty-five years ago, is so much better off in this respect than one like Iowa, that is supposed to have enjoyed uninterrupted prosperity ever since it was settled. Perhaps the adversity of one section and the prosperity of the other a generation ago may be the cause of the change of places now. The totals as given do not indicate that we need be uneasy about the condition of Alabama; while that of Iowa is perhaps not critical. But with the expectation that worse returns will come from Kansas and Nebraska, a worse condition of affairs is indicated than was looked for. The fact that the Iowa farmers must use $16,000,000 or $18,000,000 of the returns from their crops, to simply keep up the interest on their debt, shows the burden.

Special inquiries reveal further that about 80 per cent of these debts consist either of the purchase money of the property, or money raised to purchase other property. These are entirely legitimate objects for borrowing money. If the farmer is fortunate enough to get a moderate rate of interest, the result of the mortgage will in most cases prove to his advantage. But the possibilities of 10 and 12 per cent interest rates, with extreme cases as high as 20 per cent, leave the impression that there may be cases where the farmers justly complain that they are eaten up by mortgages.

USEFUL PUB. DOCS. AND USELESS.

The discovery that the public documents are offered for sale at the second-hand book stores of Washington has caused some sharp comments; but with regard to the great mass of such publications, it is calculated to arouse sympathy for the second-hand book stores. A more significant fact is that the few public documents containing information which powerful interests are desirous of suppressing, are by some means kept away from the public. There was a very interesting report on the trust investigation by the last Congress, but copies of it are now as hard to obtain as original editions dating from the seventeenth century.

FRANCE AND GERMANY.

The sudden end of the visit of the Empress Frederick of Germany, with the report that it was caused by intimations of the French Government that her presence in Paris would cause an outbreak of the anti-German feelings of the mob makes the latest European stir.

Of course, if the reports are well founded, they discredit not only the good judgment but the sanity of the majority of the French people. Even if the French were determined to cherish the hope of a revenge for the disgraces of twenty years ago, their judgment should have taught them to accord respectful treatment to a princess of high character visiting their capital in a period of peace and on an errand of international good will. Above all, there should be sense enough left in France to abstain from showing their enmity toward Germany in a manner sure to alienate the sympathy of Europe and to especially offend England, whose neutrality would in case of war be of the utmost importance to France. It seems more likely that the utterances of a few loud-mouthed extremists have been magnified far beyond their importance.

Nevertheless the affair puts the hope of a pacification between France and Germany in a very dubious light. The German Emperor has been represented as desirous of conciliating the French in pursuit of his policy of general pacification in Europe. But if his mother cannot visit Paris to improve the relations between the two nations, without danger of a popular outbreak, he will have a good excuse for throwing aside all thoughts of conciliation. The present reports show that the French have so long nourished the hope of a revenge for disasters, the responsibility of which rested on their own Government, that they will not give even a decent hearing to propositions for lasting peace.

ANTI-CANAL EFFORTS.

The anxiety of certain of our cotemporaries to discover argument against the Erie Canal project has resulted in some remarkable efforts in that line. The presumption that railway influence has inspired these efforts to throw discredit on the project would be very strong, if it were not that they are entirely below the level of moderate corporate intelligence. The railway interest as a rule has mental ability enough to keep quiet if it has not at least specious arguments to allege against a scheme, and to rely upon political influence to suppress what is opposed to it; but these arguments display no such powerful reticence.

A specimen of this logic was furnished the other day by a journal which alleged that because this Canal would contain 40 locks, that it would not compete with the railways. This argument in the light of the fact that the Erie Canal with 72 locks has maintained a steady competition with the great trunk lines, at rates from one-half to three-fifths the railway charges, and has been declared free of tolls after having repaid to the State its cost and maintenance and $12,000,000 over, is particularly trivial. It also exhibits a striking ignorance of the fact that the Welland Canal, now the most important ship canal on the continent, has 27 locks in a line—less than one-fourth the length of this canal.

Another journal gives a great deal of space to the number of drawbridges required for railway crossings of the canal. It figures out that in the 140 miles of its line it must actually have eleven drawbridges. It is not quite clear whether it is the interference with the railway traffic or the cost to the canal of the drawbridges that is objected to; but as all the companies operating lines which will cross the canal are to-day carrying more or less traffic over drawbridges—and the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern crosses something like a dozen between Buffalo and Toledo inclusive, without finding out that it is subjected to any especial disadvantages thereby,—it may be presumed that it is the latter. But the expense of the bridges is included within the total cost of the canal.

Another stroke of logic is the assertion that the canal if completed will be of no use to the great war ships if it should ever be desirable to take them to the lakes. Possibly not; but as it will pass vessels of two feet greater draft than the canals on Canadian territory it will be of use to greater war ships than can be transferred by another route. If we can put greater war ships on the lakes than any other power it will be a vast improvement on the present state of affairs by which they can send vessels with twelve feet draft there, and this country can send exactly none at all.

If our esteemed cotemporaries which are producing these efforts against the project will keep on in the same line they will succeed in convincing the public that an enterprise against which these are the most convincing arguments that can be framed must be one of the greatest merit.

THE DETECTION OF GASES.

The recent mine explosions are developing an earnest inquiry on the part of those connected with the industry into all the possible or even conjectural causes of mine explosion. In a communication published in to-day's DISPATCH Superintendent Keighley, of the Mammoth mine, suggests what has occurred to him in investigating the disaster there, that color blindness may be sometimes a cause of fire bosses failing to detect gas. He calls for the views of scientific men on that point. The suggestion is worth examining, as are all others from practical men on that point. The suggestion is worth examining, as are all others from practical men and the safeguards against these terrible calamities.

It is a remarkable example of the mysterious workings of the official mind that is mentioned by the same gentleman, that an invention of his for detecting the presence of gases in mines was refused a patent in the Patent Office because it is an infringement on an insect powder duster! It is to be noted, however, that other inventions have been more fortunate, as the scientific journal, *Mechanics*, prints a description of a machine for the same purpose with a record of its working in one of the Western Pennsylvania mines where it showed on one occasion a sudden increase of gas from ½ to 16 per cent in five minutes, enabling precautions to be taken that averted an explosion.

Devices which upon practical tests enable the presence of gas to be promptly detected, must be encouraged and adopted. Nothing should be left undone to prevent the repetition of the disasters so common of late.

THE GOVERNORS' DISPUTE.

The interchange of compliments between Hon. David Bennett Hill, Governor of New York, and Hon. Morgan G. Bulkeley, Governor of Connecticut, shows those high officials to be close to the point where they may be expected to order out the militia and levy war each against his neighboring Commonwealth. It may be objected that it is not within the power of Governors or States to make war; but the dispute has already shown that little things like constitutional limitations do not restrain these Gubernatorial disputants from making fools of themselves.

Governor Bulkeley, after obtaining the Governorship by the questionable authority of a minority vote, began to exert his authority by issuing requisitions on the Governor of New York for persons who were wanted in connection with the criminal laws of Connecticut. But the requisitions failed to bring the criminals. After the fact Governor Bulkeley relieved himself in a communication to Governor Hill declaring Connecticut had 200 criminals which it could send over into New York, since the Executive of that State seemed so fond of the criminal population. To this offer to heap coals of fire on his head and recruit the forces of the Tammany workers, Governor Hill made no direct reply, but he furnished a pulverizing rejoinder in interviews stating that he would only honor requisitions from Governors of other States; that the Hon. Morgan G. Bulkeley is not a Governor of Connecticut because he was not elected, but is merely a usurper.

This determination of Governor Hill's not only to reject the distinction between *de facto* and *de jure* officials, but to pass upon the title of his brother Governors, is a new feature of political controversies. It promises lively times if Hill's Presidental ambition should ever be gratified. Governor Bulkeley has not yet responded to this stab, but is evidently biding his time. On next Wednesday Governor Hill's term as United States Senator will begin, and it is understood that he intends to hold on to his Governorship. When that is the case Governor Bulkeley can counter heavily by addressing his requisitions to the freight-paying Jones, and declaring that Hill is not only a usurper, by a pluralist on top of that. After which nothing will be left to be done on either side except to order out the militia.

In the meantime we can rely upon it that gentlemen of burglarious and larcenous tendencies residing near the line between Connecticut and New York are fully alive to the fact that a safe refuge is afforded to them simply by crossing the State line. Bulkeley and Hill should be instructed to pattern their communications after the model of the mutual remarks of the Governors of North and South Carolina.

THE NICARAGUA GRAB FAILS.

The Nicaragua canal bill was yesterday formally withdrawn from the Senate by Mr. Sherman. It was found that the audacity of the proposition to invest $100,000,000 of Government money in an enterprise to be conducted without supervision by private speculators who had already provided themselves with a "construction company" and all the other devices necessary to a repetition of the Pacific Railway frauds, met with no favor from the public. The public, too, must be glad to observe that the bill met with really very little favor in Congress.

Whenever the holders of the Nicaragua concessions are prepared to do business in a direct and honest manner a proposal for a Government guarantee of moderate amount safely guarded will be entertained. But cotemporaneously with this must come equal consideration for the ship canals which are projected for our internal traffic. If the Nicaragua canal is to be such a good thing, a guarantee of its bonds to the amount of $50,000,000 would only require a like subscription by private capital in an equal amount to finish the undertaking within the company's own estimates. If private capital has not that much faith in the enterprise it would scarcely be worth assisting at all.

With the $50,000,000 remaining guaranteed to the Lake Erie and the Illinois canal projects, these great works could be immediately got under way and concluded at no greater expenditure than the proceeds of the Government bonds. Private capital, however, would be very willing to go partners in the latter enterprises, if the Government were to pledge assurance of half the cost.

THE statement that Barrillas, Guatemala's President, has a little nest egg of $20,000,000 laid away in London, against his expulsion, together with the fact that the family of Barrios, a deceased Central American politician, are enjoying the fruits of a similar foresight in New York, indicates that the opportunities for official plunder by our Southern neighbors are such as to make the mouths of practical politicians water. But they should remember that everything has its drawbacks. The doctrine of vested rights is so imperfectly understood in these revolutionary countries that the politicians have to lay up their treasure abroad instead of enjoying the fruits of their industry at home, as in this happy land.

THE new Italian Prime Minister declares that his policy is pacific. But this is what all the European statesmen assert. They give guarantees of good faith by increasing their armies so as to show that they are ready to fight for peace.

THE fact that a mining accident and rescue of the imprisoned miners, like that at Jeansville, is told in Zola's "Germinal," is noted very widely by many of the papers. But authors before Zola have used exactly the same incident. The Monthyon prize novel, "No Relations," told the same story of a flooded mine, the imprisonment of the miners, and their rescue after enduring starvation, years in advance of Zola's work, while fiction is full of the stories of mine explosions and gallant work of rescue. These dangers are so old that they have a standing place in fiction.

SIR JOHN MACDONALD is very busy with the campaign lie at present. The opposition go so far as to assert that his connection with that political method is not always in the line of nailing it.

THE intimation by Secretary Foster's portraits that the new financier combs his hair behind his ears engages the attention of the New York *Evening Sun* and produces unfavorable comment on the practice. Still it should be borne in mind that the practice of combing the Secretary of the Treasury's hair behind his ears is not so reprehensible as the other practices which reduce the surplus to the condition where, as Crane used to say in "Our Bachelors," its hair can be parted with a towel.

THE New York Court of Appeals has affirmed the validity of the law for putting electric wires under ground in cities. But the wires still maintain their position at the top.

IN opposition to the proposed $3,000,000 subsidy for a cable to Hawaii, a company proposes to lay the cable without any subsidy at all, provided Congress will give it a charter. But this does not afford any guarantee against the subsidy. The device of getting a charter on the agreement that there shall be no subsidy and then getting the subsidy on the strength of the charter is too recent and too prominent for the public to have much faith in this proposition.

THE second round of the Burdick bill was won by the friends of that measure, but chances of winning the fight are decidedly groggy. Standard influence rules the roost.

THE disposition of the Democrats in the House to refuse the vote of thanks to Speaker Reed shows a failure to appreciate the niceties of the situation. They ought to tender him a vote of thanks that they still live. They might properly unite with that gratitude an expression of thanks for his part in giving them their big majority in the next House.

OUR Brazilian correspondent, Kerbey, has the satisfaction of knowing that if his diplomatic career was brief he succeeded in making himself an international issue.

SENATOR INGALLS' assertion in his recent sonnet on Opportunity to the effect that "Cities and fields I walk" is liable to create the impression that his reverses have reached the extreme degree of misfortune that can pursue a stranded dramatic company. And that, too, at a season when pedestrianism is notably difficult.

THE French agitators are as warlike as they always were—when they were at a safe distance from the enemy.

THE Ohio Supreme Court has decided that Senator Brice must pay taxes in that State. As this decision is based on his citizenship of the State, it clears his title to the Senatorship, but it is understood to impress him with the feeling that it makes that luxury an exceedingly expensive one.

DURING the past twenty-four hours the ice crop prevaricator has been forced to suspend his industry by the inclemency of the weather.

BLAIR, as Minister to China, will relieve this country of his interminable eloquence, but if he lets himself out in an address on presenting his credentials at Pekin, it will tend to alienate still further the strained relations between this Republic and the Central Flowery Kingdom.

SNAP SHOTS IN SEASON.

HOME sweets never can be preserved in the family jar.

DID you ever swiftly slip from winter to summer—from snow-topped knolls to moss-covered and flower-crowned hills? I hope you have, or will before you glide from the darkness to the Light. Thanks to that greed for speed which has developed a genius that scorns the mountain, laughs at the sea, leaps the gorge, and penetrates the tree-hidden land and the sunless jungle, the transition from cold to heat, from twittering sparrow to chattering parrot, from black to blue sky, from short to long day, from ice-chilled waters to sun-bathed waves, from lingering twilight to swift nightfall, from fur-clad folk to cotton-costumed people, from white to red-and-green gardens, from storm-doored homes to latticed living rooms, from booted boys to barefooted and bronzed children of the sun, from frigid blight to tropic bloom, is merely a matter of hours. But from the deck of the ship heading for the white-caped waste out beyond the ice-teethed mouth of the frost embroidered bay the summer land seems afar off. Winter, like maritime law, claims its leagues seaward there; but not so very many seemingly. The ship turns her nose southward and outward and shows winter her heels. A chilly night fades on the edge of a sun-tempered morn, and you soon enter that mysterious river of the ocean which seems to say to the frosted winds: "Thus far shalt thou go, but no farther." Then the sea depths seem bluer, the sky brighter, the air sweeter, the summer nearer. On and on toward the paradise of the birds and the flowers you fly with the hours, the snow behind and the sun before. Yesterday seems far, far away, for it was winter then and it is spring now, with summer sure to-morrow. You seem to be reveling in the delights of a dream that has come true. On the edge of the frost-nipped sea that washes your winter world you laid your troubles and your cares. Stripped of the burden, you enter the sunshine. Under the shadows of quaint trees, in which bright-plumaged and tune-throated birds mate, you lie down. You smell the flowers and hear the sea. Southward fly your thoughts, northward never. Winter has dropped out of your life, the sun dances on shimmering flower filled spaces, the scented and soft breezes narcotic-like draw the lids of your eyes together, and you sleep. And your dream is no fairer, no sweeter than the awaking.

FANCY can paint the face of the ideal woman, but not the face of the common everyday girl.

A DOG show draws better in New York than a prayer meeting.

A WISE acher—The decayed wisdom tooth.

IF theatrical managers posted drawing paper perhaps the box office receipts would swell.

IT is hinted at Harrisburg that the Bird Book ringsters feathered their nests.

IT merely costs time to spend an evening, but time is money, you know.

SOME woodworkers have managed to carve out a fortune.

MRS. O'SHEA's pony chaise is now owned in Philadelphia. The fire-escape is still in London.

WHAT is the difference between the first sergeant and the tenor drummer? One calls the roll and the other rolls the call.

IF the poll tax could be so amended as to tax the telegraph poles out of sight cities would be beautified.

UNDER Harrison's rule Leeds no longer leads in Philadelphia.

THE wife of the Highlander wears the pants, and doesn't make any fuss about them, either.

WHEN paper hangers go to the wall their creditors do not suffer.

THE clever artist is always a designing individual.

NO, Miss Clara; waste baskets will not be worn at the seaside next season.

THE ashes of Nero's nurse have been found in a Roman tomb. Our children's children may some day find the ashes of George Washington's colored coddler.

SHARP deals are often made when the market is dull.

The scenter of population—The perfumer.

FRANCE is excited over the solution of the problem of reproducing colors by photography. Down South color has been photographed for years.

THE serviceable bass drum is always in sound condition.

THE London aristocrats who cheated at cards are now trying to cheat justice.

THE Louisiana lottery drawing rooms are not as well patronized now as they used to be.

THE green room is often painted red.

NEW YORK Chinamen are wild over a drama 50 years old. How's this for a Celestial chestnut?

WHEN the signal service hits a wind storm center they shouldn't blow about it.

THE lunatic can always find an asylum, even if the world is considered cold.

WOMEN who get misfits from their dressmakers fly into a fit of anger.

THE average run of heirs would sooner see the testator lose his soul than his fortune.

BLOWS are not always exchanged when you strike an acquaintance.

WHY is a photograph like a race horse? Because it has to be mounted.

A PERTINENT question is very often an impertinent one.

THE Congress that dies next week will not leave enough money in the treasury to bury it.

A HARD lot—One containing a stone quarry.

PRINTERS' ink can blacken I's as well as characters. WILLIE WINKLE.

American Negro Authors.

New York Sun.]

"It is true that American negroes are now among the book writers in this country," said a learned negro. "I have made a collection of books by American negro writers, and there may be a great many more than I have got. Some of them are good books, too. Among them are works of poetry and volumes of sermons, beside novels. A great many negroes are now well educated, and more of them are getting to be. We have negro professors and doctors and editors, and we have always had plenty of negro preachers. I believe that, before a hundred years from now, the American negro will do his share of thinking in the world."

EDUCATION OF THE CITIZEN.

A Comprehensive Paper From the Pen of Elmer H. Capen, D. D., President of Tufts College—Public Opinion More Potent Than the Will of Princes.

[WRITTEN FOR THE DISPATCH.]

There never was a time when citizenship meant so much as it does to-day. Not only in the United States, but throughout the world, men are rising up to a more complete sense of their manhood. The prerogatives of favored individuals and classes are suffering abridgement year by year. Public opinion, even in the Old World monarchies, is rapidly becoming more potent than the will of princes, and, what is most significant, every member of the body politic has a share in making this opinion. In our own country the emancipation is almost complete. By the principles on which our Government is founded, and by the form of the Government itself, the responsibility of affairs is wholly in the hands of the people. This is a tremendous responsibility, because it involves not only the privilege of the individual citizen, but his protection in life and liberty, and the conditions of his industrial success.

How, then, we ask, shall he be fitted for such a responsibility? There is but one answer. Education is the essential thing. Without that there can be no full and intelligent discharge of the duties of citizenship. Many of the States of the Union, recognizing this fact, have made education compulsory, and it will be a happy day for the Republic when it shall be made compulsory in all the States. When I say education, however, I do not mean necessarily any education. It is possible to conceive of education being of such sort and quality as to be worse than no education. For example, a man may be educated in a foreign tongue, unable to understand or speak the common language of the land. Or he may be educated in ideas and principles that are foreign, incongruous and unsuited to those that prevail in the land, and that constitute the very genius of its institutions. Such education obviously is delusive and dangerous.

The Purpose of Education.

What, then, shall the education be in its purpose and content?

Primarily, of course, education is of the intellect. Its real object should be to sharpen, strengthen and illumine the mental power. We are quite likely to judge of the quality of a Government by the men it produces. It is not enough that they should be brave and able, but we want them to have the power to meet emergencies, to exhibit breadth of view and to have steadfastness of purpose. The French Revolution was not without men of keenness and power. But they were undisciplined. Ideas ran away with them. Education with us, therefore, to fulfil its functions, should seek, first of all, to produce strong faculties, to bring out the intellectual manhood of the individual. It is all-important that our citizens should have the power to discriminate truth. They must be as far as possible fortified against accepting the cheap plausibilities of the demagogue or the political mountebank. National characteristics, to be sure, count for a good deal in a matter of this sort.

There are certain races, as, for example, the Germans, the Scotch, the English, that exhibit this trait of intellectual grasp and steadfastness of purpose in a marked degree. It should follow, therefore, that a nation that is a composite largely of these ingredients, as ours is, ought to be marked by the same high quality. I have no doubt we have a predetermination that way. Still we need to cultivate sedulously the power not only to see truth, but to see it in its relations, and to exercise that self-control, springing from high ethical conceptions, that will give us patience in bringing truth to its legitimate sovereignty. This should be the underlying purpose of our education.

The Other Important Feature.

But the content of education is equally important. There are a few things that must go to the making up of the sum total of teaching, not so much perhaps in the way of furnishing specific information, though that is not to be wholly overlooked, as by way of supplying motive to the citizen. At the outset it is very important that the principle that underlies all social problems should be specially disclosed. Unless the citizen can be made to recognize the unity of the race, how may we expect him to manifest any breadth of vision when measures are presented that appear to cut the orbit of his individual and private interest? How may we expect him to show a catholicity of spirit when his own opinions are challenged as false? How may we look for him to rise above narrowness, or bigotry, or provincialism? Ours is a great country, not only in extent of territory, but in complexity and variety of interest. Points of view differ. Conventional standards differ. Not unfrequently the aims of life, and even moral conceptions, differ. Yet we are one nation and have the same grand destiny to work out, a destiny that involves the welfare of the American citizen, and presents the prospect of beneficence and freedom to all the world.

In like manner the conditions of industrial and social progress, at least in their elements, should be set forth in the instruction that is given to our youth. They should be taught what labor is and what it signifies in its relations to all the movements that constitutes the wealth and prosperity of States. Let them know that it is the foundation and beginning of the wealth, both for the individual and the nation; that it is impossible to have prosperity or even the comforts of life without it.

Correction of Crude Notions.

This will go far to correct many of the crude notions that now prevail owing to the wide contrasts between the very rich and the very poor. As soon as they know that these things are not the result of individual caprice, nor yet the product of unequal legislation, but the result of law, founded in the nature of man and the constitution of things, they will set to work by intelligent means to coerce the evils that spring from a misconception and false application of economical principles.

Furthermore, there should be an effort to impart the ideas that furnish the foundation for social order and the framework of government. This is very important now that the right of government, and even the legitimacy of every kind of social organism, is called in question. We ought to recur to first principles, as our fathers did, then we may learn that what statesmen have called the "social compact" is not the mere artificial contrivance for securing political ends, but a form of organic life that derives its sanction from God himself. To this end it is not necessary to have a systematic course in the schools on the Constitution of the United States. Much of that sort of teaching is time wasted. Ground the pupils in fundamental truth and they will make the application of it later. Edward Burke said: "The study laid in the American colleges, made them, ('the Colonists') augur misgovernment from a distance and sniff the approach of tyranny in every tainted breeze." It was really the political writings of Locke and his cotemporaries that had formed the minds of Samuel and John Adams. We need that sort of instruction to-day to give the citizen a true notion of the function of the State.

The Inculcation of Patriotism.

But, above all, there should be the specific inculcation of patriotism. This is something that is native to the mind. By some strange law of being, the spot where we were born is the dearest in all the world. We instinctively put our country into the foreground of our affections. Somehow the heart leaps and thrills at the sight of the flag that is the national emblem. Being a national impulse, therefore, patriotism should be cultivated. And now there are those who maintain that the effect of this is narrowing; that we ought to have just as much regard for other nations as for our own; that the people of other nationalities, being children of the same Father, are just as precious as we are, and their interests should be just as dear to us as the interests of fellow citizens.

Yes, the human race is one brotherhood, and it should be our aim to secure, by every possible means, the amelioration and exaltation of humanity. But we work best for general ends through specific instrumentalities. Oftentimes the highest conception of humanity comes through that manifestation we have in the national life. Kindle in the heart a genuine regard for fellow citizens and we are thus prepared to recognize the claims to our affection of fellow men. Make our dear country strong and great and then the gates are easily opened to the widest possible beneficence.

ELMER H. CAPEN.

A THEATRICAL FAKE PUNCTURED.

Manager Robson Denies That He Is Engaged to One of His Company.

MEMPHIS, Feb. 27.—Telegrams were received last night from Chicago, St. Louis and other cities, inquiring whether there was any truth in the rumor that Stuart Robson was engaged to be married to Miss May Waldron, of his company. Mr. Robson, who is playing an engagement in this city, said:

"This story has been started by some theatrical scandal-monger. My wife has been dead only eight months. I am old enough to be Miss Waldron's grandfather. I do not care as far as I myself am personally concerned, but I regret exceedingly these false and malicious reports out of regard for my daughter's as well as Miss Waldron's feelings. Miss Waldron is a mere child as compared with myself. My married life shows how dear to me was my late wife. I desire you to deny sympathically the existence of any engagement between myself and Miss Waldron."

By Cleveland and Hill.

New York Tribune.]

A book with the title "Darkest Democracy and the Way Out," by G. C. and D. B. H., would have a large sale just now.

A PROGRESSIVE PAPER.

A Handsome Acknowledgment of Dispatch Enterprise.

Clarion, Pa., Democrat.]

THE PITTSBURG DISPATCH is acknowledged to be one of the most progressive newspapers of the day, and wields an ever-extending influence. Over 30,000 copies of that paper are now issued daily, while its Sunday edition has reached the enormous circulation of over 60,000 copies. It may be easily understood how it has outgrown its present quarters, with such figures before one. A new granite fire-proof building will be completed and occupied during the present year, in which will be placed the latest printing machinery and an entire new outfit in all its departments, giving still greater facilities for receiving and dispensing all the news to its patrons. THE DISPATCH furnishes the most reliable and exhaustive reports of doings in the financial and commercial world and in the oil, produce, live stock and iron markets. It receives a daily special cable report of foreign news, and its home news-getting facilities are not surpassed anywhere. In politics it is independent Republican and discusses all events with a view to advancing the public interest. It is a newspaper in the true sense of the word.

PEOPLE PARAGRAPHED.

SIGNOR CRISPI had not been out of office a week before he returned to his old profession, the law, and held a brief for the General Steam Navigation Company.

SENATOR WOLCOTT, of Colorado, has attained a new distinction. He has had the first well-developed case of gout that has occurred in the United States Senate for a quarter of a century.

MRS. SARAH PARKER, an American, has gone to Algiers to found a branch of the Marriage Law Reform Association. After her work in Africa is done she will go to France and establish a branch in Paris.

GENERAL HORATIO C. KING, in addition to being a fine soldier, is a clever amateur musician. When the organist of Trinity Church was taken ill one Sunday, General King filled his place to the complete satisfaction of the choir.

EDWARD FARRER, who has been accused as a traitor to Canada, is regarded as the ablest and cleverest writer in the Dominion. He was intended for the Catholic priesthood, but his ideas would not allow him to take orders, so he became a journalist.

MRS. S. B. BUCKNER, the wife of the Kentucky Governor, is a woman of great personal beauty and grace of character. Her face is oval, her features classic, and her eyes dark and thoughtful. She wear her dark hair fastened in a simple knot at the back of the head.

LADY STANLEY, wife of the Governor General of Canada, is very popular with the Canadians, and is simple and pleasant in her manners. She is a handsome woman, with a tall and graceful figure, and she looks surprisingly young for the mother of a grown-up family.

GENERAL BENJAMIN F. BUTLER was in New York on Wednesday, and said he would have his memoirs completed in the course of about three months. As he rode up in the elevator of the Federal building he said: "Wait till you see it. There will be fun all round."

SENATOR-ELECT KYLE'S "cleverness" is thus vouched for by a responsible gentleman of Mitchell, Dak.: "I attended the jollification at Pierre just after Mr. Kyle was elected, and when the boys wanted to take something with him he said: 'Boys, I can't drink myself, but I will pay for the beer and pull the corks,' and he did so."

SISTER PATROCINIA, who exercised great influence during the reign of Queen Isabella II. of Spain, died recently in Madrid at the age of 84. After the revolution she was banished from Spain. She returned to her native country after the accession of Alfonso XII. to the throne. Since that time she has been abbess of a cloister.

ENGLISH COINAGE.

Interesting Facts About Hard Money of the Past and Present.

The Age of Steel.]

When England was being made into mincemeat and blocks of real estate by the Saxons and Danes, silver and brass were in use as currency, but the Normans subsequently installed the aristocratic metal, and left the democratic brass to take care of itself. Gold was first coined by Henry III., and copper made into British coin in 1672. Tin was used for coinage in 1689, and the national farthing was made of this Cambrian product with a stud of copper set in the center. In 1690 and 1691 tin half pence were issued in considerable quantities. The only pure gold coins issued in English history were those of Henry III.

In the reign of Edward I. the pound in tale of silver coins was equal to the pound in weight of standard silver. The pound in tale was divided into 20 shillings, the shillings into 12 pence, and each penny piece weighed a pennyweight or 24 grains. Before the mintage of gold coins in England the byzant valued at 10 shillings was imported from Constantinople, and florences of the same value from Florence. Edward III. subsequently minted the noble, Edward IV. the rial, Henry VII. the double rial, James I. the laurel, and Charles II. revived the old laurel coin under the name of the guinea. This guinea in the reign of Queen Anne, originally issued as a 20-shilling piece, rose in value to 30 shillings, and was acrobatic in values till Sir Isaac Newton secured authority ordering the guinea to pass for 21 shillings sterling. The present English sovereign was issued in 1817, and weighed twenty twenty-first parts of a guinea. The present standard of fineness for silver coin is 11 ounces or 2 pennyweight silver and 18 pennyweight alloy.

Bronze coins were introduced in 1860, replacing the old copper coins first legalized by the fiat of Charles II. and afterward made by James II. from old guns, copper vessels, pewter pots and a general assemblage of comparatively worthless metal.

Senator Kyle's Next Evolution.

Chicago Inter-Ocean.]

Senator-elect Kyle, of South Dakota, coins a new word and paraphrases Governor Hill when he says: "I am an Indecrat." Let him beware lest he become a nondescript.

DEATHS OF A DAY.

Mrs. Charles Donnelly.

It is with the deepest regret that a very wide circle of sincere friends learned yesterday of the death of Mrs. Charles Donnelly, which sad event occurred at the Fifth Avenue Hotel, New York, on Thursday night. For several days Mrs. Donnelly had been dangerously ill, and as long ago as Sunday last her recovery was considered doubtful. But then there came signs of improvement, and with them renewed hope, only to result in the bereavement so soon afterward. Mrs. Donnelly was a lady of cultured mind and kindly heart, and was beloved in all circles, alike by old and young, for the constant expression of amiable and generous qualities. She was the daughter of Mr. Bernard Rafferty, and to husband, father, brothers, sisters and children and friends the bereavement is the saddest possible. Wherever the deceased moved there was always the kindly light of a cheerful and generous spirit. Deep and sincere sympathy will go out to the afflicted family in the great sorrow which has befallen it.

Joseph Spencer.

Joseph Spencer died yesterday afternoon at 1:20, at his residence at Homewood, aged 77. He had been in ill health for some time, there having been a general breaking down of his system. Only Wednesday his daughter, Miss Lillian Spencer, was married. The deceased was an old resident of Pittsburg. He had been an innkeeper and brewer nearly all his life. He was the founder of the Bull's Head Tavern in the Scotch Hill market (now Second Avenue Park), was a member of the late brewing firm of Spencer & Liddell, and at his death was a large stockholder in the William Tann Brewing Company. He was the father-in-law of his partner, ex-Mayor Robert Liddell.

Edward R. Hanckel.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 27.—E. R. Hanckel, manager of the advertising department of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, died yesterday at Tarpon, Fla. Mr. Hanckel has been in poor health for some time, and in December last visited Florida in the hope of gaining strength. He was 38 years of age, and leaves a widow and three children. His remains will be taken to Charlottesville, Va., the home of his parents, for interment.

David White.

David White, one of the oldest and most respected citizens of Allegheny, died yesterday at his residence at 288 Sandusky street, at the age of 92 years. The funeral will occur to-morrow afternoon at 3:30

OUR MAIL POUCH.

Mr. Keighley Makes Some Suggestions.

To the Editor of The Dispatch:

In thinking over the Mammoth explosion, the idea occurred to me that fire bosses should be put through a test for color blindness. As all experienced miners know, the examination for mine gases is made by observation on the flame of a safety lamp, held up in the place suspected to contain fire damp.

There are two methods of determining the presence of fire damp by safety lamp, viz.:

First—With a very low flame, in which the observer depends entirely on color; that is, the appearance of the "blue cap," the intensity of color and length and width of cap indicating the percentage of C. H. 4 contained in the surrounding atmosphere. This method is the one generally practiced, and for the first time in my experience has it occurred to me that possibly some explosions were indirectly the result of color blindness on the part of the fire boss.

Second—With a moderate sized flame, in which an elongation or spiring of the flame is depended upon for an indication of C H 4, but not for percentage. This method is not generally practiced by fire bosses, but for indications without percentage I consider it superior to the other test, as I am persuaded the moderate sized flame is more sensitive, and the color phase of the examination not being more than an approximation of the percentage of C H 4, it is really not necessary, and in case of color blindness on the part of the person making examination the "low flame blue cap" method would be startlingly dangerous, but even with the larger flame a person with poor eyesight might often be led into error.

It is a well known fact that often the gauze of a safety lamp gives a reflection that resembles a faint blue cap, and many a time have I heard disputes arise over such a delusion; yet until now it never struck me that color blindness is just as likely to be a source of danger in mining as it is in railroad operations.

Now, I do not wish to give out the inference that the Mammoth explosion was the result of color blindness, but I am earnestly seeking for a clew to the cause, and in searching for that clew numerous ideas are employed and every possible source of danger is being considered thoroughly, not so much for the past as for future guidance, and if after careful investigation it should be found that our fire bosses have not been put through the proper tests even the Mammoth disaster will yield fruit that may be of use in the science of mining.

Let us hear from our scientific men, who are versed in the delusions resulting from color blindness, and also from all who are interested in ascertaining how to avoid erroneous examinations for firedamp.

The writer some time ago devised a simple contrivance for aiding the fire boss in making examinations for mine gases and applied for a patent on the same, but said application was rejected because the Patent Office officials decided that it was an infringement upon somebody's "insect powder duster," though how they make this out is a mystery to me; however, even with that appliance of mine the "color blindness" idea uncovers a source of danger that we cannot afford to underestim