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FREELAND, PA., OCTOBER 12, 1896.

The Issue in Luzerne County.

On the third of next month the common people of the United States will achieve one of the most remarkable victories in modern history. The election of William Jennings Bryan will be a triumph over the influence, prestige and strength of the combined money powers of the world, and while the people of this state will probably do nothing to bring about this victory, the people of Luzerne county should accept the opportunity to overthrow the influence of money in local politics. There is growing up among us a system which ought to call forth a hearty and sincere condemnation from every citizen who desires that the purity of the ballot shall be preserved, viz., the wholesale purchase of what is known as the "foreign" vote.

In the present campaign it is openly boasted by Republican politicians that this vote will be cast solidly for that party in this county—not because the voters who are classed as "foreigners" believe in Republican principles any more than they do in Democratic doctrine, but because of the money consideration in the matter. As in the national campaign, where all the money power is solidly massed on the side of McKinley, so it is in the Luzerne contest. Dollars are no object when they will obtain votes for the Republican nominees, and the intelligent citizens of the county, those who are willing to look beyond a mere party victory, should stop and consider where such a system will, if it has not already, place this county.

The honest voters of all parties are satisfied to abide by the will of the majority, whether voting for candidates or deciding public questions. The will of the majority, however, can only be ascertained by having each person who is qualified to vote to cast his ballot intelligently and conscientiously; otherwise, the system of government by the people becomes a mockery.

The foreign voters now hold the balance of power in this county, and these men have been taught by Republican politicians that the highest use to which they can put their ballots is to sell them to the party which will give their leaders the largest amount of cash. These are facts, and it is not necessary to go far from town to obtain substantial proof of their truthfulness.

Such being the case, the question of merit, fitness or principle is not given a thought when these voters go to the polls. Holding, as they do, the balance of power, and casting that power on the side which furnishes the most cash, the election consequently goes in favor of the side which happens to have the largest purse. The victory thus gained signifies nothing more than the fact that the victors bought the "foreign" vote.

THE CAT WAS FAITHFUL.

Laid Down Its Life to Avenge the Death of a Bird Friend.

Some time ago, in a quiet little corner way down on the Rue Royale, I chanced upon a queer little Creole creature, whom the neighbors called "Mam'zelle." If there was ever any name attached, it must have been in prehistoric times, for now there is not even a sign upon the door of the little bake-shop where Mam'zelle sells bread and cakes to the neighborhood. Very good bread and cakes they are, too, as I can testify, for recently I have found Mam'zelle's cozy shop a very comfortable resting place after a morning's tramp in quest of news. In this way I have come to be pretty well acquainted with Mam'zelle and Pierre, the cat, and Jeanne, the bird.

Pierre is a handsome black and white fellow, with a noble head, and he and the little canary, Jeanne, were about the same age. Mam'zelle told me in her pretty Creole patois how devoted her two pets were to each other, and I myself saw frequent evidence of their kindly relationship. In a quiet corner of the little shop I have seen Pierre and Jeanne taking their breakfast together from the same plate, and by and by, when the cat would lie dozing in the sunshine, the bird would hop about him, or cuddle up snug and comfortable between his outstretched paws. When Mam'zelle was busy so that she could not keep an eye on the little bird's safety she would swing the cage in the doorway, while Pierre would stretch himself on the floor beneath, keeping guard over his friend. And we beside the stray cat that wandered that way. Pierre was always on the alert for squalls, and if a cat came too near to suit him he would send Jeanne hustling into her cage while he chased the offending feline off the street.

Just this very thing happened yesterday for the 100th time, probably,

DIFFICULTIES OF THE LAW.

Some of the Peculiarities of Courts and Lawyers Considered.

One who knows the law must know how to choose from its armor a spear to pierce its own armor or a shield proof against its spears. The law is long, and hath no end; it is uncertain on dumbness, often silent or ambiguous for the future, yet demanding rigorous observance of the past. It is subtle to include the craft of the ages; sordid, fierce and unjust, bound by the precedents of half savage times, yet holding latent within itself all the betterment of times to come. How difficult is a law!

Strangely enough, the practice of the legal profession is often illegal. I have known two or three lawyers who succeeded in freeing their clients and setting them unbound in the primrose paths of liberty while they themselves were detained to walk the thorny paths of bribery and subornation. As a class lawyers are unusually vain, being in this respect as vain as men in other professions, and approximating to editors and drummers. "The law," says the lawyer, "sharpen the perceptions, cultivates the judgment and opens the mind to reason and argument." The grocers speak equally highly of the grocery business. They claim that selling a codfish puts them ahead of their generation, and that disposing of a crate of mildewed raspberries after four o'clock Saturday afternoon leaves them without companions in intellectual converse.

It is a pet sophistry of lawyers that they are enabled by their special training to look upon both sides of the question. When lawyers fail to telling you of their unbiased minds you will have to ask them to go slowly on account of the excitement. But, in fact, lawyers see merit on only one side, and that is their own side. That their side deserves the verdict they have the absolute belief. It is true that in addressing judge or jury they employ such magnificent rhetoric that you think their belief is affected or assumed, but it is in real fact. Every lawyer thinks he should win, if not in his case then on his almost sinfully ingenious way of presenting it. It is said that the pursuit of the law makes a fair man, but fairness law and lawyers think little of. So little, indeed, that if a lawyer should attempt to introduce evidence to show the righteousness, and even holiness, of his cause, opposing counsel would immediately object to it as trifling and immaterial. The judge would sustain them, saying: "It is not pertinent."

"I understand that, your honor," the hopeless lawyer might say. "I wish to throw in the righteousness of my case merely as a make-weight."

"That will not do," the judge would sternly reply. "I cannot listen to extraneous matters. If you have no crafty evasion of the law or ingenious subterfuge to bring forward you will be adjudged in contempt for pretending to occupy the time of this court."—Harper's Weekly.

THE SEA OF SAND.

Marco Polo's Account of the Great Desert of Gobi.

Loy is a large town at the edge of the desert, which is called the Desert of the Loop, and is situated between east and northwest. It belongs to the Great Khan. Now, such persons as propose to cross the desert take a week's rest in this town to refresh themselves and their cattle; and then they make ready for the journey, taking with them a month's supply for man and beast. On quitting this city they enter the desert.

The length of this desert is so great that it is said it would take a year and more to ride from one end of it to the other. And here, where its breadth is least, it takes a month to cross it. It is all composed of hills and valleys of sand, and not a thing to eat is to be found on it. But after riding for a day and a night you find fresh water, enough mayhap for some 50 or 100 persons with their beasts, but not for more. And all across the desert you will find water in like manner, that is to say, in some 28 places altogether you will find good water, but in no great quantity; and in four places also you find brackish water.

Beasts there are none; for there is naught for them to eat. But there is a marvelous thing related of this desert, which is that when travelers are on the move by night, and one of them chances to lag behind, or to fall asleep or the like, when he tries to gain his company again he will hear spirits talking, and will suppose them to be his comrades. Sometimes the spirits will call him by name; and thus shall a traveler oftentimes be led astray so that he never finds his party. And in this way many have perished. Sometimes the stray travelers will hear as it were the tramp and hum of a great cavalcade of people away from the real line of road, and taking this to be their own company they will follow the sound; and when day breaks they find that a cheat has been put on them and that they are in an ill plight. Even in the daytime one hears those spirits talking. And sometimes you shall hear the sound of a variety of musical instruments, and still more commonly the sound of drums. Hence in making this journey it is customary for travelers to keep close together. All the animals, too, have bells at their necks, so that they cannot easily go astray. And at sleeping time a signal is put up to show the direction of the next march.

So thus it is that the desert is crossed.—Noah Brooks, in *Sat. Nicholas*.

What He Needed.
Mr. Woodhouse—That young fellow you have in your office is the most conceited fellow I ever ran across.

Mr. Queensware—Yes, I know; but you must remember he is young yet, and his character is not fully formed. He has never been tried by fire.

Mr. Woodhouse—Then you'd better fire him.—N. Y. Weekly.

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Trains leave Drifton for Jeddo, Ekeley, Hazle Brook, Stockton, Beaver Meadow Road, Hazlet and Hazelton Junction at 5:35, 6:00 a. m., 4:15 p. m., daily except Sunday; and 7:03 a. m., 2:38 p. m., Sunday.

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PLEASURE CALENDAR.

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November 2.—Hall of the Earnests Athletic Association at Cross Creek hall. Admission, 50 cents.
November 25.—Sixth annual ball of Jeddo Progressive club at Yannes' opera house. Admission, 50 cents.