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FREELAND, PA., APRIL 24, 1899.

Mr. Quay Not a Senator.

From the Philadelphia Press.

Governor Stone lost no time in appointing Matthew S. Quay United States senator. The constitution of Pennsylvania gives the governor no authority to appoint a senator under any circumstances, but he pretends this authority under Section 3, Article 1, of the constitution of the United States, which declares:

If vacancies happen by resignation or otherwise during the recess of the legislature of any state, the executive thereof may make appointments until the next meeting of the legislature, which shall then fill such vacancies.

As the vacancy which the governor assumes to fill by this appointment did not occur during a recess of the legislature, but did occur while the legislature was in session, this provision of the national constitution does not apply to this case, and the executive has no authority to make an appointment.

The United States senate has repeatedly had this question before it, and in several recent cases has refused to admit to seats senators appointed by the governor to fill a vacancy occurring by the expiration of a regular term. That is a vacancy which the constitution distinctly provides shall be filled otherwise—by election by the legislature. These facts cannot be unknown to Governor Stone, who certainly does not expect the senate to reverse itself and put a totally different interpretation upon the constitution from that heretofore held just to enable Mr. Quay to get a seat in the senate which the Pennsylvania legislature decided it did not want him to have.

There is no such expectation. Neither the governor nor Mr. Quay entertains such a hope, no matter what may be pretended. The appointment is intended only for political effect. The Quay machine is greatly in need of bolstering, and this act of Governor Stone is to bolster it. It is expected to affect the elections of delegates to the Republican state convention to be held in August and to indicate that Mr. Quay is still in control of the federal patronage. As the senate will not meet until December, and cannot before then reject Mr. Quay's flimsy claim, he will be carried over the campaign of this year, in which he has a deep interest, as a state treasurer is to be elected.

The act of the governor—mere boy's play so far as making a senator is concerned—is conclusive, however, on one point. It is an assurance to the people of the state that there will be no extra session of the legislature. It is worth something on that account.

Educating Influence of Arbor Day.

The observance of Arbor Day has already led to the planting of myriads of trees in this country. Important as is this result, the educating influence of this work is of still higher value. One of these educating forces begins when children are thus led to plant not only trees, but tree-seeds, acorns, nuts, drupe-stones or pits, and then to observe the wonderful miracles which the tree life they have started is working out before them. What interest and profit, what growth of mind and heart they will gain, as they watch the mysterious forces of these living germs, their marvelous assimilating power, carrying on a curious chemistry in their underground laboratory, linked with the mysterious apparatus of the leaves above, transforming coarse earth and even offensive filth into living forms of surpassing beauty and fragrance. It is something for a child, who has dropped such a germ in the earth, to feel that he has made a lasting contribution to the natural beauty around them; for there is nothing more ennobling than the consciousness of doing something for future generations, which may prove a growing benefaction in coming years—a better monument than any in bronze or marble. The trees which children plant around the homestead and watch the seed, to shoot from bud to limb, and from flower to fruit, will be increasingly prized with a sentiment of companionship and almost of kinship as they grow into living memorials of happy, youthful days. Thus, the educating influences of Arbor Day will manifest themselves more and more as the years go by, especially to all who apply Dr. Holmes' advice and "make trees monuments of history and character," or appreciate his saying, "I have written many poems, but the best poems I have produced are the trees I have planted." On the striking words of Sir Walter, "Planting and pruning trees I could work at from morning till night. There is a sort of self-congratulation, a little tickling self-flattery in the idea that while you are pleasing and amusing yourself, you are seriously contributing to the future welfare of the country."

PLEASURE CALENDAR.

April 29.—Benefit hop at Yannies' opera house. Tickets, 25 cents.

May 29.—Annual ball of Fearnott Athletic Association at Cross Creek hall, Admission, 50 cents.

The fact that but few new laws will go on the statute book must be set down to the credit of the legislature. The laws worse the worse. We are governed too much.

HIS CHIEF DIFFICULTY

Graham.—By the way, when you were abroad, didn't you find it difficult talking French?

Ryan.—Not particularly. The greatest difficulty was to make people understand it.—Boston Transcript.

THE PURPLE BEECH

Long Lived and of Undoubted Value for Ornamental Planting.
The large purple beech at Waltham, of which an illustration appears here, is no doubt one of the finest individuals of this variety planted in the United States. Downing, who was familiar with the Lyman Place, does not, however, mention it in his "Landscape Gardening," written forty or fifty years ago; and it is probable that the specimen which was growing at that time at Throggs' Neck, in Westchester County, and which Downing declared was the first in the United States, is now, if still alive, much larger than the Waltham tree, which has lost a good deal from overcrowding and from the garden wall built close to the trunk, which has destroyed the lower branches. There is no tree which demands more room for free development than the beech; and a beech, standing on a lawn or in a garden, on which there are no lower branches to sweep down to the turf, has lost a large part of the characteristic beauty which makes it valuable. The stem of the beech, 1, is true especially of the American species, has great beauty and a charm peculiar to itself, but it is in the wood or in the forest that this beauty should be seen and admired; and beeches should not be planted in ornamental grounds where light and space cannot be afforded them for full and unchecked growth in every direction.

The purple beech is a tree of much interest apart from its undoubted value for ornamental planting. It is one of the few examples among trees where an abnormal bud variety has retained its character for more than a century.

The tree cannot move about from place to place as we and most animals do. But they are none the less alive although they remain in the same place all the time. There are many plants also that have a limited power of motion. There are what we call the climbing plants, which climb trees or walls just as truly as boys often do. Most plants love the light and sunshine, and these climbing plants seem to climb up for the purpose of getting out of the shade of other plants and securing to themselves the needed light. So they lay hold of any upright object near them, a stick or a tree, and winding around it, or fastening their tendrils to it, climb up. Here there is motion all the time, and it can be seen very easily, especially when such a climber as the morning-glory fastens upon a short support. When it gets to the top of this it is not satisfied, but wants to go higher; so you may see it reaching out sideways and feeling around to find a new support and it will sweep entirely around a circle, from right to left or from left to right, in order to find something to lay hold of by which it may rise still farther.

Then there are plants like the Virginia creeper and the Japanese and English ivies, which climb walls or other objects by means of tendrils, which they stretch out like arms, and which sometimes have at their ends little disks like the suckers which boys make out of leather and with which they lift stones and other things. The Venus's flytrap shows motion in a different way. It has at the end of its leaves an expansion like two leaves of a book ready to fold together, or like the shells of a clam. Around the margin of these leaves are bristles, with other more delicate ones in the centre. When an insect alights on the open leaves and touches the centre bristles, the leaves shut together so quickly that it is caught and held there until it dies. Other plants show motion in different ways. The locust tree and some others fold up their leaves at night as though preparing to sleep, and spread them open again in the morning. In all trees, also, there is in the roots a constant movement, at least during the growing season of the year. At the very beginning of its life the root as it sprouts from the seed insists upon going downward into the earth. Turn the sprouting acorn so that its root or radicle shall point upward, and very soon it will turn and double upon itself, if necessary, in order to take a downward course, and though you turn it again and again, it will persist in its determination and die if necessary rather than give up the struggle. So when a tree is established and growing, though its stem must remain in the same place, its roots are all the while pushing out in various directions, winding around obstacles of one kind or another in pursuit of moisture and nourishment and making their way steadily on, so that nothing will so well describe the character of that part of the tree which is under ground as to say it is in a state of motion. Darwin, the eminent naturalist, goes so far as to claim that all the growing parts of plants above as well as below ground, manifest voluntary motion, describing circles or circular spirals continually, "circumnavigating" as he calls this movement. "If we look," he says, "for instance, at a great acacia tree, we may feel assured that every one of the innumerable growing shoots is constantly describing small ellipses, as is each petiole, stipule and leaflet."

The action of the life principle in the trees also often manifest astonishing force. Darwin found that the transverse growth of the radicle of a sprouting bean was able to displace a weight of 3 pounds four ounces in one case and 8 pounds 8 ounces in another. One can hardly walk where trees are growing among rocks without seeing instances of the splitting asunder of great masses of them by the growth of the tree roots, which have gained entrance into their crevices, which, small and in growing have expanded with irresistible force. So, also, it is a common thing to see the walls of buildings disturbed and much injured by the roots of trees growing near them. Experiments made by Professor Clark at Amherst College, led him to think that the force exerted by them out fifty or sixty feet so that the strain may be mighty enough to be worth resisting.

Darwin, speaking of the motion of the root-tips of plants, says: "It is an exaggeration to say that the tip of the radicle, thus endowed and having the power of directing the movements of the adjoining parts, acts like the brain of one of the lower animals; the brain being seated within the anterior end of the body, receiving impressions from the sense organs, and directing the several movements."

THE INDIAN'S PROPHECY.

But I behold a fearful sign,
To which the white man's eyes are blind,
Before these fields were shorn and tilled,
Full to the brim our rivers flowed,
The melody of waters filled
The fresh and boundless wood,
And torrents dashed and rivulets played,
These grateful sounds are heard no more.
The springs are silent in the sun,
The rivers by the blackened shore,
With lessening currents run;
The realm our tribes are crushed to get
May be a barren desert yet. —Bryant.

MOVEMENT IN PLANTS

Trees are living things like ourselves, and this gives them special interest for us. Living things have what we call organs, or instruments by means of which the life or life principle acts and performs its work. So the trees have many such organs as we have, and thereby resemble us. They have organs by which they take in food, they have lungs by which they breathe, and they have organs of digestion and a circulatory apparatus, by which their food is prepared and carried to all parts of them and causes them to grow and reach their perfection.

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Some trees, as the oak, throw their limbs out from the trunk horizontally.

Trees in Their Leafless State.

It is interesting to give attention to the bare trees and notice the characteristic forms of the various species, the manners in which their branches are developed and arranged among themselves, for a knowledge of these things will often enable one to distinguish the different kinds of trees more readily and certainly than by any other means.

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ABOUT PLANT WORSHIP

Curious Customs of Ancient Times, Some of Which Still Survive.

The plant worship which holds so prominent a place in the history of the primitive races of mankind would appear to have sprung from a perception of the beauty and utility of trees. Survival of this still lingers on in many parts of Europe. The peasants in Bohemia sail forth into their gardens before sunrise on Good Friday, and falling upon their knees before a tree will exclaim: "I pray, O green tree that God may make thee good." At night time they will run to and fro about their gardens crying: "Bud, O trees, bud, or I will fog you." In our own country the Devonshire farmers and their men will to this day go out into their orchards after supper on the evening of Twelfth Day, carrying with them a large milk pail of cider, with roasted apples pressed into it. All present hold in their hands an earthenware cup filled with liquor, and taking up their stand beneath those apple trees which have borne the most fruit address them in these words:

"Health to thee, good apple tree,
Well to bear pocket fulls, hat fulls,
Peck fulls, bushel bag fulls!"

simultaneously dashing the contents of their cups over the trees. The observance of this ceremony, which is locally known as "wassailing," is enjoined by Thomas Tusser in his works entitled "Five Hundred Points of Good Husbandry," wherein he bids the husbandman

"Wassail the trees, that they may bear

You many a plum and many a pear;

For more or less fruit they will bring,

As do you them wassailing."

In most countries certain plants are to be found associated with witches and their craft. Shakespeare causes one of his witches to discourse of root of "hemlock digg'd i' the dark." Likewise also of "slips of yew slyver'd in the moon's eclipse." Verain was in olden times known as "the enchanter's plant;" rue, again, was regarded as an antidote against their spells and machinations. This partiality for certain plants is well known. According to Grimm, the trying place of the Neapolitan witches was a walnut tree near Benevento. In walnut and older trees they are also said to be in the habit of lurking at nightfall. Witches, too, had their favorite flowers. Among these the foxglove was known as the "witches' bell," the harebell as the "witches' thimbles." Tradition asserts that on moonlight nights they might be seen flying through the air mounted on the stems of ragwort, reeds or bulrushes. Throughout Germany it is believed that witches' career through the midnight skies on hay. Many plants were pressed into service as charms and spells for the detection of witches and evil spirits when wandering about on their nefarious errands, particularly the St. John's wort, still largely worn by the German peasantry as a kind of amulet on St. John's eve. It was an old belief that all baptized persons whose eyes had been steeped in the green juice of the inner bark of the elder tree would be enabled to detect witches anywhere. The same property, according to German folk lore, is possessed by the wild radish, ivy and saxifrage on Walpurgis Night. Among other plants which have had the reputation of averting the crafts and subtleties of witchcraft the juniper, holly, mistleto, little bittersweet, herb paris, cyclamen, angelica, herb betony, rowan tree, bracken, and twigs of the ash may be mentioned. In the Rhine district the water-lily is regarded as an antogonistic to sorcery. Lavender is believed in Tuscany to possess the power of averting the evil eye. Olive branches are said to keep the witches from the cottage doors in the rural districts of Italy, and the Russian peasantry will lay aspen upon the grave of a witch to prevent her spirit from walking abroad or exercising any evil influence over her neighbors.—The Gentlemen's Magazine.

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