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FREELAND, SEPTEMBER 5, 1902.

UNION LABEL
UNITED BROTHERHOOD OF CARPENTERS AND JOINERS OF AMERICA

THE DEMOCRATIC SIGNAL GUN.

It has been the extraordinary privilege of Robert E. Pattison five times to lead the people in a crusade for the overthrow of corrupt forces in Pennsylvania politics. This is a record unparalleled in the history of the state. At the outset of his public career he was entrusted with grave responsibilities. As Controller of Philadelphia he instituted reforms whereby millions of dollars have been saved to the taxpayers. His two terms in that office were followed by the election of a Democratic reform mayor and other officials and the adoption of a new city charter, the outcome of the great popular uprising for honest politics and good government. As executive of the state twice, he gave eight years of model administration, and through wholesome influence exerted upon the law-making body many things were accomplished in the interest of the people.

During the past four years there has been a revival of ring misrule the most odious in the annals of the commonwealth. The time is at hand when there must be another mighty union of the forces of patriotism, and in obedience to the manifest popular will, ex-Governor Pattison is again the standard-bearer, supported by associates of superior fitness and ability, enthusiastically sustained by every element of his own party and a great host of independent voters, determined once more to clean house at Harrisburg.

This successful reform leader never wastes words nor leaves any doubt as to what he means in his public utterances. His speech of acceptance at Reading, given in our news columns, is a masterly presentation of the issues of the hour in Pennsylvania that will be read with satisfaction and inspiration by every good citizen, irrespective of partisan views. It is, indeed, in no sense a party cry, but an earnest and convincing appeal to the patriotic heart of the commonwealth. It clearly shows the supreme question, the restoration and maintenance of honest and economical legislative and administrative methods. It is pointed out, also, how the record gives every assurance that should inspire renewed public trust. For 30 years Governor Pattison has consistently fought for these high ideals, and he never was so strong with all classes of the people as today. His burning words will find an echo in the hearts and minds of patriotic citizens everywhere. Read this speech carefully and hand to your Republican neighbor. The address of Mr. Guthrie is also a clear-cut and vigorous presentation of fact and argument that will carry great weight with thoughtful and fair-minded men. This public-spirited citizen has done much for the cause of reform, and in the present campaign he will press home the truths which all the people should hear. Mr. Nolan, like the straight-forward man of affairs he is, evidences the worthy purpose to meet every requirement of official station. The campaign for the rescue of the state from the hands of public pirates has most hopefully begun. The Reading signal gun will be heard from the Delaware to the Ohio, and at every point there will be a rallying of the friends of clean politics and good government.

CASTORIA.
Bears the Signature of Chas. H. Fletcher. The Kind You Have Always Bought

PATTISON'S SPEECH OF ACCEPTANCE

Issues of the Hour Are Vigorously Presented.

DUTY OF GOOD CITIZENSHIP

How the State Has Been Misgoverned and the People Wronged—A Ringing Appeal to Patriotism.

QUESTION OF BALLOT REFORM

Ex-Governor Boldly Arraign the Machine and Urges Unity of Action For the Good of All.

Reading, Sept. 4.—This has been a great day and greater night for Pennsylvania Democracy and the cause of political regeneration throughout the state. Influential men from every county were present to take part in the ceremonies incident to the notification of the nominees of the Erie Convention. It was suggestively noted, also, that a large number of Republicans and independent citizens were present to extend their hearty congratulations and give open pledge of support during the campaign and at the polls.

In the afternoon there was a public reception at a beautiful suburban retreat and a banquet at which enthusiasm ran high. Early in the evening the Auditorium was packed with a great crowd to hear the speeches of the occasion, every expression of the candidates being applauded with a vigor which showed the spirit that possesses the friends of reform in the pending contest between the people and the bosses, who have so sadly misruled the state.

As chfairman of the notification committee, Hon. R. E. Wright, of Allentown, performed the pleasant work assigned him in a happy manner. He said:

SPEECH OF CHAIRMAN WRIGHT.

We are assembled today by direction of the Erie Convention to present to you Governor Pattison, and to Messrs. Guthrie and Nolan a formal notification of your nominations for most important public positions.

While the convention which named you represented the organized Democratic party, it acted and spoke for a wider constituency than could be comprised in any political organization. It convened, planned and acted not for partisan victory, but for Pennsylvania's honor. It represented and gave voice to an outraged public sentiment, demanding that the control of our state shall be wrested from the hands of those who dishonor it. It spoke for all men in our state who stand for pure, honest government and a decent administration of public affairs. It named you, gentlemen, as the instrument through which our commonwealth should be rescued from the hands of the political freebooters who have so long controlled it; from a domination which has outraged public opinion, has prostituted the powers and beneficences of government to the purposes of unscrupulous politicians, and the enrichment of their favorites and which has recklessly and defiantly disregarded all constitutional, legal and moral obligations and restraints.

In the platform of the convention that named you will be found a recital of some of the ills that a long suffering people have deemed worthy of mention. I need not, therefore, now elaborate in your hearing the painful, but familiar history of Pennsylvania's dishonor. As I have said before, in every newspaper and from every husting the shameful story has been told; in every town and hamlet; at country cross roads, in counting house and factory, in village store and by the good housewives returning from church, the sad story of the shame of our commonwealth has been told and retold with indignant blush.

We have seen corrupt and corrupting legislatures moved to their villianies by American senators; we have seen pay rolls padded to reward thieving officials; our law makers make lawbreaking a thrifty trade; our state treasury temporarily looted to aid the speculative ventures of favored politicians, their relatives and friends; banks plundered and broken in extending aid to impecunious bosses—we have become familiar with the work of election repeaters, stuffed ballot boxes and fraudulent returns. We have seen senatorships purchased, valuable franchises stolen and municipal governments ruthlessly overthrown in reckless contests between rival political machines, and made the sport of personal ambition.

To the rectification of all of these wrongs you have been dedicated by the convention that named you; that you will be faithful to the pledges no one questions; that you will be chosen to the task we firmly believe, as we have faith in the honesty and integrity of the people.

As the spokesman of the notification committee I beg on its behalf to now formally advise you of your nomination and to express the hope that should find lodgement in the mind of every self respecting Pennsylvanian that success may crown the end of your battle for the redemption of our commonwealth.

GOV. PATTISON'S ADDRESS.

Governor Pattison's reception by the vast audience was an event that will be long remembered. After the cheering subsided he spoke as follows:

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Notification Committee, Friends and Fellow Citizens:

It is with feelings of grateful appreciation of the honor bestowed for a third time, that I appear before you to accept the responsible place you have assigned me in the pending contest between the people of Pennsylvania and those who would deprive them of their sovereign right of honest and just self-government. I trust it may be taken as a happy coincidence that it was here in this beautiful and prosperous city, so delightfully located in the midst of a community far famed for zealous devotion to the highest and best principles of economic home rule, that the successful campaign of 1890, along the same lines which confront us today, was so auspiciously inaugurated. The spirit of patriotic protest against the misconduct of selfish and faithless public servants, has grown with passing years, as the logical result of the more reckless and defiant methods pursued by the combination of autocratic rulers and their mercenary followers which has so grievously belied the honored name of our beloved commonwealth.

The Supreme Question.

The pressing duty of twelve years ago faces every good citizen with steadily increasing weight of responsibility. We are again called to do battle for that which we regard as the most sacred legacy of the founders of our great state. It is our privilege, also, to once more unite with unselfish earnestness to declare and maintain our fidelity to the best interests of all the people. As the lines have been drawn, we may justly demand the most effective co-operation of self-respecting and right thinking citizens irrespective of partisanship. The supreme question before us is one which appeals to every patriotic instinct; is above and beyond the real or imaginary boundaries which ordinarily divide men in the discussion of public affairs. It is the preservation, unsullied and unbroken, of the fabric of honest legislation and administration, with which we are concerned. Twice the people have decided this issue against their would-be masters—in 1882 and in 1890—and we confidently believe that they will thus vindicate themselves and maintain their rights in 1902.

The Rising Tide of Revolt.

You will pardon reference to the fact that in my speech of acceptance in 1890, it was pointed out that all history taught the danger of entrusting, even to wise and virtuous men, dictatorship in affairs of state; that in a democratic government absolute power, the temptation to misuse which is ever present, can only be achieved and maintained through a resort to unrepublican methods, the abuse of official privileges and the suppression of the popular will. It was claimed on behalf of the people of Pennsylvania, that they had not willingly chosen the leadership, against a continuance of which they manifested such hopeful unrest; that they submitted thereto under protest, and would surely record their condemnation thereof at the polls. The historical fact with which that campaign for clean politics and honest government concluded, is an inspiration for the present hour. The people of Pennsylvania are forbearing and patient beyond all others, slow to wrath and careful in action; but when there is a moving of the mighty waters of an aroused public sentiment it speedily becomes irresistable.

Integrity of Party Organization.

Political parties may properly divide upon public issues, but there are some questions that are common to all, and one of these is the integrity of party organization. Under our system of government it is of vital importance that each party should be so organized and controlled that in the event of its success this shall mean the faithful expression of the popular will, to be followed by the redress of public wrongs, the correction of evils of administration, and the enforcement of true principles. Manifestly, this cannot be when the leadership of a party is either corrupt or despotic, and wherein vicious influences are exerted over any considerable number of party workers. The existence of these vices in any party organization must always be condemned by an enlightened public sentiment.

In nearly every great city in this country, from the reign of Tweedism, in New York, which was brought to an end through the dauntless courage and wonderful energy of a great American citizen, Samuel J. Tilden, whose memory must always be revered by the friends of good government, to the recent overturow of a ruinous cabal in the City of the Golden Gate, largely through the righteous co-operation of Republican citizens of San Francisco, this impressive lesson has been taught. Conscienceless political leaders have been sternly admonished that they cannot with impunity continue indefinitely to defy the moral law in the conduct of party organizations and the administration of public affairs. It is the imperative demand of all patriotic men that political organizations shall represent and illustrate the integrity of political faith; that they shall be controlled and directed not by their worst but by their best elements. We must maintain this basic principle or popular government cannot continue. Candidates for public office must be honestly selected, without undue influence or the use of corrupt means to defeat the popular will. There is no abiding place upon American soil for the political auctioneer and his subservient creatures.

The Machine's Defiance of the People.

It is no wonder revolt is in the air in Pennsylvania, when these just sentiments have been so openly derided; when there have been expressions of contempt for the power of the people as against corrupt organization. The historian of our time will scarcely believe the evidence before his own eyes when he reads the shameless declaration made by a political autocrat in Philadelphia, a little while ago. Urging his followers to renewed diligence and zeal, and suggestively holding before all others the way to secure the favor of the boss, he said:

"The cohesive power of the organization is offices. We have ten thousand office holders in this city and they are all ours. Under the present administration no man can get an office unless he is loyal to the organization. Only today the organization voted forty thousand dollars for tax receipts. How could we do that if we did not have the office holders? If you want an office or preferment in political life you will have to get it through the organization. The office holders are the backbone of the organization."

Under such a debased code of political ethics, government in this country, which the immortal Lincoln declared, upon the hallowed field of Gettysburg, should be "of the people, for the people and by the people," would be supplanted by the political boss, with government of office-holders, for office-holders and by office-holders. This is the Alpha and Omega of his political creed. With this as his motto, he lives, bargains, trades and thrives. His influence over administrative officers and in the halls of legislation is hostile to the interests of the people, corrupt and debasing to the last degree. He is the willing yet always thrifty servant of monopoly, the well-paid lobbyist to whose account may be charged the defeat of many measures demanded by the people, and the success of others solely desired by those caring nothing for the public welfare.

How Official Power Is Abused.

It is through the utilization of a debauched party organization and its subsidized representatives, that city councils and legislatures have become the scene of iniquitous performances never conceived in other days, when the law-making power was not thus under the iron heel of the odious political boss. The citizens of our afflicted state will recall many struggles to secure needful and just legislation. It required tremendous effort, in the face of the most aggravating obstacles, to procure even a measure of justice for long-suffering oil producers; to abolish useless and costly offices; and the enactment of a new ballot law, which is only the beginning of what must be done in this direction. In every way possible, members of the legislature have been annoyed, held up and pursued by this malign power, always determined to promote selfish interests.

Facts might be cited in connection with appropriation bills almost beyond belief. So gross have these offenses become, there is a just demand for some legal restriction or regulation concerning this matter, making it a penal offense to influence legislators in the manner now practiced at Harrisburg. The very best members of the legislature are at times powerless to carry out the will of their constituents, unless they consent, in violence of their consciences, to arrangements and deals with corrupt men who are nothing less than public pirates. During the past 20 years reform measures have only been enacted by the courageous union of independent Republicans and Democrats, after desperate conflicts with the powers of evil.

The Battle For An Honest Ballot.

My distinguished colleague, our worthy candidate for the office of lieutenant governor, Mr. Guthrie, will doubtless speak to you with clearness and effectiveness upon the subject with which his name has been long and honorably identified. He has been a host in himself in the battles for honest elections, and in the present contest his influence will be felt amongst all classes of our people in favor of the complete carrying out of this long needed reform. I merely desire to call your attention to the fact that in 1891, in my official capacity as the state executive, I addressed the law-making body as follows:

"The constitution requires that all elections shall be free and equal, but such elections are not secured by existing laws. Nor is our ballot secret. Fierce political conflicts between parties have given birth, here as elsewhere, to many phases of corruption, to the use of money by rich candidates, to fraudulent registration, to intimidation by corporations and by large employers of labor, to false counting, and to marked, altered and suppressed ballots. These contests have revealed the existence of a purchasable element in our midst, subject to all forms of political debauchery. A great popular movement for ballot reform has set in, and 15 states of the Union have already responded to it. All political parties in Pennsylvania have made open profession in favor of securing the most perfect attainable expression of the public will, and the only question that we now deal with concerns the most expeditious and efficient method of its accomplishment. The Australian system is the best agency yet devised for purifying elections. It is neither an untested election experiment nor a questionable expedient. Upward of 85,000,000 of people conduct their elections by its machinery. It is not the method of any one country or people, but finds a home wherever a free and accurate expression of the public will is desired. Ballot reform offers not only free and pure elections, but free nominations. I will heartily favor any well considered legislation which will secure these or any portion of these results."

The Australian system was not adopted. In its stead an imperfect ballot law was passed and accepted by the friends of ballot reform as at least giving the advantages of a uniform and official ballot. It was believed that perfected legislation would be promptly enacted, but the political machine has stood between the people and ballot reform and rendered all appeals for a more perfect system futile. Yet, although the senior senator from Pennsylvania, to whose autocratic will legislators have been subservient, a little while ago publicly declared that if the organization of his party failed to fulfill its own repeated promise to secure honest and effective ballot reform, it would "sink finally into merited infamy," the pledge was deliberately broken, by command of the organization itself.

How the Farmer Is Oppressed.

Upon no class of our citizens has the evil of political machine domination borne more oppressively than upon the farmer. Without detracting from the importance of other pursuits and occupations, we may observe that the tiller of the soil always stands at the front, the ever faithful mainstay of the industrial world. It is a significant fact that in our state the general course of legislation, under the direction of the baleful influences to which we have referred, has been towards building up all forms of monopoly at the expense of agriculture. The farmer has been taxed greatly in excess of his just proportion for the support of government. In some localities the possession of land has become a burden instead of a source of profit. The demand for relief has been denied. The appeals of the agricultural interests, through the formal action of a great number of Farmers' Alliances, and the earnest representation of facts in the columns of rural journals, have all been in vain. Permit me to repeat and emphasize what I said upon this subject to the law-making body in my annual message in 1893:

"The inequality of our tax laws still continues. I have suggested on two occasions a more equal distribution of the burdens of taxation. Taxation to be just should be distributed as nearly as possible on all alike, and should be even as practicable upon all classes of property. In our state, values chiefly constitute the basis of taxation, the value of real estate and the value of personal property. Nearly all the revenues of cities, towns, boroughs and counties, school and road tax, are derived from values as a basis of taxation. If the two forms of property, real and personal, are equal in value, under a just system they should equally bear the burdens of taxation. Real property, comprising the farms and homes of our fellow citizens, is appraised at two billions of dollars for tax purposes, and personal property, in which is classed all property not real, is in excess of this appraised value of real estate. The whole amount realized for all purposes is approximately $40,000,000, of which real property pays about $30,000,000 and personal property $10,000,000. Appreciating the principle that taxation should be laid with some regard to the encouragement and diversification of industry, and believing that in our state this idea has been kept constantly to the front, nevertheless, I am of the opinion that real estate has undoubtedly borne the burden of the day in taxation. In order to promote and encourage the industries of the commonwealth and to invite capital and enterprise, real estate, especially in the form of farms, has become so depressed as to need relief in a more equal distribution of taxation. There is no disposition nor desire to pursue or oppress any form of property. The injustice of our system must be admitted by any searcher after truth, who would distribute equally the burdens of government. So long as we continue raising our revenues upon the basis of values, the injustice of compelling a value in land to be taxed beyond a value in personal property, is heavily felt by many of our fellow citizens."

Promises Made to Be Broken.

Notwithstanding all their many sins of omission and commission, the men who have made Pennsylvania's politics a byword and reproach, have always been profuse in their declarations of a desire to promote the public welfare. They are always promising to do what is right and then as steadily doing what is wrong; giving the promise to the ear and breaking it to the hope. At times the audacity of the machine forces have been without a parallel in the political history of this or of any other state. It will be recalled that in the Republican state convention of 1895, the same declarations being substantially repeated, the following year it was said:

"We decry the growing use of money in politics, and the corporate control of legislatures, municipal councils and political primaries, and demand the enforcement of the laws to correct such abuses.

"We earnestly insist upon a reform of civil service which will prevent the enslavement of public officers and employes and the compelling of those appointed to preserve the peace to confine themselves to their duty, which will insure absolute freedom and fairness in bestowing state and county and municipal contracts, and will punish any form of favoritism in granting them; which will forbid the grant of exclusive franchises to deal in public necessities, comforts, conveyances and sanitary requirements; and will insure the recognition of ability and fidelity in the public service, keeping service to the country forever foremost, when accompanied by ability and fitness.

"We demand that public offices shall be for public benefit and the term of subordinate positions shall be during good behavior. No public employe or officer should be permitted to influence primaries or elections, nor upon any pretense be assessed upon his salary and all unnecessary positions and salaries should be abolished and expenditures and taxation reduced. There should be uniform valuation of property for public purposes, corporations enjoying public privileges should pay for them, and schools should be divorced from politics and kept absolutely free from political influence and control."

The Record That Condemns.

Everyone of these pledges has been systematically violated, in accordance with the derisive enthusiasm with which they were received by the men who went through the farce of making such manifestly insincere declarations.

The betrayal of public interests never was so shameless as during the last two sessions of the legislature. There never was such a corrupt use of money, so much legislative debauchery, so little effort made to correct crying abuses and to purify the public service. Favored contractors have reveled in fat things, dividing their ill-gotten gains with powerful political and official patrons. Valuable public franchises have been appropriated without compensatory returns to municipalities or the state. Debauchery of the ballot, at primary and general elections, never was so flagrant and widespread. And now it is sought to evade all these burning questions, and to turn the people's minds away from the consideration of the crushing record. This self-condemnatory course will not answer. The incorruptible freemen of the Keystone State are weary of shams; they have had their fill of illusions. They demand the restoration and maintenance of cleanliness, honesty and efficiency in all departments of local, municipal and state government.

Unparalleled Betrayal of Trust.

The Erie convention adopted a sweeping arraignment of the men who have led in the betrayal of public trust. Therein it is declared that the powers of government have beeen prostituted to the purpose of public thieves—a scathing denunciation, but one which the facts sadly justify; that constitutional restraints and commands, the sanctity of the law, the obligations of official oaths, and the demands of common honesty have been thrust aside, and methods hitherto unknown substituted to satisfy the greed of public plunderers. That shamelessly and openly the votes of legislators are trafficked in. That the last session of the legislature was admitted to be the most corrupt legislative body ever convened in any state of the union. That the election of a United States senator was accomplished in a carnival of corruption. That the session closed with a franchise theft that shocked the moral sense of the whole country.

For these crimes against political decency and official honor, this odious machine organization is indicted. To aid in the abolition of all these evils the effective co-operation of honest men of all parties and all organizations sincerely intent upon the reformation of public affairs, is earnestly invited. No partisan advantage or victory is sought and none will be claimed. The call is to all the people for the good of Pennsylvania, the promise being equal and just laws; pure, honest and economical administration.

An Appeal to Civic Conscience.

The issues of the campaign are therefore clearly defined. He who runs may read them. During the past four years they have been discussed in every part of the state. The time is at hand when the record must be passed upon. The deplorable facts recited and the history of public affairs in Pennsylvania, for many years, teach one impressive lesson. It has been shown over and over again that selfish, corrupt and tyrannical misrule debases citizenship, degrades the state and defies correction. It can only be overthrown when under the spur of an aroused public conscience the people intelligently and vigorously unite for the redemption of government and the restoration and maintenance of their just rights. The unit of power, the unawed, unbribed and self-controlled citizen, is the hope and sheet anchor of the nation. To him we once more confidently submit our cause; to his sense of civic duty we trustfully make our appeal. Fidelity to the true principles of popular government must result in vindication of the steadfast friends of honest administration of every public trust.

Upon such a cause we may reverently ask the blessing of the God of justice and mercy and truth. To its triumphant vindication, like the patriot fathers of other days, we may fittingly pledge our noblest efforts, our unfaltering devotion.

Mr. Guthrie's speech was a characteristic deliverance on ballot reform and the urgent need of the purification of all departments of the state government.

Mr. Nolan responded to the address of notification briefly but earnestly, promising if elected to administer the duties of the office of Secretary of Internal Affairs with fidelity and impartiality.

London's Sewer Hunters.

The London sewer hunter before commencing operations provides himself with a bullseye lantern, a canvas apron and a pole some seven or eight feet in length, having an iron attachment at one end somewhat in the shape of a hoe. For greater convenience the lantern is invariably fixed to the right shoulder, so that when walking the light is thrown ahead and when stooping its rays shine directly to their feet. Thus accoutered they walk slowly along through the mud, feeling with their naked feet for anything unusual, at the same time raking the accumulation from the walls and picking from the crevices any article they see.

Nothing is allowed to escape them, no matter what its value, provided it is not valueless. Old iron, pieces of rope, bones, current coin of the realm and articles of plate and jewelry—all is good fish which comes to the hunter's net.—Chambers' Journal.

NEW SHORT STORIES

He Grew In Bed.

If the truth ever gets out about the resignation of T. Hollingsworth Andrews from the Philadelphia police department, says the Press, it will probably be found that his constant refusal to pass applicants for the force who were even an eighth of an inch under the regulation height had much to do with it. Very often applicants with good political backing were sent to the police surgeon for examination who were quite one-quarter of an inch below the required height. He always "turned them down," no matter who recommended them. For this reason he was not popular with the administration men, who were unable to dissociate politics from police.

Not long ago a man was sent to Surgeon Andrews with very strong backing who was just a shade below the required height. He was a promising fellow and very anxious to get on the force, but he was below standard height. The surgeon pondered a moment.

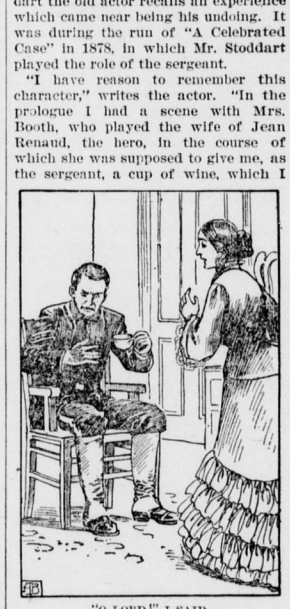
"You go straight home," he said to the man, "and stay in bed for three days. Don't get up and walk about the house, but stay in bed, as I tell you. You'll stretch. A man gains height in bed that he loses by walking about all day. When you get out of bed, come straight to me; then you'll pass all right."

The applicant obeyed orders, and he now wears a uniform.

Unpalatable Stage Drink.

In the reminiscences of J. H. Stoddart the old actor recalls an experience which came near being his undoing. It was during the run of "A Celebrated Case" in 1878, in which Mr. Stoddart played the role of the sergeant.

"I have reason to remember this character," writes the actor. "In the prologue I had a scene with Mrs. Booth, who played the wife of Jean Renaud, the hero, in the course of which she was supposed to give me, as the sergeant, a cup of wine, which I



"O LORD!" I SAID.

had to swallow. It so happened that the property man had been using kerosene on the stage during the day and had left the bottle containing that liquid upon the dresser, where Mrs. Booth was in the habit of finding the drink for the sergeant. During the business she poured a full cup from this bottle, handed it to me, and I swallowed the contents at a gulp. 'O Lord!' I said as I received the potion. 'What have I done?' asked Mrs. Booth under her breath. I could only gasp out 'Kerosene!' and make a hasty exit. For almost a week every one who came within range of my breath sniffed and inquired if I detected the odor of coal oil."

Geography and Poker.

According to Representative Kyle, this episode happened in Pickaway county, O.:

There is in the county a certain crossroads where a patient teacher struggles daily with the development of the young idea. One morning she was giving the school a lesson in geography.

"What is a cataract?" she asked.

There was absolute silence in response, and she explained the meaning of the word.

"What is a cape?"

This was better. One of the children knew it was a point of land jutting out into the water.

"What is a strait?"

Over in the corner a hand went up. "I know, teacher," said a small boy.

"Well, what is it?"

"It beats three of a kind," was the triumphant answer.—Washington Post.

Ruppert Didn't Know Hops.

Congressman Ruppert of New York is one of the best known brewers in that city. It is of this same brewer that a story is told which is worth repeating.

He was traveling in the upper part of New York state along the line of the New York Central railroad when he noticed some vines growing in great profusion.

"What kind of vines are those, conductor?" asked Mr. Ruppert. "I notice a great many of them along the railroad here."

"Those," said the conductor, "are hops."—Washington Post.

Which One Was It?

George Fletcher, a vaudeville performer who gives imitations of Mansfield, Irving, Herns and other celebrated actors, includes an imitation of Ezra Kendall, the monologist, in his repertory. He gave the imitation recently in New York while Kendall was in the audience. After the performance Fletcher asked Kendall:

"How did you like my imitation of your act?"

"Well," said Kendall, "one of us is rotten."—New York World.