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THE people of this State are realizing that Democracy is a tax.

PRESIDENT HARRISON wrote a good letter to the Republican League convention, and its reading was greeted with enthusiastic applause.

FOUR of the new delegation in Congress from South Carolina have each killed their man, but it is claimed that in every case there were extenuating circumstances. It is gratifying to know that they are not cold-blooded murderers.

IT would seem that a man who defeated himself and lost his State by letting his tongue get away with him, might have profited by his chastisement, but ex-Governor Foraker proves that a man rarely recovers from the mouth disease.

THE President has entered California, reaching Los Angeles at 3 o'clock P. M. yesterday, and San Diego at 7:30 o'clock this morning. To-day and to-morrow will be given to southern California, and the excursionists will reach San Francisco Saturday evening.

"THE vote-buyer and the demijohn must and shall be banished from American politics, and bulldozing and 'no count' shall be a thing of the past," was one of the many good things in Thurston's speech. That is equivalent to saying that the Democratic party must and shall be destroyed.

THE New York Times and the London papers are displeased with the President's reciprocity speech at Galveston, but the people of Galveston applauded it to the echo, and Americans and business men all along the line, who are not the victims of free-trade Anglomania, are delighted with it.

THE New York World says that the Republicans would not now dare to restore duties on coffee and sugar. Neither would the Democrats, although such action would be strictly in harmony with the tariff-for-revenue-only policy. That they dare not proves the wisdom and the popularity of the Republican policy.

CANDIDATE CLEVELAND can hardly be called a lightning change artist. His mind and body are too ponderous for that. He merely plays the anti-free-coinage role now and expresses a willingness to enact the other part if he is made President again. This versatility of principle will endear him more than ever to the average Democrat.

PERHAPS if the Kansas Alliance farmers succeed in organizing a bank which shall lend money to its stockholders at 1 per cent. a year, as they propose to do, there will be a great rush for stock. But, on the other hand, as such a bank would inevitably fail almost as soon as it was organized, perhaps the rush for stock would not be so great.

THE selection of Hon. J. S. Clarkson for president of the National League is an excellent one. He is always a Republican, and has positive ideas and methods regarding party organization. He believes in the Republican newspaper and that the sure road to party success is to inform the people regarding the principles of the Republican party.

THE President's declarations regarding the blessings of the Union lead the Charleston (S. C.) News and Courier to declare that "every interest in the South to-day would be marvelously benefited by the prompt and permanent separation of the two sections." There is reason to believe that the South Carolina paper speaks for very few Southern people.

ON his return from Washington, a few days since, ex-Representative Dunnell, of Minnesota, who is a native of Maine, and a personal friend of Mr. Blaine, said that he could not and would not be considered a candidate for President, and this is the unequivocal statement of men like Senator Hale and Postmaster Manley of Augusta, who are in Secretary Blaine's confidence.

THE Brooklyn Eagle assumes that Messrs. Crisp and Mills are the two prominent candidates for the speakership of the next House, the others scarcely being "in it," but it regrets that the contest has already become so acrimonious. The Eagle believes that Mr. Crisp is as much a tariff-reformer as Mr. Mills, and thinks he is better qualified for the speakership.

THE new city government is hampered just as the old one was by lack of funds to make necessary improvements and carry out needed reforms. No form of government, however well-conceived or well administered, can cure a radical difficulty like this. The new government may perhaps make the inadequate money go a little further and accomplish a little more than the old one did, but the difference will be scarcely appreciable. A liberal revenue or a large working capital is what the city needs.

GOVERNMENT AID TO STEAMSHIP LINES.

Democratic papers are criticising President Harrison's Galveston speech because he indorsed government aid to ocean steamship lines as a means of building up foreign trade. The Sentinel says: "He repeated the statement that every other great nation in the world subsidizes steamship lines, which is not true. The President is either woefully ignorant on the subject of subsidies or his treatment of it is exceedingly dishonest." The President is not only much better informed on the subject of subsidies than the writer of the foregoing, but is also much more honest in his treatment of it. In order to show exactly what he said in his Galveston speech we quote as follows:

The last Congress passed a bill appropriating about $1,500,000 and authorizing the Postmaster-general to contract with steamship companies for a period not exceeding ten years for the carrying of the United States mail. The foreign mail service is the only mail service out of which the government has been making a net profit. We do not make a profit out of our land service. There is an annual deficiency, which my good friend the Postmaster-general has been trying very hard to reduce or wipe out. The theory of our mail service is that it is for the people; that we are not to make a profit out of it; that we are to give them as cheap postage as is possible. We are, many of us, looking forward to a time when we shall have 1-cent postage in this country. [Cheers.] We have been so close and penurious in dealing with our ships in the carrying of foreign mails that we have actually made revenues out of that business, not having spent for it what we have received from it. Now we propose to change that policy and to make more liberal contracts with American lines carrying American mail. Some one may say we ought not to go into this business; that it is subsidy. But, my friends, every other great nation of the world has been doing it and is doing it to-day.

It will be observed that what he said was, that Congress had appropriated $1,500,000 and authorized the Postmaster-general to use it in making contracts with American steamship companies to carry the mails. Then, referring to the Democratic cry of "subsidies," he said: "But, my friends, every other great nation of the world has been doing it and is doing it to-day." Doing what? The President did not say they were subsidizing their steamship lines, though he might have said so truthfully, but he said they had built up and were building up steamship lines by liberal payments for carrying their ocean mails. This is true, and any Democrat who denies it is either very ignorant or very dishonest. We challenge the Sentinel to deny it. Let us have no petty quibbling on the word "subsidy," but a plain admission or denial that Great Britain, France and Germany have paid and do pay their steamship lines amounts for carrying their mails largely in excess of the cost of the service, and for the avowed purpose of building up and maintaining the lines. A person who does not know this to be a fact either does not know enough to discuss the subject intelligently, or is too dishonest to be worthy of notice.

Perhaps a little evidence on this subject may be of interest to those who care to be informed. The facts stated are from official sources. During the twenty years, from 1868 to 1888, the British government paid to its steamship lines, ostensibly for carrying its mails, over $90,000,000. The smallest amount paid in any year during this period was $3,184,435, and the largest was $6,091,345. These payments were notoriously and confessedly much larger than even a liberal estimate for carrying the mails, and were intended to assist in establishing and maintaining the lines. If not subsidies, what were they?

In December, 1889, Consul-general New sent the State Department copies of reports respecting bounties or subsidies given by various European governments in aid of the construction and running of ships, in which he said: "From these reports it is officially shown that Great Britain gives an annual subvention to four lines of steamships for certain of their vessels, upon condition that said vessels may be held at the disposition of the government for purchase or hire, the subvention to be paid for a series of years, whether the vessels be called for by the government or not." This is another form of subsidy. In the same report Consul-general New said: "It will also appear from the report that the governments of Italy, Germany, Russia, France, Spain, the Netherlands and Portugal grant subsidies or bounties in various ways on certain conditions." This report was accompanied by official statements showing the amounts paid by the different governments above named as bounties, subventions, guarantees, etc. They are all included in the term "subsidies." France pays bounties to ship-builders and subsidies to steamer lines. The report mentions four lines that receive aid from the French government, and says: "Two of the foregoing lines receive financial assistance from the government in the shape of subsidies for carrying the mails, viz.: the Companie Generale Transatlantique is granted, for fifteen years from the 22d of July, 1886, an annual subsidy of 4,478,000 francs ($864,254) for carrying the mails between France and the West Indies, Mexico and Central America. The Companie des Messageries Maritimes has contracted for a period of fifteen years, from 1888 to 1903, to carry the mails semi-monthly between France, Lisbon, Rio de Janeiro, Montevideo and Buenos Ayres at the rate of about $1 per mile." A report from Consul-general Mason, at Frankfort-on-the-Main, states that Germany entered into a contract in 1885 to pay $1,047,619 per annum to three steamship lines. Italy pays $2,066,551 per annum to three lines, and the report says: "Apart from what, in the Italian marine, is styled as subsidy there also exists a system of bounties awarded under certain conditions to Italian vessels." The report of Minister Palmer gives the list of steamship lines subsidized by Spain, and says: "For meeting the subsidies required for the execution of the contract the government is authorized to appropriate an annual maximum sum of $1,689,044." Consul-general Mason writes: "There is scarcely a maritime nation in the old world which is not now struggling either by means of direct bounties on construction and navigation, or by liberal subsidies for mail service, to foster and sustain a commercial marine under its own flag."

This evidence might be multiplied, but this will suffice. It more than sustains the assertion of President Harrison that every other great nation of the world has been and is sustaining steamship lines by means of mail contract subsidies. It shows, too, as he said at Galveston, that if the United States wishes to compete with other nations in the struggle for trade it must adopt their methods and go after it. President Harrison's head is level on the subject of foreign trade and steamship subsidies, as it is on all other subjects, and the applause that greeted his remarks at Galveston showed that his audience agreed with him. So do a large majority of the American people.

THE WORK OF THE LEAGUE CONVENTION.

The reports of the proceedings of the League Republican convention show that it was a thoroughly earnest and intelligent body of Republican representatives. The spirit and enthusiasm would have been omens of success in the year of a presidential election. The speeches, with a single exception, were thoroughly Republican and able. The platform is an earnest and courageous expression of Republican ideas and purposes—ideas and purposes in which all of the Republican party agree, and the full conviction of the rightfulness and necessity of which give the organization its vitality and power. Indeed, so large a meeting on an off year is one of the significant political signs of the times. The indorsement of the administration was as emphatic and cordial as language could make it, and the reading of the resolution was received by rounds of applause, which disprove the idle chatter that sensational and gossipy correspondents seem to regard of more importance as news than plain facts. The steps which the convention took to insure a thorough organization for next year were in the right direction, and that action was emphasized by the unanimous election of Hon. J. S. Clarkson, one of the most systematic and effective organizers in the country, as president of the League. With such officers as have been chosen, the League convention may be regarded as the formal opening of the next campaign in all the important work that is essential to full and effective organization. In short, the League convention has been a success; its influence will be an inspiration and its organization will exert a timely and powerful influence upon the fortunes of the Republican party.

A DOUBTFUL INTERVIEW.

Those who have considered the characteristics of Mr. Cleveland, whether Democrat or Republican, will be very slow to attribute to him the statements which have been given to the public by Treasurer Stephens, of Missouri; for, whatever may be said otherwise of Mr. Cleveland, he can be credited with a courageous adhesion to his matured opinions. In a letter to the New York Reform Club, dated Feb. 10, 1891, Mr. Cleveland characterized free coinage of silver "a dangerous and reckless experiment." That was a little more than two months ago, during which period there has been nothing in the financial events of the country or any change in public sentiment to lead a man like Mr. Cleveland to retract that opinion or to give utterance to such uncertainty as Mr. Stephens attributes to him. It is much more probable that Mr. Stephens is one of the interviewers who give their own ideas for those of the interviewed. Mr. Stephens had made a journey from Missouri to New York to obtain from Mr. Cleveland a modification of his anti-coinage letter, and while he talked Mr. Cleveland listened, and this led the Missourian to conclude that the ex-President agreed with him. If Mr. Cleveland did declare that a free-coinage bill, if he were elected President, could not reach him until 1894, and that it is not wise to cross a bridge so far in advance, he is sure to disappoint both the silver and anti-silver Democrats, and disgust many men who are now his friends. So far as the Republicans are concerned, they would be quite as well pleased that Mr. Cleveland should, by his silence, permit the Stephens interview to stand as his latest expression on this subject; but until he has time to make explanation, it will be regarded as one of the bad breaks of one of the "fool friends" who attach themselves to prominent men.

LABOR AND THE ALLIANCE.

The Neodesha Register, of Kansas, publishes a communication from C. C. Crouse, a member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers in that State, in which the writer arraigns the Alliance House of Kansas in a vigorous manner for pursuing a line of action which, if it had been successful, would have brought privation to thousands of laborers, particularly those employed on the 8,500 miles of railroad in that State, the hurtful measures being those designed to fix rates of transportation, which would have been so low that hundreds of employes would have been discharged and the pay of others reduced. He complains that the Alliance House killed bills imposing fines on railroad companies employing men who are in the habit of getting intoxicated, and requiring that operators who telegraph train orders be eighteen years of age and to have one year's experience in railroad work before being allowed to handle train dispatches. He charges that the Alliance House reduced the wages of labor in all public employments and generally legislated, or tried to legislate, in a manner to paralyze enterprise and frighten capital, thereby causing general stagnation in the labor market. In conclusion, Mr. Crouse says:

And so we might go on to show that the course of the House, the members of which made their campaign entirely on the grounds that if elected they would promote the interest of the industrial masses, has been directly opposed to every measure of relief asked for by the organized wage-earners of Kansas. The Alliance, as an industrial organization, has failed; as a friend of the wage-earner, it is worse than an enemy; as a promoter of public interest, it is as useful as a drought or an invasion of grasshoppers.

These charges against the political Alliance, by a workingman, should have some weight with labor organizations which are now being urged to join the Alliance politicians in forming a new party.

VALUABLE COMMENDATIONS.

The Philadelphia Ledger is really an independent paper, and, more than that, has always been very chary in its commendations of public men, consequently the following words in praise of the President and Secretary Blaine have special significance:

Americans everywhere have reason to be gratified and thoroughly well satisfied with the appearance before the world to-day of their two chief officers of state—the President and his premier, Mr. Blaine—in the conduct of the delicate and difficult Italian dispute; and the President by himself in his felicitous deportment as the recipient of most distinguished attentions and universal welcome throughout the broad extent of territory over which he is now making a republican progress. Their fellow-countrymen have just occasion to feel proud of them both, and doubtless they are, almost without exception or distinction of party.

The Ledger goes on to remark that though it was no part of the programme that the President should be the guest of the whole body of the people during his extensive tour, "he has become so by the spontaneous action of the people themselves." It goes on to say:

These speeches are extempore, too, and they are always intermingled with the plain and simple presentation of some wholesome doctrine, or some strong declaration calculated to stimulate the re-awakened patriotism of the Southern people. What he says is imbued at the same time with the kindliest spirit as an American and with the frankness of a soldier; and down there in Tennessee and Georgia, in the neighborhood of Resaca, they know he was a soldier in the front line of battle, where bullets swept by in fierce flights and the death-call was imminent. His frank and friendly talk they take kindly from him, because, he being a soldier, the war is over with him. He is doing great good every day.

The Milwaukee Sentinel, in an introduction to an extract from the New York Sun regarding the President's addresses, says that "no man living is better able to measure the qualities of speeches than Charles A. Dana, of the Sun. He is apt to be hypercritical," the Sentinel goes on to say, "and is certain to pounce on men who make injudicious or commonplace speeches, and he never praises unless there is excellent reason." The Sentinel then quotes the following opinion from the Sun:

What speeches they are thus far! It is a pleasure to read them. Nothing short of the extreme of partisan unfairness can find in the little Pullman orations anything to ridicule or despise. Candor compels the statement that at the tail end of the Vacuna, surrounded by the hundreds and thousands of his fellow-citizens, who throng to inspect the wonders of the presidential train and to gaze upon the Nation's chief magistrate, General Harrison is at his very best. Whether prepared carefully in advance or extemporaneously excogitated, his occasional remarks along the route have been nearly faultless. Modest in tone, interesting in matter, local in their application, while general in their character, lively without being sensational, moderate without being commonplace, full of ideas, consistent without being monotonous, excellently and often eloquently expressed, they deserve recognition by political friends and enemies alike as models of Pullman platform oratory.

FORAKER'S MOUTH.

Almost every large convention has its mischief-maker or blunderer, and that of the Republican League at Cincinnati is no exception. Ex-Governor Foraker performed the part. Being assigned a part where he had to open his mouth he, of course, put his foot in it.

The real key-note of the convention was in the declaration of its president, Hon. John M. Thurston, who, expressing himself in excellent form, said:

This is the volunteer political organization of the Republican party. It has no pay-roll; it controls no patronage; it asks no administrative favor; it is devoted alone to the advocacy and perpetuation of those great principles which guarantee liberty and equality to every American citizen and make possible the prosperity of all who love to dwell in the protecting shadow of the American flag. It follows the personal fortunes of no leader, and will not commit itself to the candidacy of any man. It is for the nominees and the platform of the Republican national convention.

This was the spirit of the convention and the motive of its assembling. But ex-Governor Foraker, with his natural aptitude for blundering, embraced the occasion of his welcoming speech to attempt to divert the feelings of the hour into another channel. The manner in which, by a studied though hackneyed form of climax, he introduced the name of Mr. Blaine showed a premeditated effort to secure applause for him at the expense of the President. It was as much a palpable attempt to slight the President as to magnify Mr. Blaine, and more than either, perhaps, it was the instinctive attempt of a natural mischief-maker to create a sensation, regardless of consequences. If Mr. Foraker possessed a true sense of the fitness of things, he would know that he is one of the last men who should attempt to publicly put a slight on President Harrison. His past record and present position in Ohio politics do not entitle him to sit in judgment on Republicans who have assisted only in leading the party to success.

AN INVENTION OF THE ENEMY.

One of the many absurd attempts which Democratic editors and correspondents are making to destroy the unity of the Republican party is the circulation of reports to the effect that Major McKinley and his friends regard the reciprocity policy of the administration with great disfavor, and will, in the coming campaign, declare their hostility to it. For instance, it has been given out that Major McKinley, if the Republican candidate for Governor in Ohio, will insist upon making his campaign upon the issue of protection without its natural attachment of reciprocity. Such assertions simply prove that those who make them have consulted their personal desires rather than Major McKinley's recent speeches, in which he has spoken in warm commendation of the commercial policy of the administration as a part of the Republican policy of promoting the industrial interests of the country. The purpose of those circulating such reports is to create the feeling that serious differences exist among prominent Republicans in regard to the existing tariff law, some favoring its general features and opposing its provisions for negotiating reciprocal trade relations, while others take the opposite view.

It scarcely need be said that all such statements are absurd. There is no essential difference of opinion among Republicans on this subject. All recognize that reciprocity, as provided for in the McKinley law, is merely an extension of the central principle of protection, namely, to secure foreign markets for our products in exchange for our markets for such merchandise as we do not produce. Some may emphasize the reciprocity feature because they see more in it for their locality and interests, while others who see the growing importance of the home market for our products make the protection feature more emphatic. The truth is, and it is an encouraging omen, the prominent men in the Republican party were never so nearly harmonious upon the great questions before the country as at the present time. The good results already coming from the tariff legislation of the last Congress have had the effect to harmonize and intensify the great body of Republicans on the tariff issue. There has not been a period in the history of the Republican party when it was so easy a task to prepare a platform that would meet with the general approval of the party as at the present time.

THE announcement that the Park Fire Insurance Company of New York is about to close its business after an existence of thirty-eight years shows a tendency toward the survival of the fittest in insurance as in other matters. The strong companies are growing stronger and the weak ones are being absorbed. The Park has been counted a good company, but, like many others, it could not keep up with the procession. Gradually its business has been slipping away from it until last year it showed a net profit of only $8,145. In view of this state of things its affairs will be liquidated. The New York Fire Insurance Company, organized in 1832, has also decided to close its business. During the last twenty years scores of companies have gone out of the business. As the competition and expenses increase it is found that the larger companies can do the business relatively cheaper than the small ones, and the latter are forced to retire. The profits are small at best, and it requires close management for an insurance company to make both ends meet.

THE St. Louis Grocer, a trade journal, has recently published the prices of a large number of articles in the grocery line, with the prices now and a year ago, as well as the rates of duty under the old and the new tariff. There has been little change in prices, and in the few that appear the increase has been as often on articles on which the duty is lower on the new tariff as otherwise. The Grocer is simply a trade journal, but it declares that there are enough facts in the table it publishes to dispose of the arguments made last fall to the effect that the McKinley law would increase the prices of the necessaries of life to the consumer.

THE editor of the Macomb (Ill.) By-Stander says that when the McKinley law was first passed he thought it would be hurtful to the best interests of the country, and so declared, but now he says:

In this opinion we were greatly mistaken, and now have every reason to believe the measure is one of the very best ever passed by the national legislature. The first great benefit derived is the cheapening of sugar, and other equally important features of the bill will doubtless work for the good of the whole people.

A large number of people are making such revisions of opinions regarding the present tariff law.

Now, if Grover Cleveland can be persuaded to say that under certain contingencies he might favor a protective-tariff policy he will be the ideal Democratic all-round candidate. A large element of the party, especially in the South, is opposed to the free-trade idea, and if Mr. Cleveland can be on both sides of the silver question at once there is really no reason why he should not be all things to all Democrats on the tariff problem as well. It can be done by a simple twist of the intellect, and time has proved the Cleveland intellect to be adjustable.

WASHINGTON society has been hospitably entertaining a visiting Englishman of note, Sir John Ross by name, commandant of the British forces in North America. Sir John is all right, and doubtless deserves to be well received, but Washington society felt a little bit chagrined when it discovered that he was a son of the famous Sir John Ross who sacked Washington after the battle of Bladensburg, in 1814.

IT is the common understanding that the poison of serpents and venomous insects is not harmful when taken into the stomach, the practice of applying the lips to the wounds caused by such creatures for the purpose of sucking out the virus being universal. Either this notion is wrong, the poison secreted by the centipede is of a different character from that of other poisonous insects, or the yarn about the family of Texas movers dying from the effects of an infusion of centipede in their coffee is untrustworthy. It is not improbable that the brand of coffee supplied by the Texas crossroads grocery caused the fatality.

PROBABLY General Butler was guilty of contempt of court in making the disrespectful speech he did about the Rhode Island judge, but the judge in question did not add to his personal or official dignity by taking notice of the same from the bench. If courts took cognizance of all the unpleasant remarks made about them by attorneys not satisfied with their rulings, few are the lawyers who would escape being hauled up for punishment at frequent intervals.

THE Indianapolis Art Association has done much to encourage and educate a taste for the fine arts, and has afforded great pleasure to many people by its frequent exhibitions of paintings, ceramics, embroideries, carvings, etc. Such displays were not seen in Indianapolis previous to the organization of the society, and by bringing collections here that were formerly enjoyed only by visitors to distant cities a public favor and benefit is conferred. The association is an institution to be proud of, and one that has come to stay, but until it attains its purpose of establishing a permanent exhibition will not reach the full measure of its usefulness. The carrying out of this plan must necessarily be a work of time, but its execution will be hastened by the proper co-operation of the public. The association does not expect a pecuniary profit from its annual exhibits, but it does need the encouragement and sense that his labors are appreciated that comes from a general patronage of the displays. Lovers of art for its own sake will miss none of the displays. People who feel an interest in a public enterprise owe it to the society to manifest their good will.

IF the G. O. M. falls into a habit in his old age of losing his temper and calling names he will lose his reputation as a G. O. M.

BUBBLES IN THE AIR.

A Possible Explanation.

"But what satisfaction can you get from kissing another woman that you hate?"

"Why, the satisfaction of making her submit to it, stupid!"

Out of Kindness.

Judge—If you wished to quit work, you had a right to. No one denies that; but to fall on the man who took your place and beat him is quite another affair.

Striker—W'y, judge, I done it fer his own good. I knowed if he took the job at them wages he'd starve to death.

Unconsidered Trifles.

The latest feature in Eastern newspaper work is the publication of meat-ax cuts showing how sundry eminent people didn't look twenty years ago, in contrast with the way they don't look nowadays. The metropolitan illustrated daily is a wondrous work.

If the story be true that Governor Hogg, of Texas, named his three children Ima Hogg, Ura Hogg and Moore Hogg, it would seem that the double-g'd Hogg has much longer ears than the other variety.

There is a great difference between a man and a gun. The gun is most presentable when it is loaded.

Another cherished belief is smashed by Bailey, the circus man. He says that ostriches in captivity usually die from indigestion.

It looks as if the United States was about ready to drop the role of "asylum for the oppressed of all nations"—especially the assassination.

ABOUT PEOPLE AND THINGS.

DOM PEDRO will spend the summer in England, the guest of the Duc De Nemours.

SIR EDWIN ARNOLD says the Mikado of Japan is always obliged to walk alone in public, his arm being considered too sacred for even the Empress to take.

ISAAC PITMAN, the father of phonography, considering his eighty years of life, is indeed a unique man. In his habits he is an ascetic, for neither wine, beer nor spirits, flesh, fish nor fowl passes his lips.

JOHN P. GREEN, the colored Ohio lawyer and orator, does not like the new term "Afro-American" for the people of his race. "I like the word 'Negro' with a big N," he declared at a Cleveland banquet recently.

LUCK does not always stick to the Goulds. Alva Gould, the discoverer and one of the owners of the famous Gould & Curry mine, is now peddling fruit and confectionery to passengers of railroad trains at Reno, Nev.

MAJOR MCKINLEY is a rising star of after-dinner speech-making, and it is expected that he will be able to take Mr. Depew's place if that gentleman should happen to be sent to jail as the result of his approaching trial.

GRANT ALLEN, the English novelist and essayist, is a thin and intellectual-looking man of forty-five. His eyes are light-blue and his hair gray. He was born in Canada, but has passed the greater part of his life in England.

KING CARLOS of Portugal is twenty-seven years old. He is a blonde, unlike the majority of his countrymen, and is a man of education and of graceful bearing. He talks well, speaks French, and is a clever artist in water-colors.

FATHER LAMBERT YOUNG, for thirty-two years a missionary in eastern Kentucky, will sail in a few days for his old home in Noord-Brabant, Holland. He is the best known missionary in Kentucky, and, after a laborious life, will end his days in his old home.

APROPOS of the recent visit of Queen Victoria's eldest daughter to England, they are telling this story of the Prince of Wales: Being asked on one occasion who was the cleverest woman he had ever met, he promptly answered: "My sister, the Empress Frederick."

IT is hinted that one reason why the Empress of Austria manages to keep away from Vienna at Easter-time is to escape the distasteful usage of washing the feet of a dozen old women, while the Emperor amuses himself in the same manner with as many ancient men.

MRS. MARTHA STRICKLAND, teacher of parliamentary law, lays down the rule that, in all cases when the speaker is uncertain whether the lady in the chair is married or single, she should be addressed as Mrs. President. She also advances the broader plea that no adult woman should be addressed as "Miss."

MRS. SAMUEL CLEMENS is a typical New England woman, and devotes a good part of each day to her books. She can, however, be called a New England woman only by adoption, as she was born in Elmira, N. Y., where, with her husband and children, she spends every summer. She is of medium height, with gray-blue eyes, rather light hair and a quick, nervous manner.

THE retirement of General John Gibbon, of the federal army, on account of age, this week, recalls the fact that his wife often accompanied him during his campaigning in the late war, and came to be dearly loved by all the soldiers. She has appeared with the General at several soldiers' meetings since the rebellion, and her appearance was always the signal for great enthusiasm.

BARON DE THOMSEN is an American who owes his title, if not his fortune, to the ex-Emperor of Brazil. When Dom Pedro was in New York, Mr. Thomsen placed his equipages at the Emperor's disposal, and entertained the royal guest in a truly royal manner. Dom Pedro was so touched with this generosity on the part of the rich American that he forthwith conferred the title of Baron upon him. The Baroness De Thomsen is will liked in society and very unpretending in appearance.

THE telephone is put to a new use in a hotel at Tampa, Fla. Instead of an electric press-button, every room will have a telephone connected with the office. Guests will be able not only to communicate with the office, but with their friends in other rooms at will. The great orchestrion, which was one of the marvels of the Paris exposition, is to be placed in the music-room of the hotel. It has been arranged that any guest in his room can, by merely telephoning to the office, be connected with the orchestrion and have the music transmitted to him in full volume.

THE STANDING EXCUSE FOR EXTORTION.

THOUGH the frost was severe and the winter austere,
And plentiful everywhere ice is,
If 'tis any way dear this summer we'll hear
Of "the awful McKinley prices."
One shudders to think of the terrible portion
That waits those who make this excuse for extortion.

—New York Press.

THERE was a man in our town,
Who was so wondrous wise
That when his business slumped way down
Began to advertise;
And when the public saw his spread,
With all their might and main
Unto his place they straight away sped
And set him up again.

—New York Herald.

A WOMAN cannot throw! Nay, this
Is slander—'tis a shame!
Just wait till something goes amiss
And see her throw the blame.

—New York Continent.

Knocked Out.

Philadelphia Press.

Now that "McKinley prices" have put cheap sugar on every man's table, Democratic papers have less to say about them.

THE REPUBLICAN SITUATION

A Calm, Dispassionate Review of the Present Condition of National Politics.

The Coming Nomination for the Presidency, and the Forces that Are Now Moving For and Against Harrison and Blaine.

Philadelphia Press.

It is not unnatural that President Harrison's trip through the South and West should turn people's minds actively in the direction of the next Republican presidential nomination. It is everywhere assumed that Mr. Harrison aspires to a renomination, and it is very certain that he will do nothing during his absence from the capital to weaken his position before the country. This tour will again bring into prominence that admirable equipment by means of which he grew immensely as a candidate from the day of his nomination to the time of his election. He rarely or never talks without adding to the popular respect in which he is held, and he wins this as easily from political enemies as from political friends. Already his speeches, made in the passage through some of the Southern States, have attracted the attention of the country and drawn out the most favorable comment from opponents as well as supporters.

No man can say whether President Harrison's apparent wish to secure a renomination will be gratified or not. There are political forces which are not favorably disposed towards him, and which can be depended upon to do their utmost to throw every obstacle in the way of his success. If at any time these should be for him, it will be when his renomination has become inevitable, and further opposition would be as foolhardy as useless.

To the most of those who discuss the matter as it now stands, it is practically conceded that there is but one man who could stand in Mr. Harrison's way, and that is Secretary Blaine. That Mr. Blaine has the heart of the great Republican party of the country, no less now than at any time in his brilliant career, is not to be disputed, and in the general esteem he has never stood so high. It is only giving expression to what is unmistakably the almost universal Republican thought when it is said that either Blaine or Harrison will be the Republican candidate next year.

While Mr. Harrison is presumably a candidate, Mr. Blaine, as presumably, is not. The latter's most intimate friends have been unable to draw anything from him on the subject. One so close as Chairman Manley, of the Maine Republican State committee, is unable to say more than that Mr. Blaine much prefers to take care of his health than to subject himself to the dangers of a fatiguing presidential canvass. This may state accurately all there is to Mr. Blaine's present position. He could have had the nomination in 1888, and would have had it but for his positive refusal to allow himself to be nominated. He may have the same feeling on the subject now that he had then, but whatever his feeling, it may be taken for granted that he will not be a candidate while he continues a member of President Harrison's Cabinet, or President Harrison himself is a candidate. He has so far seen no reason for making any public assertion or declaration on the subject, and he cannot be anxious for any condition to arise which will make that necessary.

INFLUENCES OPPOSING HARRISON.

Meantime it is thoroughly well known in inside circles that some of the influences which are opposed to the renomination of Mr. Harrison are arranging to use the Blaine sentiment of the party to obstruct the President's chances. These influences will ostensibly support Mr. Blaine for the nomination—not because they love Blaine more, but Harrison less. The most potent of these forces are in the Republican national executive committee. Senator Quay and Senator Cameron have both declared to their friends that they are now for Blaine, and to that extent they have at last adjusted themselves to the popular feeling in Pennsylvania. Several members of the national executive committee have recently been spreading their programme in different States. They are all seeking to make Harrison's nomination impossible, and it is not too much to say there is no other particular object in the movement, unless it be to make Blaine impossible too. There is every danger that such will be the result of the work now in progress.

The plan, as so far developed, is to get Republican State conventions which will meet this year to declare for Blaine wherever possible. There is a natural expectation that such resolutions would go through with the greatest enthusiasm and good will. Whatever the effect of this upon the prospects of Mr. Harrison, its effect upon Mr. Blaine must be most unfortunate. It would be to him singularly embarrassing. It would almost inevitably put him in a position where he would feel obliged to resign his place in President Harrison's Cabinet, or it would force him to make public an unequivocal declaration that he cannot be a candidate, and to make it in such a way that any hope of getting him to reconsider it would have to be abandoned, as it was three years ago.

Against his leaving the Cabinet and dropping the great work which he has in hand the whole country will protest. It would be regarded as unfortunate for the administration, for the Republican party and for the country. Against his being forced into the other alternative, there are already plenty of protests from Mr. Blaine's earnest personal friends. Whether circumstances shall ultimately put him in the position of being a willing candidate or not, they do not want him to be forced into an attitude that would complicate him with any portion of the party, or else compel him to leave the field of possible candidates.

WHAT MAY BE EXPECTED.

In the view of those who look at this matter broadly, there is no need of precipitating either of these conclusions. It cannot be desired by Mr. Blaine, and it is about the readiest way to do him an injury, whether he shall ultimately care to have the nomination or not.

If the present purpose is maintained, however, the coming Republican State convention in Ohio may be expected to declare for Blaine, and Pennsylvania, at Senator Quay's suggestion, is to follow, along with other States. That it will not be any trouble to pass such resolutions can be foreseen. There are few States in which the Blaine sentiment cannot be set into full blaze by the merest spark. But it will not be done to help Blaine; it will be undertaken as a means of disposing of Harrison, and, possibly, it would not hurt the feelings of those who are now engineering it if it should result in making both Blaine and Harrison impossible.

That such a result is feared by the friends of both of them—and the friends of one are largely the friends of the other—will be made apparent enough as the movement progresses. It is generally accepted that if Mr. Blaine's followers cannot have him, they will prefer Harrison, and it is equally true that the supporters of Mr. Harrison would be well satisfied with Blaine in the event that Mr. Harrison is not to be nominated. The attempt to make it appear that there is any friction or coldness between the President and the Secretary of State has nothing for a basis but imagination. There is the utmost harmony of sentiment and action between them. Mr. Blaine is not at all likely to antagonize the movement to renominate Mr. Harrison, and any use made of his name this year by anybody else for that purpose would probably embarrass Mr. Blaine more than anyone.

This is the logic of the situation as it is presented at this time. It is the natural conclusion, based upon the intention of those who are now for the first time supporting Mr. Blaine to have him declared the candidate by Republican State conventions this year.

Live Because They Are "Tough."

New York Press.

If the imaginations of the mugwump liars who regale the public each day with a fresh and totally different story about an alleged bitter war between the President and Blaine were not as tough as they are elastic, they would have broken under the strain long ago.