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The Journal and Sentinel unite in offering a reward of $10 for the arrest and conviction of any person who steals a copy of either of these papers from the office or residence of a subscriber. Reward will be paid promptly upon the conviction of the thief, and cost of prosecution will be met by the newspapers mentioned.

JUST now there seems a falling off in the Hill boom, and Mr. Cleveland is on the gently, very gently ascending end of the teeter-board.

WHEN the irresistible Mr. Hill encounters the immovable Mr. Cleveland in the convention, what is to become of the poor old party?

THE pending silver debate in the House causes more gossip than the tariff debate going on. The Democratic House has made silver the leading issue.

SENATOR HILL has plainly shown his party what he wants, and if the party will show the Senator what it wants he will do his very doest to accommodate it.

THE authors of the tax act seem to think they can escape the odium of more than doubling the State tax by long editorials, but they will learn, later on, how vain such a hope was.

THE pendency of the Woods case in the Senate has given Senators Voorhees and Turpie a chance to prove themselves the champion male scolds of America. As vituperators they are immense.

A NEW YORK paper declares that the Cleveland movement is being engineered in Wall street, and his friends report that funds will not be needed to promote the work of "downing Hill," $100,000 having been subscribed.

THE Republicans of Iowa have acted wisely in discarding prohibition as a party tenet. It never was, except in spots, and never should have been made so anywhere. It has come near wrecking the party in Iowa, and they have not unloaded it any too soon.

THE New York Sun classifies all those Democrats who are in the movement to call a second Democratic State convention as mugwumps. As they are Democrats who are too good for the regular party organization, jiboose is the proper name for them. But they seem very numerous.

THE chairman of the Iowa Republican convention brought down the house in his opening speech by describing the third party, in Iowa, as being "composed largely of men afflicted with disordered livers, dyspeptic stomachs and jaundiced eyes, with a slight sprinkling of women who are incumbered with neither husbands nor children."

JUSTICE sometimes moves very slowly, but it generally gets there. The Board of Aldermen in Chicago have been carrying things with a high hand for a good while, but their day has come at last. Several of them will be indicted for accepting bribes, and from what the Chicago papers say as to the character of the evidence against them, some of them will probably go to the penitentiary.

IT seems very remarkable that no straight out and-out Democratic paper in New York city supports Mr. Cleveland. The World is hunting for a candidate, the Herald is for a "Western man," while the Sun and the really Democratic Advertiser are hostile to Mr. Cleveland. The Times and the Evening Post are both for Mr. Cleveland, but they are not recognized as Democratic papers.

MR. HARTER'S boast that he will introduce embarrassing amendments to the Bland bill was made in ignorance of those beautiful rules which will enable Mr. Bland to prevent the offering of any amendment such as Mr. Harter has suggested; besides, Mr. Harter, if he gets to speak against the Bland bill, will have the time allotted him by the Republicans, who are recognized as the opponents of the measure.

IT is now very evident that the Hon. Joseph G. Cannon will be the Republican nominee for the next House in the Fifteenth Illinois district. By one of those unaccountable blunders Mr. Cannon was defeated by a Democrat whom nobody knows or ever will know even if he should be elected to Congress three or four times, or whose presence in the House would ever be known except when declared by the roll-call. Mr. Cannon was one of the most useful men in the House and one of the best chairmen that the House ever had over its committee on appropriations. He knew the difference between intelligent economy and habitual cheese-paring, and he had the capacity to cause himself to be heard and felt. It was much to his credit that he was hated by the engineers of small jobs directed against the Treasury. The mass of Republicans in the country who take a deep interest in public affairs will be glad to see Mr. Cannon in Congress again.

THE SUPREME COURT AND THE BALLOT LAW.

Aside from the determination of the controversy involved in the case which took some features of the secret ballot law to the Supreme Court, its decision is most timely and important regarding the contention, or rather the assumption, that a voter can be deprived of his vote by the neglect or improper act of an election officer. If it should be held that a voter's ballot could be made invalid and thrown out because an election officer had not performed his duty as the law specifies, the election officers would be far more important in determining elections than the voters, since a number of unscrupulous men, such as too often are chosen to handle and count the votes of the people, could conspire and defeat a large majority by giving the voters ballots improperly marked. The State can require the voter, for the public good, to stamp his ballot as instructed. If he fails to do so, or so performs that duty as to cast a doubt upon his intention, he cannot complain if he is deprived of his vote. But when the voter goes to the election officer, who is paid for his services, he has a right to assume that the officer understands the law and that the ballot which he gives him is a legal one. If the clerk or other officers fail to mark it as the law requires the State or other representative of the election machinery is at fault, and should be held responsible, but not in a manner to deprive the voter of his suffrage. This point the court makes very clear. The ballot which the election officers give the voter must be held to be a legal one because he receives it from the officers designated by the State, and it is the State's ballot. It is not the voter's duty to inquire if the ballot is the size required by law, if it is printed in the type designated, if the officer is sure that it is the ballot designed for his voting-place, or if he has indorsed it as the law requires. In New York it was held differently; therefore a candidate receiving nearly 2,000 plurality was counted out because a county clerk sent the Republican ballots intended for one part of the county to the other—there being a ballot for each party in New York. In another district the Republican was counted out because the "printer's quads," used in printing the official ballot, sticking up, made an impression upon the paper, which Governor Hill's scoundrels ruled to be "a designating mark." But here in Indiana, long before the election, the Supreme Court has declared that clerical mistakes and official blundering or trickery by election officers shall not be allowed to deprive the voter of the right to have the ballot which he has cast counted.

SENATOR HILL'S CANDIDACY.

Senator Hill's presidential candidacy belies all previous traditions on the subject, and, if it should prove successful, will require a recasting of popular ideas in regard to the qualification and equipment required by a chief executive. Looking at the question of popularity alone, all previous aspirants for the presidency have been distinguished either by service in national affairs, civil or military, or by admitted qualification for such service. Some have been great soldiers and have won the popular heart by their military services, whilst others have made their mark in civil life as the representatives of national policies. Some have had distinguished careers in Congress, and have achieved a national reputation in that way. Others have been taken up by the people because of their recognized fitness, and have justified the popular instinct by the ability with which they have filled the office. In the case of almost every President we have had the office has sought the man because of something in his personality, character or career that won popular favor and designated him as a suitable man for the place.

With Senator Hill the case is entirely different. He has never been a soldier and is not much of a civilian. Educated for a lawyer, he has achieved only ordinary success in the profession. He has never rendered any notable public service to the Nation at large, or to his own State. As Governor of New York he was simply a scheming partisan. There is nothing in his private life or public career to excite honest admiration. He has never identified himself with any political reform or policy, or linked his name with any great act or measure. He is not a deep thinker nor an eloquent speaker. In short, he possesses none of the qualities which have made other aspirants for the presidency popular, or which have led the people to single them out as fitted for the office. He is simply a machine politician. Nearly his whole adult life has been devoted to the study and practice of politics as a means of promoting his own personal fortunes and the success of his party. He is not a dull man, and he has a fair, though by no means a thorough, education. If he had devoted himself to the law with as much assiduity as he has to politics, he might have achieved considerable distinction at the bar. As it is, he is known as a second-rate lawyer and a first-rate politician. Machine politics has been his life pursuit. His business for the last twenty years has been to build up the Democratic machine in New York and to strengthen his grip on it for the purpose of promoting the political fortunes of David B. Hill. In doing this he has allied himself with the worst element of his party and practiced its worst methods. Sometimes he has done the bidding of Tammany, and sometimes he has made Tammany do his bidding, but all the time he and Tammany have worked together. His political principles are embraced in such maxims as "Everything is fair in politics," "The end justifies the means," "Nothing succeeds like success," and "To the victors belong the spoils." The best men in the Democratic party in New York despise him and his methods, and its worst men are his most enthusiastic supporters. His most ardent admirers cannot find anything better to say of him than that "he has never been beaten in a political contest." It does not occur to them that this, instead of being proof of personal merit or fitness for high office, may simply mean that he is untiring and unscrupulous in the pursuit of his political objects, and that he knows how to work the machine.

Yet this man, so different from all previous aspirants for the presidency in his character, antecedents, training, associations, public services and fitness for high office, is now an avowed candidate for President, and has just finished a stumping tour in the South. A partisan of partisans, the burden of all his speeches was, "I am a Democrat." At one place he shouted to the people, "Vote the Democratic ticket and you'll be happy." At another he said he "hoped his hearers were true and loyal Democrats, and that they voted the Democratic ticket and upheld the Constitution." Occasionally he sandwiched these partisan commonplaceisms with some attempts to deal with principles or policies, but he soon descended from these unfamiliar heights and resumed his flopping along partisan lines. It argues a very low condition of American politics when such a man can hope to secure the nomination of a great party for the presidency and when a majority of the members of that party show a willingness to support him.

COUNTRIES WITH FREE-SILVER COINAGE.

To the Editor of the Indianapolis Journal:

Can you give some facts regarding the result of the free coinage of silver in some countries which have tried the system? S. M. C.

There is a quite prevalent impression that in a number of countries gold and silver are now coined without limit for all bullion-owners. France is quoted as a double-standard nation; but not a lengal-tender silver coin has been stamped in France for more than ten years, and for years before the coinage in France was not free, but limited to a certain number of francs for each government comprising the Latin Monetary Union. Not only is there not free-silver coinage in any European country to-day, but there is not a limited issue of legal-tender silver money. India, a dependency of Great Britain, is one of the few peoples having free and unlimited coinage of silver. To India the owners of silver bullion could for a long time, and now can, take their white metal and have it coined into rupees. The face value of the rupee is 48 cents, and for any debt owed in India it is legal tender. The silver taken to India is purchased in England by capitalists and merchants as bullion. At one time, 32 cents' worth of silver bullion would make a 48-cent rupee. When the Englishman buys wheat in India he purchases silver in London, has it coined into rupees in India, and pays rupees at 48 cents each, which cost him 32 cents. Labor is cheap in India—less than 10 cents a day for tilling the soil, while living on a little rice and salt fish—but cheap as it is, it is paid in rupees at 48 cents each, which have a purchasing power of but 32 cents when invested in goods, the price of which is made in London. The Hindoo farmer pays for all his imported goods upon a gold basis. He pays his rents to Europeans on a gold basis. The British rulers in India have issued bonds to promote railroad building, the interest of which is payable in gold, so that the taxes collected to pay that interest are estimated on a gold basis when paid in silver. The Statesman's Year Book of 1890, a British publication which is a recognized authority, makes the following statement upon this subject:

The great fall in the value of silver during the past fifteen years has made the task of administering Indian finance most difficult. About fifteen millions sterling annually ($75,000,000) has to be spent in Great Britain (interests on stocks, bonds, rents, etc.,) and thus has to be paid in gold, while the Indian revenues are raised in silver. Thus 22,500,100 rupees must be paid instead of 15,000,000 when the rupee is worth 1s and 4d (32 cents), instead of 2s (48 cents.)

The Hindoo, whether farmer, trader or laborer, must accept this cheap and depreciated money, because there is no other in circulation; but when he comes to make payments he must pay enough more to make it as good as gold. It scarcely needs be added that such a system of finance has sapped India of all prosperity and has been disastrous to the people engaged in agriculture. Free silver coinage has been maintained for the benefit of British merchants and capitalists, but so general have been the bad results that there is danger that those who have prospered by the system may, in the end, be involved, because of the poverty of the land and the collapse of its finances. India is the only country on a specie basis to which silver bullion can be taken for free coinage, and even there the quantity coined has fallen off within the past two years because the banks are glutted with legal-tender rupees. It is claimed that one of the devices which have served to keep the price of wheat down in London is that India wheat has been bought in with money which cost 20 per cent. less than its face, which enabled the purchasers of such wheat to make so large a profit on their money that they could materially cut down the price of their wheat, and thus lower the price of the whole product in the market.

KEEPING AN EYE ON THE CAT.

In the present uncertain condition of affairs it behooves Democratic politicians to be cautious in their utterances. They have future contingencies to think of. Governor Winans, of Michigan, evidently realizes this. When asked recently about the prospects of Cleveland's nomination he replied, diplomatically, "I don't believe he will be the man, though you know what my choice would be. It is possible, however, that sentiment may unite on him before the convention." Interrogated further, he expressed a disbelief in the nomination of Hill, as such action would be a direct slap in the face of Cleveland's friends. Then the Governor added, confidentially, "Hill has a great many friends, though, and, do you know that he is one of the brightest and shrewdest men in the party to-day? You just watch his future, and you will find that he will some day be the foremost man in the country, and the man that we will all go to ask favors of." Here is where the need of caution comes in. The brethren see a prospect that they may have to ask favors of Hill, and they are doing a balancing act that will let them down on his side when the time comes without dislocating their political spines. Even the Indianapolis Sentinel, which a short time ago would hear of no one but Cleveland, has "caught on," and has ceased to make positive assertions concerning the presidential outcome. It would be much easier to conduct a Democratic organ these days if there were any certainty which way the cat would jump.

UNDER the old management of the Sentinel—the one which damned the "cowardly souls" of the Supreme Court—decent treatment of public men could not be looked for in that paper, but with its present professions of respectability, people who did not know its inherent quality might have looked for something a little less vicious and malignant than the language it addresses to Judge Woods. Those who know it and the party it represents know that the atmosphere of the slums is about it still and expect nothing better. The fate meted out to Coy rankles in its mind yet.

CERTAIN Democrats in Congress are troubled because the President has reimposed duties upon the coffee and hides of Venezuela, Colombia and Hayti, of which $12,761,895 worth of the former and $1,472,537 worth of the latter were sold us the last fiscal year. It is a matter of choice with them; but they will doubtless learn that if they want the boon of free American markets they must extend certain special favors to American producers.

SPEAKING of the appointment by Gov. Flower of sixty-seven new trustees for the Grant monument fund, Kate Field aptly inquires how long it will take one hundred trustees to build the monument if it takes thirty-three seven years to accomplish nothing. As yet, no official reply has been returned to her query.

The City Librarian.

With the completion of the new public library building, during the coming season, this one of the educational institutions of Indianapolis will be properly housed for the first time, and its scope and capabilities greatly enlarged. This renders the choice of a librarian a matter of more than usual importance. The near approach of the date for the election of this officer by the School Board makes a word on this matter timely. The Journal is not informed as to whether Mr. Evans, the present librarian, is again a candidate or not, but it takes this occasion to say that his services should be retained if possible. To make a change on the eve of a removal, and with a catalogue in process of completion, would be a great mistake. The result would undoubtedly injure the library and cause inconvenience to the public. Especially would this be the case if an untrained, inexperienced man were put in charge. This has been tried in Indianapolis and elsewhere, with unsatisfactory, not to say disastrous, consequences. The calling of a librarian, under modern conditions, is a profession by itself, and requires a long apprenticeship for those who would follow it successfully. Much more is necessary in the incumbent of such a position than the literary acquirements or acquaintance with the contents of books that many outsiders seem to think the chief qualification of such officials. So important is the technical knowledge considered, and so fully is the need of special training of librarians recognized, that at least one Eastern university has established a course for students who wish to fit themselves for the occupation. Mr. Evans had what is better than school training, namely, years of practical experience in the Boston Atheneum and other large libraries. To-day he ranks among the best librarians in the country, and Indianapolis has from time to time received congratulation from well-informed persons on the fact that this branch of its intellectual interests was in such competent hands. The general public is more directly interested in the proper management of the library than in any other of the educational institutions, and has a right to express its preferences. The Journal believes that it voices public opinion when it protests against a change at this juncture, and urges the School Board not to make the preposterous blunder of employing an untried man.

MRS. LEASE—she of Kansas—says that a man has the right "to all the whisky he can buy and pay for." That is a woman's narrow view, of course. Every voter knows that a man has a right to all the whisky he can get.

To the Editor of the Indianapolis Journal:

How far is it from Indianapolis to Washington, D. C., over the National road? How far is it from here to Cincinnati? Which is the best road for a bicycle? Could a bicycle be ridden on either road with any comfort? READER.

The distance to Washington by rail is about 758 miles, and by the National road and its continuation is probably nearly the same. The distance to Cincinnati is 110 miles. The National road is said by wheelmen to be the best route to take in going East.

To the Editor of the Indianapolis Journal:

How did the Michigan Legislature divide the electoral vote of that State? M. R. L.

By dividing the State into two districts for electors at large, and by providing that the others shall be elected by congressional districts.

To the Editor of the Indianapolis Journal:

In what years did the Prohibition party first put a ticket in nomination in Iowa and Kansas? READER.

In 1885 in Iowa and in 1886 in Kansas, while both States had prohibitory laws. They had presidential tickets in 1884.

Safe Prediction.

The Independent.

Indiana will send practically a unanimous Harrison delegation to the national Republican convention. Indiana's favorite son will also be the favorite of all or nearly all the States.

Tribute to Peffer.

Philadelphia Record.

We do not decry Peffer. We admire him, and prostrate ourselves before him, as a man who has the courage of his asininity.

Rude Treatment.

Philadelphia Press.

Democrats everywhere are saying "scat!" to Isaac Pussy Gray, of Indiana.

The Third New York Candidate.

Washington Post.

It is time to stop sneering at the Flower boom.

CRACKED HIS WHIP IN VAIN

Senator Hill Tried to Bulldoze the House Elections Committee, but Failed.

Wanted a Democrat Who Was Not Elected Retained in His Seat, but the Outrage Was Too Flagrant and the Demand Was Refused.

Still Trying to Make Himself Solid with His Brethren of the South.

Another Day Among the People Whom He Advised to "Vote the Democratic Ticket and You'll Be Happy"—Scorcher from Reed.

WOULD NOT BE BULLDOZED.

Democrats of the House Elections Committee Refuse to Do Hill's Bidding.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

WASHINGTON, March 18.—Senator Hill is in a fair way to learn that he cannot introduce into Washington the methods of the ward boss, which he has so successfully carried on in Albany in the past. It has just leaked out that he has been making an effort to bulldoze the committee on elections for his own ends. It has been announced for some weeks past that the elections committee of the House had practically decided the Noyes-Rockwell case in favor of Noyes, the contestant. Rockwell is from Elmira, Governor Hill's home, and is a Hill heeler. There is no doubt that Mr. Noyes was really elected, and the elections committee, though made up principally of Democrats like O'Farrell, of Virginia, who have a most vivid recollection of the work of Mr. Reed's election committee, nevertheless were almost unanimously in favor of giving the seat to the Republican.

Mr. Hill, on hearing that his man Rockwell was very likely to be turned, at once endeavored to crack the whip as he had been accustomed to doing at Albany. The Democratic members of the committee were sent for to come to Hill's room at the Arlington, and when they disobeyed his orders Mr. Hill used diplomacy to corral five or six of them in his rooms one evening. He demanded that as Democrats they should support Rockwell. He was amazed at their indignation and amused when they declared that justice was with Mr. Noyes. He then pleaded for delay in the case until the municipal elections in Elmira were over. This, after some hesitation, the committee granted. Shortly before Mr. Hill's departure for the South he learned that the elections committee was about to report the case to the House. He again sought to force the committee to yield to his demands, but was most emphatically and vigorously notified that the committee considered his action an unwarranted and impertinent intrusion. To-day the committee, by a vote of 7 to 1, decided to unseat Rockwell, the Hill Democrat, and seat Noyes, the Republican. This vote is the more significant, as three of the seven who voted for Noyes are Democrats.

HILL ON HIS TRAVELS.

A Speech at Waynesboro, Ga., and a Night Reception at Augusta.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

AUGUSTA, Ga., March 18.—Senator Hill spent this morning at Savannah sight-seeing, and at 2 o'clock this afternoon left for this city. The run to Augusta was made in quick time. The road was cleared, and the special train was sent through as fast as travel was safe. The train stopped for a few minutes at Waynesboro, where Major Watkins left the party. There were about two hundred people at the station. A military company, drawn up beside the station, fired a salute as the train came in, while a band of music played "Dixie." Senator Hill, being introduced, made a short speech from the car platform. He said that this was the first town where he had been fired at since he struck the South. This gathering, he said, showed the interest the people were taking in the public affairs of their country; they were interested in good government; in the prosperity of their State and of the Nation. They wanted their rights vindicated. The Democratic party, as its whole history showed, has respect for the people's will. The Republican party has conducted public affairs against the interests of the great masses of the people. His hearers believed in Democratic principles because they reverenced the Constitution of their country; they were loyal to their State and country; they loved the free institutions of this land of ours. Prosperity would be restored if they placed the Democratic party in full control of the government. Let the victory in November next be a most decisive one—not a drawn battle to be settled by a few hundred or by a thousand votes. The speech was received with much enthusiasm. A basket of flowers was presented to the Senator by the daughter of Major Watkins. He was frequently alluded to as "the next President of the United States."

It was 6:15 P. M. when the special train reached Augusta. As it entered the city all of the Richmond & Danville railroad engines in the yards started their whistles, and the noise for a few minutes was deafening. In the station was a crowd of several hundred men, and as the train backed down to its stopping place there was a fierce struggle to get near the platform of the superintendent's private car. Senator Hill's appearance was greeted with cheers, and as Col. Patrick Walsh escorted him through the crowd, hands were reached out to grasp his hand and the little column that followed him was pushed this way and that until, finally, it disintegrated and the other members of the Senator's party fought their way out of the station alone. Carriages were in waiting and the Mayor of the city, J. H. Alexander, took his seat beside Senator Hill in the first carriage. The other members of the party were rescued from the crowd, and distributed among the remaining carriages, and the procession was formed. The Augusta band marched ahead, then came the Irish Volunteers, the Sacred Heart Cadets and the Knights of St. Patrick Cadets, and then the line of carriages. The procession moved up Campbell street to Broad street, and down Jackson. There was a cold, sharp wind blowing, and the Senator's carriage was closed, so that the people on the sidewalk had no opportunity to see him in the procession. They flocked to the Arlington Hotel, however, and almost blocked the entrance to that hostelry. Senator Hill was escorted to his room by the committee, so as to enable him to get a little rest before the reception, which was held at 8 o'clock. He shook hands with many Democrats before retiring.

At the conclusion of the reception the party took carriages, preceded by a militia escort to the opera-house, where the Senator made a speech. The Senator expects to leave the city to-morrow afternoon at 1 o'clock by the Richmond & Danville road, and to arrive at Washington at 11 o'clock Sunday morning.

DEMOCRACY'S NEW LEADER.

Ex-Speaker Reed Pays His Respects to the Presidency-Hunting David.

PORTLAND, Me., March 18.—At a banquet of the Young Men's Republican Club last night the Hon. Thomas B. Reed was the chief speaker. Among other things, he said:

"Perhaps the very best example of the fundamental difference between the Democratic and Republican parties can be seen in that curious excursion of Japhet in search of his father, or David hunting the presidency [laughter and applause], which is now visible under the Southern heavens. David B. Hill is a typical Democrat, and he wants the presidential candidacy of his party because he represents it. He understands it, and in a short time, if he is elected, he will be it. The Democratic party is the party of odds and ends. It is a sort of bargain counter, or remnant counter. It is made up of people who are opposed to us for something which has happened. It is a party of negation. When Mr. Hill bloomed into the United States Senate he hastened to give the first signal of his national leadership in a speech to "Democrats in Congress assembled." This was an excellent instance of true Democratic principle. Let us, for heaven's sake, get back to yesterday if we can. We would like to roll back the tide of 1,800 years ago, but we are quite sure that we could not do it, but let us, at least, establish something that will seem Democratic in trying to put back civilization for a couple of years at least. Surely there could not be any better exponent of what Democracy is and what it means.

"Mr. Hill says in his speeches that the Whig party has passed away. Other parties have passed away, but the Democratic party is forever and forever. That is so. That arises from the very nature of things. There never was in the world a pancake so flat that it did not have an under side; or, to raise this metaphor to the dignity of the present occasion, there never was an army that did not have a rear guard. Mr. Hill says that the Democratic party should stand by the principles of the party, but he never utters one except as a glittering generality. A strict construction of the Constitution, he says, must be had. When he has been fifteen years in the Senate he will find that he will have to hunt with a lantern for a Democratic Senator that has not been able to construe the Constitution of the United States so as to get what he or his constituents wanted. A strict construction of the Constitution! Why the best thing that patron saint of Democracy, Thomas Jefferson, ever did to this country—the Louisiana purchase—was in defiance of the Constitution and in defiance of his own principles, as said by himself."

DEMOCRATIC KICKERS.

Opponents of Silver and Tariff Legislation Threaten to Bolt the Party.

NEW YORK, March 18.—"Are the Democrats likely to put two presidential tickets in the field this year?" That is the way the Herald's Washington correspondent opens a dispatch to his paper. He says the question is being seriously discussed in Washington, and that it is quite likely, unless the party becomes more harmonious on the silver and tariff, there will be a big revolt in the Democratic camp. This is the correspondent's story:

"If the Democratic House passes, by a substantial majority, a free silver bill, and this action be followed by the insertion of a free silver plank in the Chicago platform, it is not improbable that the year 1892 may witness a repetition of the political events of 1860. Then two Democratic candidates contended for victory, not alone against each other, but against the candidates of the Republican and Whig parties as well. I am assured that anti-silver members of the House are considering the advisability of such a course as the only means of correctly defining their position on the great questions of tariff. It is argued by those gentlemen that it would be impossible for any consistent Democrat to vote the Republican ticket and by so doing give his indorsement to the McKinley tariff bill.

"The gentlemen who favor this policy, whose judgment will give intelligent direction to the movement, and whose private wealth will furnish, to a great extent, the sinews of war, are terribly in earnest regarding this matter. During the interim between now and the meeting of the national convention at Chicago, the proposition will be quietly discussed among them, and letters and circulars will be sent out to the sound money Democrats, particularly in the Middle and Western States, inviting their co-operation with this movement, in the event that by the action of the Chicago convention it shall become necessary.

"So far very little has been said to indicate the intensity of feeling beneath the surface. Some of the New York Democrats are particularly hagry at what they call the pigheadedness of their Southern and and Western colleagues. I should not be surprised if a sensation occurred in the House within a short time. I know of one Representative who is fuming and fretting over what he calls the 'throwing away' of the Democrats' brilliant chances, and he threatens, unless the situation mends, to jump into the ring some morning and score the Southern Democrats for their suicidal policy, as evinced by their attitude on the free-silver and tariff questions. Such a speech would carry dismay to the party, and bring down on the head of the offender the curses of the Democrats all over the country.

"This man is one of the leaders of the Democratic Representatives. My interview with him was almost dramatic. I asked him a simple little question about the political situation, and was surprised at the amount of feeling displayed in the answer. 'Right after the war,' he exclaimed, 'these Southern men threw up their arms in despair and begged the Northern Democrats to come to their rescue. We came. We lifted our Southern brother from the despondency which naturally had resulted from secession, and we put him in the House and in the United States Senate. Then the Northern Democrats elected a Democratic President. He listened to the Southern statesmen, and, with all the zeal of a convert, plunged us into a tariff fight. We could not re-elect him. The introduction of the force bill followed, and again the Southern Democrats beseeched us to save them. Again we did it. Three months ago we had ninety-nine chances out of a hundred of electing a Democratic President, not on the tariff issue, but on the force-bill issue, the hard-money issue and the issue of economy in governmental appropriations. On these we could have fought and won. But no, the Southern Democracy must insist that we pass a sweeping tariff bill for a record. Why, we have got a record. They insist on wasting time on a lot of tariff measures that they know never can become laws, and disgusting the people by a useless waste of time.

"'The House is no longer a legislative body; it is a mere debating club; and now our Southern friends have the free-silver craze. We tell them, but we speak in vain, that if a free-silver bill is passed, no Democrat can carry an Eastern State. They won't believe it, and they are just ruining our chances of electing a President this fall. It is suicide for them, and we have that satisfaction. Another force bill will surely be introduced, and if the Republicans triumph this year it will become a law. Again will the Southern Democrats appeal to the North, but the next time, by their repeated follies, we will be powerless and unwilling to aid them. I am almost afraid to go into the House, for I see the danger into which we are drifting, and I fear lest indignation get the better of my prudence, and I will say these things in open session. I am a Democrat, but some one must read the riot act to the men who are ruining the prospects of the party or else we will enter again into wilderness in which we will wander for many years.'

"The placing of two Democratic presidential tickets in the field this summer would undoubtedly result in throwing the election into the House. The Alliance people expect to carry no fewer than eight States. While this may be an exaggeration, it is quite reasonable to expect that they may carry half that number. The effects of this will be to complicate the situation, and to make it still more certain that no one of the quartet of candidates will secure a majority of all the electoral votes. The interesting question then arises what action the House will take? It opens the door to a flood of interesting speculation."

Cleveland Didn't Write the Letter.

LAKEWOOD, N. J., March 18.—Mr. Cleveland was interviewed last night concerning the report that before he went South on his hunting trip he had prepared a letter to the press withdrawing from the race for the presidential nomination, but was persuaded to destroy it through Mrs. Cleveland's influence. This is what he said:

I never dreamed of writing such a letter, and surely if I had penned such a letter I would know something about it. Well, well, he continued. So they say Mrs. Cleveland induced me to suppress a letter that was never written. That silly story is an absurd one, for the main fact that Mrs. Cleveland never interferes in political matters in which I am concerned. The only letter I have written of late was the one to General Bragg, and that was written in a hurry and just when I was on the point of leaving for my last gunning trip. That letter, which the General has given to the press, expressed my views plainly. I did not think at the time I wrote the letter that it would ever be used in the the manner it has, or I might have taken more time in answering.

The conversation was in the reception-room of his isolated cottage. Mrs. Cleveland sat in the ex-President's private study which adjoined the sitting-room, and the door of which was ajar.

Political Notes.

Minnesota Republicans will meet in convention at Grand Forks May 4. The State central committee favors Harrison for President.

At a banquet in Boston Thursday night Governor Russell was introduced as "The next President of the United States." He disclaimed having such ambition, and smiled significantly at the mention of Cleveland's name.

The Republicans in the Ohio House of Representatives have agreed on a congressional reapportionment bill that will give the Democrats five districts and the Republicans sixteen. The Democrats have fourteen at present.

THE NEW LEAGUE'S MEETING.

A Permanent Organization Effected and Officers Elected—Lively Discussions.

The Agricultural room of the State-house was well filled yesterday with a young, vigorous and well-to-do set of business and professional men, representing the building and loan associations of the State. It was the occasion of the first annual meeting of the Savings and Loan Association League of Indiana. J. D. Johnson, of Kokomo, called the meeting to order and presided as the temporary chairman, holding over from the first meeting several weeks since. The report of the committee authorized to draft a constitution and by-laws was heard, and the work of the committee accepted. Considerable debate was provoked by some of the members. The object of the association is to promote the interests of the building and loan companies of the State. The membership is limited to associations organized under the law of the State, and doing business in this State only. This shuts out the national associations. The annual meeting will occur on the first Friday of March in each year, at a place chosen the previous year.

The committee appointed to return a list of nominations for officers reported the names of the temporary officers, as follows:

President—J. D. Johnson, Kokomo.
First Vice-president—W. B. Steele, Terre Haute.
Second Vice-president—Edmund Johnson, Anderson.
Treasurer—A. A. Young, Indianapolis.
Secretary—R. C. Kelsey, Indianapolis.

The report was concurred in and the nominees unanimously elected by a formal ballot. Under the authority of the constitution, Mr. Johnson then announced the following executive committee: W. T. Cannon, Indianapolis; J. C. Kolsum, Terre Haute; C. J. McCord, Vincennes; —— McBride, Elkhart; J. M. Dresser, Lafayette. A motion prevailed directing the president to appoint two delegates to the national meeting of Building and Loan Associations, at Chicago, April 14, for the purpose of devising plans for participation in the world's fair.

A delegate named Pfremmer precipitated a discussion as to the purposes of the organization by a motion declaring it the sense of the League that it does not exist to seek legislation, but for protection of association interests. Judge Ryse, of Terre Haute, opposed the motion, as out of place. He said new legislation on the subject of building and loan associations is needed in order to protect the State against the wild-cat companies of other States.

The motion was finally withdrawn.

It was clear the majority holds some legislation is needed, though Mr. Pfremmer said the present law is all that is needed. In the matter of legislation it is said an effort will be made to hamper the operations of the national companies, which are said to be using the building and loan association name for purposes of corporate profit. It is proposed to require such companies to deposit $100,000 with the State in government bonds. Another matter of legislation desired is a State inspection and a requirement that secretaries must file reports semi-annually with a State official. As there are over three hundred associations in the State such a statute would require a large force of clerks. It is in contemplation to elevate the business, which has to do with millions of the people's money, to the dignity of the insurance interests of the State by making it a State department, with a commissioner at its head. Papers were read at the meeting last night by Edmund Johnson on "Methods of Bookkeeping;" "The Necessity and Object of a State League," by C. N. Thompson; "The Advantages of Building Association Loans over other Loans," by J. R. Morgan, of Kokomo.

AN ASPIRING STATESMAN.

Capt. Eli Ritter Thinks He Would Like to Be President of the United States.

The nominations for President of this great Nation are not, it seems, to close with Hon. Isaac Pusey Gray. Aspirations for this office are harbored in breasts the cold world does not suspect of ambition. Yesterday afternoon a Journal reporter was dragged around a corner into an alley, and thence into a coal vault by a couple of prominent Prohibionists. They asked his help as a newspaper man to assist them in letting the world know that Capt. Eli F. Ritter, of this city, was a candidate for the nomination of President of the United States.

"He has been seeking the nomination of Vice-president for some time," said one of these Probis, "but the Phalanx has a suggestion that he be made the nominee of the party for President."

The reporter asked what the phalanx might be. He thought from the name it might be a bathing machine, a new-pattern gas stove, a corn-sheller or a patent clothes-line. He was told that it was a weekly paper, the organ of the Prohibition party, and that it had been molesting this vineyard for several years without attracting any special attention. What the gentleman wanted was a notice of the gallant Captain that would go out into the world—say anything; only mention him; don't let him blush unseen and waste his sweetness on the desert air.

"You understand," said the other of these gentlemen, "if Captain Ritter is not nominated for the presidency we may nominate him on the Proh ticket for Governor. He has, we understand, intimated that he would like that provided a coalition could be effected with the People's party. The Phalanx is the personal organ of the Captain, and whatever he says goes. It will see to it that no one else is suggested in its columns for the presidency, nobody but the Captain. Now give him a notice."

A. M. E. CONFERENCE.

Quarterly Meeting of the Indianapolis District—Stewards and Trustees Elected.

The closing session of the regular quarterly conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church of this district was held at the home of the Rev. E. D. Miller, pastor of Simpson Chapel, 166 Howard street, last night. It was intended to hold it in the chapel, but owing to its incomplete state this was impossible. Mr. Miller presided at the meeting, and there was a large attendance of the officers and laity of the churches of the conference. The report of the condition of Simpson Chapel was read, and proved very gratifying to the audience. The building has been undergoing extensive improvements, and is now the handsomest church edifice occupied by colored people in the district.

The meeting last night was for the purpose of electing stewards and trustees, and a lay delegate to the General Conference, which meets in Omaha, May 1. The following were chosen stewards: Earnest McAfee, J. T. Leggett, Dr. B. J. Morgan, James T. V. Hill, Thomas Rochester, James Simms and Thomas Bowman. Thomas Bowman was elected recording steward and James T. Leggett district steward. The trustees elected were: Thomas Rochester, A. T. Taylor, George L. Knox, James Jackson and John Grisell. For delegate to the General Conference at Omaha there were two candidates nominated, George L. Knox and James T. Leggett. The latter was elected by a close vote.

The annual conference will convene here next Wednesday. It includes the States of Indiana, Ohio, Illinois and Kentucky, and has a membership of two hundred. Bishop Walden, of Cincinnati, will preside.

Faint Praise.

Philadelphia Bulletin.

Mr. Hill's speeches to his Southern friends have not been culled from the American Encyclopedia. This is the only creditable thing that can be said of them.