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The Democratic-Populist income tax, like all financial legislation of that class, is simply a tax on industry and industrial and business enterprise.

The rapid rise of all kinds of meat and the present general upward tendency of cereals knocks the life out of the insistence of the silver monometallists that all prices are bound to fall until this country has free coinage of silver.

It is reported that the republics of South and Central America are talking of getting together. If they could it would be a great thing for them, particularly if it would put an end to revolution as a method of changing administrations.

Many persons seem to think that bimetallism implies two standards. It does not. It implies two metals, but not two standards. A yard-stick or a bushel measure may be made of a score of different materials, but the yard and the bushel are unchangeable.

The Washington Post favors the selection of a Democratic presidential candidate from the South. Why not? The South is and has been the backbone of the Democratic party. To deny it the honors to which its position entitles it is to cast a stigma upon its leaders.

Dr. Chauncey M. Depew has coined a new phrase. He says whoever the Republican candidate for President in '96 may be he will be elected, for "It is no longer a question of men or of opinions; it is a question of dissatisfaction with a party of chaos." The party of chaos will have to go.

Secretary Morton, of the Department of Agriculture, wants a better plow than we have. If he could invent a soil pulverizer which would prove as effectual as the Republican party has proved the past year in grinding the Democracy into atoms he would have just the implement he is seeking.

When the prospect for international bimetallism is so promising it would be far better for Japan to demand a larger indemnity in silver than to insist upon gold payment, as silver will rapidly appreciate when it shall be restored to full money power by the fixing of an international ratio for the coinage of both metals.

It is now stated that among the conditions of peace which Japan will exact from China in addition to a war indemnity and the cession of Formosa will be that China shall allow the unhampered importation of machinery into her territory, the establishment and management of manufactures by foreigners, and open her large rivers and cities to foreign commerce. Japan seems determined to show that she is a progressive nation.

A man whom a jury found guilty of accepting deposits in a bank after he knew that it must fail was sentenced to a year in the State prison. As two years is the minimum term of imprisonment the counsel for the defendant asked the judge of the Whitley Circuit Court to release their client on the ground of a defective sentence, and their prayer was granted. Such a performance may be good law, but it defeats the ends of justice and tends to bring the administration of it in the courts into contempt. It is the result of a system which makes jurors the judges of the law as well as the fact.

The governmental stamp upon a disk of metal, either gold or silver, is virtually a certificate of its weight and fineness. The stamp adds no value except as it confers the privilege of an interchange with something else of higher value. The present silver dollars of the United States, even though they bear the government stamp, would soon approximate toward their natural value were not the public honor morally pledged to keep them at a parity with gold through interchangeability. But if the number of these dollars were indefinitely increased not even the government stamp could maintain their artificial value against their natural value.

The Chicago Evening Post, which advocated the election of the Democratic ticket in that city, announces the disappearance of the local campaign fund, aggregating $500,000. This fund was raised in part by the levy of an assessment on city employes of one day's pay out of every month by the sanction of Mayor Hopkins. The Post estimates that $350,000 was paid to the treasurer of the Democratic city committee from that source. In addition to this, $12,000 a month was extorted from the gamblers, and a further sum from other disreputable classes. Of this aggregate only $7,000 is left to pay the expenses of the campaign. The Post says this large fund has been appropriated by a half dozen men. The imposition of such a tax upon the laborers employed by a city is not only an outrage upon the individual, but it is demoralizing, as the man who pays nearly one twenty-fifth of his wages to a party committee feels that he is paying for his position, and will not give honest and full return for the money he receives. Such a levy, moreover, is evidence that the city pays more than the market price for labor.

EVIDENCE OF DEMORALIZATION.

There is a disposition on the part of the Democratic press throughout the country to condemn the action of the Democratic chairman of the Illinois committee for calling a convention in June to take action upon the silver question. Even papers which are not unfriendly to free coinage express the opinion that his action is premature. There are many reasons to sustain such an opinion. The national conventions of both parties will not be held for a year yet. Under ordinary circumstances it would be difficult to forecast the changes which may take place in an ordinary year regarding such a subject as the silver question. At the present time, however, the circumstances are exceptional so far as the future of silver is concerned. Without any previous concert the leading countries of the world have taken up the question of bimetallism by international agreement. The general discussion which began months ago, and which is going on throughout the world will undoubtedly throw a great deal of light upon the prospects of this general movement. The indorsement by the German states of the proposition for an international conference, the more than possible change of ministry in Great Britain which would place an out-and-out bimetallist at the head of the British government, and restoration of peace between Japan and China are a few of the circumstances which may greatly change the situation during the next year. The commercial world seems to be in a state of transition upon the silver question. If it can act in accord through an international agreement the greatest advantages will be attained. Precipitate independent action at the present time may interfere with that international action which is of such vast importance.

It must be admitted that the Democracy's is a "ground-hog" case, and that no action can be so desperate as to make its condition more hopeless or humiliating, and that it loses nothing by taking such a chance as the Democratic committee of Illinois has proposed; still, the second judgment will be that Chairman Hinrichsen has made a mistake which is a confession of utter demoralization. The punishment of previousness is often as severe as that which overtakes those who hesitate.

TRICKERY OF PROFESSOR COIN.

On page 9 of "Coin's Financial School" is a statement to the effect that prior to 1860 about $100,000,000 of foreign silver came to this country in the form of Spanish, Mexican and Canadian coin, and that "it had all been made legal tender in the United States by act of Congress." Such laws, Coin says, are scattered through the statutes prior to 1873. Without giving any clew to the book from which he quotes, further than to say that it relates to loans and currency, is published at Washington and can be obtained at the Treasury Department, he says that on page 240 the following may be found:

> And be it further enacted that from and after the passage of this act the following silver coins shall pass current as money within the United States, and be receivable by tale, for the payment of all debts and demands at the rates following, that is to say, the Spanish pillar dollars and the dollars of Mexico, Peru and Bolivia, etc.

The foregoing is the first part of Section 2 of an act regulating the legal tender of foreign gold and silver coins in the United States, which was enacted March 3, 1843. The first section is devoted to the weight and fineness of foreign gold coins, and the second to silver. But the versatile Professor Coin does not give the whole section, but ends his quotation at a point where the reader is led to understand that the weight and fineness of these foreign coins have nothing to do with them so long as they are Spanish, Mexican and other dollars. The whole section reads as follows:

> Sec. 2. And be it further enacted that from and after the passage of this act the following silver coins shall pass current as money within the United States, and be receivable by tale, for the payment of all debts and demands, at the rates following, that is to say: the Spanish pillar dollars and the dollars of Mexico, Peru and Bolivia, of not less than eight hundred and ninety-seven-thousandths in fineness and 415 grains in weight, at 100 cents each; and the five-franc pieces of France, of not less than nine hundred-thousandths in fineness, and 384 grains in weight, at 93 cents each.

It will be seen that the Professor leaves out the most important part of the law from which he quotes, namely, the weight and value of the coins. The weight, fineness considered, and the value was the same as that of the standard silver dollar of 412½ grains, nine-tenths fine, and the value put upon the French franc was that of the silver it contained compared with our standard dollar. This is but one of the numerous deceptions practiced by the agile Professor Coin.

THE UNITED STATES AND SOUTH AMERICAN TRADE.

The two things in South America that European governments are interested in are the control of South American trade and the payment of the debts owed by South American states. As long as they can control these matters they will not trouble themselves much about political abstractions. Several of the South American states are deeply in debt, their bonds being held in England, Germany and France, and when it comes to enforcing payment these governments may make common cause.

As for the control of South American trade they have it now, and unless the government and people of this country show more intelligence and enterprise in the future than they have in the past, they will retain it for a long time to come. It speaks poorly for American statesmanship and enterprise that, notwithstanding our nearness to South America, our identity of American name and republican institutions, and our common interest and pride in the unity and development of the Western hemisphere, the great bulk of South American trade should be with European countries. Not only does the United States control only a small fractional part of South American trade, but that which she has is mainly done in foreign ships, paying heavy toll in exchange and freight to outsiders, and the business done is transacted through foreign banks to the profit of foreign stockholders. As to the profits of banking in South American capitals the following extract from a recent letter written by an American gentleman in Montevideo will show how they run:

> An English bank cashed a sight draft for me and gave me an English pound sterling of $4.80 for $5 American gold, equal to 4 per cent. exchange, sold it for 2½ cents more, making 6½ per cent., and then charged me 2½ per cent. for paper money, instead of paying me first the value of my American gold, or, anyhow, its own English gold in paper money to use, aggregating 9 per cent. on the transaction of about two months, the time it takes to get its money back. In a year this would be 54 per cent. Then, when, at the end of my visit, I have a little paper money left over, which won't pass in other countries, I go to that bank to exchange the paper from it for the gold I bought from it, ashamed to make another deal, it refuses to change the money and drives me to a broker, who charges another 2½ per cent. I found this system everywhere, and understood why the European bank was able to advertise in its yearly statement that it was a profitable institution that had laid up $415,000 in its reserve and paid an annual dividend of 17 per cent. to its fortunate stockholders.

There should be an American bank in every South American capital and agencies for the sale of American goods. Our manufacturers should learn a lesson from those of Europe by manufacturing and packing goods to suit the taste of the people who are expected to buy them, instead of the taste or convenience of those who manufacture them. This government should imitate the policy of European governments in establishing steamer lines to leading South American ports, and our consuls should be instructed to give less time to talking and writing politics and more to promoting American trade. Thus in time we might reverse the present disgraceful condition and transfer the great bulk of South American trade from Europe to the United States. This would be much better evidence of statesmanship and enterprise than quibbling about the Monroe doctrine.

THE VALUE OF THE SOBER SECOND THOUGHT.

Professor McMaster, who teaches American history in the University of Pennsylvania, and whose "History of the American People" has been widely read, contributes an article to the current number of the Forum, the object of which is to show that sound finance is possible under popular government. There are those who are themselves Americans who have no confidence in the capacity of the people to understand, much less act wisely in regard to questions of finance. The greenback craze and the various phases of the cheap money heresies have for a time had such a popular following that a few who do not understand the masses assume that the people, when they come to financial questions, are most likely to follow the advocates of fallacies. That a large number of well-meaning people are caught up for a time by the plausible financial heresies of crafty demagogues and zealous cranks there can be no doubt. It is equally true that the good sense of the same people has enabled them, after two or three years, to see the fallacies of such teachers and to quietly abandon them. They often find them out sooner than those men in parties who think of nothing but expediency. Take the greenback craze. Its converts were numbered by hundreds of thousands at certain periods in the country's history. They were so numerous and assertive that party leaders looked on with dismay, but when the next election came about the party leaders were surprised to find that the early converts of money isms had vanished. They had not proclaimed it on the house tops, they had not discovered it in books, but, turning the subject over in their minds after hearing both sides of the subject, they faced about, leaving the Congressman who imagined that he was representing them about the only supporter of financial heresies. The masses discovered the heresies before those who are wont to call themselves leaders. Professor McMaster, in his article, gives two illustrations showing that the people discovered the fallacy of an irredeemable bank currency before the State officials and the courts. One of these cases was in Ohio, but the most notable one was in Kentucky. It took the people some time to come to a conclusion regarding the delusion, but when they did they demanded a change of policy which secured sound money.

Just now the mass of people are considerably interested over the silver question. If the voting in some States should take place to-day the result might, in portions of the West, be favorable to the free coinage of silver; but when all the facts and the history shall have been candidly stated none will see them quicker than the mass of the people. It is hoped that those persons who are always distrusting the masses will be comforted by Professor McMaster's assertion that sound finance is possible under popular government. Let them take courage.

R. P. Hallowell is a well-known resident of Massachusetts, a graduate of Harvard and a man who has been connected with practical reforms. During the past winter he has been in the South on account of his health. During the latter part of the winter he was in Camden, S. C., with several friends. While there he pursued his investigations of the political and social conditions of the colored people, his object being to secure all the advantages of education for the younger generation and a recognition of their legal rights. Mr. Hallowell was well received when he went there, but so soon as it was learned that he visited colored churches and schools he was treated with coolness. Finally he was the recipient of a warning from the local regulators to quit the place in four days. One of his family, an invalid woman, opened the letter by mistake, and, when she read it, induced Mr. Hallowell to go to Asheville, in North Carolina, well knowing that he would remain if he saw the threatening letter. When the leading citizens of Camden learned that Mr. Hallowell had left under threats of white-capism they expressed deep regret that his indiscretion had caused an expression of ill will, which they denounced because it would injure the city. Mr. Hallowell's retort is very sharp. He tells them that his only purpose in visiting colored meetings was to promote the welfare of citizens of the United States who seem to be still regarded as slaves in some parts of South Carolina. That a well-known and philanthropic citizen should be warned to leave a town because he had shown himself the friend of colored people recalls the incident of 1844, when the Governor of Massachusetts sent an agent to Charleston, S. C., to investigate the complaint that colored sailors, citizens of Massachusetts, had been put in prison on arrival of the vessels in which they were employed. When Mr. Hoar, the representative of Massachusetts, found that the charge was true and demanded the release of the men he was driven out of Charleston, and would not have escaped violence if his daughter had not been with him. And yet South Carolina cannot see why Northern men and capital do not go to that State.

The Frankfort News affects to doubt that the Journal is honestly in favor of international bimetallism. "For the past six months," it says, "the Journal has not contained a paragraph or even a word favoring a national monetary conference, and this looks suspicious—devilish suspicious." If by "national monetary conference" the News means "international," as is probable, then its editor has read this paper very cursorily or else his memory is strangely at fault. Not to go back further than a month, on March 18, it concluded a half-column editorial by saying: "The remedy is the establishment of a ratio by international action by which the parity of gold and silver shall be established on some ratio which will make one metal as good money as the other. The indications abroad were never so favorable for the restoration of silver." The Journal of March 27 contained an editorial on "Bimetallism in Germany," which began with the statement that "Indications continue to increase of the growth of a friendly sentiment in Europe towards international bimetallism," and, after commenting on recent expressions of German statesmen, closed by saying: "These opinions and others of like import from representative German statesmen show that international bimetallism is a live issue in that country, and that the proposed international monetary conference is exciting deep interest." Two days later the Journal concluded an article on the silver question thus: "There is much to be said in favor of bimetallism and the free coinage of silver on an international basis, and there is reason to believe that the problem is rapidly approaching a solution on that line." On April 1 a half-column editorial closed with the statement that "The only safe road to bimetallism lies through an international agreement and ratio." Similar expressions might be multiplied many times during the last six months. There has not been a day for years past that the Journal has not been in favor of bimetallism and of silver coinage on a ratio to be fixed by an international conference.

The Chicago Journal very plainly tells the public that the Civil-service Reform League of that city, which does a large business in professional reform, did next to nothing to secure the law which the voters ratified last Tuesday, taking the city's service out of the control of the corrupt rings and placing it upon the merit system. Only two of the numerous vice presidents of the league found time to go to Springfield to urge and work for the passage of the law. The men who carried that measure through the Legislature were Republicans in the city of Chicago, and the mass of Republicans voting for it last Tuesday made it a law. Better methods in administration would stand a slim chance if such men as pose as reformers were depended on.

The Secretary of the Interior has requested the Secretary of War to inform him when the Seminole war with the United States was officially declared ended, if ever. It was recently asserted in an argument before the Interior Department involving the title to certain lands that the war had never been officially declared closed, hence the Secretary's inquiry. As a matter of fact the Seminole war closed in 1843, but if no official announcement of the fact was ever made the authorities may hold that constructively it is going on yet. If General Zachary Taylor were alive he might throw some light on the question, as he commanded the United States troops in the war referred to, but he died forty odd years ago, and his death was officially announced.

The order of Major General McCook prohibiting gambling by army officers within the limits of the Department of Colorado is said to have created agitation in army circles. On the occasion of his last visit to this city General McCook spoke with great earnestness of the evil of army gambling, declaring that it was the cause of most of the disgraces which have come to army officers. Those who know General McCook know that he has the nerve to enforce it, and while it may become a dead letter when he shall have retired, no officer will care to revoke it.

Information received at Washington that Minister Ransom was ill when he reached the City of Mexico has caused some anxiety among his friends. For some years he has been subject to attacks of vertigo, presumably from heart trouble and it is feared the rarefied atmosphere of his new location may aggravate his trouble. The experience of many Americans has demonstrated that the process of becoming acclimated in the Mexican capital is a dangerous one.

C., Cambridge City: Returns have not come in recently from the Peary arctic expedition, but it is not understood that the explorers are in need of aid, although an ineffectual effort was lately made by Mrs. Peary to get up a relief party. This she probably intended rather to expedite their return than for rescuing purposes.

THE FREE SILVER DEMOCRATS.

If the Illinois Democrats succeed in committing their party to free silver they will deserve a resolution of thanks from the next Republican national convention.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat (Rep.)

From a party point of view nothing could be more for the advantage of the Republicans of this State than for the Democrats to plant themselves definitely this summer on the wrong side of the currency question. Then the Republicans would have the right side all to themselves.—Chicago Tribune (Rep.)

Who is this Hinrichsen, who is chairman of the Illinois State central committee, and who proposes to read all sound-money men out of the national Democratic party? His name has something of the suggestion of an Anarchist, and his address and avowed purposes are not free from the same suggestion.—Louisville Courier-Journal (Dem.)

A campaign for a limitless silver coinage will not bring many voters back and will estrange still others. But if there are enough hair-brained politicians in the party to carry the conventions for that sort of a campaign, let them do it. It will be easier to get common sense into their heads next year, when it will be needed.—New York Times (Dem.)

The hope is to turn the minds of the people from the tariff and make them think that all our hard times come from the gold-bug policy. There is this much, at least, to be said in favor of the expediency of this move—it can do no harm. The Democratic party is at such low ebb now that there is no risk in experimenting.—Chicago Inter Ocean (Rep.)

The Democratic chairman of Illinois, Mr. Hinrichsen, thinks a declaration in favor of free silver coinage will make everybody anxious to buy silver bullion and will appreciate its price. But why is this not the case in Mexico, where there is free silver coinage? Why did India, which had free silver coinage till two years ago, close her mints to it?—Louisville Commercial (Rep.)

A good thing done at the wrong time loses in force. The Democratic party will solve the money question in due time and it alone can solve it right, for it alone is a party of the people not under the thralldom of the privileged classes. But to attempt to solve it by a sort of plebiscite in an off year with no election pending is to invite ridicule and tempt disaster.—Chicago Times-Herald (Dem.)

This movement is evidence that the Democrats believe that a majority of the people of Illinois favor free silver, and that if the party is first in the field with the "idea" and has a candidate to place upon a national platform in favor of free silver the Democrats of the State may take a leading part in dictating not only the utterances of the party on the silver question, but also in saying who shall be the party's candidate in 1896.—Chicago Record (Ind.)

BUBBLES IN THE AIR.

Accounting for It.

Minnie—What a strongly marked face Maud Tippett's would-be fiance has.

Mamie—Ah! Then he has met her father, has he?

More Information.

Tommy—Paw, what does "I ween" mean?

Mr. Figg—It is an expression in vogue among poets who are hardly.

"Hardly what, paw?"

"Hardly weaned."

Is It Coincidence?

"Ah," said the Cheerful Idiot, "I notice we have spinach again."

"And why not spinach?" asked the landlady. "Is not this the season for it?"

"Certainly," assented the Cheerful Idiot. "I have noticed through many springs that just about the time the winter crop of whiskers is coming off, spinach appears at the cheap boarding houses in profusion."

Disappointed.

Mrs. Wickwire threw down the paper in a way that betokened some irritation.

"What's the matter, dear?" asked Mr. Wickwire.

"Oh, nothing."

"Oh, yes, there was something. What was it?"

"Well, if you must know, I saw a line in the paper about 'Chinese worsted,' and it turned out to be something about that tiresome war. I thought it was some new kind of dress goods."

Grover's Solipsism.

(After Whitman.)

How fickle is fame! How ironical the caprices of fortune!
How quickly doth the loudest applause turn to pitiful reproaches!
How swiftly doth the strange spell of politics change the masses to asses!
Three years ago my heft disturbed the equilibrium of the globe!
I was Columbia's thrice-called Cincinnatus, born to rule (or ruin!)
I nodded, and ten thousand hungry Bourbons bobbed in unison.
I spoke, and London felt a tremor from Stead's sanctuary to the Darkest Quarter!
I alluded to the "plain people," and they hung on to my words like kittens to a nourishing tabby!
My platitudes gave to encyclopedic definitions the flavor of oracles!
A year passed. (So did my glory.) The finances became stringent and the times colicky.
The prosperity that made U. S. great vanished like a dream of Eden.
The devil was to pay—in gold, and silver demonetized!
I laid it on Sherman, and before the session ended he laid it over me!
Now, lo! there are few so infatuated as to do me reverence!
I am a veritable "mountain of mummy," a harpooned and landed leviathan.
My physical amplitude makes my impotence all the more conspicuous!
(It is hard to sustain a character that has been so pitilessly exaggerated!)
I and my henchmen erst inveighed continuously against "plutocrats,"—
Forgetful that labor implies a condition of dependence on capital.
We wanted power, distinction, salaries, at whatever cost; and Fate awarded them!
I now see how lovely it is to be poor, honest, obscure and irresponsible!
Like my happier prototype, I can say: "All sorts of men take a pride to gird at me."
Even London is aghast; and Free Trade is "thoroughly wounded in every respect."
I would rather be a third-rate lawyer in Buffalo—sappy, nappy and happy,
Than the scandalized magistrate of an ungrateful republic!
A five-dollar fee, with unadulterated beer and contentment,
Is better than a fifty-thousand-dollar responsibility and nothing but vouchers and bonds to show for it!
I now understand why it would be pleasanter to hire cheap under St. Peter
Than to maintain undisputed supremacy in Sheol!
Therefore, I long for a respite from the conspicuity of fame and caricature,
And the restful quiet of Buzzard Bay pulling black bass and bull-head!
And I'm going to have it or bust! I am not a candidate for a th—d t—m!)

—J. C. Ochiltree.

Indianapolis, April 6.

THE INDIANA PRESS.

Every election shows how thoroughly the country is disgusted with the Democratic party.—Vincennes Commercial.

Although there is no doubt that the free-silver craze is subsiding, yet it appears in spots where the literature of the silver men is circulated. Stamping fifty cents' worth of silver as worth one hundred cents will not be approved by the people.—Danville Republican.

Undo Democratic tariff legislation and give the country a Harrison administration and people will be so busy that they will not have time to sit around and discuss all of the financial schemes that cranks and fanatics may thrust upon the country.—Lebanon Patriot.

There is no doubt that the Democratic party is determined to get away from the tariff issue the coming campaign. The Republican party cannot afford to let the tariff smashers get away from the responsibility of their misdeeds and should hold them squarely to the issue.—Noblesville Ledger.

When the Republican party regains control of the government one of its first acts will be to restore relations of reciprocity with other powers. It is one of the ironies of the existing situation that an administration pledged to "freer trade" should have embroiled us in needless tariff wars.—Crawfordsville Journal.

Citizens of Indiana cannot but feel proud over the report of State Treasurer Scholz, who has been East closing up some bond negotiations. He says that the credit of Indiana is gilt-edged. Truly, this is a pleasing thing to have said of the buffeted Hoosier State, even if its late Legislature did adjourn in a fuss.—South Bend Tribune.

It is very well remembered that in the first Cleveland campaign war upon "the great surplus in the United States treasury" was a supposed Democratic virtue, and during his administration of four years this surplus was not materially reduced. How impudent then is the claim of the Democratic press that the Harrison administration wasted the "Cleveland surplus."—Muncie Times.

The idea advanced by the Indianapolis Journal of having two sessions of the Legislature, the first for the passing of bills to third reading only, is a good one, and would do away with much vicious legislation. A proposed law which will stand the test of a year's study and dissection prior to enactment would certainly come nearer being in the interest of justice than one which is rushed through the Legislature under party whip and spur in a few days.—Worthington Times.

There is a strong sentiment developing, the world over, in favor of bimetallism. What is wanted is not only national bimetallism, but international bimetallism. Gold and silver have been divorced, and the character of the latter has been badly damaged. A reconciliation ought to be brought about, another marriage license taken out and another knot tied. The wedding should be attended by every civilized nation on the globe, and it should be an occasion of international congratulation.—Delphi Journal.

The burning question of the day is how to get back to full bimetallism. The Journal believes that the way is through an international agreement. We believe it is bound to come and there is no power on earth that can prevent it. Both the gold monometallists and the silver monometallists are in the minority, and neither can force their theories on an unwilling people. There can be no doubt that the great majority of the people of the civilized countries of the world are in favor of bimetallism, and this sentiment will finally triumph as sure as the rise of to-morrow's sun.—Crawfordsville Journal.

We now have in circulation—or ready for circulation—if the business of the country demanded it, $23.80 per capita, in gold, silver, greenbacks and blackbacks; all good at face value. This is as much, if not more, per capita, than we had in 1892, when general prosperity prevailed among all classes, yet we are told that our present hard times are the result of an inadequate supply of money. If this be true, why did it so happen that hard times did not set in until after the election of 1892? If times revive it may be that more money will be needed to transact the business of the country, but so long as there are millions of dollars of idle capital seeking investment it is idle to charge our ills to want of a circulating medium.—Parke County Journal.

We have reason for believing that the "coin" craze was instigated and is being nourished by a combination of silver mine owners who can well afford to spend large sums of money to employ writers and hire speakers to advance their interests. The Republican party cannot afford to load itself with the "coin" idea, and Republican newspapers ought not to encourage it. To do so is simply to lend aid and encouragement to Populists and to recruit the ranks of an enemy that must necessarily stand in opposition to the principles and traditions of Republicanism. Free silver would assist materially in further enriching the silver mine owner, but there is no prospect of the people being benefited thereby.—Lafayette Courier.

WILDE-QUEENSBERRY.

The Queensberry rules have knocked out an enemy of human society in the first round.—Philadelphia Record.

The Marquis of Queensberry knocked out Oscar Wilde in the first round. He is the best man of the two viewed from any standpoint.—Cincinnati Tribune.

The passing of the aesthetic Oscar Wilde into an oakum-picking prison is one of the spectacles which the world is now longing to see.—Memphis Commercial-Appeal.

In one of his books Oscar Wilde says that "a man can't be too careful in the choice of his enemies." Oscar didn't think of this when he selected Marquis of Queensberry for one of his enemies.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

What is true of Wilde's plays is just as true of his ta[illegible]y and disgusting books. Let every decent man into whose library a line of this monster's writings may have found its way seek it out and burn it before the sun goes down.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

The Wildes, the Queensberrys, the Lord Alfred Douglases exist. They constitute a class, but it is very insignificant class in the great body of the people of England. These vices are bred of idleness, inherited wealth and the artificialities of aristocratic society.—Chicago Times-Herald.

Mr. Oscar Wilde seems to be in the middle of a very nasty and very deserved and very bad fix and we hope the young dudes in our country who thought it was chic to imitate Oscar Wilde will take a hint and govern themselves accordingly. The morals of the later Roman empire do not go in this day.—Louisville Commercial.

The hideous exposure of Oscar Wilde is a vindication of Dr. Nordau's diagnosis of fin-de-siecle literature and art as the symptoms of physical and moral degeneracy, and it justifies those healthy-minded critics who have stood out against the whole fashionable and hysterical "movement" as obscene, abnormal and diseased.—Philadelphia Times.

As to the literary pollution represented by Wilde every man and woman who wants to preserve the decencies of society and to promote the higher ends of civilization should refuse to admit it into the household. They should boycott the theaters that present the Wilde plays as sensational substitutes for the decent drama.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

If there are many more like Oscar Wilde in London, that metropolis should at once undertake a moral purgation and escape the fate of the ancient cities of the plain. The people who raved over Wilde when he was in this country and who have admired his morbid writings, will not be likely to place themselves much in evidence hereafter.—Minneapolis Tribune.

MAGAZINE NOTES.

The current installment of Mrs. Burton Harrison's "Errant Wooing" in the Century contains rather more than the usual proportion of useful geographical information, but which, there is reason to suspect, most readers will skip.

The pictures of Jenness Miller's "reform" gowns in that enterprising lady's magazine look very much like those in fashion papers that profess no reform purpose, but it may be presumed that somewhere in the mysteries of their structure are hygienic advantages.

The Art Amateur contains a variety of information concerning artists and their work and what is being shown at the exhibits that is of much value to the student who is distant from art centers. A good deal of space is devoted to Rafaelli, the illustrator, in the April issue.

The American Historical Register is the monthly gazette of the patriotic hereditary societies of the United States, of which there is an increasing number. It records the proceedings of these societies and is full of suggestions to all who are interested in the tracing of family histories.

The Overland Monthly announces that it has in preparation an article by J. A. Woolson on "What Indiana Has Done for California." A ridiculously extravagant eulogy of the "supernaturally endowed Californian," Miss Ellen Beach Yaw is a feature of the current issue—Miss Yaw being a young woman with a voice.

The evolution of a Divver into a De Vere is the theme of a story in the Century which grows naturally out of the hunt for ancestry which the various revolutionary societies has brought about. Ellen Divver transformed into Elma De Vere acquires a serenity of soul that wealth and a happy marriage had not bestowed.

The Century's description of Tesla's oscillator and other inventions attracts an unexpected interest from the fact that the inventor's laboratory, with all its contents, was burned since the writing of the article. The description and illustrations are, it is said, the only record left of some of Tesla's most important discoveries.

The Chap Book, thanks be to it, has the courage of its convictions in regard to certain matter labeled "humor," and remarks with emphasis: "If some one will examine and vindicate in print the funniness of Mark Twain, he might confer a favor on divers blighted beings, who yearn to know where the joke comes in." Twain's humor is a tradition so hoary that it is become frayed about the edges.

The New York Independent of April 4 has a symposium on Abraham Lincoln in anticipation of the approaching thirtieth anniversary of his death. More than forty persons, some of whom were on close terms of intimacy with the great President, contributed their reminiscences. They are the recollections of soldiers, statesmen and citizens and include tributes of praise, incidents, stories, accounts of his speeches and bits of history that will be added to the mass from which future generations will make up their estimate of this leading American of the nineteenth century. It will not be many years that "recollections" of Lincoln can be obtained, and the Independent deserves thanks for its enterprise in securing the matter at this time.

The complaint is sometimes made by critical readers of the Eastern magazines that the same names appear with wearisome frequency in the list of contributors. They do not object, necessarily, to the matter contributed by these persons, but merely express a distaste for monotony. That they are unreasonable is plain, for if they want new names let them take up other magazines. Here, for instance, in the Midland Monthly, published at Dubuque, Ia., are Samantha Whipple Shoup, Harry Wellington Wack, Albina Marilla Letts, Georgiana Hodgkins, Delia Dimmitt, Barth[illegible]ius L. Wick, Eva Paull VanSyke, Eva Ka[illegible]arine Clapp, Mary A. Kirkup, and others, none of which has the hackneyed familiarity complained of. And as the Midland is an enterprising magazine, with a laudable purpose of offering to its patrons the best literature it can obtain, it is not at all unlikely that the Shoups, the Wacks, the Wicks and the rest will presently be as well known to the world as the Wilkinses, the Wigginses, the Smiths and the Davises of the East.

ABOUT PEOPLE AND THINGS.

The largest gold coin in existence is said to be the gold ingot, or "loof" of Annam, a flat, round piece, worth about $325, the value being written on it in India ink.

Newark has a Dr. Parkhurst in the person of Rev. F. C. G. Jones, pastor of the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, who went into a resort and saw women acting in very reprehensible ways.

Madame Patti will this season be paid at Covent Garden the large sum of $12,000 for six representations, or at the rate of $2,000 per night. The fee is nearly double that ever before received by a prima donna at a London opera house.

Canon Carmichael, in a lecture in Dublin recently, said there was one class of women who injured the movement for woman's progress, namely, those who went about reviling and vilifying man, acting as if there was no good man in the world and no bad women except those whom man had made bad.

The ruler of Japan was born on Nov. 3, 1852, and his birthday is celebrated not only in Japan, but at every place where Japan has a representative. It is said that the Mikado is the purest-blooded sovereign of the world. He is the 121st Emperor of Japan by direct descent from a line which began about six hundred years before Christ.

Speaker Peel, when he retires, will have served eleven years. He will receive a pension of $20,000 a year, and if the precedents are followed, a peerage. There have been eight Speakers of the Commons since the beginning of the century, and in only three cases, and those in the years immediately following passage of the reform bill, has there been a contest for the nomination.

The abolition or rather the moderation of heavy winter flannels is part of the new doctrines of hygiene. Many doctors now advise a gradation of flannel underwear if they advise it at all, and point out that it is much better to increase the outdoor wear as occasion requires than to keep the body incased on warm, muggy winter days as well as on sharply cold ones in the same weight of flannel.

Every year Worth sent the Empress Eugenie a large bouquet of Parma violets tied with a mauve ribbon on which was his name embroidered in gold. This was in memory of her patronage at the time when her whim could make or ruin a Paris tradesman. Even towards the Empress, in the days when he made her costumes, Worth exhibited his characteristic stubbornness. He used to take his work to the palace in the morning and nearly always had his way, frequently overruling the Empress's wishes.

The Rev. "Sam" Jones, the evangelist, tells this story on himself: "I seldom address an audience that I don't think of the words of the good old colored woman after I had preached to a great concourse of colored people on one occasion. This large, fat, old colored woman—I suppose she would weigh two hundred pounds—came up to me and gave me her hand and said: 'God bless you, Brudder Jones; you is everybody's preacher and everybody loves to hear you preach, and every nigger loves to hear you; and, Brudder Jones, you preaches more like a nigger than any white man that eyer lived; and, Brudder Jones, you have got a white skin, but, thank God, you have got a black heart.' We couldn't take her literally. But she meant kindly in what she said to me."

SHREDS AND PATCHES.

It will be observed that the Democrats held their own in Arkansas.—Washington Post.

A man's experience teaches him to fear nothing on earth but his friends.—Atchison Globe.

Some temptations come to the industrious, but all temptations attack the idle.—Spurgeon.

Fogg has named his cat "Napoleon," because, as he says, a cat has so many lives.—Boston Transcript.

There is something paradoxical about calling mortuary reports vital statistics.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

The spring flowers are not blooming yet, but there are plenty of bloomers to be seen in the parks.—Chicago Post.

Marquis of Queensberry rules are vastly superior to certain forms of aestheticism.—Pittsburg Commercial-Gazette.

He—I'm awfully in love with her, but I wouldn't have her know it for the world. She—So she told me.—Pall Mall Gazette.

A colony of Anarchists somewhere in the West is being talked of. The first building erected will be a brewery.—Kansas City Star.

She—Tell me; when you were in the army were you cool in the hour of danger? He—Cool? I actually shivered.—Boston Transcript.

If the coming woman cuts her tousers in proportion to her sleeves, man, poor man, will have little standing room on the planet.—New York Mail and Express.

The "new woman" in Kansas City who swears at her husband and beats him with her umbrella is not new, but a very old-fashioned virago.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

THE NEXT PRESIDENT.

A Candid Review of the Prospects of the Two Great Parties.

Boston Herald.

In estimating the prospects of the next presidential election one of the first things to impress the mind of the observer is the singularly small extent to which the Democratic party is a factor in the calculation. Usually, at this stage, the two great parties have been found preparing for a gigantic contest. Each of them has had its candidates; a highly interesting point has been to estimate the probabilities of the nomination of one or the other candidate on either side, and the effect of the selection of the candidate on the one side as influencing the chances of success on the other has been much discussed. Now the popular interest in candidates is confined exclusively to one party. No one is even proposing a Democratic nominee. The Democratic leaders are suggesting no set of candidates from which the selection may be made. Ask anyone who he thinks will be the Democratic candidate for the Presidency and he will be puzzled to give you a name. The most experienced politician will be as much at fault here as anyone else.

This, we think, is absolutely without precedent. No time can be remembered before, since the Democratic party has had existence, when there was no man of prominence in it thought of for the Presidency at a similar stage preceding the election to that office. The cause of it must be looked for in the demoralization of the party as an organization. There has been an absence of discipline in a party sense, and a consequent lack of unity in its action, that has brought those who are its natural leaders into a state of despair. No one leads enough of the party to afford the prospect of its being rallied about him. There is, therefore, no incitement to the ambiton of any man to appear as its presidential candidate.

The Democrats are a worse defeated party than they ever were in the Northern States, and, in addition to this, they are at a loss to know on what basis they are to rally and attempt to repair their disaster. They have made no sign, as yet, of what their purpose is in this respect. We know what they think about the currency in Massachusetts and in New York, and we know that they think diametrically differently in several of the States of the South and the West, but as to whether the party is to come together on the basis of Eastern sentiment, or of that represented in the other sections, or if there is to be a compromise between them, we know nothing. There is not the faintest indication of what its policy is to be in this respect. There is no symptom of an appearance of a leader who proposes to make an effort to direct it.

The situation is different among the Republicans. They have an ample supply of those willing to lead, and an overplus of candidates for the presidency. Their party is not really united upon the currency, but it is more than hopeful—it is confident, if not assured—of victory, and it is so much better disciplined than is the other side that it has no serious fear of a lack of union in support of such presidential candidate as it may nominate. The interest in the next presidential election is, therefore, confined exclusively to the Republicans at present. It is comprised in the settlement of who shall be the Republican candidate, and what shall be the position of the party on the currency. We greatly fear a compromise on the latter point that will neither give that prompt settlement of the question that is desirable nor bode well for the best prosperity of the country. But whatever the Republicans do, unless there is a decided change in the political aspect, they have no occasion to fear the Democrats as opponents in the next presidential election. They are more at liberty to consult the feeling of their own party, unembarrassed by danger from their opponents, than they have been for many years.