The World

JOSEPH PULITZER.

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The Editor of THE WORLD will under no circumstances be responsible for the care of unsolicited manuscripts. The courtesy of returning rejected manuscripts will be extended when stamps for that purpose are inclosed.

One decisive step towards the solution of the Trenton murder mystery has been taken in the arrest of Miss PURSEL and Dr. KNIFFIN. The refusal of Miss P. to testify before a Coroner's jury is most significant.

New York City is preparing to send a splendid representative delegation to Washington City on Saturday to present her claims for the World's Fair. Every invited citizen who can spare the time should make a point of being present on this occasion. Let Congress understand that New York is in earnest in this matter.

It is said in Washington that the arbitrary action of the Republicans on Tuesday in forcing up the District Appropriation Bill was in aid of the Western Union Telegraph Company, which is somewhat concerned in the subject of burying wires. It would not be surprising if this were true. Tyranny and corruption are generally allied.

A defective electric wire caused a conflagration in the Western Union Telegraph office in St. Louis yesterday and a consequent loss of $100,000. The network of wires surrounding the building caused the firemen great annoyance and added to the damage. There is but one solution of this problem—bury the wires and bury them well.

When HENRY B. PAYNE was sent to the Senate from Ohio the purchasing was done for him by his son and his hired agents. BRICE seems to have been on the ground himself and to have done his own buying. That is the difference between the two men. And yet how much glory will Mr. PAYNE take out of the Senate with the frayed-out toga which cost so much money?

Backers of Mr. CALVIN S. BRICE in the Ohio Senatorial contest are fond of declaring that their champion is a wonder because he "got the best" of the late WILLIAM H. VANDERBILT. The Ohio idea seems to be that a financial juggler who could cheat such a railway magnate as VANDERBILT ought to make an able United States Senator. The logic is not apparent, but when a man with a big check-book is around buying a Senatorial seat the arguments in his behalf need not always be forceful.

According to a canvass made by the Cincinnati *Enquirer* only seventeen Democratic members of the Ohio Legislature can be found to openly declare that they favor the election of Boodler BRICE to the United States Senate. This would indicate that while Mr. BRICE has bought and paid for enough votes to insure his election quite a number of men who have sold themselves are ashamed of the transaction.

An open caucus and an open ballot would fix a lasting shame upon these traitors to the cause of true Democracy.

The Portuguese House of Peers has taken, in the face of Lord SALISBURY's menaces, a step which brings war between England and Portugal within measurable distance unless the Marquis consents to dismount from his high horse and come down to a calm discussion of the African troubles. There seemed absolutely nothing left for Portugal to do, after SALISBURY's blustering and insulting notes, but to support Senhor GOMES and Major SERPA PINTO or to sink into the position of a dead power.

GOOD SUGGESTIONS.

Several of Gov. HILL's brief recommendations to the Legislature are excellent and deserve to be embodied in statutes.

Among them are the suggestion that all employers of labor shall be required to give their employees two hours in which to vote; that the use of political "pay envelopes" be forbidden; that each candidate and the Executive Committee of each political party be required to publish an itemized verified statement of all money expended by them in the campaign, and that proof of bribery shall work a forfeiture of the office secured by it.

The last two ideas are borrowed from the English "Corrupt Practices Act," but are none the worse on that account, as they have operated to put a stop to extravagant expenditures and the consequent bribery of voters in Great Britain. They should be adopted here, either as part of the Ballot Reform act or as an independent measure. If the expenses of candidates and committees are legitimate and proper there can be no valid objection to making them public. If they are illegitimate and corrupting, as is too often the case, they should be forbidden.

The Governor's recommendation of a graduated percentage tax upon bequests of personal property would, if given effect, reach a class of property which is best able to pay taxes, but which now most generally escapes. "A measure providing for an immediate Constitutional Convention" is again urged upon the Legislature and will be enacted if that body has any regard for the popular will. The compulsory weekly payment of wages to employees is an act of justice to workingmen which still finds a champion in the Governor.

It is to be hoped, though perhaps hardly expected, that this Legislature will not follow the example of its predecessors and ignore good measures simply because Gov. HILL favors them.

PARLIAMENTARY USURPATION.

It is apparently the intention of the Republicans in Congress to manage the House of Representatives without regard to the wishes or opinions of the Democratic minority. Obstructive tactics are bad and unpopular and the country would welcome the adoption of a set of rules which would put an end to the filibuster, but usurpation is still more unpopular, as Mr. REED will discover if he proceeds much further in the direction in which he and his party started out on Tuesday.

The purpose of the majority is to go on without rules as long as possible, and of Mr. REED to assume the responsibility of helping along his party's measures by arbitrary rulings under some undefined system which he denominates parliamentary law.

This conspiracy against the rights of the minority was given tongue by Mr. MCKINLEY, the Republican leader on the floor. He said: "The country is infinitely more concerned in the things that we do than in the rules under which we do them." Mr. MCKINLEY is radically mistaken. The country is concerned in having proper laws properly enacted. If the absence of rules and the arbitrary action of Mr. REED should enable a South American steamship or railroad combination to buy a subsidy, Mr. MCKINLEY would discover that the country is deeply concerned in the methods as well as in the matter of legislation.

If the House is to go on without rules, Mr. REED demonstrated yesterday that he will do all in his power to deprive the minority of its rights and influence. He ruled two ways on one question, one way for the Republicans and another way against the Democrats. By sticking to this easy method of grabbing power the Republicans can pass all their subsidy bills, the Federal Elections law and whatever tariff law they may determine on, while the Democrats can only talk.

When the Speaker usurps the power to permit no opposition to his party's measures, when a slender majority like that the Republicans have undertakes to transact the public business without rules, the time has come for a vigorous protest from every friend of constitutional government, no matter what may be his party.

THE CROTON DAM.

There is one fact in connection with the present discussion concerning the new Aqueduct which should not be forgotten. The present Commissioners are entitled to the credit of the one practical bit of work which has been done for the storage of water. For more than thirty years the authorities of New York have recognized the fact that the storage reservoirs of the Croton watershed have been inadequate, and one of the principal purposes of the bill authorizing the construction of the new tunnel was to store all the waters of this shed, which covers 360 square miles.

Plans for the dams intended for the accomplishment of this purpose were to be submitted by the Commissioner of Public Works. At once the Quaker Bridge Dam became most attractive to the imagination of the engineers, and in discussing its details and constructing the conduit nothing whatever was done for the actual storage of water, without which the Aqueduct would be useless.

When the present Commissioners took office they determined that the city needed water and that something should be done as soon as possible towards that end. As matters then stood the new Aqueduct might be finished when there was not more than half enough water to send through it to the city. Work had not been begun on the Quaker Bridge or any other of the proposed storage dams, and the large structure could not be finished for many years. Moreover, its location and details of the structure had not been definitely settled. Therefore the Commissioners decided to go forward with the Sodom Dam, near Brewster's Station, and by the end of the year there will be two new storage reservoirs at that point with a capacity of 9,000,000,000 gallons. For this practical work the present Commissioners are entitled to credit.

But this is no reason why they should not compel the contractors to go on with the tunnel. The city is in danger of a water famine and the Aqueduct ought to be finished without delay.

COFFEE DUTY AND CONSUMER.

THE WORLD is in receipt of the following letter:

To the Editor of The World:

Advocates of the protective tariff tax claim that it does not increase the price of the article taxed to the consumer, and they cite the fact that coffee went up instead of down when the tax on it was taken off.

Will you make room in your "Editor's Corner" to enlighten me on this point? Perhaps others of your readers may be as ignorant as your subscriber. J. C. MILLS.

Brindletown, N. C., Jan. 5.

The person who cites the coffee experience of this country as showing that the reduction or removal of a protective duty does not lower prices to the consumer is necessarily a fool or a knave, for reasons which are plainly apparent.

The coffee duty was not a protective duty at all, but a revenue duty. The effect of its removal has no possible bearing, therefore, upon any question of the effects of protective duties.

In the second place—and this is the more important point—when Congress removed the import duty on coffee by way of reducing revenue without interfering with the protective tariff the Brazilian Government immediately added to its export duty an amount equal to the duty abolished by ourselves. So far as the American consumer is concerned, therefore, the duty has never been taken off coffee. It has only been transferred, and instead of paying it into the United States Treasury the consumer pays it into the Treasury of Brazil.

A NEW BRIDGE.

Mayor CHAPIN, in his message, urges that Brooklyn shall build an additional bridge across the East River, at or near the foot of Broadway, Brooklyn, opposite the foot of Grand street in this city.

The suggestion is wise and timely. The additional bridge is badly needed and the point mentioned as the proper one for its construction is clearly the best.

The present bridge is severely overtaxed already, and though the improvements planned will add considerably to its capacity the rapid increase in population will speedily absorb the gain. If that great artery of travel is not to be completely choked steps must soon be taken to provide an additional structure.

The Grand-street-Broadway location is the best for three controlling reasons. The river is narrower at that point than at any other; one line of Brooklyn Elevated railroad and a multitude of surface lines terminate there, and finally, it is the point at which the greatest number of people wish to cross the river. A bridge at that point would quickly approach the present structure in the volume of its traffic and in its service to the people.

If Mr. MCKINLEY's bill for the abolition of juries in customs cases should become a law it would make the Board of General Appraisers the final judges of all cases of fact that would arise between importers and the custom-houses. It is almost impossible to determine whether such questions as come before the Appraisers are of fact or of law. Whether ribbons are trimmings or silk may be a question of fact or one of law, and it would always be to the advantage of the high Protectionists to insist that it is one of fact, for it is the rule of the Treasury Department, when there is any doubt, to impose the highest duty. Undervaluations are all questions of fact, and it is the duty of Republican Appraisers to discover and invent undervaluations; in other words, to find that an importer is dishonest. The McKinley Bill would deprive a merchant thus attacked from vindicating himself before a jury.

Headsman CLARKSON, of the Post-Office Department, has intimated that he will probably retire from his present position before long, as "a very large share of the political work in my Department is now completed." To be specific, "some 35,000 fourth-class and nearly 1,200 Presidential post-offices have experienced changes." And with his appointed duty as guillotinist thus accomplished Mr. CLARKSON feels constrained to return to organic journalism. This record makes a fine showing of Elder HARRISON's honesty when contrasted with the pledge in his letter of acceptance that "fidelity and efficiency should be the only sure tenure of office, and only the interest of the public service should suggest removals from office."

Mr. VOORHEES gave the Dudley scandal a thorough overhauling in the Senate yesterday. The responsibility of President HARRISON, of Judge WOODS and of the President's District-Attorney at Indianapolis for the protection of this organizer of and inciter to bribery was sharply defined. No more bold and shameless defense of a law-breaker against even the peril of a trial for his crime was ever known in any country which pretended to have a "government of laws." Senator EDMUNDS's reply was mean and contemptible. He knows that the Dudley letter was not a forgery—that DUDLEY has refused to submit to a legal examination upon this point. Is there no honor or honesty left in the Republican leaders?

A tariff organ congratulates Mr. WANAMAKER upon his recovery of $500,000 as his share of the $6,000,000 which the decision of the Supreme Court will compel the Treasury to repay to importers of ribbons. It says "the half-million of dollars belongs to him, and we are glad he is going to get the money." This is conspicuously untrue. The money belongs—or ought to belong—to the customers of Mr. WANAMAKER and of the other merchants who added the duty to the price of the ribbon in making their prices. But under our tariff laws it is always the consumer who is taxed and robbed.

The Senatorial caucus of the Democratic members of the Ohio Legislature this evening promises to result in the nomination of CALVIN S. BRICE, the Wall street speculator and railroad jobber. The evil effect of this sale of a great office to a recognized boodler will be felt by the Democracy of every State of the Union. As a simple purchaser of a seat in the Senate Mr. BRICE will live to endure a disgrace which his wealth can never efface. And it will be many years before the Democratic party of Ohio will have an opportunity to auction off another seat in the Senate.

Both Ex-President CLEVELAND and Gov. HILL were absent from the dinner of the Business Men's Democratic Association last night. Ex-Mayor GRACE was there, though, and some of the members so far forgot the courtesy due their guest while remembering the County-Democracy-Republican deals that Mr. GRACE's response to the toast "New York and Brooklyn" was received with something very like jeers.

THE CANADIAN Minister of Customs has decided that a cyclorama is not a work of Art, and is therefore subject to duty. "What is a work of Art?" Is it a colorless canvas bearing a date and the name of an "old master," or a painting which gives pleasure to thousands who are willing to pay 50 cents apiece to look at it? Is Art contemporaneous or archæological? Is it a fad or a fact? These questions are as pertinent to the customs regulations of this country as to those of Canada.

THERE ARE RUMORS that a strike may take place soon on the part of the supernumeraries connected with the Metropolitan Opera-House. It appears that an adult receives twenty-five cents a night for "suping" while a child is paid fifty cents. There seems to be an injustice here great enough to beget rebellion in the "supe." But what can you expect of Wagnerian opera? It is naturally opposed to harmony of any kind.

THE FUNGUS which Col. ELLIOTT F. SHEPARD discovered on certain brown-stone houses in this city has been identified by a Columbia College professor as the *Proteococcus ridiculus*. This will relieve public apprehension. The community is well acquainted with *Proteococcus ridiculus* and rather likes it. We have had it "in our midst" for many years. In the name of the Prophet—fungus!

STRAUSS, the famous composer of waltz music, asserts that the waltz is on the decline. He remarks that it is horrible to reflect how many young men would have proposed marriage had they not been out of breath from the exertion of the dance. The composer should compose himself. A man who proposes marriage in a ball-room is apt to regret his precipitancy in the nursery.

LA GRIPPE exhibits an iconoclastic and ghoulish glee in fastening itself on European royalties as impartially as on the "common people." For individuals who profess to rule by express favor and warrant of Providence the royalties do not seem to be personal proof at the higher court just now.

M. PASTEUR says that if people would smoke camphor instead of tobacco they would probably escape "la grippe." As a vast number of women who were not addicted to the weed have been victims to the disease it is probable that France's great microbe-propagator speaks recklessly.

THE MORTALITY among ex-Empresses has been rather high of late. Their careers prove that a great many good women have been spoiled by the fact that they were driven from their highest inclinations by the weight of crowns.

An Independent Sentiment.

(From the Rochester Post-Express.)

The Buffalo *Courier* is making its hostility to Gov. Hill plainer from day to day. We say this not in the way of criticism but of approval. Let the Hill and Cleveland men show their colors frankly and fight out their quarrel. If the result be the choice of some good Western Democrat as a candidate for the Presidency the fight will not have been altogether fruitless.

PERSONAL AND PERTINENT.

Ex-President Cleveland and his wife will soon go to Florida for a few weeks.

Foraker, of Ohio, will soon be out of a job—and also, it is to be hoped, out of jobbery.

Historian Bancroft is remarkably well this Winter. He ascribes his good health to the warm weather.

Ex-Consul-General Waller has returned to London, England. He found New London, Conn., provincial.

Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria is still in the matrimonial market. He could be purchased cheap for cash.

President Harrison has not had the Russian grip, but he has been having a good deal of trouble with the Russian mission.

Coming: by Disraeli, nephew of the late Lord Beaconsfield, shares his rooms at Oxford with a member of the Gladstone family.

Mrs. S. B. Burr, of Buffalo, N. Y., has come unexpectedly into a fortune of $1,000,000. Her friends consider her a Burr worth sticking to.

Secretary Rusk was asked recently to take a hand at poker. He refused, on the ground that the cross fully satisfied his interest in the fluctuations of chance.

The oldest living graduate of the Medical College of the University of Pennsylvania is Dr. Isaac Z. Coffman, of Phœnixville, Pa. He was eighty-five years of age on New Year's Day. He was graduated in 1829 and has been in active practice ever since. He does not look over sixty.

Lieut. Andrew G. Curtin Quay, U. S. A., son of Senator Quay, is in Philadelphia. He is a short young man, with a small mustache. He has come East on his first furlough. He was graduated from West Point last June, and is stationed in the far West. He is spoiling for a fight with the Injuns.

Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes and John G. Whittier are optimistic old men. The former in prose and the latter in poetry have recently given voice to their ideas regarding old age. Their cheerfulness is a rebuke to aged Europeans of note who seem to grow crabbed as they approach the end of life.

The public has learned recently how Jay Gould made his first $1,000. In connection with this it is an interesting fact that Gould could not now tell when or how he made his latest million. There comes a time in the career of a very rich man when he knows little about the fluctuations of his possessions.

P. T. Barnum is not popular with the patriotic citizens of Canada. There is a heavy duty on circus posters in the Dominion, and Mr. Barnum has been under great expense in taking printed matter across the border. He planned a Canadian tour for 1886, and two years before that date he sent tons of posters to Canada and neglected to pay the duty. The stuff lay uncalled for at the custom-house and was advertised for auction at last. Barnum sent an agent to the sale, who bought the bills at a bargain. The story leaked out, and now Phineas T. is on the Dominion's black list.

JOKERS' LEGISLATURE.

Milwaukee Journal: Why is it that people with good impulses are generally lazy?

New Orleans Picayune: If a man would look rosy and round he must have square meals.

Binghamton Herald: When a man comes to time, does it not prove that time waits for some men?

Yonkers Statesman: Most of us worry over our trials, but the lawyers worry if they haven't any.

Washington Capital: "What we need," said the leader of the church choir quartet, "is a change of bass."

Philadelphia Inquirer: Adam was the only man who had a wife made to order, and even she turned out a misfit.

Baltimore American: People speak of young corn, but there is no young corn. It is always found full of years.

Binghamton Republican: So long as England will have men of rank she must expect that they will be in bad odor.

Philadelphia Ledger: The faith-cure people are missing a large opportunity these days—but perhaps they are mostly down with it themselves.

Two More Corporation Senators.

(From the Chicago Herald.)

Both Sanders and Power are representative corporation men. The former was attorney in Montana for the Northern Pacific Railroad Company until, the admission bill having become a law, he resigned in favor of his son in order to be in a position to enter the race for the Senatorial cup. The resignation was a palpable feint and was so regarded at the time by every intelligent man in Montana. Col. Sanders is as much a railway attorney to-day as he was six months ago. Mr. Power, too, has very close affiliation with the Northern Pacific interest, and is a stockholder in several corporations engaged in railroad building and merchandising, and some of which were the objects of prosecution for depredation upon public domain. If the Northern Pacific had sought to dictate the choice of the Republican "rumpers" for United States Senators for Montana it probably would have named Col. Sanders and Commodore Power.

Senator Gorman's Mistake.

(From the Savannah News.)

Senator Gorman is a shrewd politician, but his speech the other day in Baltimore, in which he took a stand against the Australian ballot system for Maryland, was a mistake. The only argument that he advanced against that system was that it might diminish the Democratic majority in Maryland. That is not an argument that appeals to those who favor an honest ballot. Ballot reform is needed as greatly in Maryland as in any state in the Union, and if the Democratic party of that State will take the lead in introducing the Australian system it will so strengthen itself with the people that it will be secure in its lease of power.

Gubernatorial Progression.

(From the Boston Globe.)

Gov. Hill has evidently perceived the signs of the times. His message to the New York Legislature yesterday made some noteworthy concessions to the rising tide of public opinion in the matter of ballot reform. While the Governor concedes the value of the secret compartment he is opposed to the uniform official ballot. But this would perpetuate one of the chief abuses of the old system, which is the assessment of candidates on pretext of expenses in printing the ballots. That makes it well-nigh impossible for an honest poor man to run for office and is one of the chief things to be reformed.

Solid for Ballot Reform.

(From the Albany Journal.)

Gov. Hill is still opposed to the use of the official ballot only—which would reduce election expenses to a point where a man of moderate means could enter the race for public honor. Two Democratic newspapers of prominence and influence, however—the New York WORLD and Buffalo *Courier*—stand steadfastly for this necessary feature of an Australian ballot. The New York County Democracy, the Central Labor Union, the Reform Club and all Democratic and Labor organizations not controlled by D. B. Hill take a similar position.

OUR ANGLERS INTERESTED.

Sale of Canadian Fishing Grounds Improved by Americans.

(SPECIAL TO THE WORLD.)

QUEBEC, Jan. 8.—One of the most extensive auction sales of timber limits and fishing rights ever held in America will take place here to-morrow and Friday. In the practically unknown country north of the Upper Ottawa thousands of square miles of pine timber land will be offered at auction by the Crown Lands Department, and the sale will no doubt attract purchasers from all parts of the continent, particularly in view of the current rumor that the region in which the limits are situated is to be traversed by the proposed extension through Canada of the Northern Pacific Railway.

The feature of the sale that appears to have the chief attraction for Americans, judging by the inquiries that have been received at the Crown Lands Department, is the auction of fishing privileges, the leases of which are to be sold at so much a year, for a period of ten years. These leases all expired last month and are now to be offered at an advance upon the price hitherto paid for them. The decision is considered a very unfair one in many respects, for many American lessees of lakes and rivers in the interior of the country have expended large sums of money in discovering fishing grounds, and opening up a way to reach them only to enjoy the sport for a couple of seasons and then to find the ground taken from them and put up to public competition. Several Canadian clubs on the other hand have had their fishing rights extended for ten years at the rental hitherto paid, and some favored individuals, like Sir George Stephen and the Governor General, Lord Stanley, pay but a nominal rental for retaining a monopoly of the finest of Canadian salmon streams. With proper management on the part of the local government, and an equitable treatment of all lessees of fishing rights, coupled with a judicious system of fish protection, the inland fisheries of this province might have been made to yield a very large revenue. In a report made some time ago by the Commissioner of Crown Lands he officially expressed the opinion that a permanent annual revenue of $40,000 to $50,000 might in the near future be looked for. The results so far have fallen short of the expectations, the present revenue from this source being but little over $8,000.

Among the waters in question that are to be offered for sale are the outlet of Lake St. John, commonly known as the Grande Decharge, Saguenay; the branches of Lake St. John East, and the following tributaries of the lake, some of which are over a mile wide at their mouths: Grand Peribonca, Little Peribonca, Mistassini, Ashuanmonchouan, Onatchouaniche, Ouiatchouan and Metabetchouan. With a proper system of protection, some of the above would become the most valuable fishing waters in America; otherwise they are valueless. By far the most valuable privileges that are to be sold are those of these justly celebrated Canadian salmon streams:

Restigouche (largely controlled at present by the Restigouche salmon Club), Patapedia, Escuminac, Souvenir, Patapedia, Souvenir, Little Patapedia, Grand River, St. John or Gaspe, Dartmouth, York, Cap Chat, Matanne, all on the south shore of the St. Lawrence and the Murray, Lava, Trinity, Moisie (upper part), Little Saguenay, St. John of Gaspe, St. Marguerite, Saguenay, Mastigouche, Little Mastigouche, Margaret and tributaries, Manitou, Sheldrake, Thunder, St. John and tributaries (north shore), Mingan, Romaine, Magpie, Trinity, Bonaventure, Bonaventure, Little Patos, Grand River, St. John of