The Sun.

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LOCAL NEWS.—The City and Suburban News Bureau of the UNITED PRESS and NEW YORK ASSOCIATED PRESS is at 21 to 29 Ann street. All information and documents for public use instantly disseminated to the press of the whole country.

Tammany in This Crisis.

Nothing can be more preposterous than the pretence of some of the district leaders in Tammany Hall that the rank and file of the Democracy in this city desire the organization to ratify and approve the nominations of BRYAN and SEWALL.

The Democrats in this town who understand the currency question are opposed to free silver. Those who do not understand it can be made to do so, and then they also will be opposed to free silver.

A number of the local leaders, however, have pronounced for ratification because they deem what they call regularity vastly more important than the maintenance of political honesty and the principles of the Democracy as understood and expounded by HORATIO SEYMOUR and SAMUEL J. TILDEN.

But these leaders have no considerable following in fact. There is no genuine sentiment for BRYAN and SEWALL pervading this community to any great extent.

If the voters who usually support Tammany were really in favor of the Communistic ticket nominated at Chicago, does anybody suppose that they would have kept quiet, or could have been kept quiet until now? Would popular enthusiasm, if it existed, have remained bottled up until the district leaders gave the word to uncork it?

We believe not.

If Tammany Hall sustains or sanctions the Chicago ticket, which stands on a platform of dishonest money and Populism, it will forfeit all title to the conservative Democratic support by which it has so long been maintained, and its power in the affairs of this city will pass away.

Should wisdom prevail in its councils, the Populistic candidates would be ignored, sound-money men would be nominated for Congress, and the influence of Tammany would be exerted at Buffalo to prevent the State Convention from putting into the field any electoral ticket for BRYAN and SEWALL.

The Crossing at Grade.

When trains are run upon tracks that cross each other at right angles and upon the same level, accidents will happen. The crossing is protected with the best mechanical safety devices. The most scientific development of the block system is employed. The rules are at once of the simplest and the most strict. Human ingenuity can go no further, and one single, additional precaution it is beyond man's power to devise.

In the operation of these appliances and the observance of these rules it is, apparently, impossible that an accident should occur. But the element of human frailty must be counted upon, and it made its appearance in the deplorable casualty of Thursday night at Atlantic City.

It is not yet clear who it was that blundered, but the circumstances point strongly to the conclusion that the engineer of the Reading train expiated with his life his own frightful mistake. He read the signals wrongly, and he went ahead when he should have stopped.

It had to be. The crossing is as perfect as any of its kind that exists on any railroad in the country. An accident on it is theoretically impossible, and it would be actually impossible if the engineers and the signal men were as automatic as the apparatus they handle. There is only one way in which Thursday's accident could have been prevented. The roads should have crossed each other at different grades—one should have gone overhead, the other underneath. So long as grade crossings are used such accidents will occur. It may be a hundred years before another happens in the same place, because of the precautions observed and the great efficiency of the engineers and signal men. In fact such accidents are rare, and with every year their frequency decreases. But the fact remains that it is possible that the accident will occur, and its liability to do so is tangible.

The President's Cuban Proclamation.

When the concurrent resolutions of Congress in favor of recognizing the Cuban revolutionists as belligerents, had remained unheeded by the Executive for many weeks, the friends of Cuba strove to secure the passage of a joint resolution of like tenor, which the President would be forced to notice. Certain Senators, however, who were regarded as especially friendly to the Cuban cause, reported after a visit to the White House that there was no need of such a coercive measure, inasmuch as Mr. CLEVELAND, so they alleged, could be trusted to take suitable action in his own way and at the proper time on behalf of the Cuban combatants. We ourselves put not the slightest faith in these assurances, and we warned those who relied on them that they were to be buncoed.

What does Senator LODGE think of the situation to-day? August has come, and a large part of the rainy season has passed. That is to say, the time is drawing near when the Spanish soldiers in Cuba will be able to resume activity, and when the revolutionists will need all the help in the way of arms and ammunition that American sympathy can give them. This is the juncture chosen by Mr. CLEVELAND, not for obeying the almost unanimous desire of Congress and of the American people by recognizing the Cubans as belligerents, but for republishing in an emphatic and peremptory form his proclamation of June 12, 1895, in which he announced the existence of serious disturbances in Cuba, and warned our citizens against giving aid and comfort to rebels against a friendly power.

Except for a purpose to be noted presently, this repetition of last year's proclamation was entirely superfluous. There are no American citizens who are not by this time familiar with our neutrality laws, and able to dispense with any instruction on that score from Mr. CLEVELAND. All of them know precisely how far they can go, without a violation of the statutes, in their fervent and honorable wish to give freedom to Cuba. The professed purpose of the proclamation to offer information on this subject is, of course, only a pretence; its real aim is to convert the United States Marshals and District Attorneys into tools of Spanish malice and oppression, by spurring them to such inordinate vigilance and rigor in the enforcement of the most strained construction of our neutrality laws as may wholly cut off from the Cubans the supplies of munitions of war, of which in the approaching struggle they will stand in desperate need.

It is well understood in Washington that this second and stringent proclamation has been issued in deference to the wishes of the Spanish Minister, who ever since the passage of the concurrent resolutions has desired to give the world decisive proof that Mr. CLEVELAND feels nothing but contempt for the will of our Federal legislature, and that the ferocious Cuban policy of the Madrid Government has the cordial approval of the American Executive. The Spanish Minister, however, has used his eyes and ears to very little purpose during his sojourn in this country, if he imagines that the words of the present virtually outcast President carry any special weight. Señor DUPUY DE LOME will discover that the American people are as resolute in their determination to help the Cuban revolutionists as they are eager for the hour, now happily but a few months distant, when they will get CLEVELAND off their hands.

For Mr. Hanna.

The Hon. MARK HANNA, Chairman of the Republican Campaign Committee, First and Unrivalled Boss of the Sound Money Canvass of 1896, has come to town. THE SUN has no ticket to Mr. HANNA's councils, and does not expect to sit in them; but as a Democrat whom the prostitution of its own party to populism compels to vote for WILLIAM MCKINLEY, the sound-money candidate nominated by the Republicans, we offer a suggestion to Mr. HANNA of prime importance to the cause for which Democrats and Republicans are for the moment united.

Thousands of Democrats will vote for MCKINLEY as the candidate of honest money and anti-repudiation. It is of great moment that the latter should be identified with the sound-money idea, beyond the power of any captious or peevish anti-McKinleyite to dispute. This does not mean, by any means, that THE SUN advises a reassembling of the Republican National Convention and a formal extrusion from the Republican platform of everything, including protection, with the exception of the money plank. In our opinion, sound-money men have reason to thank the stars that their cause is coupled with a national sentiment so incontestably strong and ineradicable as that of protection.

There have been in the State of New York, however, two factions among the Republicans who went to the Convention which nominated MCKINLEY, with very conflicting views on the question of money. One of these factions, comprising nearly the entire Republican party in the State, and representing the regular Republican organization, headed by THOMAS C. PLATT, was outspoken for maintaining the gold standard and for a clear and unequivocal declaration for it in the Republican platform. The PLATT men were against MCKINLEY and for the honored candidate of New York, LEVI P. MORTON. The other faction, including, it is true, some of the most esteemed citizens of this town, but mainly bushwhackers, back-stabbers, and malcontents, were against MORTON and opposed to a flat-footed utterance on the currency. Two days before the platform was adopted at St. Louis the chief spokesman of this array, the *New York Tribune*, pleaded for a straddle, or for something that should look like a straddle: "There is no occasion to maintain that the words 'gold standard' must of necessity be used, because the present standard is that, and everybody knows it," said the *Tribune*. To-day, therefore, Mr. PLATT commands the respect of the entire business community of the State of New York and of the sound-money men in every State of the Union, and the other side carries a corresponding load of public disapprobation and distrust.

Does Mr. HANNA need to be told that any sign that the New York sound-money men with whom he is to have relations, the regular Republican organization of New York, the PLATT element that is, are to be subordinated in the conduct of this national campaign, or to be humiliated to a mere "share" in its responsibilities and honors with the double-faced guerrillas who jumped first on the MCKINLEY band wagon, will be something to produce a very undesirable effect upon the great mass of voters desiring to cast their ballots for MCKINLEY as a sound-money candidate?

We are not running Mr. HANNA's campaign, but we respectfully call his attention to the above noted circumstance as one capable of exerting great influence throughout the country for good or bad, according as Mr. HANNA shows inclination or disinclination to play fair with sound money.

Killoran in the Catskills.

The sensational recapture by EDWARD J. H. DAMSEN, with the assistance of a Jutland terrier and an English dictionary, of DIONYSIUS KILLORAN, the fugitive Post Office robber, in Catskill, would be as surprising, in its way, as the escape of KILLORAN from Ludlow street jail from the custody of DAMSEN on July 4, 1895. From that hour until the present, unseen, mysterious, stealthy, ruthless, patient, alert, scheming, and watchful, DAMSEN has been endeavoring to recover possession of DIONYSIUS, so far as the task might be accomplished without the expenditure of cash. From sundry reports received this week from the Catskill Mountain villages it appears that the well-laid plans of DAMSEN are near fruition, and no reader of THE SUN need be surprised to hear that KILLORAN is again in the toils.

The theory—it is a Plattdeutsch theory—upon which DAMSEN has been proceeding has the merit of ingenuity.

Premise: On July 4, 1895, KILLORAN was in New York; DAMSEN was in Catskill. When DAMSEN heard that KILLORAN had left New York, he came here. What more natural, more reasonable, or more credible than the notion that these two illustrious men, the high Sheriff and the highwayman, have changed places, DAMSEN going from Catskill to New York and KILLORAN from New York to Catskill? Assuming this to have been the case (and DAMSEN on a very small basis of knowledge assumes much), the quest of the fugitive Post Office thief was prosecuted with the ulterior plan of duplicating the method of the small boy who before capturing a bird he was seeking placed salt upon its tail. For more than a year past the valleys, the mountain roads, the glens, and the crevasses of the Catskills have been flooded, so to speak, with small cards upon which, printed in English, the following announcement appeared:

REWARD! $100!

Such Is the Amount Which Will Be Paid on Proof Given at 52 Avenue A of any Attempt to Rob any of the Following Post Offices: Jewett Centre, Red Falls, Shandaken, Fox Hollow, Grapevine Turnpike, Big Hollow, Smith's Lake, or Kiskiton.

Show This to KILLORAN. E. J. H. D.

Prosit! Gesundheit!

If DIONYSIUS KILLORAN is secreted anywhere in the Catskill Mountains, DAMSEN appears to infer that he would naturally resume his old and meretricious habit of pilfering Post Offices. DAMSEN, who was in the neighborhood, awaiting such tidings, would pounce down upon him forthwith, and, overpowered but still resisting, land him securely in the Coxsackie jail, to the honor of his administration as Landvogt in New York. On the 4th of July last, the first anniversary of KILLORAN'S escape, a bedraggled, tattered, despondent, impoverished, and wild-eyed man made his appearance in the hamlet of Wolf's Glen, in the Catskills, not far from the locality immortalized by WASHINGTON IRVING as the town of Running Water, and demanded, so the story goes, "to see the Sheriff." The first rumor of the occurrence ascribed to this mysterious man a desire to see Sheriff DAMSEN, but it was learned later on that the Sheriff he desired to see was the Sheriff of Greene county, who had promised to get him a political position—when he could. Another episode of interest as corroborating the correctness of DAMSEN'S view that KILLORAN is in the Catskills took place on Monday in the town of Stony Clove. A flashily attired stranger, who had registered at the local hotel as from Caldwell, N. J., observed at the hour of twilight in the mountains the skulking figure of a man having long chin whiskers and a soft hat. This mysterious personage hovered for a time about the Post Office, peering in the windows, measuring the distance from the Post Office to the main road, and making sundry calculations on a small piece of paper. Next day the stranger from New Jersey reported the occurrence, with a full description of the suspect, to the constable of Stony Clove. The latter called out the posse comitatus, and a thorough search was prosecuted, though for reasons of prudence DAMSEN was not apprised. Later on, however, it was ascertained that the mysterious man was a local Populist, a BRYAN supporter, who, confident of the success of the Nebraska orator at the polls in November, was prospecting the Post Office with a view of occupying it in an official capacity on and for a long time after the 4th of March, 1897. But there are those in Stony Clove who insist that the inquisitive farmer was really none other than DIONYSIUS KILLORAN turned Populist and disguised so that DAMSEN might not catch him, the length of his beard being due to the fact that there is no RAADE to shave Post Office thieves in Stony Clove.

If KILLORAN, the fugitive Post Office thief, is in the Catskills, as DAMSEN, the Plattdeutsch Sheriff, thinks he has reason to suspect him to be, is he safe from the pursuit of the Man from Holstein? Who can tell? The darkest hour is before the dawn, and DAMSEN has been looking for KILLORAN for more than a year.

Senator Caffery on the Duty of Democratic Partisans.

The Hon. DONELSON CAFFERY, Democratic Senator from Louisiana, patriotically repels the BRYAN ticket with these words:

"Party lines cannot hold a man to commit private robbery, spoliation, and public dishonor."

Senator CAFFERY does not exaggerate. The Chicago platform, to which certain politicians calling themselves Democrats are inviting Democratic support on the ground that it is regular, declares for private robbery and spoliation in the scaling down of private debts, and public dishonor in the scaling down of the public debts. Senator CAFFERY stops here with the announcement that he cannot vote for MCKINLEY. As an officer in the Democratic organization, he may feel averse to raising his hand against the alien conspirators who have seized its banner; but his words point out to all other American citizens the broad, straight way to the defence of the country against repudiation.

Arrangements for Mr. Bryan's Comfort in New York.

To enable the Hon. WILLIAM J. BRYAN to appear to the best advantage before the people of New York, and to be undisturbed by the embarrassment that sometimes results from the propinquity of accusing faces in the audience, it is desirable that certain of his former associates in the Fifty-second and Fifty-third Congresses shall not attend the notification ceremony in the Madison Square Garden.

Mr. BRYAN could not fail to be annoyed, for example, if just at the moment when he was uttering the passage about the crown of thorns his eyes should fall upon the Hon. SAMUEL W. MCCALL of Massachusetts, from whom he borrowed without credit that particular metaphor.

Another eloquent passage of the Chicago Convention speech was that in which Mr. BRYAN warned Major MCKINLEY that however much he might look like NAPOLEON BONAPARTE, Waterloo and St. Helena were in the future for him. Here is that part of Mr. BRYAN'S speech:

"The man who used to boast that he looks like NAPOLEON shudders to-day when he thinks that he was nominated on the anniversary of the battle of Waterloo. He can fancy that he hears in the distance the sound of the waves as they beat on the lonely shores of St. Helena."

It is a fact not yet generally known that the Napoleonic metaphor was derived by Mr. BRYAN from a speech delivered in the House of Representatives on Aug. 26, 1893, by the Hon. CHARLES ADDISON BOUTELLE of Maine; and what renders the plagiarism still more curious is the circumstance that Mr. BOUTELLE'S speech was made partly in reply to one of Mr. BRYAN'S, and that the passage in question was addressed directly to BRYAN, who sat on that occasion with his wide mouth shut and his ears wide open. We quote from page 979 of Volume 25 of the *Congressional Record*:

"I assure my friend from Nebraska that the 'man of destiny' has already observed the omens of the times, and he will whisper in your ear that Marengo is a long way behind, that the victory of 1892 was nothing but a spasmodic return from Elba, that amid the uprisings of the allied industries and interests of a deceived people he already hears the ground rumblings of the Waterloo of 1894, and against the bright sunburst of Republican restoration in 1896 he sees, grimly looming, Democracy's St. Helena."

As a further inducement to Mr. BRYAN to let loose in the Madison Square Garden all of his customary figures of speech for the benefit of those of us who have read them often, but heard them never from the Boy Orator's own lips, we will venture to promise him that the Hon. CHARLES ADDISON BOUTELLE of Maine shall not be in the audience.

The Lien on Gravestones.

The opinion long ago expressed in THE SUN, to the effect that the gravestone lien law was of doubtful validity, has been confirmed by a decision by Mr. Justice DAVY of the Supreme Court declaring the statute unconstitutional.

There is something revolting in the idea of authorizing the seller of a gravestone or monument to snatch it away from the burying ground or cemetery in which he has consented that it shall be placed. He was under no obligation to sell it on credit. He might very properly have insisted upon full payment of the purchase price in cash before it was removed from the marble yard. But when he has parted with it without exacting his money he should rely upon the responsibility of the buyer and not be allowed to disturb the resting place of the dead in the enforcement of his claim.

These considerations of decency and propriety, however, strong as they are, would hardly suffice as arguments to establish the unconstitutionality of the New York statute on the subject. It is because that statute assumes to authorize the removal of a gravestone which has not been paid for without any proceeding in court or any judicial determination whatever, that it has been declared invalid. Its operation, as Judge DAVY points out very clearly, is such as to make the claimants judges in their own cases. "They have the right to determine and say they shall sell the property after the claim has not been paid, when, in fact, it may have been paid, and there is no tribunal provided for by the act before which the plaintiff can appear and have his rights adjusted. The Legislature has attempted by this act to take from an individual his property by mere force of legislative enactment, and to give it to another without legal process, and without giving him an opportunity to be heard and defend his title and possession."

Such legislation is plainly in conflict with that provision of the Constitution which declares that no person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law.

It is possible that the statute might be amended so as to avoid all constitutional objections, but the moral objection would still remain that it permits the desecration of burial places for the benefit of monument makers whose legal rights would be protected by refusing to sell on credit.

The existing act should be expressly repealed, as it is a reproach to the State to have it on the statute book, although adjudged invalid, and nothing should be enacted in its place.

The Hon. TITUS SHEARD of Herkimer, an early political playmate of Dr. WARNER MILLER, has his steed at the full gallop and his lance in rest and is preparing to take a fall or run the iron right through the little ring which is inscribed: "For Lieutenant-Governor." Doubtless Dr. MILLER would as soon have Mr. SHEARD nominated for Lieutenant-Governor as to have the Hon. GEORGE WASHINGTON ALDRIDGE nominated for Governor; but surely Mr. SHEARD, for old acquaintance' sake, will not wish to take any chance for an office until he has been reconciled with his former mate. Hand in hand were they wont to wander through the flowery paths of Herkimer. They were one in heart and in the caucuses. Shall not those happy days return? Shall TITUS and the Doctor be allowed to keep apart much longer? All the former's fault, they say. A melting hand was stretched out to him and he wouldn't look at it. Fie! Is this, the Indian humor, appropriate in a candidate for Lieutenant-Governor?

It is reported from Texas that the Hon. STUMP ASHBY will put his immense agricultural Sub-Treasuries of eloquence and wisdom at the service of BRYAN and WATSON; and those melodramatic youths will be lucky to receive the assistance of so luminous a philosopher. But where is CYCLONE DAVIS of Sulphur Springs? Where are those eighty-three inches of stature and those eighty-three square miles of voice? If CYCLONE is not going to go during the campaign, what is the use of having a campaign? He is a natural and an original orator, and doesn't have to prig fine language and mellifluous metaphors from himself or anybody else. If he and another glorious son of the Lone Star, the Hon. TOBE SCRUTCHINS, join STUMP ASHBY, the welkin may be able to ring with a fair amount of sound after all.

Students of the writings and speeches of the Hon. TOMTOM WATSON would know from the impetuosity, heat, and large amount of coloring matter therein released or perceptible that every probability favored the theory that he was red-headed. Students of the Hon. TOMTOM WATSON who have never read any of his works, but are familiar with his pictorial poll, know, without reading, that his mental and vocal productions are surcharged with glow and fire. The capillary ardor and the temperamental ardor are the complements and supplements of each other; and the man's Populism is not more illuminated than his head. As a matter of allegory and emblem, a red head does not exactly fit a Silver shouter. Gold in the ballads and old poetry is "the red" gold. But the Hon. TOMTOM WATSON'S sanguine poll may, at least, be regarded as a sure sign that he is not without choler, and that nobody who is not prepared to play with fire had better take the job of trying to pull that fiery column from the Pop ticket.

A show in Detroit exhibits a bucking horse of uncommon talents, described as "the star-kicker of the lot," and as "springing up like a cyclone and coming back with the historical 'dull thud.'" This gifted steed is appropriately named POTATO PINGREE, after the illustrious Mayor of Detroit, who is now bent upon becoming the Republican candidate for Governor of Michigan. He is a statesman singularly fond of motion, covers many points of the compass, and is not devoid of heels. But does the bucker have a silver mane, a silver mouth, and silver feet? If not, the analogy between the quadruped and the biped POTATO PINGREE is not complete or even striking.

If the Hon. GEORGE FRED WILLIAMS is not too busy calling upon everybody in Massachusetts to go into the Popocrat caucuses and see that he is nominated for Governor, perhaps his coyness and invincible modesty can be mislaid long enough to allow him to go to the Madison Square Garden, when Mr. BRYAN paralyzes that institution and smites the Eastern plutocracy with thunderbolts. The GEORGE FRED WILLIAMS of Nebraska and the WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN of Massachusetts would make a great team. It is not the fault of the Dedham Popocrat that he isn't on the team. Is it too late for SEWALL and WATSON to withdraw?

The unfeeling are likely to do injustice to the situation of the Hon. TOMTOM WATSON. Having been caught on the Pop ticket, he dares not escape. If he kindly consented, in spite of previous refusal, to sit in the second row, now that he has consented he feels that it would be doubly weak for him to be persuaded to move. He feels that he carries the destinies of the Pops on his shoulders. As he telegraphed to the *Atlanta Constitution*, "my withdrawal would kill" the party. Now, while the Hon. TOMTOM WATSON is perfectly willing not to spare himself, he will never let anything happen to his party. Consequently he will hang on to that nomination for Vice-President, no matter how much clatter may be made by the young gentleman in Lincoln whom the young gentleman from Thomson gracefully calls the "windmill." In the mind of the Hon. TOMTOM WATSON that nomination and the life of the Pops are bound together: and he will stick although a hundred thousand side-of-the-road and gutter Pops should clasp his knees and implore him to relent, and although the big tears should well up in the eyes of REPUDIATION BILL.

As considerable surprise has been expressed because of the comparative reticence of the Boy Orator in the last few days, it is just to the truth of history to say that this area of silence is not the result of Mr. BRYAN'S strenuous labors in going through "The Boy's Own Speaker," the works of himself, of the Hon. SAMUEL W. MCCALL, and others in preparation for a mighty effort at the Madison Square Garden. Compilation is easy work for him, and it is no more trouble for him to pick out a few choice passages and similes of price from his own writings or those of somebody else than to pick out a necktie. He finds selection easy; and if he finds silence hard, he consents to it without a murmur. Not with any view of breaking into most thunderous report at the Madison Square Garden, but for the sake of proving to an esteemed associate with a peevish tongue that it is not true, as the Hon. TOMTOM WATSON wrote the other day, that "the hardest thing BILL BRYAN will have to contend with will be the necessity of keeping his mouth shut." Cruel words for the candidate for Vice-President to say of the candidate for President; and no lover of infrequent speech will blame Mr. BRYAN for essaying to disprove them by a practical test.

As we pass by with grief we see these tears of IGNATIUS DONNELLY:

"Our soul is weary of the whole business."
"We shall retire to a library."
"We have done."
"We shall withdraw from public life forever."
"We are tired of working for those who would destroy us."
"We banker not for a contest with Liliputians."

Peace, peace, perturbed spirit! Just because SAM OWEN of Minnesota is a little too active and monopolistic in the People's party of that State, shall the Sage of Nininger grow weary in his soul and vow to have done? The library is good in the winter, but in the summer and the fall, what other so congenial employment as politics is there for the Sage? He will not be tired. He will not have done. He will demolish SAM OWEN as he demolished SHAKESPEARE.

"Courage and comfort! All shall yet go well!"

The Pop intellectual movement is spreading. The Hon. DAVIS HECTOR WAITE and the Hon. JAMES BUCEPHALUS BELFORD of Colorado, the Hon. LORAINE DANTON LEWELLING and the Hon. WILLIAM ALFRED PEFFER of Kansas, are finding sincere admirers and imitators. Seeing them and the Hon. WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN and the Hon. WILLIAM MORRIS STEWART and so many other athletic and ferocious statesmen executing the Silver Dance with so much noise and fury, the Utes and Pueblos and Cheyennes and Arapahoes have been practising ghost dances and otherwise trying to imitate the emotional leaps and whoops of the Chicago and St. Louis Conventions. No doubt these Indians are inspired by a commendable spirit of imitation, but they have no prospect of engaging public attention by their capers at present. The competition is too severe for them, and the Chicago and St. Louis ghost dancers occupy all the stage. The best thing a bad Indian can do nowadays is to shut up. The BRYAN ghost dancers make too much hullabaloo for him to be heard.

To the American Tramp Association.

Whereas, The political leaders of the United States, such as Peffer, Simpson, Watson, Altgeld, Tillman, Waite, and others who lean our way, have united and made common cause against Capital and Labor,

Resolved, That we, the National Advisory Board of your association, declare our fealty to the numerous principles adopted at the St. Louis and the Chicago Conventions, under the above leadership. We especially endorse the grand and benevolent idea of free silver, 16 to 1.

We reaffirm our unswerving hostility to labor of any sort, and demand the enactment of a law abolishing work. We further demand that a law be enacted within ninety days after March 4 next issuing free greenbacks to the amount of $100 to every one; the $100 to be duplicated as necessity demands.

Believing the platforms above referred to will best conserve our interests, we advocate the endorsement of Bryan and Watson, or Sewall, as the case may be, and call upon all loyal tramps to meet in their respective beats and select delegates to attend a Convention to be held Aug. 31 upon the lake front at Chicago, Ill.

Let us assert ourselves. Now is our opportunity. Our friends are in the saddle. Let us rally and resolute!

W. T. WAGGLES,
D. E. VILTEY,
SANDY WALKER,
A. N. ARCHIE,
R. U. NING,
R. I. OTT,
Executive Committee.

She Asks for Money to Give in Bicycles.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I have never known what the pleasure was to be able to give freely. Just now I want to give bicycles to three young women to whom they would be the greatest delight. One is a young farmer's wife who needs a little fun and a few harmless good times more than most people I know. Another is a clergyman's daughter who does not know what it is to indulge herself in any personal pleasure. There are always so many others who come first. The other is an earnest art student burdened with small debts, supporting herself and paying for her brother in a retreat. If any one has any charity money he don't know how best to spend, I wish he would trust enough of it to me to get three good bicycles for these women, or, if that is expecting too much, send me some second hand wheels. I could easily dispose of them where they would be well appreciated. HENRIETTA DU BOIS.

ESSEX, Essex county, New York.

An Obstruction in Battery Park.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Permit me to occupy a small portion of space in your valuable paper for the benefit of the public (especially the poor), and to call the attention of those who may not have observed it to what appears to me an outrage.

At Battery Park, on the Whitehall street side, in the centre of the block, there is situated a large and obstructive stand (built on the grass) for the sale of tobacco, soda, campaign buttons, and various other sorts of merchandise, which I believe is a violation of the rules and regulations of the Park Department.

Furthermore, as the park is beautifully adorned with trees of every description and in abundance, I am at a loss to understand why this stand should not only be considered as an obstacle, but detrimental to the appearance of the park. WM. P. BARRETT.

170 CHERRY STREET, July 27.

The Fall of Lawn Tennis.

From the London Standard.

How comes it that, the champion week at Wimbledon notwithstanding, lawn tennis has unquestionably suffered some eclipse, is played with less eagerness than heretofore, and has fewer votaries? It has, we are afraid, been eclipsed by more fascinating rivals, and bicycling has completed what golf had already begun.

It had reached all the perfection of which it was capable; and when that stage is attained, sports, like painting, like sculpture, like architecture, indeed, like all the arts, begin to perish. In all perfection are the latent seeds of decay. As long as a great many people played lawn tennis tolerably well, but no one supremely, and all were moving on to amelioration, lawn tennis was safe. But when a certain number of players got to play too well, the fate of the game was sealed, as far as universal popularity is concerned. The inferior players did not care to play with the superior players, and, truth to tell, the superior ones did not care to play with the inferior ones. Shall we be deemed very ungallant if we add that, speaking generally, the inferior players were—well, not of the male sex? They withdrew their countenance from the game in consequence, and the result was that it sank from the position of a national pastime to that of a provincial or a local one.

Moreover, bicycling is the chartered libertine of the day. Mount a bicycle, and the most dragooned young woman may go where she likes, when she likes, and as fast as she likes. If she attempted to go in a boat, in a hansom, or even on horseback, as freely as she moves about on her cycle, the mountains would be called on to cover her, and she would swiftly be reminded of the obligations and restrictions of her sex. But a female cyclist can do no wrong. Is it to be wondered at that, such being the case, bicycling promises to kill not only lawn tennis, but to run over everything that stands in its way?

A Literary Surprise.

From the Atlanta Constitution.

"Who would a-thought it!" exclaimed the old man, rapturously; "here's John turned out to be a writer fer the papers."

"Do tell!"

"Hit's a fact! Here's a paper what says he sells bacon cheaper an' cheaper, an' they jest can't beat him on flour, an' his name signed to the whole piece!"

THE CASE OF HOPS.

Overproduction the True Cause of Agricultural Depression.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The genuine humor of the paragraphs in your esteemed paper lends a sunny half hour to the dismal days now passing. Little is left to be said on the momentous question of the day, but in bringing indisputable evidence, as below, surrounding the conditions of one branch of agriculture, namely, hop growing, it can easily be shown by parallel that the disease at the root of agricultural distress is internal, and has little, if any, connection with the questions of Governmental policy or other external data.

The price of hops for the last two or three years has been decidedly below the cost of production, a condition bringing great distress to grower and merchant alike. In a word, the cause has been simply excessive overproduction. This has finally been recognized by farmers, and the result in the next crop will be a curtailment of nearly 40 per cent.; but for the present farmers are hopelessly in debt, and hop farms will not sell for the amount of mortgage. It is needless to say, therefore, that many hop farmers, in their distress, idolize the 16 to 1 fallacy or any other change from present methods.

Now the truth about all this can be summed up as follows:

1. The average price of hops during the last twenty years has been over 20 cents per pound.
2. Hops can be raised at 8 cents per pound.
3. The average yield per acre is 800 pounds.
4. The value of good average hop land, when prices are normal, is $75 per acre. A simple calculation shows that for twenty years there has been an average annual profit per acre of $96; and that each year reckoned as an average would pay the whole cost of the land.

Furthermore, in 1882, many hops sold at 80 cents per pound, making a profit as above indicated of $560 per acre. Many farmers bought hops, instead of selling their own, and in attempting to hold for impossible prices, finally marketed their hops for 20 cents per pound and less. Others again took their profits and invested them largely in further hop lands.

The history, therefore, of this trade is simply that the result of the last twenty years of hop farming, if conducted on a strictly agricultural basis, would have permitted the farmer to pay for his land twenty times over, and actually in one of these twenty years have netted him enough money to make him independent for life. Can he be honest, therefore, when he attributes the depression of the last two or three years to a "crime" supposed to have been committed twenty-three years ago, and can he believe, growing as he does, from 50 to 100 per cent. more than the natural consumption of this country, that he can get along on the one hand without the trade of foreign countries that buy our hops, or that, on the other hand the coining of silver on an antique basis would suddenly increase the manufacture of beer from 50 to 100 per cent? ALBERT LILIENTHAL.

NEW YORK, July 30.

Silver and Gold.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* You must know all about the moon, and do you not think that the silvery Luna is a proper emblem for those lunatics commonly known as silver men?

Speaking of the moon suggests to me that just as the silver moon gets all its efficacy and virtue from the golden sun, so silver, in this day and generation, gets all its value from gold. What do you say to it?

NEW YORK, July 28. G. S. M.

Silver doesn't get its value from gold, but the present silver dollar gets its value substantially from the gold dollar. That is, it passes current at a gold dollar's value because it is fixed in quantity, and is a legal tender in payment of debts to the United States.

A Good Argument for the Silverites—"Nit."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* A friend of mine had stowed away at his home in a canvas bag $1,000 in $2.50 gold pieces, and in another bag $1,000 in silver dollars, both gold and silver bearing the stamp of the United States Government, and congratulated himself that if the present election should see either a "gold bug" or a "silver bug" elected he had successfully hedged, by this precaution, to the extent of $1,000. But, alas for human foresight! During his absence to the city his house was destroyed by fire, and on examining the ruins next day he found his hoardings a molten mass.

He was dejected over the loss of his property, but was somewhat relieved by the thought that he could take his mass of gold and his melted silver to the Government and procure another $2,000 for it. To think was to act, and the following day found him offering his mass of gold, representing $1,000, and his mass of silver, representing $1,000, for sale. He had no difficulty in procuring $1,000 in $2.50 gold pieces for his mass of gold, but to procure an equivalent for the $1,000 pile of molten silver was impossible; all he could obtain for that was about $530.

Before the fire his gold was worth $1,000; after the the fire it was still worth $1,000. Before the fire his silver was worth $1,000; after the fire it had depreciated nearly 50 per cent. Alas, poor silver! "It had been tried by fire"—in fact, weighed in the balance and found wanting. A GOLDBUG.

What Does It Mean?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The horrible suspicion haunts me that Candidate Bryan is coming to New York next month to give us the "double cross." I don't know exactly what the d. c. is, but understand that it is very popular among fakirs.

I hope he will then tell us what is meant by that mystic formula, 16 to 1. I have heard of a gold-leaf manufacturer in New York city who will vote for the Boy Orator because the Chicago platform demands the free coinage of "silver and gold" at the ratio of 16 to 1. This he takes to mean that when the silver mine owner shall take 16 tons of the white metal to the mint he must at the same time take one ton of gold; and that the silver will not be coined into Bryan dollars unless accompanied by the proportionate amount of gold. How that will help the gold-leaf industry he perhaps may know.

Will you kindly explain the "double cross?"

BROOKLYN, July 28. ARGENT, NIT.

Double Standard Maple Sugar.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The Mohawk Valley was settled by the Dutch, as your readers know. When the country was new Yankee peddlers came through the settlements and purchased the crop of maple sugar. On one occasion a green Dutchman sold a Yankee his maple sugar far below the market price, and his neighbors teased him for being deceived. He said in reply, "You vait and I will vix him next year." The next spring he sold his crop of sugar to the same Yankee at the same price. When his neighbors rallied him he said, "I am no fool; I made the sap that sugar was made from half spring water." The green Dutch farmer had just as much common sense as those cranks who assert that 50 cents' worth of silver and an equal amount of water will make a dollar worth 100 cents in gold at the present standard. F. G.

Mr. Lombard's $10,000 Bet Not Taken.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In reply to my offer to bet ten thousand gold dollars against $5,000 that Bryan will be defeated I have received many congratulations from various parts of the United States, but no Bryan man has yet accepted. Must they, the Bryan men, secure medical and legal evidence proving the insanity and anarchy of all the voters before accepting the challenge?

Considering the fact that Bryanites are exclusively recruited among those who frequently use the phrase "Put up or shut up," their silence is ominous to the circumlocutionist. LOUIS LOMBARD.

NORTH BAY, N. Y., July 30.

Mexico's Testimony.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I have the simp'est object lesson before me—a Mexican dollar (silver), a Mexican doubloon (gold). Both weigh exactly the same; both look exactly alike. When coined, the Mexican dollar was worth $1; the Mexican doubloon was worth $16. Now the Mexican dollar is worth fifty-three (53) cents; the Mexican doubloon is worth $16.

Mexico was not guilty of the crime of demonetization of silver in 1873. W. G. HUEY.

PHILADELPHIA, July 29, 1896.

Good Advice to Honest Money Democrats.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* It is hard for a regular straight-ticket Democrat (as I am and have been for twenty years) to have to vote for a Republican Presidential candidate; and it is particularly hard for a low-tariff Democrat (like myself) to have to vote for a Republican who, by accident or otherwise, represents the idea of extreme protection.

Many times 1,000 Democrats are in my predicament. If they are wise, they will vote for McKinley.

BROOKLYN, July 28. FRANK CHAMBERS.

Report of a Nebraska Farmer.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The accompanying extract from a letter of the 24th inst. from a farmer living near Beatrice, Neb., shows there is lots of good sense still left with Western farmers. Yours for the party of honest money. S. C. RAMAGE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 28.

"Iowa is sure for McKinley. Nebraska is a little doubtful, but I do not believe that Bryan will carry the State. I was in Montana and South Dakota last week. The Anarchists are making so much noise that the thinking people are hesitating and saying, We that have a freehold and a home had better go a little slow and try no experiment. It is not by any means all white metal in the West. A little later you will see more plainly which way the tide goes. I am a strong unbeliever in free silver in the ratio of 16 to 1. It is a delusion and a snare. McKinley will win. I do not believe that Mr. Bryan will even carry Nebraska, though he is better than the Anarchists with whom he is training."

JUST BEFORE THE COLLISION.

The Thoughts that Flash Through the Engine Man's Brain—An Old Fireman's Story.

From the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle.

There is something attractive about railroad life to the man who once enters it. The railroad companies rarely give up a reliable, faithful man. He may become maimed and unfit for the most remunerative positions and be forced to accept some humbler place with a smaller salary attached to it, but it is an unwritten law with most of the great railroad corpor