

PROGRESS OF REFORM.

One of the reasons why the Democratic Party is entitled to the support of Independent Voters.

President Cleveland's brief address at the unveiling of the Garfield statue in Washington fitly and forcibly enforced the "sad and distressing lesson" of his predecessor's death.

The occasion suggests a contrast between the situation as regards the civil service in 1881 and that in 1887. In his second annual message to Congress, December 5, 1870, President Grant recommended "a reform in the civil service of the country" which should "govern not the tenure, but the manner of making all appointments."

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General Grant made no further attempt to push the reform. General Garfield's first step was a stop backward. He chose as his chief adviser the man who as Spenser had been chiefly responsible for the smothering of Civil-Service reform in 1874.

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It seems necessary to call the attention of certain Republican journals to the fact that even in the North the word "negro" is sometimes spelled with two g's.

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ORATOR KEIFER.

Specimen Passages from the Republican Ex-Speaker's Garfield Oration.

We are indebted to Mr. Keifer, of Ohio, for a copy of his oration on General Garfield. We can not print it in full. A few specimen passages will give an idea of Mr. Keifer's oratory.

"To be esteemed a worthy citizen in the time and of the country in which he lived a man must be possessed of more fulness of life, more generosity of soul and more love for his fellow-men than was accounted necessary to good citizenship in past generations."

"Citizenship in our country includes sovereignty and power, or capacity to command or direct the affairs of state."

SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

Chas. J. Faulkner, the new Senator from West Virginia, is an accomplished scholar and one of the youngest men ever elected to the United States Senate.

All Governor Foraker's speeches nowadays are mailed to prominent Republicans throughout the Union, accompanied by a portrait of the distinguished son of Ohio.

The discovery by Commissioner of Agriculture Colman that dogs are sometimes run through the oleomargarine churns has shocked many of the bogus butter-makers not a little, as they were not aware that any thing so expensive was being used.

A New York paper says: "Mr. Theodore Roosevelt, with his eye on the Presidency, reminds one of opera bouffe."

A New York paper notes that "General Lew Wallace has been suggested for the Presidential nomination in 1888. The man who suggests him lives in Crawfordsville, Ind. So does the General."

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For days past the Republican newspapers have been howling over the Democratic nominee for Governor in Kentucky, General Lyman Boliver Buckner.

Drawing the Color Line.

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If the incident had occurred south of the Potomac our editorial thunderbolt factory would have been run night and day for a month, but as it occurred in the North it hardly deserves a mere mention.

LIME AS A FERTILIZER.

A Pennsylvania Farmer's Account of the Effects of Its Use.

In this part of the country lime is the principal fertilizer outside of barnyard manure. As the soil is naturally very thin we have to use something from the word "go" to keep up the fertility.

When lime is properly applied its effect on the soil is something similar to yeast in dough for bread. It seems to give life and make it light and mellow. But in order to get the full benefit of it we must put it on in proper style—that is, we must put it on when fresh burnt; the hotter the better.

The amount to be used depends on the former fertility of the ground to which it is applied, the amount you have on hand, the time you have to spare without making your crop late, etc.

MEXICAN PEONAGE.

A System of Bondage Which is Worse Than Actual Slavery.

Peonage is simple in theory and complex in practice. It is the attaching of labor for debt. A species of judgment is obtained and a man's services belong to the creditor until the debt is wiped out.

The further inland, the more peons, and the arable lands of Sonora and Chihuahua are filled almost exclusively by them. A large farm in these districts resembles a slave plantation, except that no care whatever is paid to the condition of the people.

A morning bath in cold salt water is delightfully invigorating.

FINDING AMBERGRIS.

An Accidental Discovery of a Substance Worth Fully as Much as Gold.

'Tis said that every man's chance for a fortune comes once in a life-time. Be that as it may, the Provincetown whalers are not generally backward in grappling that chance when it does come to them.

Ambergris is a peculiar secretion found in a diseased sperm whale, and is worth its weight in gold. It is not a buoyant article, and is only obtained by killing the whale or the whale dying and drifting ashore, when the lump of ambergris washes upon the beach after the carcass is decomposed.

Provincetown whalers have always been fortunate in finding this valuable article, and have had their share with whalers from other ports.

The answer was "Why, it is no good, only wax that I am taking home for some of the boys."

It is needless to say it was well taken care of and when the vessel arrived home the sale of that lump of "gum" added \$6,000 to the general stock for the voyage.

Another captain of a merchant vessel while laying at one of the small islands in the West Indies, discovered a lump as big as his two fists in possession of a negro who, not knowing its value, sold it to the captain for one flannel shirt and an old pair of pants.

Metric Weights and Measures.

The metric system of weights and measures, according to Mr. Jackson, of the Paris Geographical Society, is now obligatory by law in the Argentine Republic, Austria and Hungary, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Chili, Colombia, Denmark, Ecuador, France and colonies, Germany, Greece, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Roumania, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

A young married woman in Iowa takes long moonlight strolls with the ghost of a former lover.

IRVING'S BURIAL PLACE.

A Spot in Complete Harmony With the Great Author's Writings.

I confess I heard not without a secret pleasure that the relic-hunters so chip and hammer the stone that marks Irving's grave as to make its frequent renewal necessary. It did not seem to me a grievous wrong, nor in any true sense a profanation of the grave, but rather a testimony to the loveableness of Irving's character, and an evidence of the wide extent of his fame, that, from filling the circle of the educated and refined among his countrymen, has now come to include that lower stratum of our common humanity which has only instructive and, so to speak, mechanical ways of expressing its feelings.

It would not have been easy to find a place more in harmony with the associations that gather about Irving's name as a writer than the spot in which he is buried. Even to-day, with all the changes that have been brought about by the growth of the neighboring settlement, the spirit of peace and quiet that used to brood over the region hovers there undisturbed.

Here is the church, a small building, with rough sides of the country stone, surmounted by a picturesque roof, and with an open bell-turret, over which still veers the vane pierced with the initials of the Frederick Velypen who built the church and endowed it in 1699.

The church was seldom used except in the summer time. On communion Sundays the handsome seventeenth-century Jacobean table of oak brought from Holland, where plenty like it may still be found, was set out, as it is today, with the plain vessels of silver "presented by Queen Anne," as the formula goes, that used to please my childish taste for things that had about them the flavor of old days.

The same budding taste for antiquities led me and some of my schoolmates to the old grave-yard, where we hunted up the oldest tombstones, scraping off the moss and lichens to decipher the names and dates, and enjoying many a laugh over their carved ornaments, scrolls and cockle-shells, and sturdy, dew-lapped, Dutch cherubs, with their stumpy little wings scored like checkerboards for plumage.

FRATERNAL ORDERS.

Membership of the More Prominent American Beneficial Societies.

Table listing membership of various fraternal orders such as Royal Arcanum, American Legion of Honor, Knights and Ladies of Honor, United American Mechanics, etc.

The estimated amount of life benefits carried by the membership is about two billion dollars, and the amount paid widows, orphans and dependants annually, will reach over twelve million dollars.

An Insurmountable Obstacle.

"George, we must part forever." "I am not surprised. I expected this blow," said George, disconsolately, as he leaned his handsome head against one of the marble pillars of the richly furnished drawing room.

How Hair-Pins Are Made.

The machinery used in the manufacture of hair-pins is of a delicate and intricate character, as the prices at which pins are sold necessitate the cheapest and most rapid process, which can only be procured by automatic machines.

PAGAN PLAY-THINGS.

How the Chinese Children of San Francisco Amuse Themselves.

A peep into the play corner of a Celestial juvenile makes plain the fact that few play-things suffice for the pleasures of the youth of the Flowery Kingdom. Dolls there are, to be sure, but the girls make very little of them, and they are often potted and patted by the boys.

But, besides the human play-things, there are odd puzzles to be put together or strung into certain shapes, gorgeous glass marbles to roll about, balls with strings attached so that they may not get lost, and colored blocks with which to build wonderful houses, bridges and towers; diminutive junks to pull about on the floor, and small mirrors in which to scan small yellow features and narrow black eyes.

When kite-flying is to be considered, the Chinese of any age are always children. Old men take as keen delight in sailing paper dragons and birds as boys of ten.

Top-spinning is a favorite amusement, and in this the Chinese are experts. The length of time in which they can keep the humming object in motion is quite remarkable.

There is a Chinese game, however, that never fails to arouse the interest and envy of the white boys. It is played with a loaded cork stick with feathers. The game is to keep the cork in the air. The first player throws up the shuttlecock and before it again reaches the earth he twists his foot and gives the descending object a kick with his heel which sends it up into the air, sometimes as high as twenty feet.

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Four thousand pennies were given at an Easter collection in one of the churches in Kingston, N. Y. It took some time to count the coins.