Iron County Register

BY ELI D. AKE.

IRONTON. - MISSOURI.

FACE TO FACE.

A Fact Related in Seven Well-Told Fables.

BY R. E. FRANCILLON,

AUTHOR OF "A GREAT HEIRESS," "QUITE AT LAST," "A REAL QUEEN," "EARL'S DIVE," ETC., ETC.

FABLE THE SECOND.—CONTINUED.

Boyhood was upon him again, and, at a risk of scratched hands and torn clothes, it must be done. Perhaps he might find some of the big stones with which he and Patience, when playmates, had spent hours in trying to make a secret way for themselves across the brook in its darkest place; that would be a find, indeed.

So he scrambled from among the rushes into the rough coppice where water ran, and wondered a little what had become of all the mountains and valleys, lakes, torrents and waterfalls, chasms and precipices, that he remembered so well. In truth, it was not that all these things had grown smaller, but that his own legs had grown longer. But there was all the old smell of damp clay and decaying leaves to bring back the old charm—which, besides, borrowed sweeter and better fragrance than the new.

He was just swinging himself round the bole of a tree that by hanging over the water, roots and all, barred the way, when, in regaining the bank, his foot slipped upon the soft clay, and he went head foremost into a tangle of bushes. And he fell, not into the mud, but across what was the last thing he dreamed of finding there—the body of a man, hidden among the brambles, bracken and reeds.

Stephen sprang to his feet in anything but agreeable surprise. Nor was his surprise rendered any the more pleasant when the body scrambled to its feet, and proved to be an active young fellow of his own age, with a wild and hunted look in his eyes, and wearing a soldier's red jacket over a shirt opened at the breast, and foul with mire and ooze. He wore no hat or cap, and his close-cropped hair did not add to his appearance, considered as a trespasser. Retired farms in those days were wont to be haunted by just such fellows—able-bodied vagrants who, on the strength of an old red jacket, to which they might have no more right than to a pair of epaulettes, would extort charity by whines or threats or lies, and would think little of firing a rick if blackmail were refused. The discharged or disabled soldier or sailor was among the commonest of pests; and small wonder, considering the way in which, when they were of no more use, they were apt to be thrown away. Stephen would not have seen one of the breed, real or sham, skulking within hail of Leys Croft for a guinea and more.

"Good God!" cried Stephen, "it's Dick Blackthorn!"

Farmer Blackthorn's son and heir: Patience's brother, and in that garb and guise! What could it mean—to what had he come? That he was in some hopeless plight, whatever it might be, was plain; and not even Love himself could make an expectant bridegroom rejoice in the prospect of such a brother-in-law as he saw before him now.

"I'm Stephen Harlow. Don't you know me? In Heaven's name, Dick Blackthorn, what's come to you? What are you doing here?" asked he who had been born lucky of him who had been born with nothing better than a silver spoon.

"It's hanged hard," he muttered. "that a fellow can't take forty winks by a brook, when he's thirsty and tired, without another fellow tumbling over him as if he was a log of timber. It's hanged hard. It's a free country, leastwise, so they say. I suppose your being Stephen Harlow, though you don't look much like it, don't prevent your letting a chap alone. You let me be."

"It does, though, Dick," said Stephen. "And I'm not going to let you alone. No—don't think of jumping the brook. I've got the longest legs, and you never could beat me at running, ever since we ran our first race to the gate of the paddock. Are you going home?"

"May be yes—may be no," said Dick, sullenly. "All you need know is, I'm going to do what I hanged please."

Apart from the sullen shame, and the mire, and a certain weakness of feature, Dick Blackthorn was not a bad-looking young fellow, and in better clothes and cleaned might, so far as appearance went, have justified his sister's belief in her only brother. He was by no means unlike Patience, with the same complexion and with nearly the same eyes and eyebrows; but with this difference—that while hers were straight, honest, and true as the day, his were sidelong and shifty. And so with the features all through, down to the chin, which in Patience was as firm as it was fine—in Dick, as fine as it was feeble. In short, Dick was a taller and more stalwart Patience with the strength squeezed out of her; Patience turned male and spoiled in the turning. What the confrast was between the two young men who stood face to face among the bushes need not be told.

"You're going to do nothing of the kind, then," said Stephen, sternly and shortly, for he fancied he knew his man. "You're going to do as *I* hanged please. You'll make your sister wretched, and perhaps kill your father if you go home without warning, and as you are. I don't know what you've done, but your father won't so much as speak or hear your name. He'll forgive you, you may be sure of that; but it's but right to tell you he's not the man he was two years ago."

"Ah, I suppose I've brought his gray hairs with sorrow to the grave. Well, all I can say is he shouldn't have treated me as if I was a baby, without a will of my own. I should like to know any chap of spirit who'd stand being treated as if he'd stopped growing at six years old. I should rather like him to see me now. I think he'd wish he'd treated me a bit different when he had the chance to. Not the man he was! It's pot and kettle there. No more am I." He stuck his fists into his pockets, tried to look defiant, and failed.

"Come, Dick," said Stephen, a little disgusted and contemptuous, but, for Patience's sake, not unkindly; "this won't do at all. I see you're in trouble; and if it's only for your father's sake, I must do my best to pull you out again. I'm not the man to preach—never fear. Here's my hand. Make a clean breast of things; clutch hold, and I'll pull."

"I know you're not a bad sort, Harlow, for all you look so confounded flourishing. 'Tis enough to make a trooper swear like an angel to see you and to see me; and it was I always had the headpiece, not you. Well, 'tis a mighty queer world. Sometimes I think I'll hang myself; and I would too, if I wasn't sure somebody would come by and cut me down. Somebody always spoils whatever *I* want to do."

"What's to be done with a fellow like this?" Stephen asked himself. But he only asked Dick, "Well?"

"I can't even remember what the old rumpus was about," said he. "'Twas either about a horse or a girl; but then everything's a horse or a girl. Anyhow, I meant to be my own master, as who wouldn't? So I joined a circus company at Hunchester, and took a new name. As long as I'd my pockets full 'twas all right: but when they run out, there was a row—I think it was about a girl or a horse—anyhow, I'd had enough of the circus, and got a place as postboy at a house on the North Road."

"And which happened that time, horse or girl?"

"Oh, sure enough, it was a horse that time. They said I lamed him through being drunk; of course 'twas a lie, for the brute was going at a hand-galop when I was thrown. But there was a pair of baronets in the chaise; and, being as drunk as owls themselves, they said it was me."

"And then?"

"Well, nobody can put it against me I haven't tried. Talk of father! If he'd been through what I have, instead of living at home at ease, he'd have some call to talk of gray hairs. I forget what came next—whether 'twas washing bottles, or whether 'twas gypsying. I think 'twas gypsying; and I got on well enough at that if there hadn't been something about a horse. No—the horse got into the bottles; it was the girl that time. You wouldn't think, to look at me, I've been in quod? I have, though. No; you needn't look like that. *I* never go after mischief. It's always mischief comes after me. If I was on Crusoe's island I should be in somebody else's scrape. If ever I'm hanged 'twill be in somebody else's shoes."

"And after the gypsying?" Stephen chose to ignore the jail.

"Then I went to sea."

"Anyhow, there are no girls or horses there."

"No. But somehow or other 'twas all one as if there were. You can't call it my fault, I suppose, that the coaster ran on the sands. They said it was, of course; that was another of their lies. But what's the good of going through the whole confounded things all over again? I've been twenty things—forty, for aught I know. And by somebody's confounded fault or another they've all gone wrong. I can't even have forty winks in a wood, where nobody comes, but somebody else tumbles over me. I can't drink a glass of ale but what it makes somebody else drunk, and then I get the blame."

"But that red jacket—"

"Ay. That's the King's. He gave me a guinea, too; but that's gone."

"Dick, listen to me. You *can't* go to your father as you are—"

"I must, though—as I am. Needs must when the devil drives."

"Then you must pull the reins out of his hands. I won't say it's all your fault, but at this moment he hasn't a penny he can call his own. Patience believes in you still; I don't believe in you—much; but I can't believe you're such a scamp that you'd come back to quarter yourself on him just when you ought to be putting your shoulder to the wheel. Come, be a man. I suppose you belong to the regiment whose drums I heard to-day. As you are a soldier, be a good one. Write Patience a letter which your father shall read at the right time; and the minute one can get your discharge I'll see to it, and put you in the way of work under my own eye. For your father's and your sister's sake there's nothing too much I can do for you."

Dick hung his head and again turned sullen.

"No," said he; "I suppose you want me to go and get killed. No such luck for you, nor for me. I'm going to see Patience. *She* won't want me to be killed. She *is* a good girl; and there may be one good horse somewhere, as well."

"You *shall* do what's right—there. I'll go back with you to Hunchester. Who ought one to see about your discharge? They won't want to keep, I suppose, a respectable yeoman's only son, that enlisted out of some stupid folly, and wants to be free, and can pay to be free."

"What's the good? If father's got no money—"

"I have, then—I can get it, any way. Think of your father, your sister; think of right and manhood, and come with me."

"There. That's just my luck all round, again! It's too late, now."

"Too late! We'll see about that. It's never too late to try."

"It is, though. I've discharged myself. That's what I've done."

"Discharged yourself? What do you mean?"

"Taken French leave."

"And what—"

"I'm a deserter. That's what *I* am."

"You wretched fool!"

Stephen could no more help speaking out his anger than he could help feeling it—this, Patience's brother Dick, this irreleemable scamp, if not worse than a scamp, as he seemed to be. What was to be done? Anything, anything rather than that Farmer Blackthorn's reviving self-respect should receive the fatal blow of learning that his son was unworthy even of the living of a common soldier; the proud old man would walk straight into his grave. Anything rather than that Patience's stubborn faith in her brother should be shattered in so sudden a way. Anything rather than that Dick the Deserter should crawl for hiding into the Leys Crofts lofts and barns.

"You think that, do you?" asked Dick. "You try soldiering yourself, and see which is the fool—the fellow that chucks it over or the fellow that stays. I don't know why I listed, but I know well enough why I took to my heels. I'm going to get Patience to put me behind a truss of hay till the coast's clear, and then hey for the gypsies! that's the best thing I've tried—"

"No!" cried Stephen, in a voice which, though young, had a spice of thunder. "No job's too bad to mend. Would you go crying to a girl who still honors you, to hide a coward and a fool? I don't mind what I call you—you know as well as I do that you've earned the names. I must let myself out somehow; I want to help you, but I can't bring myself to do it unless I first let out my mind. Off with that scarlet rag; it's rubbish, but *you've* no right to it. There; nobody will look for it in these bushes. Take my coat and hat; we're much of a size. Walk straight on to Longnett, and wait for me at the Half Moon. No—not like that; button the coat well over your shirt; there—you'll pass for a lawyer's clerk or anyting you please. Or you can be Mr. Harlow's clerk from Millport. I'll get home as I am; I'm often at work in my shirt-sleeves, so it won't matter if I'm seen going in-doors. I'll dress and come to yon at the Half Moon; and then we'll see what's to be done. You can put up there for to-night; and you shall be my clerk in earnest if you'll give yourself just one more chance of being a—man."

"A man!" It was singular to see the change that came over Dick Blackthorn's face with the change of clothes—which, by exceptional good fortune, fitted him as though they had been made for him. He no longer veered between a slouch and a swagger; he even laughed lightly, as he peered over the bank to catch a glimpse of his reflection in the pool. "A man!" repeated he. "Why, I'm half that already, Harlow; it's the first time I've known the feel of decent broadcloth for a couple of years. The gypsies, indeed—no gypsies for me, if you please. The truth is, Harlow, I've been thinking seriously of late; and I've come to the conclusion that, after all's said and done, respectability's the thing. Who'd ever have thought, old cock, to look at me and you now, that you're the right side of the hedge and I'm the wrong? What do girls and horses count, so long as there's a tailor to get one straight again? I should like a sight of Patience again, poor lass; I've half a mind to drop in on her and make her scream, for fun, on my way to the Half Moon. No—all right, old chap; you needn't look so queer. A bargain's a bargain, and nobody durst say Dick Blackthorn isn't a man of his word. Down to-day and up to-morrow—that's the game. Hey for the Half Moon and a fig for King George! Ay, come over to the Half Moon; many's the jorum I've had there in the old days, and we'll have another to-night, you and I. I'll stand treat if you'll lend me the price of a bowl till I pay you again. Oh, I'll be a man! I'll go ahead and redeem the past, and eat the fatted calf, and be good—so good that the old man's hairs shall turn brown again for fun."

Whether Dick's sullen desperation or his sudden burst into high spirits was the worse to behold, Stephen could not tell. It was plain the fellow had no more ballast in him than a feather in the wind; and that, whether up or down, his good and bad spirits were equally capricious and vain. A moment ago he was a hunted brute: now he was what a fairly good coat had made him. Stephen saw work before him to which the restoration of Leys Croft was mere child's play. However, it had got to be done.

"Now be off with you," said he. "Mind, I'm trusting you; if I don't find you at the Half Moon by the time I get there, I wash my hands of you. If I do, I'll see to it that if you break down in life again it shall be the fault of neither horse nor girl, but your very own."

"Oh, that's all right," said Dick. "I've half a good mind to go back through Hunchester and meet the redcoats—that would be fun, too. I won't though. I'm going to turn over a new leaf, and be a good boy for the rest of my days. Once out of this scrape, never will I get into another, so sure as my name's Dick Blackthorn. I'll go to the Half Moon as straight as a crow, and wait as long as you please."

"And perhaps by that time," thought Stephen, a little savagely, "it will strike him that it might be decent to ask after his father and his sister, and that it's hardly good manners to take all a fellow's got to give him without so much as a 'Thank you.' Well, I'm not going to help him through for thanks' sake, so I mustn't complain. I must get his father to forgive him; and I must get him to Millport, and put him to work under my own eye. It'll be a stiff job; but, hang it, what a beast I am to grumble about doing for Patience and her father the first thing that's like to come hard. The harder the better, whatever it is; they've done ten thousand times more for me. Poor Dick. I can't think he's a bad fellow at bottom. It's not in the Blackthorn breed."

Perhaps the only impossible thing in the world is to be set on helping a man and at the same time to think of him unkindly. No doubt Dick did look a hopeless case, but then Stephen was in the humor for unlimited hoping. He waited minutes enough for the coast to be clear, and then scrambled back out of the copse in a decidedly less reputable plight than he had entered. Not that there would be anything particularly out of the way in his crossing the few remaining fields hatless and coatless; for, as he had said, a good deal of his recent work had been done in his shirt-sleeves as well as in his brain. Moreover, the mud and moisture he had gathered in the copse would only look as if his out-of-door work had been anything but a sham.

Of course he gave up his idea of going round by way of the church; nor was he particularly anxious, for once, to meet Patience herself all at once; he had dreamed that he should never have a secret from her, and the discovery that one was inevitable, though he hoped but for a few hours, was not agreeable, though it was for the good of all. At the price of a secret, even from Patience, her brother (so at least he thought) must be kept clear of Leys Croft till all risk was past, and till Dick could come home, not to be hidden as a deserter from his colors, but as a clerk in the firm of Prestons & Harlow. For, at any cost, Patience's faith in her brother must be kept whole and pure; forever, if it might be—at any rate, until the last chance of keeping it was gone.

"Blazes, now, if I didn't know 'twas in there he'd be! There, ye rascal; if ye funk a French bullet, stand aisy, if ye don't want an English wan. I'm sorry for ye; but if ye're after tryin' to be troublesome, I'll have to be sorrier still."

Stephen, all hatless, coatless, and up to the eyes in mire, had emerged from the copse, not only into the sunlight, but also into a party of four soldiers in undress uniform, but fully armed, all carrying their muskets save the man who spoke, and who appeared in command. His eyes were half dazzled from the twilight of the copse, and he was certainly startled by such a reception. But there was no doubt as to its meaning—the deserter had been followed, and had no more than three minutes' start of his pursuers, if so many. Well—then the three must be made thirty, or more.

"Why, who do you take me for?" he asked, shading his eyes, and trying to see whether Dick was still in sight or safe beyond the nearest hedgerow on the way to the Half Moon.

"Take ye for—and after the trouble and all! Why, for Private Blackthorn, deserter from me own Fut; that's who I take ye for, and that's who ye'are."

Worse and worse—so Dick had enlisted under his own name.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

A SESSION'S WORK.

The Bills Passed by the Legislature and Approved by the Governor During the Session Just Closed.

The following is the list of the bills which have received the Governor's signature:

Amending Section 229, Revised Statutes; Providing "that a surviving partner or partners, in administering upon the effects of the copartnership, shall be allowed three per cent. on the interest of the deceased partner for like services and trouble.

Enacting Section 247a, Revised Statutes; providing that property that can not be divided or sold to advantage may, upon application of distributees, by order of Court, be delivered to person designated who shall dispose of such property for best interest of distributees. He shall give sufficient bond for faithful discharge of duties.

Enacting Section 242a, Revised Statutes, providing that claims allowed against estates and uncalled for for period of one year shall be paid into the State Treasury, subject to existing laws relating to non-appearing and non-claiming legatees and distributees.

Amending section 334, Revised Statutes, by making all assignments for the benefit of preferred creditors void; also, that all debts and liabilities, including judgments entered thirty days previous to assignment, shall be paid pro rata from assets.

Repealing section 6680, Revised Statutes, and enacting a new one, providing that Assessors shall enter upon duties on 1st day of June next after election.

Amending section 4175, Revised Statutes, by providing that sales of live stock, farm productions, implements and household goods shall be free from duty when sold "by the owner in the county of his residence," instead of "at the residence of the owner."

Establishing Lunatic Asylum No. 3 in Southwest Missouri, and appropriating money therefor.

Appropriating $92,000 for erecting additions to St. Joseph Lunatic Asylum.

Changing the time of holding Circuit Court in McDonald County from first Mondays in February and August to third Mondays in April and November.

Changing time of holding Circuit Court in Scotland County from first Mondays in May and November to first Mondays in February and August.

Changing time of holding Circuit Court in Pemiscot County from second Mondays in March and September to third Mondays in May and November, and in Mississippi County from second Mondays in August and February to first Mondays in April and October.

Changing time of holding court in the Twenty-third Judicial Circuit.

Providing for holding two terms annually of the Randolph Circuit Court at the city of Moberly, and repealing the law establishing the Moberly Common Pleas Court.

Changing time of holding Circuit Court in Warren County.

Changing time of holding Circuit Court in St. Clair County.

Changing time of holding court in the Second Judicial Circuit.

Providing for an additional term of the Jackson County Circuit Court.

Providing that the official stenographers of the Jackson and Buchanan County Circuit Courts shall not receive per diem compensation in suits settled without going into trial, or in suits for the collection of delinquent or back taxes.

Establishing a Criminal Court in Buchanan County.

Authorizing change of venue from Justice of Peace in one township to Justice of Peace in another township in same county.

Requiring banks to include report of bills payable in statements required by law.

Providing for the organization of the Kansas City Court of Appeals, the election of its Judges, their tenure of office and the appointment of its officers, attendants, etc.

Providing for the certification and transfer of causes pending in the St. Louis Court of Appeals to the Supreme Court of Missouri.

Providing for the transfer of cases from one Court of Appeals to the other, and from Court of Appeals to the Supreme Court in case of being sent to wrong court in first instance.

Authorizing the holding of four terms each year of the Randolph County Court at the City of Moberly.

Authorizing and requiring County Courts to loan out any money in the hands of the County Treasurer "collected for the purpose of constituting a sinking-fund for the payment of the principal of indebtedness incurred on account of public buildings," etc., provided no loan shall extend beyond maturity of said sinking fund.

To authorize the County Court of St. Charles County to compromise certain judgments against township and county bonds.

Providing for extra terms of Randolph County Probate Court, to be held at the City of Moberly.

Providing for the erection of Court-houses and jails in places other than the county seat, where courts are held by law at a place other than the county seat.

Authorizing conveyances to be re-recorded free in certain cases where records are destroyed by accident.

Repealing chapter 79, Revised Statutes, entitled "Of Banking and Illegal Currency." This repeals the law prohibiting the loaning foreign capital in this State.

Providing that in cases of suit against constable on bond that all process shall be directed to the Sheriff of the county, whose duty it is made to execute the same.

Making it a misdemeanor to disturb the peace of private individual "or of any person," as the amendment reads. This bill supplies a deficiency heretofore existing in the law.

Making homicide justifiable when committed in lawful defense of a "brother, sister, uncle, aunt, nephew or niece".

Excepting from provisions of law relating to permanent waters of the State, "sloughs, bayous or temporary ponds or streams, caused by the overflowing, in times of high water, of continually running streams."

Increasing penalty for carrying concealed weapons from a minimum fine of $25 to $50, and to a jail imprisonment of not less than five days.

Making it a misdemeanor to "plow up, tear up, or in any way mutilate any public road and highway, without the order of the road overseer of the road district."

To authorize any city containing more than 20,000 and less than 250,000 inhabitants, existing by virtue of special or local laws, to extend its limits, and to divide and redistrict its territory into proper wards, and to cause an enumeration of its inhabitants to be made and its population ascertained.

Amending the law relating to charters of cities of the second class. This is the bill agreed on by the Kansas City and St. Joseph delegations.

Amending law relating to police regulations of cities of the fourth class.

Mr. Wear's bill providing for the organization of trust companies.

Repealing the law "to discourage the keeping of useless and sheep-killing dogs, and to provide indemnity for damages done by same."

Prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors in quantities less than one gallon at the place of manufacture without dramshop license.

Providing that perishable property taken under execution, attachment or replevin may be sold without notice.

Amending law relating to justices' fees.

Providing that in all cases where the garnishee is a corporation and fails to answer, the Court may, upon motion, compel said corporation to answer by attaching the body of the President, Secretary, Treasurer, Auditor, Paymaster or Deputy Paymaster of such corporation, in which case the said corporation shall be liable for all the costs accruing by reason of such attachment.

Also another bill providing that in all cases where the garnishee is a corporation and fails to answer as above described, the Justice shall, on motion of the plaintiff, compel said corporation to answer by attaching the body of the President, Secretary, Treasurer, Auditor, Paymaster or Deputy Paymaster of said corporation, in which case the said corporation shall be liable for all the costs accruing by reason of such attachment.

Authorizing Judge or Clerk of Probate Court to appoint guardian or curators for minors in vacation, where minors have a technical domicile in another county or another State.

Making it the duty of all employers of females in any mercantile business or occupation to provide suitable rests for use of such employes. Penalty, a fine of $25 for violation.

Prohibiting hotel, inn or boarding-house keepers from setting oleomargarine before guests without the dish in which it is served being indelibly marked with some name by which its character is made known; also, another bill to prohibit setting before guests any butterine compounds.

Making it a misdemeanor to obtain board or lodging in any hotel or boarding-house by means of trick, deception, fraudulent representation, statement or pretense, or to refuse to pay therefor.

Mr. Wear's bill, striking out of section 5968, Revised Statutes, the following: "However, that in all cases the Superintendent of the Department shall make or cause to be made a valuation of the policies of said companies at least once in every five years." This leaves it discretionary with the Superintendent of Insurance Department to make such examination.

Repealing section 6013 R. S., and enacting a new law requiring any insurance company not organized under the laws of the States before transacting business in the State, to file power of attorney with the State Superintendent of Insurance, authorizing him to acknowledge or receive service of process in all proceedings instituted in the State or United States against such company, and making such service valid and binding upon the company.

Giving Inspector, under certain conditions, authority to inspect oil within the county for which he is appointed. This bill applies only to Ralls County.

Providing for replenishing the Grand Jury box with names when the list is exhausted.

Providing for the selection of special juries upon application of either party to a suit.

Extending time of filing mechanics' liens to sixty days.

Providing that the words "in vacation" shall be construed to mean any adjournment of the court for more than one day.

Providing for protection of land adjoining swamps or bordering on rivers from overflow.

Making Carleton's abstract of titles in Pemiscot County legal evidence, the official records having been destroyed.

Prohibiting the use of screens by mine owners at mouth of coal pits and giving miners benefit of entire output of coal.

Reducing bond of Mine Inspector from $5,000 to $500.

Requiring Superintendent of Poor Farm to keep itemized account of expenses and account for all money coming into his hands.

Amending the law relating to the assessment and taxation of railroads, by authorizing County Courts to levy taxes on railroad property for the purpose of paying school-house indebtedness.

Providing that railroad companies refusing to furnish double-decked cars for the shipment of sheep shall be liable to pay the shipper not less than $50 nor more than $100 for each failure or refusal, provided that such railroad company shall have the privilege of furnishing, instead of a double-decked car, two cars, for which only one rate shall be charged.

Technically amending the law relating to announcing time of trains, keeping depots warm and erecting passenger stations at crossings, by providing that companies shall be liable for violation of any or either one of the provisions of section 797, Revised Statues.

Authorizing the separate taxation of roads consolidating with other roads exempt by charter or otherwise from taxation.

Repealing act of March 26, 1868, being section 52, article 2, chapter 27, of Wagner's Statutes, amending an act to facilitate the construction of railroads; to limit amount of stock which any county, city or incorporated town or municipal township may subscribe for the construction of railroads.

Changing time of settlement of treasurers of boards of education from 20th of April to 15th of July.

Changing time of settlement of County Treasurers and their accounting for school moneys or funds received, with County Clerks from 20th of April to 15th of July.

Enacting a new section in lieu of Section 7046, Revised Statutes, giving school boards power at regular or special meetings to employ teachers in name of district.

Providing that special meetings shall be called by President and each member notified of time, place and purpose of meeting. Contracts by order of board shall be attested by clerk of district when teacher's certificate is filed with clerk. Certificate must be in force for all the time of the contract. The board shall not employ one of its members as teacher nor shall any teacher serve as clerk of a district. All transactions of the board must be recorded by and filed with the district clerks.

Changing time of annual apportionment of the public school fund among different counties by the State Superintendent of Public Schools from March to July.

Prohibiting County or Township Treasurers from honoring a school warrant issued in excess of the income and revenue of the school district for the current school year; nor shall funds be applied to payment of warrants issued prior to distribution of school funds for current years; nor shall warrants bear interest.

Providing that children in newly created school districts shall have the right to attend school in their original districts until the 30th of June following the creation of the new district.

Repealing the school text-book law, being sections 7087, 7088 and 7089, R. S.

Amending section 7135, R. S., relating to assessment of estimates and providing that assessments for building purposes shall not exceed one per cent. in districts formed of cities, towns and villages; nor more than sixty-five cents on the $100 in other districts for school purposes; one per cent. in districts formed of cities, towns and villages, and sixty-five cents on the $100 in other districts, and forty cents on the $100 for a sinking fund.

Exempting schools under special charter from provisions of section 7076, R. S.

Requiring teachers to hold certificates from State superintendent of Public Schools before being employed.

Increasing salaries of the chief clerks in the office of the Secretary of State, State Auditor, Attorney-General, State Treasurer and Register of Lands, from $1,500 to $2,000 per annum.

Appropriating $1,000 for erecting a laboratory for the Rolla School of Mines and Metallurgy.

Repealing Sections 5463, 5464, 5465, 5466, 5467 and 5468 of the Revised Statutes, thereby abolishing wine and beer house licenses.

Prohibiting members of the School Board in cities and towns of less than 25,000 inhabitants from holding any office of employment or profit under said board, except the Secretary and Treasurer, who may receive reasonable compensation for services.

Requiring annual publication, either printed or written, by School Boards of cities and towns, and by Boards of Directors of other districts, of detailed statement of receipts and expenditures of school moneys, etc.

Requiring President of School Board before drawing any warrant to record his signature with the County Treasurer in a book kept for that purpose.

Providing that the Twenty-first Senatorial District shall hereafter be composed of the Counties of Franklin, Gasconade and Osage.

The Twenty-second Senatorial District of the State shall hereafter be composed of the Counties of Phelps, Pulaski, Laclede, Crawford, Dent, Howell, Shannon, Texas and Wright.

Providing for the sale of swine found running at large unless claimed by owner after three days.

Repealing section 1 of March 27th, 1883, and re-enacting, with emergency clause, section 7524, Revised Statutes, which provides that all real property shall be assessed in the township in which the same is situated, with the owner's name therein, if known. If the owner's name is not known, then it shall be assessed as non-resident.

Appropriating $905 for redemption of bonds held by James Brock, of Carroll County.

Appropriating $22 for redemption of Union military bonds held by W. R. Watts, of Christian County.

There are remaining, consigned in the possession of Governor Marmaduke, about one hundred and twenty bills, which may be signed or vetoed by him any time within the next thirty days.

The general appropriation bill has also been signed by the Governor.

A POLITICIAN'S MISTAKE.

How John O'Neill, a Missouri Congressman, Nearly Lost His Re-election.

Representative John O'Neill, of Missouri, is a veritable son of the soil. Among his granger constituents he is a granger himself, and what he does not know about horses, cattle and patch products is not worth knowing. His district lies in the upper part of St. Louis, but as it embraces the billy-goat and garden-truck suburbs of the metropolis of the Mississippi, his constituency is somewhat rural. To this element Mr. O'Neill has long been a walking encyclopædia of information concerning crops and live stock. During his last campaign, while he was out canvassing, he met one of his farmer constituents driving a cow. He at once began to air his knowledge of bovine breeds with which, he said, he had been familiar since his earliest boyhood days, when his father used to send him out in the ghostly twilight to hunt truant calves.

In the height of the enthusiasm he offered to buy the cow the farmer was driving. The farmer was not anxious to sell, but said he would take $65 for her. "Drive her right up to my house," said O'Neill, "and I'll be there to pay you the money." The farmer, however, suddenly regretted that he consented to part with his favorite cow, and began to think of some way to get out of the trade. All at once a bright idea struck him. Said he, "Let me tell you, Mr. O'Neill, I want to be honest with you. The cow's gentle and a good milker, but there's one thing about her that I ought to tell you of. She has no upper teeth." "Of course that changes the trade," said O'Neill; "you wouldn't expect me to take a cow with such a defect as that. But you bring me a good milker with sound upper teeth and I'll buy her." When the story got out there was great excitement in the cabbage end of his district, and the farmers turned against him en masse. O'Neill learned, to his horror, that cows did not have any upper teeth. He tried to explain, but it was no use. The grangers swore they would not have a Congressman who was "blamed fool enough to believe that cows had upper teeth."

As a result, O'Neill was almost overthrown. He was only re-elected by the skin of his own upper teeth. Since the election he has bought a whole library on the anatomy of domestic animals, and is determined that no designing granger shall catch him napping next time.—*Washington Republican.*

THE ADMINISTRATION.

Republicans Striving to Sow the Seeds of Discontent Concerning the Cabinet.

Some of the Republican journals are industriously at work attempting to sow seeds of discord and discontent within the Democratic party in relation to the Cabinet appointments. They dwell upon the fact that four of the appointments must be credited to the East and North, two to the South and one to the Northwest, and that the Western Democracy has not only not been recognized at all, but that it has received a rebuke on a matter of purely Western interest, viz.: by Mr. Cleveland's letter on the silver question. The answer to all this kind of talk is best made by admitting the facts and denying the conclusion sought to be deduced therefrom. It is true that none of the members of the Cabinet can strictly be classified as representing the West, and it is true that Mr. Cleveland's views respecting the coinage and free circulation of silver are not exactly in accord with Western opinion and Western interests. It does not follow, however, that the Democratic party in the West is at all disposed to quarrel with the President over the formation of his Cabinet. The announcement of the names was undoubtedly followed by a feeling of disappointment, as was the publication of his letter on the silver question by a feeling of disapproval. But on the one hand it is generally recognized and admitted that the President has a right to select his Cabinet in accordance with his own views and from among his personal friends, and men in whom he has special confidence; and on the other, that he has an equal right to his own convictions on the debatable points connected with silver. The seven Cabinet positions, no matter how allotted, need not interfere with a fair distribution of Federal patronage in the West, and the President's views on the silver coinage need not control the action of Congress on the subject. Nothing has been done of any moment against Western interests. We freely admit that in our opinion Indiana, Missouri, Illinois or some distinctively Western State was much more entitled to a representation in the Cabinet than Wisconsin, and that President Cleveland's silver letter had better not been written, but this admission involves no foundation for a quarrel, even of a trifling character, between Western Democrats and the new Administration. All sections of a vast country can not be exactly suited and represented in public acts, and the loyalty of the Western Democracy can not be shaken merely because the first act of the President appears to overlook their just claims. The Democrats of this part of the Union were well aware when they supported Mr. Cleveland for the nomination, or when they supported Hancock, Tilden or Greeley, that in the event of a victory at the election they would elect a man more or less dominated by Eastern influence, Eastern ideas and associations. They supported an Eastern man because, under the circumstances, it seemed to be necessary in order to achieve success, and they were not deterred by the prospect that, if elected, he might be more or less influenced by Eastern interests. The victory won last November represented the triumph of Democratic principles—a triumph that will probably be unreversed for many years. To Western Democrats it brought not only satisfaction, but strength, union, harmony. It improved the organization of the party and strengthened all its energies and agencies, and the mere fact that the President the party elected has chosen to select a Cabinet member from Wisconsin rather than from some strictly Western State will not be allowed to darken the hour of triumph in any way.

Republicans need not base any hopes upon assumed Democratic jealousy or disappointments. The party is all right in spirit and organization—satisfied with the President it has given the country and quite confident of holding on to the Government through the terms of half a dozen administrations. By the time the Democratic party accomplishes its mission and closes its great work of reform, Republicanism, in a party sense, will be but a reminiscence.—*St. Louis Republican.*

THE EX-PRESIDENT'S FAME.

Mr. Arthur Commended Not Because He Has Done Any Great Good, But Because He Has Done No Great Wrong.

There is a good deal being said in an indefinite sort of way about the great credit with which Mr. Arthur retired from the Presidency. An amiable disposition has cropped out almost everywhere to award him praise for having been an excellent President, and yet it would bother any one to mention in what particular line of administration the excellence was shown. It may be that the retiring President proved himself to be so much better in the Presidential office than his previous political course gave reason to expect that he would be, that his not turning out as was expected is entitling him to the credit of having done exceedingly well. The credit is the result of surprise and the merit to which it attaches is more of a comparative than of positive character.

The commendation that rightfully belongs to the Arthur Administration is not for anything particularly good it did, but for its not having done anything very wrong. In considering what great damage the Garfield Administration would probably have done the country if it had lived out its full term under the directing influence of James G. Blaine, the public readily conclude that President Arthur, if he did nothing else, still did the country great service in abstaining from adopting the Blaine policy of the previous Administration.

But he retires from the Presidency without having made a distinct impression except in a social way. The success of no great public measure marked his Administration, nor was there any reform of existing abuses wrought out during his term to make it distinguished. But among society people he shone as the greatest President this country has ever had. In this respect his admirers have great reason to be proud of him. Other Presidents have had distinguishing qualities of different kinds, but Mr. Arthur, in addition to his being the best dressed President of the whole lot, will always be distinguished as the Chief Magistrate who could receive and entertain with the greatest ease and most polished manners blue-blooded visitors from the effete monarchs of Europe.—*Exchange.*

—The North Carolina House of Representatives on Saturday last adopted a design for a new State flag. The design is as follows: A white bar and a red bar run horizontally, the red bar above the white. Near the staff the color is blue to a depth of one-third of the flag. In the center of this blue portion is the coat of arms of the State in gold.—*Raleigh (N. C.) News.*

THE INFAMY OF IT.

An Infamous Act Perpetrated by the Republican Party.

We are gradually getting more light on the last act of infamy of the Republican party, perpetrated as it was stepping down and out of power. "The ruling passion strong in death" has had one more dazzling and brilliant illustration. We refer to the last land steal of 700,000 acres of Government land. The Washington correspondents are gradually getting at the true inwardness of the big $3,000,000 swindle. We published a dispatch last Saturday from the Chicago *Tribune*, which gave out the impression that the matter was all right; quite innocent, in fact; the usual thing expected, of course, from a party that had piled up monuments of big and infamous swindles. The New York *World's* correspondent has been looking the affair up, and he uncovers some very interesting details. According to this account, it seems that several weeks ago a large additional force of clerks was put on for the purpose of making out these patents, so that they could all be signed and issued before the change of the Administration. These patents were all signed. There never has been, in the history of the Department, any patents issued for lands where Congress had assumed jurisdiction to raise the question of the propriety of the title. This backbone grant has been one of the most notorious of all the isolated grants. It was passed by Congress in 1871, and was originally made to the New Orleans, Vicksburg & Baton Rouge Railroad. The condition was that this road should be completed within five years. This company never turned over a spoonful of dirt, and never did anything beyond the issuing of some bonds, which were palmed off on a confiding public.

This railroad on paper transferred the grant to the New Orleans and Pacific Road, and here now is where Jay Gould comes in. This road then sold its charter rights to the Texas Pacific, but reserved the assigned grant and transferred it to "the American Improvement Company." Gould and others owned nearly all this stock, which was a sort of a Credit Mobilier affair. The *World's* correspondent concludes his investigation as follows:

The Backbone grant is upon exactly the same footing as the Texas Pacific, which was forfeited by the Senate the other day. For a number of years the people who held this Backbone grant have tried to get Congress to confirm it. The grant has been rejected a number of times, and no Secretary of the Interior before Teller would ever consider what was particularly a proposition to help steal these lands for the benefit of the railroad lobby. Whether there is an investigation of this or not, Mr. Teller will be called upon to explain on the floor of the Senate his extraordinary course in this matter. There is not much doubt that this Gould and Huntington conspiracy also contemplated the theft of the Texas Pacific lands. If it had not been for the Senate action the other day in forfeiting this unearned grant, there is no suppose that the Interior Department would have issued patents for the fifteen millions of acres of these lands.

This outrage was perpetrated by the last Republican Administration the day before Cleveland's inauguration. It was the culmination of a giant conspiracy and a colossal swindle all along the line. What an appropriate capstone to the monument of infamies of the Republican party! And they hope to get back into power at the end of four years. Not if the American people are awake.—*Indiana State Sentinel.*

UNSOUGHT ADVICE.

Mr. Blaine Taking a Lively Interest in Mr. Cleveland's Administration.

Really it would seem as if Mr. Blaine is taking more lively interest in the Administration of President Cleveland than he would in his own had he succeeded in getting into the White House. His organ, the New York *Tribune*, has been freshly tuned and his fingers are constantly going over the manuals and his toes over the pedals to the one tune of advice to Mr. Cleveland. He tries all sorts of combinations of stops, from the Reid mixtures to the Star Route diapasons. Yesterday he turned on the silver vox humana, and attempted to connect it with the Ku-Klux trumpet, but the combination did not appear to work. Although Mr. Blaine displays much zeal and industry as an organ-grinder, he should try his skill on a less dilapidated instrument than the *