Iron County Register.

By ELI D. AKE.

IRONTON, : : : MISSOURI.

WHAT I'D LIKE.

Like to go a rovin'
Where I used to rove;
Like to go a sneakin'
To the old home grove;
Like the days that used to be
When I'd been a fishin'—Gee!
An' dad was a callin' me,
And each foot was just a draggin' like it hated for to move!

Like to be a climbin'
In the barn for eggs,
Perchin' like a chicken
On the' harness pegs,
An' go diggin' in the hay,
Huntin' eggs, or just in play,
Like I used each rainy day,
Till I run across a briar an' got scratches on my legs.

Like to be a settin'
Sunday evenin's nigh
Where, 'thout no one seein',
I could bat my eye
Where a blue-eyed red-cheeked girl
Sat an' listened, while a curl
Of gold hair set me a-whirl,
Or be perched up after meetin' just a-watchin' her go by.

—J. M. Lewis, in Houston Post.

MY AUNT'S PEWTER PLATE

BY C. M. REED.

HOW pleased we were when it was decided that Pitsie, Nell and I were to spend the winter with Uncle Alex, Aunt Emma and dear grandma, away down in Maine.

Mamma had been very ill and the physician said she must go south and have perfect rest, so Aunt Emma had promised to take charge of us and we were to start in the morning for the farm.

We had never been in the country, except in summer, and Aunt Emma was kept busy answering our questions while packing our clothes and making other arrangements for our journey.

Early the next morning we bade mamma "good-bye," with tearful eyes and sorrowful hearts, for such a long separation, but when we reached the station we were chatting merrily about what we were to see and do at grandma's, and our good-byes to papa, who accompanied us thither, were much more cheerful than one would have thought possible, who had seen our woe-begone faces when starting out.

There were so many pleasures to anticipate, skating and coasting among out-door sports, cows, calves, sheep, horses, swine and hens to be seen at the barn, all remarkable and full of interest to us city-bred children, and indoors, games, books, popping corn and, best of all, grandma and her stories.

Grandma liked old-fashioned ways and things, and never would consent to have coal stoves, and insisted on keeping her open fireplace in her room ready for a fire, summer as well as winter.

She always had plenty of company evenings, for when twilight came the little ones flocked in there, tired with their out-door play, delighted to cuddle down before the pleasant blaze, and listen to one of her delightful stories.

On the second evening after our arrival we were all gathered around the fireside popping corn and roasting apples, when Pitsie said, "Grandma, please tell us a story about when you were a girl."

"Oh," said grandma, "will you never be tired of hearing those old stories? You must know them by heart by this time; you might tell them to me instead."

"Oh! do tell us a story," chorused all together, "a nice story about bears or Indians, or anything like that, you know," rather vaguely added Nell, who revelled in exciting, blood-curdling stories.

"Can't you tell us a real, truly story?" said Pitsie, somewhat anxiously, she, unlike Nell, being somewhat timid, and frightened by the imaginary horrors in which Nell delighted.

"I think perhaps I can suit both of you," said grandma, musingly. "Did I ever tell you how the pewter plate in your Aunt Emma's cabinet came to have one side melted off?"

"No, indeed, you never did," said Pitsie promptly.

"I don't think I ever noticed the plate," said Nell, jumping up from the floor where she was sitting, tending the apples, "can I get it now?"

"Yes," said grandma, "bring it here for us all to see, and then I will tell you how the melting happened; my grandma told me the story so many times, when I was young like you, that now it almost seems to me that I was living at the time, myself, and saw it, as she did, for she was a child about 12 years old, and remembered distinctly every event of that memorable night."

Nell brought the plate and it was duly inspected with much curiosity by us children.

"Why, I always thought that was a tin plate!" exclaimed Pitsie, looking at the plate rather doubtfully. "It looks just like the tin plates they use at the Children's Home."

"It is heavier than tin," I interposed, "and has something stamped on the back, I can't just make out what it is, some trade mark, I think."

"Do let me look!" exclaimed Nell. "Why, that is a lion and unicorn, and," more slowly, "I think, a crown, but it is rather dim, almost worn off."

"Yes," said grandma, "you are correct, Nell, it is of English manufacture, and very old, just how old I cannot say. It belonged to a set, all of which were melted except that and one other, at the time I am about to tell you of, nearly 20 years before the revolutionary war.

"My great-grandfather, William Woodleigh, settled at what is now called Freeport, then a part of Yarmouth, living in a log house in a clearing he had made in the dense forest; his nearest neighbor being about four miles away, and the nearest garrison or block house nearly five miles in another direction, all through thick woods.

"The block houses were built as places of refuge from the Indians, when they were known to be abroad committing depredations. These houses were large enough to accommodate a number of families, very strongly built of logs, and surrounded by a yard in which cattle could be kept, and this in turn fenced in by a very high, strong fence of logs, containing loopholes, through which to reconnoiter and fire upon foes when they appeared; the block house also had loopholes, and the upper story projected over the lower one, so that should the Indians succeed in getting inside the fence or stockade, as it was called, they could be held in check, and perhaps finally driven off from the house itself.

For some years William Woodleigh had tilled his little farm unmolested by the Indians, but as news of their bloody deeds became more and more frequent, and each day brought rumors of their nearer approach, he became troubled, and each night barricaded door and window with the thick blocks each settler kept for the purpose, leaving only the loopholes through which to fire upon them should they make a sudden descent upon his home. In the meantime he made preparations for the speedy removal of his family to the block house should definite news of their approach be heard.

"His household consisted of his wife, five children, the eldest, my grandmother, then 12 years old, James Smith, a young man who worked for him, and himself.

"'Well, Mary,' said Mr. Woodleigh to his wife one twilight in June, 'are you ready to start for garrison to-morrow? James and I have finished planting, and I think perhaps it might be best to be on the safe side. Not that I apprehend any immediate danger,' he added quickly, as he noted his wife's anxious face as she glanced quickly toward the children, who were playing about the floor, 'but in these times it is better to be too soon than too late in seeking safety, and redskins are such 'pesky sly varmints,' as old Joe Wier says.'

"Before his wife could reply, they saw James Smith running rapidly towards the house, evidently much excited.

"'What's the matter, James?' said Mr. Woodleigh, as the man drew near.

"'Indians,' said Smith, breathlessly.

"Mrs. Woodleigh hurried her children into the house, the door and window were quickly barricaded, and while Mr. Woodleigh was filling his powder horn, Smith examined the flints and at the same time related his somewhat startling experience.

"He had gone some distance from the house in search of a cow which had strayed, and in crossing a wet piece of ground, his quick eye had detected a trail where Indians had passed, how many he could not tell, as they went single file, each stepping in the track of the one ahead. 'But,' said Smith, earnestly, 'they must be very near for the water had not settled in their tracks.'

"There could be no question of attempting to reach the garrison that night with the wily foe so near, and perhaps at that very moment, watching the house from the cover of the surrounding forests.

"It was a lovely night, the moon was near her full and the landscape was flooded with light; every object was distinctly visible in the little clearing, each tree and shrub cast a deep shadow on the ground, and often some member of the little garrison would imagine he detected a crouching foe; a profound silence reigned, which was almost oppressive to our anxious watchers.

"It was past midnight, and they were congratulating themselves on their escape, when the melancholy hoot of an owl attracted the attention of Mr. Woodleigh. 'Keep watch,' he whispered to his wife and Smith, 'I am afraid that is a signal. The Indians often use the notes of birds and the cries of beasts to call each other.'

"In a short time the hoot was repeated, but this time from the opposite side of the clearing.

"'I think I can see a dog or some animal near the edge of the woods,' whispered Mrs. Woodleigh.

"Her husband immediately came to her side, and, after a few seconds' scrutiny, he whispered, 'Indians.'

"'They are coming on this side,' whispered Smith, who was watching through a chink on the opposite side of the house.

"'Don't fire until they make some demonstration,' said Woodleigh, 'they may think there is no one here and pass on if we don't molest them.'

"Just then a stealthy step was heard at the door and a creaking noise as though a heavy weight pressed against it; but the heavily barricaded door was made for just such emergencies, and would not yield.

"Soon a line of dark forms were seen approaching the door, bearing something in their midst.

"'We shall have to fire now,' said Smith, 'they have got a log which they are going to use to batter in the door.'

"'Yes,' said Woodleigh quickly, 'you fire at those on the right and I will take those on the left. Mary will reload the extra guns while we fire the others, and so deceive them in regard to our numbers; they are cowardly curs and will not attack except they think a house is weakly guarded,' he added bitterly.

"The reports of the two pieces were almost simultaneous; this was followed by a furious yell, which swelled upon the night air, arousing the sleeping children, and thrilling through the nerves of the little garrison like an electric shock.

"Again the two rifles rang out, and when the smoke lifted it was seen that the Indians had retreated to the cover of the forest, leaving the log and three of their number stretched by it, killed by the discharges from the guns of the white men.

"All remained quiet about the clearing for so long a time that the hope began to be entertained that the savages had retired from the attack; just then Smith's rifle rang out, and he exclaimed:

"'They are on the roof; be ready for them as they come.' He was interrupted by a scratching and scrambling in the chimney, followed by the appearance of a huge savage, who fell, shot through the heart by a shot from Woodleigh's rifle. Almost before his feet reached the floor, Mrs. Woodleigh immediately piled up some light wood in the spacious fireplace, making a quick blaze to prevent further intrusion from that direction.

"A loud whoop was followed by a sharp fusilade, the bullets from the Indian rifles making sharp, zipping sounds as they buried themselves in the logs, or the stout timber of the barricaded door and window.

"The two men fired in return as often as they fancied they detected a dark form skirting the clearing, or crawling through the grass.

"'I am getting short of bullets,' said Smith, 'I have but about two or three charges left.'

"'I have but four or five myself,' said Woodleigh. 'If they should make another sudden rush I am afraid we could not keep them off, but we will do our best, and our clubbed rifles and knives will do some execution,' he bravely added.

"'I will make some bullets at once,' said Mrs. Woodleigh.

"'What will you make them of? There isn't a scrap of lead about the house,' said Mr. Woodleigh, sadly.

"'Yes, there is,' quickly replied his wife; 'you have forgotten my pewter platters and plates. I think they will make good bullets. I'll melt them and run some while you two keep watch; this hot fire is just the thing.'

"Suiting her actions to her words, first the big and then the little platters were melted and run in the molds, which were a part of the equipment of every settler in those times. These were followed in the same order by the plates, until but two remained on the hearth, the two men, meanwhile, firing as often as a redskin showed himself. As the day began to break, Mr. Woodleigh bade his wife cease her work, as for some little time no sign of their foes had been discernible.

"Mrs. Woodleigh was well-nigh worn out with anxiety, and the frightened children were huddled together, having scarcely dared to breathe since that first wild yell aroused them.

"Hope now revived as the daylight advanced. When the sun had risen, no sign of lurking savage being in sight, Mr. Woodleigh determined to go out and reconnoiter a little. Smith kept watch through the loophole which commanded the door, rifle in hand, while Mr. Woodleigh took down the barricade, and opened the door, all being careful to keep well out of range lest a shot come from some unseen source among the trees. Mr. Woodleigh then carefully pushed forward a stick arranged with coat and hat to look like a half-hidden man peeping out; this was for the purpose of drawing the fire of the Indians, should any still remain in ambush. This dummy producing no effect, he went forth. It was a moment of intense anxiety to all, but no sound of shot or whoop or savage greeted his appearance. He soon found a trail leading northward, indicating that the band had become frightened or discouraged and were returning toward Canada, whence they had come. He returned to the house, and after all had partaken of a hurried breakfast they started for the blockhouse, Mr. Woodleigh leading, rifle in hand and one child upon his back. Mrs. Woodleigh followed with the baby in her arms; next to her came the two eldest children, one behind the other, while Smith guarded the rear, rifle in hand and a sturdy little chap, four years old, on his back.

"Upon their arrival at the blockhouse, the news of the attack and massacre of Mr. Means and child and the capture of Miss Molley Finney, a few miles distant, during the preceding night, by another band of savages, probably a part of the same which had attacked them, was told them.

"In a few days it was found that the Indians had surely departed from that region, for a time, at least, and the settlers, who had taken refuge at the garrison, returned to their homes. Mrs. Woodleigh had but two plates left of her pewter dishes, which had been the pride of her heart, among her few cherished household goods; one of those was melted at the side by the heat from the hot fire, when on the hearth that memorable night. But she never regretted their loss. And that is the story, a true one, of your Aunt Emma's Pewter plate.—Portland Transcript.

They Wanted to Know.

A jeweler in a railroad town out west kept a large clock in his establishment—a "regulator"— for the benefit of the many employes of the roads, and he took much pains to see that it was always correct. This, however, did not prevent the frequent question: "Say, is that clock right?"

Tiring of this at last, he caused to be printed in large letters the word "Yes" and this he pasted across the front of the clock as conspicuously as as possible without hiding the dial. But there was where his real trouble began. Every man and boy who came, and some of the women, asked him what that "Yes" meant. In desperation one day, after explaining to nineteen people within an hour what that "Yes" meant, he called his shop boy and said:

"James, get a step-ladder and wash that 'Yes' off that clock before I go crazy and hurt somebody."—Chicago Record-Herald.

Famous Physician's Diplomacy.

Some Philadelphia physicians recently were playfully discussing the diplomacy to be employed with young mothers.

"When I am called to a house where there is a baby whose sex I do not know," said one, "I am always embarrassed as to how to speak of it. A mother always feels better if you ask her: 'How is the little girl?' or 'How is the little boy?' as the case may be, as she usually takes pride in the sex of the child, whichever it is."

One of the most famous physicians in the world remarked:

"I never have any trouble in that regard. I make it a rule to call all babies whose sex is unknown to me 'Francis.' The mother doesn't know whether I spell it with an 'i' or an 'e.' —Philadelphia Public Ledger.

NO PIPE SMOKERS FOR HIM

Took Too Much Time to Keep Them Loaded and Lit to Suit This Boss.

"The most aristocratic gang of diggers, excavators and stone heavers I ever saw was in an up-state town the other day," said the observant man, according to the New York Times. "Nearly every man, from the boss down to the water boy—who was a lusty chap of about 20 with one arm—puffed away at a big, black cigar while hustling on the job. Some of the cigars were five-inchers and others were snipes clinched between the teeth. Occasionally an olive-skinned fellow would straighten his back and lift up his hand; thereupon the water boy would hasten to a box about the size of a herring crate and run with a fine stogie to the worker. The smokee end was snipped in a jiffy, the boy snapped a match, and, presto! the man was back at the job, puffing away as happy as a clam, and evidently contented with life as he found it in a hole in the ground.

"When the boss eased around toward my place of observation I touched his arm and said:

"'Pardon me for troubling you, but your gang is the most exclusive set of aristocratic workmen I ever say. This is quite the smart set among toiling laborers. Not a pipe smoker in the lot.'

"'Aristocratic nothing. It's a matter of money on this job. I'm after money. Takes time to dump the ashes out of a pipe, load up and fire the old thing. The stogie is a cheap and glorious thing to the man who has a gang like mine. No time lost firing up, see? A man doesn't smoke so many cigars in a day after all. He can't. Strongest brand I could get from Wheeling.. Come in crates like herrings. The fellows average about three of those big lunkers a day. Three for a nickel is not bad. I'd discharge a pipe smoker in a twinkle. He's too rich for my job, see? What about the non-smokers? There is one here and there. Oh, he sells his daily allowance to his mates. No butts lying about? They are kept for the evening siesta. Great scheme this of mine. Work and smoke cigars, and the best of it is they are proud when folks mention the thing. There is a richness about the cigar the pipe does not have, after all, see?"

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE.

Trials and Annoyances That Reset the One Chosen to Head the Nation.

For the presidential candidate the period between his nomination and the decisive day upon which all interest centers usually proves extremely trying, says Youth's Companion. Wherever he passes the summer and autumn, reporters and photographers are incessantly alert. So many people desire to see a nominee for the presidency, especially a new one, that he is constantly receiving visitors, and he frequently has to entertain incongruous groups of callers.

Great discretion must be exercised by the candidate, for he can never feel quite sure of the effect of anything that he does or says. Every chance remark, every letter, every formal speech is closely examined by the opposition, in search of statements that may be used against him.

In six contests during the last half-century one candidate was always occupying the white house and running for reelection. Not since 1896 have both candidates been storming the citadels from without, although this was the case in three campaigns in succession, beginning with 1876.

Five of these contests between the candidate and the presidential chair and the one outside have gone into history. The sixth is now in progress. Lincoln, Grant and McKinley were successful, while Cleveland, in 1888, and Harrison, in 1902, were defeated. The chances thus seem fairly even on this score.

The battle is more evenly matched, certainly on its personal aspects, when both candidates are drawn from the field, because they can do the same things. One is not restrained by the proprieties of the presidential office, nor is the other held back from efforts in which his rival cannot meet him.

Although the man in office obviously has some advantages, he clearly labors under many obstacles. He must make decisions on the troublesome questions of current administration, which the outside aspirant need tell what his policy would be only where it suits him to do so.

London Neglects Shakespeare.

London has never had a memorial to Shakespeare. Recently a resident of that city offered to donate $12,500 toward the purpose, if the county council would accept a financial responsibility in the undertaking and secure other contributions. This the council declines to do, and, as much as it appreciates the fitness of thus honoring the greatest of English poets, some one else must guarantee the full funds before it will entertain the provision of a site. Meantime the city which Shakespeare so highly honored will ignore the wishes and generosity of those who would respect his memory, and confine its one public testimonial to the poet to the little bust in Westminster abbey.—Detroit Free Press.

Insufficient.

"So your wife has given up the study of theosophy?"

"Yes. She decided that one astral body would be of no use. Unless she could be at a tea, a progressive euchre party, a meeting of the sewing circle, a matinee and a department store at the same time it wasn't worth worrying about."—Washington Star.

Vipers in France.

Vipers abound in France. The authorities pay five cents each for their heads. At this rate 335,000 have been killed in the department of Doubs alone, and 485,000 in the Haute-Saone department. The other day some men, digging in a river sluice, killed 406 of the venomous reptiles in a short time.

The Continuous Pose.

Mrs. Dobbs—How is your new neighborhood?

Mrs. Dibbs—Oh, just like the other one; all the rich people talk poor, and all the poor people talk rich.—Puck.

PARKER ACCEPTS THE NOMINATION

HIS LETTER TO THE DEMOCRATIC NOTIFICATION COMMITTEE.

VIEWS ON PUBLIC POLICIES

Says the Tariff, Imperialism, Honesty in Public Service and Economy in Governmental Administration Are Paramount Issues.

Judge Parker's formal letter of acceptance to the democratic notification committee is a document of some 8,000 words, and is addressed to Hon. Champ Clark and other members of the committee. In the opening paragraph Judge Parker says he wishes his remarks made at the time of his notification to be considered a part of his formal response. Continuing, he says:

"Grave public questions are pressing for decision. The democratic party appeals to the people with confidence that its position on these questions will be accepted and indorsed at the polls. While the issues involved are numerous, some stand forth preeminent in the public mind. Among these are: Tariff reform, imperialism, economical administration and honesty in the public service. I shall briefly consider these and some others within the necessarily prescribed limits of this letter.

Imperialism.

"While I presented my views at the notification proceedings concerning this vital issue, the overshadowing importance of this question impels me to refer to it again. The issue is oftentimes referred to as constitutionalism vs. imperialism.

"If we would retain our liberties and constitutional rights unimpaired, we cannot permit or tolerate, at any time or for any purpose, the arrogation of unconstitutional power by the executive branch of our government. We should be ever mindful of the words of Webster: 'Liberty is only to be preserved by maintaining constitutional restraints and a just division of political powers.'

Continuing on the same subject, he says:

"The people of the United States stand at the parting of the ways. Shall we follow the footsteps of our fathers along the paths of peace, prosperity and contentment, guided by the ever-living spirit of the constitution which they framed for us, or shall we go along other and untried paths, hitherto shunned by all, following blindly new ideals, which, though appealing with brilliancy to the imagination and ambition, may prove a will o' the wisp, leading us into difficulties from which it may be impossible to extricate ourselves without lasting injury to our national character and institutions?"

The Tariff and the Trusts.

Turning to the subject of the tariff, and the democratic demand for reform in that line, he says:

"Tariff reform is one of the cardinal principles of the democratic faith, and the necessity for it was never greater than at the present time. It should be undertaken at once in the interest of all our people.

"The Dingley tariff is excessive in many of its rates, and, as to them at least, unjustly and oppressively burdens the people. It secures to domestic manufacturers, singly or in combination, the privilege of exacting excessive prices at home and prices far above the level of sales made regularly by them abroad with profit, thus giving a bounty to foreigners at the expense of our own people. It levies oppressive and unjust taxes upon many articles forming, in whole or part, the so-called raw material of many of our manufactured products, not only burdening the consumer, but also closing to the manufacturer the markets he needs and seeks abroad. Its unjust taxation burdens the people generally, forcing them to pay excessive prices for food, fuel, clothing and other necessaries of life. It levies duties on many articles not normally imported in any considerable amount, which are made extensively at home, for which the most extreme protectionist would hardly justify protective taxes, and which in large amounts are exported. Such duties have been and will continue to be a direct incentive to the formation of huge industrial combinations, which, secure from foreign competition, are enabled to stifle domestic competition and practically to monopolize the home market.

"Even now the argument most frequently urged in behalf of the Dingley tariff, and against tariff reform generally, is the necessity of caring for our infant industries. Many of these industries, after a hundred years of lusty growth, are looming up as industrial giants. In their case, at least, the Dingley tariff invites combination and monopoly, and gives justification to the expression that the tariff is the mother of trusts.

"For the above-mentioned reasons, among others, the people demand reform of these abuses, and such reform demands and should receive immediate attention.

"In the words of our platform, we demand 'a revision and a gradual reduction of the tariff by the friends of the masses, and for the common weal, and not by the friends of its abuses, its extortions and discriminations.'

Trust Remedies.

"I pointed out in my earlier response the remedy which, in my judgment, can effectually be applied against monopolies, and the assurance was then given that if existing laws, including both statute and common law, proved inadequate, contrary to my expectations, I favor such further legislation, within constitutional limitations, as will best promote and safeguard the interests of all the people.

"Whether there is any common law which can be applied and enforced by the federal courts, cannot be determined by the president, or by a candidate for the presidency.

"The determination of this question was left by the people in framing the constitution, to the judiciary and not to the executive. The supreme court of the United States has recently considered this question, and, in the case of the Western Union Telegraph company vs. the Call Publishing company, to be found in the one hundred and eighty-first volume of the United States supreme court reports, at page 92, it decided that common law principles could be applied by United States courts in cases involving interstate commerce, in the absence of United States statutes specifically covering the case. Such is the law of the land."

Reciprocity.

He says reciprocity is demanded by the best interest of both manufacturer and consumer, and that reciprocal trade treaties would enure to both. He quotes extensively from President McKinley's last address at Buffalo to show that he appreciated the fact that the so-called "standpat" policy must give way, and that there must be a reduction of duties to enable our manufacturers to compete in foreign markets. Continuing, he says:

"The persistent refusal of the republican majority in the federal senate to ratify the reciprocity treaties negotiated in pursuance of the policy advocated alike by Mr. Blaine and Mr. McKinley, and expressly sanctioned in the Dingley act itself, is a discouraging exhibition of bad faith. As already mentioned by me, the exorbitant duty imposed on many an imported article by the Dingley tariff was avowedly intended by its author not to be permanent, but to serve temporarily as a maximum, from which the federal government was empowered to offer a reduction, in return for an equivalent concession on the part of a foreign country. President McKinley undertook honestly to carry out the purpose of the act. A number of reciprocity agreements were negotiated, which, if ratified, would have had the twofold result of cheapening many imported products for American consumers, and of opening and enlarging foreign markets to American producers. Not one of those agreements has met with the approval of the republican masters of the senate. Indeed, they did not even permit their consideration. In view of the attitude of the present executive, no new agreement need be expected from him. Nor does the republican platform contain a favorable reference to one of the suspended treaties. The reciprocity clauses of the Dingley act seem destined to remain a monument of legislative cozenage and political bad faith, unless the people take the matter in their own hands at the ballot box and command a reduction of duties in return for reciprocity concessions."

Independence for the Filipinos.

"In some quarters it has been assumed that in the discussion of the Philippine question in my response, the phrase 'self-government,' was intended to mean something less than independence. It was not intended that it should be understood to mean, nor do I think as used it does mean less than independence. However, to eliminate all possibility for conjecture, I now state that I am in hearty accord with that plank in our platform that favors doing for the Filipinos what we have already done for the Cubans; and I favor making the promise to them now that we shall take such action as soon as they are reasonably prepared for it. If independence, such as the Cubans enjoy, cannot be prudently granted to the Filipinos at this time, the promise that it shall come the moment they are capable of receiving it will tend to stimulate rather than hinder their development. And this should be done not only in justice to the Filipinos, but to preserve our own rights; for a free people cannot withhold freedom from another people and themselves remain free. The toleration of tyranny over others will soon breed contempt for freedom and self-government, and weaken our power of resistance to insidious usurpation of our constitutional rights.

"The statute relating to civil service is the outcome of the efforts of thoughtful, unselfish and public-spirited citizens. Operation under it has frequently been of such a character as to offend against the spirit of the statute, but the results achieved, even under a partial enforcement of the law, have been such as to both deserve and command the utterance of the democratic party that it stands committed to the principle of civil service reform and demands its just and impartial enforcement.

Panama Canal.

"An Isthmian canal has long been the hope of our statesmen, and the avowed aim of the two great parties, as their platforms in the past show. The Panama route having been selected, the building of the canal should be pressed to completion with all reasonable expedition.

"The methods by which the executive acquired the Panama canal route and rights are a source of regret to many. To them, the statement that thereby a great public work was assured to the profit of our people is not a sufficient answer to the charge of violation of national good faith. They appreciate that the principles and healthy convictions which in their working out have made us free and great, stand firmly against the argument or suggestion that we shall be blind to the nature of the means employed to promote our welfare. They hold that adherence to principle, whether it works for our good or ill, will have a more beneficent influence on our future destiny than all our material upbuilding, and that we should ever remember that the idea of doing a wrong to a smaller, weaker nation that we, or even all mankind, may have a resultant good is repugnant to the principles upon which our government was founded.

"Under the laws of the United States the duty is imposed on the executive to proceed with due diligence in the work of constructing the canal. That duty should be promptly performed.

Pensions for Our Soldiers and Sailors.

"The national democracy favors liberal pensions to the surviving soldiers and sailors and their dependents, on the ground that they deserve liberal treatment. It pledges by its platform adequate legislation to that end. But it denies the right of the executive to usurp the power of congress to legislate on that subject. Such usurpation was attempted by pension order No. 78, and effect has been given to it by a congress that dared not resent the usurpation. It is said that 'this order was made in the performance of a duty imposed upon the president by act of congress,' but the provision making the imposition is not pointed out. The act to which the order refers, which is the one relating to pensions to civil war veterans, does not authorize pensions on the ground of age. It does grant pensions to those 'suffering from any mental or physical disability or disabilities, of a permanent character, not the result of their own vicious habits, which so incapacitates them from the performance of manual labor as to render them unable to earn a support.' This specified requirement of incapacity is in effect set aside by order No. 78 as to all persons over 62.

"The war closed nearly 40 years ago. In the meantime many of our soldiers and sailors long survived the age of 62, and passed away without receiving any pension. Skillful pension attorneys hunting through the statute failed to find there a provision giving a pension to all who had reached 62. Many prominent veterans urged the justice of congressional action giving a service pension to all veterans. Bills to that effect were introduced in congress. And not until March of this year did anyone ever claim to have made the discovery that the president had power to treat the statute as if it read that when a claimant had passed the age of 62 years he is necessarily disabled one-half in ability to perform manual labor and therefore entitled to a pension.

"The present pension commissioner indicated his view of the order when in a recent address he thanked the president for what he had done, and advised his hearers to use their influence that a law might be passed to the same effect. Full confidence after all seems not to have been placed on the defense of justification, for it is pleaded in mitigation that a former democratic president did something looking in that direction. Even if that were so—which is not admitted—our present duty would be none the less plain and imperative. Our people must never tolerate the citation of one act of usurpation of power as an excuse for another. The first may possibly be due to mistake; the second, being based on the first, cannot be. In explanation, however, it should be said that the order relied on simply provided that the age of 75 years should be regarded as evidence of inability to perform manual labor. Few men are able to perform manual labor at that age, but nearly all men are at 62. The first order is based on a fact that experience teaches, the other is based on the assertion of that which is not true as a general rule.

"The old inquiry: 'What are you going to do about it?' is now stated in a new form. It is said by the administration, in reply to the public criticism of this order, that 'it is easy to test our opponents' sincerity in this matter. The order in question is revocable at the pleasure of the executive. If our opponents come into power they can revoke this order and announce that they will treat the veterans of 62 and 70 as presumably in full bodily vigor and not entitled to pension. Will they authoritatively state that they intend to do this? If so, we accept the issue.'

"This suggests the suspicion, at least, that the order was made to create an issue—that it was supposed to present a strong strategic position in the battle of the ballots. But as the making of that order was, in my judgment, an attempted, though perhaps unwitting, encroachment upon the legislative power, and, therefore, unwarranted by the constitution, the challenge is accepted. If elected, I will revoke that order. But I go further and say that that being done, I will contribute my effort toward the enactment of a law to be passed by both houses of congress and approved by the executive that will give an age pension without reference to disability to the surviving heroes of the civil war; and under the provisions of which a pension may be accepted with dignity because of the consciousness that it comes as a just due from the people through their chosen representatives, and not as largess distributed by the chief executive.

Reform in Governmental Expenditures.

"Twenty-eight years have passed since the democratic party of the state of New York in convention assembled, recommended to the national democracy the nomination of Samuel J. Tilden as its candidate for the presidency, and declared it to be 'their settled conviction that a return to the constitutional principles, frugal expenses and administrative purity of the founders of the republic is the first and most imperious duty of the times—the commanding issue now before the people of the union.' This strong expression was called forth by the national expenditures for the year 1875, which amounted to $274,000,000—a situation which, in the opinion of a majority of our people, justified an imperative demand for reform in the administration of public affairs. As the expenditures of the last fiscal year amounted to the enormous total of $582,000,000, it is evident that a thorough investigation of the public service and the immediate abandonment of useless and extravagant expenditures are more necessary now than they were then. This astounding increase is out of all proportion to the increase of our population, and finds no excuse from whatever aspect we view the situation. The national democratic platform declares that 'large reductions can easily be made in the annual expenditures of the government without impairing the efficiency of any branch of the public service.' Can there be any doubt of the accuracy of this statement? Between the expenditures of the year 1886, amounting to $242,000,000, and those of the last fiscal year—the seventh after Grover Cleveland ceased to be president—aggregating $582,000,000, there is a difference so great as to excite alarm in the breasts of all thoughtful men. Even excluding the sum of $50,000,000 paid for the Panama canal rights, and to the state of Panama, the expenditures of the last fiscal year exceeded the sum of $532,000,000, being more than double the expenditures of the government for all purposes during the first year of Mr. Cleveland's administration.

"The expenses of the first four years succeeding the last democratic administration amounted to the enormous average of $511,000,000 per year. This large expenditure was due to a considerable extent to the cost of the Spanish-American war, which occurred during that period; but the termination of that war brought no relief to the treasury, for the average annual expenses of the government, during the three subsequent years ending June 30, 1904, were about $519,000,000, which is the largest sum hitherto reached during a like period, since the close of the civil war.

"This draft upon the revenues of the country has had the effect which might have been anticipated, and now we have presented the reverse of the situation, which led to the famous observation: 'It is a condition, and not a theory, which confronts us;' for, although the present incumbent found at the close of the first fiscal year, during which he assumed control of the administration, a surplus of receipts over expenditures of more than $91,000,000, there was an excess of expenditures over receipts at the close of the last fiscal year of $42,000,000, and the official monthly reports made by the treasury department show that the expenditures are continuously and rapidly increasing, while the receipts are diminishing.

"In this connection it is interesting to note the recent administrative orders forbidding government officers from making public any statement of estimates on which future appropriations are to be based.

"If a man of ordinary intelligence and prudence should find in the operating expenses of his business such a tremendous percentage of increase, would he not promptly set on foot an inquiry for the cause of the waste, and take immediate measures to stop it, especially when trusted employes have been found dishonest and convicted, and a widespread impression exists that a thorough investigation may discover other cases of malfeasance? When the chief executive reported to congress that, 'through frauds, forgeries and perjuries, and by shameless briberies, the laws relating to the proper conduct of the public service in general, and to the due administration of the post office department have been notoriously violated * * *,' there was a general popular demand for a rigid, sweeping investigation by congress, in addition to that undertaken by the executive himself. Such an investigation the republican majority in congress would not permit, although the minority insisted that the interests of good government demanded it. And the minority was right. The liberality, patriotism and national pride of the people should not be made an excuse for waste of the public funds. Official extravagance is official crime.

"There is not a sentence in the republican platform recommending a reduction in the expenditures of the government; not a line suggesting that the increase in the cost of the war department from $34,000,000 in 1886 to $115,000,000 in 1904 should be inquired into; and not a paragraph calling for a thorough investigation of those departments of the government in which dishonesty has been recently disclosed.

"Reform in expenditures must be had in both the civil, military and naval establishments in order that the national expenditures may be brought to a basis of peace and the government maintained without recourse to the taxes of war."

Conclusion.

Among other things which are touched upon in the letter is the democratic pledge to secure to all citizens equal protection abroad. The need of careful diplomacy in the management of the foreign relations of the government, and the democratic pledge to administer this department of the government in conformity with the principles laid down by Washington. The need of legislation in aid of American shipping, so that it may again be commensurate with American commercial interests.

He pledges the democratic party to a wise and careful administration of the national statutes concerning the irrigation of the arid lands of the west, and in conclusion says:

"The issues are joined and the people must render the verdict.

"Shall economy of administration be demanded, or shall extravagance be encouraged?

"Shall the wrongdoer be brought to bay by the people, or must justice wait upon political oligarchy?

"Shall our government stand for equal opportunity, or for special privilege?

"Shall it remain a government of law, or become one of individual caprice?

"Shall we cling to the rule of the people, or shall we embrace beneficent despotism?

"If it be the wish of the people that I undertake the duties of the presidency, I pledge myself, with God's help, to devote all my powers and energy to the duties of this exalted office. Very truly yours,

"ALTON B. PARKER."

Back Talk.

He—It's ridiculous for you women to talk of intuition and all that.

She—Not as ridiculous as to talk of a man's common sense, for any sort of sense in a man would be most uncommon.—Philadelphia Press.

Just Like a Woman.

Biggs—I see that a Kansas man has just married a spinster who owned 900 chickens.

Diggs—That's just like a woman; if she can't get a husband by fair means she will by fowl.—Chicago Daily News.

Ambiguous.

"And so you like Miss Learned, Louise?"

"Yes, indeed," replied the enthusiastic Louise, who had just returned from an autograph hunting expedition, "and you can't tell by talking to her that she has a bit of sense, auntie."—N. O. Picayune.

Easy to Tell.

When the woman who has been away for the summer calls on the one who hasn't, even a weary man can tell who does the listening.—Somerville Journal.

The Umpire's Turn.

"Charley, dear," said young Mrs. Torkins at the baseball game, "doesn't that man in the blue clothes run, too?"

"Not till after the game is over. Then he runs and hides."—Washington Star.

Recognized His Style.

Mrs. Newrich—And who is this by?

Picture Dealer—That is a chromo, madam.

"Oh, yes; of course it is. Now that you mention it, I recognize his style."—Detroit Free Press.

Highly Praised.

Meeks—Why don't you try Dr. Quackem's elixir of life? A friend of mine who took a bottle of it praises it to the skies.

Weeks—Yes, and a friend of mine who took three bottles of the stuff is now up there somewhere.—Chicago Daily News.

"Feel" to Coral.

Judges of coral say there is a "feel" to the genuine article that the imitation lacks. Real coral has a waxy feeling, while the imitation is as hard as marble to the touch.—N. Y. Post.

A Mean Slap.

Miss Oldun (coyly)—When he proposed I kept him in suspense for at least ten minutes.

Miss Critic—Oh, I guess not. I suppose it merely seemed that long to you. —St. Louis Republic.

Lives of the Literary.

"Poor old Versely died last night."

"Indeed?"

"Yes, he turned over and died without a struggle."

"Well, he died easier than he lived, then."—N. O. Picayune.

Japs Do Flare Up.

A German correspondent at Tokio writes that, while the Japanese as a rule are true to their national custom of not betraying their emotions, whether the news from the seat of war be favorable or unfavorable, there are limits to this reserve. When it became known that the Russians had sunk three transports at Ikishima and that Admiral Kamimura had not succeeded in capturing the Vladivostok fleet, a mob started for the admiral's house in the Shiba park, and the police barely succeeded in saving it from demolition.—N. Y. Post.