

A Modern Miracle. The Pittsburgh Dispatch

To-morrow, Sunday, June 9, 1889.

A Number of New Features which makes it

A Wonderful Example of Modern Genius.

The Only Girl in Overlook, A Western Story written by Franklin Pitt

By Wilkie Collins.

Will be Published Complete in this Issue.

The Johnstown Disaster

Will be Described at Length, together with the Very Latest News from the scene.

A Large corps of talented writers and artists will contribute their best efforts to the columns of this paper, and the result will be a domestic and local report will be given, making this issue of THE SUNDAY DISPATCH, from a journalistic point of view.

A Modern Miracle.

The Dispatch.

ESTABLISHED FEBRUARY 8, 1849.

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Copies per issue.

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upon Mr. Foster's qualifications for the office as compared with the qualifications of the other gentlemen who are candidates for the place. But this is flat heresy! If men are to be appointed solely on account of their qualifications, what becomes of the great principle of rewarding party services?

It is for asserting such ideas as this that the Mugwumps are despised and rejected of all party politicians, and if the esteemed Court adopts the idea that qualifications, and not party service, should govern in the selection of officeholders, it will soon be better than a heretical and unreliable independent journal.

WHICH GAME WAS IT? The discouraging nature of the avowal by Dr. Crosby to the Presbyterian General Assembly that one of the clerical brethren had been relieved of \$50 by a confidence man is apparent. That the crooks of New York should betray the guileless trust of the Presbyterian brother is bad enough, but there is worse behind in the fact, pointed out by Dr. Crosby and some of the press, that he was victimized by a confidence man usually argues some guile on the part of the victim.

But the guilt of the victim, it should be remembered, depends on the modus operandi of the sharps who took in the clerical brother and his cash. If the general gentleman who was showing his revered acquaintance the town, drew him by means of the well-known "feeding," or "a little game," then the Presbyterian pastor must be taken as an example of a good man gone wrong after the lusts of lottery gambling.

Or if the green goods game was played—but we will not admit the possibility that the clergyman could fall before the temptation of that swindle to engage in passing counterfeit money.

But our trust in the clerical profession is so strong that we do not believe it was either swindle which took in the victimized minister. His general and unexpected acquaintance probably had to meet a payment and had to borrow \$50 on a bond for \$500. The clergyman lent it to him, and so appears in his true character of a credulous, but upright, victim for the deceits.

THE Civil Service Commission's exposure of the custom house jobbery is somewhat less reformatory than it would have been if it was not attacking the work of the previous administration. When the Commission attacks some of the prevailing evils it sweeps it will be doing good work.

IN connection with the statement that there is a great deal of work done by thousands of miners who are out of work in the anthracite region, as the result of the combine among the operators to force up the price of coal, the Philadelphia Press says: "It is a pity that there is no law to reach this greedy combination." Inasmuch as no less an authority than the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania has declared that exactly such a combination is criminal conspiracy, the statement is correct in the fact that there is no law to reach this greedy combination; but that the trouble is not the law—it is that public officers do not enforce the law.

THE declaration of the Persian Minister at Washington that it is impossible for the Shah to visit this country because there is no one here with rank enough to receive him, is another evidence of the great good fortune of this country in its absence of rank.

IN view of the fact that both Quay and Waukegan have declared themselves in favor of prohibition in Pennsylvania, an exchange says: "It remains to be seen how strong an influence these two distinguished gentlemen can exert in its favor." The question may be rather how much influence they will exert, instead of "can exert."

IF we may be observed that neither of us is distributing any offices upon the plan of advertising the prohibition cause.

THE Philadelphia Times declares that there is no actual need of an extra session of the Legislature because "The policy of State appropriation to temper a common misfortune in any community is very questionable." This may or may not be true. Whether State appropriations to temper misfortunes are any more questionable than private charity for the same purpose is a subject capable of more discussion than is worth while to give it now. The Johnstown people are abjectly helpless, and have got to be aided either by State appropriation or by private charity. Probably it is not promptly done. It is the business of the State to see that it is done and done promptly, and these who cannot recognize the necessity have little idea of the nature of the disaster.

THE appearance of typhoid fever at Johnstown is an almost inevitable result of the disaster; but it proves the necessity of vigorous work to keep it from becoming epidemic there and from spreading to other cities.

THE postal authorities announce that "the sickly green postage stamp" will shortly be retired to the scenes of private life, and be hereafter counted among the things that have been to the world.

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THE SINGLE TAX IDEA.

Further Views on the New School of Economic Thought—The Wages of the Taxpayer and the Evils of Speculation Discussed.

THE Editor of The Dispatch: In answer to your correspondent's single tax article, you give them a respectful hearing, certainly, as they have a right to ask. It is worthy of a newspaper that wishes to keep abreast of the times, and in the present emergency, here is a new school of economic thought who say: We can abolish involuntary poverty; we can raise wages; we can let you why it is that the poor grow poorer and the rich richer; we can show the relation between capital and labor, and by showing that their interests are identical, and by pointing out to them their common enemy, opportunity, we can give them a new and a better life. These are certainly grand tidings of the times. Colonel Roberts was one of the most famous engineers in the country. He died several years ago in Chili. The contractors for the construction of the dam were General J. E. Moorehead, Judge W. M. Packer, of Williamsport, and another gentleman, General Moorehead had built many dams before this the dam at Johnstown. The dam was always known to be of the very best. In this case, however, all that had to do with the dam was the dam itself, and the dam was of particularly solid construction.

How the Dam Was Built. "There is no sign of the discovery of straw and dirt among the ruins of the dam. Both are freely seen when dams are being built to stop the numerous leaks. The dam had been built on a bed of soft sand, and it was this that caused the failure. There was too much water in the lake and permit the escape of the surplus. These gates were in big stone arches, through which the water passed, and the canal when the lake was used as a feeder. In 1859 the Pennsylvania Railroad Company purchased the canal from the State and the dam and lake were sold to the same company. Shortly afterward the Pennsylvania Railroad Company sold the canal and the dam to the State. The dam was always known to be of the very best. In this case, however, all that had to do with the dam was the dam itself, and the dam was of particularly solid construction.

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