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DEATH OF SECRETARY GRESHAM.

The death of the secretary of state, which occurred last Monday morning, was in the nature of a surprise to the American people; while he had been ill for some time past even his intimates did not appreciate the seriousness of his sickness.

The career of Walter Quintan Gresham was a checkered one. It was the career of a good man whose head, in his declining years, had been turned by politics. He served through the war with distinction, retiring as a brigadier general of volunteers. After the war he returned to his home in Indiana and took up the practice of law and also his unsuccessful career as a politician. He was defeated for congress in 1866 and was appointed federal district judge in 1869 by President Grant whose confidence he had enjoyed as a soldier. In 1880 he aspired to wear the toga and failed; in 1882 President Arthur gave him the portfolio of the postmaster general, and later he was made secretary of the treasury.

The presidential bee had long troubled him. His name had been mentioned repeatedly as the candidate of the Grand Army and as often as it was presented to the conventions he was disappointed. He was confident that he would be nominated in 1892 and his chagrin was so great over the nomination of Harrison that he forsook the party of his principles and which had repeatedly honored him—not enough, however, to satisfy his ambition—and went over to the Democrats and Grover Cleveland. Harrison had betrayed him and he sought to revenge himself by working for the democratic nominee. Cleveland rewarded his perfidy by making him secretary of state, and in this capacity he has been merely the nominal head of the department. He was just the kind of a man that Cleveland wanted.

While his political career is one that does not call forth admiration, his personal traits were those of a just and honorable man; in his private life he was a Christian gentleman; the nation may not miss him, but in Indiana his demise will be sincerely mourned.

THE PONY COUNTRY.

To those whose faith in the future of Madison county is a fixture there is a cheering article on another page of this paper. We invite the perusal thereof of the unbelievers in this county's future greatness, in order that they may have time to change their minds and fall in the rear as gracefully as possible when the procession passes.

The Pony country is certainly a wonderful section in a mineral way. It has fabulous deposits of mineral-bearing rock, so much in fact that the unbelievers will scoff and reach for the "grain of salt" when expert figures are quoted them. But it has the rock just the same—millions of tons of it, rich in gleaming gold—in sight, and as yet there has been but a scratching of the surface, comparatively speaking.

The day is not far distant when, isolated as she is, this county will produce 50 per cent. of Montana's annual output—and when she does, Pony will be heard from, as will a dozen other camps now in process of development.

The MADISONIAN is the exponent of Madison county, and before the leaves of autumn fall it proposes to let the world know of the favors with which nature has blessed this section. In this modest endeavor it asks the cooperation of all who believe in Madison's future greatness. Data is wanted, facts and figures only, as our resources are such that no distortion of the facts as they exist are necessary.

Missoula was thrown into convulsions one day last week by the appearance on the street of a fair bicyclist in red bloomers. The new woman is right in it in Montana. In Butte she dictates school election results and in Helena the office of attorney general has been turned over to her.

The rumor that Hill has purchased the Northern Pacific is abundantly substantiated by Slippery Jim's denial.

Boston newspapers advise investors to buy gold mines. There is a field for their money in Madison county.

The press gang will meet in Billings on the 25th inst. And now that the income tax has been declared unconstitutional, editorial glee and hilarity will be unbounded. The escape was a narrow one, however.

If the Inter Lake is correctly informed the Nez Perce Indians are playing base ball and every member of the tribe who can scrape together enough money is investing in a bicycle. Madame Lo will rise to the dignity of bloomers next.—Independent.

The cause of silver is gaining friends, every day in the east, and the efforts of the assinine secretary of the treasury to stop the rapidly spreading sentiment in the white metal's favor will avail naught. He might as well try to prevent the day from dawning. His boomerang will return to him in 1896.

A meeting has been called to take steps looking to the celebration of the Fourth, and it is hoped that all good citizens will lend their moral support to the movement by attending. We are the greatest people in the world and we should not forget the meat upon which we were fed in infancy which has resulted in our growth and prosperity as a nation.

The "Greater Standard" was issued Sunday morning and it is certainly a most creditable production. Sunday's edition was a seven-column, 16-page number, as full of news and matters interesting as G. Cleveland is of tacks. Enterprise has ever been the watchword of our big contemporary; no newspaper enterprise has been too great for it to attempt and success has almost always rewarded its efforts.

The wonder is that nobody has ever made it before—the attempt to reach the north pole in a balloon. Mr. S. A. Andree, a Swedish civil engineer, will try it next year, in the summer. With headquarters and supplies at Spitzbergen, he will start northward in a balloon 72.6 feet in diameter. This, scientific French balloonists say, will hold gas enough to last 30 days without refilling. Mr. Andree's living room will be in a car beneath the balloon. It will be furnished with a large photographic outfit, so that as the voyagers sail over the pole they can take pictures of striking scenes and objects. It is daylight all the 24 hours around at the pole in July. The explorers will rise in the air above Spitzbergen and take a direct line for the pole and across it to Bering sound on the Alaskan coast. The distance is a little less than 2,300 miles. Andree expects to travel it in six days. The car will be provided with sails, with which it is hoped to steer the balloon. Two persons will accompany the aeronaut. The nearest habitable point to the pole thus far occupied is the island of Spitzbergen, which is only 700 miles distant from it. Baron Norden-skjold pronounces Andree's idea feasible.

Russia aims to be a rival of America in the cotton raising business. The emperor himself has a vast plantation devoted to this staple on the crown lands in Turkestan. Some years ago the Russian government sent a commissioner to this country to thoroughly investigate the manner of cotton culture in our southern states. He spent considerable time in the south, picking up much information, which he carried home with him for the development of cotton growing in southern Russia. Still Russia can never be much of a rival to the United States in cotton production. The czar's realm has too much climate for it.

It may be interesting to know that 600,040,314 acres of the public lands are still vacant and ready to be homesteaded. The president will soon open to entry a large tract of rich farming land in South Dakota. The Nez Perce Indians in Idaho have also sold their reservation to the government, and this tract will in a not long time be open for settlement. That will give us at least two more boomer rushes.

There are many enterprising negroes in Florida, and they will have a handsome exhibit at the Atlanta exposition, showing that the black man is capable of conducting trade and manufacturing for himself.

How people do lie! For years there has been a tradition that the late Mrs. Paran Stevens, one of New York's Four Hundred, was originally an Irish chambermaid in the Fifth Avenue hotel. Hotel Proprietor Stevens saw her, the story went, was attracted by her and married her, and through her own un-

aided efforts she became one of New York's blue blooded society leaders. Her example has been quoted as an inspiration to hotel chambermaids to put forth their powers and hook their bosses. No doubt thousands of persons in different parts of the Union believe the ridiculous chambermaid tale to this day. There is not a word of truth in it. Mrs. Stevens came of an excellent Massachusetts family, and her name was Marietta Read. She was remarkably well educated and possessed every advantage that could be enjoyed by young women in her day. She was a scholar and linguist and could address in their own language any of the foreigners who attended her receptions. She was peculiar—eccentric, in fact—but, so far as brains and education went, she was head and shoulders above almost any other fashionable society woman in New York. And that is the truth.

Events travel so fast it is hard to realize that slavery existed in the city of Washington itself only 33 years ago. The slaves in the District of Columbia were emancipated by proclamation of President Lincoln April 16, 1862.

The decision of the Missouri court of appeals that a board of education has the absolute right to enforce vaccination on public school pupils furnishes a precedent for deciding this question elsewhere.

Mrs. Paran Stevens was famous as a society woman. She was also famous as the woman of lawsuits.

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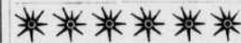
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