Why Alabama Opposes Free Trade.

There are few northern men who begin fairly to appreciate the marvelous developments of the exhaustless mineral and metallic resources of the southern states. The bare and cold statistics that tell the story of these developments during the past ten years are so phenomenal and startling that they have to be made gradually familiar by reiteration and explanation in order to become the realities in common appreciation that they are in fact.

We are freshly reminded of this by the statements of that trustworthy Alabama newspaper, The Birmingham Age, which says that there will be built, this year, in Alabama, twenty new iron furnaces, with an average output of 2,000 tons a day, or 700,000 tons per annum. This output, with that of the existing furnaces, will run the output of 1888 up to about 1,000,000 tons, and it is hoped by the Alabamians that in that year their state will contest with Ohio the honor of being the second iron producing state in the Union, the iron output in Ohio last year having been 975,539 tons. Thus, in 1889, the iron product of Alabama, estimated at fully $15,000,000, will be one of the three most valuable products of the state, ranking above the corn crop, about $10,000,000, and below the cotton crop, about $15,000,000.

It is such vast economic changes as these that are convincing those Alabamians, whose future is not behind them, that the continuance of Republican protection is of vital importance to their interests, and that the true way to reduce the surplus is by abolishing the direct taxes and thus adding to the power of the states to tax the whisky manufacture, so as to limit its evils and to make it pay part of the local taxes which are made necessary by the liquor traffic.—New York Mail and Express.

The Whole Story in a Paragraph.

Free traders say that tariff duties are taxes on the consumers. If we had no tariff our imports would very largely exceed our exports. We would have to meet this excess by money, and it would be a heavier tax on the country than the duties under a protective tariff. During the revenue reform tariff period, from 1846 to 1861, although we were producing immense quantities of gold from the California mines we had to send it abroad by every outgoing steamer to pay our debts for imports, because we could not export enough to pay for what we imported. On the other hand, if we buy only articles of domestic manufacture and production the money we pay for them remains here to add to our prosperity by keeping the wheels of industry in motion. What we pay for foreign goods is the real tax, not the duty on them.—Fiber and Fabric.

Home Artists Are Too Common.

It is, perhaps, not strange that this present un-American free trade administration should cater to foreign governments, but when Secretary Whitney advertises only in French and other foreign newspapers for plans for a steel submarine vessel he discourages and discredits American skill in an entirely unwarrantable manner. America surpasses the world in inventive genius, and the greatest gifts to mankind in the way of inventions for practical uses have come from American inventors. Whenever the demand has been made the invention has been forthcoming, showing that here necessity is indeed the mother of invention.—Burlington Free Press.

The Difference in Parties and Men.

Senator Davis, of Minnesota, has resigned his position as member of the national Republican committee because he thinks it inconsistent with his duties as senator. Meanwhile, Secretary Vilas and Postmaster General Dickinson, two trusty pillars of this Democratic sham civil service reform administration, continue to hold their places in the national Democratic committee. If any one puts any faith in the civil service pretensions of the administration, or if its pretensions had not been exploded long ago, this exhibition of "offensive partisanship" would cause some surprise.—Cleveland Leader.

We Are Wide Awake, Thank You.

If anybody thinks the Republican party is asleep or apathetic, let him read the daily accounts that tell about the organization of new clubs, state leagues and other important adjuncts to a national campaign. The party was never more active or alert, and its young men, who give it vigor and aggressiveness, are especially bestirring themselves. The skies are bright with the promise of success if proper effort be put forth, and the mass of Republicans are rousing for a supreme effort during the presidential campaign.—Troy Times.

Bad Advice or No Advice.

Mr. Cleveland has either listened to bad advice, or he has listened to none. The former is the more probable. The certain thing is that he has made a bad botch of it and damaged himself irreparably. Men of sagacity and influence, who a few months ago were open in their praise of him, are today secretly plotting his defeat. He has gained no friends except those who have been paid for with office, and made enemies of men who have the power and the disposition to harm him.—Omaha Republican.

Right, as Sure as You're Born.

Real name of the next Democratic candidate for the presidency:

ClevelanD,
VoorheEs,
McDoNald,
RaNdall,
Higgins,
St. John.

—Chicago Tribune.

Just the Article Wanted.

This much may be safely affirmed as to the Republican temper in relation to the presidential nomination: It desires a man who is always a Republican, who is for protection to American industry, who is for a free vote and a fair count in all the states, and who will use all the means at his command to enforce it.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

Facts Never Trouble Them.

There isn't a free trade organ in the country that doesn't know that domestic competition has been built up by protection, and that it is this that has made the prices of manufactured goods low to the consumer. And yet we have never seen a free trade organ that was fair enough to even concede the fact.—Detroit Tribune.

A Very Common Complaint.

New England business men are making a strong effort to get better mail facilities. The movement is general throughout the country. It shows how the administration of the postal service has fallen away under a "reform" administration.—Rochester Post-Express.

THE FIRST MEERSCHAUM PIPE.

A Place Where Half the Pipes in the World Are Made—Amber and Clay.

Ruhla, a mountain village in Thuringia, is the place where most of the amber and meerschaum is used, and where half the pipes in the world are made. Like Sheffield and Toledo, it was famous in the middle ages for its arms and armor, but when the invention of gunpowder made swords and breastplates useless, the attention of the people was turned to the manufacture of meerschaum pipes with amber stems. The first meerschaum pipe, it is said, was carved from a piece of clay brought as a curiosity from Asia Minor, and presented to the Duke of Wallenstein. It was not intended for use, but the duke's fancy directed the most famous carver in the place to fashion the snowy clay in the form of his favorite pipe as an ornament. In a sportive mood he filled the plaything with tobacco, and was so pleased that he never put any other pipe to his lips again. All the knights at once followed the fashion, and the crusaders to the Holy Land made it a rule to send or bring home with them pieces of the clay to be carved by the Thuringian artists.

Ever since has the little town of Ruhla been the headquarters of the meerschaum and amber manufacture. Meerschaum is not the petrified foam of the sea, as is popularly supposed in some quarters because of its name, but is a peculiar clay, found only at Eshki-Scher, in Asia Minor, as the true amber is found only on the coast of Samland. The two precious substances meet at the little city of Ruhla, where 5,000 artists are employed in fashioning them to the fancy of men. The number of pipes turned out is enormous, the yearly average of real meerschaums being 700,000, varying in value from $2 to $200. The emperor of Austria is the owner of a pipe that is said to be worth 40,000 florins, made of the largest piece of pure meerschaum that was ever found, and having a stem of amber to match. The trouble with meerschaum, as with amber, is impurity. A flaw or a bubble spoils the whole piece as if it were a diamond.

All the meerschaum pipes are cut by hand, after the rough edges and corners have been trimmed off by machinery, and the artists are trained to their work, like the watchmakers of Geneva and the porcelain artists at Sevre and Dresden, at schools provided by the government. Ruhla turns out no end of other pipes made by machinery—a million or two imitation meerschaums each year, 10,000,000 porcelain pipes, 15,000,000 made of various grades of clay, and countless millions made of briar wood. It is claimed that last year's product of the Thuringian shops was not less than 100,000,000 pipes of all varieties.—William Eleroy Curtis in Chicago News.

"Blizzard" an Old Word.

I read with interest an article upon the derivation of "blizzard." As it is well to keep trace and record of the growth of our language, I offer what little I know concerning the word. From boyhood I have heard it constantly, and I know that it was quite familiar to my elders more than fifty years ago in central Pennsylvania—Center, Blair, Clearfield and adjacent counties. The word was always used to include the idea force, violence, spitefulness, or vindictiveness. If one dealt another a hostile blow he "gave him a blizzard on the nose," "on the jaw," "between the eyes," etc. If a magistrate lectured a litigant severely he "gave him a blizzard." If in debate one dealt mercilessly in ridicule he "gave his opponent a blizzard." If one man swore at or cursed another he "gave him a blizzard." If a man's wife scolded him she "gave him a blizzard." I never heard the word elsewhere till within the last four years, when I encountered it in the papers "out west," where it was applied to sudden and severe storms.—Ward Ries in New York Evening Sun.

Wonderful System of Mnemonics.

There is a wonderful system of mnemonics invented by the late Dr. John L. Dagg, after he became blind. He divided the four walls and the ceiling of his room into fifty points, and by associating dates, names or facts with these points he was able, after a long time, to call them to mind instantly. It was his custom to have his secretary read to him, and by the use of this system the facts were retained in his mind in their proper order so accurately that from these studies he completed a number of books, some of which are still used as text books in this state. The same system has been successfully taught in several female colleges in this state by a daughter of Dr. Dagg, and her classes used it to advantage in their studies.—Atlanta Journal.

The Newest Electrical Curio.

Mr. Volk, whose electric railway is known to all visitors to Brighton, England, has constructed an electrically driven dogcart, which attracts a good deal of attention among the leisured crowds which throng the gay Sussex watering place. It is driven by a half horse power Immisch motor and sixteen small accumulators, which have a capacity equal to six hours' work. In the desire to keep the machinery light, scarcely sufficient power has been provided, so that, although the vehicle will make a speed of nine miles an hour on asphalt, it only makes a speed of four miles on a soft macadam road, while, with two passengers, an incline of one in thirty is the limit of its climbing power.—Electrical World.

Catholics in Victoria's Realm.

The Catholic population of England is estimated at 1,354,000, of Scotland at 326,000, of Ireland at 3,961,000; total, 5,641,000. In the colonies there are 175,000; in Asia 980,000, in America 2,183,000, in Australasia 568,000 Catholic British subjects. As queen and empress her majesty reigns over 9,682,000 Catholics. They are represented in the imperial parliament by thirty-two peers, and by five English and seventy-five Irish members. There are nine Catholics in the privy council, and there are forty Catholic peers, fifty-one baronets and twenty lords with courtesy titles.—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

The Cut of Timber.

The average cut of timber during the 4,500,000,000 feet. Wisconsin has from last five years has been, in Michigan, 30,000,000,000 to 35,000,000,000, and Minnesota about 10,000,000,000.

THE SPANISH LANGUAGE.

Necessity for a Knowledge of It—Our Interests in Mexico.

The necessity of a knowledge of the Spanish language is constantly increasing in some parts of the country. American interests in Mexico are growing in number and extent. There is no doubt but that they will continue to grow. In all the South American and Central American states, from Texas to the Argentine republic, the ability to converse in the Spanish language is of the highest importance. That way is our trade. That is the field for American enterprise and adventure in the future. Young men who can speak and write Spanish have a decided and permanent advantage in entering it.

No language is more easily acquired by an American student than the Spanish. Especially is this true if he has previously studied Latin, of which it is, if not the oldest, next to the oldest, daughter. It is sonorous, systematic and beautiful.

It is said that the legislature of New Mexico transacts its business in Spanish. A number of newspapers are published in Spanish and English. In view of all these facts it is not surprising that a desire to acquire a knowledge of the Spanish is increasing. Merchants and manufacturers begin to want agents, clerks and correspondents familiar with that language. Even tourists to Cuba, Mexico and South America find that to profit from and enjoy a sojourn in any of those countries some acquaintance with Spanish is most desirable. Teachers are wanting. Soon somebody will want Spanish taught in our common schools, and probably with as much, or more, reason than is urged for the teaching of German or French, for to many Spanish will have a practical money value which the others have not. But our common schools should be devoted to English alone.—Chicago Times.

Story of the White House.

All in all, no story travels quite as far as the story about the White House or its occupants. A curious instance of this has just come out in the foreign correspondence of the president. Some inventive genius about two months ago set afloat a yarn to the effect that the White House was infested with rats. There are today letters coming to the president founded on that very basis. All of them come from Frenchmen, curiously enough, and all of them propose some means of getting rid of the pest. One was, oddly, from a cheese manufacturer in the province of Eure, and, unlike all the rest of the rat doctors, he did not ask for any reward for his recipe. He advised catching one of the rodents alive, cutting a slit in the skin of his back, putting a good dose of salt and pepper underneath, and letting the animal go again. The Frenchman veraciously predicts that the rat will run through the house, uttering piercing cries, and that these cries of warning will warn his companion rats to escape. All of the Frenchmen who write seem to regard the story most soberly, save one who writes from Paris, and puts in the end of his letter the suggestion that possibly it may not all be true—in short, hints that he smells a mice.—Washington Cor. New York Sun.

From every hand good omens can be seen, and if Republicans are but true to themselves Henry Clay Warmoth will be our next governor and our state administration Republican.—New Orleans Pelican.

The gulf between Thurman and the boodle Democrats of Ohio promises to become as wide and deep as that between the state of honest men and the condition of penitentiary convicts.—Cleveland Leader.

Voice of the Lone Star State.

The Press extends its congratulations to the great state of Texas. At last the farmers of this vast southwestern empire of ours are awake to the interests of the state. The demand for the substitution of the wool tariff of 1867 and for protection of all industries that will develop the resources of the state speaks well for the common sense of the Lone Star state.

Congressman Mills—What can they do Texas farmers in chorus:

Why, muzzle you;
That's what we can do.

—New York Press.

We Will Fight It Out on This Line.

Henry Watterson, at a recent Reform club dinner, said he would rather be "beaten upon the line of the president's message than win upon those of a lying substitute." Watterson is the Democratic champion of free trade who in 1884 said that to speak of nominating Cleveland for president of the United States "was the height of tomfoolery." The same "tomfoolery" if practiced this year will give Mr. Watterson the opportunity of being "beaten upon the line of the president's message."—Albany Journal.

Trials of an Aspiring Politician.

And still Vilas is not happy. The awful suspicion is entertained by Wisconsin Democrats that Bragg will not stay in Mexico more than about fifteen minutes, if he goes at all, but will run for congress again this fall. A candidate for the seat he once occupied has been picked out by the secretary of the interior; but Bragg, too, has picked out one who is probably a mere dummy and will give way to the general at the right time.—New York Tribune.

How to Break the Solid South.

If the Republicans rise to the level of their opportunities, make a vigorous and intelligent canvass of three or four of the principal southern states on the tariff issue, dropping all the questions growing out of the war, they will undoubtedly be able to wrest some of these states from the Democracy.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

"Untold Agony from Catarrh."

Prof. W. HAUSNER, the famous mesmerist, of Ithaca, N. Y., writes: "Some ten years ago I suffered untold agony from chronic nasal catarrh. My family physician gave me up as incurable, and said I must die. My case was such a bad one, that every day, towards sunset, my voice would become so hoarse I could barely speak above a whisper. In the morning my coughing and clearing of my throat would almost strangle me. By the use of Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy, in three months, I was a well man, and the cure has been permanent."

"Constantly Hawking and Spitting."

THOMAS J. RUSHING, Esq., 2902 Pine Street, St. Louis, Mo., writes: "I was a great sufferer from catarrh for three years. At times I could hardly breathe, and was constantly hawking and spitting, and for the last eight months could not breathe through the nostrils. I thought nothing could be done for me. Luckily, I was advised to try Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy, and I am now a well man. I believe it to be the only sure remedy for catarrh now manufactured, and one has only to give it a fair trial to experience astounding results and a permanent cure."

Three Bottles Cure Catarrh.

ELI ROBBINS, Berryan P. O., Columbia Co., Pa., says: "My daughter had catarrh when she was five years old, very badly. I saw Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy advertised, and procured a bottle for her, and soon saw that it helped her; a third bottle effected a permanent cure. She is now eighteen years old and sound and hearty."