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Lovely daughters and noble men."
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"My wife?"
"Who?"
"Was a very pretty blonde!"
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"Bilious-eyed!"
"Without and aged!"
Before her time, from
"Malarial vapors, though she made no particular complaint, not being of the grumpy kind, yet causing me great uneasiness
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"The dear creature just looked over my shoulder, and says I can 'flatter equal to the days of our courtship,' and that reminds me that there might be more pretty wives if my brother farmers would do as I have done."
Hoping you may long be spared to do good, I thankfully remain, C. L. JAMES.
Beltsville, Prince George Co., Md., May 26, '83.
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CAMPAIGN ISSUES.

WHAT THE REPUBLICAN PARTY HAS DONE FOR THE COUNTRY—AN EARNEST APPEAL TO REPUBLICAN VOTERS.

Editors of the Phœnix:—Would it not be a good idea to give people the indebtedness of some of the states that have been under Democratic control for a good many years so that people can see and judge how corruptly the finances of this state are managed compared with the good old Democratic management. I give the latest figures that I have at hand:

	Indebtedness.	State tax on $100.
Alabama, Oct. 1st, 1882,	$17,152,723	.63
Arkansas, Oct. 1st, 1882,	5,073,492	.75
Delaware, Jan. 1st, 1882,	715,989	unknown
Florida, Jan. 1st, 1882,	1,267,787	.70
Georgia, Oct. 1st, 1882,	9,624,135	.50
Maryland, Oct. 1st, 1882,	11,267,261	.198
New Jersey, Nov. 1st, 1881,	1,797,300	.25
North Carolina, Oct. 1st, 1881,	27,130,728	.275
South Carolina, Nov. 1st, 1881,	6,642,222	.50
Tennessee, Jan. 1st, 1882,	25,542,050	.30
Virginia, Dec. 1st, 1881,	31,852,353	.50
Kentucky, Oct. 10th, 1881,	480,994	.478
Louisiana, Jan. 1st, 1882,	16,126,493	.60

Now let us look at Vermont in the hands of the "corrupt" Republican party which has been so long in power. The state debt of Vermont Aug. 1st, 1882, was nothing; state tax, 17 cents on $100. The average state tax of the 12 states given, under the control of the *pure* Democratic management is 45 5-16 cents on $100. Can it be that the Democratic party of Vermont is so much wiser than in other sections of the country that they can give us a reform when all the Democratic states are far behind us in the management of their finances. Our state tax last year was nothing; and this has all been accomplished by the Republican party which the Democrats say is so corrupt that it ought to be turned out to give them a chance. They say, "In this state we never have had a chance; just give us one chance and see if we cannot manage better than the present party in power." They say, "We know the party in power is corrupt, because we should be if in their places." They say they will give us a better administration than we ever had. Their father took a gentleman up on a high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the earth and offered to give them to him if he would but acknowledge him as his superior, but the offer was respectfully declined; so likewise is the offer of his children here in Vermont.

Let us for a moment look at the condition of this state throughout the whole state. On the hillsides and in the valleys are found the school houses and the houses of God. The population is homogeneous and native; but very few foreigners settle here. This is the land of their birth. The pure air and water have given them pure thoughts, and acting upon those thoughts they vote the Republican ticket, vote with that party that has made this in truth a free nation, that struck the shackles from 4,000,000 slaves, that has built up and protected home industries, that has caused manufacturing villages to spring up in nearly every valley in Vermont, that has made the whole country afford a home market to the farmer for a large share of his produce, so that nine-tenths of the $5,000,000,000 worth annually of agricultural products of this country finds a home market; a party that has dealt honorably with its soldiers and sailors, a party with malice towards none but charity for all, as has been demonstrated by the treatment extended to our late erring brothers of the South.

The United States is a country of which we as Americans feel proud, containing broad inland seas, deeper and larger than some of the small kingdoms and principalities of Europe, while mighty rivers navigable for large vessels drain its immense surface, furnishing advantages for manufacturing and commerce second to no nation on the face of the earth. Its great extent from north to south gives such a variety of climate that nearly all the different products of the earth can be produced within its borders. By wise legislation the varied productions and manufacturing interests of the different sections have been carefully nourished and protected; our exports for many years have exceeded our imports, internal improvements have been pushed with greater rapidity than in any other country, taxation has been reduced every year for quite a number of years, and yet so well have our finances been managed that we still have a surplus of about $100,000,000 per year. So carefully have reductions in our revenues been made that the industries of the country have suffered but very little thereby. It has been the constant aim of the Republican party to so reduce the revenues to the necessities of the government as not to interfere with or injure any of its industrial interests.

Let every reader look over the records of the two parties for the past 30 years, whether in power or out of power, and see what there is in the acts of the Democratic party that should induce him to assist in putting it in power. Are you willing to place the United States, like England's provinces, open to competition with the pauper labor of Europe? Look at our prosperous and happy condition and then look at the condition of the countries in Europe. Do you wish to exchange with them? Look at the condition of the English provinces, look at the condition of Ireland and India or any other country that England has compelled to give her free trade, and see their condition; do we want to place ourselves in the same position? The leaders of the Democratic party are working in the interests of English manufacturers and free trade. Let us as Americans work in the interests of American manufacturers, and as we, the people, are the rulers of this nation, let us look well to it that we act for our best interests, protect ourselves and our industries by continuing the party in power that has contributed so much towards making them what they already are.

So let us next September give the Republican ticket such a majority as was never before known in Republican Vermont. Let every hill and valley echo and re-echo with our protest to the enemies of American industry and American progress. Let every voter turn out and vote. Let us cast so heavy a vote that it will be felt in every state from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from the great lakes to the Gulf of Mexico. Vermont leads the list of voting states this coming fall. Let us lead in the way of safety. Let us set an example worthy of emulation. Let us aid by our precept and example weaker states than our own. Let us give the Republican ticket 30,000 majority in September and it will help greatly in securing the victory in November. This is no time to sleep. The enemy are already in our midst. They are active and unscrupulous. We must give the minions of England such a defeat as will learn them that Americans are not their slaves to be bought and sold, that her power here is forever gone, that the experience we have had with her is enough. Say to her, "Hands off. America stands for herself and will protect and defend herself and her interests so long as the Republican party controls her destinies." GEO. L. CLARK.

West Halifax, Aug. 19, 1884.

Jacksonville.

GOLDEN WEDDING OF MR. AND MRS. JOSIAH FRENCH.

Saturday, Aug. 16th, was a delightful day, on which over 300 of the relatives and friends of Mr. and Mrs. Josiah French assembled at their residence in this village to celebrate the 50th anniversary of their marriage and the 77th birthday of Mr. French. Fifty years ago Mr. and Mrs. French were married by the late Hon. Charles K. Field of Brattleboro, then a resident of Wilmington, they being the first couple Mr. Field united in marriage. They have resided in Jacksonville forty years, upright, peaceable, industrious, one of the best families in this community, much respected and beloved. This tribute of respect and esteem was well deserved and worthily bestowed. A. A. Butterfield, Esq., was master of ceremonies, assisted by J. W. Morse. Short but appropriate addresses were made by Rev. J. Gifford and Leonard Brown, Esq. Poems were read by Martha French, R. D. Brown, Thomas Fowler, Mrs. Willard Faulkner, and two odes by Rev. H. Eastman, adapted to the tunes of "Auld Lang Syne" and "Bonnie Doon." Misses Nettie Morse and Gertie Hicks presided at the organ. The music was excellent A rich and ample collation was served, E. H. Stetson and A. A. Butterfield having charge of the tables in the front yard. The bride's cake, marked 50 years, was presented by Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Stetson. A large tray of beautiful flowers, marked 50 years and containing 50 flowers was presented by Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Allen. Presents to the amount of over $100, a part in gold, were contributed and formally presented with appropriate remarks by A. A. Butterfield to Mr. and Mrs. French, to which Mr. French very properly and feelingly responded. The exercises were closed with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne." This was one of the most interesting social interviews of the kind ever witnessed in this section, and the many participants will carry through life pleasing recollections of this most enjoyable occasion.

THE BRATTLEBORO W. C. T. U.

Annual Report of the Secretary.

We have been admonished like one of old, "to write the vision and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it." As a Union what have we done? Though our work has been a quiet one we have moved steadily onward. The year past has been the best one since we were organized. Every position gained we have held. We have been known as a living force in various ways. Through the pulpit our notices have been read, through the press both by notices and the work of our press superintendent we have been recognized, and socially we have been heard from, having held several social gatherings where some of the best of our townspeople have come together and expressed themselves in favor of our doings. At our last state convention we numbered twenty-five members; now forty-two. One member has left us, Mrs. Truax, having moved from town. This record of definite work will cover only about eleven months. In this time 47 weekly meetings have been appointed, seven of them union with Baptist ladies; out of the 40 appointments only twice have we failed to hold a meeting; one of these days was very stormy in winter time, the other no record of. The first of October, 1883, we voted to hold our union gospel meetings in the rooms of the Y. M. C. A., and since then they have been so held. Three times we have answered the call and observed days for prayer and praise. December 23, 1883, the 10th anniversary of the woman's crusade was duly observed. We gave as a thank-offering to the national treasury the sum of $8. That, with the $2 our delegate to the national convention pledged for us, makes all we have given to the national fund. About the time of this anniversary the Union distributed gratuitously 125 copies of the Union Signal. Mrs. M. L. T. Hidden, Mrs. J. K. Barney and David Tatum have lectured here under the auspices of the W. C. T. U. Hoping to benefit others as well as ourselves we yielded to the urgent solicitations of the Reynolds family to give us a concert. Though disappointed and chagrined we were saved from financial loss by our friends. We were convinced that the paternal head of said family had "no power to see himself as others saw him," if he had we all would have been free from the blunder of this move. Four social tea-meetings were held this spring which netted the county treasury $23.69 cents. The county institute was held at Newfane May 28 and 29. A good number of our members attended it and participated in the exercises. In July 12 members of this Union went to Putney and held two meetings at the request of the Putney W. C. T. U. Sixteen dollars' worth of advertisements were secured by the Union here in Brattleboro for our state minutes of the convention. Thirty-six copies of these minutes have been sold and given away by the Union. The amount of money sent to the state treasury from this transaction after paying expenses was $17.63. Eight yearly and one three months copy of Union Signals are taken in the Union. Tracts have been distributed also. Eleven different departments of work have had superintendents appointed for them by the Union. The departments and superintendents are as follows: Scientific instruction, three superintendents; relation of intemperance to capital and labor, two superintendents; influencing press, one superintendent; hygiene, one; Sunday school work, one; prison and jail, one; evangelistic and literary, each one; Union Signal and drawing-room, each one; flower mission one. The ninth of June, flower mission day, bouquets of flowers were sent to sick people by different members of this Union. May 7th, 1884, the Union voted to make the recording secretary a financial secretary. Since that time I have the names of 21 members old and new. This includes two honorary members who have paid their dues. Amount of money paid over to treasurer, $10.50. Money paid out by order, $8.80. There have been gifts made to us, one five dollar gold piece and other small sums of money, I do not know how much, a copy of Union Signal of national minutes, also Signals with account of proceedings at the national convention and 50 fans. There may have been other gifts. I have no record of them now. Some homes where the blight of intemperance has fallen have been visited by different members. In some substantial gifts have been left, and in all, I trust, words of comfort, cheer and helpfulness. Where these ministrations have been received or who of the dear sisters have gone forth in His name I may not, I cannot tell. The recording angel will have a record faithful and true, and by and by at the gathering day we shall be judged according to our work.

Hoosic Tunnel & Readsboro Railroad.

On the 15th inst. we spent the day over the line of the above road. Commencing 1½ miles from the tunnel, at a portable steam mill used by Newton Bros. in cutting out lumber and timber to be used on the line of the railroad, we found 15 men under the direction of F. H. Miller, who has charge of the construction train. We were welcomed to a ride of three miles up the track at a speed of about 18 miles an hour. At this place we found a gang of 21 men laying and ballasting the track, under the charge of P. B. Sargent, a genial fellow who has had 20 years' experience in track-laying. Also at this point we found Moses Newton, one of the company, who freely imparted to us any information in regard to the road. He said the train would run up to the Monroe bridge on or before the 23d inst., a distance of 7 miles from the Tunnel. The next gang of 10 men, under the charge of Hugh Miller, were building a large culvert. Still above this point, and extending to the bridge, we found Philo Sibley with 27 men, grading and finishing for track laying. Also, above the bridge, was Louis Dussalt with six men, putting in trestle-work. The grading is nearly completed to Martin Wheeler's. From this point we drove along the line of the survey to Readsboro. Near the pulp mill from 15 to 20 men are at work in the ledge, grading for the road. George Hutchinson, the civil engineer in charge of the road, is making some changes from the old survey. The grade averages 40 degrees to the mile, and there is no place over 80 degrees. The distance from Hoosac Tunnel to Readsboro by this line is about 11 miles, and Mr. Newton says they have met with fewer obstacles than expected in building the road. They are using the best of steel rails, 30 feet long. Mr. Newton also said that after the completion of the road their intentions were to keep a construction train on the road, preparing it for the third rail making it a standard gauge road. The work seems to be done in a thorough manner. Some 20 or 30 men are employed by the Newtons in their pulp mills, turning out from 20 to 25 tons of pulp per day, which is shipped to Holyoke to be made into paper. The prospect is good for the extension of the road to Wilmington, provided the same aid is extended to it by the people of Wilmington that was extended to the Brattleboro & Bennington railroad. Yours truly, WM. H. HICKS.

Panama Canal.

The report made by M. de Lesseps at the annual meeting of the Panama canal company held in Paris a few days ago shows that he does not feel, or at least does not admit, the least apprehension concerning the future of his enterprise. Indeed, it would be hard to find a more sanguine document than that which he read, and which the meeting unanimously approved. He admits that the material execution of the work has not advanced at an astonishingly rapid rate, and that, if maintained at the same ratio, it would require many years to complete the canal. But he asserts that the principal difficulty in all such cases lies in the preliminaries, or, so to speak, in the attacking of the work. The first soil removed, the first cuttings made, are always the most difficult, long and costly. He points out that in the case of the Suez canal, where there was a total excavation of 75,000,000 cubic metres, only one-third of this soil was removed in the first seven years, while two-thirds were removed in the last two years of working, after the contractors had finally perfected the plant and machinery requisite for the work. In the case of the Panama canal, there are 120,000,000 cubic metres of soil to be excavated, and, although the work thus far has been slow, M. de Lesseps feels assured that the facilities for handling it will increase at such a rate as to complete the entire undertaking within three years. He confidently announces that by the 1st of January, 1888, the canal will be ready to receive the trade of the world, and that this prediction can be demonstrated with mathematical precision. It is curious to see how De Lesseps and his critics disagree. We have been told repeatedly within three months by experienced engineers who have been on the ground, that the work can not be completed for twenty years; by others that the expense will be so great as to make its completion financially impossible, and by others that the physical difficulties in the way are insuperable. Either M. de Lesseps or his critics are wholly wrong, and the public will wait with deep interest to see "which is which."

Mr. Bonner and Maud S.

[From the Commercial Advertiser.]

"Have the sporting men begun worrying you yet to put Maud S. on the track, Mr. Bonner?"

"Oh, of course. They don't give a man any peace so long as they have a particle of hope. I am somewhat protected by the fact that sporting men know I have consistently made it a rule never to trot a horse for money. I shall not break my rule with Maud S. If Jay Eye See beats her record, I shall probably have Maud S. trained upon a good track and drive her for her very best. But it will never be recorded. It isn't generally known that the rules of the turf record a horse's time only when the owner or manager has a bet upon her. When Maud S. broke the record at Cleveland, Col. Stone, who was managing her for the day, made a wager of $100 with a friend that the mare would beat 2.11. This was just before she started. Col. Stone mentioned this to Busbey of the Turf, Field and Farm, who warned him to go quickly and get the wager recorded by the judges. Stone did so, and Maud S.'s time went on record. Now, I have a mare, Lucy Cayler, that I know can make the fastest half mile of any horse in the world. I trotted her at Fleetwood not long ago before a top wagon, and asked my brother, David Bonner, and another gentleman to take her time. She made the half mile in 1.05. But it was never recorded. There was no bet on it."

"Did Mr. Vanderbilt make it an express condition of the sale that Maud S. should not be put on the track?"

"I can answer you as I did an elder of Dr. John Hall's church who was here this morning to see Maud S. He asked if there were any conditions. I said: 'When we engaged Dr. Hall to preach for us we didn't make it a condition that he shouldn't go down to Madison Square Garden and take part in a prize fight; but we didn't expect him to do it for all that.'"

Of the 14,000 persons who form the civil service army in Washington, almost a third are women. They are in most of the departments, and predominate in the bureau of engraving and printing, and in the treasurer's office, while the war and navy departments have almost none. It was for a long time thought that woman was not fit for service in the state department, which is supposed to be the receptacle for secret matter of great importance, but this feeling has now worn away, and about a dozen women are employed in that department. As far as known, the foundations of government are not shaken. In the postoffice department the services of women are specially prized, and their intelligence and expertness in the dead letter office in deciphering and forwarding the work of stupid and ignorant writers leads the officials to say that without women the department could hardly be carried on. It is the rule among the female clerks that "few die, none resign," and those who drop out do so from matrimonial reasons.

George Westinghouse, says the Milling World, before he invented and perfected his well-known air brake, was regarded by a number of his acquaintances with something approaching pity, because of his alleged lack of "gumption." His air brake was a success, and his friends began to think there was something in him, after all. His automatic engine added to his fame and bank balance, and he mounted higher in the esteem of his former friends. A few weeks ago a valuable well of natural gas was struck on his premises at Homewood, near Pittsburg. The well is 1580 feet deep, and the flow of gas is tremendous, the roar being almost deafening and scarcely endurable to the citizens of the neighborhood. Two other wells are being put down by Mr. Westinghouse, and he estimates that his profit therefrom will soon amount to $1000 a day.

—Mr. Morris Sargent, of New Bedford, Mass., 93 years old, rides a bicycle every day.

—Mrs. Helen Hunt Jackson, known to the literary world as "H. H.," fell down stairs at her home at Colorado Springs, a few days since, and broke a leg in three places.

—One of the most remarkable telegraphic feats on record was the recent delivery of a message from Melbourne to London in 23 minutes. The message went by land and sea over 13,398 miles of wire.

—A breeze off Lake Erie recently blew the lake flies into Cleveland until it was said that 1000 bushels lay rotting in the streets. These flies live but a day, cannot bite, but are so stupid as to make a most intolerable annoyance.

—According to a report presented the other day to the French academy of science, a balloon has lately been steered against the wind near Versailles, and then veered round and brought back to the starting point. If this is true the long studied problem of aerial navigation must be very near a practical solution.

—The baggage masters of the country at their recent convention passed a resolution asking everybody who travels to have trunks or satchels marked with name and residence. Then if the baggage goes astray it is sure to get back some day.

—The oldest and largest tree in the world, so far as known, is the chestnut near the foot of Mount Etna. It is hollow and large enough to admit two carriages driving abreast through it. The circumference of the main trunk is 212 feet. The Grizzly Giant, monarch of the Mariposa Grove, measures 92 feet.

—Step by step the leading food products of Europe are being reproduced in this country. Macaroni is made by Italians in New York, Neufchatel cheese by Swiss in New Jersey, Schweitzer kase by Germans in Ohio, Albert biscuit by Englishmen in Albany, and caviare by Russians in Harlem. Nearly all of these are exported to Europe, and there sold as domestic manufactures.

—Rev. Brooks Hereford protests in the Boston Advertiser against any stigma being placed on the Greely men because of their resorting to unnatural food in their extremity. "Our pity," he says, "should be deepened not changed into rebuke; and our admiration should not be lessened, but only coupled with an intensified sense of the extremity of their sufferings."

—The electrical street-car motor, recently put in operation in Cleveland, Ohio, is proving a success. The president of the street-car company estimates that with an expenditure of $150,000 for the plant—engines, boilers, dynamos, motors and conduits—a saving of something over $50,000 a year can be effected over the present cost of operation by horses, beside securing to the company and the public the benefit of rapid transit.

—A recent article in the India Times reveals the fact that the custom among Bombay husbands of the lower class of cutting the noses of their offending wives is so common as to call for the most stringent repressive measures. The miserable women who are mutilated in this way are, of course, rendered hideous ever afterward, and, because they are women, it is simply impossible to calculate the misery and degradation that they experience during the rest of their brief lives.

—California in the sixteenth century was the general name applied to all the region northwest of Mexico. It was said to have originated in an old Spanish romance very popular in the time of Cortez, in which appeared a character called California, Queen of the Amazons. The Mexicans told the Spaniards that most of the gold and precious stones came from a country far to the northwest. Cortez, therefore, turned his attention in that direction and sent out several expeditions to explore the Californias. All these adventurers returned empty-handed from the very region where, three centuries after, the world was startled by the finding of a land of gold.

—Interest in the famous Tichborne case has been now and then revived in England by efforts to secure a pardon for the man who was convicted of falsely personating Arthur Orton, the missing heir to the great estate. The Sydney (Australia) Herald of June 25, tells of a new claimant in that country, and, from the evidence produced, it looks as if the real Orton had been found. He is known as William Creswell, and he has just been released from confinement as a lunatic at the solicitation of his brothers, Edward and Charles Orton. Many witnesses of good standing have testified that Creswell is the Arthur Orton who sailed from England in the bark Middleton in 1852, and they point out scars and personal peculiarities upon Creswell to support their convictions.

Miscellany.

Fireflies in the Wheat.

Ah, never of a summer night
Will life again be half as sweet
As in that country of delight
Where straying, staying with happy feet,
We watched the fireflies in the wheat.

Full dark and deep the starless night,
Still throbbing with the summer heat;
There was no ray of any light,
But dancing, glancing, far and fleet,
Only the fireflies in the wheat.

In that great country of delight,
Where youth and love the borders mete,
We paused and lingered for the sight,
While sparkling, darkling flashed the sheet
Of splendid fireflies in the wheat.

That night the earth seemed hot a height
Whereon to rest our happy feet,
Watching one moment that wide flight,
Where lightening, brightening, mount and meet
Those burning fireflies in the wheat.

What whispered words whose memory might
Make an old heart with madness beat,
Whose sense no rustic can recite,
That chasing, racing, rhythmic beat
Sings out with fireflies in the wheat.

Oh, never of such blest despite
Dreamed I, whom fate was wont to cheat—
And like a star your face, and white—
While mingling, tingling, wild as sleet,
Stormed all those fireflies through the wheat.

Though of that country of delight
The farther bounds we shall not greet,
Still, sweet of all, that summer night,
That maddest, gladdest night most sweet,
Watching the fireflies in the wheat!

—*Harriet Prescott Spofford in the Bazar.*

JACK.

A Story of the Fresh Air Fund.

I.

"I don't know about sending such a hardened little chap as he is."

"That is the kind that need to go."

"But what if nobody'll take him?"

"Then I'll bring him back."

So said the superintendent of one of the earliest companies of children sent out by the fresh air fund, and so it came that Jack joined the eager little crowd drawn from alley and slum of the great city.

"He is a tough one," said the superintendent to himself, watching Jack as he half carelessly, half willfully, tripped up one or two smaller boys in the rush which came when they were leaving the steamboat in order to take the cars.

"He don't look like the right sort," said one or two farmers.

"If they were