

The Free Trader

Every Saturday Morning. At 21 La Salle Street. W.M. OSMAN & SON, Proprietors.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION: In advance, per annum \$1.50. If not paid till end of three months 1.75.

OUR AGENTS: The Free Trader may be obtained at the following places by the single copy, or subscriptions will be taken for any length of time at the regular rates.

Baltimore is having a smallpox scare. There were seventy-five deaths in that city from that disease last week, and 1,200 cases are reported.

The number of business failures in this country the past year was 6,738, being 1.156 more than the year previous.

This year's receipts of the Illinois and Michigan Canal exceed the expenses by \$4,177.56. The careful Commissioners have not yet found it necessary to touch one dollar of the \$50,000 contingent appropriation made by the legislature.

Venus now is morning star, and is one of the most beautiful objects to be seen in the heavens a little before sunrise, her brilliancy being exceptionally striking.

Germany is again afflicted with great floods. Both the Rhine and the Danube are on the "rampage." Late dispatches report fifty villages destroyed on the Rhine, and large portions of the Danube valley are under water attended with widespread disaster.

During December the public debt was reduced \$15,313,222.85. The gold certificates in circulation equal \$64,619,840; and there are \$72,848,600 silver certificates in the hands of the public.

Six hitherto republican states on Tuesday witnessed the inauguration of democratic governors, and in each case it is admitted that the outlook was highly favorable for an improved state government in consequence.

It is about conceded that the undertaking of the Edison Electric Light Company in New York to compete in lighting stores and private houses, with gas, is a failure. The light is but little brighter, is less steady and less satisfactory than gas and costs twice as much.

Mrs. Lily Langtry, the famed English professional beauty, made her first appearance as an actress in Chicago at Haverly's Theatre on Monday evening, being greeted by an overflowing house.

For the last two or three days dispatches from the far northwest have been bringing forewarnings of an approaching Alaska wave, like the thermometer at Bismarck on Tuesday having gone down to 30, and on Wednesday at St. Cloud to 32, Willmar to 35, and St. Paul to 30 below zero.

All the big Chicago dainties of Monday were filled with voluminous reviews of the trade and commerce of the last year. The figures generally indicate a prosperous year with a handsome increase in most departments.

A tragic incident put a sudden stop to President Arthur's brilliant reception at the White House on New Year's day. The diplomatic corps had just entered in all their gay toggery, Mr. Allen, the Hawaiian Minister, the oldest man in the corps, being at his head.

time he had been prominently identified with Hawaiian affairs. Mr. Allen possessed the full confidence of King Kalakaua, and was largely instrumental in obtaining the passage of the Hawaiian reciprocity treaty with this country.

CIVIL SERVICE REFORM.

Concerning the civil service reform bill, which finally passed congress on Thursday, the Ottawa Republican gives forth this Bushian utterance. The democratic press is almost a unit in opposition to the passage of the bill.

Though twenty democratic senators and 49 representatives voted for it, the statement is pretty near the truth that the democratic press is pretty near unanimous in opposition to "the" bill; and "a careful reading of" it will show that if there is any honesty in their professions of friendship for civil service reform such opposition is unavoidable.

And herein lies the peculiar viciousness of the bill. The vice of our civil service at present does not lie wholly or in part in the want of fitness of the lowest grade officers. The chief rottenness is half a dozen degrees above. It is notorious that there are to-day on the government pay-rolls fifty thousand supernumeraries and incompetents, nine-tenths of whom are in the higher grades.

The patent weakness of the bill lies in the fact that it contains, as the present law in force of which this is but a duplicate contains, nothing which will compel the enforcement of its own provisions; and while it provides, as the present law provides, that removals shall be made only "for cause," what shall be "cause" is not explained, and the way is left open to trickery and evasion to accomplish what may not be done directly.

The report comes from New York that William H. Vanderbilt has promised to make a gift to that city which will be a finer monument to his name than any that could be built of bronze or marble. The scheme is to purchase a certain tract of land in the heart of the city, erect thereon a building for a free art gallery, and fill it at his own private expense with the best works of art that the world affords or that money will purchase.

Ottawa has no Vanderbilt, nor is she planning for a five million free art gallery, but certain of her young ladies, by dint of most praiseworthy perseverance and hard work, have succeeded in laying the solid foundations of a public library, an institution of quite as great importance to our city as the Vanderbilt Art Gallery will be to New York.

All the big Chicago dainties of Monday were filled with voluminous reviews of the trade and commerce of the last year. The figures generally indicate a prosperous year with a handsome increase in most departments. The Bank clearings foot up \$2,366,000,000 for the year, being an increase over 1882 of \$137,000,000.

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL, at Knoxville, Ill., a seminary for young ladies under the tutelage of the Episcopal church, took fire at 3 o'clock on Thursday morning and was totally destroyed. It was a large brick structure, three stories in height and of

imposing appearance, with rooms to accommodate over 100 pupils. There were about 100 pupils entered for the winter, but as the term had just opened that day there were but 60 in the building at the time. All these made their escape, most of them in their night clothes, and many by ladders from the upper stories, two of them having limbs broken by falls.

THE DEATH OF GAMBETTA

Nov. 27th last a brief dispatch from Paris announced that M. Gambetta, while handling a revolver at Ville d'Avray, near Paris, that day, had accidentally shot himself in the hand. It was only a flesh wound, the dispatch said, and there was no danger.

Except possibly Bismarck, death could have cut down no more prominent figure on the stage of European politics. Though virtually out of office, having a few months ago resigned the premiership of the French cabinet, he was yet regarded as the man on whom more than all others rested the safety of the French Republic, and upon whom more than any other rested the alternative of peace or war in Europe.

Certainly his career was a remarkable one. Born a little over forty years ago at Cahors, in Southern France, he studied law and in 1859 joined the Paris bar. For the next eight years he seems to have had a sharp struggle with poverty, but then, as counsel for the defendants in a political prosecution, he suddenly leaped into notice. In 1869 he was returned to the Chamber of Deputies, where he soon became conspicuous as an opponent to the second empire.

The Cincinnati Gazette and Commercial, the two leading republican papers of Cincinnati, and of Ohio for that matter, have been consolidated and will hereafter appear as one paper under the name of The Commercial and Gazette. The Commercial has hitherto been under the editorial control of Murat Halstead and the Gazette under that of Deacon Richard Smith, no other two names, perhaps, in the newspaper world, being more widely known.

A prominent feature of the Christmas services in the Episcopal church on Governor's Island, near New York, was the singing of a new TeDeum, the music having been composed by Mrs. General Hancock. In fact the entire music of the service had been arranged by Mrs. Hancock, who presided at the organ. The TeDeum, sung by a chorus and quartet choir, was given with great spirit and proved a decided "hit." The music is described as rich in harmonies with many highly impressive passages.

BLACK BALLOTS.—The constitution of Connecticut, like that of most of the states, requires that all ballots shall be printed on "plain white paper," but at the November election in New Haven the names were so engraved on a block that when printed the names were white and the rest of the ticket black. Some 7,000 of these ballots were cast in New Haven, enough, if

thrown out, to change the result in the state, giving the republicans instead of the democrats the governor. The republicans were about getting ready to contest the election, on the ground that such ballots were illegal; but about that time it leaked out that the republican ballots used in New Haven as well as at other places were printed with such a heavy black border that at the election it was about impossible to distinguish them from the democratic ballots.

ILLINOIS LEGISLATURE.

The Illinois legislature met at Springfield on Wednesday, every member being present in both houses. For reasons growing out of caucus difficulties, however, a temporary organization only was effected by the house, in the election of Thos. F. Mitchell of McLean as temporary speaker, while the senate even refused to elect temporary officers; the trouble in the senate being, that some 17 republican members had met in advance of the regular republican caucus and agreed upon a slate to be supported in the caucus; and seven republicans getting hold of that fact decided to smash the whole caucus business.

The House proceeded on Thursday without any halt, to elect the nominees of the republican caucus: L. C. Collins, of Cook was elected speaker; John A. Reeve, of Cairo, clerk; with half a dozen assistants, among whom R. C. Hitt, (our "Rec") is third; and the usual list of other house officers and hangers on.

CONGRESS.

Saturday, Tuesday and Wednesday sessions of the senate were occupied in hearing Logan's second three days' "great effort of his life" against the bill to restore Fitz John Porter. The speech, though able in some respects, was flimsy characterized in others as a shameful perversion of the evidence, while in others again he made a disgraceful attack on Gens. Schofield, Terry and Getty, who had reheard Porter's case and decided in his favor, charging that they wanted to discredit McDowell and Pope to get them out of the way of their own promotion.

The civil service bill that had passed the senate was taken up in the house on Thursday and at once passed without debate or amendment. 49 democrats voted for it and 7 republicans against it. The vote was 155 to 47.

After the Fitz John Porter bill had been laid aside by the senate John Sherman got that body to take up his pet measure to extend the time for whisky to be in bond two years, and the senate, after a short debate on Thursday passed it.

RESOLUTIONS.—At the State Teachers' Association meeting Prof. Henry L. Boltwood, chairman of the committee on resolutions, reported as follows, among others: Resolved, That we regard a more efficient county supervision of schools and a state system of county teachers' institutes as the most efficient means of aiding our schools at a comparatively small expense.

AND WHEREAS, In our opinion house bill 655 of the last legislature embodied features which we deem imperatively demanded for the improvement of our school system, we urge upon the next legislature the passage of a law which shall be in substance the same.

Resolved, That laws to enforce the school attendance of truant and vagrant children; to substitute the township for the district as the unit for school purposes; and to establish and aid district school libraries are needed, and should receive early attention.

Resolved, That as an effective auxiliary to the work of the county superintendents, and a forward step in school supervision, we favor such legislation as may secure a system of township school supervision.

FOREIGN NOTES.—The funeral of Gambetta (whose death is noticed elsewhere) has been postponed until to-day, and will be taken charge of by the French government. Von Wimpffen, the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador at Paris, committed suicide Jan. 1st by shooting himself with a pistol. Biggar, member of parliament, was com-

mitted to jail at Waterford, Ireland, on Tuesday, on the charge of high treason for utterances in a recent speech.

At Vienna, on Wednesday, all traces of the banks of the Danube were lost by reason of the great freshet, and the river was still rising. On the Rhine, from Mannheim to Worms the entire plain is an immense lake.

Indications at present point to a long and continued suspension of the Pitts works at Marseilles. The effort to compromise with the smaller creditors proved unavailing, at least when the total of the debts in sums less than \$150 each was found to aggregate over \$21,000 the company asked this class of creditors to sign papers extending payment one year. The offer was refused and the assignee then closed the works. No one can reasonably anticipate when the Pittses will be able to extricate themselves from their troubles.

The Council.

The regular meeting of the city council was held on Tuesday evening. The business was formal and unimportant save to the auditing of \$2,310.48 worth of bills; and uninteresting save for the following message from his Honor the mayor, which will commend itself to all thoughtful citizens:

Gentlemen of the Council:—I have been requested to call your attention to the matter of a public library and reading room for the use and benefit of the citizens of Ottawa. The laws of the state give the council the power to organize and maintain such an institution, with authority to levy a tax for that purpose not exceeding one mill on the dollar annually, on all the taxable property in the city.

None of us will question the power for good of such an institution in our city. There is no better educator of the people, particularly the young, not only intellectually, but morally. Such rooms, properly managed, with such pleasant surroundings as they may and should have, would make an agreeable resort for not only our young people, but for those of maturer years. The many benefits of such an institution we must all admit. But just here comes in the question of advisability at this time. The city is in debt, consequent high taxes, and it is for you to decide whether now is the proper time to entertain the proposition. Nothing can be realized by taxation under about midsummer and the collecting during the coming winter and spring of 1884. If your decision should be favorable to such organization I should not recommend a tax levy for a year at least, and not until our financial condition is materially improved, only such as would be necessary for the actual current expenses of the institution. Gentlemen, I leave the matter in your hands for consideration.

I would also call attention to the danger from fires, the accumulation of combustible material in cellars of the business houses of the city. The experience of this warning in the Hixie fire warns us of the necessity of adopting some plan of protection. Many hours of laborious work was the result of the fire of this morning and it was only by the most persistent efforts of the fire department that it was extinguished and what might have been a disastrous fire averted.

There should also be a limit in amount of storage in buildings of oils and other extra hazardous goods. In the adjoining cellar to the fire of this morning there were stored ten barrels of oil. It appears to me there should be no such amount allowed by the city. The insurance companies allow only five unless by special permit. In this case the insured were allowed ten or, as I understand, all they might wish. This should not be, and I would earnestly call the attention of your honorable body to both these evils. Some authorized authority, say the city marshal, should be delegated to once or twice a month visit all cellars and places where it is possible for such accumulations or storage, with power to enforce such proper restrictions as you may deem necessary.

Respectfully submitted, Ed. C. ALLEN, Mayor.

SUGAR BOOM IN KANSAS.—Kansas expects in a few years to be the greatest sugar producing state in the Union, leaving Louisiana no where. A Topeka dispatch of the 3d inst. reads: A. J. Decker, special agent of the Agricultural Department, who lately visited his State to inquire into and report upon the adaptation of the soil for the cultivation of sorghum and sugarmaking writes to Agent Lemon of this city that during the last year the obstacles in the way of making sugar from sorghum have been greatly overcome, the manufacturers producing 1,000 pounds of the first quality of dry sugar to the acre of cane with as much certainty as flour is produced from wheat. Mr. Decker then says he finds the soil and the climate of Kansas specially adapted to this crop; that the juice averages higher in sirup; that the making qualities than that of any State up-making qualities than that of any State visited by him, and that more seed is produced. With these advantages and the new developments which he understands are to be applied in the large factories of the State, he thinks the result will be far ahead of anything yet shown, and says Kansas cannot fail, in the near future, to rank high as a sugar-producing State, and when these advantages become fully known there will be a sugar boom in Kansas that will shake the entire country.

A notable effect of the tariff agitation is seen in the greatly reduced volume of imports, which has followed the assembling of Congress. Receipts from customs at this port for the month ended last Saturday night amounting to ten and three-quarter million dollars in round numbers. This falls short of the receipts for the corresponding month of 1881 by more than half a million. It would appear that merchants are holding back their orders for foreign goods because they hope to be able to import them cheaper some weeks hence, and also because they fear that if they should import now they might be undersold by neighbors who would purchase later on and get the benefit of a lower tariff. N. Y. Herald.

You are from HENRY SEARS



Yes, Shake and Rejoice. For I offer the following bargains in Pocket Cutlery: Blade Knife, 5c; Heavy Knife, 10c; Fruit Knife, 15c; Boy's Knife, 20c; Five styles, 25c; 2 Blade Boys' and Ladies' Knives—7 styles, 25c; Shell and Pearl Ladies' Knives, 30c; Men's and Boys' Knives—20 styles, 40c; large pearl handle, 50c; small pearl handle, 40c; Fine Pearl Knives, 35, 40, 45, 50, 60, 70, 75, 90c, and \$1.00; Men's 3 Blade Knives—shell, ebony, cocco and stag handles, 45, 50, 60, 65, 70 and 75c.

A large stock of Farmers' and Mechanics' Large and Heavy Knives at corresponding low prices. An elegant and complete line of Shell and Pearl Handled Knives of the celebrated Henry Sears make, which are the very best. The Queen Razor takes the lead has no equal. E. Y. GRIGGS.

A RARE CHANCE TO OBTAIN GOOD BOOKS! Is now offered by E. Y. GRIGGS. Having devoted my spare room to Books, I offer bargains never extended the people of LaSalle county. The prices asked are 1/3 to 1/2 the regular price of the books. These books are not culs, seconds, nor auction stock, but fresh, new goods, just from the publishers, and are first-class in every particular. To give a list and prices would be impossible without great space. I simply defy competition. I sell Mrs. Holmes' Works for 98c. Rev. E. P. Rowe's Works, 98c. Pinkerton's Works, \$1.12. May Agnes Fleming's Wks, \$1.12. All \$1.50 Books, 98c, 86 & 74c. All \$1.25 Books, 74 & 68c. All \$1.00 Books, 54c. Wood's \$5.00 Nat. History, \$2.98. Wood's 2.00 Nat. History, 1.55. Wood's 1.50 Nat. History, 98c. Wood's 75c Nat. History, 48c. The Finest Line of Poetical Works ever in Ottawa, at 98c per Vol. A large and well selected stock of Children's Books at 25 to 50 per cent. discount from regular prices. Invite all to inspect my stock. E. Y. GRIGGS. See my Holiday Stock soon.

E. Y. GRIGGS.

THE Largest, Finest, Cheapest And Best STOCK OF DRY GOODS AND CARPETS In Ottawa IS AT HULL'S.

Do not take our word, but call and see if what we say is not true. W. H. HULL.