

THE OMAHA BEE.

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THE BEE PUBLISHING CO., PROP. E. ROSEWATER, Editor.

CONGRESS takes its holiday recess, and the country will have a rest for at least two weeks.

It is reported by cable that Mary Anderson will be made a duchess. Her step-father, Doc Griffin, will have to be made a duke.

The senatorial fight in Ohio is Cleveland against Cincinnati. The chances appear for favor Cleveland with the Standard Oil bar.

"OUR VAL" has caught on to the tail end of the committee on elections. Possibly he thought some one might contest his claim to a third term.

RANDALL got away with the Christmas prize package, and Blackburn carried home an empty stocking. That may be ungrateful, but it's politics.

The Lincoln Journal has shown great enterprise in republishing the special grapevine market report of The Omaha Herald, which is dated two days ahead and comes to Omaha by mail, regardless of expense.

FOR YOUNGER, a boon companion of the late lamented C. J. Jesse James, has been captured in Alabama on a requisition from Governor Crittenden. Missouri will now have a spanking pair of white elephants.

The Springfield Republican, in commenting upon General Howard's recommendation that deserters be branded, says: "It is now said that Gen. Howard did not want deserters from the army really branded, only marked with indelible ink as clothes are. We believe this is his first appearance as a humorist."

CHICAGO NOW KNOWS how it is herself. She is having a fight with the Chicago & Evanston railway and her city council, which reminds one very much of Omaha belt railway tactics. There was \$100,000 put for the Chicago belt line, but the mayor vetoed the ordinance and put a stop to the job.

THE last centennial has been celebrated. We have had the grand celebration at Philadelphia in 1876 commemorative of the Declaration of Independence. We have celebrated the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown. We have had a grand demonstration over the evacuation of New York by the British. And lastly we have celebrated the centennial of Washington's surrender of the continental army, on which occasion he delivered his memorable address to his compatriots of the revolutionary war. The centennial era is now a matter of the past.

PERHAPS no class of federal employes work harder and put in more hours than the letter carriers. Considering the amount of labor performed and the responsibility assumed their pay is smaller than that of any other class of men in the government service. Last year they moved for an advance of salary and were successful. They are now endeavoring to secure a thirty day vacation for each man per year, and also a sixty days' sick leave each year when necessary, without loss of pay. There is no doubt that they are entitled to such a vacation a great deal more so than the department clerks. We fear, however, that the scheme is impractical. To relieve any number of letter carriers at any time would seriously derange the service, and besides being inconvenient to the patrons of the postoffice, is liable to make the carrier system a failure. The government would either have to increase the force of carriers so as to have enough competent substitutes, and that would entail a large expenditure. It would also create a needless lot of supernumeraries.

THE country papers of this state, with few exceptions, have decided to suspend publication during Christmas week and enjoy their annual rest from mental and scissoring labors. From Ainsworth to Arrapahoe and from Weeping Water to Westerville a season of profound peace will fall upon the country, and spirits too long confined will flow with youthful zest into the editorial hotbeds, or the festive board of a delinquent subscriber. To us the week has a dark and gloomy aspect. We shall miss the double-headed "dun" to delinquents calling for past dues in cash or contributions of cordwood or corn-cobs. The usual apology for lack of news, or the press of job work, or the illndness of the chief engineer of the shears, will leave a blank in the closing year which generations of regularity will not efface. Amid the prospect of gloom, however, a faint light glimmers. The dull monotony of Christmas "made" will disappear, and the scissor grinder will get a job.

CHRISTMAS.

According to the calendar Christmas comes this year on the 25th of December. So far back as we can recollect it never came on any other day. That it comes but once a year has never been disputed since the birth of Christ. The subject of Christmas has been pretty well exhausted by theologians and editors, who are their assistants in making the world more enlightened. It must be admitted that to say anything original about Christmas is no easy task. Christmas sermons and Christmas editorials have become almost stereotyped in sentiment and style as Fourth of July orations or essays upon "Turning Over a New Leaf at New Year's."

Some differences of opinion have existed for several centuries, perhaps for eighteen centuries, as to the date of the birth of Christ, but there is no difference of opinion as to the manner of observing the anniversary.

In connection with Christmas there exists a pleasant fiction; which is a puzzling mystery to the little folks. It is generally believed among the juveniles that a saint known as Nicholas, alias Santa Claus, invades the households through the chimneys and distributes his presents while the recipients are sleeping soundly and sweetly dreaming of the bright tomorrow. Santa Claus, however, has found that a great mistake has been made in the architecture of American chimneys. They are altogether too small to admit the robust Santa Claus, whom we see in the picture books. Perhaps, however, he has the power of reducing his proportions sufficiently to slide down our narrow-gauge chimneys. In Europe, however, the chimneys are large enough to admit the Santa Claus of regulationsize, together with his big bundle of gifts. The fact of it is that the American chimney or the traditional Santa Claus ought to be remodelled. We are in favor of having the chimneys enlarged, as a lean and lank Santa Claus would not be in accordance with the traditions that have been handed down to us for centuries.

It is fair to presume that stockings were invented about the time that Santa Claus came into popularity. We have not had the time to examine the ancient patent records to learn the exact date of the invention of stockings. However, they are brought into universal use at Christmas as receptacles for Santa Claus' gifts.

The general distribution of toys at Christmas was doubtless a feature inaugurated in the interest of a ring of toy manufacturers at Nuremberg, Germany, where toys are made by the million.

One of the happiest features of Christmas in America was during the days of slavery in the south. It was a "day of jubilee" from Christmas to New Year's among the negroes. During the week the slaves were given the utmost freedom, and everywhere the negro felt himself at liberty to ask everybody he met for Christmas gifts; and he traveled around among friends and relatives, visiting and having a good time generally. There is no doubt that the freedman of the south will sigh for the good old Christmas of ante-bellum days, but he is not likely to mourn over the revolution that struck the shackles from his limbs and relieved him from the lash of the task-master.

In our day the Christmas season brings about as solid joy to the merchant as it does to the recipients of the gifts purchased from him. It is the general loosening of purse-strings and a whole-souled, open-handed charity that make Christmas a season of grateful joy, as much so as do the chimes of church bells and the chanting of choirs.

SECRETARY CHANDLER, in responding to the toast, "The Army and Navy," took occasion to praise the steamer of the American Steamship company as being the only line of foreign steamers flying the American flag. The gallant old scudog, however, was struck amidships just at this point by Mr. Shortridge, director of the American Steamship company, who interrupted him and said that his company was negotiating for the sale of its ships, as they could not be made to pay under the American flag, but could be under that of Great Britain. Mr. Shortridge rather took the wind out of the secretary's sails, and we are told that Mr. Shortridge's statement was not received with applause.

THE make-up of the ways and means committee, of which Morrison is the chairman, cannot fail to force tariff reform as an issue before the present congress. Six of the seven democratic members are pronounced in favor of material reductions of the present tariff, and Mr. Hewitt, of New York, favors a moderate reduction on certain lines of dutiable goods. The minority, consisting of five republicans, namely, Kelly, of Pennsylvania; Kasson, of Iowa; McKinley, of Ohio; Hiccock, of New York, and Russell, of Massachusetts, are pronounced protectionists. Messrs. McKinley, Russell and Hiccock are in full sympathy with Judge Kelly on all questions relating to the protective tariff, and will follow his leadership in opposing the efforts which Mr. Morrison and his associates on the democratic committee will undoubtedly make to reduce the existing rate of duty. Kasson claims to be a protectionist, but would favor further reductions of duty on a number of commodities included in the dutiable list. With the committee composed of elements so radically at variance, it is safe to predict that the conflict will be fierce and furious from the very outset. The evident purpose of the speaker in choosing pronounced protectionists from among the republicans in forming this committee is to commit the republic-

can part from the very start against tariff reform. If the republicans are stupid enough to fall into this trap, and adopt Judge Kelly's inflexible high tariff as a party measure they will give the democrats the inside track in the coming presidential race. While it is true that a great majority of the republican party favor protection because that policy has been pursued by that party for more than twenty years, a very respectable portion of the party are outspoken in favor of tariff reform, thorough tariff revision and reduction of import duties. This class of republicans are liable to stay at home or vote with the democrats, if the issue between tariff reform and high protection is forced.

TARIFF REFORM.

While many of the old hacks and hound-dogs, who were educated in the protectionist school of politics from the cradle up, seek to array the republican party against tariff reform there is a silent revolution going on among the republican masses. This sentiment is not confined to the prairie states of the west, but is rapidly spreading among all classes of people in the manufacturing districts of Ohio and Pennsylvania. Ex-Congressman John B. Rice, who represented Governor Foster's district in the last congress, has recently given utterance to the views that are taking root in northern Ohio in favor of a reduction of taxes by a revision of the tariff, according to Mr. Rice. The following extracts from a letter to the New York Herald show what Mr. Rice thinks of the situation. To the question asked by the correspondent, whether the demand will be general in 1884 for a change in the tariff, Mr. Rice said:

"I have no doubt of it. The people have no other issue, whatever the politicians may be floundering up for agitation. It is bound to come to the front next year and be agitated as it was in the Whig times. Then protection was aggressive. Now it is defensive, and with the demand for the reform of the tariff it will have hard work to hold its high points. Republicanism must recognize not only the demand but the necessity for a reform of the tariff. The republicans have heretofore courted this issue, but it is no longer safe for any party. It should be adjusted so as to preclude tinkering in the interest of parts of the country against the whole."

"What would you suggest as the way to get at this reform?"

"What is necessary first is sincerity, and then to get the tariff adjusted on a low and equitable basis. I found no principles of justice in congress entering into the act on the important matter. Business men could adjust it, but lawyers and politicians in congress vote to suit their selfish advancement with their constituents without concern for more than their own district or their interest in the vote of that district. With a tariff patched up for the many localities everything is too high, and the tariff is a burden to the thousands and a benefit to only a few. Take such a high-minded man as Senator Bayard; he would reduce the tariff on other things, but it must be kept up on matches and powder manufactured in Delaware. No less a statesman than Randolph Tucker insisted on reduction generally, but high protection for annals gathered by the negroes in the wilds of his district, a constituency that does little else than hunt and vote. The time is certainly past when a man will yet be drawn on it. The republicans cannot ask the people to pay more for their cotton goods, woollens and groceries than they are worth, and they are not ready to trust the democrats with anything less specific than a plain open pledge. The tariff should be taken off of such a commodity as sugar at once. It is leading to fraud. People are buying glucose for sugar and paying for it the price of sugar. The cost is one-third that of cane sugar. All candies are made of it, and it is the common article sold for sugar. It kills bees and may injure man. The stronghold of republicans in Ohio is the western reserve, and here the farmers and others are agitated on it. Their crops are failures this year. The hard times from the poor crops will be felt till after next November. They are concerned at finding prices high when they have nothing to sell, and I think this is the situation throughout the entire west. I heard them speak of it as an outrage that they should be so hard up, and the government collecting from \$50,000,000 to \$100,000,000 per year more than it needs by means of the extra price added to nearly everything in the market, and especially to the necessities of life."

EX-GOVERNOR RALPH P. LOWE, who died at Washington Saturday was one of the Iowa pioneers who rose to eminence by his sterling qualities as a citizen and public man. He was born in Montgomery, O., about 1805, and spent his early life in Ohio. He removed to Muscatine, Ia., in 1830, and engaged in the practice of the law. In 1849 he removed to Keokuk, and in 1853 was elected judge of the first Iowa judicial circuit. In 1857, while serving his second term as judge, he was elected governor of Iowa by the republicans by a large majority. He remained governor until 1860, when he was elected to the supreme bench of the state, where he served until 1866, declining a re-nomination on account of mining interests in Nevada. He afterwards resumed the practice of the law, and removed to the national capital where he has resided ever since 1875.

ACCORDING to Mr. Huntington, who is the boss lobbyist of the Central Pacific, Spencer, of Alabama, was switched by Tom Scott, but Huntington thought he could be switched back by a sufficient quantity of lubricator.

THE agony is over. Carlisle has appointed his committee, and the correspondents who have been doing guesswork for the past two weeks have adjourned together with congress until after the holidays.

SEVERAL members of the New York legislature, who have been tendered passes by the railroads, have returned these complimentary bribes and published the "tender" with the scornful re-

fusal. The New York Post suggests that the legislature should require the publication of the pass list every year after adjournment. A comparison of votes with the free rides would probably throw a flood of light on the winter's work. It strikes us that a comparison of the legislative record with the dead-head list a year after the legislature has adjourned would be still more suggestive. Here in Nebraska many of the "honest" members make no use of their passes until after the legislature has closed its session.

THERE are those who still look forward to the candidacy of General Grant as among the probabilities of the coming presidential campaign. Colonel McClure, of the Philadelphia Times, stakes his reputation as a political weather prophet by the following assertion:

It is Grant's ambition to be recalled to the presidency. He has defied to atone, and I shall be greatly surprised if he does not become the foremost republican candidate for 1884 within the next three months. He could not have made himself a formidable aspirant, but southern sectional folly can do for Grant in a day more than all his friends could for him in a lifetime. The one obstacle to Grant entering the race is the probable persistence of Arthur as a candidate in the present reasonable certainty of an election; but with Arthur out of the way Grant would be the foremost candidate before another moon shall have waxed and waned.

We can understand now why Mr. Kasson wants to retire. The revolutions of the California credit moblifier ring leave him without an explanation.

STATE NOTINGS.

Mr. A. B. Newkirk, sr., of Falls City, was killed by a runaway team, last Tuesday.

The confectionery store of Balduff & Wols, of Fremont, was burned last week, at a loss of \$2,000.

The Seward Reporter congratulates Omaha on the early establishment of a stock market here.

The new Masonic temple at Red Cloud will be dedicated next Thursday with a ball and banquet.

The B. & M. shops at Plattsmouth are run to their full capacity, repairing and building rolling stock.

W. P. Critchfield, of Weeping Water, the other day, pulled his gun on a dog and shot himself in the hand.

Alma is proud of her new opera house and the elegant revelling amusements, much to the envy of Red Cloud.

Crete has had all classes of duels this season. The latest importation is a long-legged, white-haired, old fellow.

Mr. O. Stubbs, of Brainerd, swooped down on Creston, Ia., the other day, and carried off Miss Mary J. Wallace as his bride.

Crab Orchard, Johnson county, is to have an opera house, the dimensions of which will be 48x80 feet, two stories and basement.

The two-year-old child of Peter Johnson, of Blair, accidentally fell into a bucket of hot water, on wash day, and was scalded to death.

The property of the Genoa brass band was sold at public auction to the highest bidder, December 18, in front of the court house. This was a hard blow for the band.

There were 1,200 carloads of grain and stock shipped from Fairmount to St. Louis, ending December 1st, and 702 cars of merchandise received in the same time.

The new town of Western has already begun a boom toward becoming one of the best towns in Saline county. Lumber yards, elevators, stores and any number of new projects are on foot.

The vigilantes of Brown county have hung up the rope, and reduced their members to a peace footing. The last quartette of alleged horse thieves will be tried by court, and now await the action of the jury.

General Livingston, of Plattsmouth, lay awake the other night for a burglar. The visitor arrived on standard time, but the general would not allow him to retire without taking his compliments.

"Our Eye" is the starting title of a new paper started at O'Connor, Greeley county, by Chan Lewis, who is a native of the prosperity of the people and county, it promises to become a permanent institution.

The new M. E. church at Falls City was dedicated by Rev. Rowley on Sunday, last Sunday. The bishop made the congregation hustle around for \$1,600 to cancel the debts on the building before the services were concluded.

The Christmas number of The North Bend Mail is printed on tinted paper of a shade resembling a gas lamp in a fog. As a lively newspaper, it is well worth a read, and we printed, The Mail is the journalistic Sullivan of the state.

A runaway couple from Long Pine came to the jail the other day. The wife was captured by the sheriff and taken back to their parents. The girl, it is said, was a fifteen year old, and the parents did not seem inclined to give their consent.

Notwithstanding the respite of Polk, work upon the enclosure for the gallows in Plattsmouth will get on in the merry glow of night like hideous five-headed monsters.

Mrs. Pond, sister of Sam Patch, has just died, aged 91. Sam won his little patch of fame on a pond at the foot of the Genesee Falls.

Lizzie Fonda and Laura Watson, of New York, agreed to go the streets and smash every plug that they saw. After they had done in four or five the police took them in charge.

It is said that James Gordon Bennett is growing prematurely old. He should take a holiday, as it never rains in New Mexico.

It is said that El Mahdi has one short arm, and the other is so long that it reaches below his knee. You can never make Hicks Pasha believe that El Mahdi reached for Hicks with his short arm. He knows better. (Pock's Sun.)

Stephen W. Dorsey is still defying the lightning in New Mexico. If the lightning never Mr. Dorsey as well as we do, it would let him severely alone. However, Mr. Dorsey is probably safe enough in his exhibition of audacity, as it never rains in New Mexico.

Miss Lillian Spencer, the actress, wants to be divorced. In December, 1880, she wanted a manager—and she got one. She married Mr. Clayburg. He had managed her well for her, according to her story, that though she has been enabled to earn as much as forty thousand dollars a year she has nothing to

show for her labor but nervous prostration, a baby and a petition for divorce.

When Gorham's defeat was announced it is said of Frank Hutton that he struck two inches and, slipping a paper weight into his pocket, he dashed wildly at his chair, as he fancied he heard the loud, ungodly mirth of Editor Smith, as he danced a fustian breakdown in distant Philadelphia.

Miss Blanche Willis Howard, the writer of one of the best novels of the day, is described in a letter from Rome, as "a magnificent blonde of generous proportions, with charming eyes, of a hazel cast—such women as, one of her admirers recently remarked, men were once wont to fight for in the lists."

Frederick Godfrey stole a shirt. When taken to a station house in New York there was found on him a strong appeal written to Irving, the actor. Godfrey said his father, an English inn-keeper, had always displayed Irving's play-bills. As the stolen shirt was unlaundered it was evidently Wash. Irving that he wanted. F. G. now sings his song of a shirt in jail.

Col. "Bob" Ingorell has removed from the house in Lafayette square, Washington, where he has resided for some years, to the house 137 K street, next to Senator Sherman's, which he has purchased. Here he resides, with his wife and their two daughters, Miss Eva and Miss Maud, neither one of whom has seen 18 summers. It is liberty hall—each one of the quartette eating, sleeping, reading, working, or walking when desirable. The colored boasts that his children never did a wrong, never kept a secret from their parents, and have never been refused a request.

Prince Bismarck's favorite breakfast is bacon and eggs, so says his late cook. He dislikes white or fresh-baked bread of any kind, and takes hard brown toast and black coffee for breakfast, after having had a "cup of brandy and seltzer when he first gets up. He is very fond of coffee, and will take four or five cups a day. He has been working late the night before, while at midnight he invariably drinks a cup of tea. The ex-cook declares that the chancellor is a most unaffected and pleasant man in general, but when he is in a rage everybody keeps out of his way, from the servants to his wife, while when anything goes wrong in the household "the storms about the house like a fury."

Literary Notes. "A Checkered Life," by Col. John A. Joyce, has just been published by S. P. Rounds, Jr., of Chicago.

The volume is bound in old gold cloth, over three hundred pages, and is illustrated with chapter cuts, autograph letters of rare significance, and a fine cut of the author as a frontispiece.

The book treats of childhood and school days, experience as a humanist, and the philosophy of insanity and its treatment by attendants and doctors; early war days in Kentucky during the late rebellion, and a detailed history of the 24th Kentucky in all its marches, sieges, battles, defeats and triumphs; study of law in the office of Senator Allison at Dubuque, Iowa; the pathetic history of a friend's suicide; the first strides of a young politician and candidate for the Iowa legislature; rural school teaching and its peculiarities; experience as a Washington clerk; enthusiastic description of the capitol; political manipulation and official action as a revenue agent under the administration of President Grant; tales and travel in strange cities, and an account of San Francisco, Yosemite valley, and the Pacific coast; whisky troubles in St. Louis and the west; imprisonment and its philosophy, showing how the so-called good people of the world ought to manage the so-called bad; pardon matters and the abuse of the prerogative; literary musings; pen pictures of famous men throughout the United States; orations on various subjects, and a detestable speech made before the United States judge. At the conclusion of the narrative a few short poems are given for lovers of the ideal. There are fac-simile letters, pivoting on certain things, from Chauncy I. Filley, a "business politician," Gen. F. E. Spinner, late treasurer of the United States, Gen. W. T. Sherman, ex-President Hayes, and an old letter from Gen. O. E. Babcock, touching the celebrated "Sybil" dispatch, upon which Bristow had the general indicted. The reading public will be amused, astonished and instructed by a careful perusal of the volume, and gain wisdom for future private and public action.

"The City of Success," and other poems, by Henry Abbey, published by D. Appleton & Co., New York, price \$1.25, is an attractive volume. This collection of Mr. Abbey's poems will repay a careful reading. He is an American author, and one who is destined to take a high place in the literary world. His verse is smooth and full of poetic sentiment, charmingly expressed. His rings of noble deeds and chivalrous men, incidents, refined taste and genuine sympathy with all that is beautiful and noble characterize Mr. Abbey's productions.

The Catholic Family Annual of 1884, for sale by Mrs. MacDonagh, contains a vast amount of useful and interesting information, together with a great deal of miscellaneous reading matter of an entertaining character.

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