The Ottawa Free Trader.

Entered at the Post Office at Ottawa, Illinois, as Second Class Mail Matter.

Ottawa, Ill., July 10, 1886.

Notice to Subscribers.

We have neglected to send out this month our regular notices of expiration of subscriptions; but we trust every subscriber will *look at the label of his paper* and, if his time has expired, be kind enough to step into the office (say on the Fourth) and renew for the coming year. *The date to which you have paid* is printed at the end of your name on the label. A turned figure (thus ▪) means 6. Please give this your attention.

THE PUBLISHERS.

Current Events.

The house committee on ways and means on Monday ordered an adverse report to be made on the Randall Tariff bill. When the measure was taken up for consideration by the committee Judge Kelly moved to strike out all but the administrative part (the Hewitt portion) of the bill and report favorably. Messrs. Reed and Hiscock, republicans, were absent. All of the republican members present and also Mr. Hewitt voted for the motion, but it failed. A motion was then made to report adversely all of the bill. Upon this all of the democrats voted aye. The republican refrained from voting.

Mr. Morrison will submit an adverse report upon the bill, and it will go on the calendar, where it will rest permanently.

The President has nominated Fitz John Porter, late Colonel Fifteenth Infantry, to be Colonel in the army, and Captain Theodore Schwan, Eleventh Infantry, to be Assistant Adjutant General, with the rank of Major. Captain Schwan entered the army in 1857 as an enlisted man and served through the rebellion, since which time he has done valuable service in connection with the Indians.

The naval committee has been informed by Speaker Carlisle that the bill for the reconstruction of the navy will be among those to be passed upon before the adjournment if it is so modified as to reduce the amount of the appropriation, the idea being that the work on the new navy could be started with much less money, further appropriations being made from time to time. It was recommended that the amount be cut one half. The committee think that would not be enough money to last through the year, but the members propose to make some modifications. It appears certain that the bill in some form will pass.

During the present congress more than ten thousand bills have been presented in the house, most of them for private measures. This is more than was ever introduced in both sessions of any other congress.

It is now the purpose of Congress to adjourn about the 15th inst., but the condition of the appropriation bills is such as to render an adjournment at such time extremely doubtful. The work accomplished by the present congress has been of the most trifling character. The only measure of any great importance brought before it was the Morrison-Hewitt bill, and that failed to even obtain a hearing in the house.

The senate is still adding to the amount of the appropriations made for river and harbor purposes by the house. The bill now provides for the expenditure of over seveenteen millions of dollars, a sum in excess of all recent amounts appropriated for the same purposes. If the members of the house agree to the amendments made by the senate the bill will go the President, who ought, without hesitation, to veto it. The amount appropriated is by far too large. It is extravagance, pure and simple.

The British and colonial chamber of commerce passed, by a vote of 28 to 15 at a meeting on Thursday, amid great excitement, a resolution declaring that the remonetization of silver would relieve the depression under which trade is now staggering. The meeting is regarded as highly important, and its influence upon the coming silver demonstration in Lancashire must necessarily be very strong.

Prior to the adoption of the resolution there was an animated debate, in which H. H. Gibbs, ex-governor of the Bank of England, Paul F. Tidlan, an East India merchant, and Moreton Frewen favored the resolution, and Sir Robert N. Fowler, a London banker, and Mr. Crum of the London *Times* opposed it.

The republicans of Kansas have nominated James A. Martin for Governor, A. P. Reddle, Lt. Governor, and E. B. Allen, Secretary of State. The platform adopted is one that breathes forth sulpher and smoke.

The senate on Thursday passed the following: For the relief of the sufferers by the wreck of the United States steamer Tallapoosa; bills to accept and ratify agreements with Indians in Washington Territory for the use of part of the Yikima Reservation by the Northern Pacific Railroad, and for right of way to the Carson & Colorado Railroad Company through the Walker River Reservation in Nevada; bill to establish a forest reservation on the head waters of the Missouri River and on the head waters of Clark's Fork of the Columbia River, and a bill to regulate the pay of graduates of the Naval Academy. The bill to establish agricultural experimental stations in connection with agricultural colleges was postponed. Mr. Platt objected to considering the joint resolution providing for woman sufferage, and his resolution providing for open executive sessions was made a special order for Wednesday, Dec. 8. Mr. Conger objected to the consideration of the bill to authorize foreign-built steamships of the International Navigation Company to be registered as United States vessels.

The sub-committee of the house committee on Judiciary having in charge the Henley resolution, directing the Attorney General to institute criminal suits against the officers of the Union Pacific Railroad Company on the charges preferred, of falsifying accounts and violating the laws under which the company received its charter and land grants, will refer the matter to the Attorney General and the Secretary of the Interior for their opinions.

The sub-committee of the house committee on accounts, which investigated the employes' roll of the officers of the house with a view to making improvements, will submit a report just before the adjournment of this session, with the intention of inaugurating certain reforms with the beginning of the next session. The report will recommend the consolidation of the document rooms under the doorkeeper and clerk, and will point out some minor positions which are unnecessary.

The California delegation in congress called on President Cleveland on Thursday and extended to him an invitation to attend the National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic at San Francisco in August. The invitation was engraved on a plate of gold, and the presentation speech was made by Senator Stanford. The President accepted the "invitation," but stated that he would be unable to attend the encampment.

Reports have been received on the condition of the crops from every important wheat growing county in Minnesota and Dakota, and about one hundred counties in Iowa, Wisconsin and Nebraska. These reports show the crop to be in much worse condition than on June 1. The dry weather in May, which became quite a severe drouth in June, had more serious effect on small grain than was at first supposed, and the injury caused then is just now becoming painfully apparent. There has been very little rain since the first week in June, and no general rain since seeding time. The sections not affected by the drought are the Red River Valley from Waupeton to Grand Forks and the Northern Pacific country from Brainerd to Bismarck, in Minnesota, and Dakota. South of the forty-sixth parallel the weather has been very dry, the drought being the severest in the extreme southern counties of Minnesota and Dokota, extending well down into northern Iowa. During stooling period in May the weather was very dry, and the result is that the crop is thin on the ground and short in straw. The intensely hot weather of the past ten days had added materially to the injury, as the ground was in no condition to withstand any serious drought. The probable yield will be much short of that of 1885 only six counties in Minnesota report no damage from any cause, while every other county reports from 10 to 50 per cent. from various causes, but mostly from drought. In Dakota, where at this time last year the crop was in excellent condition every way, reports at this time show that drought has effected serious injury in extreme southern and northern portions of the territory. Eleven counties in Dakota report no damage from any other cause, while all others report 40 per cent. from drought, hail and wet weather. In the upper portion of the Red River Valley, early in the season, corn promised a very large yield in all portions of the Northwest. In Southern Minnesota and Dakota the outlook is the most prosperous for years. In Minnesota the oat yield will be about half that of last year.

The seems to be but little doubt of Gladstone's defeat in the English elections now in progress. Already the anti-home rule people have made great gains and in the returns thus far reported they have a majority of seventy. The Primier however is confident that the Scottish district will aid him. As yet nothing has occured to show any weakness of Scots loyalties to him. From the Midlothian district he was returned by an unprecedented majority and he was also returned as a member from Leith. He will decline the latter election and a new election will be called.

THE CAUCUSES.

It is to be presumed, from the lively interest manifested by the candidates for places upon the county ticket, that the caucuses in the various townships will this fall receive more than ordinary attention. Heretofore a democratic caucus in La Salle county has meant but little, but now that the plurality of the county's voters are democratic, the ante-convention meeting of the party's electors is of the greatest importance to the candidates and to the party.

The good of La Salle county's democracy demands that they be largely attended, for if allowed to go by default it is more than probable that delegate will appear at the convention who misrepresent rather than represent the wishes of the majority of the party in such township. Three or four men in each township should not be allowed to control it, especially if it is evident that they have some selfish end to subserve. To be truly representative all democrats should take part in them, and the business transacted should be carried on in the fairest and most methodical manner.

There should be no tolerance by the towns of outside interference. The whole gist of democracy is summed up in "local self-government," and local self-government is as applicable to a party caucus as to a town, county or state government. Further, there should be great reluctance on the part of those present at the caucus to send as delegates men who solicit delegateship, for it is fair to presume that such men have pledged themselves to a particular candidate, regardless of the effect such candidate's nomination would have on the balance of the ticket.

Republicans are counting largely for success upon democratic dissensions and an inharmonious convention. No harm can come from allowing them to "lay such flattering unction to their souls" prior to the naming of the democratic ticket, but everything must be done to avoid their having a season of rejoicing after the polls close on election day.

IN DISTRESS.

Mr. Dana, editor in chief of the New York *Sun*, evidently did not enjoy his fourth of July. His paper, which voices distinctively his own views of questions, both public and private, has evidenced every day since Saturday last that its chief editor is laboring under distress of a character that betokens the utmost mental anguish.

In each issue since the nation's natal day he has written of nothing but "Civil Service Commission Humbugs" and "Senseless Mugwumps." Somehow he finds pleasure in associating the one with the other, and in breaking out in such fiery style as, "Oh, Time! thou tutor, both to men of sense and to Mugwumps, do teach the Civil Service Commission that the democratic party does not vote at elections for the sake of keeping its opponets in office, and that examinations by a pack of school masters is not the method of appointment to office provided by the constitution."

This appeal to "Time" on the part of Mr. Dana is indeed touching, but we doubt if it will accomplish any great amount of good. It is very likely that "Time" has as little political control over the members of the Civil Service Commission and Mugwumps as Mr. Dana, and if he had more he hardly would lay aside his "hour glass" and "scythe" to participate in a political controversy. Besides Mr. Dana must be regarded as a little presumptious in taking it for granted that "Time" is not a believer in Civil Service reform.

The probabilities are that he is a very thorough believer in better methods of government, and better methods of government can only result from a pure and wholesome system of Civil Service. Mr. Dana professes to believe in the wisdom of Thomas Jefferson, and Thomas Jefferson was in every sense of the word an advocate of a public service based upon merit solely and not upon party fealty and party service. As a judge of what is the proper "method of appointment to office provided by the constitution," Mr. Jefferson is far preferable to the disciple and chief bugler of Benjamin Franklin Butler, late politically deceased.

GONE WRONG.

Inspired by the knowledge that some eleven members of his family are drawing monthly stipends from the government of the United States, for services they are supposed to render to the people, Senator Vance, of North Carolina, in speaking to the braves of Tammany, on Monday last, waxed eloquent and denounced in vigorous terms a civil service system that might operate to exclude from office his remaining relatives not already provided for by a grateful republic.

Warming up to his work under the howlings of the big and little "Injuns" in Tammany's wigwam, the distinguished Senator said: "In the hour of victory we have had some little demoralization, and we have permitted a tendency toward bureaucratic administration to appear in what is called civil-service reform. The action of this system is unconstitutional and undemocratic. * * * But, although the democratic party has been a backslider in this regard, it will retrace its steps and recover from its demoralization."

The utterances thus given forth by a prominent member of the party undoubtedly bespeak the sentiments of many democrats, who, schooled in the Jacksonian theory of complete submission to the spoilsmen of the party, look with foreboding upon any innovation upon a system so long honored and practiced. It is, distinctively, the sentiment of the politician, pure and simple, but fortunately for the people and for the democracy, it now has no lodgment in the minds of the great mass who feel a patriotic interest in the public good, uninspired by the desire for place. In this confidence reposed in the benefits of civil service reform rests the system's safety.

Senator Vance, if he believes in his statements of Monday, has been a poor student of the recent political history of this country. The democratic party, instead of having backslidden, has advanced under the administration of President Cleveland. Instead of having become demoralized it has grown more united. The democratic party is fast losing the characteristics of a party of mere opposition. It is becoming, thanks to the vigorous and positive ideas of the President, a party with a purpose disassociated from the idea of merely opposing. It is becoming an assertive party, and the more strongly it asserts itself upon the question of advancing civil service reform the more strongly does it commend itself to the people.

President Cleveland's position upon the question of civil service is in direct opposition to that of Senator Vance. The two have nothing in common as regards it and can have nothing. At the next Presidential election the voters will decide as between the ideas they respectively represent. The contest may be a bitter one, but as surely as the question of advancement of civil-service reform or retrogression is submitted to the electors through party nominees and platforms, just so surely will the majority of them be found upon the side of progress.

RICH IN PROMISES.

If there is any one thing that can be discussed with propriety at this season of the year, when everything save politics is at a stand-still, it is the subject of "political promises." At present there are in this county a number of gentlemen who seem, under the pressure of their party friends, willing to sacrifice their own personal interests to their country's goed, especially that portion of it constituting La Salle county, and to these men promise upon promise is being continually made, either reluctantly or under the constraining influence of a request.

Without being at all desirous of discouraging the candidates who look with feelings of pride and satisfaction upon their rich and unique collection of political promises, we yet desire to suggest that it would be well for such not to rely too strongly upon them. Promises made in the present time to be carried out in the future are often "writ in water," especially in a preliminary political canvass, and the candidate who feels assured of a nomination because of the vast number of friends who have assured him of a hearty support, is very apt be the one who fails to secure a place in the race.

However wrong it may be the truth is, that between political promises and promises of a purely private nature, men draw a marked line of distinction, and in many instances think nothing of saying one thing and doing the other. The cause for this is to be found in the fact that one's own party men dislike to be disobliging, and when a political promise is asked for, it is given with a mental reservation attachment. The hope generally accompanies the promise that, through some turn of fortune, it will not have to be redeemed.

To escape the misfortune of having a lot of bad promises on hand when the convention draws to a close, we suggest the propriety of candidates for nomination this fall asking for very few direct promises, even from their most zealous friends. The result of such a course will be that they themselves will indulge in no illusive hopes, and their fellow-party-men will not be forced to give pledges that are but pledges for accommodation's sake.

THE ENGLISH ELECTION EXPENSES.

The recent heavy contribution of funds sent from this country to aid in the election of home rule members to the British parliament has attracted attention to the election laws of England, which, as compared with the enactments of this country, are widely different. Thus far our public legislators have never attempted to regulate by statute the amount of money that candidates for office might expend to secure an election. In England, however, the whole matter is subject to legal enactment, though there is but little attempt to make acts bearing upon it more than a mere dead letter.

While it is intended through the rigor of the laws to prevent the wholesale bribery of electors and the extravagant use of money at elections, that end is not reached, for oftentimes the election of a member costs as high as fifty thousand dollars. A candidate who goes beyond the legal maximum of the law renders himself liable not only to the loss of seat on a trial before the courts, but also to serve a term of imprisonment. At the best the expenses are made so heavy as to practically bar a poor man from contesting for a seat in parliament if the opposing candidate avails himself of the use of money. This fact accounts for the raising of funds in America to help Gladstone and Parnell in their fight against the money power of the whigs and tories.

The provisions of the law relative to such expenditure of money are, that in a borough where the number of electors do not exceed 2,000, the candidate may spend for all purposes, excepting personal expenses and the returning officers' fees $1,750. If the number exceeds 2,000, then $150 for every additional complete 1,000. In Ireland the candidate is allowed to spend more liberally—that is, $1,000 for every 500 electors, and $1,250 for any number between 500 and 1,000, and $1,375 for any number between 1,000 and 1,500. In the counties where the number of electors does not exceed 2,000, the candidate may spend $3,250 in England and Scotland and $2,500 in Ireland. If the number exceeds 2,000, then $3,550 in England and Scotland and $2,750 in Ireland, and an additional $300 in England and Scotland, and an additional $200 in Ireland for every complete 1,000 electors over 2,000. In every particular the manner in which such money may be expended is rigidly defined.

Viewed in the light of the unusual expenditure of money made in this congressional district two years ago, the enactment and enforcement of a law to regulate expenses in a congressional contest in this country would materially benefit the morals of the voters and save an immense sum to the successful candidate.

To-day Mr. Elias C. Hatheway, of this city announces his candidacy for the democratic nomination for the office of sheriff, of this county. Mr. Hatheway is at present deputy sheriff, having held the present position during the present administration of that office. He is a democrat of long standing and though never a cadidate for official position has always maintained a lively interest in party politics, always acting with the party, at whose hands he now asks konors. He has resided in this county thirty-one years, and in that time has drawn to himself a great many friends. Mr. Hatheway is a New Englander, a very pleasant gentleman, and a man of good ability.

It has been stated that Mr. Samuel Degen, of this city is not a candidate for the democratic nomination for the office of sheriff of La Salle county. To demonstrate the falsity of this statement Mr. Degen today published a card, announcing that he will seek that position. This we trust will demonstrate to his enemies that he is in the field and cause a cessation of the story that he is not. Mr. Degen simply asks an open field and a fair fight, and this we earnestly entreat for him. The FREE TRADER takes no part in prelimniary contest but is very glad to add that Mr. Degen is a resident of Ottawa and a voter of democratic tickets.

The republican County Central Committee have issued a call for a county convention to be held in this city, Monday, August, 23. It will be composed of 173 delegates. The work of the convention will consist of selecting delegates to the state and congressional conventions and nominating a new County Central Committee.

The Gossiper.

KING LAZARUS.

Set down thy cup, O Dives, the wine no longer pour,
Go bid thy lackeys open, there's knocking at the door;
'Tis not a beggar's wailings that thro' thy court-yard ring,
'Tis Lazarus who calls thee, and Lazarus is king!

Come out; he brooks no tarrying! Come out and naked stand;
What though thy gold was gathered by thine own brain and hand;
The rogue must live as well as thou, the felon have his fling,
For Lazarus hath spoken, and Lazarus is king.

Pull down, ye fond philosophers, your pleasure homes of art,
In vain ye feed his fancy and cultivate his heart;
'Tis food he wants, not culture; 'tis gold your hands must bring;
For Lazarus has spoken, and Lazarus is king.

In vain ye preach, O preachers, and mouth it o'er and o'er,
The happiness of kingdom-come when beggars beg no more,
'Tis now, not then, he want's it, ere life be on the wing;
He wants it and will have it, for Lazarus is king.

Ye tender, pious women, who patronize his doors,
Ye scheming politicians who lick the beggar's sores,
See how he flings it back at you—the charity you bring;
This is no pulling beggar, 'tis Lazarus, the king!

Reign on, reign on, King Lazarus; time and the hour shall see
Dives with Father Abraham, who will have none of thee;
Then comes the rogues' millennium—when all the world will sing
"Barabbas up for ever; Barabbas shall be king."

—*Frederick E. Weatherly in Temple Bar.*

* * *

Mayor O'Connor is to be complimented for his refusal to allow the Myers-Welch mill to occur in La Salle. There is nothing elevating about prize-fighting, and the city official who tolerates such exhibitions of brutality has not a proper appreciation of what he owes to the people whose servant he is.

* * *

The Southern literary circles have suffered another loss in the death of Paul H Hayne, who for some years has divided the honors in the poetic fields of the south with Father Ryan, the "poet priest," late deceased. Mr. Hayne was essentially a poet of nature, and some of his contributions to the magazines of the country have attracted the widest notice. There is a sweetness of thought characteristic of all his writings that makes them enjoyable. He never was pretentious nor claimed for himself any great degree of merit. Broken in health by service in the Confederate cause, he sought his living in the later days of his life through the medium of his pen. His popularity was continually on the increase, and had his life been prolonged he would have attained rank among the higher order of poets.

* * *

The editors of the Streator *Free Press* seem greatly worried over the thought that the people of this district may think they belong to the Plumb editorial syndicate, and so they rush into print to protest that they are virtuous and that as yet none of Col. Plumb's money has ever contaminated them. This may be all true—we trust it is; but if these gentlemen desire to maintain themselves pure and spotless it would be well for them to cease advocating the claims of Dr. Evan's double for further congressional honors. The editors of the *Free Press* allege that Col. Plumb is "the best man in this district for the position." Will they please be specific and state why he is? It would be gratifying to the people to know.

* * *

On Sunday last the Rev. Davis, pastor of the Methodist-Episcopal church, took occasion in his sermon to mention the FREE TRADER. The FREE TRADER has no controversy to carry on with the reverend brother. It feels flattered that he thinks it worth while to speak from the pulpit of something contained in it, but just here we are content to let the matter rest.

* * *

Those who have met with the Hon. John H. Oberly and know him will readily appreciate the following taken from the Chicago *Daily News:*

There is a good deal of oppositeness on the soubriquet of "bishop" conferred upon Civil Service Commissioner Oberly by his Illinois friends. His genial, smoothly-shaven face, together with a style of dress, rather clerical than otherwise, would readily lead one to believe that his vocation was that of a minister of the gospel. On his way to the capitol in a street-car the other day a well-dressed man somewhat under the influence of liquor dropped into the vacant seat beside Oberly. "I'm from Detroit," the gentleman said by way of introduction, and then he began making inquires regarding the public buildings en route. Mr. Oberly chatted pleasantly with the stranger until the capitol was reached. At this point each alighted. Shaking Oberly by the hand the Detroit man said:

"I am a member of the medical profession, while it is easy to see that you are a clergyman. But we each make our living out of the same material. I try to save the bodies, and you try to save the souls; and you bet your life, pard, between us both—right on the dead square, you know—we manage to get about all they have," and then he walked off with a self-satisfied air that caused Oberly to join the spectators heartily in the laughter that followed.

* * *

Not the least pleasant result of the regatta of Monday is the cordial relations that have been established by it between the members of the Ottawa Boat Club and the "Sylvan" Club of Moline. The courtesy shown by the members of the "Sylvan" four in stopping over in this city on their way to Grand Rapids is not unappreciated. It is to be hoped they felt repaid for so doing, for certainly the people who watched their magnificent performance of the last hundred yards of their race with Peru enjoyed it to the full. They made their shell fairly shoot through the water and without any apparent effort. It is to be hoped that the good feeling which now exists between the Clubs will continue. The city of Moline is near to Ottawa, and there is no reason why there should not be a good many friendly contests between the members. The Moline gentlemen may be assured that the Ottawa people will always welcome them to this city, not only as contestants, but as friends.

Entre Nous.

TO THE JOLIET PRESS.

The *Press* may puff, and the *Press* may roar,
And give Col. Plumb soft soap every day;
But they can't make me believe they do it for love,
For the *Press* isn't built in that way.

† † †

It strikes me, however, Mr. Editor, the *Press* perpetrates a "new one." In fact, it is rather the best I have seen. McIntosh says:

After hearing him [Col. Plumb] talk, and scanning his manly and dignified and commanding presence, will the republicans of Will county listen to the slanderous and mendacious unsupported accusations of a few disgruntled editors, who have failed to "*put the handkerchief of philosophy to the sore eye of defeat*"?

I have used the italics. I think the phrases deserve them. It isn't every common country editor, I judge, from specimens round about me, who can make so many syllables out of that expressive old Roman derivative, *stipend*. It takes a head on a fellow to do it, "now weally." But Mc. is no blooming chump, and has more sore eyes than Argus, son of Arestor.

† † †

The *Press*' editorial "Not Fair Treatment," seems to have struck Col. Plumb as being quite a fine production. [Your readers should understand that, in the view of the *Press*, in this article, Washington, Franklin, Wilberforce, *et id omne genus*, are quite common-place people when standing in a line with Col. Plumb.]

It is alleged the janitor, clearing the halls of Congress, found among the debris of a quiet session, when the Colonel did not find it impossible to be there, an unfinished epistle under the desk of the distinguished member from this district, somewhat to this tenor:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
WASHINGTON, July 9.

My dear Mr. McIntosh:—Your editorial, "Not Fair Treatment," was a hustler. [I do not use slang in my letters designed to surreptitiously fall into the hands of my editors for publication without my consent, but you will appreciate its expressiveness.] I may say it is a daisy. What a pity that *Vesica*, running my organ at Ottawa, can't be knocked on the head and have his brain turned over. He might be able then to write something besides a draft. If he could repress his pugilistic proclivities, give them a rest on my circulation there, and what a shoel of a fellow he is, and say something to the point, I might realize on that investment; but as it is, for an unadulterated and thorough (and expensive) double-eared ass he takes the cold biscuit. He's a beastly vulgar fellow, too; and it's annoying to think of such a fellow when I get in among the big wigs at a seance here—positively beastly. But he has neither good sense nor poetry in his soul. I like that "handkerchief of philosophy" racket, which you use so freely this week. It's good—very good. Your literary readers will catch on to that in good shape. But don't you think you drew it a little strong—that "character" of mine, I mean? I don't know but that it reads all right—in fact, it does; but I fear, between you and me, the masses may have an attack of the cholera morbus if you give it to them in too strong doses. Why not run it along through several editorials and cover the ground in that way? Try the homeopathic treatment. Shakespeare never repeats, you know; and it's a good idea. When I was quartermaster, too, I found the boys didn't do so well on one kind of rations for months at a time. I think also the "manly and dignified and commanding presence" was somewhat daring, and apt to provoke comparisons, you know. I have already been compared to Jos. Sedley, of "Vanity Fair," I believe, as to "shape," and it's just like those ultra goody-goody and unappreciative manger-guarders in Peru and Yorkville to run the comparison to a mental one, also.

I think you might work up into something good that puff I had put into the *Capital*. It cost a deuced big price, but I don't mind the expense if I can just boom the labor business a little more. The oleomargarine bill and that wretched Hennepin business didn't seem to catch on; and my "untortunate absence" (?!) from my seat when the arbitration bill came to a vote, may put me in a bad light. You must keep the *Free Press* out of that. This labor business is all bosh, you know, but it is just the stuff to catch the populace around about Joliet, Streator, La Salle and Braidwood, and you can't work it too strong. As to that affidavit you make, it—

But here the MSS. breaks off, and the rest cannot be conjectured. I get this by telephone from Washington, from the first assistant janitor, and is doubtless authentic, though hardly a part of his "Complete Letter Writer," which the Colonel has been publishing, on the installmen—plan, as he remarks, to be surreptitiously given to the public by his admirers. EXCUS.

The old settlers have taken a step in the right direction in proposing to join the city in the purchase of Hoes' Grove. The city ought to own that property and the land lying east of it for park purposes. Anyone who will watch the travel of people over the Illinois River bridge on Sundays and evenings when the working men and women can find time to seek a cool place for a stroll will be able to appreciate the need of this property by the public. We think the majority of people would be surprised at the number of people who make the bank of the river a strolling place. With the organization of the boat club, and the reasonable expetations of annual regattas here, the need of it becomes more apparent. As a county seat, Ottawa ought to have such grounds to accommodate summer gatherings of civil societies, old settlers' picnics, reunions of various sorts, which though numerous now, would be multiplied were fitting grounds provided. From a mere business point of view, the purchase of this property would be a first-class investment for the city, while the growing importance to the city of the Mineral Spring ought to warrant the city in improving, as her own property, grounds contiguous there to thus uniting with the Spring Company in making that part of the city a real summer resort. Suppose the Spring is is private property, its improvement has thus far benefitted the city more than its owners, and united action by both would do still more to make our city attractive in summer; and surely if the little town of Oregon, in Ogle county can be boomed successfully (as is being done) as a summer resort, Ottawa ought to pay more regard to her opportunities than she has.