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TUESDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 11

to help the plucky little city carry her point. If carried, it will be a bonanza for Indianapolis.

THE "bloody shirt" is an alarm signal. It is a disclosure of weakness. It is a confession that the Republicans dare not make the fight on the tariff. It is Democratic duty and policy to push the fighting on ground where the Republicans do not want it.

For every "protection" Democrat there is an anti-protection Republican "Protection Democrats" abound in states not given to voting the Democratic ticket in national contests. In the coming presidential campaign Democrats can combine principle and policy with much profit to themselves.

"PITY the sorrows"—not of a "poor old man"—but of Col. Jim Winter-smith, newly elected doorkeeper of the house of representatives. Three hundred and sixty-five applicants (one for every day in the year) besiege him for a subordinate position. Col. Winter-smith will earn his salary—that is if he lives through the racket.

The fight to make the platform of Democracy demand "a tariff for revenue only" will be harder than the contest with Republicans on such a platform. Democratic high-tariff men will appeal the party with prophecies of woe if such platform be adopted. Self interest is as powerful among Democratic manufacturers and iron-mongers as among Republicans.

WHY should Tennessee, Kentucky and Missouri be denominated "rebel" states? Each of them furnished as many soldiers to Union as Confederate armies. If these soldiers and the 10,000 that went out of Texas with the late Governor Davis had served Jefferson Davis with half the fidelity they illustrated in adhesion to Lincoln, we would to-day have two instead of one consolidated empire.

TEXAS was so lucky in the Mercer colony land suit (recently decided in the United States supreme court) that we are led to indulge in hopeful anticipations as to the outcome of her claim on the valuable body of land known as Greer county. Governor Ireland has recently written to the president on the subject, and a commission will no doubt be appointed, on the part of the government, to act with a commission from Texas, in adjudicating the title to the disputed territory.

Concerning Homan. We had almost lost sight of "Common Sense Indictment" Homan, as an aspirant for the federal judgeship of the Eastern district, but "what are we here for?" Flanagan says Homan's prospects are excellent. Homan and Flanagan are both in Washington, and the latter is booming the former. Of the Republicans who want this office, Homan is as little open to objection as any of the lot, and much less so than some of them. He is a lawyer of fair ability, conservative, and as to personal characteristics absolutely without reproach. It is a good sign that in Burlington county, where he lives, he is esteemed and trusted by his Democratic neighbors. The district he has represented in the state senate can poll a Democratic majority in most elections, but it has always returned Homan when he cared to be a candidate. If he has a hobby it is prohibition. On that subject he is an enthusiastic, but not a fanatic like St. John. The president could do much worse than appointing Homan.

Capital Punishment. In Mexico when the law disposes of a man's life he faces a file of soldiers and is shot to death. An execution of this kind has occurred at Monterey, Utah is the only section of the United States where this method of capital punishment is in vogue. The Utah criminal sentenced to death is given his choice, whether he will die by the gallows or shooting, and the latter alternative is as often chosen as the former. One of the most notable instances we can recall is the case of John D. Lee, who was shot in 1877 for participation in the famous Mountain Meadow massacre. He was an old man and high in the Mormon Church, but Brigham Young could not save him. By way of poetic justice or retribution he was carried to the very spot where the massacre occurred. A single marksman was employed and his aim was so accurate that the bullet pierced Lee's heart. He fell dead, never uttering a word. The many bungling gallows executions we have in this country suggest that shooting is not as brutal as the scaffold. Science, however, might utilize electricity as a far less repulsive destroying agency than either the rifle or the gallows.

As Absurd as the Confederate Bond Parore. About two years ago the quiet inquiries for and purchase of Confederate bonds attracted public attention. The newspapers began to print articles about the matter and then, all at once, it leaped into the full glare of publicity, a genuine sensation. The wildest stories imaginable were set afloat, of immense sums of money left in the bank of England by the defunct government, and all this money had been lying there idle for years. Certain series of Confederate bonds were in

good demand and were bought and sold, both in this country and Europe. Then the bank of England and Mr. Judah P. Benjamin spoke up and punctured the bubble. There were no funds in the bank to the credit of the Lost Cause. Ultimately it transpired that English holders of these bonds had worked up the excitement, with a view, as they confessed, of influencing public opinion in the United States, and especially the South, looking toward the assumption of the Confederacy's debt by the United States. This put an end to the discussion; the subject grew ridiculous and was dropped. But the public is always ready to be interested and amused, and within the last ten days it has been treated to the details of another sensation that recalls, almost irresistibly, the furore that was made over the Confederate bond matter. As the story goes now, a Texan, who was a Union man during the war, and also a large owner of slave property, is preparing to institute suit in the United States supreme court for restitution for his losses by reason of the emancipation of these slaves. We are told, with gravity, that when Texas entered the Union she received from the United States explicit and solemn guarantees of the inviolability of the slave property held by her citizens. And as this Texan did not engage in, aid or abet the rebellion, he could claim exemption from any of the constitutional amendments that have followed the war and sue the United States for the value of his slaves! It is a wildly interesting story, and that is the most that may be said for it. There may be a man who has time and money (not to mention reputation for sanity) to waste in putting up and litigating such a claim, but we doubt it. If the story had been telegraphed from Texas instead of Washington we should suspect—but let us see—Is Mulhatten in Texas? Perhaps he may be in Washington. It is the season when gentlemen of ornate imaginations flock thither. But Mulhatten or no Mulhatten, it may be set down as a petrifed fact that the Texan or whoever else brings such a suit will have his trouble for nothing. The subject is really too absurd for serious consideration.

A Tariff Reform Platform. What if the national Democratic convention next year repeats the tariff-revenue-only declaration in the platform of 1880 and gives a pledge of its earnestness of purpose by nominating such a revenue-reformer as Wm. R. Morrison—what are the protection element of the party going to do about it? The question is well worth asking and considering, for upon its answer depends much of consequence to the Democratic party. That the tariff question will be the main issue, and that the Democrats as qualified free-traders will confront the Republicans as absolute protectionists, is a fact foreseen by the most obtuse. The recent assertion of the free-trade sentiment of the party in the election of a speaker shows a disposition to throw aside the paltering, negative policy of mere opposition to the Republican party, and enter the campaign of 1888 with a clearly defined policy and a ringing demand for a lessening of tariff taxation. The comparative strength of the opposing interests inside the party, of free-trade and protection, is very accurately defined by the figures of the vote for speaker. Randall was the embodiment of the protection idea, and had the votes of 52 congressmen. Carlisle and Cox both declared themselves for tariff reform, and their vote was 138. If the members of congress who cast these votes properly represent their party, the proportion of free-traders to protectionists is as three to one, almost. There is good reason to believe that the party at large is even more unanimously in favor of the free-trade idea than this vote expresses. But it also makes clear an unwholesome fact, that there is a strong faction of Democrats who are not revenue reformers. These are controlled by constituencies who have local interests which they erroneously imagine to be advanced by a protective tariff. They are, in fine, the iron masters of Pennsylvania, the silk makers of New Jersey, the sugar producers of Louisiana, and a few solitary representatives from manufacturing districts of other states. The action of these men is dictated by the most powerful agent in shaping men's politics—self-interest—the purse. In a direct issue between free-trade and protection, will these men be Democrats or Republicans? Will past association have power to hold them to that party whose policy they believe to endanger their interests? Or will they go to the Republican party and transfer their voting strength to that side which is in accord with them on the tariff question? In a few cases, doubtless, they will desert to the enemy. A free-trade platform may lessen the Democratic vote in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Connecticut, but this is not a real loss to the party, for they have never but once carried more than one of these states, for president. And they would gain nothing by evading the tariff question: for the Republican party can go further in favor of protection than they dare go, and protectionists who want a protection pol-

icy will vote with that party, whether Democrats are for free-trade or not. Therefore the effective loss by the adoption of a vigorous free-trade platform cannot and will not seriously divide the Democrats.

To compensate for the disaffected protection Democrats, there will be large accessions from the agricultural Republican states of the West. There are as many free-trade Republicans as there are protection Democrats, and this class of Republicans is strong in the Northwestern states, Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa and Kansas, though it now seems that they are irredeemably Republican, are only so because the Democrats have offered no choice for anything better than they have got in the Republican party. If the assurance is made to them that the Democratic party will give them relief from tariff burdens, they cannot be so blind to their welfare as to continue in power a party who levies tribute on them for the benefit of a few Eastern manufacturers. The Chicago Tribune, the leading Republican paper of the West, is strongly free-trade. The city of Chicago, which gave a Republican majority in 1876, is now Democratic by from 5,000 to 10,000 majority. Republican temperance agitation in Illinois has divorced thousands of Germans from the party in that state. These facts combine to give promise that the twenty-two electoral votes of that state will go to the election of a Democratic president in 1885, if an intelligent and aggressive free-trade canvass is made. With these gains in the West we can afford to forego the doubtful chance of a few protection states in the East.

There will be a re-forming of party lines. Democrats will become Republicans, and Republicans will become Democrats. Old issues and old prejudices are dead. A new and living question is before us. Democrats have won nothing but defeat on a neutral platform, and they can fare no worse upon a positive one. It is more glorious to fall in defense of principle than in a fight for plunder.

I sought to press a loving kiss, Upon her lips as red as roses, But said to tell, deceptive bliss, Naught came together but cold noses. —Just so.

TENNYSON'S income is about \$20,000 per year.

AMERICAN toys are in demand in all parts of the world.

THE favorite amusement of the emperor of China is to spin a top.

GREEN peas are offered for sale in the Gainesville, Fla., market.

WHITES are excluded from the San Carlos reservation.

IN Jamaica fifty-eight out of every one hundred children born are illegitimate.

NEW YORK pretends to have a comet of its own, which can be seen nowhere else.

THE supreme court of the United States is still three years behind the docket.

BEAUFORT, Wyoming territory, has established a shoo-gun quarantine against Chinamen.

WHIST playing is the special weakness of most of the justices of the United States supreme court.

FRECKLES have become very fashionable. The Princess Louise and all the other noble girls have them.

CATARH has killed fifty dogs in Waterbury, Conn., and horsemen fear it will come into the stables next.

SOJOURNER TRUTH'S real name—or that which had been given to her by her first master—was Isabella Hardenburg.

THE ebony tree grows to be fifteen feet in circumference. The outer wood is pure white, the heart only being perfectly black.

THE "Jim" river in Dakota is said to be the longest un navigable river in the United States, if not in the world, its distance being nearly one thousand miles.

JAMES W. BARNEZ of Iowa City, Iowa, ran against a colored man one dark night recently and broke his nose. The negro escaped unhurt.

THIS was the very concise verdict of a coroner's jury in Idaho: "We find that the deceased came to his death by calling Tom Walt's son a liar."

IN a game of foot ball at Annapolis a muscular cadet kicked the ball fifty yards. His friends were willing to back him against any opera singer in this country.

THE first railway in Spain was laid in 1838. It was but fifteen and a half miles long. The system has not grown very rapidly, however, and now only covers 6,000 miles.

A PET crow belonging to H. G. Heldt of Columbia, S. C., jumped upon a shelf where its master's revolver lay, and began playing with it. The revolver was discharged, killing the crow.

A TEN-YEAR-OLD boy, so drunk that he could not walk, was one of the disgraceful sights to be witnessed Thanksgiving day on Pine street, Nevada City, Cal.

SNOW is seven or eight feet deep in Judith basin, Montana. The sheepmen of that section are well-provided with hay and sheds, so that no serious loss is anticipated, even if we do have a severe winter.

MR. ALONZO HAYES of Kittery, Me., forgot to sprinkle meal on his horse's nose-day fodder; presently he heard a loud noise in the stable, and found the horse with the pal of meal in his mouth, just lifting it into the manger.

GAME-STALKING with oxen is a popular and profitable business on the plains near the San Joaquin river. Sand-hill cranes have become so wary that even with

well-trained cattle they are difficult to approach.

EIGHT months ago a Maine man lost a ring from his finger while feeding the pigs. One of the young porkers was killed for Thakg'ving, and upon its tongue, about two and one-half inches from the tip, was the missing jewel. It had been stuck up from the trough.

ONE of the survivors of the Black Hole of Calcutta was Sir David Baird. When his mother, a young undomesticative old Scotch lady, was told of the horrors in the Black Hole on that awful night, she merely remarked: "God help the man that was chained to my David!"

THERE is a man in Sixth avenue, New York, whose dog has gone for his morning paper every morning for years. The man always gave the dog a three-cent piece to buy the paper. When the price came down to two cents the dog threatened to tear the newspaper to pieces until he passed over the penny change.

OVER forty tons of poultry in the hands of Boston dealers soured during Thanksgiving week, and three-quarters of it was purchased for canning houses, who claim that although it would not keep for many hours, and was therefore unsalable in the retail market, it was just as good as the dried and freshest after being treated to a salernian bath.

GEN. GRANT says he believes in international arbitration for the settlement of international disputes, but his faith in its adoption is diminishing. The willingness to go to war is best held in check by the improving methods of making war destructive. Big guns are effective arbitrators. They deter the beginning of fighting and shorten the duration of it.

DURING the late high wind Mono lake was swept from one end to the other by a young tornado, says the Bodie (Cal.) Free Press, which lashed the water into foam and piled the latter up on the shore twenty feet high in some places. Mixed up with the latter were thousands of dead ducks that had been killed by being dashed against the rocks of the island.

A COLORED man named Richards, now living in Rhode Island, entertains his friends by stories of the time when he earned \$2 a week playing the cannibal in a well-known American show which traveled in England. Richards was kept shut up in a cage, and was expected to glare fiercely at the spectators, and every now and then make a grab at any one who too closely approached his cage. He was taught a sort of gibberish, which he repeated occasionally, to the horror and terror of the lookers-on.

THE two highest-salaried governors of the states are those of New York and Pennsylvania, who receive \$10,000 a year each. The next highest are those of California, Nevada, and Illinois, who get \$9,000 each. The governors of Colorado, Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri, New Jersey, Virginia, Wisconsin are paid \$5,000 each. Most of the other governors are paid from \$1,500 to \$1,000. The southern states pay \$3,000 and \$1,000. The lowest salaries are paid to the governors of Vermont, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Michigan, who receive but \$1,000 each.

OWING to the scarcity of satisfactory trees, lam-posts, etc., a mob of lynchmen near Albuquerque, N. M., took their prisoner to a flat-car and proceeded to erect a rather unique scaffold. A crib of ties was built up high on the flat-car, and two ties were run straight out from the crib, the inside ends of the two ties being fastened to the crib by lashing with ropes so that they were held securely in place. The prisoner, with the rope on his neck, the other end of which was fastened to the projecting ties, was made to mount the gallows, when he was pushed off, the fall proving of sufficient height to break his neck.

AT West Point once General Sherman, accompanied by the commandant of cadets, was making an inspection tour of the barracks. He wasn't looking for contraband goods, but while in one of the rooms he got talking about his cadet days, and "When I was a cadet," he said to the commandant, "we hid things in the chimneys during the summer months. I wonder if the boys do so still." (It was then in June, so saying he stepped to the fireplace and reached up the chimney. Rattling down at his touch came a board, followed by a frying pan, a bottle (empty) and a suit of citizen's clothes. The faces of the cadets who occupied the room were a study, but the general only laughed, and turning to the commandant said: "This is an exceptional case, colored. No need of reporting these young men."

TEXAS STATE NEWS.

Watermelons were offered for sale on the streets of Lockhart last Friday.

The Seymour school under Prof. Truscott now registers one hundred pupils.

The Baird merchants have agreed to sell no fire crackers during the holidays.

The McKinney city council has prohibited the sale of fire crackers by the merchants there.

The building boom in Anson gives employment to seventeen carpenters, and more are needed.

Professor Hudson of Tehuacana collegent up a balloon last week for the amusement of his pupils.

Dr. P. C. Coleman of Colorado City has been appointed division surgeon of the Texas & Pacific railway.

The Henderson Times says the wire-cutting in the West has turned the tide of immigration into Eastern Texas.

Gatesville has passed an ordinance forbidding the erection or repairing of any wooden buildings fronting on the square.

During November Abilene shipped eighty car-loads of cattle west, and 120 carloads east, there being a total of 4,754 head.

Every third person one meets in Coleman is a stranger. They are all looking for new homes, and many are buying for cash.

On new-year's day the survivors of Green's brigade will celebrate the twentieth anniversary of their capture of Galveston island from the Union forces.

The ladies of the Episcopal church at Gainesville are preparing a "crazy-quilt" to be disposed of during the Christmas holidays to increase the church fund.

Miss Mattie Cox, the missing Mexican maids, was enticed away from home by the blandishments of a book

agent's advertisement. home and intends to

Judge Clark at New Orleans the grand jury the more men were cutting fences it was they could be sent to

One night last week while intoxicated, a third story window in hotel at Tyler and

Two nuptial knots had been married for but fearing that the might be ill-gal they had performed a second time

Two Gainesville boys ten years of age, who rowed \$10 and bought ammunition, and started world to make their were captured at Denton

About a mile and a cut one night last week pulled up and burned. British subject, and will be responsible for damages

The young ladies of held an indignation meeting tested against the use of their beaus, looking to the elism of all whose indecentious weed. They are

Col. J. D. Crawford of has sent Jim Ection of rather singular value. The negro skin tanned in Miss., and lined with the of a delicate female presented to Col. Crawford by the colored Mike Berry of Texas three fights in one day, in came off victorious, and for more world to be pitted his game cock against long to Deputy Sheriff Mike's bird came out after a contest of one hour minutes

The fence-cutting fever has reached Tom Green county. nights of Thursday and Friday week, the wire-fence around the pasture of Mr. L. R. Harris from San Angelo, was cut for a distance of three miles by cattle parties. They turned a rack of barbed wire in some instances. The actual loss estimated about \$8,000.

A Kicker From Wintersville (Columbus Herald). Randall and Pig Iron pretty well, but Alexander McClure has gone clean

Compliments of the (New York Sun). Brother Watterson is to take a cake. We renew assurance of our most consideration.

We may be happy, you bet. Jumping on a Man Who (Cincinnati Enquirer). The friends of the late Thompson have their His quiet, immovable heave with affection no

Definition of a Compliment (Detroit Free Press). A complimentary vote in the ership is like asking a man to the bottle after the wine swallowed by some one else.

Life Cheap in Connecticut (Cincinnati Enquirer). They have got to killing in Connecticut, and will keep at it, inasmuch as the yielded up eleven good Americans.

Why Matt Arnold Came (London Times). Americans are now in censure with good humor, invited Mr. Arnold to the States that he might perform them of their faults.

Secession and Polyanth (Chicago Inter Ocean). If Utah has the right to polygamy, why have not states a right to secede? If a state is not so sovereign as to be difficult to determine if of a man convicted of bigamy state, when he had simply wife out of doors and taken

Speaking Unkindly to the (Philadelphia Record). These political newspaper columns of double-edged swords to make their readers that a business public will choice of a revenue speaker, must have a opinion of the common people. Tariff reform is a people. Tariff reform is a coming slowly and a beneficence and not as a

Love and Hate (Chicago Inter Ocean). An enterprising mathematician figured that the cost of Iowa is \$8,000,000 per year out knowing any of the in some Iowa girl and the dogs and they have, as jured his pants. Under stances a fellow has changes of about eight But he should not forget and family may feel that been benefited by double

The Tariff and James (Chicago Times). "Major" Edwards, the Democratic paper of the Missouri, is raising a over the defeat of R supported for the speaking tacking his party with are quoted with great publican organs. was understood to be an admirer and devoted friend Jesse James, it was side of the protection not surprising that the not the defeat of R was a blow to protection the death of Mr. James Missouri train-robbers