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DEMOCRATS in congress will only work tearing down the McKinley law during the dark of the moon. They give evidence of being afraid to attack it in daylight, or even when the moon is full. They may be smart, but the public always hates a coward no matter how smart he may be.—Inter Ocean.

THE latest Pittsburgh establishment where the process of tinning is carried on is that of Griffith & Cadwallader of the Twenty-third ward, Pittsburgh, Pa., who commenced operations on January 1 with a force entirely new to the business. They are turning out a fine grade of roofing plate at the rate of 300 boxes per week.—American Manufacturer.

THE New York Recorder has a novel plan for honoring both the living and the dead who played conspicuous parts in the Chilean disturbance. This plan is to have three silver statuettes made of Charles W. Riggan, the marine killed at Valparaiso, these to be presented to President Harrison, Secretary Blaine and Secretary Tracy as the Americans who compelled Chile to apologize for the insult to the American uniform.

THE SCHEME. As moved by David B. Hill, seconded by "Bill" Springer, and endorsed by the "dangerously democratic" house caucus, the platform of that party will read thus:
Plank 1—Yell.
Plank 2—Tackle.
Plank 3—Object.
Plank 4—Amend.
Plank 5—Juggle.
Plank 6—"Holler."
Plank 7—Do nothing.
Plank 8—Resolved that the American people are blanked fools.—Denver Times.

PROTECTION VS. AMERICANISM. The Charleston News and Courier, in the midst of all its noisy enthusiasm for tariff reform, declares that a protective duty should be levied on Egyptian fine cotton for the benefit of the sea island cotton planters.—Atlanta Constitution.
The fact is the policy of the United States has been an uninterrupted illustration and defense of protection. No party ever undertook to upset it until in 1888 the passions of the free traders were so disastrously aroused by a democratic president in search of a re-nomination. Up to that time protection had been one of the most fundamental of national traditions, shared by democrats and other parties without material distinction. If the recent tariff-smashing rage of our old contemporary, the Charleston News and Courier, subsides for a moment in favor of a little protection sentiment, it is but going back to first principles. Our contemporary is no rebel against Americanism after all.—Sun.

JUPITER AND VENUS.

The Approaching Conjunction is a Phenomenon of Rare Occurrence.
The planets Jupiter and Venus, which are now very conspicuous objects in our western sky these clear evenings, will make a very close approach to each other, or come into conjunction, as it is technically called, on February 6, at 12 1/2 a. m., New York mean time, when the distance between their centers will be only fifty-seven seconds (of arc), or thirty-four seconds between their nearest limbs. Unfortunately for observers in this country, both planets will then be below the eastern horizon, but on the evenings of February 5 and 6—the one preceding and the other following conjunction—they will be

so close that the unassisted eye may have some difficulty in distinguishing them separately. Such a close approach of these two planets is very rare, and those now living may probably never see another. In the field of view of a telescope of very moderate power the planets will present a magnificent spectacle, Jupiter being surrounded by his four satellites and Venus showing a gibbous phase, or only four-fifths of her entire disk. Although the planets have such apparently close relations, their distance apart is very great, being about four and a half times the earth's mean distance from the sun, or in round numbers, about 418,000,000 miles. In former times, when the cause of such phenomena was not understood as at present, the ignorant and superstitious looked upon conjunctions of the planets as the forerunners of some civil or physical commotion, such as wars, famine, earthquakes, etc., but it is almost unnecessary to state that they possess no significance whatever. The present remarkable conjunction of the two most conspicuous planets in the solar system has no connection whatever with imbroglia, the Russian famine or any other event that may hereafter occur. Such phenomena take place when the earth and any two planets come into the same or nearly the same straight line, and since all the planets, the earth included, revolve around the sun in the same direction and with different but variable velocity, they must necessarily arrive some time or other at the same relative positions again and again, and therefore any event, whether of a civil or physical character, happening at or near that time is simply an accidental coincidence and nothing more.
It will be both interesting and instructive to follow the apparent path of these two planets for the next few months. Both are moving eastward among the fixed stars, but in consequence of the apparent motion of the sun in the same direction, which is intermediate between those of Jupiter and Venus the form is apparently approaching the sun, and will be lost to view in the splendor of his rays on the 20th of March, after which he will become a morning star. The latter however, is apparently receding from the sun and approaching her greatest elongation, which will occur on the 29th of April, when her angular distance from the sun will be about 45 1/2 degrees, and just about fifteen minutes before her greatest elongation she will be occulted by the moon, but the occultation occurs near midnight, and, therefore, invisible in this country. On the 2d of June she will attain her greatest brilliancy, which will be nearly three times greater than at present. At this time she will be visible to the naked eye during the day, and at night will cast quite a strong shadow. On June 17 she will become stationary for a short time. At this point in her apparent course she will be moving exact, the straight line joining the earth and Venus moves parallel to itself so that to a spectator on the earth the planet will appear to preserve the same absolute direction in space. Up to this point her apparent motion has been eastward or direct; she now, however, changes her course of retrogrades, passes between us and the sun on July 9, when she becomes a stationary point on July 21, after which her apparent motion again becomes direct.
J. MORRISON, M. B., Ph. D.
Washington, D. C., Jan. 30.

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