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EVANGELISTS in Omaha and Lincoln are making it very warm at those two cities for the ungodly.

ONE week from Sunday will be Christmas, and one week from Christmas will be the beginning of 1893.

SPEAKER CRISP diagnoses the New York banquet as a case where mugwump tail wags the democratic dog.

WHEN a democrat says anything about those alleged iniquities of the tariff nowadays he is considered eccentric.

MEXICO is to have a navy. Our sister republic is an apt pupil under the teaching and example of the United States.

GOVERNOR BOIES has subsided to such an extent that one can no longer be certain of spelling his name correctly.

THE republicans in close states should keep the fact before them it is better to get the senatorship by a scratch than to let the other fellows get it.

AT a recent election in Atlanta, Georgia, but one colored man attempted to vote. Can any man tell the reason why? Georgia is right in the "Cradle of Civil Liberty."

GOV. FLOWER has appointed Susan B. Anthony as one of the managers of the State Industrial school of New York. It is hardly necessary to say that Susan is a snapper.

ROGER Q. MILLS declares that he had nothing to do with that snubbing of Speaker Crisp, but there are good reasons to believe that it greatly tickled him, just the same.

THERE is a profitable lesson for politicians in the fact that Speaker Crisp's unspoken speech has done more for him than any of his spoken ones.

HILL is not saying much lately, but he is doing a good deal of quiet chuckling over the fact that he is going to have two votes instead of one in the senate.

THE monetary conference was evidently organized to impress upon Cleveland the provoking fact that the silver question is a condition and not a theory.

IT PAYS to be a democrat in Vermont in days of democratic power in Washington. There are 600 federal offices in that state and not a very great many more democrats.

DOWN east the democrats are generally agreeing that the most important office that Cleveland has to fill by appointment, is that of "General Democratic Fool Killer."

THE Sherman law will probably not be repealed by the present congress, as it is one of the things which republicans are quite willing to postpone beyond the fourth of next March.

IT is apparent that the democrats do not propose to tackle the tariff issue during the present congress, but they will have to face the music at the next congress and then the fun will begin.

IT is reported that either Texas or Virginia will get the attorney generalship. The pan-electric telephone company had it under the last democratic administration, the country must remember.

THE senate receives a petition or two every week in favor of the passage of the anti-opinion bill. The bill, however, is undoubtedly losing its popularity among the planters and farmers, the classes with whom it was strongest, and whom it was designed to protect. It is entirely safe to predict that if it reaches the president it will be vetoed.

ALL France, and especially Paris, is torn up because the Panama canal company spent \$4,000,000 in a bonus to advertise the scheme. If Paris now was used to Tammany methods of such things, she would not say a word about, or would remark: "It is lucky to get off so cheap."

THE popular vote plan of electing presidents commends itself to the democracy because of the immense preponderance of that party in the southern states. This preponderance is unfairly obtained, for the other side is to a great degree prevented, either by intimidation or by false counting, from revealing its full weight in the scale. In the northern states, where the vote is large and free, and where it is fairly registered and counted, the republicans usually lead by several hundred thousand, but this excess is easily overcome by the more or less fraudulent vote of the south. If the conditions below Mason and Dixon's line were as fair to the republican party as they are to democracy above the line the popular vote plan of electing presidents would find very little favor among democrats.

RECENT curious observations indicate that our appreciation of food depends largely—if not chiefly—on the sense of smell. A student twenty-one years old had inherited from his mother the defect—acquired by her in childhood—of complete absence of smell, taste and other senses being unaffected. He could detect no difference between tea, coffee and water. In three out of five trials he confused bitter almond water and water, but distinguished between ether and water and ether and ammonia. Fruit syrups were simply sweet, with no difference in flavor. Cloves and cinnamon were recognized, but pepper and mustard gave only a sharp sensation on the tongue.

NAVAL construction is proceeding vigorously, as shown by Secretary Tracy's report. The work of creating the new navy was started in the Arthur administration, was pushed under Cleveland and is being prosecuted at a still more lively rate under Harrison. Nineteen modern vessels have been put in commission since this administration began, or will be commissioned by March 4 next. The country is forging well toward the front in naval strength. Two years hence, when all the vessels under construction are finished, England, France, Germany and Russia will be the only nations that will lead us in naval power.

COURTS AND GERRYMANDERS. The decision of the Indiana Supreme Court, democratic with the exception of one judge in its composition, against the democratic gerrymander of the state is another cheering sign of the times. It has become the custom of late to make test of the legality of supposed unconstitutional apportionments before the courts, and not before the legislatures, which almost unavoidably are apt to decide such questions according to the dictates of party rather than of law. It is encouraging to observe that the judges almost universally have decided according to law, and not according to so-called politics. Really good law is good politics, for no greater evil can befall a state or a nation than to have its electoral system prostituted to the service of party. A full free, fair election is a condition precedent of a truly democratic or republican form of government. Thus the newly acquired habit of appealing to the courts and the newly discerned impartiality of judges in dealing with legal issues of political origin are matters for rejoicing.

It would be foolish to speak of the vice of gerrymandering as confined to the democratic party. In Indiana the gerrymander has been the rule of both parties, though the democratic party has been by far the most flagrant in defiance of the semblance of propriety. In many other states the gerrymander has been a not infrequent tool of both parties. President Harrison has called attention to the frequency of this political scandal in a passage of patriotic indignation.

It now seems as though the evil were in a fair way of extinction, for what will it profit a legislature to pass a dishonest apportionment act if honest judges of like political complexion to the majority by which it is passed are certain to set it aside.

The Indiana decision was rendered in the lull of political excitement succeeding a presidential campaign. It is heard the more clearly in the absence of partisan shouts. It may be well if all unrighteous apportionments made by legislatures that are about to convene are brought to the notice of courts instantaneously, or at any rate long before the excitement of the outbreak of the next election. The mass of the people is honest, whether it be called democratic or republican, and in the absence of excitement will be found to favor an equitable apportionment and to approve the judicial action that enforces it.

Over 200 stars are now known to vary in brightness. Differences in the phenomena observed have led to the following classification, proposed by Professor Pickering, of the Harvard College Observatory: 1. Temporary or new stars, of which only very few have been recorded. They blaze out suddenly remain visible for a short time, then disappear, never to return. A small temporary star discovered in 1848 in Ophiuchus is still perceptible but has faded from the fourth magnitude to the thirteenth. 2. Variable stars, with regular periods of considerable length. The periods range from about 100 to 700 days, and the fluctuations in brightness from about one to more than eight magnitudes. 3. Irregular variables having no definite period, and usually only slight variation. 4. Variables of short period, most of them under eight days. 5. Variables of the type of Algol, of which only ten have been discovered. At regular intervals the light suddenly fades, and continues diminished for only a small portion—a few hours—of the star's period.

DEMOCRATS are talking loud about "the war being over twenty-seven years ago," and yet the people are "paying pauper pensions." Well the revolution was over longer ago than that, and yet Uncle Sam pays twenty-two widows and daughters of revolutionary soldiers pensions. It pays pensions to 165 survivors of the war of 1812. It pays pensions to 6,651 widows of the war of 1812. It pays pensions to 15,215 survivors of the Mexican war, and to 7,282 widows of soldiers of the Mexican war. It is estimated that nine-tenths of these pensioners reside in the south. Does democracy propose to cut them off in its cheese paring? Was the Mexican war or the war of 1812 more honorable than that of the rebellion? Let democrats answer.

THE Philadelphia Record, which is ever loyal to Cleveland and pretends to be one of the president-elect's personal organs, has prepared "a solid basis of a tariff for revenue," and intimates that this will be the reform followed by the democrats. In this "solid basis" the Record proposes a duty of 1½ cents per pound on sugar, 2 cents on coffee, 5 cents on tea. This would tax the American breakfast table about \$80,000,000 a year, and the poor mechanic or farmer with a family of six children would contribute more of this tax than would the millionaire editor of the Philadelphia Record and his family. It would be a poor man's tariff, indeed, and it would be simply a copy of the British free trade tariff.

A CRIMINAL COURT in New Jersey has set a good example worthy of imitation throughout the whole land. On Tuesday a gang of desperadoes on the Dalton plan robbed the Allenton bank of \$2,000. The outlaws were captured while trying to get away with their booty. They were immediately tried and on Thursday, two days after committing the crime, they were sentenced to a term of ten years in prison and on Friday were landed in the penitentiary. This is the kind of justice that is needed. The tax methods that serve to encourage smart lawyers, long trials and continual postponements are largely of a nature to encourage bad men in the commission of a crime.

THE New York Bar Association has filed a motion for protest against Justice Maynard of the court of appeals. Governor Flower paid no attention to the protests of the Bar Association a year ago, when he appointed Maynard to the bench to reward him for stealing a seat in the legislature, and it is not probable that he will be advised by this association regarding his reappointment. The democrats did not dare nominate Maynard for judge, but Tammany has a better way. It was the chief executive, and he can reappoint Maynard without allowing the people to have a voice in the selection.

SECRETARY FOSTER's plea for a heavier gold reserve is commended by all reasonable men. The silver element of the currency is growing dangerously large, and more gold should be laid up in the treasury, so as to preserve the parity between the metals.

THE southern appeal for a state bank currency will not be heeded at any time within the next four years. Cleveland is as much opposed to that policy as is Harrison, and the republicans will back him up.

CLEVELAND would freely give a cabinet office to prevent the election of Murphy to the senate, but that is one of the foregone conclusions, and he may as well make up his mind to accept it gracefully.

STILL AT PANAMA.

The French chambers are still in the troubled waters of the Panama scandal. The gravity of the situation can not be understood without remembering that the government morally gave its support to the Panama canal measure by authorizing lottery aid in its behalf. This moral obligation of the government towards those who have suffered by the collapse of the gigantic enterprise and the revelation of the colossal plundering of the French people must be kept in view in all kaleidoscopic cabinet changes and phases which the Panama scandal is producing in the chambers. Just before the collapse of the canal scheme in 1889, General Boulanger in receiving a deputation of Panama canal bondholders January 6, 1889, gave pointed expression to this moral obligation of the government toward the scheme in these words: "I have no desire to go into Bourse questions, but I know that as regards the Panama canal company the government and the chambers morally entered into engagements which have not been fulfilled. You ask me for my support, but it is not merely a moral support which I intend giving you. I shall immediately subscribe to some of the bonds."

General Boulanger subsequently subscribed for twenty-five shares and a short time after at a dinner given to him by M. de Lesseps still further manifested his interest in the scheme. Of course it may be said, and doubtless truly, that General Boulanger in this as in other matters was bidding for popular favor, but that the good or ill will of the thousands of French investors in Panama Canal stock is worth something even at this late date the protracted crisis in the French chambers fully attests. Scarcely has the Ribot ministry organized for work before M. Rouvier, minister of finance, fees compelled to resign his portfolio rather than face attacks and slurs of those in the Chamber, who are curious to know the significance of that night visit of M. Rouvier to Baron de Reinach and M. Clemenceau on the night of Baron de Reinach's death.

Possibly there may be some truth in M. Rouvier's statement that the press is attempting to slur all republicans in power, but must be remembered that although M. Rouvier is perhaps the ablest financier in France his reputation rests under some suspicious of previous scandals, and his refusal to resign would probably have caused the fall of the ministry. It is but justice to M. Rouvier, however, to add that his services in establishing the republic were great; that he has frequently been assailed by the reactionary and monarchical press, and that whenever brought face to face with his accusers he has been acquitted. In view of these facts it seems highly probable that the new ministry and President Carnot in accepting the resignation of M. Rouvier have thrown a stop to the Panama Cerberus. Whether the sacrifice of M. Rouvier even will enable the government to tide over the crisis without further lightening the ship of its heavy load of scandal remains to be seen.

A SILLY CABINET RUMOR.

Perhaps the most absurd story yet told since the election was the story that Mr. Cleveland had personally offered to Senator Hill the secretaryship of state. We might as well expect President Harrison to close his career at the White House with some signal honor to Judge Gresham. It is true that Mr. Lincoln bestowed that portfolio upon his chief rival for the presidential nomination, and similar instances could be named in our political history, but there was no element of personal bitterness in the rivalry between Lincoln and Seward, Pierce and Marcy, John Quincy Adams and Henry Clay. Whoever else may be tendered that position, it is absolutely certain that David Bennett Hill will not be, says the Inter-Ocean.

The selection of a cabinet, like a wife, is largely a matter of taste. If Mr. Cleveland should put W. C. Whitney at the head of the list the public would recognize it as a very appropriate recognition of the services of a friend as competent to fill the place as anybody in the democratic party. Originally Whitney was simply the representative of the Standard Oil Company, especially his multi-millionaire brother in law, Oliver H. Payne, but he has come to have a rating of his own, and a high one, too. Success crowned his efforts, and that is quite sufficient. The popular verdict on a man's ability is based on results. Circumstances make and unmake reputations.

There is one thing certain. Whatever may be the personnel of the cabinet it will be thoroughly Eastern dominated by the anti-silver sentiment of the Atlantic seaboard states, and that, rather than the tariff, is the secret of the Crisp episode.

The Cleveland influence will be thrown for some speaker who will be in sympathy with the cabinet in this regard. Whether the president-elect and his friends will be able to control the speakership and the consequence committees of the house is another matter. No doubt the cabinet will try to use the patronage of the government in a way to promote that end.

The republican party has only to stand steadfast and true to its principles. It can hardly be long before the American people will want those principles to be put in operation once more. But be the time long or short, there is only one thing to do. Any attempt to win popular favor by infidelity to principle would be fatal, no less than disgraceful. The democrats will find that they can not afford as a party to advocate one thing during the campaign and another after the election. A great deal will depend upon the men that Mr. Cleveland brings about him as advisers and chief assistants.

SUSPENSION OF IMMIGRATION.

There is no necessity for any alarm over the threat of the Atlantic steamship company to boycott the country if the Chandler immigration bill should be enacted, says the Globe-Democrat. No reasonable person, indeed, really believes that these corporations would adopt any such course. It is proposed to suspend immigration for one year only for the purpose of warding off all danger of the entrance of cholera into the country. No one wants the interdiction to be kept up any longer. The barriers thus erected would, of course, deprive the companies of considerable revenue for the time being, but the time would not be long, and there is no reason to believe that they would be put up again unless another pestilence from Europe should threaten. Moreover, the loss to the companies from this policy would not be so great as is ordinarily supposed. It is in the steerage almost entirely that maladies like the cholera are carried in ocean voyages, and the absence of steerage passengers would largely increase the number of cabin passengers coming to this country on account of the World's Fair, and would add to the number of Americans who would make the European tour. The boats would be safer to travel in, and they would be better patronized in both directions by the class of passengers which bring most profit per head to the companies.

If congress deems it wise, therefore, to shut off all immigration for a year it will not be deterred from this course by any menaces which the steamship men may make. There is no doubt that this course finds much favor throughout the country. Our great duty is to bar out the cholera, and in this purpose we should employ the readiest and most effective means at our disposal. It is known that in almost if not quite every case where cholera appears this year on any of the vessels coming to this country it appears in the steerage, and in the great majority of cases it did not extend beyond that quarter. The greater cleanliness of the cabin passengers, and their better knowledge and observance of general hygienic conditions, enabled them to keep the scourge at bay throughout the passage, although necessarily exposed continually to its presence and influence. In ninety-nine cases out of a hundred immigrants come in the steerage. Thus, in taking the required precautions to keep cholera out of the country we are compelled to suspend immigration for the time being. It is freely conceded that many immigrants are desirable persons, whom the country could profitably welcome, and whom it has sought and welcomed all along; but the supreme duty of the country in this crisis is to protect itself and if, in carrying out this programme, we inflict hardship on the worthy as well as on the unworthy, we find our justification in the gravity of the situation.

THE warming of conservatories by electricity, the idea of two Swiss electricians, gives promise of good results wherever, as in Switzerland, cheap motive power may be had. A dynamo sends the current into receivers of special metallic composition, which become rapidly heated to a moderate temperature only and give forth the heat like steam radiators. The advantages are considerable. The apparatus is very simple and cleanly, injurious gases are avoided and the temperature can be readily controlled without risk of fire.

THE steamship companies contend that a law suspending immigration could not be enforced, but the people have a different view of the power of the government, and would like to see the experiment tried.

CONGRESS AGAIN.

The machinery by which a great nation governs itself ought never to deserve the name of "the annuity nuisance." But the congress which began its second session a few days ago one of the sort which the public has reason to dread says the New York Tribune. Its house is democratic. The majority in that body is the largest ever known, and its members were elected in the crazy campaign of 1890, when stupid ignorance and shameless lying kissed each other. The product of that remarkable union is a house which has proved foolish, incompetent and unscrupulous almost beyond comparison, and yet there can be no legislation this winter without that body. How much mischief it may make it necessary for the senate to stop, even at the risk of serious embarrassment, no man can tell.

The country stands in need of some legislation without delay, but it strikes everybody as absurd to expect any useful action from the present house. There ought to be speedy action on the silver question, so that European powers may be compelled to realize that the United States is not going to ruin itself and degrade its currency for their benefit. On this one subject, although nobody expects sensible action, there is a bare possibility that the influence of Mr. Cleveland and his advisers, who are anxious to get a most troublesome question out of the way, may bring about some surprising results. But nobody can tell whether the freakish and fatuous democratic majority will go to one extreme or the other on the silver question. Its past record would justify the belief that the house would pass a free coinage bill in haste, and perhaps the most substantial reason for thinking that it may not be that in a body of such a character the unexpected always happens.

At the very threshold will come up the anti-option bill, a measure which carried in itself the peril of business revulsion as it passed the house, and has not been greatly improved since senators began to work at it. At the last session it was supposed that this measure would pass the senate, more or less modified, if it could be brought to a vote at all, but it was deferred with the understanding that it should come up at the opening of this session. If it goes back to the house in any form there is a probability that the fanatics in that body will insist upon conditions at least as dangerous as those of the bill that passed the house last spring. What inconvenience or disturbance to business interests may result while such a measure is pending all can imagine.

Next the country is to have more of Mr. Springer's interesting antics as the only original hole-puncher. He it is who makes the otherwise unlikely statement that the present house will be asked by the committee of ways and means, of which he is chairman, to put through sundry other fragmentary tariff bills, each cutting off or reducing the duty on something, not with the idea that any of them will pass the senate, but in the sublime faith that his various bills will serve to define the policy of the democratic party, and pledge its members in advance to the revision which it shall make at the next session. There is one man in America, then, who imagines that a democratic house can somehow be fastened by the action of another democratic house, though not in the least by the pledges of a democratic national platform.

These are all diversions, to most democratic statesmen. Their principal business will be the passing of appropriation bills. In that line the session just begun is likely to eclipse any that have preceded, for it is even more true now than ever before that the democracy is a very hungry and a very thirsty party.

A MINORITY PRESIDENT.

Many estimates are furnished of the popular vote for the various presidential candidates in the last election. It seems to be well established from these estimates that Cleveland will be a minority president. The following figures are furnished by the editor of the Grand Rapids (Mich.) Herald.

Cleveland.....4,750,000
Harrison.....6,500,000
Weaver.....850,000
Bidwell.....250,000

This estimate places Cleveland in a minority of 850,000 as against all the candidates. The majority of the people did not vote for, and do not want free trade.

HEALTH

HEALTH authorities in Germany find that the refuse left after extracting the oil from peanuts contains four times the nutritive matter of wheat and rye flours, have used mixtures of peanuts and of peanut refuse with rye flour for making a very nutritious bread.