

—There is promise of an unusually large tobacco crop in Connecticut this year. The Cape Cod cranberry growers, too, are happy. The plants in their region got through the winter better than in many years.

—The planet Neptune, which had for countless ages revolved in the heavens unseen by anyone on earth, was discovered simultaneously and independently in 1846 by Prof. Adams and M. Leverrier, the two most brilliant astronomers of the day.

—Investigation shows that the amount of carbonic acid in the air depends largely upon the character of the ground, comparatively little being yielded by a clay soil. Another influence of soil is noted in cases of summer diarrhoea, the mortality being much less on clay than on sandy soil.

—Worms that have no eyes are believed to gain information of the presence of light from some other sense than that of sight. Light is always dangerous to an earth worm and when taken from the earth and placed in the light a worm will always exhibit uneasiness and make an effort to conceal itself.

—A short time before Dr. Charcot died he said in a letter that semi-scientists had for more than 50 years ridiculed the idea that the full of the moon was a dangerous time for mad people. Better-informed men are coming back to that old-time notion, said Dr. Charcot, as the result of increased learning on the subject of earth tides, similar to the oscillation of sea tides.

—Switzerland has called for a meeting of the countries that took part in the Bern conference, to decide on a metric standard for gauging screws. The slight deviations between the pitch and thread of screws made by the English standards from those made by the metric scale form a serious obstacle to the real adoption of the metric system in countries obtaining machinery from England.

—Prof. Bell, of telephone fame, is promoting a new idea in airships. The proper method, according to him, is to propel the ship by a kind of trolley method, in which the rod would hang down to the feed wire instead of extending upward, as it usually does. He thinks the time occupied by inventors, in working out the problem of aerial navigation by the usual gas-bag method, is time wasted.

AGASSIZ'S TEST.

Estimate of a Man's Worth According to His Faculty of Observing.

It is said that however wisely Prof. Agassiz, the famous zoologist, might differ in his opinions from another scientist, he never undervalued any contribution which a scientific opponent made to zoology.

He extended the fame of Owen, the eminent English zoologist, in this country, by enthusiastically pointing out to all questioners his grounds for a sincere admiration of that scientist, and it was only by chance that his auditors learned how widely Agassiz's opinions differed from Owen's on certain much-disputed questions.

But for amateurs who took facts at second-hand and built up systems by combining the discoveries of various specialists in science he had a somewhat contemptuous indifference. One of his friends asked him on one occasion how he felt about the attack which had been made on his scientific position by a certain accomplished scholar who had studied the different theories advanced by eminent zoologists, and had decided that Agassiz must be ranked in the second class.

To the amazement of his friend, who regarded the attack as a matter of considerable seriousness, Agassiz burst into a roar of laughter.

"Why, just think of it," he cried. "The man undertakes to fix my place among zoologists, and he is not himself a zoologist!" And then, seeing that his friend did not apparently appreciate the joke of the affair, he added, with evident enjoyment: "Why, don't you know that he has never been an observer?"

With him "observation" meant not only the training of the eye itself, but the cultivation and exertion of all the faculties behind the eye. He once said in reply to a friend who asked him, after he had been 15 years in the country, what he considered the best result of his teaching:

"I have educated five observers. One of them, to be sure, has turned out to be my deadliest personal enemy; but I still affirm that he is a good observer, and that is the best compliment I could pay him were he my dearest friend." —Youth's Companion.

An Athletic Governor.

The new governor of British Guiana, Sir Augustus Hemming, who is about to pass through the United States en route to Georgetown, is especially celebrated in England as a cricketer, being renowned as one of the oldest and most successful of amateur players, a rival, indeed, of Hon. Alfred Lyttelton. He is one of the founders of the Sports Club in London, and has only just resigned the presidency of its committee in consequence of his departure from England. His principal associate in the founding of this renowned institution was the late Sir John Astley, popularly known as "The Mate." Sir Augustus is likewise an expert knight of the wheel, and, in spite of his mature years, remains to-day what he was 20 years ago—a typical, clean-built athlete. —N. Y. Times.

Saved a Thousand Lives.

To have saved over 1,000 lives is a somewhat unique experience. This record belongs to Capt. Weiss, of the steamship Belgian King, to whom a presentation was made in Newcastle, England, recently. It has been his good luck to pick up several vessels in distress at sea, including the liner *Palmyra*, with 659 people on board. —Detroit Free Press.

A COMPARISON OF THE THEORIES OF FROEBEL AND HERBERT.

(Read at the meeting of the Cherry County General Teachers' Association held at Valentine May 2, 1896, by C. V. Thorn.)

Pestalozzi, Froebel and Herbert, the three central figures in modern education, lived in the same time, in the latter part of the 18th century and early part of the 19th. Pestalozzi is the senior of Froebel by thirty years, and of Herbert by thirty-six years. All three still live in the reforms inaugurated in pedagogy. All three improved education, but in different ways. While Herbert improved education as he found it, Froebel and Pestalozzi revolutionized it. Herbert lives in books on psychology and pedagogy; Pestalozzi and Froebel, his pupils, fellow-laborers and successors, live in the kindergarten of today. Herbert is famous for having improved upon the methods of his predecessors, Froebel and Pestalozzi created a newsystem.

Herbert patched an old garment, Pestalozzi and Froebel deemed the old garment not worthy a patch and made a new one. However much Herbert and Froebel may differ in theory, in one thing they agree—that the chief end of education is the development of moral character. But a common aim does not argue a common greatness. The common aim of humanity is to gain an eternal home. Yet this is called one of the "infant" industries of the United States. The difference between the home and export price is so great that some jobbers buy ostensibly for export, ship the nails, have them returned to this country without unloading, and actually sell them at 20 cents per keg lower than the trust price after paying the freight both ways.

This is only a sample of the way the tariff protected manufacturers fleece the American people. The way in which all kinds of American goods are sold abroad in competition with foreign articles exposes the protection humbuggery. The foreigner pays a lower price for his farm machinery and other articles or American manufacture than do our own people, and the manufacturer pays the ocean freight besides, while in the United States the consumer pays the freight in addition to the increased price. These facts are being brought home to the people with ever increasing force, and they will vote this fall to let the "infants" take care of themselves.

While both recognized the supreme importance of the child's interest in what he is learning as a factor in education, and while they both attained this requisite, each aroused a different kind of interest in a different way. Herbert, by devices and artificial means innumerable, made study interesting to the child. But Froebel argued that the child was not truly interested in knowledge until he found use for it. Says Froebel, a child finds more interest in using knowledge than in receiving it.

It is tersely said "Herbert's child learns 'to see how to do,' Froebel's child 'sees' and 'does' all along the line." The difference in the theories of Herbert and Froebel are condensed in these two statements:

Herbert had often to compel interest while Froebel created and sustained a natural, or healthy interest or attention by keeping the child busy. His pupil not only received knowledge but acted it. His knowledge was "found out" by himself, he himself being occupied. The knowledge of Herbert's pupil was "told to him," and he had nothing to do but to receive it. He sat unoccupied, his master being employed. Herbert's child read books, interesting books, about insects. Froebel's child romped the fields, found the insect and read nature. One was interested and busy; the other was interested and unoccupied. Herbert imparted knowledge (generally in an interesting manner). Froebel guided the child in finding out for himself. Herbert's child knew but little aside from what had been told him in books or by teacher. Froebel's child found out for himself his knowledge. Herbert studied the child to mould it. Froebel studied the child to guide it. Herbert's teacher moulded, that is shaped, the child. Froebel's teacher guided the child in moulding himself. One magnified the work of the teacher, the other the work of the child.

Froebel, when a small lad at school, came to the conclusion that there was something radically wrong in his teacher's methods of instruction. He could not think it right that learning should come to the youth's tender mind, thro' trials, hardships and weary mind-plodding-tasks that would overcloud even mature minds. While yet a school boy he looked with a critic's eye upon a system of education which began with language and the birch-twig, and ended with things. He early denounced the followers of Herbert who taught nature from pictured books, when nature, herself, was only too ready to divulge her secrets to the prying eye, listening ear, busy hand, inquiring mind. Herbert inquired "What does the child know?" Froebel asks, "Has the child learned how to learn?"

The Franklin Sentinel, of this state, has discovered and given to a waiting world the true McKinley platform on the money question which will be adopted at St. Louis June 16. Here it is:

That every whiteness of the whyness should be equal to and interchangeable with every phase of the whatness; therefore we demand that every American wher, foreness of the whicheess shall be equal in value to every whenceness of the whicheesoverness of the whole civilized world.

A subscriber who desires to know whether President Cleveland's recent civil service order includes fourth class postmasters, is informed that it does not. But the president in making the order asked the civil service commission to formulate a plan to put them under the civil service rules. This indicates his own view of the desirability of such a course and probably that he will make such extension of the service before his retirement. —Spona City Tribune.

WIRE NAILS.

The wire nail industry is receiving a great showing up just now by the opponents of monopoly. The wire nail trust has met three times recently and raised the price of nails until consumers are now forced to pay \$2.45 per keg. These same nails are sold for export at \$1.45 per keg, and yet this is called one of the "infant" industries of the United States. The difference between the home and export price is so great that some jobbers buy ostensibly for export, ship the nails, have them returned to this country without unloading, and actually sell them at 20 cents per keg lower than the trust price after paying the freight both ways.

This is only a sample of the way the tariff protected manufacturers fleece the American people. The way in which all kinds of American goods are sold abroad in competition with foreign articles exposes the protection humbuggery. The foreigner pays a lower price for his farm machinery and other articles or American manufacture than do our own people, and the manufacturer pays the ocean freight besides, while in the United States the consumer pays the freight in addition to the increased price. These facts are being brought home to the people with ever increasing force, and they will vote this fall to let the "infants" take care of themselves.

WHERE IS HE AT?

"McKinley doesn't have to declare himself on the money question. He will be nominated and elected, no matter what his views on finance are or what platform is adopted at St. Louis."

Coming as it did from one who is a business man; one who stands high in the estimation of his fellow citizens; a staunch republican who will attend the national convention; THE DEMOCRAT naturally concludes that the foregoing remark is the sentiment of the republican party. The expression is worthy of a place in history, because it so forcibly illustrates the retrogression of the republican party. That once, but alas no longer proud party is groveling at the feet of a graven image; an idol who cannot or will not speak; in fact, who is not expected to speak and declare himself on any question whatsoever, knowing as he does that his silence makes him revered and looked to as a model of wisdom.

The New York World recently sent a special correspondent to interview McKinley at his home in Canton, Ohio. The reporter was affably received, given a cordial invitation to stop and chat awhile, and made to think that all his questions would be answered in an honest, straightforward manner. But when it came to finance his only answer was, "I have nothing to say." Undaunted by the failure of The World to secure a direct answer to a direct question, the New York Herald, that great, independent, republican newspaper tried to get McKinley to speak, but received the same answer. In an editorial the Herald says:

It is inconceivable that the great republican party will put forward as its candidate for President a man who either has no convictions on this dominant question, or who, if he has any convictions, lacks the courage to avow them. His reticence may be regarded by his advisers as good "politics," but it stamps him as a man lacking the two essential qualities of leadership—namely, sincerity and courage.

This is strong language to be used by the Herald, which is usually mild spoken to republicans, but it voices the growing sentiment of the people of the whole country. Silence is a good thing when taken in small quantities, but large doses are nauseating. McKinley's dose is extra large.

THE NATIONAL CONVENTION.

The democratic national convention will be composed of 906 delegates from 51 states and territories. Thirteen state conventions have already been held and 288 delegates elected, of which number 166 are for sound money or gold standard and 122 for free silver or silver monometallism. There is much speculation as to the probable strength of contending factions at the Chicago convention, and with a view to enlightening its readers THE DEMOCRAT gives below what it considers a conservative estimate:

Table with columns: States, Gold, Silver. Lists states from Alabama to Alaska with corresponding delegate counts.

Totals.....906 504 402 *Doubtful.

This estimate gives the free silver people all they claim, but as it takes 454 votes to constitute a majority, it will be seen that they still lack 52 votes. In this estimate we mark the states of Louisiana and North Carolina doubtful, and place one in the silver column and the other in the gold. Giving Louisiana to the silverites, they still fall short 36 votes. Nebraska will send two delegations to the convention, but even if the silver people seat their men they will have to rustle 20 more votes. In order to be perfectly fair we have credited Illinois to the silver movement, though this is far from being certain. Can you figure where they are going to get the votes necessary to constitute a majority? THE DEMOCRAT can't.

PLATT'S WISE WORDS.

Senator Platt is very confident of the success of the republican party at the polls this fall, but he is not so certain of its success afterwards. He says: "We must not only draw a bill that can be put through a republican congress, but we must draw one that will not be open to serious criticism as class legislation. I foresee the greatest dangers to the republican party as the result of extreme tariff legislation." This is good enough to have been said by a democrat, and THE DEMOCRAT must congratulate Mr. Platt on his wisdom. The present tariff, though admittedly imperfect in many respects, covers the difference in the cost of labor here and abroad in almost every schedule. In many of them the duty is more than the entire labor cost of the "protected" articles.

The Wilson tariff, according to the platform of the Indiana republicans, "has almost destroyed our American industries" — meaning specifically American manufactures. The official reports of the treasury department show that for the nine months of the fiscal year ending with March the exports of American manufacturers reached the unprecedented total of \$163,187,826, which is \$5,000,000 more than the figures for the whole twelve months of 1892, when McKinley reciprocity was in full blast; and the fiscal year of 1891-92 was the "crack" year of McKinleyism. —Pittsburg Post.

The Greater New York bill has been passed, and will take effect in 1898. The Knickerbockers are now happy, as they have no fear of ever becoming a second to Chicago in population. We wonder what Chicago will do now to keep up her reputation.

ROBERT GOOD, Editor and Publisher.

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THURSDAY, MAY 21, 1896.

Our Platform.

Following is the platform adopted by the Democrats of Cherry county, in mass convention assembled, Saturday, April 18, 1896:

We, the Democrats of Cherry county, in mass convention assembled, do reaffirm our allegiance to the principles of the Democratic party as formulated by Jefferson and exemplified by the illustrious line of his successors in Democratic leadership, from Madison to Cleveland.

We still denounce the Republican doctrine of protection as a fraud—a robbery of the great majority of the American people for the benefit of the few. We still adhere to and maintain the Democratic doctrine of "a tariff for revenue only." We believe the interests of the masses of our population will be best conserved by the collection of such taxes as shall be limited to the necessities of the government, honestly and economically administered for the benefit of the people.

We express our faith in the time honored doctrine of the Democratic party as to international trade relations—non-interference by which the countries participating shall enjoy reciprocal advantages. We denounce the sly and reciprocal scheme of the Republicans, which juggles with the people's desire for freer exchanges by pretending to establish closer relations, while enacting prohibitive tariff taxes against those countries of the world that stand ready to take our entire surplus of products in exchange for commodities which are necessities and comforts of life among our own people.

Appreciating the condition of the public mind with reference to the financial policy of this country, and recognizing the importance of a proper solution of this question, we unhesitatingly express our unalterable opposition to the free and unlimited coinage of silver, except by international agreement and such agreement can be procured, we favor the present standard of value. We denounce the action of the Republican county convention in intentionally omitting to state its views on this important question as a repetition of the cowardly and dishonest practices of that party.

Finally, we ensure the administration for its excellent conduct of public affairs, its vigorous foreign policy and its unparalleled management in maintaining the public credit against foes from without and foes from within.

McKinley's triumph is Democratic opportunity. —New York World.

There have been so many war scares during the last six months that Americans are not seriously alarmed over the recent difficulties in Chefoo.

The republicans have settled upon a candidate for President, and will now go to work on the ticklish job of making a platform to fit him. The democrats are working on the platform first. Candidates are easy to find.

The present republican congress voted to give each member a clerk at \$100 per month the year round. The most of this will be kept in the family by the members making their relations clerks. This is another specimen of republican economy.

Senator Vest having begun to hold office as early as 1860, and having kept pretty constantly at it ever since, the Louisville Courier-Journal thinks his intimation that he "will bolt if the Chicago convention is controlled by office holders" is "very touching, as showing the tenderness of feeling on the part of the Missouri Senator."

Armenia and Turkey seem to have vanished from the face of the earth and all that remains to remind us of the atrocities committed in the former country is an unpleasant memory of our lack of action and apparent disinclination to assist the poor Christians of that faraway land.

Rockford, Illinois, recently had a "trolley day" for charity's sake, the Ladies Union Aid Society having charge of all the electrical cars in the city, the ladies acting as conductors and ringing up fares in a business like manner. About \$1,000 was taken in during the day. This had promises to spread to other cities and is the natural outcome of "woman's editions" of newspapers, "woman minstrels," and such novelties.

We don't hear as much now about Grover Cleveland wanting the democratic nomination as we did some time ago. Opposition to the administration is growing weaker, and all the "scares" have been worn out. President Cleveland recently said he "would not accept the nomination if proffered," just as all thinking men knew he would. This comes direct from Washington Hesing, a close political and personal friend of Cleveland, and may be accepted as final.