

MUSIC OF THE PENCIL.

Did you ever sit and listen
At a busy, thoughtful school.
When the pencils click and clatter
As they cipher out by rule?

AN OLD MAID'S ADVICE.

For two whole years Capt. Jump-
son had been the idol of the spinners
of Bunborough-by-the-sea. Cheery,
good-natured and good-looking, his
private means were limited, if they
existed at all, and his pay was insuffi-

cient to enable him to indulge any
of those expensive tastes which lure
young men from the milder delights
of tea and tennis. He neither hunted
in winter nor played polo in summer.
and he was always ready to dance
half the night at the Bunborough
balls. He really was a very nice man.
Indeed, every one agreed that he
would make a very nice husband for
any of the young ladies of Bunbor-

ough to whom he might finally deter-
mine to offer himself, and for two
years he distributed his favors freely
but with almost absolute impartiality.
"There is safety in numbers, and
the cowards know it," said Miss
Grayson of the Valley cottage to
Maud Oakley, who had been unbear-

ing her soul to her. Miss Grayson
was the kindest of elderly ladies
where young people's love affairs
were concerned, and Maud Oakley
had known her since she (Maud, not
Miss Grayson) was a baby.
"Towards" said Miss Grayson again
under her breath and Miss Oakley
sniffed deprecatingly. She had been
talking to Miss Grayson for an hour,
and had told her sympathetic listener
a good deal that was in the language
of the vulgar, "stale news" Miss
Grayson was quite aware (all Bun-

in the use of obsolete weapons and
the evolutions of an improved drill.

The climate—well, every rose has
its thorn and "Government House"
and his society would reconcile Ger-
aldine Oakley to a bursting thermo-
meter and a diet of quinine. She
could have her sister stay with her if
she felt lonely; he was quite fond of
Maud, though, of course she did not
care for him; did she not always re-
tire when he came to tea and leave
him alone with her elder sister, and
always refuse to give him more than
four dances in one evening? But Ger-
aldine was different. Dr. Coverdale
would do very well for Maud when
Geraldine was gone. There she was—

Maud, not Geraldine—standing on
the top step waiting for him as he al-
most ran up the garden walk.
"How do you do?" she said shyly,
as she ushered him into the drawing-
room. "I will go and tell Geraldine
you are here."

He was delighted; could anything
have been more thoughtful? But
odily enough she did not go. She
sat down, on the contrary, and began
fingering a chair back nervously.
"It is a fine day," she said, and
then stopped.
"Thank it," he thought, "I meant
to tell Geraldine the news first, but
there's no harm in beginning with
her."

So he began, pulling out his official
letter to show her.
"I have come, Miss Oakley, to tell
you some news and ask you to con-
gratulate me."
"Thank you," she exclaimed, "are you
engaged to be married?"
"O-h, no!" he answered—"not ex-
actly—that is, not yet—in fact, I
mean not exactly."

And he got very red, and so, curi-
ously enough, did she. She looked
very pretty blushing and with her
lower lip quivering a little. Geraldine
was not so pretty as Maud, he ad-
mitted to himself as he looked at her;
but so much the better Geraldine
would be all the less likely to flirt, if,
that is, there was any one at govern-
ment house to flirt with.
"Na," he said, "it's the appoint-
ment I told you (or was it your sister?)
my uncle was trying to get for me—
the very thing I have been wanting."

WHAT'S the matter with an interna-
tional tariff conference?

DON'T let any trifling thing hinder
you from coming to the Grand Island
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If the money question is a fit subject
to submit to an international confer-
ence, why not the tariff question?

THE ALLIANCE-INDEPENDENT will
be represented at the Grand Island
meeting. We hope to take a thousand
subscriptions there.

FUNNY, isn't it, how the Rothschilds
always "happen" to be in America as
"sight-seers" just at the time when
some great financial questions are up
for settlement.

THE State Journal ridicules the
Kansas populists for dispensing with
the inaugural ball. The ways of the
plain common people are always offen-
sive to the snobbish aristocracy such
as the Journal represents.

THE very men who shout most loudly:
"America for Americans," are the fel-
lows who want to call in the monarch-
ies of Europe to decide what kind of
money we shall have in the United
States, and how much of it.

THE Cedar Rapids Republican is one
of the ablest edited local papers in
Nebraska. It is not its name indica-
tes a g. o. p. organ, but is fighting
for the real republicanism in the ranks
of the reform press.

The gold-bugs who are running the
monetary conference do most of their
work in secret. They belong to the
class of which the bible says: "They
love darkness rather than light be-
cause their deeds are evil."

AT the same time that one of the
Rothschilds is trying to dictate terms
to the international monetary confer-
ence, an agent of the great banking
firm is in the United States trying to
form a gigantic brewery trust with a
capital of \$240,000,000.

A PROBLEM: John Sherman intro-
duced the silver purchase scheme into
congress in 1890. Rothschild intro-
duced the same sort of a scheme into
the monetary conference a few days
ago. Did John learn the trick of
Rothschild, or did he give the Jew a
pointer?

The Sherman silver law is doomed.
The first bill introduced in the senate
after the assembling of congress was
by Senator Dave Hill for its repeal.
Sherman's bill for the repeal of the act
is already on the calendar. It looks as
if there will be a scramble between the
two old parties for the credit of repeal-

ing the law.

AL BIXBY in the Journal of Decem-
ber 8, says: "Colonel Metcalfe, whose
sparkling genius gives to the World-
Herald the only gems of literary lustre
that make the paper worth taking out
of the post-office, has moved with his
family to Lincoln, and will remain here
during the winter. There are whole
platoons of meaner men in this world
than the urbane colonel, but few who
can meaner things when he has one of
those spells."

SECRETARY OF War, Steve Elkins, in
his annual report recommends an ap-
propriation of one million dollars from
the national treasury to arm the
militia of the several states. He says
the militia constitutes the "reserve
force of our regular army." Steve and
his plutocratic friends such as Andrew
Carnegie, and Cal. Brice are anxious
to have the militia well equipped for
shooting down strikers, and quelling
riots such as that at Homestead and
in eastern Tennessee.

THE press dispatches report that Con-
gressman Otis of Kansas has introduced
a bill for the increase of the currency.
It provides for the free coinage of
silver, and an issue of paper money
equal to half the value of all the real
estate in the United States. We do
not know whether this is a correct re-
port of the bill or not. If it is, Otis
should have been left at home two
years sooner than he was. The real
estate of this country is worth at least
thirty billions of dollars. If paper
money equal to half that were issued
we would have \$230 per capita to say
nothing of silver. Such wild schemes
do nothing but injure our cause.

AT Jay Gould's funeral, they sang
an anthem beginning with: "Blessed
are the dead who die in the Lord." A
more appropriate anthem for the occa-
sion would have been: "Go to now ye
rich men, weep and howl for your
miseries that shall come upon you.
Your riches are corrupted and your
garments moth-eaten. Your gold and
your silver is cankered, and the rust of
them shall be a witness against you,
and shall eat your flesh as if it were
fire. You have heaped treasure to-
gether for the last days. Ye have lived
in pleasure in the earth, and been wa-
ton; ye have nourished your hearts as
in a day of slaughter, ye have con-
demned and killed the just."

SNOW A GOOD BREASTWORK.

Properly Prepared It Can Withstand Any
Projectiles.

Snow does not look or feel as if it
would form a breastwork that would
withstand cannon balls. Experiments
have been made in Norway under
government orders, and they have
proved that snow can withstand the
force of cannon balls. How some of
our boys would have enjoyed making
these breastworks.

First, snowballs were rolled up and
piled together, the spaces between be-
ing closely packed with snow, forming
a perfectly solid wall twenty metres
long, one-quarter high and three
metres thick at the ground, this sloped
to about two metres.

The shots were fired from German
guns, at a distance of fifty metres.
The breastworks, it was found,
would not stand where less than three
metres thick.

Where the snow was free from ice
fragments, the projectiles were found
flattened on one side. Water was
poured over the breastworks, and the
next day was frozen solidly.

Freezing made the snow porous. The
final conclusion was that if the breast-
works were not sloping, but a uniform
wall of two and one-half metres
thickness, snow breastworks will defy
any projectile thrown at any distance.

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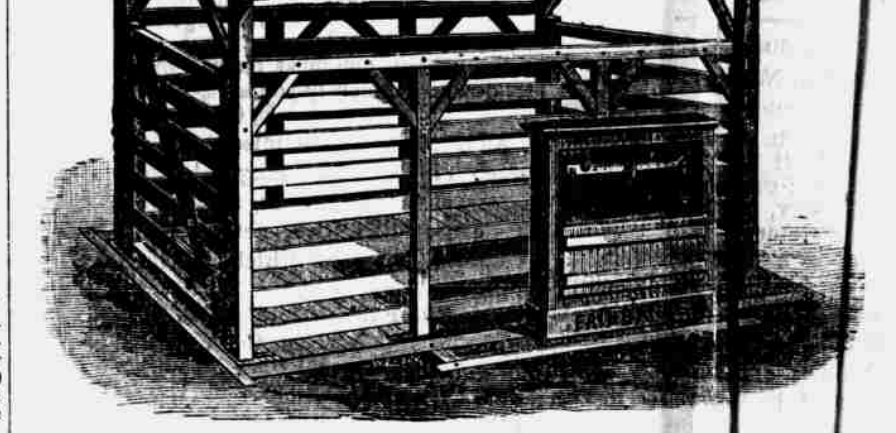
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