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The state legislature is to be called on to devour seventeen barrels of oysters on Friday. They will need several chaplains to pray for them after that.

The soldier boys are here in large numbers, and for business of their own. Let everybody give them welcome, and make their stay over tomorrow as pleasant as possible.

CHURCH HOWE'S enemies were defeated in their contest for his seat in the house, and that iridescent statesman will continue to enlighten the members of that body as to their duty in his most brilliant style.

COL. FORTY has been vindicated by the president for the blunder at Wounded Knee, notwithstanding Gen. Miles' charges of incompetence, overconfidence and blundering responsibility for the death of many soldiers and killing of defenseless squaws. There may be politics in that decision, but it could hardly be called good sense.

THE Samoset democratic club of Omaha did a very graceful thing Thursday. A very handsome chair, costing \$600, was presented to Governor Boyd as a token of regard for him and in commemoration of the election and setting of the first democratic governor of Nebraska. He accepted the gift in a very appropriate speech.

But so long as the McKinley bill is on the statute books the general manufactures of the United States cannot hope to profit very much. The tariff law so greatly adds to the cost of their products that the removal of South American import taxes cannot enable them to compete with foreign-made goods. The McKinley bill is a constant menace to our foreign commerce, and was meant to be.—New York World.

EX-PRESIDENT CLEVELAND'S recent letter putting himself on record against free coinage of silver, while it is frank and square, causes much unfavorable comment among the democrats and satisfaction among the republicans. It will unquestionably aggravate the situation and tend to make him unpopular with the west where the new hope of the democracy is centered. It is very significant now, but will alienate the friends in the west and south from the man who was the idol of the people on the tariff question.

"Gov. Boies of Iowa has a well filled head on his shoulders, says the New York Herald. If the great west can raise an unusual crop of such men we shall not worry about the future of the republic. At the recent reform club dinner he dropped the remark: 'It is indefinitely better that this nation should remain poor, with its property such as it has, distributed among all classes, than to become the richest on the globe with its wealth concentrated in the hands of a few.' That was a bull's eye shot."

THE state legislature is sure to pass a maximum freight and passenger tariff bill this winter. Just what shape it will be in it is not possible to state, but the prospect is it will be a poorly constructed law. The fact is the sentiment is so strongly in favor of such legislation, and the railroads have taken such a disreputable course heretofore that nobody cares to incur the suspicion of favoring the railroads enough to offer amendments that would perfect the measure or make it more practical.

SOUTH DAKOTA has sounded the first note of victory for the people over monopoly in the far west. By a union of forces opposed to the rule of high-taxers there has been elected to the United States senate from that state a man pledged to antagonize the policy of special privilege. The democrats and alliance members of the legislature have joined hands to make possible the determination of one question in which the voters are interested and on which they have spoken through the ballot-box. By this action the ranks of western republican senators have been broken and those who created a state for the benefit of tax-eaters will regret their folly.

SENATOR QUAY of Pennsylvania Monday arose to a question of privilege in the U. S. senate and denied in toto all the charges recently made against him and charges the authors with being libelers and slanderers. His explanation was about the same as has been made before, by his friends for him, i. e., that charity for the dead alone compelled him to remain silent as to details. It would be a pleasure to record the fact that the Keystone politician is a guileless innocent who has been unjustly accused of wrong, but, unfortunately for him, appearances are against this and his known connection with the distribution of the Wannamaker-Harrison boodle fund in 1888 places his testimony in such a light as to need strong corroboration to be believed.

THE CONTEST DIES.

In the state senate Wednesday the joint resolution providing for a contest of the election of the executive offices of the state, including that of the governor's office, was defeated on its final passage. The vote stood: For the resolution, 12; against it, 14. Those voting for the resolution were all independents. Of those voting against it, seven were democrats, five republicans and two were independents—Messrs. Collins and Turner. Four were absent and three were paired.

Thus, after the most remarkable struggle ever made in a Nebraska legislature for overthrowing the election by the people, the project fell to the ground. It lacked the moral support of common sense or decency.

Having originated in the brain of a few desperate, notoriety and self-seeking prohibition fanatical attorneys, the idea was adopted by one of the desperate leaders of the alliance movement (Brooks) and through him was forced upon that party in the hope that the whole power and pelf of the state government might be captured, and the contemplation of so much power, glory and emolument turned the heads of the whole body of legislators. Thus all the trouble of the last six weeks has grown out of the ambition of unwise politicians. The scheme was so desperate, however, that its promoters disintegrated and fell to pieces from sheer force of the condemnation of public opinion. The scheme was destitute of all the elements of justice. It was backed not only by a design to overthrow the election of state officers by the people, but by the hope of forcing upon the people of statutory prohibition, after the people had defeated the incorporation of that malignantism into the constitution. In fact, it is safe to say but for that hope the desperate scheme would never have found a dozen reputable advocates. With that in view its advocates were ready to trample upon the constitution, and defy the mandate of the supreme court. Now, however, that the scheme is defeated and buried beyond resurrection there is hope that some healthful legislation will yet be enacted, and that party lines, which have been drawn very closely, will no longer separate the democrats and their natural friends—the independent members.

THERE is a good deal of nonsense in the talk of certain newspapers and politicians about ex-President Cleveland signing his political death warrant by frankly stating in his recent letter his position on the silver question. Knowing, as he did, the situation of the democratic party in the west and south in regard to free coinage, he might have followed the example of the iridescent senator of Kansas and made a demagogic flop as a bid for political support. But, had he done so, he would, like Ingalls, lost caste with both sides. Mr. Cleveland has a perfect right to his opinions upon silver and all other questions. It is not to be supposed that every one of the democrats of the country—constituting a large plurality of the voters—agree upon all questions of public policy. Mr. Cleveland will be confidently trusted by his party, no matter what may be his individual opinions upon specific issues. His strength lies in his known and proven honesty. That was the source of strength in Abraham Lincoln. He often differed radically with very powerful statesmen and a large contingent in his party, but, whatever the differences of opinion was, Lincoln's party nor the country at large ever doubted his sincerity and his honesty. Mr. Cleveland being similarly entrenched in the confidence of his party, and even in that of a very large number of those politically opposed to him, can safely trust that he will in all probability be nominated for the presidency again and that he will be triumphantly elected. The fact is, while there are many men who desire the experiment of free coinage tried, no one can see into the future far enough to understand its exact effect on the money of the country, while men of Mr. Cleveland's stamp, who can reason closely from cause to effect, can understand that the real reason for a scarcity of money is that the articles in general use that the people must buy are kept artificially high in price by reason of the high tariff, and if the tariff were reduced to a revenue basis the reduction in price of the necessities would make money plentier, because it would go so much further in its purchasing power. Cheap money is an expedient to bridge over artificial high prices. Low tariffs would be the goal itself.

Jay Gould Snubbed.

Jay Gould and his party were given a reception at Atlanta, Ga., the other day, and among those invited was Governor Northen. The governor refused to attend. In his letter declining he says that he does not recognize Gould as visiting the state in any official capacity, but rather in his own interests, without regard to the interests of the masses of the people of the state. The governor also says that he does not think Gould's methods, as practiced in other sections where he has power, would develop Georgia on the line of public good.

According to Jim Blaine.

From the N. Y. Continent.  
There's much that's good in Oolong,  
And Souchong blesses me  
But in the trade the best that's made  
Is rec'-proci-tea.

A HERO GONE.

At the ripe age of seventy-one General William Tecumseh Sherman, at 1:40 o'clock Saturday, grounded his arms at the feet of the great Conqueror, Death, and passed to the realms of the great Beyond. With him passed away the last of the great commanders on the Union side of the great civil war. Grant, McClellan, Hancock, Sheridan, Thomas, Logan and Hooker were gone before. Only Rosecrans, Sigum and Sigel are left of the men who won great renown in battle. An ideal citizen and a soldier without blemish, Sherman, of all the men who commanded armies in the field, was the idol of his men and the personal friend of every man in his command. From Shiloh to Vicksburg, from Vicksburg to Mission Ridge, from Dallas to Atlanta and from Atlanta to Charlotte, North Carolina, no blunder of his led his men into a death-trap, while with strategy and hard fighting he pushed on relentlessly and vigorously denouncing a foe at every step. Once defeated and a suppliant at his feet, he had the same generous disposition for Johnston's men at Charlotte that characterized Grant in his treatment of Lee at Appomattox. No personal hatred wrangled in his bosom. The men who had contested every step of his progress were now the objects of his solicitude. He recognized their equality when they faced him with arms in hand. They were no less his equals when overwhelmed by superior force and equipment they gave up the struggle. The world's history furnishes no grander spectacle of the democratic spirit than does the terms of surrender proposed by Sherman to Johnston's men. In peace Gen. Sherman was no less the democratic citizen. Repeatedly importuned to enter politics, he declined, and never assumed authority where he could avoid it. He was a grand character, such as only a republic could produce, and this nation may well bow its head in adoration at his tomb.

AFTER THE PENSION SHARKS.

Public opinion will approve the effort of the interior department to protect pensioners from the rapacity of the pension sharks. Himself an old soldier, Secretary Noble is properly desirous that the veterans who are entitled to the bounty of the government shall not be robbed of it by a pack of sordid and greedy attorneys, many of whom are capable of almost any disreputable practice to obtain business. His first commendable move against the pension sharks was for a reduction of the fee allowed in pension cases, and he has now taken a further step that will have the effect to save many thousands of dollars to pensioners.

This latest action of the department is the cutting off of a source of information which the attorneys have hitherto found very profitable. The published pension lists have been giving the addresses of persons to whom pensions were awarded. As soon as these lists appeared the attorneys would write to each pensioner informing him that his pension had been granted and suggesting that the fee for services rendered be remitted. The department has ordered that hereafter the addresses of pensioners be omitted from the lists furnished the press, nothing but the name of the successful applicant and the state in which he resides. As the commissioner of pension gives timely information to all persons who have been granted a pension, this new arrangement will not cause successful applicants to be held in suspense very long, while it will be of benefit to them pecuniarily.

A TOUCHING LETTER.

Sad Duty Imposed Upon a St. Louis Grand Army Post.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 14.—In February, 1890, on the occasion of General Sherman's seventieth birthday, the members of Ransom post, G. A. R., of which General Sherman was the first commander, sent the general many congratulatory letters and telegrams. The old warrior, replying to these, said:

"I have again and again been urged to allow my name to be transferred to the roster of some one of the many posts of the Grand Army of the Republic here, but my invariable answer was no, that Ransom post stood by me and I will stand by it to my end, and then it, in its organized capacity, will deposit my poor body in Calvary cemetery alongside my faithful wife and idolized soldier boy. My health continues good, so my comrades of Ransom post must guard theirs, that they may be able to fulfil this sacred duty imposed by their first commander. God bless you all.  
W. T. SHERMAN."

A SENSIBLE ALLIANCE LEADER.

A telegram, of which the following is an extract, from Congressman McKeighan to Gov. Boyd explains itself: Your excellency will please accept my hearty congratulations on your message to the legislature. It meets my views from beginning to end, and I sincerely hope that the present legislature may be governed by your advice. Yours to count on.

W. A. MCKEIGHAN.

THE state bounty of one cent a pound on the production of beet sugar has been knocked out both in the senate and house. While thousands of farmers have to be helped who have not been able to raise any crop at all it looks like the utmost foolishness to give bounties for anything.

AGAINST FREE COINAGE.

With His Usual Frankness, Cleveland Places Himself on Record.

NEW YORK, Feb. 11.—At a mass meeting under the auspices of the Reform club, held at the Cooper Union to-night, to protest against the free coinage of silver, drew quite a large attendance. Ex-Secretary of the Treasury Fairchild called the meeting to order and introduced Hon. E. Ellery Anderson as the chairman of the evening.

Among the letters of regret was one ex-President Cleveland, in which he takes a decided stand against the free coinage bill. The letter is as follows:

NEW YORK, Feb. 10, 1891.—[E. Ellery Anderson, Chairman.]—Dear Sir: I have this afternoon received your note inviting me to attend tomorrow evening the meeting called for the purpose of voicing the position of the business men of our city on the coinage of silver in the United States. I shall not be able to attend and address the meeting as you request, but I am glad that the business interests of New York are at last to be heard on this subject. It surely cannot be necessary for me to make a formal expression of my agreement with those that believe that the greatest peril would be invited by the adoption of the scheme embraced in the measure now pending in congress for the unlimited coinage of silver at our mints. If we have developed an unexpected capacity for the assimilation of a largely increased volume of this currency, and even if we have demonstrated the usefulness of such an increase, other conditions fall far short of insuring us against disaster if in the present situation we enter upon the dangerous, the reckless experiment of free, unlimited and independent silver coinage. Yours very truly,  
GROVER CLEVELAND.

PATHOS PERSONIFIED.

A night or two ago a young woman entered a cheap eating house in New York and ordered a 2-cent cup of coffee. She then drew a crust of bread from her pocket and commenced her wretched meal. A moment or two later she quietly died. Her body remained sitting all night at the table, and was removed the next morning by the deputy coroner. She was afflicted with Bright's disease, and her death was hastened by hunger and cold. In other words, the girl starved to death. Such an occurrence would not excite much comment in any great city, ordinarily, but the poem found in the girl's pocket was very pathetic and it has set all New York talking about her death. Here are a couple of its stanzas:

On the street, on the street,  
Whither tend my wandering feet?  
Love and hope and joy are dead—  
Not a place to lay my head!  
Every door against me sealed,  
Hospital and Potter's Field,  
These stand open. Wider yet  
Swings perdition's yawning gate,  
Thither tend my wandering feet.  
On the street, on the street.

On the street, on the street,  
Late I walk with weary feet,  
Oh! that this sad life might end;  
Oh! that I might find One Friend—  
One who would not from me turn,  
Nor my prayer of sorrow spurn,  
Oh! that I that friend could see—  
He would pity look on me.  
Such as I have kissed His feet:  
On the street, on the street.

THE ANARCHISTIC WHISKY TRUST.

The arrest of one of the chief officers of the notorious whisky trust, on very strong evidence of a conspiracy so monstrous as to be almost incredible, will once more bring into public odium all trusts in general and this one in particular.

What this whisky conspiracy has evidently tried to accomplish by murderous means has been tried in a more insidious way by mere evasion of law by every trust that has been formed. The very motive and object of a trust is the destruction of rival concerns and the wiping out of honest competition by ruining those engaged in legitimate business, or by forcing them to hold up their hands and deliver over their property on demand.

The whisky trust appears to have gone a step further, and resorted to dynamite and murder to accomplish the end.

Not Quite So Fast.

"Do the democrats of Nebraska recall their resolution of congratulation to Secretary Blaine, passed at their state convention last summer? It will make good reading when the secretary receives the republican nomination for the presidency in '92."—State Journal.

The State Journal's memory is at fault. No resolution of that sort was introduced or adopted by the democratic state convention last summer. At the congressional convention which nominated Mr. Bryan, J. C. Calhoun offered a resolution, which was adopted—but not made a part of the platform—congratulating Blaine for his reciprocity idea, which in principle accords with free trade. Don't charge that up to the state convention, please.

Large Enough as It Is.

Louisville (Ky.) Courier-Journal.

We now have sixteen times as many people and five and one-half times as many representatives as we had in 1790—population increasing so rapidly as to force a large increase in ratio. Were that of 1793 to obtain now, the fifty-third congress would have a house of 1,893 members—which heaven forbid!

JERRY SIMPSON IN WASHINGTON.

"Sockless" Jerry Simpson, the farmers' alliance leader of Kansas, was on the floor of the house today and received a great ovation, says a Washington letter. It was not his first view of the house in session, for all day Saturday he was an interested witness of the proceedings from one of the public galleries. He was too modest to avail himself of the privilege of the floor as was his right, and having come, as he says, to see and not to be seen, he preferred to remain unnoticed. Today, however, Mr. Springer found him and, taking him upon the floor, introduced him to the members. As soon as his presence was known the members flocked around him, anxious to congratulate him upon the successful termination of the fight in Kansas, and, too, a little curious to see the man of whom they had heard so many stories. Mr. Simpson is a bright looking man, with black hair and mustache. He was dressed in a pepper and salt suit, and while it could not be determined whether he wore socks or not, he had on a "biled" shirt and collar. He is not at all put out by these "sock" stories, but rather enjoys them. Stone, of Kentucky, made bold to ask him the direct question as to whether there was any truth in the stories, and he laughingly replied that he could not afford to wear socks when the McKinley bill was in operation.

Reciprocity With the Wrong Countries.

From the Omaha World-Herald.  
Reciprocity with a few agricultural nations cannot provide the American farmer and workingman with what they most urgently need—cheaper clothing, tools and other necessary manufactured articles. Even if Mr. Blaine's scheme did not savor of monopoly, it would be of little actual benefit to the farming people of this country.

A Cass county farmer, who has dropped into the habit of raising about so many potatoes each year, replied to our inquiry as to what he was doing down there last year, "Oh, raisin' potatoes." The interview disclosed the fact that our industrious neighbor had been able to dig about 4,000 bushels of potatoes from forty acres of ground. One of the lessons to be drawn from this bit of experience is that the conditions of success are often found where least looked for, and that success is the ripe result of keeping everlastingly at it.—Nebraska Farmer.

A copy of last week's Elmwood Echo was shown us today. We do not wonder that the sneak who edits it was ashamed to send copies of it to his Plattsmouth subscribers. He abuses the county commissioners like pirates for performing their plain duty in rejecting the special election petition, making his malice most prominent. Why don't he expend some of his pent up rage upon the county attorney, who stated to the board that the petition was not legal in form. If the board had forewarned themselves and granted the petition the board would have been angels instead of demons in the eyes of the creature of the Echo.

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