

The Plattsmouth Daily Herald.

KNOTTS BROS., Publishers & Proprietors.

THE PLATTSMOUTH HERALD

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FREE-TRADE ADMISSIONS.

Mr. Blaine's letter of withdrawal elicits from the New York Herald certain articles of strange significance. Rightly treating the letter as unquestionably sincere on the part of Mr. Blaine, admitting that he had no occasion to resort to any subterfuge in order to nomination if he had desired one, and rather hastily jumping to the conclusion that the Republican party will have no judgment or wish other than that which Mr. Blaine himself has expressed, this most zealous of free-trade organs blurted out feelings which are undoubtedly shared by many in both parties, as follows:

We are now dealing with him, not as a Presidential candidate, but as a statesman who has performed an act of high statesmanship.

Ten days ago this gentleman was not alone the unchallenged leader of the Republican party, but its sure candidate for the Presidency.

His coming within a few votes of an election, his winning a campaign by his own genius, which the stupidity and heedlessness of his friends at the last moment destroyed, as they only could destroy; his fervid speech at the close of the election which adjourned, but did not end the campaign, his alert and clever reply by cable to Mr. Cleveland's financial message, were so many tactical moves, showing consummate political skill. To have arrested such a movement by his own act, and in full view of success as a nominee and of possible success before the people as a candidate, must be regarded, when looked at calmly and as politics go in the United States, as the courageous act of a great statesman and a great man.

There is something of the spirit of old Athens in his declaration: "I am Blaine, the American citizen." As an individual act it stands out clear-cut, unique, alone.

This ingenious and audacious leader, whom it was yesterday the cue to portray as the Robert Macaire of Republican politics, on the lookout for anything that did not belong to him, from a snuff-box to a diamond, suddenly looms up one of the highest types of magnanimity and courage that we have seen in our political experience.

In another article of the same tenor, and with intrinsic marks of the same authorship, "The Herald" says on Monday:

A wise and magnanimous deed that of Mr. Blaine—the statesman knowing his mind and the time to speak his mind; who saw that a supreme act of self-denial was due to his party and due to the Republic, and with the intelligence to see, likewise the courage to do.

With the Republican nomination in his hands Mr. Blaine required no intrigue to win.

First from New York in the list of possible candidates whom the Republican party may select, this article mentions Conkling, and then "Depew, Evarts, Curtis, Hisscock, Morton." But foremost in the whole list it names "the illustrious Sheridan, whose name no American, whatever his party, can hear without the joy inspired by the history of his glorious deeds." General Sheridan, however, declines to be used in that way, and states that he would not accept a nomination under any circumstances.

He who can read between the lines perceives that the free traders feel overjoyed because Mr. Blaine appears to them no longer a possible candidate. They see that there is no question of his sincerity, and that his acts is plainly one of lofty statesmanship and genuine patriotism, and then they take it for granted that the Republican party must of necessity adopt Mr. Blaine's judgment and preference as its own. It may—and it may not. With rare patriotism Mr. Blaine removes from the way all feeling of possible obligation to him which might influence the judgment of any members of the party, and that is well. But when the Republican party, thus untrammelled by past relations or events, has coolly and patriotically considered the situation, has carefully and without prejudice weighed the merits and the strength of other possible candidates, has considered all the elements of helpfulness or hindrance in any proposed line of policy, if it should then decide to call Mr. Blaine to the leadership and he should then put aside his personal preference for the public welfare, what have the Free Traders left to say? How are they to get rid of their hearty recognition of Mr. Blaine's sincere, magnanimous, patriotic and lofty statesmanship? Or do they think it possible to go back to the Robert Macaire theory with success?—New York Tribune.

The Chicago Tribune may not have taken its cue from THE HERALD, yet it has lately discovered that Judge Gresham is, next after Blaine, the most available Republican nominee for the presidency.

THE HERALD was pleased to meet Prof. W. H. Croan, of Shenandoah, Iowa, the other day, and learn from the professor himself something about his wonderfully successful school. Although the Shenandoah Normal School has been in operation but three or four years, it is already the largest and best managed school in the State of Iowa, and has at the present time seven hundred students in attendance. Our Nebraska teachers, if they wish to take a course of training that would be particularly valuable, should by all means make themselves acquainted with the Shenandoah schools, as we think they would attend no other after making enquiries as to their successful methods. The place being a moral, temperance town, where parents are not afraid to trust their children, is a great help to the teachers.

The good work goes on in Louisiana, and everything at this time points to a fair election, something almost unknown where Democratic majorities are large.

CASTLE GARDEN VOLAPUK.

How the Employes Pick Up Strange Tongues as They Are Spoke.

Sometimes there is a good deal of amusement at Castle Garden, by reason of the confusion of languages among the immigrants, and the efforts of the officials to understand them through the interpreters. Some of the ordinary questions asked closely resemble some English word or phrase, and the other day when Superintendent Jackson was in the rotunda he turned around in a hurry when he heard a question of repeated that sounded extremely like:

"Has Jackson got cher watch?" It was only a Slavonian interpreter asking some newly arrived persons their names, the phrase for which in that tongue is: "Jak seu usiar wash?"

One of the brightest clerks in the rotunda is an enterprising little Irishman, and he bids fair to become a thorough all round linguist if his efforts are continued. When he can spare the time he endeavors to increase his conversational vocabulary by listening to the ordinary inquiries that the interpreters make of the immigrants, and catching a word here and there. When an interpreter was talking to a recent arrival of Arabs this clerk overheard what appeared to be, so far as he could understand, "Shamrock."

Taking a pencil and a piece of paper, he decided to experiment with the word upon another Arab. He gave him the pencil and paper, and asked: "Shamrock?" The man complied with the request, and immediately wrote down "32," signifying that he was 32 years of age. When he wants to ask an Arab how old he is after this that clerk will say "Shamrock."

Another phrase used by the same interpreter struck the Irish ear as being "McMannus." Experimenting with this in the same manner upon another Arab, the clerk was as successful as before, the man addressed standing up and pointing to his wife with sundry ceremonies of introduction, to signify that he was married, as he had understood the question. The same clerk has caught a few other expressions in different languages as a result of his observant faculties, which, though they may not sound very elegant in English, answer his purpose in eliciting the desired information. "Dirt under your toe," for instance, signifies to some immigrants, "Where are you going?" and "Spit it out" means "Sign your name."—New York Commercial Advertiser.

Oyster Culture in France.

Oyster culture has had a great development in France. Thus, while in 1857 there were in the Bay of Arcachon twenty parks, or district oyster beds, in 1865 there were 297 beds, producing 10,000,000 oysters annually, and there are now 15,000 acres of beds, yielding an annual supply of 300,000,000 oysters. From Auray, on the coast of Brittany, 7,000,000 oysters were sent to market in 1876-77; in 1885 the numbers exceeded 70,000,000. On the other hand, the British oyster industry has declined, and the coast which furnished ancient Rome with oysters, and within a generation exported them to Paris, now ranks low in the list of oyster nurseries.—Public Opinion.

A curious manner of deception in sound was developed the other day through a bet. One man wagered that if blindfolded a person is unable to tell the direction from which any sound comes. A gentleman was blindfolded, and another, holding two silver coins between his fingers, snapped them together right under his friend's nose. When called on to locate the sound the gentleman was positive it was behind him. The experiment was tried from every side, but the gentleman was not able to tell correctly just where the sound came from.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

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It has been estimated that the sun cannot be relied upon to furnish us light and heat for more than 10,000,000 years more. Mr. Keeley will have to hurry up with his motor if he expects to make anything from it before everything goes to smash.

Begg's Cherry Cough Syrup. Is warranted for all that the label calls for, so if it does not relieve your cough you can call at our store and the money will be refunded to you. It acts simultaneously on all parts of the system, thereby leaving no bad results. O. P. SMITH & Co., Druggists. j25-3mo,d-w

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THE THERMOMETER.

AN INSTRUCTIVE SKETCH ABOUT A VERY USEFUL INVENTION.

Three Kinds of Instruments in Common Use Throughout the World—The Fahrenheit Thermometer—The Zero Point. Method of Verification.

The thermometer in its crude form was invented by a Hollander named Cornelius Drebbel, who, it appears, made the first instrument, which he called a "heat measure," in the year 1624. His thermometer was simple enough, and had numerous defects, consisting of a glass ball at the top of a tube, the lower and open end being placed in a vessel filled with water, colored by a solution of nitrate of copper. This instrument was improved upon, and its defects gradually removed by others; but it was Halley, the famous English astronomer, who first proposed the use of mercury as a fluid for the thermometer.

There are now three kinds of thermometers in common use throughout the world; but the form invented by Professor Daniel Fahrenheit, an ingenious German in the year 1709, and from whom the instrument has been named, is the one generally employed in this country, and with which nearly every intelligent family in the land is provided, though the "centigrade thermometer" is really the most convenient and is now adopted in all countries as the standard for scientific reference, and like the metric system, its general use in this country is doubtless merely a question of time.

Mercury boils and vaporizes at a temperature of 662 degs. Fahrenheit, and for obtaining any higher temperature than this a metallic instrument called the pyrometer is made use of, but its indications are unreliable, and yet it remains to discover some more accurate method of measuring degrees of heat higher than 662 degs. by the Fahrenheit thermometer. At a temperature of 33 degs. below zero mercury freezes and becomes a solid mass inelastic under the hammer, and for lower temperatures, pure alcohol (spirits of wine) colored red with carmine, is usually employed, but as in the case of the pyrometer, its indications cannot be depended upon for accuracy. Fahrenheit was not slow to recognize the advantages offered by mercury as a fluid for the thermometer. Mercury, as an excellent conductor of heat, is vastly more susceptible to the changes of temperature than all other fluids. It is much more easily obtained in a perfectly pure state than alcohol, which, even when prepared with the greatest care, often contains as well as other admixtures; and alcohol is sometimes rendered thick by great degrees of cold, and under the higher degrees of heat it expands excessively and ununiformly.

THE ZERO POINT.

In the Fahrenheit thermometers the space between the freezing and boiling point of water is divided into 180 equal parts or degrees, the former being 32 degs. and the latter 212 degs. above zero, which was so called by the inventor from the fact that he supposed it to indicate the point of absolute cold, or the very lowest degree that could be produced and measured by any instrument. But the lowest degree of cold possible to be obtained is now estimated to be 523 degs., and the greatest artificial cold ever produced is 43 degs. by the Fahrenheit thermometer. The zero point of a thermometer does not indicate the total absence of heat, as commonly supposed, and the term seems to imply, for an absolute zero of temperature has never yet been attained, and has only been approximately determined, though it is considered "convenient as an ideal starting point." The zero of a Fahrenheit thermometer is the temperature of a mixture of ice and common salt, which is usually employed in the operation of freezing ice cream.

The zero point of a thermometer should always be carefully verified, unless the instrument is known to be correct. To do this immerse the bulb in a vessel filled with snow or pounded ice, and press slightly a layer of several inches around it, so that the stem, which should be exactly perpendicular, is covered with snow as high as the freezing point on the scale. Do this in a room, the temperature of which is above the freezing point, as that point indicates the temperature of melting snow. Then in about half an hour send in, taking care to expose the eye to the perpendicular to the column of mercury, and moving the thermometer freely about in the mixture. In case the top of the mercury and the freezing point on the scale do not correspond, note the difference. Some instruments are so constructed as to admit of loosening the screws and sliding the glass tube holding the mercury up or down a distance equivalent to the error, but it is not advisable to make frequent mechanical changes of this kind. The correction above indicated should be applied to each reading of the scale.—Arthur K. Barrett in Detroit Free Press.

The Eskimo's Religious Beliefs. In reference to their religious beliefs and superstitions, the Eskimos are remarkably rational, for the reason probably that their intercourse has chiefly been with rough, rude sailors, and they are afraid of having their cherished ceremonies made the butt of the white man's ridicule.

The dead are buried in the snow in winter time, and among the rocks in the summer, piles of stones being heaped upon them to keep off the wolves and dogs. With the hands dead they bury a knife and spear. Before the era of guns they buried also a bow and arrow, but when these became obsolete they did not put a gun in their place, arguing soundly enough that he must be a poor hunter indeed who cannot get all the game he needs in the happy hunting grounds with a knife and spear as his only weapons. It would appear as if there were advanced thinkers, moreover, who hold that even the knife and spear are not necessary in a land of such unlimited plenty, and who accordingly deprive the dead man of both, for it is very rarely that graves are found still containing these articles. With the women they bury nothing, holding that somebody will hunt game for them in the next world just as they have done in this.—J. Macdonald Oxley in American Magazine.

Chinese Place of Execution.

We visited the place of execution. There was one head in a basket, cut off some weeks before, and around were many copper pots nearly three feet in diameter filled with heads and cemented down. The body is buried, but the state holds the head. For ten cents the executioner showed the sword and solemnly went through the motions of taking off a caput. He said he had cut off a good many hundreds, but admitted he would have to strike hard to sever my neck with a single blow; the Chinese neck was small and he rarely had to strike twice. The sword was about two feet long in blade, and not over two or two and one-half inches wide. By the way, these people have very small necks. It is a little singular that the execution ground is used for drying earthenware for the kiln. Where did this idea come from? Potter's field is almost synonymous with the burial place of the destitute.—Carter Harrison in Chicago Mail.

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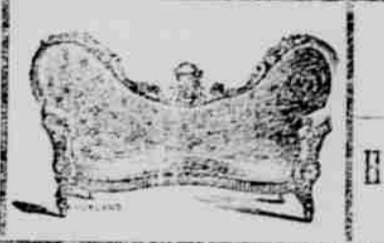
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