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The Plattsmouth Daily Herald.

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We notice that the democratic newspapers are not pleased with the appointment of Col. Fred Grant as Minister to Austria; but the patriotic people of the country are quite willing to have the favorite son of the old commander succeed a confederate general whose disabilities had to be removed by a special act of congress before he could hold the office.

All of the large paper manufacturers of England have formed a syndicate to raise prices. Such a move in this country would be attributed by the democratic organs to the protective tariff system. In England free trade is evidently the evil behind the throne. You pay your money and take your choice, but trusts and syndicates continue to rise and fall just the same.—Kearney Hub.

POSTMASTER GENERAL WANAMAKER'S order regarding hours of work in the office of the first assistant postmaster general will probably not be popular among the clerks, but it will undoubtedly contribute to the efficiency of the department. Under the new rule, clerks will go on duty at 8:30 instead of 9 a. m., and remain at their desks till 6 instead of 4 o'clock. It is entirely in keeping with the fitness of things for a thorough business man to lose no time in introducing practical business methods in the branch of the government over which he presides.

It is understood that President Harrison will appoint a colored man to be register of deeds for the District of Columbia, a position worth ten to fifteen thousand dollars a year, and he will select a resident of the District in conformity with the policy of filling the territorial offices with citizens of the territories. Mr. Cleveland disregarded this policy, although the platform on which he was elected pledged him to it. He first appointed Matthews, an Albany colored man, to the position of register, and when the

enate refused to confirm him, went to Boston for the present incumbent, Mr. Trotter. The office has been filled by a colored man since the appointment of Fred Douglas by Grant.

FLYING UNDER WATER.—One of the most water-loving birds is a dainty little songster belonging to the thrush family, and popularly known as the water-ousel, or dipper. This pretty little bird is found in most parts of the world, and likes best the neighborhood of those nerry mountain streams which rush boisterously on to their fate, now leaping headlong over some high rock, now swirling in some deep pool, and now eddying, dancing, plashing down a steep incline. Water-fall, pool, and eddying stream are alike to the water-ousel, which will dash into one or the other with the same ready confidence as the ordinary bird into the air.

In winter, when its watery home is frozen over, it will seek other and milder parts, unless it can be sure of finding holes in the ice, in which case it will hesitate to remain at home, for it will plunge through a hole into the icy water with no care at all for temperature, and having made its venture successful by the capture of a small fish, will return to the air once more.

So fond is it of the water that it will build its nest as near to it as possible, and one instance is recorded of a pair which actually built behind a water-fall, taking advantage of the space made by the shoot of the water over the top of the rock.

Although the ousel uses its feet while swimming, its progress is chiefly due to its wings, which are moved exactly as if lying in the air. The wings are admirably adapted to this use, being almost as broad as long, and of comparatively great power. The tail is very short, and the body is covered with soft thick down, which, as in the true aquatic birds affords an impervious shield against the water.

Like all other birds which either casually or habitually resort to the water, the ousel seems to regard that element as its safest retreat in time of danger. Even the little birds which have never before ventured from the nest, and which are quite unable to fly, have been known, when alarmed during the absence of the parents, to rush pell-mell to the nearest water, and with extraordinary facility to run along the bed of the stream many yards before seeking the air. Allowing everything to the over-powering force of instinct, there still remains something to wonder at in the feeling of confidence

which can inspire the fledglings to take so anxiously to the water.—John R. Coryell, in Harper's Magazine for April.

The Power of Ink.
"A small drop of ink, falling, like dew, upon a thought, proclaims that which makes thousands, perhaps millions, think" wrote Byron. The inspiration of his pen might give the dusky fluid such a far-reaching power, and we wish we were possessed of such an inspiration, that we might, through a like medium, bring into such extended notice the matchless virtues of Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Purgative Pellets, those tiny, sugar-coated granules which contain, in a concentrated form, the active principles of vegetable extracts that Dame Nature designed especially to promote a healthy action of the liver, stomach and bowels.

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