

THE AUTOGRAPH BOOK OF BLUE

She gave him her book to write in—
His autograph book of blue—
And she said: "Write it straight, now,
Tommy,
And something nice and true."

IE IE "WHITE HORSE" VAULTS.



AND I'd give a year's salary to lay hands on the impudent rogues.
The chief constable of Wallburn was speaking to one of his subordinates, Inspector Miller.
"Where did you get that coin?" he hissed.
"Where did you get it?" repeated the other.
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a year or more he had been missing from his accustomed haunts—rumor said he had passed the time in jail—and it was only the other day that he turned up and claimed his corner in the bar of the "White Horse."
"Ye, ye," chuckled the old toper as he waddled over to the bar for "another two penn'orth o' Scotch."
"Drinking Dan ain't—(hic)—the biggest fool alive!"
"Of course, not, Dan, you're only one of 'em," returned Markham, as he pocketed the twopenny.

"Drinking Dan—who is, and has been for twelve months an inmate of the Wallburn workhouse—had been a member of the Hutton gang years ago, and from him I obtained all that I wanted to insure admission to the vaults of the 'White Horse,' and—well, you know the rest."—Cassell's Saturday Journal.

RECENT INVENTIONS.

There have recently been one or two unpleasant accidents in Venice through gondolas being cut down by the "penney" steam launches.
In a new magazine camera the plates are placed in a row in a chamber opposite from the lens and held by a spring, each plate dropping down into a recess in the bottom of the camera after it is exposed.
An Illinois man has invented an attachment for guitars consisting of a frame to be screwed on the head with a number of padded bars set in it with keys to be depressed by the fingers and produce different chords.
To support pie crust so it will not fall while the pie is baking a new appliance consists of an inverted cup with a wide flange around the top on which the crust rests, with an outlet in the center for the escape of gases.
An automatic door for furnaces and locomotive boilers has a standard set on the end of a rod which runs through the floor and operates a lever to raise the door and swing it back whenever the standard is stepped on.
In a new winding mechanism for watches a set screw is placed in the two-part key to adjust the fractional contact so as to just overcome the tension of the mainspring until nearly wound, when the key slips, thus preventing over-winding.
Casks and barrels are automatically tilted in a new holding frame as they become nearly empty by weighted pivoted levers under the rear of the barrel, the weight of the contents being sufficient to counterbalance the weights until it is almost gone.
A Maryland man has invented a shirt with a detachable bosom, which is made double to fold through the center and form four wearing surfaces, so that as fast as one surface becomes soiled it can be replaced by another until the four are used.
An improved tie for horses or cows has a shield or apron stretched across a frame and fastened to the edge of the manger, the halter rope being secured to the outer edge of the apron frame to keep it tipped up while the animal is feeding and prevent waste.
An electric bath cabinet has been invented by a German which has wooden racks arranged at each side of the tub with electric connections to the racks and bars across the top so the body of the bather completes the circuit by touching the bars.
Two Frenchmen have invented a tandem attachment for single wheels, consisting of a supporting frame, to be attached to the rear shaft and saddle pedal cranks, to be mounted on the rear shaft to push the front cranks forward in turn.
The shock of collisions between ships can be lessened by means of a new device, which consists of a number of cylinders having pistons set in them to extend out from the sides of the ship, with an air-cushion in the cylinder to act as a buffer when the blow is struck.
Corduroy Road of Ancient Days.
Considerable interest has been occasioned among the people of that neighborhood, and particularly among geologists, by the discovery of a peculiarly constructed roadway in the Lake Shore Company's gravel pit at Amboy, seven miles east of Ashtabula, Ohio. The remarkable find has the appearance of having been a corduroy road, made of small cedar trees, and it was unearthed thirty-eight feet below the surface of the ground. The wood is in a perfect state of preservation. Over twenty feet of this road has been uncovered. It was laid on hard clay and was covered by a thick vein of gravel.
Professor Carl Wright, teacher of geology in Oberlin University, visited the gravel pit and secured pieces of the wood, which he examined. He gives it as his opinion that the wood had been where it was found since the glacial epoch, and that it has retained its natural condition several thousand years. A piece of a mastodon's tusk, two feet long, was unearthed. It is also perfectly preserved, the ivory being a natural color after the dirt was removed.
Posters on Their Skulls.
Boulevard loungers in Paris were amused the other day when ten men, correctly garbed all exactly alike, walked into a cafe and gravely ordered drinks, for, as they removed their hats, each man had painted on his bald head one letter of a word, advertising a new dramatic sensation. They were arrested, however, for evading the law that requires sandwich men and posters to pay a tax of 42 francs, but they were discharged on promising to affix the necessary stamps to their skulls, a poll tax, as it were.—New York Mail and Express.
Hard Up.
Widower (thinking of proposing)—Have you any objection to widowers, Miss Leftover?
Miss Leftover (eagerly)—Oh, no; I only object to married men.—Pick-Me-Up.
A Bamboo Lighthouse.
A lighthouse of bamboo has just been built in Japan. It is said to have greater power of resisting the waves than any other kind of wood, and does not rot like ordinary wood.
There is always room at the top of Freemasonry, but one has to work up to it by degrees.

FROM BANK FAILURES

AMERICAN PEOPLE LOSE LARGE AMOUNTS ANNUALLY.
Startling Figures from the Last Report of the Comptroller of the Treasury "Coin" Harvey's Views on Bimetallism.
Postal Savings Banks.
It is impossible to tell with accuracy the amount of money lost to the American people every year as the result of bank failures. For national banks the statistics kept by the comptroller of the currency are sufficiently satisfactory. The same official has tried from time to time to compile information relating to insolvency of other banking institutions. Comptroller Eckels gave special attention to the subject in his report for 1896, having made use of the fifty-eight national bank examiners as agencies for collecting material in relation to failed banks of all kinds and the Chicago Record makes an analysis of the figures thus collected, however, necessarily were not in all cases complete, but they serve to throw much light on the subject.
Comparisons indicate that the institutions under national supervision are much safer places of deposit than are the State and private banks, as is shown by the following table from Comptroller Eckels' report gives failures for the year:
No. in existence, Oct. 31, 1896. Failures.
National banks 3,679 27 75
State banks and trust companies 4,944 56 1.01
Savings banks 764 8 1.18
Private banks 3,852 42 1.18
Totals 12,939 137 1.06
The percentage of failures of national banks, which for the most part are for the exclusive use of the larger depositors, is seen to be considerably smaller than for any other class. The percentages of failures is highest for savings and private banks, the class of institutions with which persons of small means are most likely to come in contact. These figures, therefore, give direct force to the statement commonly heard that the government does more for the rich than it does for the poor. In a measure it throws the mantle of paternalism over the large deposits of the wealthy and leaves the poor to safeguard their own scanty savings as best they can.
The figures as to percentage of failures, however, do not tell the whole story. Since 1893 330 national banks, or about 6 1/2 per cent. of all created, have failed. The average percentage of dividends paid to creditors of national banks whose affairs are entirely closed is about 75 per cent. The reports of State banks failed since 1893, so far as information concerning them could be secured by the comptroller, show that 192 such insolvent banks paid dividends to creditors of less than 25 per cent.; 203 paid 25 per cent., and over, but less than 50 per cent.; 184 paid 50 per cent. and over, but less than 75 per cent.; 128 paid 75 per cent. and over, but less than 100 per cent., and 158 banks paid 100 per cent. While the average dividend payment of insolvent national banks, therefore, was 75 per cent., nearly as many insolvent State banks paid less than 50 per cent. dividends as paid that amount or over. The dividend payments of insolvent private banking institutions are smaller yet, but the figures cannot be given with accuracy. In many such cases the creditors have received nothing whatever. Not only, therefore, are there fewer failures of national banks than of other banking institutions, but the percentage of loss to creditors is smaller in the case of national-bank failures than in the case of insolvency of State or private banks.
Workingmen ought to be provided with some safer place of deposit for their small savings than banks of which more than one in the hundred, on the average, is likely to fail every year, especially when the class of banks with which workingmen have dealings are woe to fail so disastrously when they do succumb. By establishing postal savings banks the government could provide for all persons of small means an absolutely safe place of deposit, so that hereafter bank failures need not be a source of terror to small depositors. By protecting the weakest and those most likely to suffer loss Congress would be protecting all.
Of the 330 national banks that have failed since the beginning of the system the accounts of 142 had been closed on Oct. 31, 1896, for which the comptroller of the currency gives the following figures:
Total claims proved, \$41,563,669; total dividends paid, \$30,933,694; total losses, \$10,629,969. At the same rate the total losses for the entire 330 national banks failed between 1893 and 1896 probably would approximate \$25,000,000.
It is difficult to estimate what may have been the losses from failures of other than national banks for the same period, but the amount very greatly exceeds the losses by national-bank failures. For the year closed Aug. 31, 1896, there were failures of 110 State banks and trust companies, savings banks and private banks, with assets of \$7,447,646 and liabilities of \$9,174,102. On the face of the figures this statement shows a loss for the single year of nearly \$2,000,000, which in reality will be greater, as the assets probably will shrink before final settlement is made. For the panic year of 1893 the number of failures reported to the comptroller was 261 banks with nominal assets of \$54,828,000, and liabilities of \$46,700,818, upon which dividends had been paid in 1896 to the amount of \$17,912,276. The most attractive feature of the postal savings bank system is that panic years, like others, would pass without loss to depositors.
In his report for 1896 Comptroller Eckels publishes figures giving failures as reported to him for the years 1894-96, of which the totals are as follows: Number of failures, 1,234; nominal assets, \$214,312,190; liabilities, \$220,629,988; dividends paid at time of making reports, \$100,088,726. It is probably fair to estimate that when the accounts of such of these failed banks as are still open are finally closed the difference between liabilities and dividends paid will still be \$100,000,000. This represents the losses from failures from 1893 to 1896 of banks other than national of which the comptroller has been able to secure definite information, but necessarily the figures are far from complete.
It is inevitable that there should be some bank failures. But every consideration of prudence and statesmanship demands the strictest government supervision in order to make the losses from such failures as small as possible. For the savings of the poor the government should make provision for absolute safety by establishing postal banks. The small depositor is entitled to better protection than the record of failures shows he has received during the last thirty years.
"Coin" Harvey on Bimetallism.
The influence of the money dealers in bringing our business men to agree with them is the danger most to be feared. The influence of the former is much greater than is generally understood.
The merchants, traders and manufacturers, as a rule, are busy—some of them very busy—trying to save themselves from insolvency; and most of them are either under obligation to the banking class or are trying to curry favor with them for the use of money in their business; or court their good will and indorsement and fall into the habit of letting the bankers do their thinking for them.
Few business men have the moral courage to speak out plainly to a banker and combat his argument—a selfish one in favor of the money dealers. To the day of his failure the business man is a supplicant for favors from his banker, and in his presence is a moral coward.
Money gives power to the man who has it; it takes courage and independence out of the man who has it not. The man half insolvent, with credit in danger, wishing to borrow money from Peter to pay Paul, like the fly entangled in the meshes of a spider's web, is willing to listen to the spider's argument that if the latter's policy is adopted money will be easy and the loan secured.
Immediate relief and the hope of better business obscures from view to the average business man a study of the problem of government, and how the money dealers are making wealth by law for themselves to the disadvantage of business men engaged in other pursuits. So long as the bankers' policy is pursued, the "business men" will find themselves, on an average, from year to year, more hopelessly entangled in the spider's web.
But they are too busy to study for themselves, and just so long as they neglect that duty, the bankers will continue to do the thinking for chambers of commerce and business men, individually and collectively.
As the stringency increases, the power of those who have money is enlarged, except with those who understand the problem and have the courage of their convictions. A proprietor of a bimetallic newspaper has been known to virtually close his columns to that side of the question to hold the advertisements of the bankers in his town. The power of money for evil, to enrich a selfish few and despoil a nation, was never greater than it is now.
Our duty to ourselves and to posterity is to rise equal to the occasion and restore manhood to America! To regain for this country its independence and renounce the power of Great Britain. We can do it in 1900, and by a thoroughly American policy scatter gladness and happiness throughout this land. The English press has recently referred to us as a fourth-class nation. Let us, in 1900, break the shackles she has placed upon us and henceforward stand forth recognized the first nation in the world.—W. H. Harvey.

power to that end. He was determined to contract the circulating medium and demote one of the coins of commerce, limit the volume of money among the people, make money scarce, and therefore dear. He would have increased the value of money and diminished the value of everything else—money the master, everything else its servant.—Speech of William McKinley in 1890.
Prices Cannot Hold.
Now that the American wheat crop has been sold and the money spent, what of the future? Everything indicates another disastrous run of gold standard low prices, with closing factories and foreclosed farms. Wharton Barker says: There is no reason to look for an increased demand or better prices for manufactured goods in the immediate future. On the contrary, there is reason to look for lower with the approach of next year's harvest, for there is no reason to suppose that the crops in Europe next year will be below the normal, there is every reason to expect that the crops in Argentina and Australia to be garnered in the coming winter will be bountiful and with such crops prices for agricultural products will fall, farmers will suffer in credit, will not dare to increase purchases even if they could; then will come lessened consumption of manufactured products on the farm and plantation and hence lower prices for such products.
And in this connection let us say that our farmers, even the most favored with bountiful wheat crops, have not had money to reduce their indebtedness by the great sums of which we are told. Thus we are told of the farmers of Nebraska paying off millions of mortgages. Millions of mortgages have, indeed, been cancelled, but they have been cancelled by the mortgage companies foreclosing the mortgages. On investigation we find that more new mortgages have been made in Nebraska during the present year than have been paid off. The mortgage indebtedness of Nebraska is \$318,000 greater to-day than it was a year ago. So we see there has been no production of farm indebtedness in Nebraska save by foreclosures. And reduction of indebtedness in this way indicates anything but farming prosperity. Farmers who have lost their all by foreclosure sale are not promising purchasers for manufactured goods. Of course these foreclosure sales are the result of defaults not in this year, but during the last three or four.
So, to recapitulate, the great rise in agricultural prices during the past quarter has resulted from crop failures abroad, yet it is doubtful if our farmers will realize more money this year than last, because of shortage in some crops. And, further, with the approach of the new harvest year, agricultural prices are likely to fall.
Fame Prosperity.
A dispatch from St. Louis gives the account of a failure of a queenware merchant and gives his assets at twice his liabilities. Such is the prosperous condition of the country that a man with twice as much goods as he owes cannot raise money to meet his obligations. Is it because all the people have all the china they want? Is it because the man bought goods that nobody wanted? Is it because men with money will not take two for one for security? It is a pretty state of affairs when a man has twice what he owes and still must lose all he has. If bankers had to have twice what they owed there would not be a solvent bank in the nation.
"I Was Going To."
Children are very fond of saying, "I was going to." The boy lets the rat catch his chickens. He was going to fill the hole with glass and set traps for the rats; but he did not do it in time, and the chickens were eaten. He consoles himself for the loss, and excuses his carelessness by saying "I was going to attend to that."
A horse falls through a broken plank in the stable and breaks his leg and is killed to put him out of his suffering. The owner was going to mend that weak point and so excuses himself.
A boy wets his feet and sits down without changing his boots, catches a severe cold, and is obliged to have the doctor for a week. His mother told him to change his wet boots, when he came in, and he was going to do it, but did not.
A girl tears her dress so badly that all her mending cannot make it look well again. There was a little rent before and she was going to mend it but forgot it. And so we might go on giving instance after instance, such as happen in every home with almost every man and woman, boy and girl. "Procrastination is" not only "the thief of time," but is the worker of vast mischiefs.
If Mister "I Was Going To" lives at your house, just give him a warning to leave. He is an idler and a nuisance. He has wrought untold mischief. The boy or girl who begins to live with him will have a very unhappy time of it, and life will not be successful. Put Mister "I Was Going To" out of your house and keep him out. Always do the things which you are going to do.
Imperial Souvenirs.
The Empress Eugenie has always carefully preserved a small piece of the wedding dress and orange blossom wreath. Her wedding ring, as is the custom in France, is made in two portions, which close together tightly. When unjoined, on one is found the name of the bride, on the other the name of the imperial bridegroom.
English dairy authorities state that the English cows produce 1,400,000 gallons of milk annually, of which 600,000,000 are used for making butter and cheese, 600,000,000 as milk for the table, at an average of sixteen gallons per inhabitant, and 400,000,000 in fattening calves.