

LOUP CITY NORTHWESTERN

GEO. E. BENSCHOTER, Editor and Pub.
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The struggle between golf and ping pong is yet to come.

Tennyson is dead, but the schooners continue to cross the bar.

A soft coal trust has just been formed. Is this to come as another hardship?

The American mule will have no reason to kick when the Boer war is really ended.

Alfred Austin reports that he is about ready to wet-blanket the coronation with that ode.

Reports about Mr. Rockefeller's bald head and weak stomach seem to cheer some folks up wonderfully.

Now that the Kaiser states that Captain Coghlan's song "merely amused" him, the captain may tune up again.

One of the poets announces that "Our best thoughts are in words we never say." The poet is not a lady.

King Leopold would hardly win the prize in a popularity contest at which his loving subjects were permitted to vote.

The wonder of it is that the Russian ministers of the interior go on permitting the presence of students in that country.

Most of us would rather be looking at the train through a telescope when it was breaking a world's speed record than be riding on it.

It is announced that the czar has secured no exclusive rights in Manchuria. When he wants them, however, he will reach for them.

When M. Santos-Dumont can come over the ocean in his flying machine, he can snap his fingers at the brass officials in the customhouses.

The president took luncheon in the women's building at the Charleston exposition. Think of strenuous Teddy eating lady fingers and lemon ice!

The \$250 fine imposed on the Princeton students for defacing a monument looks a good deal like visiting the sins of the children on the fathers.

A man accused of murder in Detroit was wearing celluloid cuffs when arrested. Many persons therefore will doubt whether an alibi can save him.

There must be a sorry state of affairs in Russia when the assassination of a prominent officer of the government is considered cause for a celebration.

The blow has fallen. New York society has been forced to give up ping-pong because it is within the reach of the middle classes. Pity the sorrows of the rich.

Envious editors who can't get away may now reprint with satisfaction the old definition of a fishing rod as "a pole with a worm at one end and a fool at the other."

Surgeons have performed an operation on Emperor William's face. For the future peace and happiness of the surgeons let us hope the face may come out all right.

The news that the prices of provisions are going up ought to inspire some scientist to invent a cheap and nutritious dinner tablet to be taken with water three times a day.

There appears to be no fear in golf circles that ping pong will supersede it as a social sport. It is claimed by some that no outdoor sport equals golf in a social way except, perhaps, plowing.

Another old saying has been sent to the scrap heap. Down East a woman married in haste and did not repent at leisure. On the contrary, she sued for divorce within three days after her wedding.

The Chicago woman who wanted a divorce because her husband quoted poetry to her has been defeated in court. It really begins to look as if poetry and the poets were coming to the front.

A man who used to be the King of Spain has just died, reminding the world of the fact that it is very easy for one who has been a king to be forgotten when he's gone from the throne a few years.

A Texas physician who has given a great deal of thought to the subject says he is convinced that a person suffering from spring fever can overcome the disease in a short time by digging postholes. Here is a hint for St. Louis.

It required a Richland Century jury just ten minutes to decide that three Wisconsin kisses are not worth \$15,000. While it is too bad to have home products depreciated it is just as well to allow the necessities of life to remain within the reach of the poor.

Scientists who declare that there is nothing in the theory that acquired traits can be transmitted should explain why Edwin Gould, Jr., aged 8, should devote himself to the task of collecting lost pins and selling them for a half cent a hundred.

IS IT OUT OF DATE?

CLAIM THAT PROTECTION HAS BECOME OBSOLETE.

Has the Doctrine of Blaine, McKinley and Dingley Served Its Day and Oblivion Its Usefulness to American Labor and Industry?

In its issue of March 24 the Poughkeepsie "Eagle" says:

"The American Protective Tariff League asks us to join in protesting against any change in the Dingley tariff in connection with the pending reciprocity treaties or reciprocity concessions. We respectfully decline. We believe with all our heart in protection, but we believe just as fully in reciprocity. The old-fashioned protection, which built up a wall around our country to keep foreign imports out, has served its day and become obsolete. The protection of the future will take into consideration all American interests and will be as much concerned with bringing into the country things that we need, and in promoting the export of things which others need, as in keeping out articles which compete with our productions. The American Protective Tariff League has in time past done some very good service, but it wants to get out of its rut and take a broader view of things. Some of those who assume to speak for it are showing such a disposition to imitate the Democratic policy of organized negation that they are greatly reducing its reputation and influence."

Welcoming fair criticism and honest controversy, concerning our aims and methods, we gladly print the above expression. It is typical of the view entertained by a very considerable number of important newspapers of Republican proclivities, newspapers which, like our Poughkeepsie neighbor, formerly believed unreservedly in the principle and policy of protection, but now are of the opinion that it "has served its day and become obsolete." The American Free Trade League hold precisely this view, with the difference that it never held any other view; it always believed that there should be no wall around our country to keep foreign imports out. Free Traders never did and do not now want to keep foreign imports out. They want them to come in without restriction of any kind. On that line Protectionists and Free Traders have divided ever since the organization of our government.

Is the line about to be obliterated? Shall we now tear down the wall and let in the foreign imports? Is that what the Poughkeepsie "Eagle" means when it avows its acceptance of the new doctrine of "reciprocity" and its rejection of "the old-fashioned protection which built up a wall, etc."? If it does not mean that, what, then, does it mean? "Reciprocity," as now advocated by many newspapers of Republican proclivities, either contemplates a larger importation of competitive articles and an equivalent displacement of domestic production, or it amounts to nothing. Reciprocity, "in articles which we do not ourselves produce," and which will not lessen the sum total of employment and wages in this country, would be of relatively little value to foreign producers. That kind of reciprocity we already have. With "the things we need," we are amply supplied, and they are nearly all on the free list. A trifle less than half of the total bulk of our imports are non-dutiable. We are liberal buyers of "the things we need," and there is no tariff on those things. Reciprocity takes no account of articles of this kind. They are wholly excluded from the scheme. What it aims at and insists upon is that we shall tear down the wall and let in a lot of things which we do not need. If we don't do that, we don't "reciprocate." That is the situation in a nutshell, and we are indebted to the Poughkeepsie "Eagle" for presenting the issue in a shape so practical and tangible. It has assisted in the plain presentation of the question, Has the old-fashioned protection "served its day," and is it "obsolete?" The Republican party is now engaged in wrestling with that problem in connection with the domestic production of sugar and tobacco. What will be the solution? Not such, we hope, as shall register the decision that protection for each and every domestic industry is "old-fashioned," is "obsolete," and has "served its day."

Should Be Careful. No tariff is perfect, even for the time at which it is framed. Every tariff act, like legislation of any other sort, is a compromise among diverse interests. It satisfies no one entirely, and it grows, in spots, less and less satisfactory as time alters conditions. But there is always a chance that when any revision at all of a tariff is attempted, the whole system is taken up for discussion. In every instance when tariff changes have been started the changes have affected more articles than the changes intended at the outset. One of the consequences of this tinkering has been that men in nearly all sorts of industries have been made uncertain regarding the outlook, and as a consequence enterprise is blighted for the time.

The Republican party has a special incentive to be careful about tariff tinkering at the present time. An election for Congress will take place some months hence, and congressional elections which come at the middle of a presidential term are apt to hamper the party in power in the presidency. The Republicans, of course, went through the congressional canvass of 1898, in the middle of President McKinley's service, successfully, but their lead in the House of Representatives was considerably shortened. On the other hand, the Democrats in 1894, in the middle of President Cleveland's second term, and the Republicans in 1890, half-way in the service of President Harrison, met a disastrous defeat, which was a presage of the overthrow, in each case, of these parties at the polls in the presidential canvass two years later.—Oyster Bay (N. Y.) "Pilot."

Remember 1894. Shall history repeat itself in the matter of tariff revision? Is the country prepared to duplicate the folly of 1892? Congressman McCleary of Minnesota in a letter to some of his constituents answers these questions in a broad, comprehensive, clear and philosophical manner. Ten years ago the people of the United States were persuaded that prices were too high and that in order to bring about a general reduction in values the McKinley Tariff should be repealed. It was repealed, and prices fell mightily. Four years later the problem was, How shall prices be increased? This time the Democratic solution was, A Fifty-Cent Dollar. McKinley pointed out a better way to restore the good prices that had been foolishly flung away in 1892. His plan was to open the mills instead of the mints. His plan was adopted. Prices revived under the workings of a Republican Protective Tariff. All prices revived—prices of things to be sold, prices of things to be bought, prices of labor. Tremendous prosperity resulted, greater than any people in any period of human history had ever known. That prosperity has continued for nearly five years. There is no break in sight. Once again, however, it is contended that prices are too high. Once again it is proposed to lower prices by Tariff revision. It was done in that way eight years ago. It can be done again in that way. Shall it be done?

He Continues to Howl. Uncle Sam: "What's the matter with that dog? Will nothing satisfy him but another total eclipse of the moon?" Not So Strange. The Providence "Journal" thinks it strange that the promoters of the beet sugar industry should have been able to hold up legislation for Cuban relief. Does the "Journal" forget that the domestic producers held a specific pledge from the Republican party that their industry shall be protected? Is it so strange that they should ask the honorable fulfillment of this pledge, and that a considerable number of loyal and consistent Protectionists in Congress should do all in their power to prevent the violation of this pledge? The strange thing about it is that there should be a single Republican member of Congress claiming to be a Protectionist in favor of withholding from the domestic growers their just and lawful right to the same measure of protection that is granted to other domestic producers.

A Good Riddance. Congressman Babcock authorizes the statement that he has changed his attitude on the question of the continued Protection of the domestic sugar industry, and is now prepared to join the knifing that industry by a reduction of 20 per cent of the Tariff on Cuban sugar. For a time the Wisconsin Tariff Ripper stood with the Protectionists in opposing this surrender to Free-Trade and Sugar Trust pressure. He has been made to see the error of his ways and get in line. If anything could add to the dignity and the consistency of the attitude of the anti-surrender wing, Babcock's defection has done it. He could well be spared.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

LESSON VI. MAY 11; ACTS 12:1-9—PETER DELIVERED.

Golden Text—"The Angel of the Lord Encampeth Round About Them That Fear Him and Delivereth Them"—Psalms 34:7—Martyrdom of James.

I. The Martyrdom of James.—Vs. 1, 2. "Now about that time." During the events occurring in Antioch, "Herod the king." He curried favor with the Jews in every way. In pursuance of this policy he "stretched forth his hands to vex," to do evil or injury to, to oppress, to maltreat. Vex is used in the Old English sense of torment, oppress (not the signification of petty annoyances which modern usage gives to the word). "Certain of the church." Because the Jews were intensely opposed to them, all the more because of their rapid growth.

"And he killed James the brother of John with the sword." James was the son of Zebedee, the right hand of the first disciples of Jesus, and with John and Peter was one of the most advanced and favored of his followers.

Within about a month after slaying James (March) Herod himself died a horrible death at Caesarea. The right hand of the first disciples of Jesus, and with John and Peter was one of the most advanced and favored of his followers.

II. The Imprisonment of Peter.—Vs. 3, 4. "He saw it pleased the Jews," according to his policy outlined above. "He proceeded further to take Peter also," as the most prominent disciple. "And when he had apprehended him." Implying that there was some delay in accomplishing the arrest.—Rendall. It was a few days after the martyrdom of James, and at the beginning of the Passover feast, which continued April 1 to 8. "Put him in prison." "Intending after Easter" (that is, the Passover) "to bring him forth," to sentence him to death before "the people." He would not execute him during the Passover festival, because that would offend the Jews whom he wished to please.

III. The Prayer-meeting for Peter.—Vs. 5, 6. "Peter therefore was kept in prison" for some days, so that there was a possibility of release, by divine interference through a miracle, or through a change in Herod's purpose. "But prayer was made." According to Christ's promise to pray, with the emphasis on united prayer.

How They Prayed. "Without ceasing," stretched out, either in time or intensity. "Of the church." It was the fervent, effectual prayer of righteous men which availed much.

IV. How the Prayer was Answered.—Vs. 6-11. "When Herod would have brought him forth." The prayer, therefore, continued for more than a week. "The same night." The night before his trial. "Peter was sleeping." In conscious peace and trust in God, like David, in Psa. 3: 5, who, pursued by his son, and peace. "For so he giveth his beloved sleep."

"Between two soldiers, bound with two chains." Probably to the soldiers, as was a common Roman mode of securing prisoners. "The keepers before the door" outside the cell.

"And behold." Peter was not missed by the guards till sunrise about 6 o'clock. It was then in the fourth watch, some time between 3 and 6 o'clock, that the angel presence entered the prison chambers (Scaff), for the loss would have been discovered at the change of guards at 3 o'clock, had Peter then been missing.

"The angel of the Lord came into the chamber in the prison; the word used generally in this account for prison. "And upon him." "In the prison," cell, or he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up. "Rather, roused him up."

"All chains fell off." The bond him to the sleeping soldiers, one hand to each. "Gird thyself." The Orientals, when they go to rest, do not undress fully, as we do; or, rather, do not change their dress; they simply loosen their girdle and lay aside their outer garment.—Baba. "Bind on thy sandals." "Cast thy garment," his outer cloak, or mantle laid aside with his sandals.

"The angel departed." Having done his work Peter could now find his own way. "Was come" to himself. A word from his dazed condition. "Now I know." Hitherto he did not know what the Lord's plans for him were, whether to die as a martyr, or go on and preach the gospel. Now he understood.

V. How the Answer was Received.—Vs. 12-19. "When he had considered," he saw all the elements of the case, and decided in view of them all. "Came to the house of Mary." Because it was probably here that the disciples were frequently gathered for their meetings.

"Peter knocked at the door of the gate." The gateway to the street at the end of the passage leading from the inner court, and always kept fastened. "A damsel . . . Rhoda" (Rose). She seems to have been the servant of Mary. "Come to hearken." As was the custom before opening the gate. "When she knew Peter's voice." "An indication that Peter had before been a frequent visitor at the house."—Abbott. "She opened not the gate for gladness." "They were glad to hearken." This does not indicate, as so many commentators have inferred, that these praying disciples "had small expectation of an answer." On the contrary, where could we find the true prayer of faith if not in this week of unceasing prayer by the whole church, continued all night, and spoken of as the human cause of the release. They were astonished, not at the fact of an answer, but as the strange way in which it came. "He departed." To escape from Herod. He could not count on deliverance if he refused to use the means. But he lived many years after Herod was dead. Vs. 18, 19 mention the excitement produced by the escape, and Herod's command that the keeper be removed, or, as in Christ's case, drained to the dregs, bringing salvation to the world.

VI. Some Lessons on Prayer. Illustrated by Contrasted Lives.—I. Prayer is a real power. God can give, to those who pray, blessings which it would not be wise to give to the prayerless.

2. God has many angels of many kinds to do his will. We see the sicknesses and accidents and death that come to good people, and sometimes ask where are God's answers to prayer? Where are his guardian angels?

3. We, with our narrow vision, cannot tell what is the best answer to our prayers, whether long life, or an early heavenly crown; whether victory, or defeat that brings larger victory; whether bodily relief, or spiritual gifts; whether the bitter cup removed, or, as in Christ's case, drained to the dregs, bringing salvation to the world.

An Incendiary's Awful Vengeance. On the night of the Russian New Year a terrible conflagration devastated one of the quarters of Tomsk. Thirty buildings were destroyed and eighteen persons perished in the flames. The disaster had its origin in the act of a peasant who, from hatred to a relative, set fire to the latter's house, causing his death and that of his wife and three young children. Fanned by the wind, the flames spread with frightful rapidity among the surrounding buildings.

GREATNESS THRUST UPON HIM

How Poor French Poet Was Made Great State Functionary.

A poor Parisian poet named Dubois, during the reign of Napoleon I. addressed an ode to Princess Pauline, Napoleon's favorite sister. A relative to the poet being waiting maid to the princess, presented the ode, with the result that Pauline asked for a post for M. Dubois, a man of superior gifts. Minister Fouche, delighted to please the princess, called at the poet's humble attic. The poet put his head out of the window of his garret and spying a carriage escorted by gendarmes, concluded that the boldness of his remarks with regard to a universal peace had been badly received by the emperor and that they had come to arrest him. Prompted by his fear, Dubois considered it most prudent to hide under his bed. The poet was got out and was sent to Elba as commissary general of police. It was some time ere Fouche and Pauline met, and the princess had difficulty in remembering the request that she had made for Dubois. "Does not your highness recollect a letter sent to me about three months ago, most pressing recommending a M. Dubois, a man of letters, in whom your highness took the greatest interest?" "One moment," said the princess, and then a smile overspread her beautiful features. "My protegee, M. le Duc, was a poor poet, a relative of one of my maids, who sent me an ode. What have you done with him? Have you given him a stool in one of your departments?" The minister, nettled at having been duped in that way, took particular care to suppress the fact of his having made a grand functionary of Dubois. Unfortunately, Fouche's friends at court got wind of the thing and there was an end of the secret. Napoleon himself was vastly amused at it and bantered his minister. Dubois was recalled, but already 300,000 francs had been paid to him.

Dr. Emerson Was Too Hasty to Do Kindly Deed. Dr. Edward W. Emerson, the son of Ralph Waldo Emerson, was recently the victim of his own generosity, says the New York Tribune. In Concord, where Dr. Emerson lives, one of the best known characters is a simple-minded old fellow, whose actions furnished the villages with an inexhaustible fund of amusement. Among the oddities of the old codger, who is locally known as "Charlie," is a fondness for reading. No one has ever discovered how much of his reading is for pleasure, but "Charlie" is never seen without at least one book under his arm.

The other day "Charlie" came to Dr. Emerson, and said sorrowfully: "Doctor, they won't let me take books out of the library any more."

Dr. Emerson has a fine private library, and, moved by the sadness in "Charlie's" tone, said kindly: "Never mind, 'Charlie.' You may take any book of mine you wish."

Satisfied with this assurance, "Charlie" departed, and did not return for several days. Then he came back, and said doubtfully: "You said I might take any book of yours I wanted, didn't you?"

The doctor assented, wondering what was coming.

"That means any book you own, doesn't it?" queried "Charlie."

Again the doctor assented.

"Well, then," said "Charlie," triumphantly, "let me take your mileage book."

EASY VICTIMS OF CARD SHARKS. High-Rolling Players Cheated Out of Immense Amounts.

In the old days of gambling the men who played highest were very frequently the most easily duped. Wrothesly, duke of Bedford, was infamously robbed by a gang of sharpers of whom Beau Nash was the head. The duke had been plundered out of over \$350,000 at hazard, when, suspecting the dice to be loaded, he rose in a passion, put them in his pocket and refused to play or pay further until he had examined them. He retired to another room and fell asleep, affording the conspirators the chance to pick his pockets and substitute legitimate dice for the loaded. The duke on awakening and finding the dice correct played again and lost a further \$150,000. Beau Nash, not getting a sufficient share of the plunder, informed the duke. A similar misadventure befell a duke of Norfolk early in the last century. He went through the same ceremony of carrying off the dice and falling asleep with them in his possession. In this instance, however, the thieves got a notorious desperado to go into the room with a brace of pistols and new dice, with instructions to shoot the duke if the latter were awake and to change the dice if he were asleep.

Value of Encouragement. Perhaps there is nothing else so productive of cheerful, helpful service as the expression of approval of praise of work well done, and yet there is nothing so grudgingly, so meagrely given by employers. Many of them seem to think that commendation is demoralizing, and that the withholding of appreciation will lead to listlessness and the withdrawal of energy and interest. This evinces but a poor knowledge of human nature, which is always hungering for approbation; but how mistaken such views are is shown by the loyal and unstinted service given to those large-minded men who treat their employes as members of a family committed to their care.

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