



REPUBLICAN GLOOM.

At the very outset of the McKinley administration the Republicans, who understand the signs of the times, are despondent, for they see quite clearly that hundreds of thousands of those who voted their party ticket four short months ago are already convinced that they were deceived, and that never before has the tide of popular opinion turned so quickly against the victors in a political contest as it has since last New Year's day. There are dozens of Republican Senators and Representatives in Washington to-day who feel certain that if the election of last November were to be held over again now the result would be different. The only consolation that those on the winning side can find is that the people cannot turn them out by to-morrow.

Not within the memory of the present generation has a party assumed power in this country under such discouraging circumstances as the Republican party is doing now, and this in spite of what was claimed at the beginning of winter as the most magnificent victory ever achieved in a free nation! There is none of the enthusiasm among the masses that was both predicted and expected, and there is scarcely any of that hopeful feeling that the promises of the campaign will be realized, and that the man who is now President is really the advance agent of prosperity. On the contrary, the suspicion is already widespread, and is growing in strength every day, that he is merely the weak representative of a gang of corporation sharpers.

Those Democrats who were led away from their old party affiliations know now, since McKinley spoke his piece from the gaily-draped stand at the Capitol, that their one idea of "sound money" has no place of honor reserved for it in the President's mind. He has proven that their hobby never received serious consideration, and that while he may feel sorry for them for being duped so easily by his partners, he is not going to pay further attention to them. In fact, like the ordinary vender of a gold brick, he wants to create the impression that he never had any dealings with them.

McKinley's Financial Utterances.
McKinley's inaugural utterances on pretty much everything excepting the need of re-enacting his "tariff for monopolists only" are peculiarly indefinite, and in many cases even confusing and contradictory, thereby confirming the opinion of those who regard him as a man lacking that breadth of mind and wide information which should characterize the occupant of the Presidential chair.

It is impossible, for instance, to get any clear idea of his meaning when he says in regard to the money of the country that it is all good now, but that it should be "put on an enduring basis, not subject to easy attack nor its stability to doubt or dispute." How can it be "all good," as he says it is, if it is not on an enduring basis, and is subject to easy attack? Does he know what he means?

Then he says that the several forms of our paper money offer a constant embarrassment to the Government, "and a safe balance in the treasury." In this last part of the sentence he probably means that it is "a danger to a safe balance in the treasury," but why should it be so if it is "all good"?

He talks of getting rid of the gold reserve in the treasury, and yet he declares that until the advent of international bimetallicism "the value of the silver coined and of that which may hereafter be coined, must be constantly in par with gold by every resource at our command," and that "the credit of the Government, the integrity of its currency, and the inviolability of its obligations must be preserved."

Here is a declaration that he is in favor of redeeming the Government's obligations of all sorts in gold, of keeping on a par with gold, and at the same time in favor of doing away with the gold reserve! Even the former spook advisers of Lyman J. Gage, the national banker whom McKinley has put in charge of the Treasury Department, could not put forth a worse hodge-podge than this.

Whether McKinley is for the bankers' plan of converting the non-interest-bearing greenbacks into interest-bearing Government bonds and turning the entire business of issuing paper money over to the national banks, does not appear, and it is extremely doubtful whether he has any opinion on the subject. He seems indeed to be a tariff monomaniac.—New York News.

Bryan's View.
His (the President's) promise to endeavor constantly to secure international bimetallicism is a rebuke to those who think that the gold standard should be maintained because of its merits. The system which is so bad as to justify an early and earnest attempt to get rid of it cannot be defended. But his declaration that, bad as it is, it must be endured until help comes from abroad, will be discouraging to those who have ceased to expect that international co-operation can be secured through persuasion.—William J. Bryan in New York Journal.

Privilege Inimical to Prosperity.
What the country needs and must have is general prosperity and not a specific thrift for the few to the detriment of the many. All men, and all

corporations who invest their money in legitimate enterprises for industrial purposes, are entitled to fair and reasonable profit on their investments, but no man or set of men should be permitted to use the legislative and executive departments of the Government for their specific benefit.—Dubuque Times.

The Fifty-Fifth Congress.
The present United States Senate consists of 90 members, and of these 48 are classed as Republicans on all questions but that of the free and unlimited coinage of silver, 37 as Democrats and 7 as Populists. There is consequently a clear majority of Republicans on all ordinary political issues and that party cannot shirk any responsibility for the management of the country's affairs for the next two years at least, as they have a clear majority in the House of Representatives of at least fifty over the combined opposition of Democrats, Populists and Fusionists.

In the Senate the straight-out Republicans number 42, while there are six classed as Silver Republicans. The Democrats who stand squarely on the national platform of the party accepted at Chicago last year muster 29 in the same body, the other 6 being classed as in favor of gold and against the free coinage of silver at the declared ratio of 16 to 1. The 7 Populist Senators are, of course, silverites, so that on the silver issue the Senate stands: For free coinage—Democrats, 29; Populists, 7; Republicans, 6—total, 42. Against free coinage—Republicans, 42; Gold Democrats, 6—total, 48.

The Silver Republicans and Gold Democrats in the Senate just balance each other, and the dominant party can, therefore, always muster a majority whether the question to be voted on is a purely party one or a financial one. The House of Representatives, which is classified as consisting of 204 Republicans, 122 Democrats and 30 Populists, Fusionists and Silver party men, with a vacancy from one of the Missouri districts. Even if all the Populists, Fusionists and Silverites were to combine with the Democrats and vote against the Republicans, the latter would still be in a large majority.

The Republicans must, while the Fifty-fifth Congress lasts, be held responsible for all the legislation enacted. They have no excuse for shirking any of it.

McKinley and the Civil Service.
The great questions agitating the mind of the average Republican politician at the present time is whether McKinley will enforce the civil service law or not. If he does the "pickings" will be unpleasantly restricted. An appreciation of this fact was recently manifested in Congress when a general assault on the civil service policy was made. Mr. McKinley is on record as an adherent of the civil service theory.—Indianapolis Sentinel.

Too Much Like a Coronation.
To sensible Americans the gorgeous military and civic pageant attending the inauguration of President McKinley arouses feelings of regret and depreciation rather than admiration and enthusiasm. It indicates an unhealthy drift from the democratic simplicity which was the characteristic feature of our republican institutions and the outward expression of a fundamental principle of free government.—St. Louis Republic.

Don't Forget This.
In the midst of all this triumph of one party, and this elevation of its chosen leader, it is curious to remember how narrow was McKinley's majority over Bryan. A change in the votes of twenty thousand citizens would have put the Democratic candidate where the Republican is to-day and changed the whole course of the history of this continent. No man should forget that.—New York News.

Exchange Comment.
"Somehow or other Marcus A. Hanna has a grip on the neck of the new administration that means submission or protruding tongues and purple countenances.—Vincennes, Ind., Sun.

Under the new tariff foreigners will get American articles cheaper, while American consumers will have to pay higher prices. The American consumer will have no friends in the new administration.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

There are still a good many Republicans, who, like Grosvenor, cannot understand why Democrats should be allowed to hold office under a Republican administration, and they promise to make life pretty uncomfortable for Major McKinley when the flowers of spring begin to bloom.—Philadelphia Bulletin.

The suggestion of a mugwump organ that Vice President Hobart should reform the United States Senate is impracticable. Mr. Hobart will be too busy taking care of his coal trust. If he has any desire to reform things he can begin at home, where his efforts will be less dangerous and more effective.—Kansas City Times.

In the recent investigations of the coal trust it was admitted that the price per ton had been advanced \$1, but without any increase of pay to the miners. The increase in price was accomplished by four successive advances of 25 cents each "in order to obtain a fair remuneration," in which nobody shared but the trust.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

EDUCATIONAL COLUMN

NOTES ABOUT SCHOOLS AND THEIR MANAGEMENT.

President Gilman of John Hopkins University on Duties of the Schools—Hints on Teaching Geography—Cheap School Lunches.

Duties of the Schools.

In a recent number of the Independent, President Gilman, of Johns Hopkins University, has a paper on the public schools. Among other signs of the times, President Gilman notes a tendency to select fewer teachers for the common schools from young college graduates. He does not lament this fact, but urges the filling of school boards with these graduates and their association with the parents and older people, so that their desire for too radical reforms may be balanced. School boards must be cleared of influence if the future of the children is the end the schools have in view. It should be an impossible thing for a trustee to be put in or ousted from a position by political or ecclesiastical influence.

The kindergarten has Dr. Gilman's endorsement, though perhaps there is too much paraphernalia in every-day use. The aim of the kindergarten should be the formation of habits of truth, attention, neatness, courtesy and reverence. And this should be brought about by pleasant processes.

Dr. Gilman urges preparation for practical life for public school children, who will not take higher courses. The eye and hand training should be thorough, and while drawing is of great value, more than drawing is needed. The observation of nature should be cultivated, and practical employment provided.

"From the needle to the pencil, from the knife to the box of tools, is an easy graduation, everywhere possible, and every young person should be carried through at least three stages of 'handicraft.' 'Look,' 'do,' 'think,' and 'remember,' are four lessons that ought to be enjoined upon every scholar, every day through the period of adolescence."

As regards religious instruction, President Gilman suggested that the term "Godless schools" is made possible by religious people who are afraid of the introduction of religious instruction which does not quite meet their own views. The essential points in religion should be impressed upon every child. A book of selections from the Scriptures might be made which could be indorsed alike by Protestant and Roman Catholic. Meantime teachers must teach ethics by precept and example.

Every child should be trained for the duties of the citizen, and his patriotism should be so pure and high as to lift him beyond temptation from bribery.—School Journal.

Stick-Laying.

Sticks, for the laying of figures, is one of the richest and most fascinating of Froebel's gifts to children, and may be made the basis for drawing, arithmetic and geometry, all without the children knowing that they are doing anything but play.

The sticks may be had in various lengths, also in colors. I bought a bundle of 500, thirteen inches long, for 50 cents, and cut them myself the desired lengths. I have found three inches a convenient length.

Place a pile upon the table, or in a box; or pass them to the children, telling them to take one. Let them examine it, and say what it looks like to them. To inspire respect for the material have a little talk about its form and length, of what made, and the amount of work necessary to prepare, from a big tree, this little stick.

Teach position, first by imitation; then call for the different positions, until vertical, horizontal, and oblique are as familiar as are the terms, standing, lying and leaning. Reproduce by drawing on slates and on the board.

Next, take two sticks—children deciding how many—and combine the positions to various figures, which the children will name according to their fancy.

When, by imitation and invention, combinations with "two" are exhausted, they may be taught the terms right, acute and obtuse angles, reproducing these and all the forms by drawing.

As the number of sticks used increases, the variety of objects which the children will form are almost endless.

After being started on the way they may be left to themselves, if only the teacher shows an interest in their work by an occasional suggestion, or word of encouragement. Being perfectly noiseless, this material may be used in large classes without annoyance.—Helen L. Lewis, in Intelligence.

School Lunches.

In the public schools in Boston 1,600 scholars are daily provided with hot lunches. The food is prepared at a central kitchen, whence it is distributed by express to the various schools. This system is found to be entirely satisfactory. The variety of food is quite large, and the prices very moderate. For 5 cents a choice of dishes is offered, while for 10 the sum of all local epicureanism may be reached.

Hints for Teaching Geography.

In the study of some of the rivers history will prove an important help. It is not enough to know where a river rises, and that it flows in a southerly and then southeasterly direction, continues in a southwesterly course, and so on, until it empties into such and such a body of water. In studying about the Mississippi River, for instance, much would be gained by the scholars learning of the fearful suffering caused by the river's overflowing its banks. Explain the cause of the delta, and the meaning of the word.

Let the class learn something of the battles that have taken place on or near the banks of the river. If the important cities along the river have already been studied, review them and fix them in the pupil's mind in connection with the river. We have, in America, a great field for this work. Very many of our rivers have interesting facts connected with them, as the coming of the early settlers, or the founding of towns, or the battles fought in their vicinity, or other interesting historical facts.—Exchange.

Lakeside Definition.

Miss Tremont—It is your Chicagoans' ignorance of English that is so distressing to me. Now, if a man moved from Chicago to Boston would you call him an emigrant or an immigrant?

Miss Wabash—I would call him an idiot.—Chicago Dispatch.

Notes.

West Gardner, Me., has a school house 104 years old, which is still in use.

Boston wants a new girls' Latin school, and asks for an appropriation of \$175,000 for such a building.

San Francisco is about to build a new high school, which is to be one of the finest school buildings in the State.

Scholarships and bursaries, aggregating over £10,000, have just been awarded for the session at the Glasgow University.

Many State Teachers' Associations have lately passed resolutions to fight vigorously the cigarette habit in the schools, and to try to secure effective legislation on this question.

At Perry, O. T., a school house built of sod collapsed and twenty-five school children were entombed for some time. Several children will die from injuries, and Miss Jennie Jones, the teacher, is in a critical condition.

The college Greek letter fraternities in the United States have a membership of 100,000, with about 650 active and 350 inactive chapters. They own seventy houses or halls in various college towns and cities.

The annual report of Capt. Pratt, of the Carlisle Indian Training School, shows that last year there were 898 pupils at the institution, representing sixty-one different tribes. Over 500 pupils worked upon farms during the summer, and earned \$19,328.

A Telephone Paper.

Pesth, in Hungary, has a telephone newspaper—the only one of the kind in the world.

It is valuable to persons who are unable or too lazy to use their eyes or who cannot read. It has six thousand subscribers, who receive the news as they would ordinary telephone messages.

A special wire one hundred and sixty-eight miles long, runs along the windows of the houses of subscribers, which are connected with the main line by separate wires and special apparatus which prevents the blocking of the system by an accident at one of the stations.

Within the houses, long, flexible wires make it possible to carry the receiver to the bed or any other part of the room.

The news is not delivered as it happens to come in, but is carefully edited and arranged according to a printed schedule, so that a subscriber at any time knows what part of the paper he is going to hear.

The staff is organized like that of any other newspaper.

After the copy has passed through the hands of the editor, who is liable for its communications, it is given to the "speakers"—ten men with strong voices and clear enunciation, who work in shifts of two at a time and talk the news through a telephone.

There are twenty-eight editions uttered a day. Additions to the first edition are announced as news items.

To fill up the time when no news is coming in, the subscribers are entertained with vocal and instrumental concerts, the wire being in communication with the churches, opera house and music halls. This unique newspaper has been in existence two years.

When the Arab is Disturbed.

Folk that live in big towns must often be surprised at the horror their country cousins express at the impure air the city dwellers breathe. This is, of course, in both cases, due to habit. The city man only notices that the air is bad when it is worse than usual; the countryman, accustomed to the pure, healthy air of his ordinary surroundings, finds the air of the town always more or less bad. Thus it is that the Arab, the child of the desert, wears a worried look when he enters a large town. Then he stuffs his nostrils with cotton, or shelters his nose behind a cloth, and, if obliged to remain over night, would rather not sleep indoors. But most woe is hardly so bad in any case as the towns an Arab would be likely to visit.

Mouth Marvels.

The largest mouth, proportioned to the size of the animal, is that of the frog. The mouth of the leech is a powerful sucker, which will sustain many times its weight. The tongue of the toad and frog is prehensile. By means of it these animals seize and hold their prey. The mouth of the lobster is small and he must tear his food to pieces with his claws before he can devour it. The mouth of the octopus is in the center of his body and is provided with a beak closely resembling that of a parrot. The teeth of fish, like teeth of most animals, are not fastened to the bone, but are held in sockets.

Water Lilies.

The water lily is largely used in some parts of India as food. The fruit of some species that grow plentifully in the lakes of Cashmere is rich in starch, and has much the flavor of a chestnut.



Oxygen in Surgery.

Remarkable results are reported to have been obtained in England by treating wounds with oxygen gas. Two kinds of micro-organisms are found in wounds, one kind being beneficial and the other injurious in its effects. Oxygen causes an increase of the former and a decrease of the latter, so that, according to a writer in the British Medical Journal, wounds treated with oxygen heal more rapidly and with less pain than by any other form of treatment.

The Earliest Men.

Dr. Ranke, of the German Anthropological Society, recently undertook to describe the physical characteristics of the earliest men, as ascertained from the examination of prehistoric graves. They were of a yellowish color, he said, and had coarse hair. Their heads were peculiarly shaped, the part of the skull which contains the brain being large relatively to the face, while the face was small. They had other peculiarities, among which was the rudimentary or undeveloped condition of the third molar, or back grinder tooth. The Doctor believes that the first men originated in Asia.

Strawberries as Food.

In an address on "Horticulture and Health," before the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Prof. W. R. Lazenby discussed the nutritive value of various fruits, and showed that an average man who should undertake to live on strawberries alone would have to consume eighty-eight pounds of them in a day in order to obtain a sufficient quantity of one of the most important elements of food, protein. But while he was getting the proper amount of protein from the strawberries, they would give him seven times too much of another necessary compound, namely, carbohydrates.

Forty-four pounds of tomatoes a day would supply nearly the right quantity and proportion of protein, carbohydrates and fat, the three most essential constituents of food. The chief value of fruit consists in its acids, which are important to health.

Strange Things on Mars.

The planet Mars has recently (December 11) been again in apposition to the sun and consequently favorably situated for telescopic observation. In fact, astronomers have been studying it for some months as it approached apposition, and have once more discerned those curious lines on its surface called "canals." They have also seen again the round, or oval, spots that appear at points where many canals meet, and to which Mr. Lowell has given the name of "oases." One of the latest and most interesting observations relates to an "oasis" called "Trivium Charontis." On November 10 this spot, at which nine "canals" meet, was seen, at Monsieur Flammarion's observatory near Paris, to be double, or cut in two. Five days earlier, at the same observatory, the spot had appeared dark, broad and single.

The Lost Arts.

If Wendell Phillips were living to-day he would find many fresh illustrations of ancient ingenuity for his celebrated lecture on the "Lost Arts." Mrs. Le Plogon lately showed in Appleton's Popular Science Monthly that the old Peruvians must have understood the laws of atmospheric pressure in order to construct the very curious jars and vases that they have left. One of these pieces of pottery was ornamented with the figures of two monkeys, and when water was poured into, or out of, the vessel, sounds like the screeching of monkeys were heard. Another similar vessel had the figure of a bird which uttered appropriate notes; another was ornamented with a cat which mewed, and another with snakes which hissed. A most ingenious water-jar bore the form of an aged woman upon whose cheeks tears were seen to trickle, while sobs were heard, when water was poured from the jar.

Worn by the Sea.

Astonishing effects are sometimes produced by storm billows tearing away beaches and bluffs on the seacoast. But, upon the whole, the steady wearing effect of the ordinary sea-waves striking, or sweeping along, a shore-line exposed to in-driving winds is even greater, although, being distributed over a comparatively long interval of time, it attracts less attention. Some statistics recently published show that on the eastern coast of England, between Flamborough Head and Spurn Head, along a distance of thirty or forty miles, the beach has been retreating before the onslaught of the ocean, for the last thirty-seven years, at the average rate of nearly six feet a year. The same publication shows that man sometimes unintentionally assists the sea in destroying the bulwarks of the land. This has occurred at the great chalk cliffs near Dover, which have suffered from the withdrawal of a part of the drifting sand accumulating at their feet and shielding them from the direct assault of the waves. Long piers constructed at Dover and Folkestone have diverted the sand and it has been found necessary to construct heavy sea-walls to protect the cliffs.

Freaks of Two Cats.

In a Philadelphia store there is a cat known as Jim. The other day a young woman entered the store for the purpose of paying a bill. She was given a seat on a large settee while the office boy obtained the receipt. Now, the back of this settee rests against a railing which incloses the office. This railing is very much like a back yard fence, and for that reason is a favorite place for Jim. He was in this place when the lady took the seat and he cast admiring glances at her. She was neatly attired in black and had a large stuffed bird in her hat. Everything went well until Jim spied this bird, and with a jump he was on her hat, much to the alarm and fright of the lady, who instantly sprang to her feet, screaming loudly. Jim was quickly removed, but could not be driven away while the lady remained in the store. The clerks are going to give Jim a stuffed bird for a Christmas present.

James Bell, also a resident of the Quaker City, owns a pretty malted cat, whose only fault is kleptomaniac. Madge is the cat's name. While Mr. Bell was eating his supper a few evenings ago he was startled by a funny noise on the stairs. Running in the direction of the racket he beheld the thiefing cat coming down the stairs with his gold chain in her mouth, while the watch was bumping each step, evidently much to the delight of the cat. Quickly seizing his timepiece, Mr. Bell made a lunge for the cat, but Madge escaped. Lately the family had been at a loss to know what Madge had done with her kittens. Their whereabouts were discovered by Mr. Bell, who found the tiny creatures cozily nestled in his new silk hat.

A New Way to Clean Carpets.

There are some machines so simple and so useful that, seeing them for the first time, an observer wonders why he did not invent them himself. Such is the pneumatic carpet-sweeper which the Pullman company has recently adopted. In this case, curiously enough, no one knows who invented the article, which a New York Journal reporter found in active operation in the Chicago yards.

Trainmen were cleaning Pullman coaches which had just returned from California. Several hundred yards away from them was the power house, containing the engine that compresses air for broom service. Through underground pipes the compressed air is carried to the tracks.

Here a rubber hose is attached to the connection. At the end of the hose is a hollow iron pipe, about as large as a broom handle. The pipe terminates in a brass fixture a foot in width and having an opening, clear across, not more than one-thirty-second of an inch wide. Through this aperture comes the compressed air at the rate of about seventy-five cubic feet a minute.

The carpets on the cars are thrown face up on the platform, at the side of the track, and the pneumatic instrument is pushed back and forth over the nap with the brass end immediately upon the carpet, or just above it. The air rushing against the carpet with tremendous velocity blows the dust and dirt out in a cloud like the smoke from a locomotive.

The rapidity with which the work is done is astonishing. Enough carpet to cover an ordinary room is cleaned in less than five minutes, and so thoroughly that no more dust could be beaten out with a stick.

For cleaning the upholstery in the cars a smaller brass nozzle, only two or three inches in width, is used, but the operation is otherwise the same.

The Death of Willie Lincoln.

In the St. Nicholas Mrs. Julia Taft Bayne gives an interesting glimpse of "Willie and Tad Lincoln," who were playmates of her brother, "Budd." Mrs. Bayne gives the following account of the death of Willie Lincoln: On Feb. 1 Budd had a severe cold and was kept in bed for a few days, and Tad reported that "Willie had a cold, too." When Budd returned from a visit, he said, "Willie is dreadfully sick; he talks about me and the pony all the time." My mother went to inquire, and Mrs. Lincoln told her they feared typhoid fever.

Sometimes the President would come in, stand awhile at the foot of the bed, and go out without speaking. Once he laid his arms on Budd's neck as he sat at the bedside, and leaning over, smoothed Willie's hair.

Although on Feb. 20, at noon, my mother brought news from the White House that Willie was better, saying that he had held Budd's hand and knew him, Willie died at 5 o'clock of that day. Tad was overcome with grief, and was ill for some time after.

A Tough Mushroom.

While traveling in Switzerland the elder Dumas one day arrived in a lonely village with only one inn, at which the famous novelist was compelled to put up for the night.

When the landlord, who only spoke German, came to inquire what he would take for supper, Dumas tried, but in vain, to make him understand that he wanted some mushrooms, and was on the point of giving up with a bad grace all hope of enjoying his favorite dish, when he hit upon the idea of taking a piece of charcoal and tracing on the wall what purported to be the correct outline of a mushroom.

The landlord went out, and Dumas was congratulating himself on the success of his happy expedient, when a few moments afterward he heard the Swiss coming up the stairs. The mushrooms could hardly have been prepared in so short a time, but this thought did not occur to our great novelist.

The footsteps came nearer, there was a knock, and in walked the landlord—with an umbrella!—Boston Traveler.

A man cannot depend upon a good time unless he enjoys hard work.

A woman knows as little about a man as she knows about a horse.