

Young Mr. Tutbill of Greenport, L. I., eloped the other day with a charming young woman and her mother. Is this a new form of the mother-in-law joke?

There is one region in which people who dislike the bicycle habit can find a refuge from it. The Emperor of Morocco has tabooed the bicycle in his dominions.

If Prince Henri d'Orleans expects to command space on the first page, top of column, he will pull off a few duels at once as a guarantee of good faith. It will not be necessary for him to clean up the entire docket; a dozen will do.

The Harrodsburg (Ky.) Sayings remarks: "Parties wishing to see their names in print will please give the same to Mrs. Sarah Cloyd or Miss Sallie Burton." If some eligible bachelor gives his name to Miss Sallie she may decide to keep it.

Omaha Bee: The price of live stock has advanced 3/4 of a cent a pound within the last few months. The retail price of beef has been raised from 2 to 6 cents a pound. If anybody can explain why this discrepancy in price exists the people of Omaha would like to hear from him.

Alabama has passed a State law allowing women to practice law. Prejudice against women in the professions is fast giving way, and it is but a question of time when the only barriers in their way will be those of inherent unfitness for success. As long as necessity forces women to support themselves they have the right to the best, and conservatism on this point is fast giving way.

Dallas News: A New England paper says that Texas negroes are happy only in watermelon season. New England is superb in her ignorance. Texas possums are ripe in October, and the crop exceeds that of all other States combined. With the streams full of catfish in springtime, the summer filled with watermelons, the autumn and winter with possums and all the seasons percolated with revivals and "baptizins," the Texas negroes are happy all the time.

News of the failure of the crop in a large part of the European wheat belt and also in Argentina and other parts of the South American wheat producing section is the first piece of good fortune the American farmer has had for years. His season has been all that could be asked for and his yield is bountiful. One recognized European authority estimated the shortage a month ago at 144,000,000 bushels of wheat. Since then he has learned of the failure of the crop in Russia, India and Argentina, and has more than doubled his estimate.

Washington Post: When a bank is wrecked hundreds of innocent persons are affected, many of them ruined. Suicides often follow, the savings of years are lost, the inheritance of widows and children is dissipated and the villain who is responsible for these disasters gets a few years in the penitentiary and is then pardoned and put into position to prey on the public again. The pleadings of influential citizens, or of a loving and persistent wife or daughter, will effect a pardon and the criminal walks the streets a free man. Such men are far more dangerous to a community than a known robber, and deserves less consideration.

Nobody need be surprised at the movement started to alter the French Constitution so as to grant greater power to the President than he has had hitherto, or at the report that this movement is opposed by the Premier and by a large element in the Chamber of Deputies. Sir Henry Maine said in his "Popular Government" that "there is no living functionary who occupies a more pitiable position than a French President. The old kings of France reigned and governed. The constitutional king . . . reigns, but does not govern. The President of the United States governs, but he does not reign. It has been reserved to the President of the French republic neither to reign nor yet to govern." One reason, of course, why he is in this "pitiable position" is because he has no veto on legislation, not even the theoretical power of veto which a British monarch holds but dare not exercise. He is permitted, however, to demand a reconsideration of any measure, but, according to our recollection, this prerogative has never been employed. Another reason for his impotency lies in the fact that the chambers can bring a pressure upon him which will compel him to resign, as was done in the cases of Presidents McMahon, Grey and others. The necessity for making the French President something more than a piece of political bric-a-brac would seem to be obvious enough to command the favor of the people and their representatives, yet many members of each branch of the French Parliament, particularly of the Chamber of Deputies, oppose the granting of further powers to that official.

Providence Journal: There was a time—and those who are not yet aged and infirm can remember it—when the reading of novels was regarded simply as a relaxation. In some families it was even forbidden as a relaxation open to serious objections. But now those who desire to be amused do not go to novels, or, if they do, they choose, for the most part, such as were written earlier

in the century, when novelists were content to be artists and did not aspire to be preachers. Still, novels are read as never before, and for the purposes which would once have astonished novel readers. If there be amusement it is merely incidental. What effect upon the mental and moral fibre of the race is this well-nigh exclusive attention to fiction having? That is a question which is really a serious one. The call for novels at our public libraries, to the exclusion of almost every other kind of literature, has long been recognized as an evil. And although part of the cry against fiction has been mere ignorance and prejudice, every note of protest is not to be met with this assertion. For no form of art, however good or noble in itself, can win a popularity excluding all other forms without vital injury to public taste in general. The novel, as has often been shown, is to our age what the drama was to the age of Elizabeth. It has been a natural vehicle of expression for many of our greatest writers. But that is no reason why it should be regarded as the only vehicle of expression, or why every person who has a theory to exploit should feel called upon to do so through the mouths of imaginary characters. Those who have the highest conception of the dignity of the art of fiction will grieve most at seeing it perform an office so sordid and mean.

Our greatest territory may be said to have opened itself. With its more than half a million square miles it has been treated for thirty years like an outer wilderness, too remote and difficult to be systematically explored. For nearly twenty years after its purchase Alaska was a military command, with just one civil officer, the collector of the port of Sitka. In that time a few exploring trips were made by the troops at Sitka. In 1884 Alaska attained the dignity of a Governor, appointed by the President for four years, with a salary of \$3,000. The law speaks of Alaska as a "district" and empowers the Governor to enforce the laws, grant temporary reprieves to criminals and command the militia. There are eighteen other civil officers, half of them commissioners in legal cases, and about the same number of deputies. When the Governor finds no law applicable to a case in hand he is authorized to refer to the laws of Oregon for guidance. The rush to the territory has given it a comparatively large population, with the barest framework of government ready for it. There are now considerable cities on the coast that have sprung up almost in a night and no law except such as is enforced by common consent. No roads exist and no surveys for making them. Mail routes are unopened to the interior and that vast region is unmapped and almost unknown. The maps that have been issued are mere outlines. During the thirty years Alaska has belonged to us government exploring and surveying parties should have been in the field every year. They would have cost but little, while their labors at this time would be invaluable. Alaska has suddenly emerged from the waiting stage. Congress will now be compelled to act, and much thought should be devoted to the future of the big territory. The opening of Alaska should be for the benefit of the whole people, with ample safeguards against monopolists.

"Forty-Cent Dollars." Special plunders for the gold clique continually harp on one string. They sing the song of a "40-cent dollar," and they can invent no variations on the theme. The bullion value of silver which gives the excuse for talking about 40-cent dollars is the result of special legislation against the metal. Just as dollar wheat is the result of special providential conditions. Give silver the protection which it had under the law up to 1873 and the bullion value would rise until it equaled the coinage value. History proves this contention if it proves anything. During all the years when silver was given mint privileges equal with its gold its bullion value and its coinage value were practically equal. Whenever the mints have been closed to the coinage of silver the bullion price has risen. Whenever anything has been done that looked toward an enlarged use of silver as money, the bullion price has risen. Even the slight concession granted recently by the Bank of England in announcing that it would hold one-fifth of its reserves in silver has resulted in a rise in the price of bullion to the amount of seven cents on the ounce.

For eighty years up to 1874 the bullion value of silver was equal to the coinage value. As soon as it became apparent that the coinage of silver had been restricted, the bullion price began to drop. In 1890 there was a movement which promised a restoration of coinage rights, and silver bullion rose to \$1.20 an ounce, lacking only 9 cents of a parity with gold at the ratio of 16 to 1. It is evident that unlimited coinage of silver would result in a bullion price of \$1.20 per ounce, and the 40-cent dollar would cease to exist.

When Mark Hanna entered the banquet hall at Buffalo where there was feasting the select coterie of G. A. R. members and at the head of the main table was seated the President of the United States, some guests forgot their good manners and respect for the proprieties and screamed a welcome to the mighty political boss. The President, infected by the prevailing enthusiasm, and losing his accustomed placidity, sprang from his seat, rushed toward the advancing hero and embraced the puissant politician, to the amazement of the assembled war veterans and of the country.

The great political manipulator's war record is summed up in this brief autobiography of that epoch: "No," he said to an eager newspaper interviewer, "I did not serve in the army, but I hired two substitutes and sent them to the front."

What sacrifice and danger are here avowed for preserving this Union! And how Hannaesque! The prevailing rate of wages for substitutes in the war was \$13 a month. Some patriots hired only one substitute, but Mr. Hanna hired two. He doesn't say how long he kept them in the field, but whatever length of their service might have been we know that it cost him \$26 a month. For this noble sacrifice Mr. Hanna is chief magistrate, who went into the war as a private, supplied the fighting soldiers at Antietam with hot coffee and came out with the rank of major. Mr. Hanna's \$26 a month is entitled to recognition. Had he not spent it for substitutes the Union army would have been short two soldiers. Wherefore, three cheers and a tiger for Hanna, the unscarred veteran who poured \$26 a month into the overstrained treasury at Washington to keep the furnaces of war ablaze and roaring!

Encroachment of the Judiciary. "Resist the beginnings." Herein lies the only safeguard against tyrannical rule. Especially is this true with regard to the usurpation of courts and in point of danger the federal courts lead all the rest. Their judges hold office for life, or until they choose to retire,



SILVER THE VITAL ISSUE.

The Democracy of Ohio has roused itself to meet the situation and, taking a look westward toward Iowa and Nebraska, has begun a vigorous campaign on the currency question.

The financial issue is not to be ignored, and the Democratic candidate for Governor, Horace L. Chapman, has ignored all minor issues and is urging the importance of the unlimited coinage of silver at a ratio of 16 to 1. The purpose of the Republican party is not only to destroy silver money, but to put in its place rag money issued by the banks and secured by the assets of those institutions.

The Cincinnati Enquirer is outspoken in its advocacy of the silver cause, and discloses the plots of the gold clique as follows: "The purposes of the Republican leaders, if they shall succeed in all they hope to at the elections this year and next, are not set forth in their platforms, their newspapers or the speeches of their campaigners. All the facts, though, point to the intention to destroy the greenbacks. The president's message advising the creation of a monetary commission had that end in view, and the present irresponsible monetary commission is organized for the same purpose."

It is not good politics for Democrats to ignore these facts. The Republicans should be forced to place themselves on record before the people in every political contest. They wish to evade the question, but when crowded into a corner dare not deny the charge for fear of offending the money power, whose tools they are. Democratic success in 1898 and in 1900 depends on keeping national issues before the people and in compelling the advocates of gold to fight in the open and to show the full enormity of the crime against the masses which they are plotting. Bimetallism is gaining ground every day, the success of Democracy is assured if this vital issue is kept constantly in view.

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written in large letters all over the Republican slate for a long time to come.—New York News.

Cheap Money. The gold organs, says the Atlanta Constitution, are carefully avoiding a discussion that relates to the cheap and depreciated gold dollar which we now have with us. They admit that it is bringing prosperity, but they will not discuss the facts behind it.

Well, we are happier over the prospects of prosperity than any of the gold organs, for they have declared that higher prices—that is to say, depreciated money—would be hurtful to the interests of the workingman, but we are not too happy to reason about the facts of the case. Here are some of them:

With respect to wheat, we have what may be termed a 60-cent dollar—that is to say, while a farmer had to pay a bushel and a half of wheat for a dollar a few weeks ago, he can now buy the same dollar in New York City with one bushel.

With respect to wool, we have a 50-cent dollar—that is to say, the farmer who was compelled to give a certain quantity of wool for a dollar can now buy the same dollars in the open market for half the quantity necessary a while ago.

But this is not all. We have a depreciated currency with respect to corn, oats and other farm products. We have

and are invulnerable to popular displeasure, however merited. Only Congressional impeachment can drive them from the bench, and in such emergency there would be no lack of zeal and effort by plutocracy for the protection of its servitors.—Grand Rapids Democrat.

One-Hundred-Cent Dollars. Mark Hanna is hedging on the gold question in his stump speaking tour of Ohio. He is after votes, and he knows that there are thousands of Republicans who believe in bimetallism, and therefore he is careful not to offend these voters by a bold statement of his views on the money question. He satisfies himself by saying that he wants every dollar to be "worth 100 cents here and all over the world." But Mark Hanna and the members of the money power do not believe that a silver dollar is worth 100 cents here or anywhere.

How, then, is he going to make these silver dollars worth 100 cents all over the world? He has no idea of trying to do anything of the kind. He proposes to destroy the silver dollars altogether. To wipe out over \$500,000,000 of silver money at one blow. And what would be put in its place? Nothing. He and his fellow conspirators desire to contract the currency and thus continue to force the value of gold still higher.

But that is not all. He would take the greenbacks out of circulation, and in place of this money, guaranteed by the assets of the United States, wishes to substitute wild-cat rag money, guaranteed by the assets of the banks. Office furniture is not good backing for a national currency, but the money power wishes to usurp the power of the Government and to issue bank notes at its own sweet will. If Mark Hanna really wanted to make every dollar "worth 100 cents here and all over the world,"

IT WILL NOT DOWN.



The bete noir of the Republican press—Chicago Dispatch.

"cheap" and therefore "unsound" money with respect to stocks and other securities.

And behold, this depreciated money, instead of plunging the country in ruin, is actually bringing prosperity! The gold organs not only admit it, but insist on it. And yet this is precisely what we could get higher prices—which is another name for cheaper money. It is an object lesson not likely to be lost on the people.

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he would favor the unlimited coinage of silver, for by that means the bullion value would be raised to a par with gold, and that which he pretends to desire would become a beneficent fact.—Chicago Dispatch.

Tariff Barons Responsible. The big tariff-pampered corporations are responsible for the great bulk of the grossly ignorant and semibarbarous immigration from Southern Europe. The coal mining districts of the country are the nests of anarchism—the swarming centers of a population which has no conception of free government, has no appreciation of free institutions and are the riotous enemies of native labor. Probably not one in a hundred can read the language of the country whose laws protect them and whose privileges they enjoy.—Minneapolis Times.

Political Pointers. Whenever a Republican discovers that his party has abandoned all the principles of Lincoln, Greeley, Sumner and Trumbull and is therefore compelled to leave it, have you noticed what an idiot and rascal he becomes in the estimation of the newspapers belonging to the Hanna bureau?—Columbus (Ohio) Press.

The continued and growing deficiency in national revenue will furnish something for Congress to do at the coming regular session. Some legislation supplemental to the Dingley law must be enacted in order to make the government's income meet its expenses. As a raiser of taxes the Dingley tariff is a great success.—Nashville American.

As well look for oranges to grow in Siberia or snowstorms to prevail at the equator as to expect the Republican administration to bring about general prosperity. Its daily business is the systematic and legalized pillage of the people. Its regular occupation is robbing Peter, the producer, to pay Paul, the plutocrat.—Kansas City Times.

Mr. McKinley exhorts the Ohio Sunday school boys to be virtuous and moral. He does not explain to them that it is virtuous and moral to appoint a disreputable New Orleans negro dive-keeper to high office as payment for that dissolute person's services in bribing delegates to support the candidacy of an Ohio church member.—New York World.

At the conclusion of his speech at the opening of a Galesburg gymnasium, Senator Mason asked if he might speak for five minutes on Cuba. He then proceeded to free the tortured pearl of the Antilles in the most feverish forensic form. When curfew rang the horizon was spattered with Spanish blood as far as the eye could reach.—Quincy (Ill.) Herald.

GOOD MONEY IN POLECATS.

Man Starts a Skunk Farm and Expects Soon to Become Wealthy. Edgar Brown, who lives all alone on an island in the lake of the woods about twelve miles from Rat Portage, Ont., is the owner of what is probably the most novel farm in existence. He calls it a skunk farm. The entire island is given up to the raising of polecats. Brown came to Duluth from St. Louis, Mo., in boom days, made a fortune and lost it again, like a great many others. Two years ago he got the gold fever and went into the Canadian gold fields. He had about \$6,000 when he left Duluth, half of which he invested in a gold mine, which he had been told was the greatest mine in existence. He found rich ore and plenty of free gold on the surface, but after the purchase price was paid for it the mine failed. Brown saw that he had been swindled and this disgusted him with gold mining.

He had determined to come back into the United States and go into real estate again, when one day he discovered that there were other ways in which he could make money. While he was in one of the stores of the Hudson Bay Company an Indian came in and sold a polecat skin. He noticed that the fur was very fine, and that the company paid \$1.25 for it. He made some inquiries and found the company was willing to buy all the fur it could get of that kind for the same price. This satisfied him that there would be money in raising the animals for his fur.

He determined to start a skunk farm. With this end in view he leased an island in the Lake of the Woods, about twelve miles from Rat Portage, with an area of 160 acres. He employed a number of half-breeds to catch some of the little animals for him and they soon had 200 or 300 in captivity. He stocked his farm with these. He built little houses for them to live in in winter and made everything as comfortable as possible for them. He personally superintended their care, feeding them himself. They are fed on fish entirely, which is very plentiful there. When feeding time comes Brown takes a little cart load of fish, pushes it around to different stations he has marked out on the island and whistles for his pets. They always eat just at dusk, feeding only once each day. At the sound of the whistle the bushy-tailed "children of the devil," as they are sometimes called, come scampering from all directions.

Last year Brown raised 400 of the little creatures and year 180 mothers have families of from two to six each. He has now about 1,000 of the black-footed beauties and they multiply fast. The Hudson Bay Company has contracted to take all the furs and oil he can furnish, and Brown says his farm will soon be worth from \$10,000 to \$15,000 a year to him, with no danger of poor crops.

Taking Its Own Portrait. It seems like something of an achievement to make a wild deer take its own portrait, but such a feat was lately accomplished by Mr. Charles Hughes, of Red Bluff, Cal.

He conceived the idea of causing a wild animal to take a flashlight photograph as it passed along a trail in the Coast Range of mountains, secure under cover of night.

To accomplish this purpose Mr. Hughes set up the camera a short distance from a trail over which deer were known to run, and then connected the shutter and the flashlight materials with a trap. When the deer stepped upon the trap the camera was opened and the flashlight set off at the same instant. Mr. Hughes thus secured the negative in the dead of night, and when there was not a soul within sight or hearing of the animal.

On developing the negative Mr. Hughes found the photograph of a deer. The frightened appearance of the animal as he was startled by the sudden flash of light is clearly shown in the picture.

Noosing a Sea-Lion. A correspondent of Ram's Horn narrates a pulling-match between a sea-lion and a farmer:

Near Tillamook, Ore., an old German farmer chanced to be driving along the beach, when his watchful gaze was greeted by the sight of a large sea-lion some distance out on the sand, fast asleep.

It was the work of a moment for Jacob to make a lasso of a stout rope he had in his wagon, fasten the end of it to the hind axle, and adjust the noose over the sea-lion's head. Then Jacob jumped into the wagon and started homeward with his prize.

The sea-lion did the same, and as his team was the stronger of the two, Jacob started seaward at a good pace, and only saved himself and his "outfit" by springing quickly to the ground, grasping his jack-knife and cutting the rope.

Yours, Mine and Ours. A Western paper tells a story of a mixed brood of children which reveals the confusion liable to exist in certain families.

A widower and a widow, each having children, married, and children were subsequently born to them. The parents agreed much better than the children did. One day a neighbor, going past their place, heard a commotion within, out of which rose the voice of the wife, screaming to the husband:

"Jim! Jim! Hurry out in the yard! Your children and my children are beating the lives out of our children!"

Conditons and Digestion. The introduction of mustard or pepper into the stomach of a rabbit caused the secretion of pancreatic juice to be tripled and even quadrupled. This accounts for the stimulating effects of these condiments upon digestion.

"I'll never ask another woman to marry me as long as I live." "Refused again?" "No, accepted."