

Death has all seasons for his own, but the foot-ball season is undeniably one of his favorites.

Those who rudely broke their home connections to go to Klondike are forming other ties up there. They've begun lynching each other.

Judging from recent statistics, appendicitis seems to be growing into an epidemic in the United States that suggests the idea of a quarantine against the disease.

A literary critic says that Kipling's poetry is the only modern literary work which shows the results of inspiration. Well, a dollar a word is enough inspiration to produce quite an effort.

The latest rules of the postoffice department require employees to use the utmost civility in all their dealings with the public. Civil service will leave no room for a demand for civil service reform.

A writer in a sporting contemporary says that "the Laplanders when on skates think nothing of covering 150 miles a day." The average man in this country who goes on a "skate" doesn't think of it either.

The giving of 50 cents a week to his wife got a Pittsburgher a thirty-day work-house sentence—a deserved rebuke for recklessness. Domestic economy must be enforced. If he had given her a dollar there is no telling what might have happened to him.

An experienced man who has just returned from Alaska tells the Fargo Argus how to cure the Klondike fever. "Pick out a morning next winter," he says, "when the mercury is below zero, shoulder a pick and go into the woods before breakfast; dig a hole sixteen feet deep; come back to the house at night and eat a small piece of stewed tubal robe and sleep in the woodshed. Repeat the dose as often as necessary."

Arab chiefs are regarding the discovery of water by English engineers in the Nubian desert with great satisfaction. They believe it will revolutionize the country and cause villages to spring up in the heart of the desert. Three thousand men are employed in building the railroad which is being laid there, many of them being dervishes who were captured by the Anglo-Egyptian forces, and they will work with a will for the money they receive.

One who heard Lord Kelvin and Lord Lister at the late meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science was struck with their gentleness of voice. There was a restfulness in tones. No "fine frenzy" helped the spectator to imagine for a moment that he was listening to one who made declamation take the place of denunciation. How well this simplicity symbolized that true science that never mistakes vociferation for verity! Quackery loves the "sounding brass" of long words and a loud voice.

If Diogenes were still on earth, hunting with his lantern for an honest man, Monrovia, Ind., would be the place for him to turn his steps toward. Clark Geare lives there, and if one recent act of his is an index of his nature, he is just the sort of man Diogenes was looking for. Geare is a veteran of the late war, and some time ago applied for a pension because of rheumatism. He got it, but recently returned his certificate and \$350 back pension to the department at Washington, saying that his rheumatism had gradually improved and finally left him completely, and that he was therefore not entitled to the pension.

The name of the river that is now on everybody's lips should be spelled "Klondike," according to the rules of our Government Board of Geographic Names, which say that in foreign and aboriginal names "C is always soft and has nearly the sound of S, as in Celebes," and "K should always be used for the hard C," and that "Y is always a consonant, as in yard, and therefore should not be used for the vowel I." For about eight years the orthographic rules adopted by the leading geographical societies have agreed in rejecting the possessive case in many names. The rule adopted by our Board of Geographic Names is: "The possessive form should be avoided whenever it can be done without destroying the euphony of the name or changing its descriptive application." So "Cook Inlet" and "St. Michael" now appear in all our government publications, though "Cook's Inlet" and "St. Michael's" are still current in many newspapers.

Farmers in America who are sometimes unable to "make both ends meet" would do well to study the methods and processes of Belgian farmers. Six million of people in Belgium live on a territory about equal to the State of Maryland, and a farm of two acres is enough to support a man and his family and enable him to lay by something for a rainy day. An article in Colman's Rural World tells something of the methods of the Belgian farmer and gives an interesting insight into rural thrift and economy in the most densely settled country of Europe. Describing the typical two-acre farm in Belgium, the article says the thrifty Belgian makes the most of every inch by heavy manuring and allowing no waste places. A patch of wheat or rye and barley, another of potatoes, etc., and other garden truck, even the sloping sides of the ditches for irrigation being utilized, and the general result is

that with thrift and economy the farmer provides about everything his family needs except a few groceries and clothes, while the surplus products more than supply his other wants and leave a balance to his credit, which grows each year.

Manitoba is beginning to look confidently to the United States for an overflow of population to make the vast plains of the northwest a new agricultural empire. Basing their conclusions on the fact that the public lands of the United States open to settlement are practically exhausted, the Manitobans think that as the United States now receives and has been receiving the surplus populations of the old world the surplus of the United States will in turn overflow into Canada, especially into Manitoba, where it is now much easier to obtain a farm than in the United States. A number of Canadian immigration societies have already been established in this country and whether the Canadians are right or not in their supposition they seem to think they are obtaining the overflowing of the genuine American population, people who want to own their own homes, while their places are taken in America by the continued influx of foreign immigration. The Klondike, the Wawa and the Kootenay gold mines will also add to Canada's attractiveness and draw hardy and adventurous men, many of whom will, so the Manitobans think, remain and become citizens.

The indictment of six prominent Kentuckians by the grand jury at Frankfort for "poker-playing for money" is regarded by the Chicago Times-Herald as another sign of the decline of poker. For better or worse, and without considering the ethics of gambling, it is apparent to any one who will think of it for a moment that poker is slowly but surely going out of fashion. Before the war everybody played it. The statesman of those days was as well known for his skill in opening a jack-pot and the savoir faire with which he staked all of his possessions on his ability to guess whether his opponent had filled or merely bluffed as for his forensic eloquence. After the war, the game kept its hold on popular favor to but a slightly diminished degree. But gradually it has lost its seductive powers for American mankind, until now hardly anybody plays it. While a few years ago poker was played in every club, now it is forbidden by the rules of most. Then, every hotel saw a dozen or more games in progress. Now an order to the bell-boy to bring cards and chips to the room is a rare occurrence. Then, everybody played, now the same men find it difficult to recollect when they last opened a "jack pot." The game, once a "gentleman's game," has lost its favor, and with faro and roulette has become a gambler's game, played seldom by any one but professionals.

Some idea of the value and of the interest that is being shown in Ontario's gold mines in the newly discovered Michipicoten district may be learned from the report of Mr. Archibald Blue, director of the bureau of mines, as given in the Canadian miner. Mr. Blue has organized the new mining district, which has been placed under the direction of Mr. D. Boyd. During the fifteen days Mr. Blue was at the office there were registered between eighty and ninety claims, which had been regularly staked out by license-holders and upon all of which discoveries of gold had been made. In all over 200 licenses have been issued since the new regulations went into effect, then about a month. The new law allows miners to take out two licenses provided they are not under the same vein, and a number of miners have availed themselves of this privilege. As the system of mining enables miners to secure a claim at trifling expense, Mr. Blue reports it as very popular among prospectors. Among the prospectors who have staked out claims are Lord Douglas of Harvick and a company in which Col. Hisdale is interested. The director also reports that he heard of one vein from twenty to thirty feet wide which showed free gold in promising quantities, the samples of quartz shown him being literally covered on the face with the precious metal. Many of the prospectors had no experience at all, and many of them, according to Mr. Blue, never left their camp at Wawa. Most of those who did, however, were successful in locating claims.

House-to-house housekeeping. Why should not a staff of servants be organized to do, at any rate, the rougher part of the domestic service in, say, fifty or a hundred federated households, just in the same way that a single staff could be organized to cook their meals? Why should I not pay so much a year, either to a bona fide co-operative society, or to a private speculator, to have my beds made, my floors scrubbed, my knives and boots cleaned, and other similar work performed at stated hours every day and every week? The agency which undertook to perform this service would organize its workers just as do other agencies which at present undertake to keep our gardens in order, to clean our boilers, sweep our chimneys, or clean our bicycles; and the labor difficulty which meets us in domestic service as at present organized would consequently be eliminated.—London Truth.

A Universal Weakness. "I never censure lazy people." "Why not?" "The laziest man on earth isn't half as lazy as I would be if I could afford it."—Chicago Record.

Everlastingly at It.—"Stark is a bicycle crank, isn't he?" "I should say he was. When it rains he stays home and runs his cyclometer."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.



THE CURRENCY QUESTION.

The first regular session of the Fifty-fifth Congress will soon begin, and, as the House of Representatives is already organized, a message from the President is due the first day. While that high executive has been jaunting about the country to escape the pestilential breaths of those office seekers who beset the doors of the White House, his Secretary of the Treasury, National Banker Gage, has been busy in preparing the financial propositions by which he is "reform our currency." The word of McKinley has been given that he will approve the Gage plan, should it pass Congress, and it is therefore to be expected that there will be an emphatic recommendation of it in the annual message. From the moment when that document, so constructed, shall be delivered to the clerks of the two houses may be dated the revival of the currency question, and the renewal of debate upon what shall constitute the money of the American people. That the lines of party will be drawn definitely and distinctly is inevitable, and that the contest thus commenced will outlast the present Congress and enter into and decide the Presidential election of 1900, would appear to be altogether probable.

It is twenty years ago that the withdrawal of greenbacks was inserted in the Democratic platform by the agency of Mr. Manton Marble, then the editor of the New York World. It was not then in the Republican platform. And a third party, known as the Greenback party, sustained the government paper currency. But for this, Samuel J. Tilden would have been President of the United States.

The issue upon which McKinley is now proposing to risk the success of his administration, the ascendancy of his party and his own political future, is the funding into interest-bearing bonds of these greenbacks now serving as money, and their withdrawal and replacement by national bank notes, on conditions which would make the latter more profitable to the banks. It is an attempt, on the part of 350 national banks, to control the currency of the nation—such an attempt as the old United States Bank made, and almost succeeded in, between the years 1830 and 1844. President Jackson defeated it when but that one bank made the attempt. But now there will be 350 banks, with the President on their side.—New York News.

Silver in the Senate. The Republicans are laboring diligently to fasten on the people of this country the chains of gold. They realize that if they fail to secure legislation during the coming session of Congress their chances of success will be entirely swept away by an increased bimetallic vote. It is greatly fortunate that all these plots will be made ineffectual by the fact that the Senate, as it is now constituted, will refuse to approve of any bill which contemplates the issuing of bonds to retire the greenbacks, and without such a vote all the plans of the gold monometallists will prove futile. The New York World has made a canvass of the Senate, and announces that neither Secretary Gage's plan of monetary "reform" nor that of the self-constituted monetary commission can be adopted. The conclusions of the World upon this matter are as follows: "The preliminary canvass seems to show for gold bonds thirty-three Republicans and four Democrats, a total of thirty-seven; against gold bonds, thirty Democrats, ten Republicans, six Populists and six silver Republicans, a total of fifty-two. This would be a majority of fifteen against the foundation stone of the plans of both Secretary Gage and the monetary commission. It is believed that the majority would be even larger against the retirement of the greenbacks."

It is to be hoped that the Republicans will insist on urging their proposed "reform," and thus place themselves on record as absolutely the friends and advocates of gold monometallism. All their victories in the past have been won by a pretended friendship for bimetallicism. The majority of the people in the United States is unalterably opposed to the single standard, and whenever a fight is made on a square issue between gold monometallism and bimetallicism, the former will go down in defeat.—Chicago Dispatch.

Bribery and Bulldozing. One of Mark Hanna's newspaper champions describes the methods which the big bundle boss has adopted to make his calling and election sure. "His first move will be to have no federal appointments made in the State, so far as he can control the matter, until after the Senatorial question is decided." In short, official bribery. Neither will he permit the general assembly to be organized until the Senatorial question has been solved." In other words, official bulldozing.—New York World.

The Situation in a Nutshell. New York, New Jersey and Kentucky cast fifty-eight electoral votes for McKinley, one of Kentucky's votes going to Bryan. New York, New Jersey and Kentucky all went Democratic last week. Had McKinley been a candidate last week instead of last year the popular vote in these three Democratic States would certainly have been cast against him. Now, deduct these fifty-eight electoral votes from the 271 which Mr. McKinley received, and there are left 213. Add these fifty-eight

votes to the 176 of Mr. Bryan and he would have 234. That is a majority of twenty-one in the Electoral College. In other words, the Democrats do not need to gain another State. They need only retain these three—New York, New Jersey and Kentucky—and they will elect the next President.—New York World.

Growing Deficit. The Dingley tariff law was passed by the last Congress for the special purpose of furnishing sufficient revenue for the needs of the government. It has been in operation now fifteen weeks, and it has produced in that short space of time a deficit of \$42,000,000. What is worse still, it promises to continue adding to the national debt at even an increasing ratio so long as it remains on the statute books.

At the rate of about three millions a week, the deficit created by this humbug "revenue raising" measure will be no less than \$90,000,000 by the first of next January, and by the time it will have been in operation a full year this deficit will have mounted to close on the two hundred million figure, which is twice as much as the conservative opponents of the bill originally predicted, and which is therefore likely to be largely exceeded.

Considering the promises made by the Republicans as to the consequences to follow the enactment of the Dingley bill, the actual result is decidedly greswome. It is as if a friend had invited you to partake of a piteous dinner at his house and then presented for your delectation the skeleton of his cook.

Underconsumption, Not Overproduction. The strawboard trust finds that in one day, with modern machinery and thorough organization it can produce twice as much as the country can consume in the same period. Hence, an apparent overproduction is brought about. The overproduction is, of course, only apparent because it is caused by the inability of the masses of the people who constitute the home market to purchase and consume more than their income permits. Their income, in turn, so far as they are wage earners, is limited by the extent and power of consumption of the "market," of which they are a large part. Thus we have a vicious circle.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Lively Times Coming in Ohio. You may look forward with entire confidence to a disgraceful row in the next Ohio Legislature, all arising from the election of a Senator. Contests are already announced from the doubtful counties, and if there is any opportunity for stealing members M. Hanna can be relied upon to try it. It will probably be a repetition of the situation following the campaign when John Sherman announced that Ohio was divinely commissioned to purify the ballot in the South, and it will incidentally illustrate the desirability of electing Federal Senators by popular vote.—Indianapolis News.

Gorman Still a Political Force. Because Senator Gorman cannot be re-elected to the Senate it is assumed that his political career is ended. That does not necessarily follow. He is retired for four years without question, but Arthur Pue Gorman is a resourceful individual. His party is disorganized, but if the Republicans of Maryland make mistakes it would not be surprising to see him revived in four years, when a legislature to choose Senator Wellington's successor is to be elected. He is a force still to be reckoned with. Those who calculate otherwise are shortsighted.—Springfield (Mass.) Union.

Prices Go Up, Wages Go Down. The glass manufacturers are working the McKinley prosperity in the usual way. They have put wages so low that the workers have refused to accept the terms of the manufacturers, and there will be no immediate resumption of production. In the meantime the Manufacturers' association announces that it has advanced glass from 5 to 10 per cent. The jobbers would import glass to meet the demand, which is greater than the supply, but they are prevented from doing so by a prohibitory tariff imposed by the Dingley bill.—Louisville Dispatch.

What McKinley Owes to Hanna. President McKinley's debt to Hanna is unquestionably very great. Hanna, by devious methods, made him the candidate of the Republican convention. Hanna procured the enormous campaign fund by the use of which his election was compassed. Hanna, in short, made McKinley President, so far as such an agent can be said to have accomplished such an end. That is, had it not been for Hanna some other Republican would have been nominated and perhaps elected.—Boston Post.

Heroism of True Democracy. This has been a Democratic year. The elections of 1897 have shown that the Democracy rebounds from the downfall of 1896 stronger and more confident and combative than ever. Democracy exhibits every quality of heroism. It has courage, it has the genius of recovery and reconstruction, it knows not the meaning of dismay. Defeat leaves it without fear. Danger finds it without cowardice. It is a miracle of vitality, of valor and of hope.—Washington Post.

Telling Some of the Truth. Chauncey I. Filley, in a signed article, says that the McKinley campaign

managers paid the St. Louis plate glass works to close up their plant and remain idle during the campaign to influence the workmen to vote for McKinley to "open up the mills." When one of the Republican bosses turns State's evidence it makes "mighty interesting reading."

Platt's Future in McKinley's Hand. If President McKinley desires to put the finishing touches on the career of Thomas C. Platt as boss of the New York Republicans, he has an excellent excuse and opportunity for doing so now. Platt's power in the metropolis is hopelessly shattered, and his influence in the State outside of the city is languishing. The only chance he now has to recoup himself is afforded by the dispensation of federal patronage, which the President has turned over to him. Through his influence at Washington the defeated boss may be able to come to the front again.—Detroit Free Press.

Vast Sums for Pensioners. The cumulative result of years of pension giving is the monstrous annual burden of \$140,000,000 a year, a sum nearly equal to the revenue produced by our customs tariff. The commissioner reports that the list is still increasing. It is time that Congress was made to heed the citizen vote, the vote of the taxpayer, who will beyond all question make a powerful and effective protest against pension extravagance as soon as he can be made to realize the unworthiness of a very large proportion of the pensioners.—New York Times.

Too Narrow Minded. Republican statesmen should broaden generally. While they take such a comprehensive view of the Hawaiian question, they should widen out on the tariff. It doesn't consist to argue that we need a mid-Pacific station in the interest of extended commerce and then regulate our tariff laws so as to destroy that commerce.—Nashville American.

Folly of Paternal Legislation. We regret to observe a growing tendency on the part of many worthy people to demand paternal legislation. Such legislation is not only unwise, unnecessary and undemocratic, but it causes a great many people to lose respect for legislation that is not open to such objections.—Atlanta Constitution.

Trusts Outwitting the Law. The failure of practically all the legal proceedings against trusts does not prove the justice or legality of these conspiracies of greed. It simply shows the astuteness of the trusts in dealing with the bosses who control legislation and make judges.—New York World.

Every Politician for Himself. The argument that Governor Bushnell is too much of a Republican to oppose Mark Hanna for United States Senator might possess considerable force in any State outside of Ohio. But there a man's first choice is usually himself.—Kansas City Star.

Pictured by Lightning. During a recent thunderstorm in Mobile a flash of lightning played one of the strangest tricks ever known. It went into the photographing business without the aid of any apparatus except an object to be photographed and a piece of sugar candy for a receiving plate. In the candy store of Mr. Tomson on lower Dauphin street was the candy that the lightning chose to operate upon. The candy was of sugar and glucose, brown in color and transparent. It lay on a slab on a table in the midst of the store. The article photographed was the wrapper of small American flags, then lying imbedded in some melted candy on the floor of the store, in front of the table, but not in line of view of the candy on the table. On the wrapper was an inscription in condensed gothic type, reading, "National Flags." This inscription, beginning with the fourth letter of the first word and part of the third letter, just so much of the lettering as was visible on the wrapper as it lay in the midst of the sticky stuff on the floor, was taken by the lightning and transferred to a piece of the candy on the table; not transferred simply, but imbedded in it, beneath the surface the smallest fraction of an inch. It was a perfect reproduction and perfectly black, but inserted face front, just as in the original, and not reverse, as would be the order of the letters if any one should attempt to transfer them by applying the wrapper to the surface of the candy.

In the search for a clue to the sudden and mysterious appearance the paper wrapper was discovered on the floor with those letters exposed which appeared on the candy. Mr. Fosdick says that there is a mirror in front of the table that possibly had something to do with the photographing.—Chicago Chronicle.

Swellings from Blows. The swelling which follows from a blow is nature's effect to protect the part from further injury and to keep it at rest while repair is going on. What actually takes place at the seat of injury is not even now quite understood. The injury to the smaller blood vessels interferes with the flow of blood through them and the white corpuscles, with part of the serum, the watery part of the blood, escapes into the surrounding tissues. At the same time the blood vessels in the neighborhood dilate and the increased flow of blood with the thoroughfare obstructed increases the swelling. It is probable that the white corpuscles of the blood pass into the tissues to assist in the repair, as bees or ants assemble at an injury to their storehouse, but with the difference that the substance of the corpuscles is probably converted into the tissue of repair. From one point of view the human body is only one gigantic colony of individuals, and the swelling that follows injury but the rush of these to repair that breach.

NOTES ON EDUCATION.

MATTERS OF INTEREST TO PUPIL AND TEACHER.

United States Commissioner of Education Recommends Better Grading of Pupils—Practical Journalism in Schools—Educational Notes.

Better Grading Needed. At the National Educational Association meeting recently held at Milwaukee, Dr. Wm. T. Harris, United States Commissioner of Education, pleaded for a better grading of pupils in the public schools, claiming that the classifications are seldom as accurate as they should be. "Bright, active, well-advanced pupils are herded with dull, slow, less well-advanced pupils. After three or four months it is found that the dull ones are holding the brighter ones back and the brighter ones are hurrying the slow ones forward at a pace which prevents real comprehension of what is passed."

The School Newspaper. Did you ever try it? Then start now. It is brought out by the school weekly or monthly, as is seen fit. All the school act as reporters, and collect items. Some write little stories and essays, but the main thing is "school news." The editor's notes: "John Smith read a fine composition on 'Courage' last Friday, and was complimented by Mr. Jones, our teacher." There should be items about good conduct—this will stimulate. We cannot go on to enumerate. Will some teacher try one or more of these plans? Let us hear of your success. The teacher will be gratified to find some school-home made brighter by its efforts.—Canadian Teacher.

Civil Government in Primary Schools. About the time that the child goes to school he begins to take lessons in civil government. This also is developed on the basis of his previous home-training. It begins at the very door step. The letter carrier, the policeman, the justice of the peace, and the postmaster introduce him to the government of the outer world. Some or all of these officers he sees and knows, and others he hears about. The very mail wagon that rattles along the street teaches its lesson, and so do other symbols of authority that confront him.—B. A. Hinsdale.

Items of Interest. Several Yale students make tuition fees during vacation by working as motormen on trolley cars.

The University of the City of New York has enrolled for the new year, in all departments, 1,300 students.

Fourteen hundred students have been admitted and 650 are waiting for admittance at Cooper Union, New York.

The University of Illinois has 1,000 students. In 1893-'94 it had 743. The new school of law opened with twenty-five students.

Lawrence University is to have a new science hall, \$22,000 having been contributed for this purpose. This building will cost \$25,000, and the apparatus \$15,000 more.

Dr. Henry Preserved Smith, who was formerly professor at Lane Theological Seminary, has been recently appointed to the chair of Biblical interpretation at Amherst.

The will of the late C. T. Wilder, of Wylesley, Mass., leaves \$10,000 each to the American Board, American Missionary Association, Roberts College at Constantinople, the School for Girls at the same city, Whitman College, Carleton College, and the Mount Hermon School at Northfield, Mass. Dartmouth College receives \$75,000 and Amherst College \$15,000.

At Pittsburg, Pa., a movement is said to be on foot to have placed in every public school swimming pools and a complete bathing equipment. The idea is to have the swimming pools placed in the spacious basements of the school buildings and have the children take a bath every time the teachers or the principals deem it necessary.

A Curious Oil. It has been found that the oil bursting out of the bed of the creek near Camp-ton, says the Courier-Journal, contains a very valuable quality hitherto unknown. By laying a plank or anything across the creek a person can dam the oil up and gather any amount of it, and it has been discovered that the oil will burn as fast as dry paper. The people, through curiosity, go to this oil-spring, dam it up on the top of the water, and then strike a match to it in order to see spread over the whole surface of the water a perfect blaze. This oil for lubricating purposes is hard to surpass, and the beauty of it rests in the fact that it does not have to undergo any process whatever to be valuable for such purpose.

The Lightest Known Solid. The lightest known solid is said to be the pith of the sunflower, with a specific gravity of .028, or about one-eighth that of cork. The sunflower is extensively cultivated in Central Russia, and various uses are served by its different parts, the recent discovery of the lightness of the pith essentially increasing the commercial value of the plant. For life-saving appliances at sea, cork has a buoyancy of one to five, while with the sunflower pith one to thirty-five is attained. About 800 cubic inches of it would weigh as much as one cubic inch of iridium, the heaviest metal.

Rev. Dr. Parkhurst says in a recent letter to a friend in New York: "I cannot stand by the Sunday saloon pure and simple, but I do believe in allowing the sale of beer and light wines on Sunday, provided they are the accompaniment of an honest meal, honestly paid for."