

POLITICS OF THE DAY

A REPUBLICAN ON M'KINLEY.

In paying his compliments to the President in the House of Representatives, Mr. Johnson, a Republican from Indiana, explained that it mattered not to him whether his views were popular. He was only concerned as to whether they were right. Mr. Johnson says that the leading Republican newspapers, instead of fiercely attacking Secretary of War Alger, should "lay their ax to the root of the evil and censure the gentleman who, to reward him for his political services and disbursements in the campaign of 1896, appointed him to his present position and has maintained him there ever since, notwithstanding his incompetency and against the righteous complaints that have been made against him."

With regard to the famous Boston speech, Mr. Johnson thinks it the most disingenuous that ever fell from the lips of an American President. "This address," he said, "divested of its verbiage, considered apart from its platitudes and the ostentatious profession of virtue with which it was interlarded, was nothing more or less than a carefully devised and studious misstatement of the issue between the chief executive and those of his own party who are opposed to his wretched policy in the Philippines."

Having compared the President with Mr. Pecksniff, who was accustomed to roll his eyes piously to heaven and exclaim, with great ostentation, "My friends, let us be moral," and who was the father of two daughters, one of whom he named Charity and the other Mercy, Mr. Johnson addressed himself to the "open door." He said:

"What else is upon the program of these gentlemen? The open door in the Philippines, making it totally impossible forever to discriminate in tariff duties there in favor of the products of the American farm and the American shop. What is the other sacrifice that is required? That the annexation of Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines, absolutely sure to come at an early day, for they have registered it in their vows, shall precipitate the sugar, tobacco and hemp and other cheap products of these islands and Hawaii upon the American market in free and unrestricted competition with the agricultural and laboring elements of our own country. This policy, sir, would have been free trade in William Jennings Bryan. What is it in Mr. McKinley?"

The elaborate and exhaustive treatise of the Republican Johnson upon the life and character of the great and moral imperialist has left the Democrats but little to say. He has done their work for them and done it thoroughly and well.—New York News.

Alger Is Stubborn.

Alger says he will not resign. It does not follow that he will remain Secretary of War. Rumors of the President's dissatisfaction with Alger are prevalent at Washington and there is talk of offering the portfolio to Roosevelt. It is not at all certain that Roosevelt would accept Alger's position. The Governor of New York is ambitious and has the presidential bee buzzing loudly in his bonnet. But Alger is making a lot of trouble for McKinley and will be a great hindrance in the presidential campaign of 1900.

Alger is a stubborn man. He cares not how much trouble he makes for his friends. He heeds not the protests of the people and he will hold on to his position until he is absolutely kicked out.

Concerning the rumors of his resignation, Alger says: "The constantly recurring reports of my purpose to resign from the portfolio of the War Department are baseless. There is not a word of truth in such stories. I have no intention of resigning and will not resign. I shall serve out the remainder of my term of four years as Secretary of War. I will make the inspection trip to Cuba, which I believe to be in the interests of the Government. The details of the journey have only been tentatively arranged. I may add that no amount of newspaper comment and criticism in regard to the trip to Cuba will deter me from carrying out my plans."

These remarks may be considered as a notification by Alger to McKinley that he is not going to be shoved out of the cabinet as was Sherman. It is a declaration to both friend and foe that he is in the cabinet to stay, and that there will be a merry war when his resignation is demanded. But it looks as though Alger would have to go.

Controlling Labor's Pay.

John Locke said: "The lessening the quantity of money makes an equal quantity of it exchange for a greater quantity of any other thing." Hume said: "It is the proportion between the circulating money and the commodities in the market which determines the price." Ricardo said: "That commodities rise or fall in price in proportion to the increase or diminution of money, I presume to be a fact that is incontrovertible." Mill said: "That an increase of the quantity of money raises prices and a diminution lowers them is the most elementary principle in the theory of currency, and without it we should have no key to any of the others." Sir Robert Giffen said: "Viewed as a long period dynamically, it is beyond all question that commodities are comparatively steady (in value), and only the money changes." This is quite enough to establish the fact that the quantity of money in circulation fixes the value of labor and its products;

and, as I have already shown, the Rothschilds now exercise that power in the United States. The Democratic party, in the Chicago platform, propose to place that power in the hands of the people. And they propose to do this by remonetizing silver, thus more than doubling the amount of primary money, and by retiring the bank notes and replacing them with greenbacks.

Doubtful Credit to Gold Democrats.

The Republicans in 1896 did not declare for the gold standard; they said that the gold standard must be maintained until other nations would join with us in restoring bimetalism, and then pledged themselves to do what they could to get other nations to help us to get rid of the gold standard, and if men voted that platform because the platform did not express their desires six and a half millions of people voted for independent bimetalism, thirteen and a half millions voted for the double standard and against the gold standard, and a hundred and thirty-two thousand voted for the only party that in all the history of this nation ever declared the gold standard to be a blessing; that is political history. The gold Democrats shall have either the credit or discredit, the fame or infamy, of being the only party that in twenty-three years of experience under the gold standard ever declared that that standard was good. And if you test the gold standard sentiment of this nation by the votes received by that party, then, my friends, I want you to remember that the gold Democrats carried just one precinct in the United States, and lest you may give them too much credit, I want you to know that that was a small precinct in Western Kansas, where they only had six voters, and it was not unanimous there, because, my friends, the gold ticket received three votes, Mr. McKinley received one and I received one; that was the only precinct in the United States, and I believe the papers said that in honor of that distinction that one of the gold candidates on the Presidential ticket sent to that precinct a jug of whisky, and one little jug of whisky was enough to give several drinks of whisky to all the gold men of the precinct. Now, you see, my friends, upon what a foundation the Republican stands when he tells you of the indorsement that the gold standard received in this country. It was not indorsed, and, as I said, as soon as the election was over Mr. McKinley recognized the mandate of the people by sending a commission to Europe to ask other nations to help us get rid of this blessing, which they describe the gold standard to be.—From W. J. Bryan's Grand Rapids speech.

Why Times Are Better.

They tell us that the times are better in this country, and after they get through telling us that times are better they tell us of the increase in exports and by the flow of money to the United States. Now, Republicans, if you are going to try to prove that the rise in prices and in prosperity based upon such a rise is due to Republican legislation, you must not admit that it is due to the increase in the volume of money—whether it comes from new gold mines or whether an increase in export of products and an increase in the importation of gold—because according to our theory, no matter where the money comes from, whether it comes from across the ocean or whether it comes out of the gold mines of the Klondike or out of the silver mines of the United States, an increase of money will make times easier and prices higher and people more prosperous. But, my friends, the difference between us and Republicans is that they praise a dear dollar to the laboring man and rejoice in higher prices to the producers of wealth, and after taking advantage of every accidental circumstance, and claiming that it grows from Republican legislation, content themselves with temporary and accidental benefits, rejecting a permanent restoration of the level of prices by the restoration of a double standard of money throughout the world.—From W. J. Bryan's Grand Rapids speech.

Reaching the Public Ear.

Doubtless it is a very grave infraction of military discipline for soldiers or officers to ventilate their military grievances in the newspapers instead of submitting them to their superiors and seeking redress in the regular and appointed way. There is something to be said, however, on the other side of the question. When the channels of communication from rank to rank are closed, or when complaints presented in due form to the proper authorities lead to no action of any sort, the aggrieved soldier or officer turns to quarters where he can secure immediate and often effective consideration. He knows that this is insubordination, and that he risks punishment more or less severe, but the original wrong is usually righted.—New York Times.

The Taxpayer Pays the Freight. We "needed" the Hawaiian Islands to "protect" the Nicaragua canal. We "need" the Nicaragua canal to give us quick access to our Hawaiian possessions. We "need" the Philippines to make the Hawaiian Islands available to us as a half-way station. We "need" a cable to connect us with our Hawaiian and Philippine possessions. We "need" an army and navy to take care of these distant possessions of ours.—Terre Haute Gazette.

A LAKE PILOT'S LEG.

How It Solved the Mystery of the Wreck of the Susan E. Peck.

"We are never amazed when vessels go aground and are wrecked on Lake Erie during the gales that are common on that treacherous water, for we expect such things then," said a lake skipper, "but when one is grounded on a clear day and wrecked on a course as clear as the day and in the hands of a pilot that knows the ground like a book we naturally wonder a little and want to know the whys and wherefores. Such was the case of the propeller Susan E. Peck that went aground near Bar Point and was lost with a \$25,000 cargo.

"The captain of the Susan E. had sailed successfully hundreds of times between Point Pelee and Bar Point and in all kinds of weather, and this time he had a wheelman who was known from one end of the lake to the other as one of the most expert navigators in the lake business. He had been lying up a long time for the very good reason that owing to an accident to one of his legs that leg had to be amputated to save his life. The lost member was replaced by an artificial leg and then the pilot was ready to take his post at the wheel again. His first service after his misfortune was this trip of the Susan E. Peck, and he ran her aground.

"The puzzle to everybody was how it was possible for the propeller, handled by a man of such skill and experience, on a straight course only forty miles long and with every sailing condition favorable, to leave her course. The pilot was the most puzzled and astonished person of all. He soon got another vessel, and this one he ran in such an erratic manner that he was compelled to give her up and his usefulness as a pilot was gone. He and others went to investigating to see if they could discover what was wrong with his seamanship. After a while they discovered what they believed was the trouble. In the pilot's artificial leg a great deal of steel had been used in the joints and other places. Sitting close to the binnacle, as he did while steering, this steel deranged the compass so that it threw the wheelman way off his reckoning and led to the wrong piloting that had wrecked the Susan E. Peck and endangered the other vessel that she was navigating subsequently. This was what they argued, and to demonstrate the correctness of the theory the pilot took charge of a vessel without wearing his false leg. Everything worked to a charm. The mystery of the Susan E. Peck was solved and the pilot was restored to his old place in the confidence of Lake Erie skippers and vessel owners.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

LAW AS INTERPRETED.

A woman who undertook to get on a mixed train at a distance from the depot while the train was being made up, without any invitation to get on it at that place, is held, in Jones vs. New York Central & H. R. Co. (N. Y.), 41 L. R. A. 490, to have no right of action for injuries sustained by the sudden jolting of the car as she was getting on.

The rule that a drawee bank is bound to know the signature of its depositor is applied in First National Bank of Belmont vs. First National Bank of Barnesville (O.), 41 L. R. A. 584, with the effect of denying the right of a bank which has paid a forged check to obtain repayment from the party to whom it paid the money.

A contract for a rebate on purchases, on condition that the purchaser deals exclusively with the seller for a certain time, is held, in Demchey & Co. vs. McNulta (C. C. App., 7th C.) 41 L. R. A. 609, to be unenforceable without proof of the performance of the condition, even if that was invalid as tending to a monopoly, since that was the sole consideration, and if that failed the contract failed.

The payee of a check which is stolen from him and put in circulation by forgery is held, in Shepard & M. L. Co. vs. Eldridge (Mass.), 41 L. R. A. 617, to be estopped from collecting it if with knowledge of the facts he misled the drawer to his prejudice and thereby placed him in a worse position than he would otherwise have been in with reference to the assertion or protection of his rights.

Working Hours Abroad.

A Turkish working-day lasts from sunrise to sunset, with certain intervals for refreshment and rest. In Serbia the principle of individual conveniences rules every case. Eleven hours' work is the average day's labor in Belgium; but brewers' men work from ten to seventeen hours; bricklayers, sixteen; cabinetmakers of Brussels and Ghent often work seventeen hours a day with one-half hour for noon; and in mining districts women are often kept at truck loading and similar heavy labor for fourteen hours. The normal workday throughout Saxony is thirteen hours. In Baden the medium duration of day labor is from ten to twelve hours, but in some cases it often exceeds this, sometimes rising to seventeen hours in some trades. In many Baden factories Sunday work is the rule.

She Dislikes Formalities.

A good story is told of the Princess Maud of Wales. After a long season of attending the inauguration of wings of hospitals, homes, exhibitions, bazars, etc., she is reported to have said to her father and mother: "What a blessing it must have been to have been born a princess in the days when they had nothing to open and shut," a sentiment with which the Prince and Princess of Wales no doubt in their inmost hearts agreed.

Fools invest first and investigate later.

ANECDOTE AND INCIDENT

A young tailor named Berry, lately succeeded to his father's business, once sent in his account to Charles Matthews somewhat ahead of time. Whereupon Matthews, with virtuous rage, wrote him the following note: "You must be a goose—Berry, to send me your bill—Berry, before it is due—Berry. Your father, the elder—Berry, would have had more sense. You may look blue—Berry, but I don't care a straw—Berry, for you and your bill—Berry."

Dean Pigou once unwittingly married a man to his deceased wife's sister, which is against the English law. The verger, whose business it was to settle the matter about the bans, was at once cross-examined. "Oh, yes, vicar," said he; "I knowed right well. I knowed parties." "But why did you not tell me? I should have forbidden them." "Well, vicar, it was just this way, you see: One of the parties was 84 and 'other 86. I says to myself: 'Lord, it can't last long; let 'em wed, and bother the laws.'"

A party of visitors to the country were very much interested last summer by the remarks of some New York children, sent out by the fresh-air fund for a week or two in the country. There were quite a number of them playing about a pretty farm-house one day, when some passers-by stopped and began to talk to them. "Did you ever see any chickens before?" asked one lady, as a flock of fowls came strutting down the lawn. "Oh, yes," said one of the eldest, wisely, with a knowing shake of his head, "we've always seen 'em—lots—only generally it was after they were peeced."

While Lowther Yates was master of Catharine Hall, at Cambridge, he was cordially disliked by one of the tutors, known as "Cardinal Thorp." The latter was lecturing one day on the law of extreme necessity, which justified a man in disregarding the life of another in order to insure his own safety. He said: "Suppose Lowther Yates and I were struggling in the water for a plank which would not hold two, and that he got possession of it. I should be justified in knocking him off," and then he added with great vehemence: "D—n him—and I would do it, too, without the slightest hesitation!"

The wife of a prominent citizen of Washington, while visiting the White House recently, happened to mention that she had received a basket of mushrooms from an unknown source, and, fearing that they might not be genuine, had taken them to the market where she usually bought her vegetables and had them carefully looked over before they were cooked. "What were you afraid of?" inquired Mrs. McKinley. "I was afraid we might be poisoned and die." "I thought you were a Presbyterian," retorted the President's wife, "and that Presbyterians never die until their time comes."

Frederick the Great made generous presents to all musicians except flute-players. He played the flute remarkably well himself. A famous flutist once asked permission to play to the king, hoping that Frederick would show his appreciation of his skill by some valuable gift. Frederick listened attentively while he played a difficult piece. "You play very well," he said, "and I will give you a proof of my satisfaction." So saying he left the room. The musician waited, guessing at the probable nature of the "proof." Presently the king returned with his own flute and played the same piece. Then he bade his visitor "Good-day," saying: "I have had the pleasure of hearing you, and it was only fair that you should hear me."

When Haley wrote "The Queen's Musketeers" he took infinite pains to avoid repeating himself. One day, as he left the theater after rehearsal, he heard somebody whistling the air of the song which he had written for Captain Roland in his new piece. Thinking that he had been composing from memory, he went up to the whistler, a workman, and asked him what he was whistling. "My friend, you are surprised," said the man, "and no wonder. Do you know that there is not another man in the streets of Paris who could whistle you that tune?" "Why?" "Because it's a song that nobody knows, yet." "Indeed?" "Certainly, because it is in the new piece that they are rehearsing at the Opera Comique." "A-a-a-ah!" said Haley, with a deep sigh of relief; "but how on earth is it that you know it?" "Well, because I was putting up a partition yesterday in the opera house—I am a joiner by trade, you know—while the song was being sung." "The deuce!" said Haley; "I did not think it could be learned so easily. Look here, my friend, there is a lous for you, and do not whistle it any more." "Why?" "Because I am the author of it." "Oh," said the musical carpenter; and as he went away he muttered to himself: "He is a queer fish. Why don't he give me the twenty francs to keep on whistling it?"

VENDETTA IN CORSICA.

Ancient, Bloody Custom of the Country Has Greatly Diminished. Persons who derive their ideas of Corsica as it is to-day from Prosper Merimee's novel, "Colomba," will be doomed to some disappointment. Manners and customs have changed a great deal in the island since the date, shortly after the battle of Waterloo, when the gallant British officer and his daughter visited Colombera in her ancestral castle at Pietranera. The vendetta, which is the theme of that thrilling story has greatly diminished. Dur-

ing the carnival we fancied that we had come upon a real instance of this picturesque barbarism. One workman killed another in a cafe, and then, in the expressive Corsican phrase, "took to the maquis," or brushwood, which covers a large portion of the island, and has, from time immemorial, been the refuge of outlaws and bandits. This legend subsisted for some days, and excited a new interest in life in Corsica, and quite a large demand for copies of "Colomba." But a conversation which I had with the judge d'instruction who had investigated the case proved that it was, after all, as he expressed it, a crime vulgaire, and not, as we had hoped, a crime corse.

We afterward had the satisfaction of seeing the malefactor led in chains between two mounted policemen on his way into Ajaccio, whereas the traditional bandit would have been fed and supplied with powder and shot by the country people, who would have rather gone to the stake than betrayed his hiding place to the authorities. Here and there vendetta may still linger in the island, but it has now become a means of attracting the tourist, who is invited to buy bloodthirsty looking knives and daggers, bearing such choice inscriptions as: Vendetta Corse; morte al nemico ("death to the enemy"); or, even still more greswome, Va diritto al cuore del nemico ("Go straight to the heart of the enemy"). These choice weapons form, together with gourds engraved with portraits of Napoleon, or the negro's head, which is the Corsican crest, the stable industry of Ajaccio.—Westminster Review.

A MISFIT ASSIGNMENT.

His Engine-Room Doors Were of Much Too Limited Capacity.

A well-known chief engineer of the navy who doesn't have to take any dust from General Shafter in the matter of avoiddupois—tipping the scales, as he does, at a trifle more than 300 pounds—was recently ordered to take charge of the mechanical department of one of the smaller gunboats on the Pacific station. The engineer didn't particularly like the assignment, but it didn't worry him to the point of suicide. He simply sat down and made a sketch of the exceedingly narrow doors that lead into the engine-rooms of the gunboat to which he was ordered, marking the dimensions of the doors in figures on the sketch. Below his drawing of one of the engine-room doors this jolly chief engineer made a neat sketch of himself, full figure, not exaggerating his Falstaffian paunch a trifle. He attached his own dimensions in feet and inches, circumferentially, to this sketch of himself. Then he put the sketches in an envelope and "respectfully submitted" them to the bureau of navigation. It was a sort of document that occasionally makes a hit. The inference to be drawn from the sketches was so obvious—the impossibility of the chief engineer's passage through the engine-room doors of the ship to which he was ordered was so apparent—that the assignment was recalled, and the laconic chief engineer is liable to get a flagship when the next batch of steam engineering assignments is made.—Washington Post.

Common Quotations.

How many persons can unhesitatingly name the source of the most familiar quotations? Many a man goes through life without reading a single play of Shakespeare, probably no English-speaking man goes through life without quoting him. If he sneers at "a woman's reason," he quotes Shakespeare; if he refers to "a trick worth two of that," he quotes Shakespeare again. Goldsmith's "She Stoops to Conquer" is not a popular work; but one line of it—"Ask me no questions, and I will tell you no lies"—is known and used by everybody. Who reads Campbell nowadays? Yet who, at some time or other, has not quoted his line, "Coming events cast their shadows before?" References to "stolen thunder" are common enough in journalism, though it may be doubted whether journalists are familiar with the works of John Dennis, the originator of the phrase. And we are all accustomed to speak of "teaching the young idea how to shoot," though—less culpably in this instance—we have never read a line of Thompson's "Seasons."

When Choate Was Ruffled.

An unpublished story about Mr. Choate tells of the only time his serenity was ever ruffled while cross-questioning a witness. It was during a famous will case, and Felix McCusky, formerly doorkeeper of the house of representatives, was the witness. "Now, Mr. McCusky," insinuatedly asked Mr. Choate, "isn't it true that you are the modern Munchausen?" "You're the second blackguard that has asked me that in a week," roared McCusky. "An—" The roar of laughter, in which Surrogate Rollins himself joined, drowned the remainder of Mr. McCusky's retort, and it was fully five minutes before business went on again.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

Divorces Cheap and Plenty.

In four hours recently a Paris court granted 204 divorces, a little over a divorce a minute. All the parties received state assistance in their cases, so that their divorce cost them nothing.

Big Tree.

The largest tree in the Eastern hemisphere, if not in the world, is a chestnut standing at the foot of Mount Aetna. The circumference of the main trunk at sixty feet from the ground is 212 feet.

Occasionally a young man wakes up fresh as a daisy—and his freshness continues all day.

Nearly every married woman thinks a lot of other women envy her.

Words often shake our convictions, but seldom overthrow them.

THE PEOPLE'S MONEY.

Variations of Ratio.

It is quite true that the ratio at which gold and silver coins have circulated has varied at different periods of the world's history; but such variations have usually been slow, and have occurred at periods widely separated. Max Mueller has shown that for centuries, and extending back beyond written history, the ratio at which gold and silver was used as money in Egypt, in Babylon and in India, was from 13 1/4 to 14 1/2. There was never any such disturbance in the value of the two metals in ancient or modern times as has taken place in recent years, for the reason that no such disturbing cause ever operated before as the legal debarment of one of them from monetary use and a corresponding extension of the use of the other. Such a cause would at any time necessarily produce great disturbance in their relative value.

The relative value of the metals at all times must be determined by the sum of the demands upon each, as compared with the supply of each. But the chief source of demand is for money, and, consequently, the chief source of value for both gold and silver has been for money. It is impossible that the value of either should be the same with the demand limited to the arts as it would be with demand for money added to the demand for the arts; and, as there never was a time since gold and silver came into use as money when the demand for money was not the dominant demand, it follows that there never was a time when there was a "commercial ratio" independently of the money ratio. As the value of each metal at all times depends upon the demand for it for all uses, acting upon a given supply, the ratio of one to the other depends necessarily upon the relative demand for each. Whether one or both metals shall be admitted to use as money is a matter of law, and hence the demand for them for money is a demand created by law, whether statutory or derived from custom.

If, then, both metals can by law be endowed alike with the money function, so that either could be substituted for the other in all money transactions, the coining ratio at once becomes the commercial ratio. It is the money ratio, under conditions of free coining, that makes the commercial ratio and not the commercial ratio that determines the money ratio; hence, there is no insurmountable difficulty in the way of having a money standard of two metals, leaving the supply to depend on the same general law that would govern the supply of one, if one alone were used. Indeed, the experience of ages in the use of both metals as standard money ought to be enough to settle that question as a practicable one. The question, then, of the desirability of a standard composed of two metals becomes largely one of money supply.

Currency of Banks.

All forms of currency to the extent that they receive free acceptance and general circulation by the people of a nation are factors in determining price levels in such country. But the issues of banks and bank credits, so far as they do money work and thereby temporarily advance or uphold prices, are pernicious influences in the business world. They constitute an unfailing source of panics, and are the origin of great disturbances in the commercial world, always resulting in wrecking the fortunes of those engaged in legitimate industrial pursuits, and enriching the classes that deal exclusively in money and money futures, such as mortgages and bonds.

In the domain of commerce the controlling factor is price levels. Money always seeks the market where prices are lowest. Commodities with equal certainty seek the market where prices are highest. The instinct of gain compels this movement with a regularity as unerring as the magnetic needle points to the pole of the earth.

The precious metals distribute themselves among the nations and people of the earth, automatically, through the movements of commodities to such markets as will afford the vendors the largest return. Under the operation of this law each nation is said to receive its distributive share of the gold and silver of the world. Each nation's share can only be just sufficient to price its products at a point that does not admit of similar products from other nations being brought into its markets and sold at a profit, because when this can be done such nation will be compelled to yield up its gold and silver until prices are reduced to a point that will no longer yield a profit to outsiders. While prices remain at this point the nation can retain its gold and silver, having only its distributive share. Therefore, it will be seen that any form of currency receiving free acceptance and general circulation and operating to advance prices that is not a legal tender, the free acceptance and general circulation of which depend upon convertibility upon demand into legal tender money, is a delusion and a snare. Such currency aids in making a level of prices, but it is absolutely powerless to sustain the price-level after it is made.

The beautiful doorway to Rouen cathedral, forming part of perhaps the most picturesque facade in existence, is in so bad a state of repair that the municipal council has been forced to depart from its principle not to assist ecclesiastical restorations and has voted \$20,000 toward the work, provided it is undertaken at once and continued without intermission.