

the difference between Arthur Sewall and Tom Watson. And now that Sewall and Watson are retired from view no difference remains between the Chicago disciples of fiat money and the St. Louis apostles of the same fallacy.

Therefore the unanimity with which fused and welded, soldered and brazed, conventions of populists, free-silver republicans, Chicago convention democrats, prohibitionists, protectionists and communists reaffirm their faith in the money fallacies is not at all phenomenal. No matter how continuously events have tauntingly given the lie to their prophets; no matter that hundreds of millions of gold are piled up in the treasury and the banks of the United States, and millions more are constantly coming into the country to pay for exported agricultural and other products—they reaffirm that there is not gold enough in all the world out of which to make a standard of value!!

The fusion party platforms are reliable. They lied in 1896 and they lie again in 1898. The gigantic audacity, the magnificent effrontery with which, in the midst of liquidation of debts, surrounded by money begging to be borrowed at from three to six per cent per annum, the candidates and advocates of the fusion fallacies of finance reaffirm their sophisms have never been paralleled in history.

If the Millerites who proclaimed the end of the world reaffirm the truth of that proclamation fifty years later with the globe still moving in its sphere unimpaired are they any more audacious, any more contumacious or mendacious than the free-coinage-of-silver-at-sixteen-to-one fanatics of 1896 who under present financial and industrial conditions reiterate the fallacies, prophecies of disaster and forecasts of calamity which they delusively and fervidly proclaimed in 1896?

NEPHEWS AND ALL THAT.

A Canadian paper has a severely critical article on discipline in the United States army, telling among other things, how one regiment, drawn up to be reviewed by its new colonel, gave him a kindly welcome. "Hello, Billy," the soldiers cried, and quite omitted the more usual salute.

Political influence, wealth or connection by family ties do not really appear to be fitting grounds for preferment in the army of a nation like this. The American idea has been to esteem a man in proportion to his own achievements, not to those of his friends and relations. The many reproaches that are heard, to the effect that military offices have been bestowed upon men without military experience, would seem to indicate a departure from this principle, and perhaps an inclining toward that other plan which Washington deprecated and Franklin laughed at, of instituting a hereditary aristocracy. Appointments

of sons of able men to posts requiring personal ability in the occupant, together with the rapid increase that is observed of Societies of Sons of This and That, remind one that Spain is known as the Land of the Hidalgo, and that the hidalgo—the *hijo de algo*—is simply the son of somebody.

We have no occasion to adopt Spanish methods. It may be further noted that our navy, whose affairs, from start to finish of our late war, have been conducted in a way that has commanded the hearty approval of this most practical of peoples, is said to be free from the kind of appointments in question.

STORAGE OF RAIN.

THE CONSERVATIVE has been a consistent advocate of deep plowing in all the loess formation of the Missouri river valley. For more than forty years the editor has resided upon and cultivated a quarter section of land adjoining Nebraska City on the west. From his personal experience and from extended and close observation he long since came to the conclusion that shallow plowing with the old-fashioned mouldboard plow is an enemy to fertility and also to the conservation of the top soils upon these undulating prairies.

Some years ago he called for some new agricultural implement to take the place of the old-fashioned plow which, in twenty centuries, has been improved less and changed less from its original type than any other implement of utility used by the human family. After a great deal of discussion in the agricultural press and newspapers the arguments in favor of a system of discs with subsoil attachment produced an impression upon the inventors of the different plow manufacturing establishments of the country. Among them the John Deere factory of Moline, Ill., seemed to approximate perfection in producing a disc plow, double and single, with subsoil attachments.

In the present issue of THE CONSERVATIVE will be found an advertisement of this plow which is called "The Secretary." Mr. Charles H. Deere, a long time and highly valued friend of the editor, who is at the head of the Deere manufacturing plant at Moline, under date of September 1 writes concerning this new implement:

"We are having quite a satisfactory trade on this plow, but it is running to the single plow with subsoiler. We have made a better slant of inclination of the disc, helping us in the draft of the plow, and its operations are quite satisfactory where it has been most used. We have quite a trade on the plow in Virginia and are now sending a large number to Richmond. The principal trade on them has been in Colorado and California."

Citizens of Otoe and adjoining counties of Nebraska who desire to see the work of this new soil stirrer may be

gratified by stopping at the Joy Morton farm one and one-half miles northwest of Nebraska City, where a double "Secretary" plow is turning a furrow 25½ inches in width and 14 inches in depth, pulverizing the ground in a most satisfactory manner and leaving the surface in such condition that no flake of snow no drop of rain falling thereon will ever be able to escape except through the pores of growing plants. It is absolutely impossible to lose any land, plowed in this way, by erosion. With this system of tillage on the rolling prairies of Nebraska and western Iowa there never will be any loss of surface soils from torrential rainfalls which, where the plowing is shallow, often washes away all fertility.

TREES NOTED FOR SPECIFIC VIRTUES AND USES.

ALDER, good for water-pipes and piles, capital for the foundations of buildings situated upon bogs; it becomes black as jet and almost imperishable when used for piles in swamps or under water. The Rialto of Venice is founded on alder. It is excellent for clogs, shoe-heels, wooden shoes, cogs for mill-wheels, turnery, chairs, poles, and garden props.

It is said that fleas dislike it.

Alder nourishes whatever plant grows in its shadow.

ASH, the Venus of the forest.

Used for all tools employed in husbandry, carts, wagons, wheels, pulleys, and oars. It bursts into leaf between May 13 and June 14.

Grass will grow beneath it.

At Donirey, near Clare, is the hollow trunk of an ash tree 42 feet in circumference, in which a little school used to be kept.

In Woburn Park is an ash tree 90 feet high, 15 feet in girth (3 feet from the ground), and containing a grand total of 872 cubic feet of timber.

The ash tree at Carnock, planted in 1596, supposed to be the largest in Scotland, is 90 feet high and 19 feet in girth (5 feet from the ground).

Dr. Walker says he measured an ash tree in Lochaber churchyard, Scotland, 58 feet in girth (5 feet from the ground.)

ASPEN TREE. No grass will grow in its vicinity. The legend is that the cross of Jesus was made of this wood, and hence its leaves were doomed to tremble till the day of doom.

Ah! tremble, tremble, aspen tree!

We need not ask thee why thou shakest;

For if, as holy legend saith,

On thee the Saviour bled to death,

No wonder, aspen, that thou quakest!

And till in judgment all assemble,

Thy leaves accursed shall wail and tremble.

E. C. B.

BEECH TREE, employed for clogs, tool handles, planes, mallets, turnery, large wooden screws, sounding boards of musical instruments, scabbards, band-boxes, book-covers, coffins, chairs, and bedsteads; but for chairs and bedsteads it is not fit, as it is a favorite resort of