

THE DAILY BEE

E. ROSEWATER, EDITOR

To all subscribers and readers THE BEE wishes a Merry Christmas.

GALUSHA A. GROW is making a strong contest for the senatorship in Pennsylvania and the fight grows lively.

A NEW YORK paper has proved that the word "damn" is not a wicked oath, and the Times says that men who have been using it for years every time they shaved, can mourn over its wasted time.

THIRTEEN detrits, maliciously remarks the Chicago Tribune, were recently shipped from Chicago to St. Louis, and it is evident that the girls are going to hang up their stockings next Christmas the same as usual.

A STRONG pressure is being brought upon the house to repeal the law requiring stamps on bank checks. The stamp tax amounts to only \$1,700,000 a year and is excessively annoying to depositors and banks. This, with the match tax, could easily be abolished without perceptible loss.

THE "Ordinances" which grace our municipal statute-book seem only to exist for the benefit of the police and to the advantage of the criminal classes. An amendment to our city charter, making it imperative on our city officials to enforce the ordinances, would be of greater advantage to the public than any of the proposed changes.

JERSEY CITY is wrestling with the railroad taxation question. The proportion of the property in the city belongs to railroad companies, and by their charters is exempt from taxation. The total real estate taxable valuation is \$58,500,000, and the valuation of railroad property is \$30,000,000. All the latter exempt from local taxation by state laws. The tax rate paid by Jersey City people is \$3 on the hundred, and even this, high as it is, does not yield enough revenue to defray the running expenses of the city government and pay the interest on its debt.

FOREIGN ECHOES.

The troubles of the English ritualists are the natural outgrowth of church establishment. Years ago, before the non-conformists had attained their present growth and influence in England, the establishment used the machinery of the state to persecute those outside its pale. To-day a party inside the church employ the same means to annoy a more feeble party within the fold. In the present cases the use of certain ceremonies and vestments by the Revs. Dale and Enright have been declared by the Court of Arches a violation of law, and for persistent employment of the same the offending clergymen have been clapped in prison until such time as they shall purge themselves of contempt. Meanwhile the ritualistic churches are offering up fervent prayers for the constancy of their persecuted brethren, and a strong feeling of sympathy is being awakened for the martyrdivines.

The ultimate result of the whole unfortunate business is likely to be the building up of a party within the Established Church, which by union with the non-conformists, will insist on disestablishment.

Spain is undergoing an unusual political excitement, caused by the coming meeting of the Cortes. It is believed by many of liberals that the cabinet will take advantage of the recent negro insurrection in Cuba to withhold their promised reforms. The recently discovered frauds on the treasury have created a feeling of distrust in the ministry of finance, and the retirement of Senor Cozgayon is hinted at as one of the probabilities. A strong faction will push a bill for the repression of the Jesuits, which, however, is little likely of accomplishment. The two rival leaders, Castelar and Serrano, are at words points on nearly every matter of public policy, and a lively session is promised.

Contrary to the general expectation, another movement towards the settlement of the vexed Greek boundary question has been made by the powers, Austria, Germany, France and Italy agreeing to act as a board of arbitrators with England, provided that the other powers give their assent to it, and that both Turkey and Greece shall previously signify their acceptance of any decision of the powers. This proposition will open the door for further diplomatic delays as the Porte has reiterated as a basis of negotiations, the proposals made in his note of Oct. 3, which has been entirely scouted by the Greeks. Dispatches to London from Athens announce that Greece is one vast camp, and that scouting parties have already crossed the border into Thrace.

PHASIAN PROPRIETARY.

That a radical land reform bill will be introduced by Mr. Gladstone's ministry during the coming session of parliament is generally conceded by both liberals and Tories. A reform which aims at anything less than peasant proprietorship will be accepted by the Irish land league as a solution of the troubles in Ireland. The present system of large estates farmed by tenants at will, who are left to make and maintain all the permanent and necessary works and buildings, and who live in constant fear of having their rents increased solely because of their own industry, must be done away with. In its place must be substituted a system of land tenure by which peasant proprietorship in fee simple will be assured and an incentive furnished towards the best utilization and development of the resources of the soil. John Bright argues the purchase of the landed estates in Ireland by the British government and their sale to the people at a fair appraisal value, notes being taken by the government for purchase money at a rate of from 3 to 3 1/2 per cent and extending over a period of from twenty to twenty-five years. Such a scheme we believe would be a financial as well as a political success, and we base our opinion on the outcome of the Church Land sales in Ireland which took place in the years 1872-'3-'4-'5-'6.

In the year 1870, as the result of church disestablishment, the church commissioners offered for sale a large quantity of land, comprising some 9,000 holdings in the counties of Fermanagh, Tyrone, Derry, Donegal, Armagh and Cavan. By the act of parliament, which Mr. Gladstone was instrumental in passing, every lessee or tenant was entitled to have an offer of his holding at a fixed price before it was offered for sale to the public. The average price at which the lands were offered was something over twenty times their annual rental, yet, notwithstanding the high rate, 6,000 tenants purchased their farms by paying down a portion of the purchase money and giving notes to the commission for the balance. The remainder of the holdings were purchased by outside parties, most of whom were small tenant farmers from other counties.

Nearly ten years have passed since the first sales were made under the Church act and the result has proved the practicability of such a plan and the energy, industry and thrift of the Irish people. Notwithstanding the known fact that the church lands were poor, rocky and wretchedly developed and their tenants poor and struggling farmers who, in many instances, sold their cattle to raise the necessary sums required for the cash down of the purchase money, the church commissioners have not yet been forced to foreclose a single mortgage, and the arrears due the commission at the end of last year amounted to but 10 per cent of the annual amount receivable. The purchasers, notwithstanding the agricultural depression are reported as contented and self-reliant, pleased to be free from the control of landlords and agents, and steadily improving their properties. Such as have been forced to sell have done so at a good advance over their purchase money, and the knowledge that free sales were possible has spurred the farmers to renewed improvements on their premises. With good crops and ordinarily prosperous times, a few more years will see the tenants in unincumbered possession of their farms and laying up property for their children and successors.

The success of this experiment completely puts to flight the fallacious arguments of those enemies to land reform in Ireland who assert that the Irish peasantry are not fitted to become landed proprietors. The most careful statistics prove that where circumstances are at all favorable no race is more industrious, energetic or thrifty. The experiment of working a radical reform as the present system will only be approved if Mr. Gladstone and his ministry give a careful examination to the merits of the possession of the British government relative to the 6000 tenant farmers who rose from peasants to proprietors under the Church Land Act of 1869.

The opening of the magnificent stables of Mr. James Stephenson was celebrated in a becoming manner Thursday evening by a large attendance of our most prominent citizens. The speeches of those who put on the oratorical "harness," expressed the sentiment of our people in according Mr. Stephenson all praise for his enterprise, public spirit and energy, and in wishing him the business success he so well deserves. With the wish that his "lines" may always fall in pleasant places THE BEE joins with many others in their congratulations over the completion of the elegant structure.

ILLINOIS is the biggest wheat-growing state in the country, but Ohio takes the cake for raising presidential plans.

GEORGE ELIOT.

The caber brings the sad announcement of the death of Mrs. Geo. (Eliot) which took place at 12 o'clock on Wednesday evening at her home in London.

Marian C. Evans was born in Warwickshire in 1820. Early in life she was adopted by a wealthy English clergyman and enjoyed the advantages of an excellent education under the tutelage of a brilliant young engineer now known to fame as Herbert Spencer. Miss Evans' mental maturity was slow. She was a voracious reader, a fine musician and an accomplished linguist years before she wrote a line for the press. Her earliest publication was a translation of Strauss' "Life of Christ," which appeared in 1846, and which was followed eight years later by a translation of Furbach's "Essence of Christianity." In 1857 a series of sketches entitled "Scenes of Clerical Life," appeared in Blackwood's Magazine under the nom de plume of "George Eliot." Their freshness, diversity and power in the delineation of character at once attracted attention to the author, who, in the following year by the publication of "Adam Bede," was universally accorded a place among the most distinguished of English novelists. In 1860 appeared the "Mill on the Floss," "Silas Marner" in 1861; "Romola" (first published as a serial in The Cornhill Magazine) in 1863; "Middlemarch" in 1871; "Daniel Deronda" in 1876; and "Theophrastus Such" in 1878. Her poetical works are: "The Spanish Gypsy" published in 1863; "Agatha" in 1869, and "The Legend of Jubel" in 1874. For a number of years she was associated with John Stuart Mills, as associate editor of the Westminster Review, and always was a devoted disciple of Jeremy Bentham and M. Comte.

Miss Evans was married a number of years ago to George Henry Lewes, the distinguished exponent of Positivism, and within a year after his death to Mr. Cross, a London merchant. Her second marriage was solemnized on the 4th of May, of the present year.

As a novelist George Eliot will go down to posterity as the founder of a new school of fiction. Her deep metaphysical training early turned her attention to the study of character. It is as a portrayal of the difficulties which beset the human soul that George Eliot's novels supreme. She aimed to revolutionize the whole ethical theory of fiction, and adapting her views to life in all its hard and stern reality, she branded poetic justice as a falsehood, and struck mighty blows at the altar which other novelists had erected to worldly success. Her fundamental principle was, that all human experience is designed to discipline and purify and that the actual conditions of life, however rough and rugged the road, are best adapted to attain this end. George Eliot's whole moral system was based on the service of humanity. Her philosophy aimed at a consistent and faithful working out of the noblest ideal of human character through the discipline of experience, accepting the stern realities of life and making them the stepping stones to higher attainments. Selfishness was the one radical vice of the heart in her view and of a spirit of generous overlooking self forgotten was the one great virtue. This is the key to all the personages who appear in her stories. Round, Maggie Tulliver, T. Toombs and Gwendolen Harleth are all exemplifications of her favorite theory, characters pointed with a boldness of contrast yet with an accuracy of finish which will ever give them a place in the gallery of the immortals of literature.

The plots of her fictions, never intricate, were always subordinated to her leading design of character portrayal, and the minor characters served but as backgrounds to bring into stronger relief the leading characteristics of the principals, or to furnish the conditions best adapted to aid or retard the developments of the chief actors in the drama of life. Differing so greatly from other novelists in her aims, it is impossible to compare "George Eliot" with any other writer of English fiction. In her peculiar sphere she will always stand supreme. Her characters are genuine creations, which will grow more and more in public esteem as fiction becomes more elevated and public taste more refined.

Personal.

For four years past I have not said a word about public affairs or public men without having some one harp back at me my misfortunes in my personal financial affairs and consequent poverty, through The Omaha Republican or News. The list of this series was in the Republican of the 23d instant, from the former proprietor of The Fremont Tribune, "the seventeen-year-old boy," who was born with a silver spoon in his mouth. The Republican outfit deems this high-sounding, appropriate, dignified, manly, polite, wise, noble, gentlemanly, comprehensive, argumentative, combative and crushing rejoinder. Perhaps it is. I am content.

ST. A. D. BALCOMBE.

COME INTO COURT,

And Stand Before the Bar of Public Opinion.

To J. C. Santee, editor Knox County News; M. S. Bartlett, editor West Point Republican, and Seth P. Mobley, editor Grand Island Independent.

My refusal to support E. K. Valentine for re-election to congress and the defeat of four U. P. coppers on the so called republican legislative ticket in Douglas county through the opposition of THE BEE, has drawn upon my head charges loud and deep from every brass-bellied barnacle, every time-serving lick-spittle and every political renegade that yields a quill. These tirades of slander and abuse have been revamped by The Omaha Republican as expressions of the sentiment of the republican masses, when, in fact, they merely echo the voice of depraved political strumpets, who thus bid for the gratitude and favor of Valentine and his owner, Jay Gould's monopoly. I have patiently borne this calumny in silence during and since the campaign, and should have continued to treat the insolent slanders with silent contempt. My silence has, however, been construed in some quarters into an admission, and has emboldened the rogues to go so far as to even falsify the official election returns and set up the claim that Valentine has received a larger popular vote than any candidate on the state ticket. Under such circumstances, further forbearance would be criminal.

The trio to whom this open letter is addressed are typical representatives of the small army of slanderers and blackguards who have made me their target, and I assure them at the outset that I should not waste ammunition on any of them if the rebuke I am about to administer to them did not reach their whole class.

J. C. Santee is a political barnacle, who has, for several years, been postmaster at Nebraska, and, for the past year, has been editor and publisher of a readerless patent boiler sheet—The Knox County News. Five years ago, when Judge Crouse was representing Nebraska in congress, this parasite was a rampant opponent of the Hitchcock faction. During the summer of 1876, in the heat of the senatorial campaign and before I had even become acquainted with him, he wrote to me the following letter:

NEBRASKA, KNOX CO., Neb., September 14, 1876. Hon. E. Rosewater: DEAR SIR—I am one of the delegates to the state convention from this county and have a proxy, which entitles me to two votes in and conveys them. I have sought and been elected a delegate to the convention and a candidate for U. S. senator in accordance with the provisions of the new constitution. I think it would be perfectly safe to nominate the present incumbent (Hitchcock) to lead in this district. He would be defeated by at least a good majority probably two-thirds—that would leave him out of the canvass, a four year restative would be a liberty to choose among the other aspirants. So far as I am qualified to judge on his subject Judge Crouse is the choice of the people in this district. The nomination for rep. representative in this district is between Mr. Santee and Mr. Santee. I have a clear majority of the delegates, but feel somewhat doubtful about the Bohemian vote.

Vac. applied to the position of Register of the land office, and if he could be in a position to be elected he would be advanced by me and by giving me his support, the nomination would be a good and honorable one. If you or some friend in Omaha, would write him to that effect without mentioning my name, it would have a good effect. I shall call and see you when you return for Lincoln. I am afraid if Vac. should be elected, he would be captured by the Hitchcock party again, as he was last spring.

Yours, etc., JOHN C. SANTEE, P. M.

Now this man Santee, who was such a staunch Crouse man, and was afraid Vac. Randa could not be trusted, went down to Lincoln within ten days after he wrote that letter and then and there was himself captured by Hitchcock, and voted first, last and all the time with the U. P. faction. Two years ago, when Judge Crouse was a candidate against Valentine, this double-dealing barnacle, who pretended to be such an enthusiastic Crouse man—while Crouse was in congress—cast his vote for Valentine and against Crouse, in the state convention. Personally we have never quarreled, and only once before did I go so far as to remind him, publicly, of his double dealing.

And yet, without any provocation whatever, this man has gone out of his way to slander and abuse me and charge me with interference in the local politics of his county and district, where I had not dreamed of interfering.

During and since the recent campaign, no paper in the state has been more abusive than the home organ of E. K. Valentine, The West Point Republican, edited by M. S. Bartlett. I have no personal acquaintance with this man; would not know him if I met him, and if he has ever been introduced or pointed out to me, I have no recollection of it. Bartlett was formerly editor of a paper in Antelope county, and in that sheet, as well as in "Valentine's own," he has vilified and blackguarded me with more malignant viciousness than any other man in or out of Nebraska. I have never to my knowledge crossed his path; have never in any way sought to do him an injury, and this is the first time that I recollect his ill-bodded assaults. Two or three years ago, when Bartlett was treasurer of Antelope county, and editing the paper that was slandering me, the court house of Antelope county, and the county records were destroyed by an incendiary. The current belief was that the building was set on fire to cover an alleged embezzlement of funds by the county treasurer. That report is still believed by many. Although Bartlett was

not indicted for want of positive proof, his conduct was decidedly suspicious, and he concluded to change his place of residence for the sake of harmony. And yet, up to this time, I have not even referred to this dark episode in Bartlett's career.

In last September after Valentine was nominated, the following article appeared in The West Point Republican.

The political vanguard down at Omaha whose cognomen is Rosewater (I'll repeat it for more appropriate) and who makes a living by his knaivilty; public men having been spurned by Judge Valentine for disbarred positions made turns upon him all the vengeance and hate of which his empty nature is teeming. In his last attack he charges him with fraud in securing the allowance of bogus pension claims. It is possible that Rosewater believes this. Being the embodiment of evil, it is impossible for him to understand how any man can be honest and upright. We can very well understand how he can be dishonest between his water and Judge Valentine. (His nature are just as incompatible and dissimilar as oil and water. One is a generous, upright, whole-souled man; the other is a dishonest, crafty, unprincipled knave, who plots the defamations of character, and dirty work generally. It must be consoling to Judge Valentine to know that these republicans, this infelicitous of Babel, thrive the best in the state.

When this scurrilous article appeared I was inclined to challenge Valentine, who doubtless inspired this libel to produce the profits or stand branded as a lying scoundrel—but upon reflection I thought best to reserve my challenge to a time when I could excite the public and had done and the public could pass calm, dispassionate judgment upon it. I now and hereby do challenge E. K. Valentine and his yellow dog, M. S. Bartlett, to produce a scrap of the pen or a scintilla of proof which anybody will believe that I have ever applied to Valentine for any favor, or have ever asked him for a penny, or have ever sought to procure an appointment for any man through Valentine, or asked him to endorse any man for any appointment. I hereby brand Valentine and Bartlett as infamous calumniators and challenge them to produce any proof which will ever blackmail, or from whom I have ever sought to obtain money by threats or by any other unlawful means. The following official document shows that there was a time when Valentine was an applicant for favor at my hand:

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS: That Edward K. Valentine, of Omaha, Nebraska, as principal, and John A. Smiley, John H. Sailer and Edward Rosewater, of Omaha, Nebraska, as sureties, are held and firmly bound unto the United States of AMERICA, in the full and just sum of Ten Thousand Dollars, to the UNITED STATES, to which payment, well and truly to be made, we bind ourselves, jointly and severally, with our heirs, executors, administrators, assigns and assigns, to the effect, to wit: That Valentine, in and to the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars, money of the UNITED STATES, to which payment, well and truly to be made, we bind ourselves, jointly and severally, with our heirs, executors, administrators, assigns and assigns, to the effect, to wit: That Valentine, in and to the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars, money of the UNITED STATES, to which payment, well and truly to be made, we bind ourselves, jointly and severally, with our heirs, executors, administrators, assigns and assigns, to the effect, to wit: That Valentine, in and to the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars, money of the UNITED STATES, to which payment, well 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