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THE BEE PUBLISHING CO., PROPS.
E. ROSEWATER, Editor.

THE Burlington fly refused the invitation to walk into the parlor of the Union Pacific spider.

A BLAIR paper says the Omaha Belt railway is being run on wind entirely. This is an insult to Col. Hanlon, general manager.

IOWA has organized a prisoners' aid association. Nebraska does not need any. Our prisoners generally dig out without the aid of outsiders.

THERE is no probability of Governor Murray, of Utah, being re-appointed, His Kentucky record has been brought up against him, and he cannot survive it.

THE graveyard insurance business is getting a little too numerous in Nebraska, and it behooves the state auditor to investigate and ventilate some of these concerns.

THE Virginia senate has politely requested Mr. Mahone to resign. The great readjuster will probably politely invite the Virginia senate to go to a hotter place than Richmond.

POOL COMMISSIONER Vining will not have the pleasure of regulating the traffic on the Burlington system. Vining's fiat will only pass current in the Western Trunk Line association.

THE house committee on commerce has finally yielded to the persuasive eloquence of the railway magnates, who will now endeavor to talk Mr. Reagan's interstate commerce bill to death.

THERE is a good opening for a new bank at Leadville. Eight months ago there were four banks in that city, and within that period three of them have closed their doors for the last time.

THE Second Adventists definitely announce that the world will come to an end on the 4th of next November. This is probably the reason why the Second Adventists do not trouble themselves about the tariff revision.

THERE is a justice of the peace in Davenport who considers his reputation worth $50,000, and asks the Davenport *Gazette* to come into court. We should like to see the Omaha justice of the peace who wouldn't part with his reputation for one-tenth of that sum.

WHEN the members of the supreme court of Nebraska cannot find a flaw in the proceedings of the trial of a murder, they write letters to the governor imploring him to commute the sentence of the assassin, for fear there might have been some testimony against the poor fellow that was liable to misrepresent his motives.

ONLY three weeks ago the officers of the defunct First National bank of Leadville published their quarterly statement, which represents that institution to be in perfectly sound condition. The sudden collapse of the bank shows that the concern must have been a wreck at the time the January statement was published. This fact completely upsets the claim that our national banking laws are so perfect that it is almost impossible to conceal the real condition of any national bank for any considerable time.

THE marriage of Frederick Douglas at this late day, at the age of 73, would naturally create some surprise, but when it is announced that he has married a white woman of the same age as his daughter, surprise becomes intensified with disgust. It shows that Fred Douglas, with all his sturdy and sterling qualities, that have given him such prominence among his race, has degenerated in his dotage, and lost caste both among whites and blacks. The woman he married must either be seeking an unenviable notoriety by this union, or else has sold herself. In any case it belittles Fred Douglas in the estimation of all who heretofore had great respect for him.

SENATOR VAN WYCK never loses an opportunity to stop impositions upon the people through greedy officials. When the bill to create a territorial government for Alaska came before the senate he made vigorous objection to the proviso that the United States marshal should be paid partly by salary and partly by fees. He declared that United States marshals depending upon fees were liable to arrest people upon the flimsiest pretexts in order to create fees, and he insisted that the policy of the government in justice to the people should be to make the marshal a salaried officer. The senate adopted Mr. Van Wyck's suggestion, and a precedent has thus been established which should be followed all over the country.

THE STAGNATION OF TRADE.

While money is easy, farm products abundant, and manufactured articles of all kinds plenty, there is a stagnation of trade. The business situation is certainly a peculiar one, under the circumstances, and is somewhat of a puzzle. A similar state of affairs has not occurred within the memory of the oldest merchants of the country. It is explained, however, by the fact that there is an over supply of nearly everything, and the consequence is that prices are low and the demand anything but brisk. The winter is half over, and clothiers, dry goods merchants, and boot and shoe dealers find themselves loaded down with stocks which they have been unable to dispose of, and they are now endeavoring to unload as fast as possible by offering goods at remarkably low prices—in fact, at a sacrifice. The leading clothing dealers say that trade has not been what they expect, and in the line of overcoats alone they yet have an immense supply. It must be that the people are supplied for the present with about everything they want, and hence the stagnation in trade. There has been but very little demand abroad for our surplus of breadstuffs and provisions, and the result is an accumulation in our own elevators and warehouses. The British markets are being supplied with wheat from India, thus putting us to the necessity of finding some other market for one of our principal exports. Until this is done our wheat will not command a very high price, as we raise a great deal more than we need for home consumption. Our farmers will have to do as our manufacturers do—cut down the product for a season or two, and thus create a scarcity which will be followed by a brisk demand. One of the main causes of the oversupply in farm products and in manufactured articles is the improved machinery which now does the work instead of men. Farm machinery has been the means of increasing the capacity of producing breadstuffs, and the work of a single farm that formerly required the labor of numerous persons is now done by machinery. So it is also in manufactures. The solution of the over-supply problem now is to create a demand, and so far the only way to make a demand is to gauge the production so that it will be in keeping with the wants of the people.

THE REFORM SCHOOL.

NEBRASKA CITY, January 24th, 1884.

To the Editor of The Bee:

DEAR SIR:—That the Reform school at Kearney sadly needs reforming, is evident from a communication to THE BEE recently, But it strikes a man up a tree that our glorious young state has no reform school at all. Witness the following circular:

KEARNEY, Neb., January 9, 1884.

County Judge, Otoe County:

DEAR SIR:—I am directed by the board of public lands and buildings to give notice that no more children can be received at this institution until further notice, or until the building now being erected can be occupied.

Respectfully,
S. C. MULLINS, Superintendent.

The question naturally arises, by what authority said superintendent issues such a notice; and, secondly, by what color can he refuse to receive children adjudged to be sent to said school? It is generally supposed youthful culprits are thither sent to effect a radical reformation of character—and by learning a trade(?) enable them on leaving said institution, to earn an honest living and become respectable citizens. But your recent correspondence dispels this fond illusion, and makes one think the reform school is not designed for any such purpose, but as a sinecure for favored individuals. What shall we do with juvenile offenders? Keep them in county jails? Send them to the penitentiary? or turn them loose to the injury of the community, and their own destruction? This is a matter of great social importance and the whole conduct of said institution demands a thorough investigation. Fancy young children being sent to bed in those rooms with insufficient covering—and let run around half clad, and half shod, in the cold of such a winter as this. Bah! Amidst the multifarious appropriations is there no money to be found to clothe, shoe, and furnish bed covering for these poor unfortunates? If there is not, for mercy's sake let them return to the several counties to which they severally belong—and disestablish that misnamed institution—so that if we cannot reform, we be not criminally guilty of judicial cruelty. Yours, etc.,

THOS. C. MORGAN,
County Judge.

This is a terse and pertinent inquiry. The official organ of the state board of public lands and buildings, in a recent issue, assures the people that the board is well satisfied with the present management of the state reform school, but if the board cannot provide the ways and means to take proper care of the inmates of the reform school the people are not satisfied with the board. That a commonwealth like Nebraska cannot accommodate juvenile offenders, because the funds voted by the legislature for that purpose have been misappropriated, is certainly a humiliating admission. There never has been any difficulty to find ways and means to provide the state officers at the capitol with furniture and supplies, whether the legislature make an appropriation or not, but when an emergency arises in a state institution like the reform school, the state board is suddenly paralyzed and helpless.

THE managers of the Burlington railroad have finally broken off all negotiations looking to the combination of their system with the new Union Pacific pool. The longer they talked the wider they differed upon the question as to how a fair division of the traffic west of the Missouri could be made between the Burlington and the Union Pacific and its allies. The interest of the Burlington was manifestly to remain outside of the poll and take its chances on the trans-Missouri traffic When this conclusion was reached the conference was at end. We shall now have some competition between two great railway systems west of the Missouri. There need not necessarily be a war of rates, which in the end is more disastrous to the public than to the railroads engaged in it. But there will be better accommodations for shippers, and fairer treatment all round. The natural impulse of the people will be to patronize the road that remains outside of the pool, and the Burlington will start with that advantage in its competition for patronage.

OTHER LANDS THAN OURS.

Parliament will convene on the 5th of February and the session promises to be one of universal interest. The measure by which the liberal party proposes to stand or fall will be the extension of the franchise which will place Ireland on the same footing as England and Scotland. While the great majority of liberals, under the lead of Chamberlain, will insist upon making this the leading issue, Mr. Herbert Gladstone and a small faction of the liberals are opposed to making a government question of it. This faction would prefer to drop the subject for the present in case the bill is rejected by the house of lords rather than force a dissolution of parliament in going before the country. Whether the views of the premier are reflected by his son, it is difficult to ascertain. The preponderance of sentiment in the party is in favor of a more decided course, and it is difficult to see how the liberals can avoid standing or falling by it when the measure is once brought up. There is a prospect of a considerable contest in the commons before the measure assumes the shape in which it will be transmitted to the other house. A certain class of liberals will join the opposition and endeavor to have Ireland excluded. While the Irish parliamentary party, under the leadership of Parnell, will do what they can to obstruct matters at every turn. Such at least is the present indication. These combined forces will be able to effect delay, if nothing else. To complicate the situation of a redistribution of seats will also be brought in. The present mission of the liberal party will not have been fulfilled until it has secured the equalization of franchise and representation, and the removal of all causes of just complaint, arising from discrimination in laws with respect to Ireland. Whether Mr. Gladstone will be able to accomplish these reforms depends a good deal upon his physical condition. His political life would not be appropriately rounded out if he did not lay down his management until these things are accomplished. If a dissolution comes this session on the franchise extension the return of the liberals to power is almost assured. The only strong point the conservatives can make will be on the blunders in Egyptian affairs.

The situation in Egypt continues very critical. Khartoum has become the most important city in the world to the Gladstone cabinet. Whether its garrison is saved or massacred, it is the center of political interest of the hour, and it apparently involves the life and death of the English Ministry. Reports are contradictory as to the chances of the city, but their general purport is gloomy. Below the frontier fixed by the English cabinet there are scattered 43,000 soldiers and as many thousand civilians. Six thousand camels at least would be required to relieve them, and a dollar for every cent the khedive can afford. Several small garrisons south of Khartoum have already been cut off, and the mahdi is reputed to massacre freely. The Nile is blocked both north and south of the doomed city. Hosts of Arabs are swarming toward it, and inside a good half of the population believe in the mahdi. "Who shall help us? We are deserted!" are the words of a letter just received from the town. Baker Pasha, at Suakim, has almost as momentous a task in rescuing the garrison and the women and the children of Sinkat, and the prestige of the foreign government which is involved in their fate. General Gordon, who is perhaps the most competent British officer to handle Egyptian troops, has been dispatched to the seat of war, but it is feared he will come rather late.

The change of ministry in Spain is an event of considerable importance, as it probably points to a change both in the home and foreign policy of the government. It is the result of the division of the Spanish liberals, on whom the king has lately been relying, into a series of shades or groups, who cannot be got to agree. The late ministry of Posada Herreras was composed of what is called the Dynastic left, or in plain English Monarchical Radicals. But it had to accomplish the almost impossible task of keeping on good terms with, and securing for the crown the support of the radical or republican radicals. The king's speech at the opening of the session was made to favor not universal suffrage exactly, but a plan of slightly limited suffrage produced by the Sagasta cabinet in 1882, which would have created a total of 3,014,000 voters, while real universal suffrage would have created a total of 3,650,000. The difference between the two figures was so slight that the minister thought it was not worth preserving, and he accordingly declared for the latter, thus alienating the liberal centre, under Sagasta, who will not hear of a great extension of the suffrage even in the moderate form printed in the king's speech. The accession of the conservatives to office in Spain is held, curiously enough, to better guarantee radical and republican quietude than the success of Sagasta's friends who, on account of their lukewarmness, are more fiercely hated than open opponents. The army is uneasy, but Alfonso has the reputation of being a man to risk everything and to shoot first.

Chinese diplomacy is after all not suited to the peculiar atmosphere of Europe. According to a German newspaper, when the Marquis Tseng was told that the French expected to make China pay a war indemnity, he declared in a vein of sarcasm that China was not yet on the road to Sedan. In Germany not a little amusement was created over this neat allusion to the exaction of a war indemnity from France after Sedan. Outside of Germany it was thought that the Chinese ambassador had uttered a smart but undiplomatic response. Prime Minister Ferry, however, has taken the matter so seriously that he has written to the Chinese legation to ask if the German report of the Marquis Tseng's remark is authentic. The reply to this application for information is far more diplomatic than the original cause of offense. But the Chinese ambassador does not disclaim the authorship of the reference to Sedan. He did not think that his communication to the German editor would be made public, and therefore he could not have foreseen that he would wound the self-esteem of the French. "All the same," however, the French smart under this sting, and the only excuse of its author is that it was given in a confidential communication.

The latest dispatches from the west coast of South America, under date of January 21, contain two brief pieces of intelligence which are very significant to anybody who keeps the run of affairs in that region sufficiently to interpret them. The first is that the Iglesias government of Peru has withdrawn its commission of minister to the United States from Senor Vilena, who arrived here a few weeks ago, and has conferred it upon Senor Elmore, who was delegated as minister to the United States by the Calderon government of Peru, and was officially received by President Arthur on October 13, 1881, and has continued ever since to be treated in that capacity at Washington. The second is that Don Nicholas Pierola, who was dictator of Peru from the time of the flight of President Prado in December, 1880, till after the capture of Lima by the Chileans in January, 1881, and the setting up of the Calderon government a few weeks later, and then abdicated and followed Prado, is on his way back to his country upon a steamer which left Southampton, England, last Thursday. As no steamer for the United States left Southampton on that day he doubtless has taken passage by way of the Straits of Magellan to Valparaiso, and his arrival at Lima will occur early in March if he chooses to go there forthwith, or at Valparaiso he may select his own time for the purpose, unless the Chileans interfere with his movements.

We interpret these two pieces of intelligence to mean—first, that Pierola is acting upon a belief that as soon as the national assembly which Iglesias has summoned to meet in Lima at the beginning of March to ratify his treaty of peace with Chile shall have done that work the time will be ripe to foment a revolution in the Peruvian capital which shall put Iglesias to death or flight and again abolish constitutional government in Peru and reinstate Pierola as dictator upon the ruins; second, that Iglesias who, by common consent, is about as honest a man as there is in public life in Peru, though by no means so quickwitted as most of the politicians of that country, has disassociated himself definitely from the Pierolist of "national" party with which ever since his establishment in Lima he has been slowly severing an intimate connection, and now looks mainly for support to the "constitutional" party, of which the Calderon government, that practically perished with the capture of Arequipa by the Chileans, was the representative. This situation of affairs concerns the United States in various ways. Among the most obvious of them, it may hurry a decision upon the claim of the Iglesias government to recognition at Washington; for President Arthur scarcely can continue to treat Senor Elmore as Peruvian minister, now that he has accepted a commission from Iglesias, without thereby recognizing the government which he undertakes henceforth to represent; and as the other foreign powers confessedly are waiting for the United States to take leadership with regard to recognition, it may precipitate an acknowledgment of the authority of Iglesias by them all. In his transfer of his diplomatic commission from Villena to Elmore, under these circumstances Iglesias displays more shrewdness than has distinguished most of his transactions.

The second session of the fifth parliament of the Dominion of Canada was opened with a speech from the throne represented by the governor-general. Compared with similar state papers, the speech, so called, is rather dull. The governor-general regards the commercial situation of the dominion as, on the whole, stable and prosperous, although, to judge from reports, a large proportion of the people of the dominion think otherwise; and the Internal Fisheries exhibition in London is alluded to as having been a potent and effective means of making Canada's resources in this direction widely known.

The speech deals in flattering terms with the government's pet, the Canadian Pacific railway, and the promise is made that the Pacific coast will be reached before the lapse of three more years. It is suspected, however, that financial matters in connection with the company are by no means satisfactory. It is also stated in the address from the throne, with apparent satisfaction—what the figures, however, belie—that the number of immigrants who resolved to remain within the Canadian borders last year was proportionately in excess of that of previous years. It makes no protest against pauper immigration, of which Canada, according to all accounts, has altogether more than is desirable or the country can afford. The speech, on the whole, is not an embodiment of profound wisdom or originality.

Pope Leo XIII bids fair to earn a high reputation as a statesman as well as an able spiritual head of the Catholic church. While the negotiations between the Vatican and the Prussian government are going on so satisfactorily that in a short time the world will see the relations of German Catholic clergy to the German empire once more placed upon a footing mutually beneficial, His Holiness is endeavoring to arouse a revival in this country, which may have effects of the greatest importance to the church at large. Viewing the constructions which are to be conveyed in the November plenary council in Baltimore merely from a secular point, they show high and enlightened purpose.

In Russia the clericals and the government are at each other's throat again; the nihilists have given up the printing press and now employ the hektograph; the murderers of Sudelkin have probably escaped, and while the czar and his ministers are trembling in their skins the general populace of St. Petersburg is described as going gayly to the theaters, as the Parisians did during the regime of Robespierre.

Immigration is a prominent topic of conversation in the Argentine Republic, for which it promises do much. Last November close upon 9,000 immigrants and passengers landed at Buenos Ayres, and the arrivals of the eleven months then ended footed up 65,000, while for the whole year a total of 75,000 was promised. This is the largest number ever known to arrive. "Half Italy," says a correspondent, "is emigrating to the Plate, and the class of emigrants is much superior to those of former years. About 30 per cent of the new arrivals are young women, a healthy feature in immigration."

The Girl I didn't Wed.

She's trim and true and tender,
Her eyes are soft and blue,
Her merits are not slender,
Her faults a meagre few,
He walks in fields Elysian
On whom her smiles are shed—
Oh, dear to Memory's vision
Is the girl I didn't wed.

Her eyes has Love's own glim in:
Her voice is soft and low,
A boss good thing in women,
As Shake said long ago.
I call her tresses "Titian"
Yet some would call them red—
I scorn such small precision
With the girl I didn't wed.

It sets my heart to beating
When I recall the scene,
The first dear day of meeting—
She said she was sixteen.
So she must still be youthful,
Though several years have fled—
For she was pretty truthful,
Was the girl I didn't wed.

Why did I lose this treasure?
Ah, that I may not tell;
But pondering this at leisure,
I think it's just as well
She took a graybeard hoary,
With one tooth in his head—
He tells a different story
Of the girl I didn't wed.

—[Puck's Annual.

EDUCATIONAL.

Indiana university has dropped Greek and Latin.

Of the seven Russian universities, Moscow, the largest, has 2700 students.

Small school districts in Connecticut are being consolidated in order that better teachers can be employed. Sixteen towns have already abolished the old time "district" system.

Moscow, with its 700,000 people, had only 5,000 school children and St. Petersburg, with a population of 800,000 souls, had only 4,000. But the latter has gained of late years. The government spends most of its money in the western countries, the idea being as much as possible to Russianize those provinces. The Tartars are in general far ahead of the Russians in elementary knowledge. They are taught in the mosques, and boast that they have no children under 15 who cannot read and write.

The entire expense of the public schools of Chicago for the year ending July, 1877, was $604,235.59. At the last meeting of the board of education the common council was asked to appropriate the modest sum of $1,521,257 for the support of the schools during the current year. Of course the number of children has increased. In 1877 the total enrollment was 53,529, while it is now, as reported at the last meeting of the board, 67,398. These figures, however do not show the number of pupils who attend school during the entire day. No less than 15,252 attend school but half the time.

The University of St. Andrews is not alone in honoring American scholarship. Dr. Charles Walderstein, a member of the junior year of the class of 1875 at Columbia college, who has been delivering, during his brief visit to New York, three lectures on Greek art and archaeology before the Columbia Alumni association, is the newly elected director of the Fitzwilliam Art museum, Cambridge university, England. There were six competitors for the place, left vacant by Professor Sidney Colvin's transfer to the British museum, and the cry against the choice of a foreigner was raised in this case as with Mr. Lowell.

The Sacramento school teachers have adopted the plan of having scholars bring copies of the daily newspapers, and questioning them about the location of places given in the telegraphic items and other news. The scheme is worthy of general adoption, as it increases the interest of the pupil in his studies, and gives a wider range of information than can be acquired from text books. But perhaps one objection to it is that it presupposes wide and accurate information on topics of current interest among school teachers, a supposition not always borne out in reality, especially among the class of instructors who limit their work to the hearing of recitations and who never venture out of the range of the text books.

The Oiled Ocean.

New York Post.

The patented system by which Mr. Shields, of Perth, smooths the broken surface of the sea, is at the present moment being put upon its trials at the entrance to Folkestone Harbor. The chairman and directors of the South Eastern railway company have granted the use of their pier to Mr. Shields for his experiments. On the eastern side of the pier, where the entrance to the harbor is situated, a leaden pipe a thousand feet in length has already been laid along the bottom of the sea. The pipe is furnished with a series of iron branches about two feet in length and some seventy feet apart. Each branch terminates in a valve and a brass rose like that of a watering-pot. The main leaden pipe is connected at its shore end with a force-pump placed on the pier. By means of the force-pump oil is driven through the leaden pipe and out of the small perforations in the roses. The oil then rises in minute globules to the surface and rapidly spreads over a wide area. On Monday morning a brisk easterly breeze and a strong tide made it rough enough to cause some hesitation as to sending the patentee's steam barge out of the harbor. For the first time, therefore, the virtues of the apparatus were tested. Some fifteen or twenty gallons of the cheapest rock oil (6d. per gallon) were speedily pumped into the troubled waters. The effect was magical. In half an hour there was not a sign of broken water."

This ought to be of interest to the Standard Oil company.

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My Neighbor and I.

M. Quad in Drake's Traveler.

I am mad at the man on the southwest corner of the block, and he is mad at me, and it's all on account of nothing at all. We bought a mantel and grate just alike and costing the same price. We had tiling just of the same pattern, laid down by the same man. For five years we were like brothers. If I had a sick horse, I consulted him. We went over to his house to play old sledge, and his family came over to my house to play croquet. I'd have turned out of bed at midnight of the darkest night you ever saw, and walked twenty miles through the mud thirty feet deep, to bring a doctor in case of sickness, and I'm certain he'd have done fully as much for me.

In an unfortunate hour my brother-in-law from Chicago paid me a visit. He said the mantel was very handsome and the grate a perfect beauty, and added:

"But you want a brass fender."

"No!"

"Certainly you do. It will be an immense improvement."

A day or two after he returned home he sent me a brass fender from Chicago. He not only sent it as a present, but paid the express charges. Some one told the man on the southwest corner that I had a brass fender.

"It can't be!"

"But he has."

"I'll never believe it!"

"But I've seen it."

"Then he is a scoundrel of the deepest dye! Some folks would mortgage their souls for the sake of showing off a little!"

When this remark was brought to me I turned red, clear back to the collar-button. I called the southwest corner man a liar and a horsethief. I said that his grandfather was hung for murder and that his oldest brother was in state prison. I advised him to sell out and go to the Cannibal islands, and I offered to buy his house and turn it into a soap factory.

The usual result followed. He killed my cat and I shot his dog. He complained of my alley and I made him put down a new sidewalk. He called my horse an old plug, and I lied about his cow and spoilt a sale. He got my church pew away by paying a higher price, and I destroyed his credit at the grocery. He is now maneuvering to have the city compel me to move my barn back nine feet, and I have all the arrangements made to buy the house next him and rent it to an undertaker as a coffin wareroom.

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