

Quill Points.

Blair's education bill was not killed by its enemies, but was simply talked to death by Blair himself.

The new pension bills should be called "dispensation," for they will dispense the surplus, "or near it."

McKinley's tariff bill will soon come before the house, and then it will be found that the "if" is the most important part of it.

Ingalls has introduced a bill in congress granting soldiers special facilities for securing a divorce. If such a law had been in force during the war there would have been no draft riots.

Between the deluded people of Oakland, Cal., who have fled to the hills to await the judgment, and their crazy leaders, who have already had judgment and been lodged in an asylum, the city is in a fair way to be depopulated.

When Russia shall have imprisoned all her students she will not have wiped out the cause of disaffection. The form of government that cannot survive the growth of intelligence among the masses is doomed, and the imprisonment of students will not save it.

There is wailing in the house of Spreckles over the prospect of raw sugars being admitted for half the duty now paid. Spreckles has been getting raw sugar free from the Sandwich islands for years, and the thought that others will be able to get their sweets cheaply sours him.

An Oregon youth undertook to blow out his brains because his sweetheart was fickle, but had so few of them that the charge blew his head off. As a general thing the man who takes that method of curing his love sickness has not much of a task and a small charge of powder is sufficient.

Brazil is becoming restive under the rule of the self-constituted provisional government. If they want to be a republic in fact they would better have an election immediately and give the people an opportunity to feel that they are in reality their own rulers. Make-believe republics never last long.

If congress can be prevailed upon to appropriate \$123,000,000 for coast defenses, then will that body give us a practical illustration of how it is possible to "strain at a gnat and swallow a camel." It is to be

hoped that it will swallow the camel and at the same time gulp down a whale in the form of a big appropriation for the navy.

It is about time the United States government went out of the business of hunting men as criminals because they make a little whisky without first buying a revenue stamp. We have criminals enough without making them by law. If there be any real crime it is in making the vile stuff, and the buyer of stamps is the worse criminal, since he makes more of it.

The convict labor system of Mississippi is a screaming farce on one side and a tragedy on the other. When Jake Kilrain is rented out to a friend, with whom he lives on the fat of the land during his term of sentence, it is a high class farce; but when some poor negro is hired out to a brutal task master, who works him harder and treats him more inhumanly than ever a slave was treated before the war, it becomes a tragedy to make humanity weep.

The New York City government is a cess-pool of corruption that emits a sickening odor every time it is stirred up, and just now the grand jury is working at it vigorously with a long pole. It is a sample of what may be seen in every city where unscrupulous political bosses have an ignorant and corruptible mass of voters, chiefly of foreign birth, at their command. One of the worst features of New York City politics is that the balance of power is such that the city vote is almost the deciding one in the choice of president of the United States. The whole nation has an interest in having the nasty pool underdrained.

In a short editorial *Harper's Weekly* chides the New York papers for their treacherous meanness towards Chicago, and yet is itself guilty of the same offence in the same paragraph. It shows how deeply chagrined New York feels. However, all this spite work, while it may seriously hamper Chicago and jeopardize the success of the fair, will do New York infinitely more injury than her successful rival. The American people love manliness and courage, not selfishness and rancorous spitefulness. The vulgar cartoons of the illustrated papers, the ill-bred carplings of the daily press and the more polite depreciations of the "literary" journals, serve but to convince the people of America that they did a wise thing when they decided not to entrust the fair to the management of a community capable of such despicable conduct. The honor of America is safer in more patriotic hands.