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TODAY'S WEATHER—Clearing and probably warmer; northwest winds.

PORTLAND, MONDAY, JUNE 18, 1900

Not much interest will be taken in the Republican National Convention, to be held this week at Philadelphia, nor much in the Democratic National Convention, to be held at Kansas City three weeks hence. In each party there are multitudes who will receive the nominations with indifference — for there are millions of Republicans who do not want to support McKinley, and millions of Democrats who do not want to support Bryan. But it is "set up" for these two; and except among those who are seeking the rewards of party success, and those who always follow with shouts the banner that bears the party name, there will be little show of enthusiasm on either side. But it looks as if McKinley would be re-elected, because the business and industrial interests of the country cannot afford the risks which it is felt that the success of Bryan would carry with it. Besides, we believe the country is for expansion. Certainly the Pacific States are. The Oregonian hopes and believes that the decisive force in the election now at hand will be exerted by those who, like itself, want nothing out of politics but the success or safety of principles which they deem most important. On this basis The Oregonian awaits the contest and the issue.

There is increasing pressure for Roosevelt for the Vice-Presidency, in spite of his repeated and positive declinations. Possibly the pressure may become so great as to force his acceptance; but why should he bury himself in this office, to help McKinley out? There would be point in his nomination for the Presidency; but he is wanted for the Vice-Presidency only as a man to hold the stirrup for McKinley to remount. Any wooden man will do. If nominated for the Presidency Roosevelt would be elected by an immense majority. Nominated for the Vice-Presidency he would cut no figure at all. Roosevelt's instincts are clear. He doesn't want to be a mere adumbration of McKinley, the tool of the McKinley machine, to be buried in obscurity and cast aside, forgotten, at the end of the term. Any cheap figurehead will do for that. Let the machine find its own man.

The newspaper platform-makers are variously outlining the work of the convention. One person has gone to Philadelphia, carrying in his pocket the draft of a platform said to have the approval of President McKinley. We may suppose that any declaration of principles made, or likely to be made, by a National convention will be entirely acceptable to the President; and under the circumstances he can have no fear that it will make any expression, or take any position, not pretty much in accord with the record and policies of the Administration. But it is proper enough, perhaps, that the men who are to publish a Republican platform know what forms of expression suit McKinley, though it does not follow that they are bound to accept his recommendations.

The work of making a platform, after all, is this year perfunctory. There is no division within the party over any vital question; at least, no conflict that is likely to lead to any open ruction. The Porto Rican tariff, for example, might be troublesome, but there are signs that it will be by general consent discreetly walked around. The gold standard will be advocated, and the financial legislation of the last Congress distinctly commended. Probably the most interesting, because in its exact form the most uncertain, plank will be that dealing with expansion, and all questions growing out of the Philippine insurrection. It will be declared to be the purpose of the United States to give the natives the largest measure of self-government, consistent with their ability to maintain it, but under American sovereignty.

A skeleton of the platform will look something like this:

The assertion of American sovereignty in our island possessions. The Philippine insurrection practically at an end, with only guerrilla warfare remaining. Self-government for the natives when they are fit for it.

People of Porto Rico congratulated on territorial government.

American occupation of Cuba soon to end, and the Nation's promise redeemed.

The Nation and Hawaii congratulated upon peaceable annexation of the islands.

Monroe doctrine declared to be in full effect.

Nicaragua Canal should be built and controlled by United States Government.

A vigorous and dignified foreign policy.

Trusts condemned and proper restrictive legislation favored.

Protective policy reaffirmed, and reciprocity commended.

Reduction of war tax.

Pensions for Spanish War veterans, and generous treatment for Civil War veterans.

McKinley administration indorsed.

There is but a short life left to the Boer War, despite the boast that they will be able to wage a long and obstinate guerrilla warfare in the mountains of the Lydenburg district. Lord Roberts has his whole army almost concentrated. General Hunter, with a force of 20,000 men, will join Lord Roberts' forces at Johannesburg by Tuesday next. Methuen's force, about 8000 strong, is already guarding the line of communications between the Vaal River and Kroonstad; General Buller, with 20,000 men at least, is at Standerton, with Lord Roberts' forces at Heidelberg, which means that the whole railway line from Pretoria to Ladysmith is in possession of the British. The evacuation of Van Reenan's Pass leaves the railway from Ladysmith to Bethlehem, in the Orange Free State, within the grasp of the advancing forces of General Rundle, and President Steyn and his ragged remnant of Free State Boers will need to be very quick in their movements or they will be caught between General Rundle's troops and those of General Buller at Standerton. Baden-Powell is at Rustenberg, east of Pretoria. The whole railway system of the Orange Free State and the Transvaal is substantially in the hands of the British troops, save the Delagoa Bay line, from Middleburg to Komatipoort. The moment Lord Roberts moves forward in full strength he will be sure quickly to wrest this line from the enemy. When that is done, the Boers will not be able to wage guerrilla warfare very long in the mountains, for it would not take long to exhaust their stores of food, ammunition, etc., when all communication with the sea is cut off.

NOT GOOD POLITICS.

Because there has been no interposition by the United States in behalf of the Boers and against the British, in the South African War, appeal is to be made, we are told, to the people of Dutch kin in the United States to vote for a change of parties in the administration of our Government. Eastern Democratic newspapers are having much to say on this subject. It is to be made a feature of the partisan literature of the year, and it will be addressed also to voters of German and Irish descent, who may be supposed to be actuated by special sympathy with the Boers, or by hatred of the English.

But we think the good sense of the people of the United States will disapprove the introduction of such methods in our politics; for they are not sincere. The United States cannot interfere in South Africa without going to war with Great Britain. The situation is such that no expression of "sympathy," unless it be backed by soldiers and warships, would do any good. We should get a rebuff that would humiliate us, and we should have to take it, or declare war. There is nothing reasonable in the demand for action by our Government that would put us in such position. Besides, the demand is not an honest one. Its purpose would not be to help the Boers, for it could not help them, but to get votes for a political party here.

We should not divide here and confuse the issues of our own politics upon the affairs of the other hemisphere. If we did, the effect would be neglect and misdirection of our own policies and affairs. When we begin to vote upon European and African affairs, which we cannot control or direct, do what we may, we shall lose rational direction of our own. Our people of Dutch descent and their kin will hardly make this mistake.

Besides, there are many persons of English and Scotch origin in these United States, who, if the question be raised in this way, will be likely to act upon it from their own point of view. These persons heretofore have mostly acted with the Democratic party, through sympathy with free trade. So that party would stand a chance of losing at least as much in this quarter as it could gain in the other. But this sort of business would better be kept out of our politics. It would be extreme folly to neglect our own affairs for such Quixotic undertakings. Politicians no doubt will try the expedient, but the good sense of the people may be trusted.

THE ORIGINAL EXPANSIONIST.

The Indian War Veterans may justly congratulate themselves upon having been the first and most effective "expansionists" of the Pacific Coast. Under the lead of that able statesman and gallant soldier, Governor Isaac I. Stevens, they promptly rescued Oregon and Washington from the occupation of savages and made it thenceforth a safe and comfortable home for white civilization. Fortunately for the white settlers of Oregon, in 1855-56 Governor Stevens happened to be the right man in the right place. Had he been a weak or timid man the safety of the settlers would have been sacrificed to the stupidity, vanity and weakness of General John E. Wool, whose record on the Pacific Coast proved him to be an utterly incompetent soldier, a fact so well known that he was never given any important command after the outbreak of the Civil War. A more complete military humbug never rose to be Major-General in the United States Army than General John E. Wool. He was of the same breed as General John C. Fremont, a fussy, fractious, vain, pompous soldier, ambitious for distinction without ability to win it, and, like all such men, bitterly jealous of all able regular Army officers who knew his weakness and worthlessness, as did Scott, Taylor and Governor Stevens.

The Indian wars of Oregon need no justification beyond the fact that it was found necessary here, as it was in New England, the Middle West and the South, for the sword of civilization to be a very woodman's ax opening the jungle of barbarism to the light and heat of its noonday sun, making way for the settler with his hoe and his harvest. The validity of title to the land in India or Massachusetts or Oregon is the right of man to slaughter or subject wild beasts or wild men to his service. That is the way civilization has got forward. It bids the human wild beast to surrender, fly or die. The Puritan ancestors of United States Senator Hoar were natural-born expansionists who declined to wait the pleasure of the woods to recede, of wild beasts and untamable hunters to retire. William Penn made treaties with the Indians and had small trouble with them because he was dealing with the Delawares, who had been so soundly thrashed and declimated by the warlike Iroquois that for self-preservation they were glad to purchase the protection of the white colonists. But the average Indian has not been found to be a Quaker in theory or practice, and, in spite of the policy of Penn, has been converted with a club sometimes so violently that he lived hardly long enough to really die in the faith.

Why should civilization lose any good opportunity of wiping out barbarism with the besom of fire and sword, if necessary? Here is China, under whose legal code men and women may be sliced to death, or a state criminal's whole family may be legally murdered because of his crimes. Suppose a barbarian of great natural military genius should suddenly appear, like Timour, and, raising in China the standard of death to the foreigner and his religion, should organize the millions of Mongolians and set them in motion on such a march as was executed by Genghis Khan into the heart of Russia, or upon the frontiers of India? Given the leader of exceptional genius, and such a terrible march is possible. Better break up China, and govern its various provinces by a foreign protectorate, even as Egypt today has been reduced to order and a state of good government. China must either reform itself and cease to be obstructive, or submit to forcible reformation and reconstruction at the hands of Europe. Turkey may as well prepare herself for the same fate. It may not come for another century, but it is far more likely to be realized within fifty years.

OUR DUTY AS BRYAN SEES IT.

Here is Mr. Bryan's Philippine policy, outlined by him in his North American Review article:

Hostilities can be terminated at any moment by a declaration of this Nation's purpose; first, to establish a stable government; second, to give the Filipinos their independence; third, to give them protection from outside interference while they work out their destiny. Such a declaration would be in harmony with American principles, American traditions and American interests.

The first we are trying to do. The second they would not know what to do with. The third would take forever. We should thus assume all responsibility for the misconduct of an irresponsible government, and deny ourselves a voice in its direction. We are asked to turn the Filipinos loose among the nations of the world, and tell them to go ahead, and run things to suit themselves. We'll stand the consequences. No proposal could be more absurd. None would more certainly involve us in interminable difficulties. If it is said that we would merely stand in the same relation to the Philippine government that we do to Central and South America, the answer is that it is sheer insanity to extend the so-called Monroe Doctrine to all the world. We have always been in some doubt, anyway, about what the Monroe Doctrine means; but we cannot be in doubt as to some things it does not mean.

Pacifying the Filipinos by promises is not the true method. We have found that out. The fulmination of proclamations and circulation of pledges and pleasant words has done very little to subdue them and to reconcile them to the establishment of stable government. Pacification by gun and sword has been a necessary basis for the maintenance of order. A sovereign nation can uphold its sovereignty only by the effective assertion of force. That is what sovereignty implies and is.

It will be observed that Mr. Bryan proposes that orderly government shall be established before independence is given. He means, of course, that we shall do it, and not the insurgents. If we are to make their submission a condition precedent to creation of a Filipino republic, we shall not progress any faster than now. If we give them independence, and let them undertake to restore order in their own way, anarchy will be inevitable. We cannot turn the Americans and European citizens of the islands over to them. We cannot permit the natives who have been friendly to us to pass under the yoke of Aguinaldo. We cannot give him and his fellows unrestrained and unconditional authority over the lives and properties of their own people, of foreigners, or of the priesthood.

Mr. Bryan seems to have dimly realized the facts. He did not dare affront the general sense of our duty to ourselves and to civilization by proposing that we at once haul down the flag, turn tail and get out for good and all. He advises that we put the government on its feet. But how are we to be sure that it will stay there? Are we to hang around in the neighborhood while "they work out their destiny"? That would certainly be interfering in their domestic affairs, and that is the thing, as we understand it, that we are not to do, if the Bryan scheme is followed.

It all comes to this: We have got to keep the Philippines, or we have got to leave them. If we keep them, as we now intend to do, we must go ahead on this line if it takes many Summers. If we now decide to leave them, we might as well leave them now. Continued effort to pacify the islands will be a waste of men and treasure. The interval until we leave would be a mere waiting time for the rebels, who would then do exactly as they want to do at this time—take control of affairs in their own hands and run them in their own way. Possibly we would secure guarantees that they will protect certain interests, and leave undisturbed certain people. But these promises would be worth just as much now as at any time in the future, and probably would be worth nothing at any time. American principles, American traditions and American interests, about which Mr. Bryan talks so grandly, require that we work out the American destiny, which is a greater Nation, a greater commerce and a greater place in the world's affairs.

A GOSPEL PRODIGY.

A somewhat unusual presentment of so-called evangelical labor is being made from day to day and evening to evening in a tent spread for the accommodation of the public in this city, the seating capacity of which is from 500 to 800, this being frequently taxed to the utmost. The attraction is a boy —a "gospel prodigy"—whose father and brother act as managers of the performance. In presenting the lad to the audience as a teacher in spiritual things and an expounder of the Scriptures the father makes a strong point of the fact that his son has no education, emphasizing it by the statement that it is his deliberate purpose to keep him in ignorance. The inference is that he will thereby be better prepared to expound the truths of the gospel and instruct man in his duty to his Creator, to himself and to the world.

The assumption on the man's part is impertinent—on the lad's it is pitiful. Yet people throng the tent to hear the questions of life, death and immortality expounded, the wrath of God descanted upon, his personality described, his purposes in the creation of man explained and his mercy guaranteed upon certain conditions by vaunted ignorance.

This little "Jack Cook," in speaking of whom the credulous drop their voices and cite the story of Christ confounding the wise men when but twelve years old, is in truth a bright-appearing lad, with a ready flow of language and an assurance which has long since banished all traces of the diffidence which in all stations of life is one of the chief charms of childhood. His demeanor in this respect is not wonderful, as he has been paraded before the world as a gospel prodigy since his tenth year. Neither is there anything wonderful in what he says, his discourse being along lines worn by the tongues of the ages, and consisting of platitudes that any one with quick abilities in this direction could readily commit to memory. Such wonder as attaches to his performance consists in his exceeding volubility. It can truly be said of him that he is a child of "words, words, words." His aptitude in this way is variously explained, according to the whim of the interpreter. To the spiritualist he is a medium of extraordinary power held in leash by ecclesiasticism; to the believer in the miracles recorded of Christ he is moved by power direct from God; to the evangelist he is an instrument of salvation on the duly prescribed plan; to the curious a sort of talking machine a little less wonderful than the phonograph and not quite so incomprehensible.

He will have his day in Portland—little "Jack Cook"—leave certificates of "conversion" more or less numerous, with coupons denoting denominational preferences duly attached, and go his way. Thoughtful, intelligent people do not "get religion" in a day, or according to the old programme, "in the twinkling of an eye," while the thoughtless and emotional soon wear out the quality purchased with tears and sighs and groaning supplications. There is yet in this community, and, indeed, in every community, a considerable number of people who view the possible penalties of an after life with a nervous dread which, craftily preyed upon, becomes abject terror. Temporary relief is brought to such minds by the fervid assurance of sins forgiven which are received at the altar to which they, having been duly wrought upon, are haled by evangelists of this type. Certainly no one grudges these timid souls the comfort they get from the belief that they have been made special objects of Divine mercy.

The row in the University of Idaho had its origin in politics. It was a flourishing institution until the Fusionists got control of the state government. The president happened to be a Republican, and they did not rest until they got him out, and the faculty was packed with professors whose teachings were more nearly in accord with their own peculiar economic theories. The university has stumbled along for several years, with diminished influence and lowered educational tone. The instructors have been at loggerheads, the trustees meddlesome, the public dissatisfied. The authorities seem at last to have realized that a general overhauling and a new start are imperative, and the faculty is to be reorganized. Perhaps the renovation would be more complete if it extends to the trustees. At any rate, no governing board of any educational institution can accomplish anything if it is to be swayed by partisan prejudice or consideration of any kind. Idaho seems to have now learned a lesson now thoroughly understood elsewhere.

"Our illustrious forefathers," says Mr. Bryan, in effect, "were very wise men. They knew exactly what they were doing when they founded the republic. George Washington was all right, too. He advised us to mind our own business and avoid entanglements with any European power. That is the reason I oppose the wicked Republican policy of expansion. But it is not exactly the reason why the great Democratic heart beats in sympathy for the oppressed Boers, and wants to intervene and put a stop to the brutal tyranny of despotic England, which is crushing to earth a heroic people. Any effective expression of sympathy for the Boers might and probably would involve us in some little entanglement, and it wouldn't exactly be minding our own business. But Washington doubtless meant to except the Boers and would have been happy, anyway, to give the American people a chance to lick England again."

San Francisco has something of a bubonic plague scare, based on what may be the plague and what may not be. Doctors disagree, as they usually do. The matter was submitted for legal decision, and the quarantine of Chinatown rendered ineffective. Judge Morrow gave it as his personal opinion that no plague exists. But the Judge did not know, or pretend to know. Dr. Kenyoun, the Federal Health Officer, has evidently been overzealous in his scheme to place the whole state under quarantine by requiring a health certificate to be shown at the border. But doubtless the order will be liberally construed so as not to be oppressive upon persons who in the nature of things could not have been exposed to the contagion. It is aimed at the Chinese, and upon them supposedly will its rigors be imposed.

In Washington there is left the shell of the so-called Silver-Republican party. The remaining faithful met Saturday, named delegates to the Kansas City mass convention, and adopted a platform, which ignored expansion, because some delegates favored and some opposed it. It is instructive to know that these gentlemen favor something, or do not favor something, besides silver. It shows that they have a glimmering interest in things not moribund.

Towne is a Silver Republican nominated for Vice-President by a Populist convention on a Socialistic platform. Naturally he thinks his credentials ought to be accepted by a Democratic convention without question.

Irving Scott, the man who built the Oregon, wants to be Vice-President. Many other good men are after the same place. It's a pity there isn't room for all.

The Boers and Tagals will be doubtless willing to move up a little and give the Boxers room on the sympathy plank of the Kansas City platform.

New York, which can have the Vice-Presidency, has no candidate. Every other state, which it is politically unimportant to favor, has one.

Tacoma comes forward with a claim to 51,000 inhabitants. The tombstone count must have been unusually complete.

Possibly the Van Wyck family may be able to devise ways and means to break in on the Kansas City hotel trust.

How a Partisan Law Works.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Citizens of St. Louis now know, to their heavy cost, the evils resulting from the law contrived to turn the Police Department of this city into a Democratic machine. In a time of continued public disorder, the regular police, though enlarged months ago to over 1200 men, has utterly failed to control the situation. Nor do policemen in this city feel that the protection of life and property is their main business. In order to get on the force they must join the Jefferson Club, and as soon as they are in uniform an agent of that club calls on them for a cash assessment to be used for Democratic purposes. Even when rioters hold the streets they are ordered to leave their beats and go to the polling places of the Democratic primaries to assist in the election of a certain set of delegates. They see that the men promoted on the force are those most active in helping the Democratic party. They get their places through a board of four Democrats appointed by a Democratic Governor, and can be disciplined or dismissed by the same board alone. No other authority touches them in the slightest degree. They are absolutely independent of the municipal officers and boards, and of the voters of St. Louis.

THE LAST OF DISFRANCHISEMENT.

The South Should Have Fewer Votes in Congress.

New York Times.

During the late session of Congress Mr. Crumpacker, of Indiana, a Republican of excellent standing in his state and of much influence in the counsels of his party, introduced a resolution of inquiry as to the operation of the election laws of the various states with reference to the 14th amendment to the Constitution of the United States. On Saturday, in an interview with the correspondent of the Evening Post, Mr. Crumpacker explained that he had been requested by the majority members of the committee not to press his resolution, as it was thought by the party leaders to be inexpedient at this time, but he declares that "it must not be supposed that this is a dead issue. The feeling," he adds, "is very strong that something ought to be done. If the Southern States disfranchise their colored population they should not at the same time retain their voting strength in Congress and in the electoral college."

What would be the position of the more enlightened Republicans in case the Southern States adopted an impartial system bearing alike on both races is shown by the following remarks of Mr. Crumpacker:

"To my mind this whole question of negro suffrage has been approached from the wrong end. If we had at the close of the war given the Southern States a representation like that of the North, on the basis of the population participating in the affairs of the Government, it would have been to their interest to make this basis as broad as possible, and to that end they would have admitted the negro to suffrage just as fast as he was prepared for it. There would have been more negroes actually voting today, in my opinion, than there are now. The terms of the 14th amendment would have put a premium in every state upon a broad basis of suffrage. But instead of that the 15th amendment attempted to accomplish the thing all at one sweep, and as a result, we have got this work all to do over again."

If the Republicans carry the next Congress by a majority at all approaching that they have in the present one, they will undoubtedly take up the question of the apportionment under the census now being compiled in the spirit indicated in this interview. And the sober opinion of the North will look on the matter in a much very different from that excited by the "bloody shirt" policy of 30 years since.

Unsatisfactory Church Statistics.

Chicago Tribune.

The recently announced statistics of the Congregational church are no more satisfactory than those of other denominations which have been made public of late. The denomination is shown to be nearly stationary. The total membership, 629,874, is a net gain over the previous year of only 1640. The Sunday schools gained 2136 pupils. For the first time since the statistics for the whole country began to be collected there was a net loss in churches, the number, 5094, being 16 less than last year and the ministers numbering 25 less. The additions by confession, which represent the actual conversions, were only 24,514, the fewest since 1885. The removals by death were 8902, but this was less than the number of removals caused by dropping out from the church, these last being 12,138, or nearly as many as joined by confession. The weekly organs of the Congregational Church profess their inability to account for these unsatisfactory statistics. Whatever the causes are, they are probably the same as are operative in other churches that show unsatisfactory growth or actual decline, and as to these causes there is a great diversity of opinion, and none of them is convincing.

Rufus Choate's Writing.

Caroline Wells in the New York Tribune.

Much has been said of the handwriting of Rufus Choate, it being, perhaps, as extraordinary, and certainly as illegible, any which the most diligent search can procure. It was said that there were three degrees of Mr. Choate's writing, namely, that which only he and his secretary could read, that which he alone could make out, and that which neither he nor anybody else could decipher.

Many amusing incidents are told regarding this peculiarity of Mr. Choate's. It was said that upon a certain occasion when he was engaged upon some important case he sent written instructions to his office which he desired to have carried out at once, and which not a man in the place could interpret. A consultation was held and it was suggested that the great lawyer should be written to for an explanation, although this seemed a dangerous experiment, since the chances were that no one would be able to read the explanation. At last it was happily decided that a telegraphic dispatch be sent to him calling for an immediate reply, and in this way the necessary information was obtained.

The Great Monopolist.

Salt Lake Tribune.

Mr. Bryan tells us that one of the chief issues this year will be that between plutocracy and Democracy. On which side is Mr. Bryan going to be? Four years ago today he would have been glad to have obtained a situation in a law office or a newspaper office for $300 a month. It is said that today he is worth $300,000. The question naturally occurs that if a man in four years, despite the plutocrats, can pile up a fortune of $300,000, is he not a dangerous man? When a faker comes along and sells charms, or tells fortunes, or practices any kind of legerdemain, the understanding is that he is doing it for his own particular benefit. So, if Mr. Bryan practices political hypnotism on the public, considering his life up to date, is it not fair to believe that really his chief purpose on earth has been to improve the fortunes and advance the ambitions of Mr. Bryan himself, and has he given the people a quid pro quo for what they have paid him?

Will End Calamity Howlers.

Denver Times.

In 1896 Mr. Bryan's watchword was "open the mints" and increase the volume of currency by law. Major McKinley's solution of the business depression was "open the mills" and increase the volume of currency by increasing the opportunities for labor. The Populists at their convention at Sioux Falls demanded the opening of the public printing presses for the printing of fiat money.

The people voted in 1896 to try Mr. McKinley's remedy. The result is that the Nation is more prosperous than it has ever been before in its history. If the mills are kept open under a Republican Administration the calamity howlers will soon be extinct.

A Strong Man Needed.

New York Times.

The party in power is peculiarly free at this time to choose its best man for the second place on the ticket. There is no contest for the first place to be adjusted. There is no faction to be satisfied. There is no especial need of paying attention to locality. The Vice-Presidency is a great office in its possibilities, not only as to the succession, but as to its actual influence in the hands of a man of real judgment and force. With Mr. McKinley sure to retire at the close of the next term, there is reason to think that the Vice-President may become his successor as the candidate of his party for the Presidency. Every consideration calls for the selection of a strong man. The choice practically lies with the leaders of the party in this state. It will be a pity if they throw it away.

MIGHT HAVE BEEN.

A "Strain" on the Poet Laureate of England.

St. James's Gazette.

Once again I must try;
Mine but to write or die.
Yours not to reason why
No sense in my sense;
Mafeking's saved, and so
I must a-rhyming go,
Heaven send me lots of Po-
Etical license!

Then when I've made my rhymes,
Fit for the pantomimes,
They will adorn the Times
Splendid and solemn!
I'll to the Standard fly,
Knock at the door and cry,
"Please put them into thy
Agony column."

Monolith, pith, frith, kith,
All end like Ladysmith,
But it's ill rhyming with
Lucknow or Delhi,
Yet, why put Delhi, when
We were besiegers then?
Where is my fountain pen?
Would I were Shelley!

"Bayonet" sounds so queer;
Call it a "naked spear"—
Thus I shall make it clear
That I cold steel meant.
"Nor was stern mettle shown
By male and strong alone."
There's an (I think you'll own)
Artful concealment.

"Sound for them the martial lay"—
Bad line, but let it stay.
Wrestle with rhymes all day—
What rhymes with "wrestle"?
Castle? I cannot spell—
"Stormed at with shot and shell,
Fire, with restless yell,
Mortar and pestle."

"Powell, of endless fame,"
Your double-barreled name
(Strange, it begins the same)
Has a Bad en-ding;
Still I must shove it in—
"O, our stout, stubborn kin,"
Baden, though worn and thin,
Stout at defending.

Forward through sound and sense!
Pounds are made up of pence;
Blow the remote expense,
Give me your penny!
Drain deep the foaming quart,
Brewed of the good old sort,
At Allanvibangel Court,
Abergavenny.

New York's Dilemma.

New York Herald.

Popular government in New York has utterly broken down. Mayor Van Wyck's testimony on that point is conclusive.

The city's docks and streets and parks and public buildings are in the hands of a series of commissions, each of which is a law unto itself in disposing of privileges and property, in the engagement of personal clerks and confidential secretaries and the raising of salaries of employes.

In view of our irresponsible government, it is not surprising that while the expenses of the various boroughs before consolidation aggregated about $68,000,000, the tax levy this year is $80,000,000, to say nothing of street and park openings paid for with borrowed moneys, and leaving out of the count the enormous sums derived from assessments, wharfage, fees, fines, interest on public moneys and the like, besido an ever mounting bonded debt.

Neither Right, Nor Just.

Baltimore American.

The Republican National Convention, as the supreme governing body of the party, will perform a work of inestimable value if, when it meets in Philadelphia next week, it takes up and disposes of the much-mooted question of Southern representation in Presidential nominating conventions. This question, like Banquo's ghost, will not down, and the time was never more favorable for its final settlement. The interests of no one will be jeopardized, the result of the election will in no wise be affected, and the party has an excellent opportunity to rid itself of a veritable incubus. There is neither right nor justice in the present plan of representation, and unless a change is made the party will rue the day it declined to act.

The Sole Bryan Chance.

Boston Herald, Ind.

The Chicago Chronicle, the Democratic paper of the city in which it is printed, very sensibly tells the Democrats that, if they are to carry the coming Presidential election, they must do it by the aid of the Eastern and Middle States of the Union. It thinks several of the far Western States are lost to them, and that, if they are not to be lost, their votes are not of enough importance to justify the exertion that it would cost to carry them. Our own view is that it is absolutely idle for Bryan to cherish any hope of the next Presidency unless he can carry states like New York, New Jersey and Indiana; and, with New York among those thrown away, it is wasted effort to attempt success by appeals in other quarters.

A Masonic Family Trust.

Tacoma Ledger.

The Chadwick family of Colfax is well and largely represented in the Masonic grand bodies. Steve Chadwick was elected grand master of the grand lodge, while Mrs. Chadwick was elected grand matron of the state chapter of the Eastern Star. Both are popular selections, and Mr. and Mrs. Chadwick will preside in the East with ability and dignity.

The Woes of Lents.

New York Sun.

Disappointments crowd on the sympathetic soul of Hon. John Jacob Lentz, of Ohio. All his labors in behalf of the Coeur d'Alene ruffians have been fruitless. The Idaho Democrats stand by their brave and honest Governor, the Hon. Frank Steunenberg. Lentz will have to concentrate his emotions on Aguinaldo.

A Steadily Increasing Territory.

New York Tribune.

There are rumors that William Jennings Bryan has bought a new geography, in which Oregon, in common with most of the United States, is described as "the enemy's country."

The People's Trust.

Pendleton Tribune.

Prosperity and Republicanism form a trust that it will be impossible to overthrow. It is a natural combination.

The Meadow Lark.

Springfield Republican.

A feathered sprite
At dawning light
Flew to a flowering limb;—
From a limpid pool
Of waters cool,
A bath at the ready rim.

A hidden nest,
Near dewy cress,
Four eggs in the grassy glim;—
A liquid note
In air afloat,
Joys trilled in morning hymn.

Hark, hark, to the lark,
High, high, in the sky,
'Tis the sweetest note
In the air afloat,
Sweet, sweet as the honey bee,
The bags of the bee, to me.

Ye birds with song from heaven caught,
Ye sing the glad refrain;
Ye brooks with song by nature taught,
Ye sing the minor strain.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

It looks like rain.

No, Camille, a sympathetic strike is not a love tap.

Croker is coming back to ask Van Wyck where he got it.

Having had three strikes, it is time for the St. Louis street-car men to run.

The bear that walks like a man seems disposed to gobble like a hog in China.

St. Paul has two chiefs of police. She ought to send one of them to St. Louis.

Three Bryan parties will be out pretty soon. That, of course, will put his side out.

Now has the warlike Boxer man,
A bloody rumpus made,
Which puts young Aguinaldo and
Old Kruger in the shade.

Like John L. Sullivan and other famous fighters, Kruger thinks there is another fight left in him.

The American Minister to China is not a minister of the gospel, which is all that stands between him and heaven.

Full merrily the voting man
This season doth rejoice,
Because he heareth not so much
Of Bryan's still, small voice.

The Mayor of Atlanta never had occasion to observe to the Mayor of Savannah that it was a long time between drinks.

This year way down in Kansas,
They're having great big crops,
A state of nature which is most
Discouraging to Pops.

Boston is making a crusade against the billboards, and the papers are loudly clamoring "Annihilate the William Arcades!"

"Will the candidates for Vice-President please stand up?" asked the chairman of the convention.

There was a general scramble.

"Now," continued the chairman," will Mr. Roosevelt please arise and make it unanimous?"

A new Angelican diocese is to be formed in South London, and the noble Saint Saviour's Collegiate Church of Southwark will be its cathedral. Its history goes back more than 1000 years; in its precincts are entombed John Gower, Fletcher, Philip Massinger and Edmund Shakespeare; there, too, John Harvard was baptized.

The vast Roman Catholic Cathedral of Westminster is nearing completion, and may be opened in September. It was begun five years ago this month; it is 360 feet by 156 feet, and has cost not less than $125,000. The Duke of Norfolk has given $50,000, Cardinal Vaughan $25,000, Lord and Lady Brampton $26,000, while contributions of £1000 have come in from many of the nobility.

Colonel Bryan Thomas Mahon, D.S.O., who led the relief column into Mafeking, is an Irishman, and son of the late Mr. Henry Blake Mahon, of Belleville, Athenry, County Galway. He is only 37 years of age, and has already had a distinguished and stirring military career. He won distinction under Lord Kitchener in the Soudan, served in the Dongola expeditionary force in 1896 as staff officer, and was present at the engagement at Firket and the operations in Haffir. He commanded the cavalry which, under Sir Reginald Wingate, tracked and destroyed the Khalifa's force at Gedid.

The Pekin field force of the Government only amounts to 25,000 on a peace establishment, though it has been larger since the Japanese War. Forty years ago the Chinese capital was taken by two or three French and English brigades. Neither the Boxers nor the Chinese populace possess modern weapons of any sort or order, as is the case with like bodies in Western Asia, from the Afridis to the west across Northern Africa. Remingtons are sown in the most amazing fashion all over the west of Asia and North Africa. In North China one never hears of them. Pikes, swords, axes and rustic weapons are the armament of the Boxers, as of other village mobs.

One of the objections urged against the British sparrow, so-called, by the large number of persons who do not like this saucy, pugnacious, but confiding, bird, is that it does not destroy insects. That this charge is incorrect can be seen by any one who will take the trouble to watch the sparrows any day now, and notice the energy and activity they display in catching flies on the pavements. They seldom miss a fly, and they catch a great many of them. When a sparrow notices a fly within range, it gives about three hops and if necessary a little flirt of its wings, and the fly is a "goner." The charge of having a disagreeable screeching note cannot be disproved by the best friends of the sparrow. When one of these birds takes a notion to get within hearing and sing, it is very tiresome and trying, and makes one wish for a beanshooter or a shotgun. But the sparrow does prey upon insects when it suits him to do so. The sparrow is entitled to some consideration owing to his family being such an old one. Their price is quoted in the New Testament as two for a farthing, and although styled British sparrows, they antedate in history the British Empire.

PLEASANTRIES OF PARAGRAPHERS

The Voice of Experience.—"Roberts, Pretoria: They sometimes won't stay whipped. Otis."—Philadelphia North American.

Sidewalk Wit.—"They've got a sidewalk restaurant in New York." "Perhaps they are trying to curb their appetites." "Not when they are flagging."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

A Dramatic Round-Robin.—"Was that dramatic venture a success?" "Yes, indeed; the law arrested the actress, she sued the manager, he sued the author, and the author sued the actress."—Chicago Record.

Keeping Up the Good Work.—First Imp—Who is that boisterous party who has just arrived? Second Imp—That is a gentleman from Illinois, who is trying to convince Mephisto that Chicago beats Hades.—Puck.

Killed His Man.—Cowboy—Guess you never killed a man, did ye? Tenderfoot—Huh. I helped kill half a dozen of them. "Here?" "No. At college." "Fightin' with 'em?" "No. Initiating them."—New York Weekly.

Sometimes the Case.—Stranger—What do you understand here by the "straight ticket"? Native—Well, as the machine controls this town, the straight ticket is the one that's made up of crooked candidates.—Philadelphia Press.

Vindicated at Last—"My dear," he said, "I forgot to mail that letter this morning." "Oh, you dear!" she cried. "That was just what I wanted. Now I can blame you when that supercilious Sadie complains that I don't answer her notes."—Philadelphia North American.

Not Quite Ready.—"Are you ready for your Summer outing?" asked her dearest friend. "Not quite," replied the sweet young thing. "Of course, I have my bathing suit, my bicycle suit, my golf suit, my tennis suit, my yachting suit, and my riding habit, but as we are going to one of these quiet places, merely for rest and relaxation, I will, of course, have to have a few evening gowns, and possibly half a dozen suitable for lawn parties, and all that sort of thing." Thus she demonstrated that she had been there before, and knew what "quiet country life" meant in a Summer resort advertisement.—Chicago Evening Post.