

THE ROOT OF THE EVIL

Convention to Consider Primary Election Reforms.

PROMINENT MEN SIGN THE CALL

Conference Will Be Held in New York in the Middle of January—Effect on State Legislatures.

New York, Dec. 14.—The following call was given out tonight by Ralph M. Easley, secretary of the Civic Federation of Chicago, who has been acting for a committee on reforms of quasi political organizations for the past three weeks:

"The object of this conference is to bring together men with practical ideas from all the large cities, and especially from states in which substantial progress has been made in reform. The programme will include speeches made by men of national reputation in both political parties, as well as reports from practical men as to the working of the various laws now governing primary election caucuses. Considerable attention will be given to the question 'How to get voters out to the primaries,' after fair laws are secured. Special interest will be taken in reports from New York, Massachusetts, Maryland, Illinois, New Jersey and Ohio, where legislatures will be in session. Headquarters will be opened at the Hotel Manhattan, New York, December 27, 1897.

"Believing that our caucuses or primary election customs or laws lie at the very root and source of our entire elective franchise system and that the results in our larger cities are due in a large measure to the defects in such practices and customs, it, therefore, follows that to purify this system is to take a long step in the direction of honesty, economy and efficiency in every branch of the public service; and further believing that the enactment of laws to prevent corrupt practices and throw the safeguards of a regular election around the caucus or primary will encourage many good citizens to take part therein, we, the undersigned, for the purpose of discussing and discovering, as far as possible, the precise defects in the various systems which now obtain, and the remedies, and take such action as may seem necessary in the premises, do hereby join in calling a conference of persons interested in said questions to convene in the city of New York, on the 15th day of January, 1898.

"We deem it desirable that the conference be made up from men of all parts of the country and without regard to party or factional affiliations." The call is signed by prominent men from all sections of the Union.

INDIAN TERRITORY QUESTION

Congress Will Settle It in a General Bill.

Washington, Dec. 14.—The indications are that this congress will pass a general bill for the entire rehabilitation of Indian territory. The measure now planned is to make it embrace everything that has been sought to be accomplished in the past by the Dawes Indian commission, which is still negotiating with the five civilized tribes, but which will be here next week to report the discouraging existing conditions. The bill covers all the questions of citizenship, allotments of lands, dispositions of townsites, mineral lands, jurisdiction of the United States courts over the present reservations and other matters bearing on the extinguishment of tribal organization. The first steps in the matter have been taken by the Indian committees of both the senate and house.

It is understood that in a few days there will be a session of the committees at which these matters will be gone over and steps taken in the way of settling the problems by congressional enactment. In view of the large amount of work necessary to be done, however, it is not probable that any bill can be passed till well toward the end of the session.

Bad Philadelphia Fire.

Philadelphia, Dec. 14.—Fire broke out shortly before 10 o'clock tonight in the six-story building at 809 and 811 Chestnut street, occupied by the manufacturing firm of John & James Dobson as their wholesale and retail rooms. The fire had its start in the basement, and the flames shooting up the elevator shaft destroyed the entire interior of the building and contents. General Manager Berry, of the Dobson carpet house, stated that the stock in the building would amount to \$500,000. The building was owned by the firm, and was valued at about \$60,000.

Haytian Ministry Resigns.

Port Au Prince, Dec. 14.—The ministry has resigned. As yet, the composition of its successor has not been definitely settled, but several well-known men are mentioned who will command the confidence of Haytians and foreigners alike. This morning, while attending mass at Notre Dame, President Sam made a circuit of the city on horseback escorted by his staff officers, but without special military display.

China Forced to Yield.

Peking, Dec. 14.—The German-Chinese difficulty is practically settled. The Germans refuse to discontinue the occupancy of Kiao-Chou bay. The governor of Shan Tung province has been removed from office, but will not be any further degraded. No monopoly of mines and railroads is conceded Germany, but that country is given a preference. Finally, the area immediately surrounding Kiao-Chou bay is set apart exclusively for Germany. China yields on all other points.

DOWN TO REAL WORK

Senate and House Attend to Actual Business—Money Takes Oath of Office.

Washington, Dec. 9.—A new member, in H. DeSoto Money, of Mississippi, was introduced in the senate today, and, after some brief criticism of the form of his credentials, the oath of office was administered to him.

During the session, 108 bills, many of which were private pension measures, were introduced, in addition to several joint resolutions and some senate resolutions.

An interesting contest for precedence in consideration of Lodge's immigration bill and the proposed legislation to confer authority upon the president to act for the protection of the government's interest at the sale of the Kansas Pacific was pending at the close of the session. The probability is that it will be amicably arranged before the senate convenes tomorrow.

The session of the house today, though it lasted but two hours, witnessed a very lively skirmish over the question of distributing the president's message to the various committees clothed with jurisdiction over the subjects dealt with. The conflict of authority came between the ways and means committee and the banking and currency committee. The battle raged all along the line. During the day Grosvenor of Ohio fired the first gun against the civil service law, and this also brought the friends and enemies of that measure into action. Johnson of Indiana, in a ringing warning, declared that if a bill to emasculate the civil service law was passed, it would meet the presidential veto.

Eventually Dingley, in deference to the opposition of the members of the banking and currency committee, agreed to a modification of the order of distribution, so as to send to the ways and means committee all matters relating to the "revenues, the bonded debt of the country and the treaties affecting the revenues." The resolution was then adopted.

After the session Chairman Walker claimed he had won a decisive victory, and that his committee, under the order, would have jurisdiction of a measure, as he explained it, to convert the greenbacks into gold certificates. But members of the ways and means committee insisted that the changes of verbiage in the order would not affect their jurisdiction, and that a measure such as the president suggested, if introduced in the house, would be referred by the speaker to their committee.

MESSAGE SUITS SPANIARDS.

McKinley's Cuban Attitude Is Entirely Satisfactory.

New York, Dec. 9.—A dispatch to the Tribune from Havana says:

President McKinley's message is received quietly. Satisfaction is felt in official circles over the statement that the recognition of either belligerency or independence is not justifiable under present conditions. The credit which the president gives for conducting the war on humane principles and for improving the conditions of the recontractees will strengthen Captain-General Blanco in carrying out his policy. The official feeling may be summarized in the statement that the government does not now fear the embarrassment which come from action by the United States before instructions from Madrid could be carried into effect. The hint of ultimate intervention causes some uneasiness and discussion has already arisen over what is meant by "reasonable time," but palace officials do not interpret it as likely to prevent the application of autonomy within the time needed for carrying out the detail of the system as directed from Madrid.

Autonomists, reformists and conservatives who support Sagasta and Blanco will make the message the basis of a movement for the early union of all parties to uphold the hands of the government in its colonial policy. Commercial interests are pleased with the pacific tone of the message, though not taking it as a conclusive settlement.

Fired a Bullet Into His Brain.

Butte, Mont., Dec. 9.—A special from Helena to the Miner says: Judge Horace R. Buck, associate justice of the supreme court of Montana, shot himself through the right eye about midnight at his home in Lennox, a suburb of Helena. He spent the evening with a party of friends at a neighbor's house, seeming to be very cheerful upon returning home. After chatting for a while with his family he went to his room, and soon afterwards the shot that ended his life was heard. His wife ran upstairs and found him lying on the floor dead.

The judge had been breaking down in health for some time, and it is supposed he was seized with a sudden impulse to end his existence. He was 44 years of age, a native of Vicksburg, Miss., and a graduate of Yale. He came to Montana in 1879.

French Expedition Massacred.

Brussels, Dec. 9.—The Mouvement Geographique today announces that it learns that part of a French expedition, under Major Marchand, while on its way to the Nile, has been massacred near Dahengheza. The survivors of the party, it is added, retreated.

Kansas Pacific Sale.

Washington, Dec. 9.—Senator Morgan today introduced a resolution requesting the president to obtain a postponement of the sale of the Kansas Pacific "until such time as will give congress reasonable time to consider and act upon his recommendation."

The Coliseum at Rome was built by Veaspan to accommodate 10,000 spectators. It covers five and a half acres, and was 120 feet high.

THE WELCOME HOME.

When twilight bells are ringing sweet And evening echoes greet me, My happy heart seems singing sweet Of some one who will meet me. Of blue eyes 'neath a golden crown; Dear eyes that watch and wait, And little footsteps pattering down The pathway to the gate.

Though sad the toll in barren soil, Though fortune has not found me, I know that night will bring me light And twine two arms around me. And that the day be gold or gray, What thought so sweet as this, It drifts and dreams my darling's way, Who keeps for me a kiss.

Oh, love of life, and strength in strife; Oh, joy to sorrow given, O, dear child eyes that make life's skies, And earth as sweet as heaven, I still can bear with grief and care, And face the storms to be, If love, the comforter, will share, The crust, the crumbs with me. —Baltimore American.

A SENSE OF HUMOR.

"GIVE me," said I, "before everything a sense of humor." "To him that hath" inquired Arabella. "Well," said I, modestly, "I hope I have. But I would desire even more." She smiled. "You may smile, young lady." "I'm not smiling." "Look in the glass." "I don't want to grow vain."

"Then look." "Evidently there is some joke in your remark, if I could see it. But you know I have no sense of humor." "Then you should cultivate it. It is a remedy for half the ills of life, and when you are my age you will realize it."

"When I am my grandmother?" I am 33 and she is 29. "You wouldn't make that remark if you had any sense of humor," I retorted, crustily.

"But I haven't, and I don't see that I should be any better if I had." "I admit it is difficult to imagine any improvement in you."

"Is that humor or sarcasm?" "Oh, well! Humor is—er—well, it's—er—"

"Ignorance of itself?" Arabella has plenty of humor, you know. "Humor is a kindly appreciation of follies and incongruities. And—"

"I don't appreciate the kindness. How can you feel kind to people when you're making fun of them yourself?" "I don't see any difficulty. Why, I had an example this morning." I laughed at the thought. "I've half a mind to tell you."

"Oh, do!" Arabella is as curious as a woman. "It was rather confidential, you see, I knew that would excite her interest. 'But you might trust me.' You may have noticed that the more attractive a woman is, the more she emphasizes the first person singular. Arabella almost puts it in capitals."

"In strict confidence?" "Yes—of course."

"Well, a nice young fellow, whom you know, came to me this morning, and—"

"Who was it?" "That isn't material." "Oh, but it is, though! Very material."

"But, my dear Arabella!" "If you will not trust me we are on distant terms." I've known her since she was in short frocks.

"It really isn't relevant to the point of humor." "I don't care anything about the point of humor."

"Oh, well, if you don't want me to tell you—"

"But I do. There's a good—Tom." "It was Ted Naughton."

"Oh, how interesting. I like Ted awfully, don't you?" "Yes—oh, yes, certainly. I do, but I don't see why Arabella should."

"Now, tell me." She clasped her hands round her knees and cocked her pretty head expectantly on one side.

"Well," said I, laughing, "poor Ted is in love."

"With whom?" "I didn't ask."

"Is that your sense of humor?" She looked at me as if I had made a plum pudding without the plums.

"I don't see that it matters." "Not matter! You don't care who it is?"

"Why should I so long as he's satisfied?" "Well!" Words seemed to fall her, which is rare with Arabella.

"Anyhow, she seemed to be the usual kind. There never was anyone like her, according to the love-lorn Ted. She was beautiful, amiable, accomplished, gentle, saintly—in short, perfect. They all are in these cases, you know."

"So they should be—to the lover." "Of course they should." Why, it's just what I think of Arabella.

"Where is the humor?" "I'm coming to it. Poor Ted, it seems, is very different in the face of such wondrous charms. He is burning to avow his passion to the young lady, but he doesn't know how to proceed. So he came to ask my advice."

"What do you know about it?" Arabella sat bolt upright, and put the question like a sword thrust. "Nothing—except a vague general idea. But he evidently thought I did. I had a little experience, but, of course, I wasn't going to tell her."

"Oh, yes, poor beggar! Indeed, I put it into concrete form for him. It was very funny." "You are so humorous, you see." Somehow Arabella seemed a bit cross. "Please go on."

"We went through quite a little rehearsal, I assure you. They were to begin with the weather, of course. Ha, ha!"

"Very humorous, certainly." "Then he was to make some remarks about the weather, not mattering where she was. Of course, she would blush and look down." Arabella laughed.

"I don't suppose she would." "She ought to, according to the laws of the game. Then he was to take hold of her hand and ask if she would make life all fair weather for him—and so on."

"And, then?" "Oh! he'd be able to go on from there. He's not a fool, you know, really. He's a very fine fellow, as a matter of fact."

"Did he do it?" "I expect so. Anyhow he came back beaming like a sunflower, and threw up his hat when he saw me at the window; so I concluded they'd settled it." I chuckled.

"So that is humor!" Arabella strolled over to the window, and her lips quivered as if I had hurt her.

"Why, whatever is the matter, Bell?" "I call it mean—horrid—cruel," she cried, stamping her little foot angrily, "to make game of a man when he's in love. I don't see that it's a subject for humor at all."

"But, my dear Bell—"

"Miss Murlson, if you please." And we had always been such chums! "I think that if humor is making ridicule of the most sacred thing in life, one is better without it," she continued.

"But I do not ridicule it, Bell. There was an element of humor in the case, all the same."

Arabella twisted her handkerchief round her fingers. Did she think that I had no serious affection for her, I wondered? Perhaps I had better tell her.

"Let me tell you something serious, Bell," I said, going close up to her. But she suddenly interrupted.

"You do not know her name?" "No. But if you want to know I'll—"

"I know." She turned upon me with her eyes flashing. "And I know that she is a very proud and happy girl."

Good heavens! "So perhaps we had better close the subject," she said. I felt as if the room was going round me. I had made a pet of her from the time she was 10, and I thought that she and all the family understood that I was only waiting for my promotion this year. But she must never know now, or she would be so grieved for me—for a very kind-hearted little soul is pretty Arabella.

"Well, my dear," said I, slowly, "I didn't think it was, I confess. But Ted's a good fellow—almost good enough for you, even—and I congratulate you." I spoke so unsteadily that she must almost have noticed it, so I tried to laugh it off.

"When you were a little girl, you know, you promised to be my sweetheart, so I feel a bit jealous"—I felt nearly mad, to tell the truth. "Perhaps the best amends I can make is to ask you to choose your own present. A piano—or a necklace and bracelets—or anything you like." Well, well—dear me! I couldn't pretend cheerfulness much longer. I must be off. "God bless you, little Bell!" said I. "He's a lucky fellow." And I made for the door.

Just as I was taking my hat she rushed down the stairs in her most reckless fashion, and ran right into me, so that I had to catch hold of her. "I believe I have a sense of humor," she said breathlessly. "It was young Sis she proposed to—not me. Hadn't you better go and offer her the piano?"

It was Ted and Sis who caught us ten minutes later, and my arm was round Arabella's waist.—Black and White.

She Didn't Want Much.

When Andrew D. White, now United States ambassador at Berlin, was our minister to Germany, nearly twenty years ago, he received some queer letters from Americans, asking for his influence in their behalf in court circles, says the Youthful Companion.

Perhaps the funniest of all was a very mandatory epistle from an old lady living in the West, who inclosed in her letter four patches of white muslin, each some six inches square.

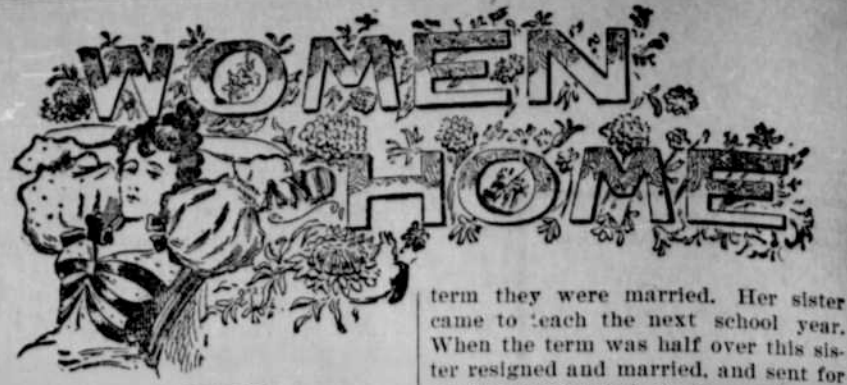
"We are going to give a fair in our church," she wrote, "and I am making an autograph quilt. I want you to get me the autographs of the Emperor, the Empress, the Crown Prince and Bismarck, and tell them to be very careful not to write too near the edge of the squares, as a seam has to be allowed for putting them together."

Not Exactly the Words.

Irish orators frequently discount their own rhetoric through an imperfect appreciation of word values. A Home Ruler was haranguing on English terrorism, and after drawing a picture of babies speared on the points of bayonets, etc., he concluded: "If that's your civilization you may keep it. I call it most improper." This recalls the story of the Westerner who, having been absent from home for a day, returned to find his house and family swept away by a cyclone. Looking around him in amazement he exclaimed, "Well, I call this redic'ous!" The poor fellow had used what he considered the strongest word in his vocabulary.

Eating Contest.

An eating contest is to be held at Paint Lick, Ky., between two men, one of whom has a record of thirty-two hard-boiled eggs and a dozen onions. It is pleasant to see this sort of friendly rivalry succeeding the toll gate war in the Blue Grass State.



WORKING WOMEN INCREASING.

A MANUFACTURER who gives employment to a large number of women and girls cites a few reasons for the preference shown the fair sex. He says that women are more adaptable, more reliable, more easily controlled, neater, quicker, more industrious, careful, polite and docile than men. "Furthermore," he continued, "where men and women are in other respects equal there is one point of superiority on the part of women that counts heavily, and that is sobriety. Taking this in conjunction with the fact that employers are more and more making it an absolute condition of employment, it will be seen that women possess an advantage that is very marked. The advantage of being willing to accept smaller pay is an unstable equilibrium, but the advantage of habits of sobriety is a stable equilibrium, and sober men possess the same advantage."

The percentage of increase of women in all gainful occupations since 1880 is 48, while the percentage of their increase in mechanical industries is nearly 63. Among the gainful occupations in which women are engaged to the actual number of 4,000,000 are those of pilot, sailor, locomotive engineer, plumber, machinist, workers in iron, steel, brass, lead and zinc; boiler-maker, nail-maker, furnace-maker, roofer and slater. Although as yet women are not found in rolling mills, blast furnaces, nor in any of the occupations that expose the workers to excessive heat, it is probable that there will be inventions before a very long time which will relieve all such labor of many of its special hardships, and the entrance of women will follow.

Barred Out by Their Beauty.

Many reasons have been advanced for the exclusion of foreigners who sought to take up residence in this country, but so far as records show none has been barred for the same reason as now operates to detain Ella and Agnes Frensdorf at the immigrant landing in New York. The girls are sisters from Hamburg, and came to America hoping to find at least a temporary home with their uncle, S. P. De Yough, a New York importer of wealth. On their arrival the rich merchant went to meet them and was at once impressed with the idea that the



ELLA AND AGNES FRENSDORF.

responsibility of looking after two girls was more than he could undertake. Mr. De Yough wants them to return to Germany and promises to send them money regularly after their arrival there, "but," says he, "beautiful as they are I cannot assume charge of them; they are too beautiful."

The representative of Austro-Hungary found them places as governesses in a Brooklyn family, but the head of this household acknowledged that if they did not prove what he wanted he would discharge them. This is one of the contingencies to provide against which the immigration bureau was formed, so the girls may yet have to return to Germany.

Can Assume Their Maiden Name.

A decision which will be of interest to women all over the country was rendered by a Cincinnati judge a few days ago. It is that a woman has the right to continue in business under her maiden name after she is married if she so chooses. The judge in his opinion said that a married woman's legal name is that which her husband bears, and that as long as they are man and wife she can have no other surname, excepting for business purposes, when she can assume her maiden name, or any other name, provided, of course, that there is no intent to defraud.

Scarcity of Women.

Young women are still scarce in Idaho, and bachelors who desire to change their conditions of single blessedness are plenty. As a result of this condition of affairs school boards in that State have difficulty in securing teachers to conduct their schools. There are about ten unmarried men to one unmarried woman in Idaho.

Dr. William C. Whitwell, a druggist, and the Mayor of Salmon City, Idaho, gives the following incident as a sample of the way schoolma'ams are wooed and won in Idaho: "A charming young lady, Miss Busch, came from Iowa to teach in the public school in Givensville," he says, "but before she was there three months she was engaged to a prominent man of the town, and at the close of the school

term they were married. Her sister came to teach the next school year. When the term was half over this sister resigned and married, and sent for another unmarried sister to take her place as teacher. The third Miss Busch taught in the school the latter half of the term, but three days after the term closed she was married to a business man of the town."

Fair Sex to Be Gloried.

What woman has done from the time when she began exerting her wiles on unsuspecting Adam up to the present day is going to be told in a book. It is to be written by George Willis Cooke of East Lexington, Mass. He has been collecting material for it during the last twelve years and estimates that it will require three volumes of 500 pages each to develop his plan in a satisfactory manner and that it will take three or four years to bring it to a satisfactory conclusion. The work is being conducted under the auspices of Julia Ward Howe, T. W. Higginson, William T. Harris, commissioner of education; A. F. Chamberlain, Clark University; Edward Everett Hale, Ednah D. Cheney, William Lloyd Garrison, Philip S. Moxom, D. D.; Hattie Tyng Griswold, Caroline Bartlett Crane, Mary A. Livermore, Nathan Haskell Dole, Frank B. Sanborn, and several editors.

Hook for the Theater Hat.

The theater-going woman has always strongly objected to taking off her hat in the theater for the reason that no place has been provided where it can be stowed away without danger of injury when it is off. To carry it on the lap throughout the performance is a more unfeasible idea than if it were a baby, and to place it under the seat is only to tempt the fate which falls upon the unhappy chimney-pot of her male escort. A solution of the difficulty takes the form, however, of a newly invented hat peg, which is screwed into the back of the seat in front, and being telescopic in its formation, is drawn out when wanted, and forms no obstruction when out of use, and, joy of joys! there is a mirror at the terminal knob, whereby the fair lady may adjust her tresses and her treasured tile and go forth again with a clear conscience and at peace with all men.

Perfumes and the Nerves.

It may not be generally known, but it is nevertheless a fact, that the perfumes which are the most pleasing to the senses are not in all cases helpful to the nerves. Ambergris, for instance, is positively offensive to many, yet it is said to possess a wonderful power of clearing the brain and driving away those evil spirits known as the "blues." On the other hand, attar of roses, with the suggestion of glowing suns and gorgeous eastern colors, predisposes one to tears. A faint odor of musk as a tonic, while elixir brings drowsiness of soul, for which the best antidote is the pungent odor of sandal wood. The fragrance of the citron and aloe wood is as soothing to nervous people as far-off music.

Fruits for the Skin.

Fruit acids will cure most skin diseases and will keep the complexion clear when medicine has failed. Apples will relieve a torpid liver, and the salowness which results from it. Plums and peaches will correct acidity of the stomach. Grapes will stimulate digestion. Granges supply food and medicine for the throat, and berries of any kind will cure cases of skin eruption. A good physician declares that the best skin and blood tonics are made from fruit acids. Girls with pallid complexions want strawberries; if not to be had, substitute bananas; but of all fruits, the apple stands unrivalled for all general purposes of diet and medicine.

Mine Worked by Women.

It is an uncommon sight in this country to see young women mining coal from the bowels of the earth. Such a sight, however, can be seen any day in Pennsylvania. The Mahoney valley, near Shamokin, boasts of a coal mine worked entirely by women. There are seven employed, and they are all related, being the daughters of a German miner named Hans.

Toilet Odds and Ends.

The favorite sleeve is one closely fitting with a crisp little puff at the shoulder; another is a modified mutton-leg, smooth fitting from waist to elbow, with leaf point finish or flaring tabbed cuff falling over the hand. A new sleeve shows the forearm very close, buttoned nearly its entire length on the outside, with three upstanding tufts between the buttons, or three rows of Milan braid instead of the tufts. This arrangement reaches to the small shoulder puff.

Upright trimmings on half-large hats are a loose velvet draped about the crown, with a bow on the left from which three or five tips or a cluster of feathers rise. Full velvet crowns are found on hats of every kind for children, misses and ladies, but for 3-year-old girls the choicest headgear is the Bengaline bonnet.

The season's hats are distinctively different. A very becoming idea is for the side-tilted hats to have an ostrich feather under the brim, resting on the hair. All large hats have the turned-up effect on the left side, and a favorite way to trim is a half-long ostrich feather sweeping back from a rosette of velvet, and a steel buckle in the front, and a smaller feather and bow under the left brim.