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CLAY COUNTY ENTERPRISE.

A WEEKLY PAPER DEVOTED TO THE MANUFACTURING, MINING AND AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS OF CLAY COUNTY.

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PLAIN AND FANCY

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PLAYING THE FOOL.

Human Life too Much Engrossed in Transitory Enjoyments.

The Drama of Dementia Played With a Soul in Danger—The Wise, the Brave and the Regal All too Reckless of the Preparation Required for Eternity—Dr. Talmage's Sermon.

Rev. Dr. Talmage preached at the Brooklyn Tabernacle last Sunday. Text, Samuel xxi., 13. The Doctor referred to David on the occasion of his playing the fool—feigning to be demented—and said:

Taking the behavior of Jacob as a suggestion, I wish to tell you how many of the wise and the brave and the regal sometimes play the fool. And in the first place, I remark that those men as badly play the fool as this man of the text, who in any crisis of life take their case out of the hand of God. David, in this case, acted as though there were no God to lift him out of the predicament.

What a contrast between his behavior, when this brave little man stood up in front of the giant ten feet in height, and looking into his face, said: "Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield; but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of Hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied" between that time and this time, when he debased himself and bedraggled his manhood, and affected insanity in order that he might escape from the grip of the Gathites. In the one case he played the hero. In the other case he played the fool. So does every man who, in the great crisis of life, takes his case out of the hand of God. The life of the most insignificant man in this house is too vast for any human management. One time, returning from the West, I very easily got on the locomotive while passing over the plains, and talked with the engineer; but coming on toward the Allegheny Mountains I thought I would like to sit on the locomotive as it came down from the mountains amid that most wonderful scenery on this continent. I asked the engineer if I might ride, but he courteously denied me, for there the grade is so steep, and so winding, and so perilous that he must not have any one on the locomotive who may divert his attention when eye and hand and foot and brain must be concentred, ready for the most sudden emergency. Well, my friends, life is steep, and so perilous and so exposed to sudden surprises that none but the Lord Almighty can guide and engineer it, and our disasters come from the fact that we want to get up and help the Lord to manage the train.

Keep off the engine! Be willing to let God pull you where He wants to pull you. You have no right for an instant to surrender your sanity and manhood as David surrendered his. Put your trust in God, and He will take you through and over the mountains. I very much question if all the successful enterprises that ever were carried on and all the successful lives that have ever been lived, have been fully surrendered to God. When the girl Victoria was awakened in the night and told that the throne of Great Britain was hers, she said to the prelate informing her: "I ask you to pray." and then and there they knelt down and prayed. Do you wonder that, though since that time all the thrones of Europe have fallen or been fearfully shaken, hers stands as firm as the day she ascended it? And in every country under the sun, whenever an Englishman hears that name pronounced, he feels like waving his hat and crying "God save the Queen!" That man and that woman who put their trust in God will go through in triumph; while those who attempt to gather under their own supervision the intricate and elaborate affairs of life are miserably playing the fool.

All the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans of surging sorrows can not sink a soul that has asked for God's pilotage. The difficulty is, that when we have misfortunes of any kind we put them in God's hand, and they stay there a little while; and then we go and get them again and bring them back. A vessel comes in from a foreign port. As it comes near the harbor it sees a pilot floating about. It hails the pilot. The pilot comes on board, and he says: "Now, captain, you have had a stormy passage. Go down and sleep, and I will take the vessel into New York Harbor." After a while the captain begins to think: "Am I right in trusting this vessel to that pilot? I guess I'll go up and see." So he comes to the pilot and says: "Don't you see that rock? Don't you see those breakers? You will wreck the ship if you keep off the helm for a while. Do you suppose I can trust you." The pilot turns around and says: "I will decide whether I take the ship, or not. If you want to take me into my yawl and go back to your boat." Now we say to God: "O, God, take my life, take my all. Take keeping! Be Thou my guide! be Thou my pilot.' We go about our business a little while, and suddenly wake up and say: 'Things are going all wrong. O, Lord, we are driving on these rocks, and Thou art going to let us be shipwrecked.' God says: 'You go and rest; I will take charge of this vessel, and take it into the harbor.' It is God's business to comfort, and it is your business to be comforted.

Again, I remark that all those persons play the fool as certainly and did this man of the text, who allow the technicalities of religion to step their salvation. David was wise about a great many things, but his cutting up in the text for a little while eclipsed his character. And I know wise men and great men, competent for all other stations, who are acting a silly and foolish part in regard to the technicalities of religion. They ask us some questions which we can not answer categorically, and so they burst into a broad guffaw, as though it is of any more interest to us than it ought to be to them. About the atonement, about God's decrees, about man's destiny, they ask a great many questions which we can not answer, and so they deride us, as though we could not ask them a thousand questions that they cannot answer, about their eyes, about their ears, about their finger-nails, about every thing. A fool can ask a question that a wise man can not answer. O, you caviling men! O, you profound men! O, you learned men! do please admit something. You have a soul? Yes. Will it live forever? Yes. Where? You say that Jesus Christ is not a Divine Savior. Who is He? Where will you go after you leave your law books, and your medical prescriptions, and your club-room and your newspaper office—where will you go to? Your body will be six feet under ground. Where will your soul be? The black coat will be off, the shroud on. Those spectacles will be removed from your vision, for the sod will press your eyelids.

Have you any idea that an earthly almanac describes the years of your life-time? Of what stuff shall I gather the materials for the letters of that word which describes your eternal home? Shall it be iron chain or amaranthine garland? The air that stirs the beweated locks of your dying pillow, will it come off a garden or a desert? Oh, quit the puzzling questions and try these momentous questions. Quit the small questions and try these great questions.

Instead of discussing whether the serpent in Eden was figurative or literal, whether the Mediterranean fish did or did not swallow the recreant prophet, whether this and that or the other thing is right or wrong, come and discuss one question: "How shall I get rid of my sins and win heaven?" That is the question. For you. Yes, there have been men who have actually lost their souls because they thought there was a discrepancy between Moses and Prof. Silliman—because they could not understand how there could be light before the sun rose—the light appearing in verse 3 of Genesis, and the sun appearing not until verse 16—and because they do not know the moon could stand still without upsetting the universe, and because they had decided upon the theory of natural selection. A German philosopher in dying had for his chief sorrow that he had not devoted his whole life to the study of the dative case. O, when your immortality is in peril, why quibble? Quit these non-essentials, my dear brother. In the name of God, I ask you in regard to these matters of the immortal soul that you do not play the fool.

I go still further, and say to you that those men play the fool who undertake to pay out eternity for time. How little care do we bestow upon the railroad depot where we stop twenty minutes to dine! We dash in and we dash out again. We do not examine the architecture of the building, nor the face of the caterer. We supply our hunger, we pay our money, and we put on our hat and take our place in the train. What is that depot as compared with the place for which we are bound? No, my friends, this world is only a stopping place on the way to a momentous destination, and yet how many of us sit down as though we had consummated our journey, as though we had come to the final depot when our stopping here is compared with our stopping there as is twenty minutes or twenty hours—yea, as the one-hundredth part of a second compared with ten thousand million years! Would Spain sell us Cuba for a bushel of wheat? Would England sell us India for a ton of coal? Would Venice sell us all her pictures for an American school-boy's sketch? Ah! that would be a better bargain for England, Spain and Venice than that man makes who gives his eternity for time. Yet how many there are who are saying today, "Give me the world's dollars and you may have the eternal rewards. Go away from me, God and angels, and all thoughts of the future!"

But where is Cœsus and Cleopatra; and Æsopus, who had one dish of food that cost $400,000; and Lentulus, who had a pound of fish worth $175,000; and Scaurus, who bought a country seat for $29,000,000; and Tiberius, who left at death a fortune of $118,120,000? Where are they? If a windy day should blow all the dust that is left of them into your eyes it would not make you wink twice! Ah, my friends, then very certainly your comforts of surroundings can not keep back the old archer. You can not charm him with music, or dazzle him with plate, or decoy him with pictures, or bribe him with your money. What is the use of your struggling for that which you can not keep? As long as you have clothes and food and shelter and education for yourselves, and your children, and the means for Christian generosity, be satisfied. You worry, and tug, and sweat, and wear yourself out for that which can not satisfy. Whole flocks of crow's feet on your temples and cheeks before they ought to have come there. You are ten years older than you ought to be, and yet you can not take along with you in the future world even the two pennies of your eyelids to keep them shut after you are dead. And yet you hold on to this world with the avidity of the miser who persisted in having his bonds and mortgages and notes of hand in the bosom of his dressing-gown while he was dying, and in the last moment held his parchment in such a tight grip that the undertaker after death must almost break the man's fingers in order to get the bonds away.

Once more, I say to you that those men play the fool who, while they admit the righteousness of religion, set it down for future attendance. Do you know how many times the word "now" occurs in the Bible? Over two hundred times. One of the shortest words in the Bible, and yet one of the grandest in meaning and ramifications. When does the Bible say is the best time to repent? Now. When does the Bible say that God will forgive? Now. When does God say is the only safe time to attend to the matters of the soul? Now. But that word "Now" melts away as easily as a snow flake in the evening rain. Where is the "now" of the dead of last year? the "now" of the dead of last month? the "now" of the dead of last week? the "now" of the dead of yesterday? Time picked it up in its beak and flew away with it. Swammerdam and other naturalists tell us there are insects which within the space of one minute are born, fulfill their mission, celebrate their nuptials, and die; but this wonderful "now" is more short-lived than they. It is a flash, a stroke, a glance. Its cradle is its grave. If men catch it at all it is with quick clutch. Millions of men have lost their soul immortal because they did not understand the momentum and the ponderosity of the word. All the strategic powers of hell are exercised in trying to suotract from the energy and emphasis of that word.

For how much would you walk the edge of the roof of your house? For how much would you come out on the most dangerous peak of the Matterhorn and wave your cap? You say: "No money could induce me to do it." And yet you stand to-day, with one foot on a crumbling moment and the other foot lifted, not knowing where you will put it down, while the distance between you and the bottom of the depth beneath you no plummet can measure, no arithmetic calculate, no wing of lightning cleave. And yet the Bible tells us that unless a man has a new heart he cannot get into heaven, and some of you are not seeking that new heart. In Mexico, sometimes, the ground suddenly opens, and a man standing near the gap can see down an appalling distance. But O! if to-day at your feet there should open the chasm of the lost world, how you would fling yourself back and hold to the pew, and cry: "God save me—now! now! now!"

We must repent. We must believe. We must be saved. I can not consent to have you lose your souls. Come with me, and as in the summer time we go down to the beach and bathe in the waters, so to-day let us join hands and wade down into the summery sea of God's forgiveness. Roll over us, tides of everlasting love, roll over us! Dear Lord, we knock at the door of mercy, not as the demendant knock, not knowing what they want, but knocking at the door of mercy because we want to come in, while others run their meaningless hands up and down the panels and scrabble at the gate in the presence of God and men and angels and devils playing the fool.

The Maid of Louisiana.

A maiden of La,
Once stepped on the peel of Sa.
She slipped and she fell
And she let out a yell
And shouted, "Oh! Where's my Aunt Ha?"

Boston Courier.

IMPATIENCE.

Like too impatient children when the sky
Frowns on some morn of longed-for festal day
To cheat their happy hearts of out-door play,
We fret when scuds of ill above us fly,
And every cloud and menace magnify,
Till thus we waste our manhood's strength as they
Their zest for pleasure in some in-door way,
Our age scarce wiser than their infancy.

If we could chase and chase the clouds afar,
Rather than borrowed gloom upon them bring,
Our gain its lack of grace might palliate,
But leave us yet with manliness at war,
That brave defiance to all fate would fling,
And by endurance make us strong and great.

—William C. Richards in Harper's Magazine for March.

PRESIDENTIAL POSSIBILITIES.

Let the nomination for Governor of Ohio go to Thurman, "the noble old Roman," as friends and admirers affectionately style him. But he is nobler than any Roman of them all; gifted with the excellences of all Rome's greatest, but without their infirmities of mind or principles. An orator, with the eloquence but not the boasting egotism of Cicero; a philosopher but not a snarling cynic like Cato nor a puling electro-negative moralist like Seneca, a statesmen, but without the lust for power and dominion of Cæsar Augustus; a patriot, but not a fire-brained fanatic like the first nor an assassin like the second Brutus; he is an American citizen of the highest, grandest type, such as never grew in Rome. Let him lead the Democratic host next November and our march shall be to conquest.—Hocking (O.) Sentinel.

The boom given Gov. Foraker at the dinner of the Republican Club in New York for the Presidential nomination may or may not advance the political fortunes of that gentleman. In the present condition of things; however, Senator Edmunds' advice to the party, to come West for a candidate, seems to be wise. There are three of four men in the West, any one of whom, if nominated, could be elected. And Gov. Foraker is by no means the weakest of these.—St. Louis Globe Democrat.

For a while we heard on every hand the cry that Cleveland must and would be renominated, but as time passed the Democratic leaders, one by one, began to realize the mistakes being made. One by one they began to boldly denounce them, until now many of the leading Democratic journals of the United States are boldly declaring that Cleveland's renomination would be suicidal, that the masses of the party would not support him. And they are correct. The Cleveland boom has collapsed.—Salem Oregon, Vidette.

"What is the presidential outlook for '88 in Ohio?" he was asked.

"Ohio will be solid for Sherman. We know no other candidate. Our State is more likely to unite upon a candidate than ever before. That man will be Sherman."

"Who will be your second choice?"

"An Ohio man never has a second choice. We are not even thinking of who would be the best man for a second choice."

"Then you are not a Blaine man?"

"We are all admirers of Blaine. We showed that we were by our vote for him during the last presidential campaign."

"Do you think that Sherman will receive the nomination?"

"We always feel that we are going to succeed in nominating our man. We don't allow ourselves to think otherwise. While we are Sherman men, of course if another good Republican is nominated we will give him our cordial support. However, it is a long time until the election, and before then many things may occur to change the complexion of affairs. In the selection of a candidate, we are not lacking in an appreciation of our leaders."

"What is your opinion regarding the Democratic nomination?"

"I believe that Cleveland will be renominated. His party will likely conclude that he is the strongest candidate they can select, though Hill also seems to have a strong backing."—Interview with Gov. Foraker.

The Prohibition vote of New York was 18,311 in 1883, 25,046 in 1884, 30,867 in 1885, and 36,436 in 1886. In each of these years the Democrats have carried the State, but if the Prohibition vote had been added to the Republican vote the result would have been reversed each year.

In 1883 the Republicans did elect their Secretary of State on a side issue, but the rest of the State offices went to the Democracy. Mr. Chapin was elected Comptroller over Mr. Davenport by 16,219 votes. Mr. Merritt, the Prohibition candidate, received 18,311 votes. These added to Davenport's vote would have given the victory to the Republicans.

In 1884 Mr. Cleveland was elected by 1,047 plurality over Mr. Blaine. The Prohibition vote was 25,016.

In 1885 Gov. Hill was successful by 11,134 votes over Mr. Davenport. The Prohibition vote of 30,867, if cast for the Republicans, would have elected Davenport by 19,733 over Gov. Hill.

This year Judge Peckham obtained between 7,000 and 8,000 plurality over Judge Daniels, with the aid of the George Labor vote. The Prohibition vote, 36,436, if cast for Judge Daniels, would have elected him, despite the Labor vote, by over 28,000 votes.

Thus the Prohibition element has given the Democracy the victories they have won in this State for the last four years.

New York's electoral vote has been the key to the Presidental election since 1876. In that year Tilden's honest electoral vote was 203, a majority of 37 over Hayes, who carried 166 electoral votes. New York's 35 electoral votes transferred from Tilden to Hayes, would have fairly elected the latter by 33 majority.

In 1880 Garfield carried New York and obtained 214 electorial votes, against 155 for Hancock. If New York's 35 electoral votes had been changed, Hancock would have received 190 votes in the Electoral College, against Garfield's 179.

In 1884 Cleveland just saved New York and received 219 electoral votes, against 182 for Blaine. If New York's 36 votes had changed sides Blaine would have got 218 electorial votes, against 183 for Cleveland.

Now that the Democrats have been beaten in Indiana and Virginia it is more likely than ever that New York's electoral vote will decide the Presidential election of 1888.

How is it possible that any intelligent conjecture as to candidates for the next Presidency can be made without taking these mysterious and yet unknown forces, Prohibition and Labor, into consideration?—N. Y. World.

MISCELLANEOS NOTES.

William K. Vanderbilt will hereafter spend most of his time in Europe.

The Czar of Russia is said to have ordered a picture of the St. Paul ice palace.

Of the 1,726 living graduates of Williams College, ex-President Mark Hopkins has taught all but thirty-one.

The United States government has 150,000 Springfield rifles stored away, and is still manufacturing the antiquated weapon at the rate of 40,000 per annum.

The New York Legislature is asked to investigate the city government of Brooklyn because the City of Churches is a city of vice, the paradise of gamblers and the home of saloons.

Ex-President Andrew D. White, of Cornell, is said to have the finest historical library in the country. It numbers over 300,000 volumes, besides many valuable manuscripts.

It is sad to learn that a band of Indian squaws in Dakota have been purchasing corsets. Pretty soon they will refuse to work, demand high hats and decollete-dresses, and perhaps insist on voting.

Natural gas has been discovered in paying quantities in nineteen states and territories in the Union. In western Pennsylvania alone sixty-six natural gas companies have been organized, and nearly $21,000,000 of capital is invested.

A land case which has been in the Illinois courts for forty years was finally decided at Peoria the other day. It had been taken to the supreme court four times. Among the many lawyers who had appeared in the case at various times were Abraham Lincoln, R. G. Ingersoll and Judges Purple, Shope, Lacy and Green.

The Railway Age tabulates the railway mileage of 47 States and Territories on January 1, 1887, and finds the total to be 137,500; Illinois stands at the head with 9,579 miles, and Rhode Island at the bottom with 210 miles. Iowa stands second with 7,907 miles, Pennsylvania third with 7,817, and New York fourth with 7,476 miles.

One of the largest engineering undertakings now in progress is the construction of the Illinois steel bridge at Cairo. The approaches will be a mile and a half in length, and the bridge proper a mile, making the entire bridge four miles long and fifty-two feet above high-water mark. The structure will be the finest on the Ohio. It will be finished within three years.

The grand total of the Mrs. Logan fund has been footed up. It aggregates $64,000, which includes the $13,000 raised in Chicago and that reported from all quarters. After the incumbrance have been lifted from Mrs. Logan's property in Washington and in Chicago there will remain about $35,000. This will all be in United States 4 per cents. in a few days, and will yield her a net annual income of about $1,400. Mrs. Logan's real estate, outside of her home at Washington, will bring the amount up to probably $2,500 a year.

Great Act of the Hired Girl.

Doylestown (Pa.) Intelligencer.

The other morning in a barn near Norristown the hired man and two of the farmer's sons were competing arduously with each other on the barn floor to ascertain who could put one of his heels around his neck. The boys said they had seen a man in a circus put both his heels around his neck at once. Strange, indeed, if they could not get one around. So they heaved and strained, and the hired man heaved and strained to accomplish the feat. Little did they know that the hired girl was watching the performance with breathless interest through a knot hole in the barn. A few hours later the hired girl was missing. After yelling for her a dozen times with no response, a search was instituted. She was not in the house, neither was she at the barn. The searching party repaired to the milk-house. There was the girl prostrate on the floor, with both heels around her neck and utterly unable to get them loose. She said she would have died before calling for help.

New Use for Crude Petroleum.

Chicago Mail.

The Oil City Derrick has information from Baltimore of the incorporation of the United States Crude Petroleum Company, with a capital of $1,000,000, the object of the company being to manufacture illuminating gas from crude petroleum. An eastern gentleman claims to have a process, duly patented, by which a superior quality of illuminating gas is made from crude oil of Pennsylvania or Ohio production. This gas is manufactured from the oil during the process of refining, and the result is both gas and a refined oil of a merchantable quality. This new enterprise, as the Derrick claims, will meet with the approval of the oil country. What is wanted is more demand for their product so that low horizons of prices may dawn upon the vision only at exceedingly rare intervals, if at all. Sixty-cent oil is not conducive to the happiness of oil producers. Other people, however—say 50,000,000 or so—could survive 50 or even 40-cent oil.

CONCERNING WOMEN.

The W. C. T. U. of Cincinnati have opened a coffee-house.

Feb. 15 was Susan B. Anthony's sixty-seventh birthday.

The next annual meeting of the National W. C. T. U. will be held in Nashville, Tenn.

Miss Emily S. Bouton, of the Blade, is vice-president of the Toledo (Ohio) Press Club.

Mrs. Z. G. Wallace has been engaged to lecture throughout the month of May in New York, and will spend June in Vermont.

In the Kansas House of Representatives one enrolling clerk, an assistant docket clerk and the postmistress are women, and two of the pages are girls.

The New England Women's Press Association has petitioned the Massachusetts Legislature for a measure to require the appointment of police matrons in cities.

Mrs. Lucy S. Barber, who was arrested for voting the State and congressional ticket at the recent New York election, has been discharged from arrest by United States Commissioner Angel. The Commissicner held that the matter was not within the jurisdiction of the federal court.

Dr. Mary Weeks Burnett, of Chicago, president of the National Temperance Hospital, and editor of the Journal of Heredity, has been elected a member of the Medico-Legal Society of New York, which has in its membership many of the most distinguished names in law and medicine in this country and in Europe.

Mary T. Hill Willard, mother of Frances E. Willard, has reached her eighty-second year in full possession of all her faculties, and is the comforter and helper of her distinguished daughter. Madam Willard began teaching school at the of age fifteen, and taught eleven summers and eight winters, attending school between times. She was one of the class formed at Oberlin College of the wives of the married men attending, under the instruction of Mrs. Finney, and books are still her delight and daily papers her recreation.

Mrs. Mary A. Leavitt, of Vernon, Ind. well known in temperance circles, is a direct descendant of John Alden and Priscilla Mullins, the story of whose courtship and marriage Longfellow has immortalized. Elizabeth Alden, daughter of John and Priscilla, who is said to have been the first girl born after the landing of the Pilgrims, married William Pabody in 1845, and the family record is traced through five generations to Dr. Egan F. Pabody, the father of Mrs. Leavitt. Dr Pabody was among the early Abolitionists of Indiana, and organized the first temperance society in Jennings county.

The Protective Agency for Womon and Children, organized in Chicago last April, has investigated about one hundred complaints. Of these, twenty-six were for wages due and money unlawfully withheld from complainant, aggregating $624;05. Half of this sum was found worthless, the rest was collected or is in process of collection. Ten cases were of criminal assault, three of bastardy, five for false imprisonment, fourteen of delinquent husbands. Other cases were of injustice in probate courts, girls enticed from home for immoral purposes, loss of money through dishonest agents or friends, etc. The agency reports that it can find no legal remedy where the husband and father fails to provide for his family, and that in cases of crime against women its efforts are crippled by the disposition of police justices to regard such crimes as venial offenses, and to dismiss cases on frivolous pretexts or to impose light sentences.

Natural Gas Product.

At Oil City there are two natural gas companies drawing their supply from the same distriet—the Oil City Fuel Supply Company and the Manufacturers Gas Company. Over $1,000,000 have been invested in the plants. The two companies have drilled about thirty wells. When one well plays out, as is bound to do in time, another one is drilled and the supply kept up. It is not possible to determine the life of any oil or gas well, The old Newton gas well near Titusville, produced in enormous quantities for five years, yielding enough to have supplied the entire City of Cincinnati during that time, and the supply is not yet exhausted, although it is nearly so. This well was struck fifteen years ago. The big gas well at Fairview blowed away for four years, wasting a fortune every month. Some of the original wells in the Murrysville or Pittsburg district are still yielding in large quantities. The pressure of gas escaping from the Pennsylvania wells ranges from 100 to 500 pounds to the square inch. Some wells are said to have a pressure of 1,000 pounds to the square inch. For five years the product of the Haymaker well in the Murraysville district was equivalent in heating capacity to 1,000 tons of coal per day. This was all allowed to waste, as at that time there was no line to Pittsburg.

The Journalist's True Mission.

Louisville Courier-Journal.

That journalist serves his country and his party best who serves his readers best, and he can only serve his readers by telling them the truth as he sees it, and not by seeking to strain it to his argument, or, for purposes of his own, to make irreconcilable facts consist, or—thinking he is deceiving somebody—to crouch, like the ostrich, behind some rock, his whole body exposed to view. He must be disinterested; and if he be so, he will find in the public confidence ample compensation for any sacrifices of personal ambition he may have made in declining office, the politician's proper and sole vehicle of communication with the people, and intercourse with public affairs.

When a man's nose is "as red as a beet" he usually is one.

MATTERS OF LAW.

Recent Decisions of the Indiana Supreme Court.

DRUGGIST—SELLING LIQUOR ON SUNDAY.

13,502. W. Tilford vs. The State. Morgan C. C. Affirmed. Elliott, C. J.

The statute requiring that a druggist shall not sell liquor except on a written prescription is imperative. The statute makes no exception and the court will not create any, except in clear cases and where there is imperious necessity. The fact that appellant was a physician will not excuse him.

12,311. Ruth Harris et al. vs. George W. Carpenter et al. Marion S. C. Reversed. Niblack, J.

Among other things, the will of Obadiah Harris bequeathed to his wife certain land and provided: "She, my said wife, to have the same after my death for and during the period of her natural life; and at her death the same shall be the property of and pass to my daughter, Laura Carpenter, the wife of Henry W. Carpenter, in fee; but if she, the said Laura, be not living then, to her heirs forever." The widow and Mrs. Carpenter both survived the testator. Under this will the survivorship provided for in the last clause above had reference to the death of the testator, and on his death Mrs. Carpenter became seized of a vested remainder in fee in the land in question.

RAILWAYS—NEGLIGENCE—PLEADING.

11,862. L., B. & W. Railway Company vs. Nathan Overman. Henry C. C. Affirmed. Howk, J.

The complaint of appellee charged that he was the owner of a barn located about 600 feet from appellant's railroad track; that on or about the 18th of April, 1883, coals were negligently dropped and sparks emitted from appellant's locomotive engine which set fire to dry grass, weeds, stubble, rubbish and other combustibles, which appellant negligently suffered and permitted to gather, accumulate and remain on its road and right of way, and along its track near appellee's lands; that the coals set fire to such dry grass, etc., and that such fire, through the medium of such combustible materials, was then and there carelessly and negligently allowed, suffered and permitted by appellant to communicate to appellee's lands, and then and there burn the grass growing around the barn, and then and there and thereby, without fault or negligence on the part of the appellee, said fire, by the negligence of the appellant, suffered to escape from its premises to appellee's lands, did then and there burn and totally destroy appellee's barn. This complaint states with sufficient clearness and certainty to withstand a demurrer that the escape of fire from the right of way to appellee's premises, and the burning and destruction of his property both occurred through the negligence of the railroad company, and both without any fault or negligence on the part of the appellee. If the company without appellee's fault, set fire to the dry grass, etc., negligently allowed to accumulate on its right of way, and permitted such fire to escape to appellee's land and destroy his property, the company would be liable whether the fire was negligently started or otherwise.

LIABILITY OF SURETIES.

12,727. Jacob Dill vs. Philip Lawrence. Huntington C. C. Reversed. Elliott, C. J.

Action on a bond which contained a condition as follows: "Whereas Jacob Dill has taken a job of ditching of Philip Lawrence, to be fully completed by the 31st of October, 1882, now if said Jacob Dill shall faithfully do and finish said ditch against the above date then this bond to be void; otherwise in full force." In the contract referred to in this bond is the following stipulation: "I, Jacob Dill, of the second part, agree to take and do the work to completion on the above-named ditch against the 31st of October, 1882, according to the above-described articles and specifications, or I will forfeit $100." Under this bond the sureties do not undertake to pay the penalty specified in the contract. The agreement to pay $100 constitutes the stipulation a penalty, and it can not, therefore, be regarded as an agreement that the sum specified shall be taken as a provision for liquidated damages. No recovery can be had against the sureties for more than the actual damages resulting from a breach of the contract.

Excitement in the Chinese Harem.

London Times.

There appeared a few weeks ago a decree of the Empress-Mother of China, calling upon Tchou, the Censor, to justify his strictures with regard to the employment of one of the court eunichs in a semi-political capacity. The incident has caused a good deal of excitement in Pekin, particularly among the 5,000 guardians of the imperial harem. A strong feeling of rivalry exists between these palace officials and the Mandarins; but the former are supported by the Empress, who has the supreme direction and choosing of the female members of the court. The Emperor is entitled to seven "legal" and an unlimited number of "illegal" concubines. If, however, one of the latter give birth to a son, her status is legitimated, and she becomes a "Princess of the Blood," and associated to the fortunes of her child, who may one day ascend the throne. Those young ladies who arrive at the age of 25 without giving an increase to the imperial family are restored to the bosom of their parents and are quickly sought in marriage by suitors of their own degree. It is an accepted social dogma that they all leave the court without a stain upon their character. An overhauling of the seraglio in this sense takes place every three years, and new recruits from about 14 years of age are selected by the Empress to fill up the vacancies. Her choice, however, is almost invariably confined to the pretty daughters of Manchu officers, so as to preserve as far as possible the racial integrity of the dynasty.

Politics ain't patriot tho he's a longshot, theater to-night.

RELIGIOUS NOTES.

More than 115,000 sermons are distributed weekly among the non-churchgoers of Berlin.

Warwick: The speech of the tongue is best known to men. God best understands the language of the heart.

It is said that fifty organs are in use in United Presbyterian congregations, and that the number is rapidly increasing.

Fifteen of the sixty colored students at the Richmond (Va.) Theological Seminary are preparing for missionary work in Africa.

An anti-profanity society, with the motto, "Hallowed Be Thy Name," has been formed in St. Malachi's Catholic Church, Pittsburg, Pa.

Tholuck: It belongs to the nature of the Bible that it was written for all men of every time, and for all the experiences of each single human heart.

A translation of the Old Testament in the vernacular has been made for the Finns by Lars Hatta, at the request of the Norwegian Bible Society. This will complete the Bible in their language.

In the twenty years from 1853 to 1883 Chinese communicants in Protestant missions went from 350 to 8,000, and now number upward of 22,000, and about 100,000 habitual attendants upon Christian services.

It is said that the Turkish authorities in Armenia will not allow the American missionaries to use Moody and Sankey's hymn book unless "Hold the Fort" is expurgated. That is considered a military lyric calculated to encourage the spirit of rebellion.

After the adjournment of Congress Rev. W. H. Milburn, Chaplain of the House of Representatives, will fill for awhile the pulpit of Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church, Chicago, the pastor, Rev. Dr. John Alabaster, having gone to Clifton Springs, N. Y., to recuperate his health.

The directors of Lakeside have engaged the services of Dr. L. W. Munhall, who will conduct the evening services during the camp-meeting at Lakeside, and Messrs. Sam P. Jones and Sam Small, will be present July 22, 23 and 24. Railroad trains are now running direct to the Lakeside grounds.

Statistics show that the New England States have furnished more church members, Sunday school teachers and ministers throughout the west within twenty years than all the other States combined. From one New England State alone there went forth, in 1865, 150 ministers under the age of twenty-seven.

The Bishop of Exter, when speaking on behalf of the church of England Temperance Society, a few days ago, expressed his belief that wine was intended for man, and remarked that if he had to take his choice between a world of total abstainers and a world of moderate drinkers, he should prefer the latter.

There are now five students at Andover who are ready to offer themselves as missionaries to the board if the way is open for them to do so. One has offered himself; the others are awaiting the decision in the case. There is a missionary band of fourteen, all of whom propose to enter the missionary field at the close of their theological course.

Prof. Fisher, of Yale College: The gospel of salvation is the world's only hope. Ethical teachers can never reach the depth of the evil. I have no harsh words to utter against any who are honestly trying to do good to their fellow-men. But when you can dispense with sunlight and make your wheat-fields flourish by the agency of moon shine, then may you expect to break the power of sin by a mere ethical culture.

Mr. John Wanamaker, of Philadelphia, whose great success in Sunday school work is well known, said recently, when asked what one point in the Sabbath school he would keep if all else had to be given up on any given Sunday: "Ten minutes conference and prayer at the close of the school. If I had to give up everything else, I would come here, tap the bell, read the lesson, have the ten minutes conference and prayer, and dismiss."

Culture in the Effete East.

The Epoch.

As an interesting example of the way in which tact is sometimes displayed at clubs may be mentioned the sad case of a distinguished Irish literary man and member of the British parliament who was recently entertained at the dinner of a semi-literary club in a city on the Atlantic seaboard. The president of the club, rising to introduce him, said that there was one person upon whom most well-to-do people in this country must rely for their comfort on getting up in the morning—on whom it depended whether their steak should be underdone or overdone or their coffee be prepared rightly. That person, said the orator, was "Bridget." And there was another person whom many of us had to trust for having our lawns well mowed and our horses groomed; that person was "Patrick." The chairman then proceeded to introduce the distinguished Irish novelist and historian of the Victorian era, who was the guest of the evening, as "the representative of Bridget and Patrick," and sat down with the feeling that he had done a graceful thing!

Her Choice.

Harper's Bazar.

Proud Father (who has just been presented with a son)—Flossy, little daughter, which would you like best to have—a little sister or a little brother?

Flossy (meditatively)—Well, papa, if it's just the same to you, I think I'd rather have a little white rabbit.

The Other Extreme.

Harper's Bazar.

Lady—I should like to have my head shaved, please.

Hair-dresser—Your head shaved, madam?

Lady—Yes, I expect to go to the theater to-night.

FARM NOTES.

We would not undertake to raise chickens or to keep poultry through the winter and spring without a plentiful supply of dry earth. The best time to store it is whenever it is dry.

Sheep require careful watching, for if they get into trouble of any sort, as getting down in gullies or fastened in between logs or fence rails, they become so frightened or discouraged they succumb at once and die.

The annual product of maple sugar in the United States is estimated at 40,000,000 pounds. It would be much larger if farmers prepared for sugar-making in winter, so as to be in full readiness when the season opens.

The agricultural fairs of 1886 showed more and better horses than ever before. There is no branch of our improved stock breeding as progressive and prosperous as the draft horse interest, nor any one that is as profitable.

When cornstalks are to be used for fodder, husk the corn as soon as hard and the stalks are cured, and haul the stalks in at once, or if that be not possible stack them carefully temporarily and allow them to be exposed as little as possible to rain, as the butt ends pump the water up from the ground and ruin the fodder. Keep them in a mow, and if convenient mix them with a little dry straw. They are sweet and nourishing.

It is the opinion of Sir J. B. Lawes, whose opinions upon such matters are entitled to and receive much weight, that the best time to cut grass, either for hay or ensilage purposes, is when the majority of grasses are in flower. He thinks nothing is gained by waiting longer, his reason for such belief being that in the case of most of the grasses the seed formed is exceedingly light and the food which it contains is excessively small.

Prof. J. Hayes Panton, of the Agricultural College, of Ontario, suggests remedies for potato rot which we condense as follows: Dig as soon as brown spots appear. Put in a cool, dry place after digging. Grow early varieties. Burn affected stalks. Use only good seed. Get seed from unaffected districts. Don't plant in a field in which rot occurred the previous year. Avoid planting upon a heavy clay soil, but prefer a light and dry one.

Many farmers place great stress on the power of clover to restore the fertility of the soil. It does this by taking carbon from the atmosphere and causing elements in the soil to assume organic shape. It is aided in this process by its roots, which penetrate a great distance, and thus lighten up the soil. It is a disputed question whether the plowing in of clover is the most satisfactory and economical method of enriching the soil, but the practice is quite common in many localities.

A Sandy loam is rich in vegetable matter, and is one of the best and most productive soils we have. The great trouble with most sandy soils is their lack of vegetable matter. They contain nothing to absorb and retain moisture, and are consequently dry, and in their natural state barren. They bear only shrubs and brushes, which serve to shade the soil; otherwise even these would try up and wither away. In imitation of nature, clover is the most profitable crop for such soil.

Hay-caps are made of fifty-four-inch heavy sheeting cut into squares and bound with a strong cord, making a loop three or four inches long at each corner. The cloth may be water-proofed very cheaply by steeping it in a solution of alum and thereafter drying it first in solution of sugar of lead, or the cloth may be dipped in boiled linseed oil and then hung out to dry. The caps are used to cover haycocks, and are fastened down by pins put through the loops and pushed into the hay.

A very usual cause of barrenness in cows and other domestic animals, is excessive fat. Cows of improved beef breeds are more liable to this than those having less natural tendency to lay on fat. Heifers well kept during winter, and turned on fine pasture in the spring, become fat before autumn. A thrifty heifer can be wintered in good condition on good tame hay, with a little bran or other non-fattening food. If the animal is given a warm shelter, very little grain is advisable, and the supply of hay should be regulated by actual wants. Freedom and exercise are to be given at all times when the weather is not too severe. As soon as the grass is well started in spring, heifers and cows in calf, should be turned out where they will be compelled to travel a great deal for food. In well-fed herds the barren cows are usually those which are inclined to fatten, rather than those which change their food into large quantities of milk.

Sam Jones' Sayings.

I'd rather be a noble, generous sinner than a stingy Methodist.

God never made two men alike, and, if he did, one of them was of no account.

Jesus would put the angels on half-rations before he would let a soldier in his army suffer.

This world has been keeping its eyes open for 6,000 years, and yet they have never seen a good man want.

I left my feelings at home, for I thought some fool in Boston might hurt them if I brought them along.

The power of the pulpit is in the pew. It is rough to put a preacher in an ice-box and then curse him because he will not sweat.

They have been after me about my grammar long enough to straighten me out, but I always try to adapt my style to my congregation.

David was a great sinner, but David was a magnificent repenter. Hebest any man of his day sinning, but he also beat them all repenting.

There may be a lot of people who can beat me in living right, but there shall not be any man who can beat me in repenting when I do wrong.