

The Democrat

DECATUR, IND.

M. BLACKBURN, PUBLISHER

If there were a "strike" at a clock factory now, one could see weighty reasons for it.

FULL many a can of purest veneno...
Doth bring the slowly kindling fire;
Full many a Bridget, Maggie, or Kathleen
Doth by its aid join the celestial choir.

A FEW theatrical men are talking of abolishing bill boards. If they could do away with board bills it would be more to the purpose.

BERNHARDT, Langtry, Patti, and Mary Anderson are writing books. They will be offered to the soap trade at a liberal discount for use as premiums.

The man who has the courage to fail in trying to do right, rather than succeed in wrong, is the real hero, no matter whether he wears a paper cap or a crown on his head.

That war cloud in Europe has become so dense and threatening that there is no telling what might happen if an American rainmaker with a few bombs should go over there and begin experimenting.

PUCK has been cut off the list of papers in the reading-rooms of the Boston Public Library, because it is not considered healthy reading for the young. Boston takes life too seriously to laugh at jokes.

AFTER a five-years' term in the penitentiary, Mr. J. Finley Hoke, the thrifty bank cashier who robbed a Peoria bank of \$200,000 and fled to Canada, is now free and can go where he pleases with his money. Forty thousand dollars a year is a good salary for a man to earn in prison.

WHEN men, weary with the world's battle, return to the shelter of their own home, they need the kindness, the refinement, the high cultivation, the usefulness, the gentle pity which woman as she was meant to be knows how to afford him. The cultivation of a woman's mind cannot be a cultivation proper to her—to her constitution, her marked gifts, her work in the world.

THE latest thing is a "repairing outfit" of shoemakers' tools that enables the thrifty father of a family to do his own shoe mending and dispense with the services of cobblers entirely. The worst thing about this invention is that it seems to be the work of some experienced shoemaker who wants to get rich at the expense of his brethren.

THE numerous accidents which befall people who confide in the happy-go-lucky ministrations of boy drug clerks ought to serve as warnings, but they do not. Some additional legislation seems needed before the public can feel certain that no ignoramus or person of immature judgment will be found in the position of a dispensing clerk. Children cannot be allowed to clerk.

THE conduct of that spirited girl in a town close to New York City, who publicly horsewhipped a man because he had followed and accosted her on the streets on every possible occasion for three years, will meet with general approval. But it is too much to hope that it will serve as a salutary lesson to the race of "mashers." Those unworthy persons are possessed of such overweening conceit that each thinks such a mishap could never occur to him. Yet horsewhips are cheap and American girls are plucky.

WHAT will Stanley Africanus say to the news that Emin Pasha claims to have discovered the real and only Simon-pure sources of the Nile? There is a touch of bitterness in Emin's triumphant announcement, as much as to imply, "Oh, yes; you thought a bug-hunter couldn't find sources! But here they are, and all the others are spurious." Having thus set his trademark at the springs of ancient Nile, Emin is getting warlike, and talks of engaging the Mahdi of the moment in battle. But 'twere well to be prudent, for the Mahdi is a bad man with a bad eye, and he and his have already brought more than one white exploring expedition to grief.

THAT ancient suggestion that rail-way accidents be avoided by strapping a member of the board of directors to the engine might not, it appears, prove effective after all. The ex-president of the road and his wife were on the Monon train which met with a serious accident at Crawfordsville, Ind. In the reports of the disaster, which was a horrible one, the statement is made that "it was due to loose rail, two section-hands being at work on it at the time." That the condition of the rail should have been known and still no effort made to warn an approaching passenger train is a startling evidence of the happy-go-lucky system which prevails on too many railroads.

STANLEY is lecturing in Australia, and tells an interviewer there that "Emin Pasha is an utterly indecisive man—a man with no mind of his own—a man just suited, for instance, for a lady's afternoon tea party." The fact that immediately after escaping from Stanley's banishments, Emin made his way back to the very spot in the depths of the African jungle whence he had been "rescued," while Stanley has ever since been dangling at the apron-strings of rich women on the

outlook for celebrities, or chasing the almighty dollar to its lair in the lecture bureau, suggests that the pseudo-American explorer is snapping and snarling at the heels of a great man.

NEW SOUTH WALES is fortunate in the possession of a jurist who for a clear insight into the principles of justice out-Daniels Daniel. The biographical encyclopedia dodge for making money out of the vanity of men is as popular in that antipodean region as it is here. Into the court of this worthy judge came the publisher of "Australian Men of Mark," suing a subscriber. The defendant pleaded that he had subscribed for the work on the representation that it would contain his biography, but found it did not and refused to accept it. The judge, however, took a comprehensive view of the case and ruled all contracts for the work void on the ground that its title "Men of Mark" was a humbug and a fraud, as the biographies were those of nonentities willing to pay the price. Carried to its logical conclusion that decision would make life miserable for theatrical managers who advertise competent actors and clever comedies.

WHILE the horrible and criminal railroad slaughters of late are receiving such universal condemnation, there is another matter directly connected which should be denounced, and for which prompt remedy should be provided. Immediately after the disastrous rear collision at Hastings, word that it had occurred flashed over the country, and thousands, whose relatives were imperiled in the accident, were eager to learn the fate of their loved one. Many of those who came out of the wreck alive hastened at once to telegraph assurance of their safety to those so anxiously awaiting it. But the operator at Hastings would receive no such telegrams. He coolly and unfeelingly refused them, saying that it was in accordance with orders from headquarters. Fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, were at home stricken with fear, and enduring the agony of terrible suspense, but no word of comfort could be sent them. The railroad company had ordered otherwise. Had the wires been burdened with messages for surgeons, medicines, nurses, and other means of relief, there might have been some excuse for the cold-blooded order, but no such explanation is offered. When a corporation becomes thus soulless, some way should be found to force upon it a semblance of feeling.

WE HAVE been inclined to give to Dr. Leslie E. Keeley no small credit for the good he has apparently done in curing thousands of inebriates of the disease of drunkenness. It makes no difference whether his remedy is truly bi-chloride of gold or permanentate of potash; it does the work he claims for it, and thousands testify to his sincerity of purpose. But there must be something malevolent in the man's make-up, after all. He announces that he has been highly successful in the prevention and cure of the grip, and, unlike his attitude on the jag, specifies he is willing to disclose to the public the remedy he uses. But horrors! It's assaftetid! The Doctor's prominence in the medical world insures that a multitude of people will adopt his suggestion. And just think of the stupendous joke he will enjoy! We can all remember when, in our school days, a bag of assaftetid hung around the neck was an infallible protection against measles, scarlet fever, whooping cough, diphtheria, chicken pox, or whatever else may have been prevalent. It surely was a protection, for no one with the olfactory-paralyzing odor was allowed to get within gun-shot distance of anybody else, sick or well, unless the second party, taking advantage of the similibi similibi curanda idea, was also fortified by the magic bag. And now Dr. Keeley proposes that four grains of the unspeakably stinking stuff should be taken four times a day, by any one who either fears or experiences the grip. And hundreds will do it. So whenever you meet a man who smells like a combination of bi-sulphide of carbon, glue factory, and the modern society girl, you may know that Keeley, the exorciser of the drink demon, has scored another victim. After all, we shouldn't wonder if it was a long-headed scheme on his part. He may have pretty thoroughly exhausted the supply of inebriates, and is alarmed at the prospect of empty infirmaries. And if he can induce a party of sober mankind to adopt his cure for the grip, there is certainly nothing that would drive the balance to drink any more quickly or persistently.

Cotton in Turkestan.

Turkestan is beginning to develop her resources in the matter of growing cotton, just as the Southern States are giving less attention to the staple and more to other crops. Turkestan produced 97,200,000 pounds of cotton last year, but her crop this year is 30 per cent greater, reaching 126,000,000 pounds. It is expected that a still more rapid development will take place in the future, as labor-saving machines have been introduced, and more attention than heretofore is being given to irrigation and planting. —Philadelphia Ledger.

Scrubbing Brush for Potatoes.

IT is next to impossible to wash potatoes perfectly clean by hand. The use of a little scrubbing brush, such as may be purchased at from 5 to 10 cents, will soon make their jackets fresh and clean, so that they will be fit to be brought on the table roasted.

Old Furniture Restored.

Cracks in furniture may be filled with Indian red or burnt umber to get the desired shade. When dry it will take on equal polish.

WE EAT MORE SUGAR.

REMOVAL OF THE DUTY LOWERS PRICES.

A Reduction in Price Causes an Increase in Sugar Consumption—Falling Oil in the Pig Iron Production—High Tariff Methods.

How Free Sugar Works.

Free sugar is continuing to teach the people the truth about the tariff. Messrs. Willitt & Gray, of New York, the greatest authority in the country on sugar statistics, have recently published their annual statement showing the sugar consumption of the United States, and their figures show how the cheapness of sugar has increased the consumption of that article.

Raw sugar became free on April 1, 1891, and during the remaining nine months of the year the consumption of sugar was enormously increased. The total consumption for three years was as follows:

TONS	1888	1889	1890
	1,292,731	1,298,394	1,388,394

The increase of 1891 over the previous year was 363,263 tons, while the increase of 1890 over 1889 was only 83,030 tons.

Expressed in percentages the matter stands thus: Last year we consumed 23.81 per cent. more sugar than in 1890, but in 1890 we consumed only 5.76 per cent. more than in 1889. In 1890 we consumed 54.56 pounds of sugar for each individual; last year, with free sugar, three-fourths of the year, each one of us made away with 67.46 pounds.

This increase of consumption was directly caused by lower prices. On the very day that the duty was lowered 2 cents, granulated sugar fell 2 cents per pound, and prices have since been from 2 to 24 cents lower at wholesale, and still more at retail. The people now plainly see that they have for years been paying a big tariff tax on sugar.

If they will study the following table of prices, remembering that sugar can be refined as cheaply here as anywhere, they may confirm their suspicions. The prices in London are taken from the quotations in the first issue of the London Economist for each month. The prices in New York are from the American Grocer, and are averaged for each month:

PRICES GRANULATED SUGAR (CTS PER LB.)	1888	1889	1890
U. S. DUTY	1.40	1.35	1.34
March.	3.41	7.23	3.84
June.	3.98	9.08	4.18
September.	3.63	5.15	4.47
December.	3.52	5.92	4.07

1890.

January.

February.

March.

April.

May.

June.

July.

August.

September.

October.

November.

December.

January.

February.

March.

April.

May.

June.

July.

August.

September.

October.

November.

December.

January.

February.

March.

April.

May.

June.

July.

August.

September.

October.

November.

December.

January.

February.

March.

April.

May.

June.

July.

August.

September.

October.

November.

December.

January.

February.

March.

April.

May.

June.

July.

August.

September.

October.

November.

December.

January.

February.

March.

April.

May.

June.

July.

August.

September.

October.

November.

December.

January.

February.

March.

April.

May.

June.

July.

August.

September.

October.

November.

December.

January.