

The Democratic Sentinel

RENSELAER, INDIANA.

W. W. McEWEEN, PUBLISHER.

NO LESS than 1,102 persons met with an untimely end in Berlin during the past year, 414 of whom committed suicide. Of this last-named figure 182 died by hanging, 45 by shooting, 105 by drowning and 82 by poisoning themselves.

A NEW journal, called the *Honey-moon*, has appeared at Brussels. The editor announces that he has secured the co-operation of a doctor of law and of an experienced genealogist. The business of this last functionary will be to find illustrious ancestors for those who think their prospects of marriage will be thereby improved.

By the tearing down of an old house in Charlotte, N. C., a letter written twenty-five years ago, and describing the tender emotions of a citizen of Charlotte on the eve of his wedding, has been found. The old man had quite forgotten the letter, and now wonders how he could ever have been guilty of such sublime nonsense.

COL. PRESTON JOHNSTON, a son of Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston, is reported by the Rev. Dr. Henry M. Field as saying of the battle of Shiloh: "When my father was shot, and fell from his horse, he had gained a great victory; and if he had not been killed at that critical moment, in two hours more he would have captured Gen. Grant and his whole army."

It has just been discovered, so it seems, that there are no earthworms in the soil of Manitoba. This must be a source of profound satisfaction to Manitoba birds, as they will not have to get up so early in the morning in order to prevent the other bird from getting the worm. But then it is doubtful if a bird loves to lie in bed in the morning as much as mankind do. Thus are the most joyful discoveries tempered by mature reflection.

OLIVE LOGAN writes that Mrs. Victoria Woodhull is married to John Randolph Martin, a rich London banker, "and any fine day you can see the pleased amiable face of the now Mrs. Martin side by side with that of her faithful sister, Tinnie C. Cladin, as they sit together in their comfortable carriage and roll toward their splendid residence in Courtfield Gardens over the smooth avenues of lovely Hyde Park."

WILLIAM KING, a wealthy London merchant, struck a new kink in the matter of will-making which is calculated to work the opposite effect of ordinary wills, and at the same time give great encouragement to the study of a profession that never knows too much. He willed \$1,000 to his physician, with the proviso that the sum should be doubled every year that the testator should be kept alive. He lived ten years.

The paradise of wheelmen, as the users of bicycles and tricycles call themselves, is Washington, the streets of no other city affording such favorable conditions for the wheel. Ladies are beginning to use the tricycle, and a lady on one of these vehicles accompanied by a gentleman on a bicycle, promises to be a common sight. The number of bicycles in the United States is estimated at 40,000, and there are two or three associations of wheelmen.

WOMAN suffrage is being agitated in Great Britain. The ladies have now raised the war-cry, "No taxation without representation," and have boldly declared that they would steadily refuse to pay any taxes until their sex is enfranchised, and are organizing societies of female taxpayers to resist, by every device known to the law, the collection of taxes by forfeiture and sale. The leader of the agitation in the Commons is Mr. William Woodall, member for Stoke-on-Trent.

MR. EMBRY STORRS, of Chicago, was dining in London, at Minister Lowell's, and near him sat the Duke of Argyll, who during the conversation expressed surprise that Chicago should have treated Oscar Wilde—"a man whom we think nothing of, if we think of him at all"—so well. "It's all a mistake, your Grace," replied Mr. Storrs; "we had nothing to do with Wilde in Chicago." "But I certainly read in the New York and Boston papers long accounts of his reception in your city." "True, your Grace," answered the Chicago lawyer, "but the recent growth of Chicago has made it the metropolis of the United States, and all the seaboard cities are jealous of her, and say spiteful things about her."

ONE of Mexico's crudities is its post-office. Having entered the Postal Union, letters pass between it and other countries in the Union for 5 cents a half-ounce; but between towns within its own border the rates are a great deal higher. It is the custom

along the Rio Grande, therefore, for Mexicans to cross the river and use the American post, thus saving money in corresponding with their own countrymen.

"I WISH," says Lawrence Toole, the English comedian, "that the editors would kindly leave my nose alone. I have no desire to thrust my nose into the newspapers. Indeed, I entirely concur with my old and valued friend, Mr. Herbert Spencer, when he says: 'Evolution, devoid of antithesis, is but a weak substitute for the correlation of forces. The outcome of moral energy must succeed, not anticipate, natural effort.' These admirable words express exactly my views on this subject."

FRED HARTMAN, a 17-year-old prisoner at the Schenectady (N. Y.) Jail, where he was awaiting trial on the charge of theft, managed to escape, and, after leading the Sheriff a lively chase, crawled under a building only twenty inches from the ground. The Sheriff, suspecting his presence there, and not having a weapon, drew a meerschaum case from his pocket, and, pointing it where he supposed his bird was, threatened to shoot if he did not come out. Thinking the black article a veritable revolver, the prisoner surrendered and was taken back to jail.

A PHILADELPHIA oysterman has a pet clam that he calls "Puss." It is a big fellow; if that expression can be used about a clam that answers to the name of "Puss." He caught her at Narragansett Pier last summer, and she cost him so much digging that he decided to keep her. One night there was a terrible squalling down cellar where Puss had her sleeping apartments. The oysterman went down and found a rat with his feet fast between the bivalve shells. Since then the oysterman declares Puss has caught 112 rats. This is not a fish story, but it is as near as one can come to it when talking about clams.

A SPIDER's web is as capable of teaching a lesson now as in the days of Robert Bruce. When a detective was sent for to find out who had robbed the private safe of Mr. Judd, of Stratford, Conn., that observing individual noted the fact that while a window near the safe had been left open, apparently by the escaping thief, a cobweb stretched across the aperture had not a thread broken. The sagacious detective argued from this that the robber had had other means of entrance and exit, and thereupon hid himself to the law office of Mr. Judd's son, and accused him of having stolen the money. The young lawyer, who stood too high in the estimation of the public to have been suspected by any one, indignantly denied the charge; but when informed that there was proof that the window was opened from the inside, he "weakened," and confessed the theft. He handed over the money to the detective, and that worthy transferred it to the proper owner with explanations. It may be hardly necessary to remark that no prosecution of the thief has followed.

NEW YORK Sun: "It was as good as a circus," said Sergeant Mulholland. "I was walking along Broadway this morning when I saw a black-and-tan cab coming furiously up Murray street. The driver seemed to be doing his best to stop the animal, but it was unmanageable. A tall, well-built man, who did not see the runaway, was crossing the street. Everybody cried out to him, but the horse was close upon him before he saw it. Quick as thought he put out his right hand, seized the horse by the nostrils, gave a sudden twist, and the runaway was lying flat on his side on the crossing. The cab driver was too much astonished to say a word, and the stranger picked up his hat and walked off as coolly as though nothing had happened. I learned that he was Mr. Lemuel R. Sturges, the owner of a cattle ranch in Texas. He knew a trick that the cowboys have of throwing a steer by giving its head a little twist. He practiced it on Broadway, and that runaway horse got a lesson that he won't forget if he has any sense."

THERE is an annual battle between American martins and English sparrows at Midvale, N. J., for the possession of a box upon a fixed pole, wherein the martins have nested for many years. This box is coveted by the sparrows, and every spring before the martins return from their autumnal migrations, they build their nests and set up house-keeping in it. This year they went through the performance, and when the martins came they found their home in the possession of strangers. After flying about the box for some time the whole flock of martins betook themselves to a neighboring tree and there kept up a chattering, which had all the appearance of an indignation meeting. Then they made an attack on the box, and for some time there was a lively scrimmage among the feathers. The American birds succeeded in ousting the pugilistic foreigners after a hard fight, and then began a house-cleaning. The nests of the sparrows were ruthlessly dragged to the opening of the box, from which they were thrown to the ground. Every bit of straw or other material composing sparrows' nests was thrown out, and the disconsolate sparrows had to seek a new home.

INDIANA STATE NEWS.

—Christian Hartman, a Fort Wayne blacksmith, committed suicide by hanging himself in his barn.

—The residence of Dennis Murphy, of Jeffersonville, was robbed one night recently. The thieves got away with a \$125 gold watch and some small change.

—The town of Logansport is all broke up over the advent of a baby camel born on a farm near there. The mother was left there a few weeks ago by Sells' circus.

—Mrs. Mahala Tyler, of Georgetown, came to Floyd County in 1811, passing over the site of New Albany when it was a dense wilderness, and but one house—a log cabin—stood upon it.

—A young man named John Corbett attempted to board the special train from Cincinnati to Chicago, at Lafayette, and was thrown under the cars and instantly killed.

—George W. Walker, of Scottsburg, while fishing in the Muscatine River, was seriously horned by a large cat-fish while trying to take it from the water. He is in a critical condition.

—Clara Vrooman, a young lady attending the Holy Angels' Academy, at Logansport, swallowed a piece of chewing-gum a few days ago, and has nearly died through consequent inflammation of the stomach.

—Near Indianapolis, John Bridges and wife assailed James Barnett and wife, the two latter being fatally injured. Bridges escaped, but his wife was arrested. There had been a long-standing feud between the parties.

—The fruit crop will not be an entire failure in Harrison County, although it will not be half as large as last year. There will be no peaches and but a small crop of cherries and other small fruits. Indications are that there will be an average crop of apples.

—Three Indiana highwaymen, fearing that the boy whom they had robbed might reach a neighboring village to report the crime before they could get to a safe distance in the other direction, deliberately shot a bullet through each of his legs in order to lame him.

—Mr. Dan Nail, a respectable and well-to-do farmer, attempted to cross the Big Four tracks in front of an advancing express-train, at Fairland, and was caught, receiving fatal injuries. The horse he was driving was cut to pieces and the buggy was torn to splinters.

—About nine years ago the home of W. L. Miller, of Greensburg, was supposed to have been entered by burglars and quite a quantity of valuables taken, among them a gold watch. One day last week Mrs. Miller discovered some valuables hidden away in a fire-hole in a room where there had been no fire for nine years; among these was the watch.

—At Terre Haute, Hiram Bryant went to the residence of his mother-in-law, and, effecting an entrance through a window, went to the bedside of his wife, from whom he was separated some time ago, and cut her throat with a pocket-knife. The wound is not considered dangerous. Bryant was arrested on the charge of assault and battery with intent to kill.

—For a number of years Ettie Harpole, a young girl aged about 14 years, has made her home with her grandfather, John E. Harpole, a respectable citizen of Booneville. The other night she disappeared, and it has just come to light that she took away with her about one hundred and fifty dollars which belonged to her grandparent, and which he had kept in a drawer known to the girl. It was learned that she took the train going west, and it is supposed that she started for Springfield, Ill., where she had an aunt living.

—The following resolution was adopted by the National Board of Trade at its annual meeting at Indianapolis: "That the Executive Committee of the National Board of Trade respectfully memorialize the Banking and Currency Committee of the United States House of Representatives to carefully consider the propriety of so revising or amending the national-bank act as to make more effective on the limit therein expressed of loaning money not in excess of one-tenth of the capital of the bank to any one corporation or individual, as well as the punitive features of the law."

—Near New Burlington, seven miles from Muncie, men were at work near one side of the pits when the bank caved in and a large number of bones rolled in before them. A casual examination of them was made, and they were found to be the remains of human beings. The greater part of the bones were entirely decayed, having returned to dust, but some of them were perfectly preserved. The best of them were picked up and given to Dr. W. E. Driscoll, who critically examined them. He says they are undoubtedly the remains of three Indians, representing three generations of this race, the aged, the middle-aged, and the youth. With these were found the bones of some animal, perhaps the favorite dog which had been buried with the warrior. Besides these were a stone implement, some trinkets, and a large amount of charcoal, the latter substance being an evidence to the minds of some that this party of three were victims of the stake. That part of the country was the favorite hunting ground of the Delaware Indians, for whom the county was named.

—Over twenty-seven years ago Mr. D. C. Hayes, of Columbus, buried a little 2-year-old daughter. Yesterday the body was exhumed and the casket opened, when it was found that the remains were in a perfect state of preservation. The only change was an apparent growth of the hair and eyelashes. Those who saw the child before burial said that they could easily have recognized her now, so natural did she appear.

—Mrs. Mary Sullivan was struck by a train near Scottsburg and badly injured.

BLAINE'S RECORD.

Charges the Kennebec Man Will Be Compelled to Answer.

Always for the Corporations and Always Against the People.

A Blustering Demagogue, a Corrupt Lobbyist, and a Pandering Trimmer.

Some time previous to the meeting of the National Republican Convention at Chicago, the *Daily News*, of that city, published a history covering many points in the political career of the "magnetic and aggressive" Maine man, and urging that it was the part of wisdom for the Republicans to nominate a candidate for the Presidency whose record would not need to be explained, denied, or defended throughout the entire campaign. The following extracts are taken from the *Daily News* article.

His Debut in Washington as a Lobbyist.—In one of the first letters read by Mr. Blaine in his celebrated theatrical display on the floor of Congress, June 29, 1874, was the which disclosed his questionable connection with some rifle contracts in 1861. Two years before his election to Congress he appeared in Washington as the agent of the Spencer Rifle Company, saw Cameron, the Secretary of War, and secured the purchase by the Government of 20,000 standard of arms. This episode in his career is thus spoken of in an editorial in the *Chicago Tribune*, June 8, 1876:

"In regard to the Spencer rifle contract, it appears that Blaine, before he entered Congress, entered into a bargain for making a sale to the Government through Simon Cameron, the Secretary of War, and that he assisted in securing legislation favorable to the gun company, enabling them to escape paying taxes on the arms, after he became a member of Congress. It also appears from his own letters that he took \$10,000 worth of stock in the company, and that he received his note; that as late as 1873 this note had not been paid, but, in a letter to Fisher in that year, Blaine claimed that the dividends, running through all these years, and embracing the interest on the dividends, had been paid, and that he drew dividends on that stock all the time he was in Congress, and while he was assisting the company in securing legislation to avoid paying their taxes."

Blaine and the Credit Mobilier Frauds.—From the time that Mr. Blaine entered Congress he appeared to have had a tender and toward all sorts of speculative legislation. It may have been the infirmity of his personal magnetism. His record on railway subsidies would have to be explained, in view of such statements as the following in the *Chicago Tribune* of June 3, 1876:

"He entered Congress in December, 1863. At that session the Pacific Railroad bill proposed the great fraud, by which the security of the Government was placed in the hands of a few men, and the Government was granted \$4,000,000 of bonds with thirty years' interest was changed from a first to a second mortgage on the road. Mr. Washburne, of Illinois, thoroughly exposed the fraud, and moved to strike out the section making the change. Mr. Blaine voted with the majority against striking out, and the mortgage of the United States, for principal and interest, amounting to over \$100,000,000, became utterly valueless. Mr. Blaine voted for the bill and supported it."

From the time of the vote to which this mention refers Mr. Blaine's enemies declare he was the unwavering friend of all railway legislation which sought corporate advantage at the expense of the nation.

Mr. Blaine and Northern Pacific.—It will be well for Mr. Blaine's advocates to make themselves masters of the full details of his connection with the Northern Pacific transaction referred to in the following editorial of the *Chicago Tribune*, June 8, 1876:

"In regard to the Northern Pacific transaction, the letters admit that Mr. Blaine was anxious to transfer to Fisher and others a lot of the fictitious stock of that company for \$25,000 cash, and gave a receipt therefor. In the letter dated July 1, 1876, about six months after he had received for the \$25,000, Blaine writes to Fisher about a general settlement, and among other things says: 'First, I am ready to fulfill the memorandum which you delivered to me in regard to the Northern Pacific Railroad, as I always have been.' Presumably the memorandum referred to is the following: [Confidential.]

BOSTON, Dec. 1874.—Received of Warren Fisher, Jr., \$25,000 in trust, in consideration of which I am to deliver to said Fisher properly authenticated certificates of an interest in the Northern Pacific Railway Company, to-wit: one-eighth (1/8) part of one of the twenty-four (24) principal shares in which the franchise stock of said company is divided. Certificates to be in the name of Elisha Atkins. Witness my hand: J. G. BLAINE.

It looks as though Mr. Blaine, for eighteen months at least, had the Northern Pacific stock in his pocket, and that he was finally delivered because a more favorable sale was negotiated in another quarter, or because Mr. Blaine at the last decided not to consummate the transaction which he himself had proposed and urged, is not explained.

Before preparing their report on the following may insure Mr. Blaine's friends from falling into the pit of ignorance into which William Walter Phelps tumbled:

MY DEAR MR. FISHER:—A year ago and more I spoke to you about purchasing an interest in the Northern Pacific Railroad for yourself and any you might choose to associate with you. The matter passed by without my being able to control it, and nothing more was said about it. Since then the Jay Cooke contract has been perfected, and additional legislation has been obtained, and 230 miles of the road are well-nigh completed, and the whole line will be pushed forward at a rapid rate. By a strange revolution of circumstances I am again able to control an interest, and if you desire it you can have it. The whole road is divided into twenty-four shares, of which you own one. The value of the franchise of the land company stock that is formed to take and dispose of the 52,000,000 acres of land covered by their grants is amended by the law of last session. The amount of stock the 1-192 would have in the end would be about \$425,000, and the number of acres of land represented is nearly 275,000. The road is being built on the 7.30 bonds, \$25,000 to the mile, which Jay Cooke takes at 90. Instead of the mortgage of the land they make a stock company for its ownership, dividing it pro rata among the holders of the franchise. The whole thing can be had for \$25,000, and the interest is less than that of any other sales of small interests have gone at. I do not suppose you would care to invest the whole \$25,000. I thought for a small flyer eight or ten per cent. a year might take it—\$2,500 cash. For \$2,500 stock you would get ultimately \$42,500 stock and the avails of some 27,000 acres of land. You are at it for \$5,000 each would have a splendid thing of it.

"The chance is a very rare one. I can't touch it, but I obey my first and best impulse in offering it to you."

All such chances as this since Jay Cooke got the road have been accompanied with the obligation to take a large amount of the bonds at 90 and hold them not less than three years. I will be in Boston Tuesday noon, and will call upon you. Of course, if you don't want it, let it pass. You will immediately issue the stock to a considerable amount, and certificates of land stock also. Of course, in conferring with others, keep my name quiet, mentioning it to no one except to Mr. Caldwell. I write under the presumption that you have returned, but I have heard nothing. Yours truly, J. G. BLAINE.

Blaine and Little Rock and Fort Smith.—The story of Mr. Blaine's relation to the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railway would fill the attention of his detractors. As told by the *Chicago Tribune* of June 8, 1876, it is as follows:

In regard to the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad transaction, it seems that Mr. Blaine undertook to job or dispose of \$150,000

of first-mortgage bonds for Mr. Fisher, giving along with them the same number of "common stock" and the same amount of "preferred stock." But Mr. Fisher delivered to Blaine for \$180,000 cash \$182,500 in first-mortgage bonds, besides \$180,000 in land-grant bonds and common and preferred stock aforesaid. [In this way Blaine received as a commission for selling \$32,500 in first-mortgage bonds \$180,000 in land-grant bonds, without paying any money himself.] The *Daily News* published the whole transaction, and referred to the bonds due from Fisher to Blaine under this contract. The commission or gratuity received by Mr. Blaine in this transaction would appear to have come from his saving (while Speaker of the House) the bill which renewed the land grant to the Little Rock Company after it had lapsed. He did this by ruling out, in his capacity as Speaker, the El Paso amendment tacked on to the bill, and the bill was passed, defeated the original bill, had it gone to the Senate in that shape. Mr. Blaine was careful to point out his service in this matter in a letter to Fisher, dated Oct. 4, 1868, and asking the latter to tell Caldwell (who controlled the enterprise) that he (Blaine) had done him "a great favor." Some months before, in a letter dated June 29, 1869, Blaine asked Fisher to get Caldwell to make him a loan of \$100,000, and to let him have some interest in this railway enterprise, and added: "If I once embark in it I see various channels in which I know I can be useful."

Some of the evidence in regard to this interesting matter is from the pen of Mr. Blaine himself, and is contained in the following letters:

MY DEAR MR. FISHER:—I thank you for the letter from Mr. Lewis. It is good in itself, and will do good. He writes like a man of large intelligence and comprehension. Your offer to admit me to a participation in the new railroad enterprise is in every respect as generous as I could expect or desire. I thank you very sincerely for it, and in this connection I wish to make a suggestion of a somewhat selfish character. It is this: You spoke of Mr. Caldwell's offer to dispose of a share of interest to me. If he really desires to do so, I wish he would make the proposition definite, so that I could know just what to depend on. Perhaps if he waits until the end of the year, and then makes the proposition, I may grow reluctant to part with the share; and I do not by this mean any distrust of him. I do not feel that I shall prove a deadhead in the enterprise if I once embark in it. I see various channels in which I know I can be useful. Very hastily and sincerely yours, J. G. BLAINE.

Mr. Fisher, India street, Boston.

He returns to the subject a few days later:

MY DEAR MR. FISHER:—I thank you for the letter from Mr. Lewis. It is good in itself, and will do good. He writes like a man of large intelligence and comprehension. Your offer to admit me to a participation in the new railroad enterprise is in every respect as generous as I could expect or desire. I thank you very sincerely for it, and in this connection I wish to make a suggestion of a somewhat selfish character. It is this: You spoke of Mr. Caldwell's offer to dispose of a share of interest to me. If he really desires to do so, I wish he would make the proposition definite, so that I could know just what to depend on. Perhaps if he waits until the end of the year, and then makes the proposition, I may grow reluctant to part with the share; and I do not by this mean any distrust of him. I do not feel that I shall prove a deadhead in the enterprise if I once embark in it. I see various channels in which I know I can be useful. Very hastily and sincerely yours, J. G. BLAINE.

After waiting all summer for Caldwell to make a definite proposition, he again wrote:

MY DEAR MR. FISHER:—I spoke to you a short time ago about a point of interest to your railroad company. It was on the last night of the session when the bill renewing the land grant to the State of Arkansas for the Little Rock Road was under consideration. I was then a member of the Public Lands Committee, and by right entitled to the floor, attempting to put in the bill, as an amendment, the Fremont El Paso scheme, and to have it well known to Mr. Caldwell. The house was thin, and the lobby in the Fremont interest had the thing all set up, and I was not able to get a word in. I was very disappointed, and I thought I would bring it up to a vote. The other members from Arkansas, who were doing their best for their own bill, to which there seemed to be no chance of success, in despair, I was well known that the Senate was hostile to the Fremont scheme, and if the Arkansas bill had gone through, it would have been a disaster to the whole thing. 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