

The Democratic Sentinel

RENSSELAER, INDIANA.

J. W. MC EWEN, PUBLISHER.

MARION HALEND says women who write shouldn't marry.

More than five thousand men in New York do business under the protection of their wives' names.

The pastor of the Presbyterian church at Falls City, Kan., threw up his job because the women of his congregation played afternoon whist.

DANIEL STONE, a Fulton, Wis., farmer, has a horse and buggy with a history. He (the horse) is thirty-seven years of age and fought in the army, on the Confederate side.

IN the combined register of the First Presbyterian Church of Morrisstown, N. J., now being published, is recorded the death of a negro servant of Dr. John Johnes, aged 81 years, "frightened to death by ghosts."

SOME workingmen digging on a road in Jersey City Heights, N. J., found at a depth of fourteen feet a box containing over \$15,000 in old State Bank currency. It had probably been hidden there years ago by some unknown miser. The notes have no value now.

QUEEN VICTORIA has a great fondness for policemen. That is to say, she prefers them to sentries, and in consequence Osborne and Balmoral are both guarded by the bobbies, much to the disgust of the military. It is the sum and total of a British policeman's ambition to do duty for her Majesty.

IT is very rarely that rum accomplishes any good, but it is a fact that the cause of justice has been promoted by the use of rum. A man who murdered a policeman, in Scranton, Pa., eluded the vigilance of scores of detectives who were on the search. A few days since, at Sunbury, Pa., he got drunk, committed an assault, was arrested, and, while in court, was identified.

A HOLE ten feet in circumference appeared in Oconee County, Ga., during the great earthquake in 1886. It is full of water, and there has long been talk about its depth, but no soundings were taken until a few days ago. Then a rope 200 feet long was put down, but it failed to touch bottom, and now there are persons who declare that "the hole extends into the bowels of the earth." It is proposed to take a second sounding in the near future.

DR. BROKAW, of St. Louis, makes the observation that there is a class of criminals that may be termed moral imbeciles, as they have no idea of the difference between right and wrong. He cites the case of one of these, who had just been released from prison. He shot a man, and when asked what he did for it he said that he would just as soon be locked up as be out. Men of this class are not susceptible of punishment. Hanging merely rids the community of their presence.

A WRITER in the *Quarterly Review* tells a story illustrating the possible disadvantage of culture in the kitchen: "An English woman, the wife of a well-known physician, had occasion to remonstrate with her cook because the latter had repeatedly neglected to send up the dinner with that punctuality desirable in well-regulated households. To her astonishment she was informed that the young person in question was much occupied with the novel she was writing that she had been unable to pay due attention to her kitchen duties."

ONE of the wonders of California is a feat of engineering which has never yet been described in any book, and is but little known outside the neighborhood in which it is situated. In Sonora County, near the Pacific coast, may be seen an actual railroad bed in the trees. Between the Clipper Mills and Stuart Point, where the road crosses a deep ravine, the trees are sawed off on a level with the surrounding hills, and the timbers and ties are laid on the stumps. In the center of the ravine two huge red-wood trees, standing side by side, form the most substantial support.

A LEWISTON, Maine, gentleman is anxiously looking up an heirloom in the shape of an old Bible, printed with German text and brought over by his Dutch ancestors. It was in the possession of an uncle who had lately died. Among the gentleman's earliest remembrances is that of a curiosity-seeker who once tried to buy the much-prized Bible from his mother. She refused to part with it at any price. Thereupon the stranger had the audacity coolly to cut off a fragment of the leather cover as a relic. Hastily snatching it from her she exclaimed, haughtily, "I am able to keep it, sir!"

A BELGIAN chemist is said to have devised a method of rendering fabrics proof against the ravages of decay for an indefinite period. Noting the fact that resin played an important part in the wonderful preservation of Egyptian mummies, he made numerous experiments with substances extracted from birch bark, to which the peculiar aroma of Russia leather is due. He found that the green tar which is left over after the oil used in tanning has been extracted from the white bark of the birch tree yields neither acid nor alkaloid, and that in solution with alcohol it forms a liquid of remarkable fluidity, which has the power of resisting when the action of even alcohol. It is

claimed that this preservative possesses the property of uniting with the most delicate and brilliant colors and rendering them apparently imperishable.

WOLVES, coyotes, cats and panthers in Texas are multiplying under the protection of the barbed wire fence and the apathy of the State Legislators. A few years since a thorough scalp law would have settled forever the wild animal question in Texas at a small expense. Now it will cost twice the money, and meantime stockmen and farmers have lost many times the money in calves, colts and sheep killed. In a few years things will be worse. A ranchman, G. A. Anderson, of Kinney County, has been compelled to buy a pack of hounds and turn hunters to protect his flock from the increasing ravages of panthers. The same thing is happening all over Texas.

THE Minneapolis Directory, of which there are several copies in New York, and curiosities they are esteemed, shows among other "Beckers" supposed to be citizens of that lively town one "Carl Becker," who is put down as a "watchman." People who undoubtedly know what they are talking about say that it can be demonstrated that "Carl Becker" is a big watch dog belonging to well-known Minneapolis named Becker. If this year's directory is made up as New York's is said to have been, in parts from the tables of the census-takers, Mr. Becker's dog may, or may not, be excluded. But his appearance in the directory is not the first time a dog has done duty for a man in this country. In the days when graveyard insurance was rampant in the interior of Pennsylvania the life of one "John Barker" was insured for \$1,000, and on proof of death the claim was paid, "John Barker" being a pup belonging to one of the certifying doctors.

AN English paper records a pathetic romance which ended happily at the Old Bailey in London a short time ago. William Stork, a respectable laborer, was indicted for trying to murder his sweetheart. He and she had loved each other for seven years. Poverty, however, kept them from marrying. Out of his earnings of \$5 a week Stork had kept the girl, her aged and infirm father and brother, and his own mother from the workhouse. She, fearful of being a further burden, left to stay with a brother. The lovers, however, met one day, and the man pressed the woman to marry. She, still dreading their poverty, refused, whereupon Stork, wild with despair, tried to cut her throat and his own. The judge and the jury both agreed in sentencing him to a more formal punishment, and the devoted couple met the reward of their long self-denial by getting a gift of \$50 from the sheriff's fund to enable them to marry and set up house together.

IN Ireland only one shamrock is known, says the *American Notes and Queries*. It is an indigenous species of clover, which trails along the ground among the grass in meadows. The trefoil leaves are not more than one-fourth the size of the smallest clover I have seen in America, and are pure green in color, without any of the brown shading of white and pink clovers. The creeping stem is hard and fibrous, and is difficult to dislodge from the earth. On St. Patrick's Day the true shamrock has to be searched out among the grass, for, though comparatively plentiful at that season, it grows close to the ground. Later it bears a tiny "whitish-brown" blossom. The information that shamrock is the Arabic word for trefoil may be of service to those interested in the origin of the Irish race. The word could have been introduced by the Milesians, or it may furnish an argument in support of the contention that one of the lost ten tribes of Israel settled in Ireland, which has been revived by the publication of a recent book.

Discharging a Man.

Discharging a man for any cause is a duty that most employers dislike, says the Pittsburg *Dispatch*. To get around the disagreeable part of this obligation some men resort to subterfuge more or less amiable. For instance, a certain firm in New York had a letter form which it always used when discharging had to be done. Here it is:

"DEAR SIR—The conditions of our business will not permit us to avail ourselves of your valuable services after next Saturday. BLAKE & CO."

Another large employer of labor told me not long ago that he never discharged an employee.

"What, never?" I inquired.

"Never," he repeated. "I always ask a man to resign, and if he doesn't resign I resign from the place of master."

That reminded me of a foreman in a factory who was so soft-hearted that he never could bring himself to fire a man in so many words. When it became necessary to get rid of a hand he used to send for the victim and address him thus: "I'm sorry, Wilhelm, but I lays you off for awhile."

"How long for?" is the usual response.

"Oh, I doan know—maybe six months—maybe a year—or two years or ten years—I doan know."

His Dicker.

Mr. Pinelands (from Jersey) — I reckon I've found it at last. This is the Produce Exchange Buildin', ain't it?

Messenger—Yes.

Mr. Pinelands—Good! Here's four dozen eggs, an' you can hustle 'em git me a yaller neck-han'kerchief with red spots, a hand of chewin' terbacker, an' a small bladder of snuff for mother.—Judge.

THE SCIENCE OF COINS.

RELATION OF NUMISMATICS TO HISTORY AND EDUCATION.

Coins of the United States—Gold.

HERE were few very marked changes in design of the gold coins of the United States from the first establishment of its mint, in 1792, until 1834. By act of Congress, dated June 28, 1834, the weight of the eagle was reduced from 270 grains to 258 grains, and the fineness from a standard of 22 carats, or 917 thousandths fine, to 899.225 fine. But by act of January 18, 1837, the fineness was again advanced to 900, and at that standard it has since remained. Of course, the half and quarter eagles shared proportionately both in the reduction and the restoration.

The year 1834 gave two coinages of half-eagles, the first being a reproduction of the years immediately preceding; the second has on its obverse the liberty head facing left, a profile bearing 880 Thous., beneath is 50 D. C. Legend, United States of America.

All this is inclosed in a beaded circle, outside of which, around the octagon

The gold dollar also made its appearance in 1849, its coinage being authorized by act of March of that year; the weight was fixed at 25.8 grains, the gold to be 900 fine. This little coin had on its obverse the Liberty head, facing left, a band about the forehead, on which is the word "Liberty," and thirteen six-pointed stars around the edge of the field. Reverse, a laurel wreath inclosing, in three lines, the inscription, "1 Dollar, 1849," and this is surrounded by the legend, "United States of America."

A fifty-dollar gold piece came from the United States assay office at San Francisco in 1851. This assay office was established by act of Congress in 1850. There are two varieties of the \$50 gold coin, popularly known as the "California Slug." Though these pieces were never authorized by Congress, yet they were received and ranked as United States coin, and as such may here be properly noticed. An octagon shape characterizes both types; the first has, on the obverse, an eagle with upward spread wings, supporting a reclining United States shield. In the talons of the bird are grasped three arrows and an olive branch; from its beak, toward the left, flies a streamer inscribed "Liberty"; over the head of the eagle is another inset bearing 880 Thous., beneath is 50 D. C. Legend, United States of America.

To shield themselves on such a day, Both through a window forced their way.

One boy was Sheridan, whose ride The poet Read has glorified.

And, when inside, young Sheridan Planned to entrap the "master man."

Above the door he placed a pail Of water, that could hardly fall.

To douse the master, and to fire Him when he came to build the fire.

The boys then hid when this was done, And watched and waited for the fun.

Soon Patrick came—the pail upset, Which made him very mad and wet.

He searched the schoolhouse all around,



GOLD COINS OF THE UNITED STATES—DOUBLE EAGLES, ETC., AND CALIFORNIA GOLD ISSUES.

surrounding the effigy. Reverse, the same as former pieces. The coin was again, beginning with this second issue, reduced in size by one-sixteenth of an inch. There was no further change until 1839.

In 1834 there were also two distinct forms of the quarter-eagle; the first was identical in every detail, except date, with the coin of 1821. The second is a reduced fac-simile of the last described half-eagle, the only difference being the exergue: "2 1/2 D." These designs were continued in use until 1840.

The coinage of eagles was resumed in 1838. The obverse of the new piece of that year, presented: A Liberty head, facing to the left, hair done up in knot, and curls falling over the neck, a coronet upon the forehead, bearing the word "Liberty." Around the edge of the field are thirteen stars. Exergue, 1838. Reverse: An eagle with the U. S. shield upon its breast, an olive branch and three arrows in the talons. Legend: United States of America; exergue, "Ten D." In 1866, a change was made by the introduction, on the field of the reverse, above the head and between the wings of the eagle, of a scroll inscribed, "In God We Trust," and this constitutes the only change that has been made in the U. S. gold eagle coin since 1838.

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A twenty-dollar piece, circular in form, with obverse similar to that within the circle of the "slugs," except that the scroll is inscribed "800 Thous.", and the exergue reads "Twenty D." came, in 1853, from the San Francisco Assay Office. Its reverse bears the same web-work of lines as the \$50 piece, but across the center is an open space on which is lettered in three lines: United States Assay Office of Gold, San Francisco, California.

A ten-dollar gold piece, identical in design with the last described, but having the exergue "Ten D." and "884 Thous." in scroll on the obverse, and date, 1852, in the lettering of the reverse, is another specimen of this particular coinage, all of which is marked by the grained edge, and all of which, too, are invariably found equal to the weight and fineness claimed.

A three-dollar gold piece was authorized by act of Congress dated Feb. 21, 1853, the weight to be 77.4 grains, fineness 900. The first coins of this denomination were struck in 1854. On the obverse is: A head, representing an Indian princess, with hair lightly curling over the neck; head crowned with a circle of feathers, on the band of which is inscribed "Liberty," and around the edge, as legend, United States of America; reverse: a wreath of tobacco, corn, wheat and cotton plants occupy the field; in it, in three lines, appears: "3 Dollars 1854." No change was ever made in these dies except for date of year.

The United States gold coins mentioned here valued, for collections, about as follows:

Year	Coin.	Condition.	Fair.
1849	Double Eagle	\$500.00	\$...
1850 to 1857	Double Eagle	20.00	14.00
1858	Eagle, head to left	20.00	14.00
1829-40	Eagle	15.00	12.00
1841-42	Eagle	14.00	11.00
1843 to 1858	Eagle	11.50	10.50
1855 to 1857	Half Eagle	8.00	6.00
1854	\$3 gold piece, head to left	5.00	3.50
1855 to 1857	\$3 gold piece	4.00	3.50
1854	Quarter Eagle, "E. P. U."	6.00	4.00
1855	Quarter Eagle, new head	6.00	4.00
1856 to 1858	Quarter Eagle	4.00	3.25
1849 to 1858	Gold dollar	.75	1.50
1858 to 1862	Gold dollar	3.00	2.00
1863	Gold dollar	10.00	6.00
1865	Gold dollar	4.00	3.00
1866-67	Gold dollar	6.00	3.00
1869	Gold dollar	4.00	1.50
1870	Gold dollar	2.50	1.50
1873-74	Gold dollar	1.75	1.50
1875	Gold dollar	15.00	9.00
1876 to 1884	Gold dollar	2.00	1.50
1885 to 1887	Gold dollar	1.75	1.50

A. M. SMITH, Numimatist.

PHIL AND THE PEDAGOGUE.

A True Story Related of Gen. Philip H. Sheridan.

BY HOWARD CARLETON TRIPP.

Patrick McNally used to rule At Somerset a district school.

His mode of teaching was to train The pupils to obey his cane.

Each pupil was to him "an arch That shure must fale and lave the birch."

And so, with education's rod, With language suited to a hod.

He by his stern, tyrannic force— A master not of books, but force.

And thus, much like a monarch's rule, He "teach'd" at Somerset the school.

One cold, bleak morn of frost and rime, Two pupils came ahead of time.

To shield themselves on such a day, Both through a window forced their way.

One boy was Sheridan, whose ride The poet Read has glorified.

And, when inside, young Sheridan Planned to entrap the "master man."

Above the door he placed a pail Of water, that could hardly fall.

To douse the master, and to fire Him