

# The Democratic Sentinel

RENSSELAER, INDIANA.

J. W. McEWEN, PUBLISHED

A RICH find of silver is reported to have been made in Calhoun County, Alabama, in what appears to be a mine formerly worked by Indians. The ore is said to assay 60 per cent. of pure silver.

J. H. SPANGLE, of Fontano, Lebanon County, Pa., three years ago brought a sprout of a banana tree from Florida and planted it. It has grown to a height of twelve feet and has leaves five feet long.

Gov. MELLETTE of South Dakota, with three other gentlemen, recently started out for few days' hunting. They became lost and nearly died of starvation and thirst on the prairie. In an exhausted condition a cowboy found them and conducted them home.

An Irishman of Company D, Third Maine, was eloquently describing the first battle of Bull Run, in which he had been one of the promptest participants. A member of the Seventeenth Maine asked Pat: "Did you run?" "Faith, and I did," replied Pat, "and the fellows that didn't are there yet!"

J. D. SMITH is a crippled tax collector of Charleston, Me. So great is the sympathy of his neighbors for him that, although he is able to move about, the taxpayers all help him to perform his duties in an effective manner, and men have been known actually to take him to where he could attach their property.

JOHN FRENCH, of Des Moines, told little Willie Campbell that there was no such locality as Heaven. Mrs. Campbell at once brought suit against him for \$5,000 damages, and she would not let up until she had spent \$175 and the case had been thrown out of court. She'll be certain of it when she gets there.

A PIUTE brave walked into the Colfax *Sentinel* office to see the paper printed. He was in full dress, with leather and linen duster. The foreman asked "Afraid-to-wash-his face?" why he was not in the hop field. He said: "Me no like pickum hops, too much stickum hands. My woman get \$1.75 a day."

"Our next issue will be our last," writes a Georgia editor. "We are satisfied the people of this town can get along without us, for we have been getting along without the people for six months past. There are some subscriptions owing, but we will not collect them, as the citizens will soon need the money to defray the funeral expenses of the town."

It is remarkable how the French hold on to the monopoly of crystallizing fruit. It is not pretended that French fruits are superior to ours, or that they begin to compare with California products; but although workmen have been brought over from France for the purpose, the industry never seems to have gained a substantial footing in this country.

A NUMBER of Sfax fishermen, near Tunis, were sitting the other day round a fire which they had kindled on the shore, when suddenly there was a terrible explosion from the heart of the burning mass, one person being killed and several seriously wounded. It was subsequently found to be the explosion of a shell which had lain under the sand since the French bombardment in 1881.

DRIVEN nearly to insanity by the cruelty of her wealthy husband, Frau Augusta Shley, the wife of a prominent Berliner, drowned herself and her 15-year-old daughter in a river near Berlin the other day. Before leaping into the water the mother and child wept bitterly, then kissed and embraced and died locked in each other's arms, having struggled fiercely with the fishermen who strove to rescue them.

A NEW ZEALAND paper reports something entirely new in the racing line. At a horse race the course lay across the sands at Okaroro bay, and, through delay, the tide rose so high that the horses had to swim some distance before the winning post was reached. The result was that one of the animals, which would otherwise have been beaten, came off victorious, on account of superior natatorial powers.

THE Indians near Elk Rapids, Mich., cannot be persuaded to cross Bass Lake in winter or summer, and although it is full of the best fish they never will cast in its waters. They have a legend that many moons ago, while fishing in the lake, one of their number was seized and borne beneath its dark waters by a great, big, horrid monster, just like the one claimed to have been seen this season by several parties.

THEY tell this little story of Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe, with needless apology based upon her age and mental infirmity. Walking in a friend's garden one day, she asked the gardener: "Have you ever read 'Uncle Tom's Cabin?'" The perplexed fellow slowly unbent himself. He was unwilling to wound the sensibilities of Mrs. Stowe, and he wished to say the most for himself. And so he felt himself getting very red as he stammered: "Well, not exactly, ma'am. Not as you might say 'read it,' but I've tried to, ma'am."

IOWA has passed a stringent tramp law. It declares that any male person sixteen years of age or over, who is

physically able to work, who is wandering about begging or idle and who can not show reasonable efforts to secure employment, shall be deemed a tramp, sent to jail and put to hard work. While in jail he shall not be allowed tobacco, liquors, sporting or illustrated newspapers, cards or any other means of amusement. The tramps will give Iowa a wide berth.

JAMES BAILEY, of Birmingham, Ala., the king of voodoo doctors, is in jail. He worked the colored folk for miles about his home and was ruling things in great style. He might be a free man now, only he went to the house of a colored woman in Birmingham the other day and got into trouble. He told the woman that a pot of gold was buried in her garden, but said it could not be found unless he had gold in his hands. She gave him a pair of gold earrings to hold, when he decamped. She promptly had him arrested.

BISMARCK is one of the largest landowners in Prussia, and he carries on successfully at his various estates the business of cattle-breeding, geese-breeding, distilling spirits, brewing and the manufacture of yeast. His cattle and geese industries yield him an annual profit of \$3,500 to \$4,500, and the annual income from his yeast business, the most important item in the ex-Chancellor's income, is about \$34,900. His jewels, pictures and plate represent a value of \$500,000, and his total income is not far from \$175,000 a year.

WILLIAM F. MURDOCK is the name of a youth living near Lynn, Mass., who is bound to achieve greatness, though he has to create the opportunity himself. Taking advantage of the present frequency of train-wrecking, he put a rail across the Boston and Maine tracks the other night, and then, with great apparent bravery, saved a train from going to run over the obstruction. In trying to collect a reward he was detected and obliged to confess the ludicrous plot. It was a discouraging beginning for the career of a hero, but it displayed a willing spirit.

WHY is whiting or soap rubbed all over the inside of the windows of a new building?" was the question I put to a master builder in the doorway of a new structure. I always thought it was for the purpose of obstructing the view, so that workmen inside would not be abtracted by objects outside. "It's a warning to the workmen for the protection of the glass," was his reply. "Before the glass is put in the window apertures are used daily to pass boards, scantling and timber in and out. The glass does not show unless it is daubed with whiting or soap, and any workman would be liable at any minute to shove a board through it."

It is likely that some of the money confiscated by Napoleon will be accounted for, with interest, by the present French Government. Jean Thiry, a merchant in the Rhine provinces, died in 1776, leaving a fortune of 50,000 louis d'or in Paris, and 800,000 thalers in the Venice Mint. His heirs, for some unknown reason, did not draw the money from the depository in Venice, so at the end of the last century Napoleon found it still untouched, and appropriated it to the use of his army.

For the last thirty years the descendants of Thiry have been trying to find a way of recovering the 800,000 thalers, with interest. It is said that the French government has considered their claim, and advocated its payment.

BROKE OFF THE ENGAGEMENT.

A Young American Recants Her Promise to Marry an English Barrister.

The English friends of Miss Nettie Carpenter, the young American violinist, are much put out over the manner



MISS NETTIE CARPENTER.

in which she has upset the plans which they had been instrumental in making for her marriage to a barrister named Thrushfield, who moves in high social circles, and has been regarded as quite a catch. But it appears that Miss Nettie has ideas of the old-fashioned kind, that the sentiment of love should precede the exchange of marriage vows, and at almost the last moment she broke off the engagement. Miss Carpenter has resumed her musical studies, and for the time the god of love has been banished from her presence. She has been for two years in England studying the violin, and has made commendable progress. The young lady is twenty-three years of age. Her real name is Storey.

At one time Gen. Custer tamed a tiny field mouse, and kept it in a large, empty inkstand on his desk. It grew very fond of him, and ran over his head and shoulders and even through his hair.

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## THE COUNTY FAIR.

### GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF A WORTHY INSTITUTION.

Its Influence for Good Upon the Community—Origin of the County Fair in the United States—Fair as Conducted in This Country and in Europe.



THE people in the agricultural districts there are few subjects of more importance, in the autumn season of the year, than the county fair. Scarcey seventy years have rolled by since the idea was originated at Albany, N. Y., by a prosperous merchant named Elkanah Watson. Rapidly has it grown in popularity until to-day statistics show that more than half of the 3,500 counties of the Union annually hold agricultural exhibits of some kind.

Fairs, however, were held across the water long before such was ever known in this country. But the term here and there are by no means synonymous. In the United States it implies a variety of exhibits, especially of stock and agricultural products, together with good racing and other attractive features, while in Europe it signifies a place for the sale or purchase of various things—such as some new-fashioned article, provisions, the sale of cattle, lambs, wool or the annual produce. Owing to defective communication such fairs were very popular in the old world. Rome, Leipzig, Frankfort, Dublin, Greenwich and Glasgow each in their day was a famous market place, and buyers and sellers from all over the continent were

soon in the family conveyance and off to the fair.

The journey is made, and the fun begins. Each pays his money and takes his choice. Amusements are there to suit the wants of all, regardless of age, race, creed, or color. For the verdant youth who for the first time is released from his mother's apron strings, and is permitted to roam at his own sweet will, many are the things that will tickle his fancy. He covets everything he sees. Gladly would he surrender his ticket for the next world rather than miss the fair. Pleasure untold, however, is not his lot till he has invested his shekels in red balloons, hot taffy, and forms a partner



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