The Easton Gazette.

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MURRAY, the BARBER.
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BALTIMORE, MD.
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SOUTHERN NEWS ITEMS.

QUITE a sensation has been produced in Mississippi by Judge Williamson, of the Fourth Judicial District, who has charged the Grand Jury in Leflore county that it was an indictable offense for a man to screen himself by holding an open umbrella across his shoulder while taking a drink in a saloon. The annotated code abolished bar screens, since which time the umbrella has been used as a substitute.

FOR the third time an attempt is being made to form a consolidation of the tobacco warehouses of Louisville, Ky. Several meetings have been held, the smaller corporations holding off for one reason or another. Since the Cincinnati warehouses have organized, the Louisville tobacco men say they must do likewise to protect themselves.

THREE men, Maurice Miller, Robert Carter and John Carter, were killed in a fight at a dance given in Allen Brothers' mill at Haughton, La. Twenty-four knife wounds and three bullets were found upon Miller's body.

IN the list of new enterprises mentioned in the Manufacturers' Record in its last issue are the following: A $15,000 woodworking company at Kenova, W. Va.; a $200,000 fuel-gas company at Henderson, Ky.; a $40,000 surgical instrument company at Baltimore, Md.; a $100,000 woodenware company at Galveston, Texas; a $25,000 coal mining company at Middlesboro, Ky.; a $50,000 tobacco shape manufacturing company at Danville, Va.; a $50,000 real estate company at Arkansas City, Ark.; a $10,000 lumber manufacturing company at Fredericksburg, Va.; a $200,000 mining company at Gladys, Texas; a $10,000 milling company at Newport, Ark.; a $2,500,000 salt, soda, ash, etc. manufacturing company at Saltville, Va.; a $55,000 water supply company at Corpus Christi, Texas; a $60,000 baking powder manufacturing company at Covington, Ky.; a $50,000 milling company at Vernon, Texas; a $100,000 meat juice manufacturing company at Richmond, Va.; a $10,000 ice machine manufacturing company at Atlanta, Ga., and a $10,000 publishing company at Richmond, Va.

PROVIDENCE is to have a permanent exhibition of Rhode Island industries, and, in connection, a school of technology.

MEMORY.

How many songs to thee are sung,
How many hearts to thee have clung,
O Memory!
One little song—the more I sing,
A song not merry and not sad,
As dreaming here I turn the leaves
Of youth's closed book and thy loom weaves
My life again. I smile because
I find no tangles and no flaws
In this new weaving, and I know
In that old time it was not so.

But still my song to thee I sing,
And still my heart to thee will cling,
O Memory!
A lover's song will not grow old,
Though foolish oftentimes, or bold.
And as I love thee, Memory sweet,
I send my song the world to meet.
In each worn heart I know 'twill find
An echo, if that heart be kind.
Let him who loves old loves to see,
Yield to thy magic, Memory.
—Margaret Price, in Boston Transcript.

MARY-BILL'S BOY.

BY CORA B. BICKFORD.

"YOU think it's a ser'us case, doctor?"

The doctor bowed his head.

"I thought it soon's I looked at the child. I'm sorry for Mary-Bill; yer see 'tis the only one she's got."

The doctor was fastening his medicine-chest, and he did not reply.

"I don't s'pose you think there's a mite of a chance?" continued the woman.

"I can't see any. I've done all I can for the little fellow. I wish I'd been called earlier."

"Yes, I know. I hain't be'n here all the time myself. Jim heard down to the store that he was sick; Mis' Tarbox's boy brings the milk, and Mary-Bill told him—the child had be'n ailin' then for more'n a week. Soon's Jim come home and told me I rigged right up and come over. That was Thursday, and I've been here ever sence."

The doctor had put on his ulster and I was buttoning it about the chin. There seemed nothing for him to say.

"Tain't as if you lived nearer and we could call a doctor any time we wanted one. Then, I s'pose she thought of the expense and tried ter see if she couldn't pull him through herself. I wish Bill had been ter home; he'd had you here in time, yet he don't love the child one mite mor'n Mary."

"No," said the doctor, assentiagly.

"You think when the fever turns he'll drop right off?"

"Yes, I think so. If he doesn't you knew just what to do. I've left everything ready and given you all the directions."

"Yes, I guess I understand it all; but I wish you was goin' to be here. 'I would make Mary feel as if the last thing had be'n done for him."

I couldn't do him any good." The doctor moved towards the door, and the woman unlatched and held it open for him to pass out.

He stepped through the little 6x9 entry and opened the outside door. A gust of wind met him and whirled past a few flakes of snow, the premonition of a coming storm. The woman had followed him to the steps. "Goin' to be a regular nor'easter," she said. "You'll have a pretty tough ride I guess."

Then with an abrupt good night she stepped inside and closed the door. A neighbor's boy was holding the horse. When the doctor had seated himself in the gig and tucked the robe about him, he handed him the reins; then waited to watch the team as it whirled away over the rough road.

The doctor was a busy man but kind at heart. At the end of a nine miles drive there were nearly a score of patients waiting to be cheered by his words, or comforted by his directions. It had been busy season, and he was tired to the heart's core. The day before he had been called to the Pool to attend this sick child.

The Pool, so called from a body of shallow water that makes up between its western shore and the main land, is a rocky peninsula inhabited by fifty or more families of fisher folk. Its connection with the continent is a sandy isthmus two miles in length, and so narrow that in the season of spring tides the water flows over it in places.

At first he had been inclined not to respond to the call, but he had relented, and had driven the nine miles to find the child suffering from a low form of typhoid fever. The first visit showed him that when the fever had burnt itself out the child would not have vitality enough to rally; yet he had come again with a feeling that if he did not it would be a duty neglected. Now he dreaded the long, cold ride back to the city. Already it was 4 o'clock, and a gloomy dusk was giving place to the short November day. His horse, eager to get home, faced the gathering gloom and stretched off like a steed of the desert.

When they had covered a dozen rods or more of the sandy isthmus road he suddenly drew rein, turned his horse's head in the opposite direction, and urged him back over the road they had been traveling. As he neared the house he had just left he could see a light burning in the kitchen, and the neighbor who had bidden him good night moving about the room. He gave a shout, and she came running to the window. Seeing who it was she came to the door, lifting her calico apron to her mouth to protect herself from the rough east wind.

"Why, how you scared me, doctor! Hain't anything the matter, is there?" she asked in a voice pitched high enough to be heard above the rising wind.

"Tell them down to the store to keep some one there to-night to tend the telephone; if there's any chance for the little fellow to live, send for me and I'll come down if I can get here." Then he was gone, his horse needing only the motion of a rein to be off again.

The woman closed the door and went back to the warm room. Once after she stepped to the window to see if she could see the team on the beach, but the rising storm and the gathering darkness hid objects so far away.

The oppressive silence that had filled the room all day settled down again, the only sounds being the ticking of the old clock in the corner and the breathing of the sick child in the tiny bedroom beyond.

About six o'clock the boy that had held the doctor's horse came in and replenished the wood box and the water pails. She gave him the doctor's message and he went away again.

At eight o'clock a neighbor who was to share the night's vigil came, and then there was a short, whispered conversation. The new comer wanted to know how Mary-Bill was standin' it, and she offered her opinion that the child would probably go about midnight as the tide would then be on the ebb. Then she drew a chair to the stove, placed her feet in the oven and unrolled her knitting. It was ten o'clock when the sick child opened his eyes and called "Mamma."

Instantly the mother was on her feet and bending over him. All day he had lain in a stupor, and all day she had watched beside him, at times as unconscious of all that was going on around as the child himself.

The child recognized his mother as she bent over him, and reached up a hot, wasted hand, and pressed it against her cheek.

"I had a dream, mamma. I was in such a pretty room. Grandma was there and she was knitting; but when she saw me she put down the sock and took me in her lap. She sung to me, mamma, the song you sing sometimes—

'Hush, my dear.'

I went to sleep then, and when I waked up I couldn't find you."

The tears that had held themselves back all day now came and dropped on the hands of the sick child and on the coverlet. The dream needed no interpretation. The only grandmother the child had ever known had lived with them, but she had crossed the "dark river" two years before, when the little fellow was five years old.

"I love you, mamma," the little, weak voice went on, "and I love papa, too. Tell him I love him, mamma. Now sing to me 'Hush, my dear.'"

The mother heart was breaking, but choking back the tears, with those wistful baby eyes looking straight into hers, she gathered strength and sang—

"Hush, my dear! lie still and slumber,
Holy angels guard thy bed;
Heavenly blessings without number
Gently falling on thy head."

Before the first verse was finished the weary eyelids began to droop; with the second verse they closed, though the little hand that rested in his mother's still gave her a gentle pressure; at the close of the third verse the hand was limp and cold and no breath came from the parted lips.

The mother sank back and buried her face in the pillow as if she would hide from her thoughts the scene that had just passed.

The neighbors straightened the limbs of the child and robed him in a clean, white night dress, afterwards pressing the parted lips together and folding the little hands gently. They drew the bed clothes neatly about him, turning the sheet down over the coverlet, and covering the face with a handkerchief.

Still the mother kept her position, and it was not till the darkness of the night had given place to the gray daydawn that she allowed herself to be led from the room.

Outside the nor'easter was at its height. The window shook beneath each blast, and the snow lay in ridges before the door. But the mother did not heed the raging tempest. There was agony in her heart, and her face wore a look of stony sadness more pitiable than violent grief.

It was not alone for the child that her heart was breaking; there was a sharper grief for the husband on the sea—the father who had not been allowed a last good-by to the child he loved better than his own heart's blood.

When he had talked of this trip to the "Banks" she had urged him not to go, but to try his luck nearer home; and he had laughed and said that it would be the last for the winter, and that he would bring her back silver for a few luxuries she had been wanting for their home.

Already it was time for his return. Two weeks before she had received a letter posted at a port in the "Provinces," saying that the catch had been large; and that he must look for a market.

But would he get home in time, and if he did would he forgive her for letting the child die? Towards night a faint streak of red in the west showed that the storm had spent itself. Other neighbors came, paths were shovelled, and the tonand-one homely tasks performed by rough yet willing hands.

They had sympathetic natures beneath a rough exterior, these fisher-folk, and they, too, were anxious lest Bill should not get home in time. They knew the little place boasted neither family vault nor receiving tomb, and that in a few days dust must be given back to the dust from whence it came. There was only one thing they could do while this cloud hung so darkly about a neighbor's home, and the next morning the men of the hamlet began to scan the strip of blue ocean for a sight of the Storm King, Bill's vessel. But the day passed and no familiar sail. So went by the second day, and the third.

The fourth day had been set apart for the services. A coffin had been brought from the city and the child placed in it, the wasted face nestling in a wealth of geranium leaves, for which the foliage of a dozen growing plants had been sacrificed. The minister from the "Road"—for the little hamlet claimed no undershepherd—had been engaged, and everything arranged with decent care. It was high noon when the people began to gather, and when the clock struck two the minister rose in his place.

But his "friends and neighbors" was interrupted by a grasp at his elbow and a harsh voice that whispered—

"She's off shore. They're goin' to put a boat off back side. We've signalled and got an answer. Hold on till we git Bill here!"

Those nearest heard the news, and it flew from lip to lip. Fearing to have it broken thus suddenly to the wife, the preacher raised his hand, but the warning came too late—she had heard.

The relieved look that follows a lifted grief came to her face, but it was quickly replaced by the old look of despair. No one knew her husband and his inflexible disposition so well as she. The boy had been his idol. Would he blame her, and think that in some way she might have saved the child's life? How these thoughts burned her very soul as she waited! And the minutes became an hour before steps were heard crunching the newly-fallen snow.

Bill had come, and the men drew back with respect. The women shaded their eyes, as if his sorrow was too sacred to be looked upon, and the children stared at Wallace Hussey's father, who had come back from fishing to find Wallace dead and his coffin. But he did not heed them as he passed to the little bed-room where the coffin stood. And he did not stop at the coffin; he went straight to the woman sitting beyond it in such stony grief.

"Mary!"

It was only a word, but there was tender, yearning love in it. Then the strong man reached down and took the weary, broken-hearted woman in his arms and held her against his strong breast; and their grief for the child was softened in the consciousness that they still had each other.—Boston Transcript.

A celebrated feast given by Vitellius, a Roman Emperor of those degenerate days, to his brother Lucius cost a little over $200,000. Suetonius says that this banquet consisted of 2000 different dishes of fish and 7000 different fowls, besides other courses in proportion.

The soul-entrancing clarinet was the invention of Denner, a German, in 1690

THE NEWS.

The miners in the Coal Creek and Oliver Springs district have been ordered to strike.

——A cloudburst did considerable damage in the neighborhood of Alpine, Texas.——The Honduras revolution is reported to have been wound up.——The Free Thought Federation of America was formally organized in Chicago. Two hundred persons were present at the meeting, which perfected the organization.——Dr. John J. Reese, the eminent Philadelphia toxicologist, died in Atlantic City.——A. L. Smith, of the Washington Observatory, and W. C. Power, of Chicago, a member of the United States Geodetic Survey, are conducting a party of engineers through the central part of Pennsylvania for the purpose of locating a site for a national observatory.——The Oak Grove Hotel at Merchantville, N. J., a summer boarding house, having about one hundred and thirty boarders, was burned to the ground.——The ditching of a freight train on the new branch of the Geneva and Buffalo branch of the Lehigh Valley Railroad caused the death of the engineer, and the serious injury of other train men.——The W. C. T. U. in Boston expressed sympathy for Miss Lizzie Borden.

Mrs. Fessenden made a passionate plea in her behalf.——An extra stock train ran into a coal train on the Pennsylvania Railroad, near South Fork. Both engines were wrecked, and Brakeman W. A. Furguson, aged twenty-three, from Emmittsburg, Md., was instantly killed.——Chancellor Wolcott appointed a receiver for the property of the Iron Hall in Deleware.——The striking iron workers at the Hughes & Patterson mill, in Philadelphia, threw up the sponge and applied for work.——Charles Edwards was brained in Leadville by a man he wanted to kill.——Julius Germand, the Hungarian Socialist, who disappeared from public life ten years ago, arrived in Victoria from Japan. He has just escaped from Siberia.——A syndicate of Colorado capitalists has just purchased the famous Trinity river gold mines in Southern California. The properties embrace over four hundred acres of ground, and during the past few years over $1,000,000 in placer gold has been removed.

The homeopaths of Chicago propose to establish cholera hospitals.——The First National Bank of Middleboro, Ky., closed its doors. Bad collections on overdue paper caused it. They expect to be ready for business again in a day or two.——Alexander Bergman, the anarchist who attacked W. H. Frick, was indicted.——Telegraphic despatches from Guerrero, Mexico, to the government announce the capture of the Federal general, Raujel, commander of the second military zone, and the utter rout of his troops in the mountains southwest of Guerrero.——James Lucas and Albert Egleton became involved in a street quarrel in Philadelphia, which ended by Egleton knocking Lucas down, and beating him while he lay on the ground. Lucas died shortly afterward, and Egleton is in prison.——A desperate robber tried to force Rev. David M. Cooper, of Detroit, to give him money, and was arrested after a hard fight.——Albert J. McMullen, supposed to be one of the wealthiest farmers in Sinking Valley, has assigned to Frank McClain, of Altoona. His assets of $35,000 will likely cover his liabilities.——The Ashland, Shenandoah and Mahanoy City Electric Railroad Company has passed into the hands of a syndicate composed of Ohio and Pennsylvania capitalists.——Governor Tillman, of South Carolina, in order to consider an application for pardon, commuted the death sentence upon Milly Brown a fourteen-year-old negro girl, until October 7. The girl brutally murdered a little child in Spartanburg county.

Hon. Augustus Bradley, the first president of the Louisville, St. Louis and Texas Air Line, died in New Albany, in his seventieth year.——Miss Margarette Rivera died in Monterey, Mexico, at the age of 122 years.——"Buckey" Johnson, a well-known sporting character, was found drowned in Big Timber Creek at Chews Landing, N. J.——Colonel E. P. C. Lewis, ex-United States minister to Portugal, died suddenly at his home in Hoboken, N. J.——The Galveston City Council has appropriated $10,000 to the health department to be used in thorough sanitation, as a precaution against cholera.——Mrs. Nicholas Gerarty and her daughter stabbed the former's husband to death near San Pierre, Ind.——Miss Kate Erwin accidentally shot and killed her mother at her home in Putnam county, W. Va.——Seven dead bodies of cholera victims were removed from the steamers quarantined in lower New York Bay.——The steamship Fulda from Geneva, Darmstadt from Bremen, and La Bourgogne from Havre arrived at New York with 1,700 immigrants in all, but no sickness among them. A panic prevailed among the women passengers detained on the steamer Normannia. They were transferred to Hoffman Island, where their fears were somewhat allayed.——The Italian man-of-war Garigliano, having on board the statue of Columbus and Gretano Russo, the famous sculptor of the statue, arrived at New York.

An attempt was made to hold up the Missouri Pacific east-bound passenger train near Kansas City.——Concully, the county-seat of Okanagon county, Minn., was entirely destroyed by fire. Loss $100,000; insurance one-fifth.——An epidemic of hydrophobia is threatened in Anderson, Ind, where many persons have been bitten by mad dogs.——George Vernon, a life-long resident of Bordentown, and one of the oldest and best-known engineers in New Jersey, died there, in his eighty-seventh year.——H. C. Aitken, a private banker of Tottenham, Ont., is missing, and the bank is in possession of the Bank of Hamilton, which is understood to be the heaviest creditor.——The twenty-one convicted New Jersey election inspectors were sentenced, some being sent to the penitentiary for various terms, and others to the state prison.——A number of additional arrests were made at Homestead, and Secretary Lovejoy made more informations against strikers.——At the hearing in Philadelphia on the application for the confirmation of A. L. Stockwell as receiver for the Iron Hall Bank, important admissions were made by Mr. Stockwell while on the witness stand.——The Pennsylvania Railroad Company has issued orders to agents and officers to disinfect all buildings along its lines.——Talton Hall, the desperado who had figured in nearly a hundred murders, was hanged at Wise Court-house, Va.——There were 148 business failures in the United States the past week.——It was reported in Philadelphia that the Reading Railroad Company would refuse to make joint rates with the Pennsylvania for carrying coal, and that there would likely be a war between the two railroads.

THE CASH IN CIRCULATION.

A Net Decrease in Money Not Only in, but Out of the Treasury.

A statement prepared by the Treasury Department, shows that there was a net decrease of $2,022,741 in circulation during the month of August, and a net decrease of $5 922,809 in money and bullion in the Treasury during the same period.

The changes in circulation was as follows:—

Decrease—Gold certificates, $8,474,450; currency certificates, act of June 8, 1872, $4,510,000, and National Bank notes, $562,817. Increase—Gold coin, $707,051; standard silver dollars, $591,024; subsidiary silver; $530,202; silver, $952,322; Treasury notes, act of July 14, 1890, $2,357, 785, and United States notes, $5,696,142.

The changes in Treasury holdings were as follows.

Decrease—Gold coin, $4,099,042; standard silver dollars, $41,024; subsidiary silver, $577, 290; United States notes, $5,696,142; gold bullion, $993,483. Increase—Treasury notes, act of July 14, 1890, $1,458,682; National bank notes, $691,533; silver bullion, $3,003,957.

The circulation per capita is stated at $24.32.

HARRISON ACCEPTS.

His Letter to the Committee on Notification.

The President's Views on Silver, the Currency and Labor.

President Harrison's letter accepting a renomination as the Republican candidate for President has been made public. It is as follows:

Hon. Wm. M. McKinley, Jr., and others, committee, &c.—Gentlemen: I now avail myself of the first period of relief from public duties to respond to the notification which you brought to me on June 21, of my nomination for the office of President of the United States by the Republican National Convention, recently held at Minneapolis.

I accept the nomination and am grateful for approval expressed by the convention of the acts of the administration. I have endeavored without wavering or weariness so far as the direction of the public affairs was committed to me to carry out the pledges made to the people in 1888. If the policies of the administration have not been distinctively and progressively American Republican politics, the fault has not been in the purpose, but in the execution.

I shall speak frankly of the legislation of Congress and of the work of the executive departments, for the credit of any successes that have been attained is in such measure due to others—Senators, Representatives and to the efficient heads of the several executive departments—that I may do so without impropriety. A vote of want of confidence is asked by our adversaries; and this challenge to a review of what has been done we promptly accept.

The great work of the Fifty-first Congress has been subject to a revision of a Democratic House of Representatives, and the acts of the executive department to its scrutiny and investigation. A Democratic national administration was succeeded by a Republican administration, and the freshness of the events gives unusual facilities for fair comparison and judgment.

There has seldom been a time, I think, when a change from the declared policies of the Democratic party involved such serious results to the business interest of the country. A brief review of what the protected party proposes to undo will justify this opinion.

THE CURRENCY.

The Republican party, during the civil war, devised a national currency, consisting of United States notes, issued and redeemable by the government of the national bank notes based upon the security of United States bonds. A tax was levied upon the issue of State banks and other intended results, that all such issues should be withdrawn, was realized. There are men among us now who never saw a State bank note. The notes furnished directly or indirectly by the United States has been the only and the safe and acceptable paper currency of the people.

Bank failures have brought no fright, delay or loss to the billholders. The note of an insolvent bank is as good and as current as a treasury note—for the credit of the United States is behind it. Our money is all the same money—I might almost say international, for these bills are not only equally and indiscriminately accepted at par in all the states but in some foreign countries. The Democratic party, if entrusted with the control of the government, is now pledged to repeal the tax on State banks issue with a view to putting into circulation again, under such adverse legislation as the States may adopt, a flood of local bank issues.

Only those who, in the years before the war experienced the inconvenience and losses attendant upon the use of such money, can appreciate what a return to that system involves. The denomination of a bill was then often no indication of its value. The bank detector of yesterday was not a safe guide today as to credit or values. Merchants deposited several times during the day, lest the 1 hour of bank closing should show a depreciation of the money taken in. The traveler could not use in a journey to the East the issue of the most solvent banks of the West, and in consequence a money-changer's office was the familiar neighbor of the lunch counter.

The farmer and the laborer found the money received for their products and their labor depreciated when they came to make their purchases, and the whole business of the country was hindered and burdened. Changes may become necessary, but a national system of currency, safe and acceptable throughout the whole country, is the good fruit of bitter experience, and I am sure our people will not consent to the reactionary proposal made by the Democratic party.

COMMERCE.

Few subjects have elicited more discussion or excited more general interest than that of a reciprocity by the United States. A appropriate share of the ocean-carrying trade. This subject touches not only our pockets, but our national pride. Practically all the freights for transporting to Europe the enormous annual supplies of provisions furnished by this country, and for the large return of manufactured products, have for many years been paid to foreign ship-owners.

Thousands of emigrants annually seeking homes under our flag have been denied the sight of it until they entered Sandy Hook, while increasing thousands of American citizens, bent on European travel, have each year stepped into a foreign jurisdiction at the New York docks. The merchandise balance of trade, which the treasury bulletin show, is largely reduced by the annual tribute which we pay for freight and passage moneys.

The great ships—the fastest upon the ocean—which are now in peace profiting by our trade, are, in a secondary sense, warships of their respective governments, and in time of war would, under existing contracts with those governments, speedily take on the guns for which their decks are already prepared and enter with terrible efficiency upon the work of destroying our commerce. The undisputed fact is that the great steamship lines of Europe were built up and are now in part sustained by direct or indirect governmental aid, the latter taking the form of literal pay for carrying the mails or of annual bonus given in consideration of agreements to construct the ships so as to adapt them for carrying an armament and to turn them over to the government on demand, upon specified terms. It was plain to every intelligent American that if the United States would have such lines a similar policy must be entered upon.

The Fifty-first Congress enacted such a law, and under its beneficient influence 16 American steamships of an aggregate tonnage of 57,000 tons, and costing $7,400,000 have been built or contracted to be built in American shipyards. In addition to this it is now practically certain that we shall soon have, under the American flag, one of the finest steamship lines sailing out of New York for any European port. This contract will result in the construction in American yards of four new passenger steamships of 10,000 tons each, costing about $8,000,000 and will add to our naval reserve six steamships, the fastest upon the sea. A special interest has been taken by me in the establishment of lines from our South Atlantic and Gulf ports, and, though my expectations have not yet been realized, attention has been called to the advantages possessed by these ports, and when their people are more fully alive to their interests, I do not doubt that they will be able to secure the capital needed to enable them to profit by their great natural advantages.

The Democratic party has found no place on its platform for any reference to this subject, and has shown its hostility to the general policy by refusing to expend an appropriation made during the last administration for ocean mail contracts with American lines. The patriotic people, the workmen in our shops, the capitalists seeking new enterprises, must decide whether the great ships owned by Americans which have sought American registry shall again humbly ask a place in the English naval reserve; the great ships now on the designer's tables go to foreign shops for construction and the United States lose the now brightening opportunity of recovering a place commensurate with its wealth, the skill of its constructors and the courage of its sailors in the carrying trade of all the seas.

RECIPROCITY.

Another related measure, as furnishing an increased ocean traffic for our ships and of great and permanent benefit to the farmers and manufacturers as well, is the reciprocity policy declared by Section 3 of the tariff act of '90, and now in practical operation with five of the nations of Central and South America, San Domingo, the Spanish and British West India Islands, and with Germany and Austria, under special trade arrangements with each.

THE TARIFF.

The Democratic platform promises a repeal of the tariff law containing this provision, and especially denounces as a "sham reciprocity" that section of the law under which these trade arrangements have been made. If no other issue were involved in the campaign this alone would give it momentous importance. Are the farmers of the great grain growing states willing to surrender these new, large and increasing markets for their surplus? Are we to have nothing in exchange for the free importation of sugar and coffee and at the same time to destroy the sugar planters of the South and the beet sugar industry of the Northwest and of the Pacific coast, or are we to have the taxed sugar and coffee which a "tariff for revenue only" necessarily involves, with the added loss of the new markets which have been opened?

As I have shown, our commercial rivals in Europe do not regard this reciprocity policy as a "sham," but as a serious threat to a trade supremacy they have long enjoyed. They would rejoice, and, if prudence did not restrain, would illuminate their depressed manufacturing cities—over the news that the United States had abandoned its system of protection and reciprocity. They see very clearly that a restriction of American productions and trade and a corresponding increase of European production and trade would follow, and I will not believe that what is so plain to them can be hidden from our own people.

PROTECTION.

The declaration of the platform in favor of "the American doctrine of protection" meets my most hearty approval. The convention did not adopt a schedule, but a principle that is to control all tariff schedules. There may be differences of opinion among protectionists as to the rate upon particular articles necessary to effect an equalization between wages abroad and at home. In some not remote national campaigns the issue has been, or more correctly has been made to appear to be—between high and low protective tariff—both parties expressing some solicitous regard for the wages of our working people and for the prosperity of our domestic industries. But, under a more courageous leadership, the Democratic party has now practically declared that if given power it will enact a tariff law without any regard to its effect upon wages or upon the capital invested in our great industries.

There is not a thoughtful business man in the country who does not know the enactment into law of the declaration of the Chicago convention upon the subject of the tariff would at once plunge the country into a business convulsion such as it has never seen; and there is not a thoughtful workingman who does not know that it would at once enormously reduce the amount of work to be done in this country by the increase of importations that would follow and necessitate a reduction in his wages to the European standard. If any one suggests that this radical policy will not be executed if the Democratic party attains power, what shall be thought of a party that is capable of thus trifling with great interests? The threat of such legislation would be only less hurtful than the fact. A distinguished Democrat rightly described this movement as a challenge to the protected industries to fight of extermination, and another such rightly expressed the logic of the situation when he interpreted the Chicago platform to be an invitation to all Democrats holding even the most moderate protection views to go into the Republican party.

THE MCKINLEY LAW.

And now a few words in regard to the existing tariff law. We are fortunately able to judge of its influence upon production and prices by the latest market reports. The work of the prophet of calamity has been succeeded by that of the trade reporter. An examination into the effect of the law upon the prices of articles and products and of the cost of such articles as enter into the living of people of small means, has been made by a Senate committee composed of leading Senators of both parties, with the result that the best statisticians and the report signed by all the members of the committee has been given to the public. No such wide and careful inquiry has ever before been made. These facts appear from the report:

"First—The cost of articles entering into the use of those earning less than $1,000 per annum has decreased in the last year 18.3 per cent., while in farm products there has been an increase in prices, owing in part to an increased foreign demand and the opening of new markets. In England during the same period the cost of living increased 1.9 per cent. Tested by their power to purchase articles of necessity, the earnings of our working people have never been as great as they are now.

"Second—There has been an average advance in the rate of wages of .75 of 1 per cent.

"Third—There has been an advance in the price of all farm products of 18.67 per cent., and of all cereals 33.59 per cent."

PECK'S REPORT.

The ninth annual report of the chief of the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the state of New York, a Democratic officer, very recently issued, strongly corroborates, as to that state the facts found by the Senate committee. His extended inquiry shows that in the year immediately following the passage of the tariff act of '90, the aggregate sum paid in wages in that State was $6,377,925 in excess, and the aggregate value of products $31,315,130 in excess of the preceding year.

TINPLATE AND PEARL BUTTONS.

Some special effects of the acts should be noticed.

The official returns to the Treasury Department of the production of tin and terne plates in the United States during the last fiscal year show a total production of 13,240,830 pounds, and a comparison with the first quarter of the present year, 4,000,000 pounds, shows the rapid development of the industry. Over 5,000,000 pounds during the last quarter were made from American black plates, the remainder from foreign plates. Mr. Ayer, the Treasury agent in charge, estimates as the results of careful inquiry that the production of the current year will be 30,000,000 pounds, and that by the end of the year our production will be at the rate of 200,000,000 pounds per annum.

Another industry that has been practically created by the McKinley bill is the making of pearl buttons. Few articles coming to us from abroad were so distinctly the product of a foreign policy.

But, without unduly extending this letter, I cannot follow in detail the influences of the tariff law of 1890. It has transplanted several important industries and established them here, and has revived or enlarged all others. The act gives to the miners protection against foreign silver-bearing lead ores, the first step toward the restoration to them of the great mining industries of the Rocky Mountain States; and to the wool-growers protection for their fleeces and flocks, which has saved them from a further and disastrous decline.

WAGES AND LABOR.

The tariff law has given employment to many thousands of American men and women and will each year give employment to increasing thousands. Its repeal would throw thousands out of employment and give work to others only at reduced wages. The appeals of the free trader to the workingmen are largely addressed to his prejudices or to his passions and not infrequently are pronounced communistic. The new Democratic leadership rages at the employer, and seeks to communicate its rage to the employee.

I greatly regret that all employers of labor are not just and considerate, and that capital sometimes takes too large a share of the profits. But I do not see that these evils will be ameliorated by a tariff policy, the first necessary effect of which is a severe wage cut and the second a large diminution of the aggregate amount of work to be done in this country. If the injustice of his employer tempt the workman to strike back he should be very sure that the blow does not fall upon his own head or upon his wife and children.

THE SOUTH.

The Southern States have had a liberal participation in the benefits of the tariff law, and, though their representatives have generally opposed the protection policy, I rejoice that their augmented prices for cotton, fruits, cotton cloths and other products have not been left to the fate which the votes of their representatives would have brought upon them. In the construction of the Nicaragua Canal, in the new trade with South and Central America, in the establishment of American steamship lines, these States have also special interests, and all these interests will not always consent to be without representation at Washington.

Shrewdly, but not quite fairly, our adversaries speak only of the increased duties imposed upon the pearl buttons and other articles by the McKinley bill and omit altogether any reference to the great and beneficial enlargement of the free list. During the last fiscal year $458,000,772 worth of merchandise, or 55.35 per cent of our total importations, came in free the large t percentage in our history, while in 1885 the per cent. of free importations was only 34.42 per cent. The placing of sugar on the free list has saved to the consumer in duties in 15 months, after paying the bounties provided for, $57,000,000. This self has been substantially felt in every household upon every Saturday purchase of this workingmen.

SILVER.

The resolution of the convention in favor of bi-metallism, I think, states one of the necessary conditions of a movement that has, upon the lines, my cordial adherence and support. I am throughly convinced that the free coinage of silver at a ratio to gold as will maintain the equality in their commercial uses of the two coined dollars would conduce to the prosperity of all the great producing and commercial nations of the world.

The one essential condition is that these dollars shall have and retain equal acceptability and value in all commercial transactions. They are not only a medium of exchange, but a measure of values; and, when two unequal measures are called in law by the same commerce is unsettled and confused, and the unwary and ignorant are cheated. Dollars of unequal commercial value will not circulate together. The better dollar is withdrawn, and becomes merchandise.

The true interest of all our people, and especially of the farmers and working people, who cannot closely observe the money market, is that every (dollar paper or coin) issued or authorized by the government shall be the exact equivalent, not only in debt paying but in purchasing power, of any other dollar. I am quite sure that if we should now act upon this subject independently of other nations, we would greatly promote their interest and injure our own.

FEDERAL ELECTIONS.

In my last annual message to Congress, I said: "I must yet entertain the hope that it is possible to secure a calm, patriotic consideration of so h constitutional or statutory changes as may be necessary to secure the choice of the officers of the government to the people by fair apportionments and free elections. I believe it would be possible to constitute a commission, non-partisan in its membership and composed of patriotic wise and impartial men, to whom a consideration of the questions of the evils connected with our election system and methods might be committed with a good prospect of securing unanimity in some plan for removing or mitigating those evils.

The constitution would permit the selection of the commission to be vested in the Supreme Court, if that method would give the best guaranty of impartiality. This commission should be charged with the duty of inquiring into the whole subject as the law of election as related to the choice of officers of the national government with a view of securing to every elector a free and unmolested exercise of the suffrage and as near an approach to an equality of value in each ballot cast as is attainable. * * * * The demand that the limitations of suffrage should be found in the law, and only there, is a just demand, and no just man should resent or resist it."

It seems to me that an appeal to our people to consider the question of readjusting our legislat on upon absolutely fair non-partisan lines might find a speedy and effective response. Many times I have had occasion to say that laws and election methods, designed to give unfair advantages to the party making them, would some time react to perpetuate in power a faction of a party against the will of the majority of the people.

The recent decisions in some of the state courts against unfair apportionment law seem to encourage the hope that the arbitrary and partisan election laws and practices which have prevailed may be corrected by the states, the laws made equal and non-partisan and the elections free and honest. The Republican party would rejoice at such a solution, as a healthy and patriotic local sentiment is the best assurance of free and honest elections. I shall again urge upon Congress that provision be made for the appointment of a non-partisan commission to consider the subject of apportionments and elections in their relation to choice of federal officers.

CIVIL SERVICE.

The civil service system has been extended and the law enforced with vigor and impartiality. There has been no partisan juggling with the laws in any of the departments or bureaus as had before happened, but appointments to the classified service have been made impartially from the eligible lists. The system now in force in all the departments has for the first time placed promotions strictly upon the basis of merit, as ascertained by a daily record, and the efficiency of the force thereby greatly