

BANKING ON BONDS.

The gold standard Democrats who supported Palmer or McKinley in the late campaign, have called a convention of "business men" to meet at Indianapolis on the 11th of January to discuss the money question and formulate some plan for the improvement of our currency system.

MINOR MENTION.

The extraordinary vote cast in the "pivot" Western States at the last election, has attracted widespread attention in this country and considerable in Europe.

From the pointers already thrown out the probabilities are that they will give special attention to the national bank system with a view to securing an enlargement of its scope and giving it practical control of the paper currency.

While this will be all right as far as it goes, the country needs something more than that before the currency system can be materially improved.

It is well to have the necessities and comforts of life, and the things that enter into common use cheap enough to be within the easy reach of those who need them, but cheapness is not an unmixed blessing.

"The great argument against requiring national bonds as a security for bank circulation—the argument that is addressed to all the people of the United States alike—is that the bonds are continually rising and falling in credit, and a bank buys bonds when they are low and sells them when they are high.

What dependence can be put upon a system which permits a sudden and violent contraction of the currency without any help for the people who are dependent upon these banks for the money they need to transact business?

In the conclusion the Times touches upon what is alleged to be one of the defects of the State bank system, but is really one of its cardinal virtues. The money of the country now flows to the money centers which control it. What the

people want to prevent this drifting is a currency that will remain at home, or which if it goes away will come back and not remain locked up in some of the Eastern bank vaults.

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It has been discovered that three of the figures in a stained glass window of a rural English church—the subject representing King Saul and his counselors—are life-like portraits of Lord Salisbury, Mr. Gladstone and the late Lord Beaconsfield.

People who have summer cottages at Blowing Rock will be interested to learn that the house breaker has been at work there. Six cottages have been broken open and ransacked, among them being the summer house of Mrs. Sam Patterson.

A rather dissolute white man named Tom Jones was found dead near Cox's creek last night, over the river, Friday night, and foul play is suspected.

Estelle—"I am sure that there is a true love match." Estelle—"Because both bride and groom feel certain that they are marrying above their position."

Pat—"Where'd you find a new friend that has stood by you as long as the old ones have?" "I found 'em at the garage."

Pat—"What makes you think so?" Mrs. Brown—"The way you manage to conceal your opinion of other people's affairs."

Through His Nerve Is a Benefactor to Thousands. The reports of an agreement between Secretary Olney and the Spanish Prime Minister, for the pacification of Cuba on a basis of something like autonomy must be taken with considerable allowance.

CURRENT COMMENT.

Mark Hanna is unusually quiet. The job of stealing a few Senators appears to be preying on his mind.

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TIM HOGAN'S FIREMAN.

"You, sir," declared the railroad man, "they say that you are the palmy days. I remember well when I fired engines that burned nothing but wood. I worked with an engineer, Tim Hogan was his name, who was one of the best on the line."

"In them days the engine had a draft through the smokestack which beat the world, and the engine Hogan ran had the strongest draft of any gine on the road. Mr. the time Hogan had had to stop his engine when she was puffing hard going up hill until I got and put a piece of sheet iron over the stack. What for? Why, to keep the fire under the boiler. The draft would draw it all out.

"Well, about the time I speak of the road wanted to introduce niggers as firemen. Of course we kicked, but it didn't do much good. Hogan kicked harder than anybody and swore. He would kick any nigger the road put in his cab, and only that he threw his life into the body into the firebox.

"I looked out of the window. I didn't want to see such a shocking sight. I happened to look at the smokestack, and I see the nigger's boots come out of it, then his socks, then his pants, and an effective foot of distance can be obtained with trifling effort.

"The main point to be considered, after that of color, is position. Hung from a crossbar, the umbrella becomes a sort of a sponge, but unless the ceiling is high or a table stand beneath there is danger of collision.

"When we were boys our first lessons in riding were taken on (and off) the back of a donkey. He was a creature of great spirit, but of a queer disposition. When his temper got up before the trials which we subjected it, he took many lessons in that gentle art of falling off, which is so useful a supplementary science to riding, and more generally understood. We can make this avowal without any sense of shame now, for it happened once on a rainy day that our master, who was riding on our riding master himself in all his glory of boots and breeches.

Joe, the coachman's boy, declared our theory of donkey riding to be incorrect, and that the correct method was to kick the donkey, and let the donkey kick off the riding master, boots and breeches and all, it entirely failed to shake Joe from his seat. "Your life has been one of many reverses," said the kind lady.

"Did you know," said the man who was reading an article about the contraction of metals, "that a clock ticks faster in Winter than in Summer?" "No," I replied, "I noticed that about a week ago. But I know a gas meter does."

Pat—"I tell you the old friends are always the best, after all, and I can prove it." "Dearly—How?" "Pat—Where'd you find a new friend that has stood by you as long as the old ones have?" "I found 'em at the garage."

WOMAN'S WORLD.

HOW TO ARRANGE A CHARMING RECEPTACLE FOR FLOWERS. Improvements in Reading—Recent Methods—Woman and Her Reading—The Great Handicaps—Disagreeable Habits—Cups—Miss Louise Moore.

A novel and charming receptacle for flowers can be made from a Japanese umbrella. To accomplish the end it is necessary only to remove the handle and to suspend it by ribbons terminating in graceful bows.

The more costly silk parasols can be used, but the paper sort that cost only a few cents give an entirely satisfactory result. The only essential point is the selection of a modest design which will not clash with the flowers.

The ribbons are best of a plain color, either the same as that of the flowers to be used or some quiet tone that will not conflict. Three points must be marked, equidistant, on the edge of the cover, and at each of these one of the ribbons must be attached. When this is done, the umbrella is half closed, and the ribbons are brought together and made fast. A big bow is sewed at the point of meeting and a smaller one where each ribbon joins the umbrella. That done, it remains only to insert within

the umbrella a tin vessel of appropriate shape. Into this the long stems of cut flowers and the ends of trailing vines can be thrust and soaked fresh for many days. If they are selected with an eye for color and the vines are abundant, an effective and decorative arrangement can be obtained with trifling effort.

Time was when a woman, unless she was fortunate enough to be able to keep her feet on a small order, higher than the overworked business woman has no leisure for darning, putting new braids on her skirts and performing the manifold duties so necessary to a woman's well being. To do so is often an extravagance, as, while taking time to darn her stockings, she might as well be mending her shoes.

At the big ladies' tailoring establishments coats and gowns are pressed and sponged. This does not necessarily occur four or three-quarters the tailor made woman emerges as good as new, and that without the expenditure of a cent. There are other places where the very poor can have new bread put on for a very small sum.

Women who cannot afford a maid to engage the services of a woman to do the work of a regular house one week, or, if necessary, to do the mending which accumulates even with the poorest of women? A lady in this city, who is a woman of good taste and great interest and pride, being a Swede, she had that skill and proficiency with her needle so rarely found among the very poor of our own country—God's Magazine.

THE BEST WAY TO GET THE WILD FOR CATS, BRUISES, SORES, ULCERS, Salt Rheum, Fever Sores, Tetters, Chapped Hands, Chirbains, Corns, and all Skin Eruptions, is to use the best. It costs no pay required. It is guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction or money refunded. Price 25 cents per box. For sale by R. B. Bellamy.

Constipation

Causes fully half the sickness in the world. It retards the digestion, food too long in the bowels and produces biliousness, rapid liver, indigestion, headache, dizziness, etc.



Rev. R. C. Beaman, recently appointed by the North Carolina Annual Conference of the M. E. Church, South, Presiding Elder of the Wilmington District, has made his appointments for the first round, as follows:

Southport, January 18, 17. Scott's Hill circuit, at Scott's Hill, January 24, 24. Wilmington, at Market Street, January 24, 24. Wilmington, Bladen Street (eight), January 31.

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COMMERCIAL.

WILMINGTON MARKET. STAR OFFICE December 30. SPIRITS TURPENTINE—Market firm at 84 1/2 cents per gallon for machine-made cans, and 85 1/2 cents for country cans.

ROBIN—Market firm at \$1 45 per bushel for Strained, and \$1 60 for Good Strained.

CRUDE TURPENTINE—Dull. Hard 1 40, Yellow Dip 1 30, and Virgin 1 30 per barrel.

PEANUTS—North Carolina—Prime, 40¢ per bushel of 88 pounds; Extra Prime, 45¢; Virginia—Virginia-Extra Prime, 60¢; Virginia—Virginia-Extra Prime, 60¢.

CORN—Firm; 88 to 40 cents per bushel.

ROUGH RICE—85 to 70 cents per bushel.

N. C. BACON—Steady; Hams, 8 to 11 1/2¢ per pound; Shoulders, 6 to 7 1/2¢; Sides, 7 to 8 1/2¢.

SHINGLES—Per thousand, five inch, hearts and saps, \$1 60 to 2 35; six inch, \$1 50 to 1 90; seven inch, \$1 50 to \$1 90.

DOMESTIC MARKETS. By Telegraph to the Morning Star. NEW YORK, December 30—Evening—Money on call to-day easy at 1 1/2%.

FOREIGN MARKETS.

By Cable to the Morning Star. LIVERPOOL, Dec. 30.—18 90 P. M.—Cotton, demand firm and prices harden.

AMERICAN MIDDLING 8 1/2-8 3/4; Sales 10,000 bales, of which 9,000 were American; speculations and export 600.

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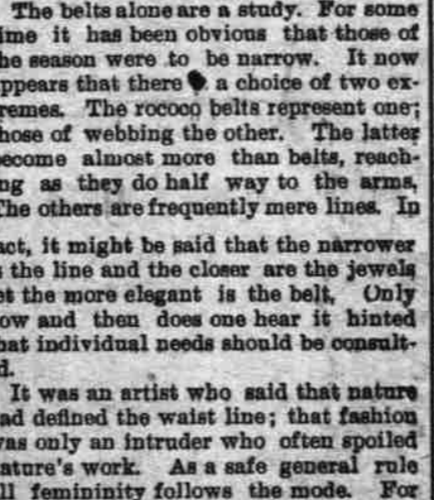
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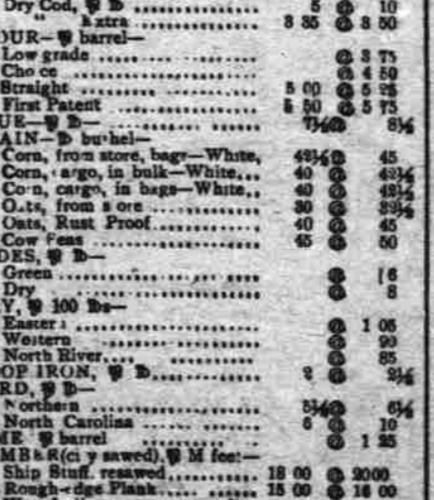
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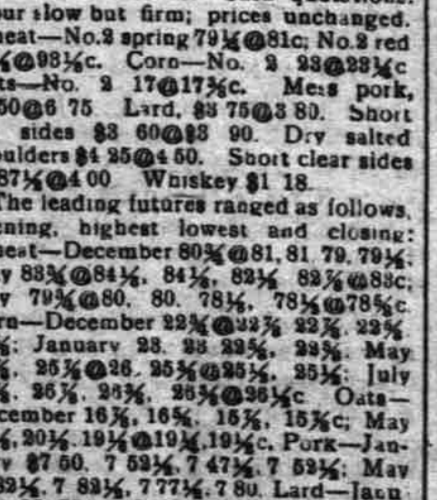
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