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THE FACT ONAL SQUEALE.

It has been frequently asserted and as frequently denied that there was bad blood between David B. Hill and Grover Cleveland. We have never seen any special cause assigned for this bad blood, and presume that if it does exist it is the result of the jealousy that sometimes finds lodgment in the breasts of rival leaders.

On the other hand, Mr. Cleveland has stood upon the same platform with David B. Hill, has shaken his hand, with apparent cordiality, in the presence of the multitude who admired both, and spoken in merited eulogistic terms of the distinguished ability, spotless integrity and marked devotion to the State which characterized Gov. Hill's two terms as Governor of the great State of New York.

Without alluding to names Senator Hill intimated in his Kilmaria speech that Mr. Cleveland had played the part of a blunderer in his tariff policy, which caused the "disaster of 1888," and Mr. Cleveland availed himself of the first opportunity to retort, as he did in his Jacksonville banquet speech, when in epigrammatic phrase he referred to Democrats who lacked the courage of their convictions and straddled questions of import instead of meeting them with Jacksonian pluck and candor.

What motive Senator Hill can have in this, if the motive be rightly construed, is not apparent, for if Cleveland were nominated, and elected by the vote of New York, it would clear the way, and almost make a certainty of Senator Hill's nomination four years hence. If he were nominated and lost New York, as he did in 1888, and thus lost the election as he did then, Mr. Hill's friends could say, as they doubtless would say, if he had been nominated he would have carried New York and been elected. Taking this view, which seems to be the most reasonable and logical view that can be taken of it, we don't see what Senator Hill has

to gain by the defeat of Cleveland unless he secures the nomination himself. The suspicion or assertion that Senator Hill is actuated by a desire to kill off Cleveland does not credit, if it does not do injustice, to the sagacity and patriotism of Mr. Hill. But whatever it may be, foundation there may be for the various opinions expressed, the New York angle is an ugly one, and the situation one that Republicans may enjoy, but Democrats within or outside of New York, who think more of party success than of factional triumphs, cannot view with anything like complacency.

AVOID THE ROCKS.

If the Democratic party had committed itself to the free coinage of silver it would be neither manly nor honest in it to dodge the issue for fear of losing votes by espousing it. A bold, brave man who fearlessly proclaims and defends his convictions commands the respect even of those who differ most radically from him, and so does a party which consistently and courageously stands by its principles and its pledges, though it may encounter defeat in doing so. It was by doing this that the Democratic party has lived to see the rise and fall of many parties, and although frequently defeated, but never conquered, lives to-day more vigorous, numerous and more powerful than it ever was. If it was ever distinguished for one thing more than another it was for the signal candor with which it avowed its principles, whether in the minority or in the majority, and the bravery with which it maintained them under all circumstances, as uncompromisingly in the face of defeat as in the day of triumph.

During the days of the war between the States, the Democratic party in the Northern States preserved its organization intact and fought as valiantly and resolutely then to stay the progress of a military despotism as the Democracy of the North and the South since has stayed the progress of the partisan despotism which the leaders of the Republican party endeavored to establish by sectional and arbitrary legislation.

For thirty years, since the Democratic party through unfortunate dissensions went out of power, it has been making this fight for principle and the people, and in all that time has never had but one President, and never control of both branches of Congress. Would a party that was not honest in its convictions and not actuated by lofty motives, and not governed by principle, have kept up the fight for a generation in the face of so many defeats? If it were a spoils party it would have disbanded long ago. The Democratic party of to-day lives in its vigor and its glory, because the Democratic party of the days before was honest, brave, patriotic, and true to the people.

It will not be long before the two great parties that have faced each other for a generation will engage in a desperate conflict for the possession of the Presidency, we say desperate because defeat to the Republican party means death, victory to the Democratic party means supremacy for a generation or longer.

While it will be a hard-fought battle the outlook for victory was never more promising to the Democratic party than it is now unless they who shape its course blunder and give advantage to the enemy on the eve of battle. Men who lead parties must keep their heads on and their eyes open. There must be no foolishness in them. The officer who when leading his men into a fight would forget what he was doing and run out into the fields to gather huckleberries wouldn't be any more unfit to command than the party leader who after the issue had been made by the enemy and accepted, and the lines were about drawn for the fight would lose his head and blindly walk into the trap that his enemy had set for him. That is precisely what the men in the Democratic party who would force the silver coinage question upon it as a party measure would do, although they may honestly think to the contrary.

The situation is simply this: There are certain issues—matters of principle—upon which the Democratic and Republican parties have been arrayed against each other for years. The Democratic party has been on these issues growing stronger every year and is now in a fair way of winning what it has been battling for so long. On these issues it is united. There are questions which have sprung up within the past few years which have become more or less subjects of popular discussion, but to which the Democratic party as a party is in no way committed and on which there is conflict of sentiment among the leaders and in the ranks of the party. The silver coinage question is the most conspicuous of these. Now the question is, wouldn't it be the sheerest folly to forget the great issues on which we had been steadily gaining ground, to take up as an issue a question like this upon

which the enemy is united, and invite defeat by so doing? Owing to the electoral college system the two great parties are so evenly balanced that the one which wins must carry certain States which are classed as doubtful and upon the vote of which the result will depend. Every one of these States has pronounced against the free coinage of silver as at present proposed and as advocated by the spokesmen of the free and unlimited coinage of silver. Saddled with that as an issue to offset tariff reform and the billion dollar extravagance, and the Force bill conspiracy of the 51st Congress, the Democratic party couldn't carry one of them.

Are we fighting just for the sake of fighting, or fighting for victory on the pledges that we have made? If we are fighting for the sake of fighting and for the excitement and fun there is in it, we might tack on to silver coinage, but if we are fighting for victory, which may be won by an honest, square fight, we will let the silver contention severely alone.

MINOR MENTION.

Mr. Oates, of Alabama, has subjected himself to a good deal of severe and deserved criticism by introducing a bill, which has passed the House, to prevent blackmailing in the District of Columbia. It declares that "any person who within the District of Columbia shall levy or attempt to levy blackmail on any other person by making, threatening or attempting to make any disclosure injurious to the character of any person, for the purpose of obtaining money or other benefit, or for the purpose of ridicule or revenge, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, the penalty of which, upon conviction, shall be a fine and imprisonment at hard labor."

Mr. Blaine seems to have the bulge on Mr. Harrison among the colored voters of the North. It is said that a poll of the different colored churches in the States of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Massachusetts shows that out of a total of 400,000 who expressed a choice 227,000 are for Blaine and 112,000 for Harrison. There were 23,736 for Cleveland, 33 for Hill, 500 for Fred Douglass, 16,261 for Alger, and 20,170 who were for the Republican nominee whoever he may be.

There is probably about as much foundation for the Santiago dispatch to the London Times that Minister Egan's house is guarded to protect him from roughs, as there was in the numerous other sensational reports sent through the cables. The visiting railroad officials—Messrs. O. J. Geer, R. M. Pattison, C. L. Bucke, H. W. Moore, J. Geer and G. F. Martin—accompanying by Messrs. T. M. Emerson, Pembroke Jones and Capt. Jno. H. Daniel, of this city, went to Mr. Jones' residence, on Wrightsville Sound, where they partook of an oyster roast. On their return to the city, and after holding a consultation with A. C. L. officials, they left in their private car "Mascotte" for Southern points, much pleasured by their visit to Wilmington. They will return in about ten days, going north via the Atlantic Coast Line.

Funeral of Miss Elwell. The funeral of Miss Flora Jane Elwell, who died on Friday last, took place yesterday from Grace M. E. Church, the services being conducted by Rev. Mr. Norman. The interment was at Oakdale Cemetery. Miss Elwell was a sister of Mr. Eli Elwell of this city, Mr. Charles Elwell, of Lumberton, and Mr. Wm. J. Elwell, of Bladen county. She was a consistent member of Grace M. E. Church, and was greatly beloved by all who knew her.

Decomposed Mulletts. The following from the Charlotte Chronicle indicates that Joe Caldwell, too, scents decomposed mullets when he points his nose towards Bly, the so-called train wrecker: A hull having come in the excitement about the proofs having been secured against the train wrecker, the Chronicle embraces the opportunity to remark that there is something incongruous about a man who had \$1,000 in money, besides watches and diamonds, had on breaking into jail for stealing a cow. But let that pass.

COTTON FACTS AND FIGURES.

N. Y. Bulletin: The demand has been fairly steady for moderate quantities of popular makes and brands of staple and colored goods. For the latter some manufacturers report that they will soon be out of orders. They have, however, sold larger quantities than in the same time in some years, yet are unreasonable enough to express the opinion that the demand is dull, although supplying purchasers to the full extent of their production. The market is full of buyers, and though many of them want other goods than domestics, there is a demand in sight for other fabrics and styles indicates that the more staple goods will be in increased request.

COLUMBUS, GA., Feb. 4.—The Eagle and Phenix cotton factory stockholders to-day made sweeping reductions in the salaries of the officials of the company, amounting to \$18,750. The salary of the president was reduced from \$10,000 to \$5,000, and the salaries of other officials were reduced in proportion. The office of mechanical engineer, which paid \$5,000, and the office of teller, paying \$3,500, were abolished. The action of the stockholders in the matter of reducing salaries was a surprise to many, but is generally approved.

This Way, Dr. Murphy. An item is going the rounds of the State press that Dr. P. L. Murphy, Superintendent of the Western Hospital, at Morganton, has a cow that gives ten gallons of milk a day when she is in a real good humor. Then, there is a little "anecdote" appended about a calf that weighed 99 pounds at birth, and weighed 108 pounds the next day. The stock editor of the STAR is prepared to swallow the 108 pounds of wool, but is disposed to "gag" when the daily ten-gallon keg of milk is presented. Dr. Murphy is a daily reader of the STAR, and therefore a man of veracity, and he is requested to let his numerous friends down this way know whether somebody has been getting off a cow-poker on him, with the usual quantity of "cream," or he really has a cow from which he extracts ten gallons of the lactical fluid per day.

CAPE FEAR RIVER.

System of Range Lights to be Continued to Wilmington. The Washington correspondent of the Richmond Dispatch telegraphs to this paper, February 4th: "The Secretary of the Treasury sent to the House to-day a recommendation from the Lighthouse Board that an appropriation of \$3,105 be made for lighting the Cape Fear River from its entrance to the system of range lights adopted below shall be continued up to Wilmington. The Secretary further says that the system of lights proposed for the Light House Boud, held November 10, 1891, upon papers submitted by the Wilmington Produce Exchange and by the other parties interested in the navigation of the river, is a complete and increase the usefulness of the lights in the lower part of the river, similar aids should be provided for the upper part of the river, westward to Wilmington, their port of destination."

Rabbit Hunting on Big Island. "Big Island," about nine miles below Wilmington, is said to be a famous place for rabbits, and yesterday morning early a gay crowd of "sports" went down there, expecting to bag at least fifty apiece. In the party were Capt. Miller of the schooner Roger Moore, Capt. Johnson of the schooner Seth Todd, Capt. Clark of the schooner Wm. Green, Capt. Taylor of the schooner James Ponder, Captains Edgar Parme, and Edgar Williams, George Doyle, Dick Warren, W. N. Harris and Messrs. "Peach and Honey." Guns of all descriptions and ages were carried along. When the party reached Big Island they were not content to use only their guns on poor "Burr Rabbit." No! They wanted to make it even warmer than that for him. So Big Island was set on fire and the rabbits were watched for while the fire blazed. None were seen, however, and the party returned yesterday afternoon without a hair to show as a sign of the hunt.

The Cotton Outlook. Cotton dropped to 6 1/2 cents for middling in this market yesterday, and it will keep dropping if the outlook thirty days hence does not show a marked decrease in the acreage for the coming crop. If the planters lay their plans for a third crop of 8,000,000 they may as well call on the sheriffs of their respective counties to come and take what is in sight. Then they will do well to interview the superintendents of poor-houses and make the best terms they can for board and lodging at the public expense.

If cotton should decline to 5 cents within the next two weeks it would be a god-send to Southern planters, saving thousands of them from bankruptcy and ruin. When a man insists on making any article in such quantities that it will not pay the cost of production he is a fit subject for a lunatic asylum.

The Big Island Hunt. When Capt. Edgar Williams was making preparations for the Big Island rabbit hunt, he said he would carry a stick with which he could kill all the rabbits he wanted. When the hunt was over, the conclusion was irresistible that he didn't want any rabbits when he started. But "what's the matter with" Big Island, where the rabbits used to be as thick as the hunters were Friday? A few years ago it was a common occurrence for two or three hunters to go there, turn off the grass, and kill fifteen to twenty-five rabbits as they scampered away from the flames. This last hunt has ruined the reputation of Big Island as a game preserve, and the matter should be investigated. Possibly "Burr Rabbit" would "take untold" if he were not afraid of crimping himself.

Weather Prognostications. Lieut. Francis H. Sherman, U. S. N., in charge of the Branch Hydrographic office in Savannah, Ga., furnishes the STAR with advance sheets of the Pilot Chart for February. The weather forecasts for the month are as follows: Stormy weather is likely to prevail off the American coast and over the Atlantic generally north of the 35th parallel, where fresh to strong gales, principally from the westward, will be encountered about once a week. Northerly winds occur less frequently in the Gulf of Mexico, but may still be of great violence. Icebergs and field-ice may be encountered off Newfoundland and the ice-season there has been very backward. The regions of frequent fog, as indicated on the chart, are over the Grand Banks and George Shoal.

Cape Fear River Steamers. Both the steamers D. Marchison and Cape Fear will continue to run on the line between Wilmington and Fayetteville, for the present, at least. This was decided upon at a meeting of the Steamboat Company held in Fayetteville recently—since the announcement was made that the Marchison would be withdrawn and is owing to the marked increase in freight traffic and travel since the subsidence of the recent freshet.

At the same meeting Mr. James Madden was elected agent for the company at Wilmington, and will hereafter have sole control of the business at this end of the line. Mr. Madden has been in charge of the freight department of the line for years past, and is well-known and popular with all patrons of the boats.

Mr. H. B. Fuller, proprietor of the Merchant's Hotel, of Lumberton, was in the city yesterday, registered at the Purcell.

THE ALLEGED WRECKER.

The Sheriff's Story of the Prisoner's Confession. (Charlotte Chronicle.)

Jim Boyd is the third negro criminal confined in Charlotte jail in less than a year—Brubham and Dawnes being the other two. Boyd, as is known, is accused of wrecking the train at Boston's bridge on the 9th of last August. The incidents of his arrest were told in the Chronicle yesterday morning. The reporter yesterday made a requisition on Sheriff Smith to know as to the correctness of the published reports in regard to his prisoner.

"It is true," said the sheriff, "that Boyd made a confession of wrecking the train by the bridge." "How do you know?" asked the reporter. "I heard him," said the sheriff. The sheriff thought to tell how that was accomplished. Boyd, with the negro spy employed by the railroad, was allowed to go into the small hallway between the two iron doors that lead into the jail. They were to wait there presumably, while friends came to furnish bond for their release. During the hour the sheriff allowed them to remain there the confession was drawn from Boyd by the negro spy, and was overheard by the sheriff. Detective Haney and a short-hand writer, all of whom were close by.

The confession was to be taken down in short-hand, but the candle in the dark lantern went out, and the listeners dared not move to secure another. The spy and the confessor were in the room several trains had been wrecked and how he managed it. Boyd then told of wrecking the train at Boston's bridge, saying the tools used were a crowbar, spike-lifter and monkey wrench. He told where he hid the two former, which were found in the place designated. The monkey-wrench he said he threw in the river, and the spike-lifter and monkey wrench he told the negro of stealing and hiding have also been found, says the sheriff.

During the confession, a slight noise from the kitchen about the corner startled Boyd, and he said to the spy, "Some one is listening." The latter assured him that it was only rats, so he proceeded to talk. After sufficient evidence had been gained by the detective, the sheriff turned the negroes back in jail, saying he could not wait any longer for their friend to come.

Boyd has been identified, they said, by two of the parties in the wreck at different times, and out of a crowd of seven other prisoners. Sheriff Smith had Mr. Ames to take a photograph of the prisoner yesterday. He says the negro has learned of the snare he has been caught in, and is dreadfully frightened.

The Louisiana Lottery. The following will be read with interest (even though painful) by many who have been "trying their luck" for long and weary years. But the "L. S. L." has two years more to run, and this will be some consolation to its patrons: NEW ORLEANS, February 2.—John A. Patis, principal officer and director of the Louisiana Lottery Company, will give notice in the newspapers to-morrow morning that he intends to withdraw his proposition for the re-charter of the company, and that the concern will wind up its affairs and retire in 1894. This action is the result of the decision of the United States Supreme Court, declaring the lottery unconstitutional. This ends forever the great lottery war, which has been raging in this State for some time past and which has brought about a rupture in the Democratic party, and the nomination of two Democratic State tickets.

A DOUBLE STAR.

Venus and Jupiter Are So Close Together as to Appear as One. Richmond Times, Feb. 4. Last evening the comet which veiled his face in the pink of his fiery blushes, after filling a cloudless sky with an antic-balm which drew forth the population like the first impulses of verdant spring, three lesser planets assumed control of night's illumination—planets of lesser brilliancy but transcendently beautiful in their own way, and together they made a scene of great beauty to the eyes of the evening sky.

Every one who has looked westward at nightfall for the week past must needs have seen the juxtaposition of Jupiter and Venus, as these two planets have drawn nearer and nearer night by night. During the present week they will continue to approach one another until on Saturday morning they will be so close that to the naked eye they will actually seem blended into one. Unfortunately the hemisphere of the earth which we inhabit will be turned away from the place they occupy in the sky at that time, so that we shall be unable to witness this interesting conjunction. But Venus and Jupiter will already have drawn so near together that their specter will be that of a most splendid double star.

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PEOPLE'S PARTY.

A Chronical Issued by the Nine Alliance Members of Congress Denying Published Reports.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—The People's party of the House of Representatives is intact as a political organization and united as to party measures, which it is to press upon the two houses of the 53d Congress. In the caucus which met before the organization of the House and nominated Representative Watson, of Georgia, as candidate of the People's party for Speaker of the House, the nine independent Representatives, then assembled, decided to present their political autonomy on all questions to the end of the session. Within the past few days various reports of alleged dissension in the ranks of the nine People's Representatives, have been current, and the Third party men to-night complain that these rumors have been inspired by politicians of other parties, and telegraphed to the partisan press throughout the country, purely for political effect. To silence these insidious remarks in respect to the nine regular representatives of the People's party, they issued the following address to the country: To correct an erroneous account which has appeared in public prints in reference to dissensions in the ranks of Alliance Congressmen, we make the following statement: At no meeting of Alliance members of Congress was any motion or suggestion made that they should join the Democratic party or cast their lot with it. Disagreement occurred because certain of the Alliance members had confederated with the party representatives. We are united now as we were at the opening of Congress. We each believe that independent political action is necessary. We had no conference with the party representatives. We are united now as we were at the opening of Congress. We each believe that independent political action is necessary. We had no conference with the party representatives. We are united now as we were at the opening of Congress. We each believe that independent political action is necessary. We had no conference with the party representatives.

Signed: Thomas E. Watson, W. A. McKnight, John G. Fisher, Halsted, W. M. K. Kenn, Jerry Simpson, John Davis, William Baker, R. H. Clover.

A CRAZY CASHIER.

Acute Insanity Developed After Discovery that He Had Embezzled \$25,000. By Telegraph to the Morning Star. LOUISVILLE, Ky., February 4.—Judge Louis Ritter, cashier of the Deposit Bank of Glasgow, Ky., which failed a few days ago, is a defaulter and insane. He was found to be indebted to the bank for \$25,000. Judge Ritter, besides being one of the representative citizens of Barren county, is one of the most widely known men in the State. When the failure of the Deposit Bank was announced as imminent, Judge Ritter took measures to turn over to the bank all of his property, worth about \$10,000.

In rear of Judge Ritter's house is a field, upon which several farm hands were working. At 10 o'clock their attention was attracted toward the house, by loud cries for help, and they saw running across the field a man perfectly nude, gesticulating like a maniac. He was John Ritter, the cashier, and his employer, and all started in pursuit. After a long chase he was captured and overpowered and removed to the house. A physician pronounced the affliction a case of acute insanity, brought on by great mental strain. Judge Ritter's financial trouble is assigned to injudicious speculation during the past three years. LATER.—Reports from Glasgow to-day say that Judge Ritter has recovered his mind, and that he can show that the money he obtained from the bank was in due form of loan, and not a misuse of the bank's money.

HORRIBLE ACCIDENT.

Two Men Killed and Six Badly Injured. By Telegraph to the Morning Star. BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Feb. 4.—A horrible accident occurred at the Sloss furnace this afternoon, two men being killed outright and six badly injured. A hot blast furnace was being erected and the men were working on a scaffold in the interior of the walls, fifty-eight feet from the ground. Suddenly the scaffolding gave way and fell with all their implements and a large forge fell to the ground in an indescribable, horrible mass. The men killed were John Starn and John Rich. The wounded were Will Harvey, P. J. Trammell, Bob Wade, Josy Moore, Henry Cutts and Frank Wilcox. The three latter are colored. All the men but Josy Moore are seriously hurt, and one of them may die. The excessive weight of the portable forge and three kegs of rivets caused the accident.

A SWINDLER.

Taking Orders for Drugs, Etc., from a Country Merchant, and Obtaining \$1,000. NEW YORK, February 4.—The postmaster at New York has received complaints that a person calling himself Ellis, is traveling in Virginia and elsewhere in the South, representing himself as an agent of Rosenfield's Drug and Grocery Company, consolidated of New York, taking orders for drugs, etc., from country merchants and collecting bills in advance, under promise of a gift of a gold watch. There is no such company in New York, and the person referred to, who is probably conducting his operations under other names, than as given above, is without doubt a swindler.

DEATH IN A BALL ROOM.

Miss Kittle Shaw's Last Waltz at Pittsburg. By Telegraph to the Morning Star. PITTSBURG, Pa., Feb. 6.—Miss Kittle Shaw, daughter of a prominent physician of this city, dropped dead at 8.30 o'clock, while dancing at a reception given by the Pittsburg Club in honor of the re-opening of their club house. Socially the Pittsburg Club is the foremost organization of the city, and its last reception was the social event of the season. Miss Shaw had danced frequently during the night, and was taking a final waltz, when she suddenly threw up her hands and fell. The coroner's inquest has not yet been held, but it is the supposition that death resulted from heart disease.

Chairman Atkinson, of the Georgia Democratic State Executive Committee, has called the committee to meet March 2nd. In an interview he points out the necessity for early action, as the People's party leaders are figuring on working with the Republicans, and there is work for the Democrats to do if they wish success.