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We are again sending bills to our subscribers. In the aggregate they amount to a very large sum. Many of our subscribers are responding promptly. Others pay no attention to the bills. These latter do not seem to understand that they are under any legal or moral obligation to pay for a newspaper.

ARE THEY FULL BLUFF? We quoted a few days ago from the Philadelphia Times an editorial which foreshadowed and advised a bolt by the "sound money" men at Chicago, if the silver men controlled the Convention, which the Times considered to be quite probable.

While the Times has been acting mainly with the Democratic party on leading questions, it is politically an "independent" journal.

Yesterday we quoted from and commented upon an editorial in the Philadelphia Record, a Democratic paper, which went even further than the Times in counselling a bolt in the event the Chicago Convention was dominated by free silver men, and went so far as to declare that it would be the duty of the "sound money" men to withdraw from the Convention and put out a platform and candidates of their own.

It took both the Times and the Record a good while to get this far along on the road and they did not show their hand until it became so apparent as to leave no doubt that the free silver men would have a majority of the delegates at Chicago.

They played mum on this line, the intention being if the gold men had a majority to insist that it is the duty of delegates to go into the convention to abide by its action and loyally support it both as to the platform and the candidates, in other words to bow like loyal Democrats in submission to the will of the majority expressed in the prescribed way and in accordance with party usage and party law.

That's what they and the other papers which are directly or indirectly counselling bolting by the gold men, if they cannot rule, would have said and that's why they remained silent on that subject until it became manifest that the silver men would be in the majority.

There is not the slightest doubt that there are a good many gold standard men who are so strongly wedded to gold that they would see the Democratic party knocked into atoms to preserve the gold standard, for that means money to them, and with them money is the supreme issue.

They are now engaged in organizing such voters as they can influence into leagues to carry with them in the event the silver men dominate at Chicago. The purpose is, of course, to vote these men for a gold candidate, if they have a gold candidate to vote for.

These men who call themselves Democrats, and the Democratic papers which are encouraging them and defending their action in advance, are simply giving aid and comfort to the Republican party, in which we find no appeals to bolters and no threats from gold men to withdraw from the St. Louis Convention, to form their own platform and nominate their own candidates in the event the utterances or actions of the majority of the delegates do not suit them. Of course the more divided the Democratic party is, the better are the Republican party's chances of success, especially when this division takes place in certain pivotal States, the carrying of which in a close election is essential to the success of either party.

coined. This would be a very seductive proposition to make to delegates who are not radically committed to free and unlimited coinage, and who at the same time would hate to be confronted by a split in the party. The State bank idea has already been hinted at and possibly it may be supplemented by a proposition for limited coinage, coupled with a provision for retiring the greenbacks as rapidly as silver is coined. It may be that the gold men—that is, those of them who are anxious to hold the Democratic party together,—may have in view some such movement as this, to be sprung when other plans fail, and that this bluff game is being played to help that or some other compromise movement along. In our opinion it isn't a very clever way to go about it, but there are all sorts of tricks in politics.

MINOR MENTION.

Senator Pritchard, of this State, who holds his seat in the Senate by virtue of a combine with the Populists, is, as Artemus Ward would say, "an amosin' cuter." His colleague, Senator Butler, has a bill before the Senate prohibiting the issuing of bonds by the Government without the consent of Congress. This bill is supported by the Populists, and some Democrats and some Republicans, and is opposed by some Democrats and some Republicans. But it has put Senator Pritchard on a leading question, it is politically an "independent" journal.

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enough to cover the estimated deficiency, and put the Treasury at ease. But this was too much for Senator Sherman, who pretended to see in it a purpose to kill his "filled cheese" bill in which he took a good deal more interest than he did in providing revenue for the Treasury. With the exception of an income tax there is no tax which would be less felt than this proposed beer tax, and there is no tax which would be as generally acceptable.

Boss Platt rises to remark, in paying his respects to Mr. McKinley, that "money is the issue." Col. Fred. Grant, who has recently been in Ohio, and whose name has been mentioned for the Vice Presidency, declares that money is not the issue in this campaign. These distinguished Republicans should come to some understanding, so that the country may know what the issue really is.

Texas trots out the champion hog, a four-year old, which measures 8 feet 3 inches in length, stands 4 feet 1 inch high, weighs 1,500 pounds, and eats corn like an ox, cob and all. It requires from 40 to 50 ears to make a lunch for him. The owner of this native expects to make him pull down the scales at 2,000 pounds.

It is announced that after Li Hung Chang concludes the festivities in Russia, he will take in the sights in France and England and then take a swing at this country. After he has swung 'round he will probably conclude that there is a pretty considerable portion of the world outside of China.

According to examination made by an expert what is known as Marble Mountain, in West Virginia, contains more marble, and of the finest quality, than has been used in the world in all the ages past. There are several different colors, some of which are in great demand.

A shipment of 120 railway car wheels was recently made from Buffalo, N. Y., to Germany. From the way our manufacturers are shipping iron truck abroad it looks as if they were pretty well able to take care of themselves without McKinley's assistance.

The Raleigh Press-Visitor has put on its new Summer suit and feels as good as a boy with his first pair of red-top boots. It is very neat and rather improves the appearance of the paper, which was always well and neatly gotten up.

Spain is in the market for \$200,000,000, to defray expenses of the racket in Cuba. If Spain is getting any amusement out of that business she is paying for it. But where is she going to get the collateral to put up for the \$200,000,000?

The California banks are for gold. The New York savings banks and the other banks also, are for gold. In fact nearly all the banks are for gold. There is nothing surprising in that. The present arrangement suits them pretty well.

The City Fathers of Montgomery, Alabama, who regard the bicycle as a vehicle, insist that like other vehicles it must take the street and not the sidewalk. The aforesaid Fathers are evidently not straddlers themselves.

RALEIGH HAPPENINGS.

SUPREME COURT ADJOURNED TO MEET IN SEPTEMBER. Henderson's Offer to the Seaboard Atlantic-Political Gossip—Professor Winder's Nominations—Ex-Minister Winder in Norfolk—Negro Convict Shot—Bumgarner's Willing to Come Off the Republican Ticket.

Monday a committee of citizens from Henderson made a second trip to Portsmouth to consult with the officers of the Seaboard relative to locating the shops in the town of Henderson. A conference was had with Mr. St. John. It can be stated that the Henderson committee has a positive assurance from the Seaboard that the reconstruction of the shops. Henderson offered \$35,000 and a tract of land for the shops.

A negro convict tried to escape from the workhouse yesterday, and was shot. A man from the East who has been to the Legislature three times wrote the editor of the Constitution to know what free coinage he meant. He said he thought it meant that sixteen silver dollars would be coined to every gold dollar.

John H. Winder left for Norfolk today in regard to his injunction case against President Hoffman, who is also at Norfolk.

The Supreme Court finished its work yesterday and will not convene again until the fourth Monday in September. This session of the court was not so important as the last. Thirty many cases of State interest arising out of the acts of the Legislature, notably the assignment act, were passed upon.

Prof. N. C. English seems to be juggling with the nomination tendered him by the Fourth Republican Congressional Convention. Mr. English has been asked the pointed question on more occasions than one, whether he intended to accept the nomination tendered him by the Republicans and in each instance he has given an evasive answer.

Prof. English promised to give the answers public an answer in the early part of this week, but his silence has been so complete as ever. Mr. St. John was asked to-day whether he would be renominated by the Republicans and he answered that he would give Mr. St. John a renomination if he wanted it. This would indicate that Prof. English will be out of it in the Populist Congressional Convention. It is not likely that he will run if the Populists do not endorse him.

A rumor which is said to be well founded, has it that Judge Russell has written a letter to a party in Washington in which he states he is willing to come off the Republican ticket.

[Judge Russell was not in Wilmington last night and the STAR had no means of ascertaining whether there is any foundation for the above rumor or not. We do not, however, believe it has any basis.—STAR.]

WAKE FOREST COLLEGE COMMENCEMENT.

WAKE FOREST, N. C., May 26. EDITOR STAR.—The first night of the Wake Forest Commencement is always given up to the graduating class. Accordingly, last night at 8:30 o'clock the class of '96 assembled upon the rostrum in the Wingate Memorial hall and was called to order by the president, H. H. McLendon, Wadesboro. After a few words of welcome by Mr. McLendon, the secretary, J. W. Carlton, Warsaw, read the name of the orator, R. G. Rogers, Robeson county, who spoke on "The Mission of the College Man"—a subject appropriate to the occasion and quite creditably treated.

After the oration came the class poem by M. B. Dry, Union county, who celebrated in verse the temperaments and characteristics of his class-mates. Class Historian J. H. Gore, Wilmington, read a history of his fellows which he frankly declared to be more narrative in style than critical, giving as his criterion his impartial personal knowledge of historical records, Herodotus, whose methods were characterized by the frequent use of high colored stories. Mr. Gore's narrative was amusing and drew much applause, but it was not without a serious element, a very tender reference being made to John Heck, a member of the class last year, who died last year by the name of Death and to Professor Maske, who died at the beginning of the session of '94-95, and who had perhaps instructed at one time or another all the present class.

M. Meekins appeared next in the roll of Prophet, and the exercises were declared at an end. The graduates with their companions then sought the home of Dr. Taylor to attend the annual reception, a permanent feature of the entertainment and always greatly enjoyed.

Literature by Miss Goodman of Texas, Liencbach of Salina, Skinner of Greenville, N. C., Parker of Gastaville, N. C., "Armenia," by Misses Cromer, Brockmaster of Winston, Gibson of Concord. "The Crescent and the Cross," by Misses Barber and Taylor of South Carolina, Wareschke and Hege of Salem, North Carolina, and the address of the Academy Chapel was crowded with visitors, the attraction being the school's art exhibit, which was superlatively grand. It elicited many handsome and meritorious compliments. The Alumni Association will meet to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock, at the home of Mrs. J. F. Mason, which will be followed by a banquet at the Hotel. Class reunion will be held in Society Hall at 9 a. m. to-morrow.

Commons Hall to be started in September, and Good Board furnished at \$8 Per Month—Student Waiters. CHAPEL HILL, N. C., May 26. Mrs. Frederick Baker of New York, has given the University three thousand dollars to equip Commons Hall at the University and provide board at cost for students. The Hall will be opened next September with accommodations for two hundred, and the charge will be \$8 per month, which is hoped to be reduced to \$5 after a while. There will be twenty student waiters, who will get board for their services. The Mason farm (1000 acres) located a mile and one-half from the University and recently bequeathed to it by Rev. and Mrs. J. F. Mason, will be used as a poultry, dairy, stock and truck farm to supply the tables in Commons Hall. President Winston says that Commons Hall will have Western beef daily at the best food in the State by the best cooks. This is a great thing for the University and a great thing for the hundreds of needy boys in North Carolina who are eager to go to college, but lack means.

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What's Nature Needs assistance it can be best to render it promptly, but one should remember to use even the most perfect remedies only when needed. The best and most simple and gentle remedy is the Syrup of Figs manufactured by the California Fig Syrup Company.

RALEIGH NEWS BUDGET.

Struggle for Possession of a Child. There was a ripple of excitement on Water street near Market, yesterday afternoon, caused by the struggle of a white man and woman for the possession of a child—a boy about four years old. The man was Mr. James Melvin, who lives near Waverly in Sampson county, and the woman his wife. The couple separated some time ago. Mrs. Melvin coming to Wilmington to live with her child. Yesterday Mr. Melvin was in town in search of the child. He found the boy playing in the yard of a house on Dock street near Second, where Mrs. Melvin was living, picked him up and went down to the river front to a boarding house on Water between Market and Princess streets, followed by Mrs. Melvin and a crowd of men and boys. At the boarding house Mrs. Melvin attacked her husband, striking him several severe blows, and took possession of the child. When she reached the sidewalk, followed by Mr. Melvin, a policeman appeared and arrested Mrs. Melvin for interfering with Mr. Melvin, who carried her son to her home. Melvin declared that he would take legal steps to recover possession of the child.

THEY GIVE UP OHIO. Federal Officers here Carry Gloomy Accounts to the Administration. WASHINGTON, May 23.—Collector of Internal Revenue, Joseph H. Dowling, of Cincinnati, and Surveyor of the Port Henry D. Lemon, of the same city, are here to confer with the Administration managers concerning the political situation in Ohio. Dowling and Lemon, both of whom were appointed because of their experience in politics, have informed the Administration that the Ohio Democrats are bound to declare for free silver in their State Convention, that the unit rule will doubtless be adopted, and that the only chance for silver is a silver candidate at Chicago. Senator Rice privately concurred with Dowling and Lemon, and says it is too late for the President to send a message to Ohio without much further improvement.

SPANISH FORCES CRUSHED. Ambushed and Slaughtered While Trying a Second Time to Invade the Cuban Capital. (New York Herald.) KINGSTON, JAMAICA, May 25.—Advices have reached here from a reliable source in Cuba to the effect that a strong body of Spanish troops recently made a second attempt to invade Cuba, the rest of the Cuban Government. They were ambushed in the mountain fastnesses and sustained a crushing defeat. The Spaniards were literally slaughtered by the insurgents, and the force was compelled to fly in disorder, abandoning their equipments on the field.

Newborn for Free Silver. The Democratic primaries were held in the five wards of the city of Newbern Saturday. In the First Ward a resolution was unanimously passed instructing the delegates in favor of free and unlimited coinage of silver at 16 to 1. In the Third Ward a similar resolution was passed. In the Fifth Ward a resolution was passed instructing the delegates to vote for none but free silver delegates to the State Convention, and farther instructing them to vote as a unit, and to do so in the event of a tie.

Mr. and Mrs. James Melvin before Judge McGowan. Mr. James Melvin and wife, Mrs. Mary A. Melvin, the couple who had a scuffle on Water street Monday afternoon for the possession of a child, in which Mrs. Melvin carried off the child, (as told in the STAR), were in Justice McGowan's Court yesterday morning. Mrs. Melvin having been arrested upon complaint of her husband, charging her with assault and battery. After an investigation of the case, the magistrate decided that the defendant was not guilty and required the prosecuting witness (Mr. Melvin) to pay the costs.

Thompson School Commencement. The closing exercises of Thompson School, at Siler City, will occur May 31st to June 2d. Rev. T. M. Johnson, of Henderson, N. C., will preach the annual sermon; Dr. Jao. C. Kilgo, president of Trinity College, will deliver the literary address; Tuesday, June 2d, Reunion of old students Monday, June 1st.

Mr. Charles L. Stevens, so well known in this section as the editor of the Southport Leader, has bought the Newbern Journal, and the first issue under a new management appeared yesterday. The paper, under the able and experienced management of Mr. Stevens, will be amply rewarded. The STAR extends its best wishes.

An Old Subscriber. Mr. W. B. Bowden, of Dudley, N. C., in renewing his subscription to the DAILY STAR to February 1897, writes: "I have been a regular subscriber for sixteen years, and wish you much prosperity. In this connection we may be pardoned for saying that we are very proud of the fact that a very considerable number of our subscribers have been taking the paper over twenty years."

The Truck Farmers. Mr. F. J. Dempsey, who called at the STAR office yesterday, says the recent rains have gladdened the hearts of the truckers, and that their crops are now growing finely. Irish potatoes, however, have been cut short by the drought, and there will not be much more than half a crop. Mr. Dempsey says the truck farmers generally are well satisfied with their trade thus far this season.

\$3,000 GIFT TO THE UNIVERSITY. Commons Hall to be started in September, and Good Board furnished at \$8 Per Month—Student Waiters. CHAPEL HILL, N. C., May 26. Mrs. Frederick Baker of New York, has given the University three thousand dollars to equip Commons Hall at the University and provide board at cost for students. The Hall will be opened next September with accommodations for two hundred, and the charge will be \$8 per month, which is hoped to be reduced to \$5 after a while. There will be twenty student waiters, who will get board for their services.

The Mason farm (1000 acres) located a mile