

The Weekly Star.

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Bill Nye

Often spoke his witticisms laden with the greatest truths. Among the most noticeable, most Nyelish and most apropos is the following:

A man may use a part on the back of his neck for a button; ride on the back coach of a train to save interest on his money until the conductor comes around; stop his watch at night to save the wear and tear; leave his "I" and "T" without a dot or cross to save ink; pasture his mother's grave to save corn; but a man of this kind is a gentleman and a scholar compared to a fellow who will take a newspaper, and when asked to pay for it, puts it into the post-office and has it marked, "Rejected."

An Object Lesson.

One of the most destructive floods ever seen in the lower Mississippi river is now doing its terrific work. There has been much loss of life—how much cannot be told till the waters subside, if then—and much destruction of property—how much cannot be approximated now. The story of destruction and suffering as daily told is pitiful, but it goes on day after day, and the end is not in sight. Of course it cannot last long for the clouds will empty themselves, the snows will melt and the swollen streams and rivers will pour their volumes into the sea, and after it is all over those who have escaped the deluge will go back to what is left of their old habitations, resume their usual vocations and take the chances of another washout. There seems to be some fatuity or fascination which draws people back, as there seems to be in the sections of those countries where volcanoes and earthquakes sometimes do their deadly work, and where the survivors who fled in terror from the belching mountain, or from their quivering houses, return again when the mountain slumbers and the earth-thrills cease. There may be some way of accounting for this, but it is beyond us, an idiosyncrasy that we do not comprehend any more than we can understand why the man in the Mississippi bottom who shakes himself all out of shape in tussling with the "ager," and stuffs himself with quinine until he looks bitter cannot be prevailed upon to pull up stakes and move to higher ground. He gets so accustomed to shaking that he rather likes it. So we suppose those people along the lowlands on the big Western rivers rather like, until they get more than they bank for, the exhilarating excitement of these overflows, and consequently take the chances of being chased by the waters every year, for these floods are becoming an annual occurrence.

If they were moderate uprisings, which spread a few feet of water over the adjoining fields and drowned a few pigs and washed away some chicken coops and things of that kind they might be regarded in the light of a harmless novelty which a few days of warm sunshine would remove all traces of, but when ordinary streams become raging torrents many miles wide, and the great streams inland seas, and boats steam around in the open country many miles from the course of the streams, and fields, houses, barns and everything not on high ground is submerged, then they become very serious visitations, with every reason to believe that they will become more serious, and more disastrous in the future than they are now.

Of course the cause of this great flood is known. The rivers had to receive the downpour of extraordinary rains, and about the same time the contribution from the melting snows, which had fallen to a great depth over a vast area. Either would have more than taxed the draining capacity of the rivers; both together converted them into moving lakes. That's the immediate cause of this, as either rains or snows, "some" both; are the immediate cause of all the overflows; but there are causes behind this that all do not know and that do not receive the attention from those who do that they should receive. These floods are not necessary visitations, and are the result of the methods pursued by the men who drove axes into trees to "clear" farms, or to cut down the forests for lumber. The aborigines of this country never had to run from roaring rivers, and the early white settlers rarely did. They had their spring freshets, but these were harmless, small affairs compared with the devastating torrents that in these days sweep everything before them.

Meteorologists and men who have made forestry a study, and others versed in such matters, in this and other countries, are agreed that the cutting away of the forests not only causes the overflowing of streams

but also causes the changes of climate which have taken place and the frequent atmospheric disturbances, such as tornadoes and cyclones, which have been of such common occurrence in some sections of the country. The Winters are colder, the Summers warmer and the seasons more irregular and uncertain than they were even half a century ago, when cyclones, &c., were very rare, if they ever occurred, and were harmless compared with what they are now. Destroying so much of the forest growth has interfered with the equable distribution of moisture and the regularity of the rainfalls. Clearing the fields and plowing the land has exposed so much of the surface to the sun's rays that it has been baked in places, while the turning up of so much soil, especially along the water courses, has loosened it so that every rain carries immense quantities of it into the river beds, fills them up and makes the overflows much easier and more frequent than in the early days when there was little earth washed into them. The trees stood close in the forest, the snow that fell, protected from the sun's direct rays by the trees, melted more slowly and gradually ran off or was absorbed by the earth, whereas now it melts rapidly and finds its way to the nearest water course to swell it into a torrent if there be snow enough.

These are facts that all who have given thought or study to this subject recognize. Knowing the cause, is there no remedy? The depleted forests cannot be immediately restored, but the process of guarding against ruthless slaughter can be checked, if not prevented, if stringent laws were enacted and enforced to protect our forests. Some States are making commendable efforts to do this, and are encouraging tree culture. All States should. Some of the European Governments, notably Germany, which have felt the effects of forest denudation, and seen its effects in other countries, have largely increased their forest area and are teaching the people to care for their trees they should be cared for. It may take us a good while to learn this lesson, and it may take many object lessons like the present flood in the lower Mississippi valley to impress the people, but it must be learned some day if we would escape disasters infinitely more far reaching and terrible than the flooding of the vast area now under water in the Mississippi valley.

MINOR MENTION.

We have taken occasion to remark that President McKinley would go very slow in his movements on the currency question. The following dispatch from Washington supports this opinion:

"President McKinley's plan for creating a Currency Commission to consider the financial question as outlined in his inaugural address will probably await the regular session of Congress next Winter."

"Speaker Reed and Senators Aldrich and Teller, who voted with having suggested to him that the Currency Commission bill might open up a long debate in the Senate, which if it took place before the Tariff bill was reported from the Finance Committee might delay it, and if it took place after the Tariff bill was passed would prolong the session and might, by agitating the country, hinder the expected return of prosperity, and this suggestion is said to have determined President McKinley to wait in this matter."

There are several reasons, in addition to those herein assigned, why he will go slow, and why the leaders in his party want him to go slow. They hope that by going slow they may dodge this question altogether. It times should so improve as to enliven business, give the unemployed work, make money in circulation more plentiful and prices for farm products better, the money agitation might ease up some, and less thought be given to the currency question by the masses of the people. That would be a big point gained, and would let them out of a very unpleasant situation. But if they should be disappointed in their hopes and the agitation continue then they can play the commission in time to have it to say in the next Congressional campaign that they are carrying out their pledge and doing all they can to give the people a better currency system. As for the international bimetallic congress, they haven't the slightest idea that it will amount to anything, if it is called, which is quite doubtful, but they don't want to admit this now, because then they couldn't play that fake any longer."

In advocating the reduction of cotton acreage for the coming crop, the New Orleans *States* makes the following pertinent point:

"In all the appeals that have been made to the farmers to diversify their crops, lessen the cotton acreage, we do not remember to have seen any reference made to what strikes us as a matter of the gravest import. It is now a smoldering volcano that may burst forth at any moment, and the price of provisions would go up like a rocket, and the price of cotton come down like a stick. In what grievous plight the Southerner farmer would then be it needs no telling."

With high-priced provisions and low-priced cotton, where would the planters who have their smokehouses and grain bins in the West be? There may or may not be war in Europe, although the indications are that there will be, but even anticipations or rumors of war have their effect on the price of cotton and on the price of provisions. The sensible planter will not take chances when they count against him they

would be so ruinous, when he can so easily put himself on the safe side.

The attention which the civil service law has attracted in the House and Senate, and the particular kind of attention, indicates a disposition to break into that thing, and doubtless the move direct will be made later on. On coming in the Republicans were disgusted to find that with the extension of the rules but comparatively few places were left for the expectant patriots, not enough to provide even for the Ohio contingent, which is always somewhat in evidence at the pie counter. Mr. McKinley is committed to the civil service, but not in it for his inaugural address, read between the lines he intimated that a partisan spirit was shown in the extensions by his predecessor, which were, practically speaking, an evasion of the spirit of the law. We have no doubt whatever that with a reasonable amount of encouragement from Congress will let down some of the bars that Mr. Cleveland put up, and the probabilities are that he will have this encouragement. We do not think the act will be repealed, but that it will be very materially modified.

The frequency with which knocked-out Corbett assures knocker Bob that Bob "licked him fairly and squarely" may indicate that Jim thinks Bob may have some doubts about it. But as Bob has the stakes and the "honors," he will doubtless be content unless Jim continues to hanker for a second punching and worries him too much.

On the 16th of June Great Britain will celebrate the 80th anniversary of Queen Victoria's coronation. John Bull is arranging for a grand layout to make the world believe he is very happy and very proud that he has a Queen. Some of these days he will dispense with that kind of figureheads.

The Connecticut legislator who opposed giving protection to eagles because "eagles stick their teeth into everything they get their hands on" was in downright earnest, if he happened to be a little out on teeth, etc. He was not an Irishman either but a native wooden nutmegger.

The revenue handlers in China have the reputation of being the champion thieves of all countries. The stealings are on such a colossal scale that it is said to cost the Government \$2,000,000 more to collect the price tribute from two provinces alone than the tribute amounts to.

A Georgia rhyme writer wrote for the Atlanta *Constitution* an effusion entitled "A Health to St. Patrick."

The rhyme and the sentiment are all right, but we don't see any use in wishing health to a gentleman who has been dead as long he has been.

A contemporary observes that there are many men in the United States who could do their country more service by holding a plow than by holding an office. But a good many of this kind wouldn't know how to hold a plow.

Sarah Bernhardt suggests as a solution of the high hat problem that ladies wear mantillas at places of public amusement. Sarah is level-headed. Compared with the two or three-story hat the mantilla is a daisy.

There are several thousand Republicans in this country, not counting others, who will agree with Senator Gallinger that civil service as it is administered, is a "monumental bumbung."

Sam Jones finds that the hard times operate against contributions to his performances. Sam is a Methodist on general principles but he is finding his business a sort of hard shell these days.

A Colorado young woman who had some political ambition has been cured by reading that there was a "bare quorum" in the Legislature. She doesn't want to be caught in a crowd like that.

Mr. J. E. Wichard, who has for some time published and edited the Hickory *Times*, has sold that paper and purchased the Lumberton *Republican*, which will henceforth appear under his management.

Chicago has the reputation of having some pretty hand thievery, but the Philadelphia *Ledger* tells of an attempt to steal the Delaware river.

Mr. John C. Tipton has purchased the Lincoln *Democrat*, changing the name to the Lincoln *Journal*. It will be edited by him and published by the Lincoln Printing Company.

The Baltimore Manufacturers' Record says Southern railroads have ordered 200,000 tons of steel rails for extensions and improvements.

The True Remedy.

W. E. Reiple, editor, *Takwila, Ill.* "Cale," says: "We won't keep house without Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, Coughs and Colds. Experimented with many others, but never got the true remedy until we used Dr. King's New Discovery. No other remedy can be given in our homes as in it we have a certain and sure cure for Coughs, Colds, Whooping Cough, etc. It is idle to experiment with other remedies, even if they are urged on you as not as good as Dr. King's New Discovery. They are not as good, because this remedy has record of cures, and besides is guaranteed. R. R. BELLAMY'S Drug Store."

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

CLEAN SWEEP MADE OF ALL INCUM-BENTS SAVE ONE.

No Exhibit at the Tennessee Exposition Negro Dismissed at the Election of Dr. Alexander—Murder Trial—Negro Editor Dead.

[Special Star Telegram.]

RALEIGH, N. C., March 24.—The Board of Agriculture to-day elected all the officers of the Agricultural Department. It made a clean sweep of all incumbents save Curator Brimley, who is retained. The Board decided not to make an exhibit at the Tennessee Exposition because there is a suit yet undecided before the United States Supreme Court, which may result in the tonnage tax unconstitutional and there would be risk of short finances. This tax is the sole revenue of the Department. The Board arranged to lend the Agricultural College \$5,000 for a hospital building and new boilers.

Negro leaders here are talking a good deal to-day of the election of Dr. Alexander as superintendent of the hospital for the insane at Goldsboro, and say it is in direct violation of the pledge made to negro members of the Legislature to secure their votes.

William S. Mitchell, associate editor of the *Gazette*, James H. Young's negro paper here, died to-day of galloping consumption.

Thomas Burch, the negro who was shot in the back of the head in a store here which he was robbing, pleaded guilty this afternoon of burglary in the second degree and was given fifteen years in the penitentiary.

The trustees of the Agricultural College meet to-morrow.

The effort to secure an army post here is being renewed.

The trial of John Groves, white, for the murder of a negro, began here this afternoon. The court room is packed and the interest is great.

Comptroller of the Currency, Robert Hancock, says that to-day the latter was elected president of the Atlantic & North Carolina Railway, and will to-morrow make a demand for the railroad.

State vs. Melton, from Anson. Affirmed.

State vs. Bogan, from Anson. Affirmed.

Clark vs. Peebles, from Halifax. Affirmed.

The date fixed for the Colored State Fair is November 3d to the 6th.

Revenue officers have seized twenty-seven barrels of contraband whisky at Goldsboro, Wilson and Fremont.

Eugene Harrell is commissioned Quartermaster General, and Howard Ashton Judge Assistant General Comptroller. He is to be issued with a sword. Also to officers of the new division at Newbern, as follows: R. S. Primrose, lieutenant; T. C. Daniel, lieutenant, junior grade, and W. T. Hill, ensign.

A special session of seventy-five was summoned here to-day for the murder trial of John Groves to-morrow.

NEWS FROM RALEIGH.

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE HOLD A SHORT SESSION.

Supreme Court Decisions—The Colored Fair—Contraband Whisky Seized—Commissions Issued to Officers of Naval Reserve.

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J. R. Chamberlain is appointed by the Governor as director of the Agricultural and Mechanical College here from the Fourth district, vice B. R. Lucy, who declined to serve.

A telegram to the Governor from Robert Hancock says that to-day the latter was elected president of the Atlantic & North Carolina Railway, and will to-morrow make a demand for the railroad.

The Supreme Court to-day filed the following opinions:

Rittenhouse vs. Street Railway, from New Hanover. Not ruled.

Hickey vs. Hill, from Duplin. Judgment affirmed.

State vs. Melton, from Anson. Affirmed.

State vs. Bogan, from Anson. Affirmed.

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ATLANTIC BEACH HOTEL.

Long-Talked of Hotel at Ocean View Abstain—Material—Will be First-Class in Every Particular—To Be Ready by 1st of June

—Description of the Building.

It looks now as if the long-talked of hotel at Ocean View is going to materialize and at an early date. Architect Tom Lique, who shot Henry Johnson in the leg Tuesday afternoon, was arraigned in the Police Court yesterday.

After hearing the testimony of several witnesses, Mayor Harris placed the witness under a \$300 bond for his appearance at the next term of the Criminal Court. Before, however, he could be committed to jail in default of bond, he was arrested by Deputy Sheriff Wm. Fonfeld, colored, on a warrant charging him with stealing the pistol with which he shot Johnson. He was tried by Justice Bunting and sent to jail, in default of a \$50 bond, to await trial on this charge.

Henry Johnson, the injured man, was released from custody.

Funeral of the Late Rufus Chasten.

The funeral of the lamented Rufus Chasten was held yesterday morning at 10 o'clock at St. Andrew's Presbyterian church. The service was conducted by the pastor, Rev. A. D. McClure, assisted by Rev. W. B. Oliver, pastor of the First Baptist church, and Rev. R. A. Willis, pastor of Grace M. E. church.

Witnesses: Messrs. R. S. Primrose, the oldest Democratic member, and Maddux of Georgia, Democrat, against the bill, and by Messrs. Adams of Pennsylvania, Republican, and Walker of Massachusetts, Republican, in favor of it. The general speakers were Messrs. Fox of Mississippi, Democrat; Sims of Tennessee, Democrat; Williams of Missouri, Democrat; Terry of Arkansas, Democrat; and Maddux of Georgia, Democrat, against the bill, and by Messrs. Adams of Pennsylvania, Republican, and Walker of Massachusetts, Republican, in favor of it. The general debate will be closed to-morrow when Messers.