

# THE DAILY FREE PRESS.

W. S. HERBERT, Editor and Prop'r.

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National Democratic Ticket.

FOR PRESIDENT:  
WM. J. BRYAN, of Nebraska.

FOR VICE-PRESIDENT:  
ADLAI E. STEVENSON, of Illinois.

FOR FIFTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS,  
CLAUDE KITCHIN, of Halifax.

FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR,  
T. C. WOOTEN, of Lenoir.

According to the administration's own figures, we are spending one-fourth of our total tax receipts for pensions.

The Temperance Blast is a new paper established at Dunn, Harnett county, by Rev. E. L. Parker. Its motto is "Destroy the Saloons and Save the Boys."

It is stated that Hon. Tom Watson, who was the Populist candidate for vice president in 1896, has announced that he will vote for Bryan and Stevenson.

It is said that a bill to establish a State reformatory will be presented to the next legislature. A reformatory should be established. It will in a great degree lessen crime.

Commerce is a sweet flower of peace, not a product of war; and it cannot be made to grow in the Philippines by the device of exterminating the inhabitants.—Philadelphia Record.

If Miss Lillian Clayton Jewett has a mamma, she should go to her at once.—Washington Post.

Maybe her ma doesn't know she's out. She should be sent to an insane asylum and jacketed.

The latest is that the Filipino junta, which is loaded down with dead loads of cash, is going to contribute \$5,000,000 to the Bryan campaign fund. And now we expect some fellow will rise up and deny that like they did that Boer \$2,500,000 story. Imagine Hanna's feelings if he thought the Democrats had a \$5,000,000 campaign fund.—Wilmington Star.

### Sustaining His Theory.

No man is a real man of science unless he is ready to abandon his own conclusions, duly put on record, if subsequent investigations prove them fallacious. The president of a great college once wrote a volume on the practice of medicine. After it had been completed and he had gone to New York to arrange for its publication his house was burned, and the manuscript of his book and all his notes were destroyed.

He couldn't reproduce it. Ten years afterward he said: "That fire was the greatest of good fortune to me. If I had published the book, I should have had to stand by it, whereas now I know that it was all wrong!"

Mr. Andrew Lang in Longman's Magazine tells of two geologists who were gathering specimens in a lonely mountain place. One of them had written a book. The other, looking about one day with a fieldglass, saw his friend occupied a long time—unobserved, as he thought—in rolling a great stone down hill and at dinner questioned him about it.

He pretended at first that he had been doing it for exercise, but, hard pressed, confessed:

"Well, the fact is the confounded thing was 200 feet too high to suit my theory!"

### Weeds as Salads.

Chicory is a favorite salad in English homes and much employed by those who have become accustomed to its use from travel either in France or England. The same vegetable—or shall one call it still a weed?—is palatable cooked precisely like spinach. But let no housewife be beguiled into the trial as a vegetable or a salad of that bane of Charles Dudley Warner's "Summer in a Garden" that he denounces as "pursley." It is sometimes said to be a delicious article of food. But it is not. It is slimy, stringy and uninviting in appearance and unpalatable.

### Bolled Salt Meats.

The indigestible properties of bolled ham, corned beef and other salt meats may, according to Mrs. Parion, the cooking expert, be eliminated if the meat is sufficiently bolled. The salt toughens the fibers, and it takes persistent bolling to overcome this. The time allowed for a ten pound piece is five hours, but as the pieces are apt to be thick rather than long one of half this weight would need about the same amount of time. The meat should be partly cooled in the water in which it is bolled.

Confirmed drunkards are shamed into reformation in many of the towns of the Argentine Republic by being compelled to sweep the streets for eight days each time they may be arrested for intoxication.

## SOME INDIAN MAGIC.

QUEER FEATS THE FAKIRS PERFORM IN BROAD DAYLIGHT.

**A Fire and Water Trick That Is Pretty Hard to Explain and an Apparent Display of Strength That Passes Understanding.**

The question of how the fakirs of India perform their wonderful tricks is a matter that has for centuries interested scientists, and the best explanation that has yet been offered of the matter is that it is done by hypnotic power—that is, that the fakirs simply hypnotize the entire audience and make them think that they saw trees grow out of the ground in a second. Libraries have been written on the subject. In his book entitled "Quaint Corners of Ancient Empires" Mr. Michael Meyers Shoemaker deals in an interesting manner with the Indian fakirs.

In writing about the fakirs he says: "The statement has been made by such prestidigitators as Herrmann and Keller that they had never seen any tricks by these men of India which they could not explain. Be that as it may, these common street magicians of India do some very clever things.

"Certainly the performance before the Grand hotel, Colombo, this morning, under the blazing sunlight and not three feet from the looker on was remarkable. As to the mango tree trick, there appeared a strong resemblance between a tree grown yesterday and the one produced this morning. But it was in the other performances that the observers were most interested.

"In one instance the fakir took a small jar of metal and handed it around to show that it was empty. Then, placing a copper coin between his teeth, he began to blow, and smoke soon issued from his mouth and nostrils. The jar, which was held aloft all the time, was found filled with water, which commenced to boil furiously.

"Passing it aside, he opened his mouth and ejected jets of living flame. Indeed the whole cavity of the throat appeared to be filled with fire, which ignited anything with which it came in contact. We all saw the empty jar, the filled jar, the boiling water and the fire, but the fire never approached the jar.

"Another trick consisted in causing a dead and dried up cobra to come to life, or so it appeared. The snake is usually kept in a small, round, flat basket with a closely fitting cover. This we saw was empty, and into it the fakir laid the flat, dried skin of a dead serpent.

"Placing it not three feet from our circle and in the brilliant light of the southern sun, he covered the basket with its lid and then made the usual passes with the inevitable cloth, about a yard square, which he held by two corners to show that it contained nothing.

"His costume consisted of one garment of the shirt order, the sleeves of which were tucked up at the shoulders, affording, it would seem, scant opportunity to hide anything, yet when, after a few waves of the cloth, he removed the lid of the basket the dead snake was gone and in its place rose the majestic head and neck of one of the largest of cobras.

"It must be remembered that when we see such work in England or America it is done at a distance and on the stage, with all the assistance of stage lights and shadows, but in this case we were out in the plain air and near enough for the serpent to have stung us.

"The last trick consisted of a display of apparently wonderful strength. A boy of 10 years of age was tied up in a large scarf, with its ends attached to two strong cords. At the ends of these cords were hollow brass cups about the size of an acorn. The fakir, raising the upper lid of each of his eyes, inserted these cups thereunder, with the hollow side next to the eyeball, after which he pulled the eyelids well down.

"Then, with hands on hips and head well back, he arose to his full height, lifting the boy a foot or more off the ground and swinging him from side to side, the entire weight of course falling upon the brass cups. It seemed a marvel that the eyeballs were not destroyed.

"Perhaps those who understand these matters can explain all that was done, but certainly no magicians on our stage have accomplished similar feats, and yet these men are but common street performers."

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