

Merrill

The BROADAX

HEW TO THE LINE.

VOL. I.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, DECEMBER 21, 1895.

No. 17.

CHRISTMAS REFLECTIONS.

BEFORE another issue of this paper the festive Christmas day will have come and gone. This day, set apart for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, has become a day of varied observance among our people; some wise, but a majority are otherwise. What may be proper and what may be improper to do on this day is not for us to determine. One thing seems evident: that is, if the day ever had any sacredness or religious significance, it has about become obsolete, and nowadays the Jew, the heathen, the infidel, the free thinker, the Unitarian, as well as the Christian, all treat the day as the proper occasion for an exuberant flow of spirit and social excess. Gift making has grown to be almost a passion, and those who give and those who receive are kept in a state of nervous excitement during this season of the year. With others it becomes a day of eating and drinking, and the glutton and drunkard vie with each other in celebrating the day in true Bacchanalian style. The theater, the ball room and the banquet hall will be crowded at this time, far more so than at any other time in the year. Extravagance in dress and living is indulged in at Christmas time without stint or limit. With a few charity is thought of and is bestowed upon the needy, but with many it is an afterthought, by way of donating the broken food and crumbs of a Christian feast to the widow and orphan the day after. Some will go to church to pray and others to show their new cloak or bonnet; but few, we imagine, are extremely pious during merry Christmas, or think of the real significance of the day.

It is said a child was born under an Asiatic sun, nearly nineteen centuries ago, who became a great reformer and taught the "golden rule;" the "fatherhood of God" and the "brotherhood of men." He lost his life in his efforts to improve the conditions of his fellow-man, and around the traditions of his teaching have arisen a great system of religion which has branched off into many creeds and varieties of forms of worship. The so-called followers and believers of Christ, each representing their peculiar sect are ever at warfare with others, seeking to build up their own creed by tearing down those who differ with them.

And thus the world goes on in apparent madness and inconsistency; and Christmas and its attendant vagaries will come and go as it

has in the past for years to come. These reflections are not intended to be critical, but merely a plain statement of things as they really seem. We will doubtless eat our turkey and indulge in many foibles, the same as the rest of our readers, to whom we wish a "Merry Christmas."

WILL THEY DARE DO IT.

THE Republican party has again regained control of the legislative branch of the government. There was no good, sound reason why that party should have won at the last election, as its only distinctive feature is a high protective tariff, a policy which was overwhelmingly rebuked by the people at the election of 1892. There is but one explanation, and that is, that the people were dissatisfied and wanted "anything for a change." They have been oscillating, about every four years ever since silver was demonetized, as it were, "seeking rest but finding none."

As we have stated, the Republican party stands for a high protective tariff, and that doctrine is about the only public question upon which that party is outspoken. On nearly every other issue they are straddlers, dodgers or shirkers.

They have now control of the legislative functions of the country, and it remains to be seen whether or not they will have the courage to formulate a bill revising the schedules of duties on imports, and raise the same so high, as to drive out all foreign competitors, on such articles as they desire to protect. This theory has been their pride and boast for years, and now they have an opportunity to "make their vaunting true." The logic of events will almost compel them to take this course, and then the tariff issue will again come before the American people for their decision. There is another reason why the tariff question will again be brought to the front, and that is, it would be a very convenient way of ending the financial question, which is now the burning issue of the hour in the South and West, and an issue upon which the Republicans as a party, are in full accord with the "gold bug" element of the eastern Democrats; and which both classes would gladly accept an opportunity to throttle, by bringing the tariff issue to the front as the only issue to be settled at this time.

We had hoped the question of tariff was settled, at least for a time, but if it is to be obtruded into our politics again, we are ready

to meet our political foes, and again drive them into the woods with the same old weapons. We cannot believe the intelligent voters will ever favor the injustice and inequalities of a system of protection which benefits a few at the cost of the many. If protection to all was the result of a high tariff, then we would all favor it; but protection means favors for a few, and which favors are paid for by the middle classes and the poor people. A few manufacturers want the law fixed so that the American consumer will be forced to buy from them. So it is the poor American, at last, of whom the manufacturer is afraid, and from whom he wants protection. But this is perhaps threshing over old straw, as we did not intend, when we commenced this article, to discuss the tariff question. We are not afraid of the results of this issue, as the argument, the justice and the law are on our side, and we believe the great American people will settle this question correctly, and to their own best interests.

The Republicans, in the meantime, with their great majority will, as usual, blunder into extremes and excesses, which will be the means of their "biting the dust" at the election of 1896, if the present minority in Congress pursues an enlightened and patriotic course, and stands boldly for the cause of the people as against the gold nabobs and the money power. The party which advocates free silver, will be the victors next year. Mark our words.

REED AND THE NEGROES.

ONE of the honors that awaited Mr. Thomas Brackett Reed upon his arrival in Washington, was an invitation to be principal guest at a reception and supper given by some of the leading colored men in the district. Elaborate programs were distributed among the colored population of this city, announcing that ex-Speaker T. B. Reed would be present at the reception, and he was assigned to speak on the subject, "Has the commander-in-chief of the army and navy the right to protect an American citizen, at home and abroad, with the army and navy of the United States?"

The pastors of several of the colored churches were announced as the committee of arrangements, and the preparations went merrily forward. The chairman of the local committee, after some correspondence with Mr. Reed, was obliged to report that the distinguished man from Maine declined the honor, on the ground that it would be embarrassing to him in his present position to address himself to the subject selected for him.

The declination of Mr. Reed, occasioned a change in the program, and Representative Benton McMillin of Tennessee, is said to have been substituted. This sudden jump from Maine to Tennessee is not fully explained by the promoters of the entertainment, who insist that it is thoroughly non-partisan in its character. Mr. McMillin is announced to address himself to the subject, "Lynch Law and its Remedy."—Exchange.

The foregoing is a true representation of the hollow pretenses of this blue-blooded Yankee from Maine. Reed is a demagogue politician and typical New England braggart. Our colored friends at Washington are not the first to be deceived by these Republican Pecksniffs. The most natural and appropriate ending of this Washington episode, was the turning of the colored folks to a true hearted southern man to fill the vacancy. The Democrats and the Southern people are the negro's best friends in time of need; they feel an interest in their welfare beyond that of getting their votes by false promises.

WHAT fools we American mortals be. A most brutal contest between twenty-two men, who kick, strike and crush each other, under the name of football, and which results in coating themselves with dirt, in flowing blood, broken bones, a crushed body and often in death, is applauded and patronized by refined ladies, reverend clergymen, learned professors and the officers of the law. While a boxing match, far less dangerous to life or limb, and far more beneficial as an exercise, and fully as ennobling to good morals, will cause the governor of a state to call out the militia, and the preachers to rant in their pulpits over the demoralized condition of society.

What a set of inconsistent beings we are. Verily, we can swallow a camel and choke on a gnat.

The words of the Scottish bard have a singular aptness when he said:

Oh, wad some power the giftie gie us,
To see oursel as others see us!
It would frae mony a blunder free us,
And foolish notion.

I BELIEVE in one God and no more; I believe in the equality of man, and I believe that religious duties consist in doing justice, loving mercy, endeavoring to make our fellow creatures happy.—Thomas Paine.

Subscribe for the BROADAX.