Democratic party, and with due consideration for the business, industrial, and financial interests of the nation, we deem it the duty of the Democratic members of the Fifty-second Congress to defer any definite action on the subject of free coinage until the question of its wisdom and justice is distinctly made in the elections of 1892.

We ask you further to invite the Democratic members of the Senate to this conference.

The promoters of the call express the fullest confidence in securing the requisite number of signatures to force a caucus.

THE WHEAT MARKET.

A New York Paper Thinks it is Being Manipulated.

CHICAGO, Feb. 18.—The Tribune says there are strong indications that the wheat market is being manipulated, and intimates that J. D. Rockefeller of the Standard Oil company, James T. North, the "Nitrate King," and John W. Mackay, the bonanza millionaire, are back of it. The paper asserts that the sales of wheat on the Chicago board of trade since aggregate from 60,000 to 80,000,000 bushels, whereas there are less than 40,000,000 bushels of actual wheat in the West, leaving about 40,000,000 bushels, which are really "wind" sales, and must be covered at whatever price the market selects. The paper says that similar short sales have been made by the combine in all the principal wheat dealing cities in this country and at Liverpool. That has fall trusted agents were sent to Europe to ascertain the actual shortage of wheat there, and that buying commenced last December and has been carried on ever since by dealers accustomed to handle small lots and that they have thus, without attracting attention, secured absolute control of the market.

George Webster, of Armour & Co., said this afternoon that he knew nothing whatever about the alleged deal, and that the firm of Armour & Co. certainly had nothing to do with it. Other prominent brokers characterized the story as "wild-eyed."

Against the Coal Combine.

ALBANY, Feb. 18.—In the senate today a resolution was adopted providing for the appointment of a committee to examine into the reported coal combine and report what legislation is advisable to suppress such a combination in the state.

Tennessee Dynamiters.

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., Feb. 18.—A special to the Times says that dynamite bombs were thrown at the Coal Creek pickets Monday night, but the assailants were repulsed by a squad in advance of the regular line.

The Catholic Congress.

CHICAGO, Feb. 18.—Archbishop Feehan of Chicago, chairman of the arrangement committee of the Columbian Catholic Congress, tonight authorized the statement that the questions relating to Independence of the Holy See and Catholic education have not been excluded from the programme of the congress. No change was made or suggested by the archbishops at the St. Louis meeting or by anybody else since.

Loss of a Whaling Bark.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 18.—The steamer "Mariposa," from Sydney, N. S. W., brings news of the loss of the whaling bark "Tamerlane" of the Sandwich Islands February 2nd. Captain Howland and seventeen men drowned.

The bark was wrecked off Puna early on the morning of February 2nd. She cleared from San Francisco January 13th with a crew of thirty-eight. The disaster was due to a loss of reckoning, the officers thinking her at the time to be near Kealakekua bay.

A Cleveland Fire.

CLEVELAND, Feb. 18.—At midnight the five-story brick block at the corner of Superior and Seneca streets, occupied by the E. M. McMillan Dry Goods Company, caught fire and was soon gutted. The loss is $75,000. The blocks adjacent on both sides are slightly damaged. It is learned that the old watchman was burned to death. There was a panic among the guests of the Forest City House, but their fears were soon allayed.

The correct loss of the fire is $225,000 on the building and stock; insurance $200,000.

The New Orleans Fire.

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 18.—The loss by last night's fire is estimated at $700,000; insurance $750,000. The general opinion is that the fire was caused by electric light wires. The heaviest losers are Schwartz & Co., dry goods stock and building, loss $1,000,000; insurance $400,000; P. Werlein, pianos, $60,000; insurance $60,000; Leopold Levy, carpets $325,000; fully insured; Wenger's Garden, $90,000; insurance $15,000; D. H. Holmes, dry goods, $50,000, fully insured; A. Hunkel, dry goods and notions, $100,000, insured; J. M. Hoffman & Bros., wooden and fancy goods, $30,000; insurance $15,000; S. G. Kreger, gloves and fancy goods, $50,000; insured.

Fire Season Opened.

NEWTONS, Or., Feb. 18.—Captain Gaskill and four seamen of the sealing schooner "Oscar and Hattie" were drowned at Nestucca today. They left the schooner in a small boat, and in attempting to land the boat capsized.

The Earthquake in Japan.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 18. — The steamship "Belgic" arrived this afternoon from Hongkong and Yokohama. Japanese advices say that the earthquake shocks, which have occurred almost daily at Gifu since the great quake, have ceased. Much work and suffering still prevails in the affected localities.

Seventy men were killed and seventeen injured in a coal mine explosion at Horonai.

The steamers "Salukawa" and "Wasanie" collided off Wakshibihuel, and the former sank, eleven lives being lost.

Staunton Elections.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 18.—Honolulu papers of February 5th state that the elections passed quietly, the National Reform party electing all of the five seats in the islands of Oahu, while the Liberals elected all the representatives in Oahu except in the first district. Bush, Wilcox and Ashford are elected. Returns from the other islands are incomplete. The elections are considered to have resulted in the defeat of the Bush Wilcox party. The result is considered in a general way favorable to the annexation principle, although it was not admitted to be the issue.

Friends Made in a Day.

In passing along the wayside girls are very apt to form up with a friend here and an acquaintance there without much thought as to whether they are desirable ones to have or not. You are prone, especially you clever girls, to laugh at conventionalities, and to say you will know who you please and when you please. This sounds very independent and you think very full of knowledge, but it only shows you what an inexperienced girl you are.

Friends cannot be made in an hour or a day, and the undying affection announced after that time is as likely to start up and talk sense like the morning glories. There are a great many women in this world who are charming, interesting, who look beautiful and who make you have a pleasant time, but these are not always the women who should be your friends.

It is a great temptation—that having a good time. I want it and so do you my dear, but we must each be a little careful in the choice of our associates to the good time. Difficult? Not if you have a mother to give you a word of advice. But if you haven't and if there is no one to warn you against the pitfalls you might be in danger, I very much fear that your lesson will have to come from experience. Having had that do not put yourself in a position to let it happen again.

You possess an intangible something which you must learn the wrong which that tells you to beware of her and this is what you ought to obey. Be polite and pleasant to everybody, but remember that a friend becomes one gradually, and surely that friendship cannot spring up in a night; only weeds do that, and all they deserve is to be cut down in the morning.—Ruth Ashmore in Ladies' Home Journal.

German Women in the Fair.

German women are better adapted for marriage with Asiatics than French or British. I have not infrequently seen in the foreign office here the daughters of French consul as officials by Asiatic mothers. In all instances they were charming. Some had glorious eyes. I suppose their mothers were Hindoos. Those to whose mate Chinese or Japanese blood ran had the charm of paintings. They were all intelligent. Though women are so much kept down in the east, they are now winning the reputation in Europe of having quicker and more active brains than the men.

Persian ladies are certainly equal in mental group to Persian men. A Persian girl is the crack scholar at Somerville college, Oxford. M. Naouji (Lord Salisbury's "Black Man") is justly proud of the great ability of her daughter, as shown in her proficiency in her medical studies. The late Mme. Blavatsky, who had been made the subject of a lecture, said that if Asiatic women had as strong wills as they have fine intellects, they would outstrip their European sisters.—Paris Cor. New York Tribune.

The Bird of the Cities.

The sparrow is a business bird. His note is like the click of a ticker and his favorite meeting place is naturally the board of trade building. It is said that he is pugnacious and drives the song birds away. There were not many bobolinks on State street before he came, nor many nightingales rising from the litter of the pavements, nor many robins singing on the telegraph wires for rain. His garb is a plain business brown, serviceable and warranted not to show dirt.

You can't write much of a poem about him, but still he is a bird and the only one we have. He fashions off the metropolitanism of the city as no other bird could do—or would. He is entirely congenial. He gives you the impression that he can take care of himself—that he couldn't be bunkoed. The difference between him and the birds of the field is exactly that between the men and women who crowd the streets and those who live in country places close to nature. Let him live!—Chicago Herald.

The Characteristic Fear of Strangers.

"There has never yet landed people that are other than an earthly," said the town traveled man at the Windsor. "I have traveled east and west here and the length of New England and the islands of Kowtaw and Tennessee, and south to the Bahama islands and Louisiana and Mobile ships, but never have I seen an island people of the type as there are not passed ashore in Texas."—Galveston News.

A French Method of Washing Clothes.

A system of washing clothes by the application of steam has been introduced into a variety of special occasions. Its economy is so great as to greatly reduce the cost of fuel, time and labor. The process is as follows:

Two pounds of soap are reduced with a little water to a pulp, which, being then slightly boiled, is mixed in two gallons of water, to which is added one half a quart of turpentine oil and two of ammonia, the mixture is then agitated. The soap is kept at a temperature which may be borne by the hand.

In this solution the white clothes are placed and allowed to remain from twenty to twenty-four hours without taking them out, taking care to the mixture to cover the cloth. The soiled clothes are wrung out and laid two days, but it will be seen are to add another half quarter of an ounce. Then washed with soap, the clothes are put in hot water and the blue opposite.

The process is to obtain, save much labor, time and fuel, water is given the clothes, and the ammonia which remains is obtained by our main process, and the necessary use of the washhouse is not necessary to clean the clothes than important British Rev France.

A whale recently captured in arctic waters took from its back harpoons in its side a harpoon that belonged to a whaling vessel that had been out of service nearly half a century.

The Russian government intends to construct a harbor which, for commerce at Port Barrow Bronze, as a strongly fortified point for military purposes only.

Suggestions Among the Horse Fair Question.

As many suggestions continue to pour in on this, we can answer briefly with the rearrangement of old suggestions and plans. Therefore it is perhaps time now to say that we shall be glad to participate in the papers all begin on the question of giving work to women and to women. It is beautiful to see with what meeting regularity the ancient complaint is invariably spoken. Year after year, with the first touch of frost which brings the summer circle back to town, it begins. I have often been struck with the persistence of old types in these arguments, whose roots in medical science and text seem forgotten.

A new suggestion has, however, been made. Separate cars, it is urged, might be provided for men, just as in Europe, with different compartments set apart for "smoking" and "non smoking" to be reasonable "For men only" to be run at certain intervals. But, after all, would the answer are better. Women in crowded places have learned such a lesson of self-denying and be seen and be seen and for their sake to prevent the odds in the other sides, chivalry is not done for herself. Why not a knowledge of time that women, even in the crowded cars, are free from a certain quality of rudeness that so man can command at will among his fellows. Women early enough to recognize this at home. Why not recognize it in public places? Women seem to be in public places.—Harper's Bazar.

The Constellations.

The two pale faces looking into the great telescope were those of a little boy, who, between his young mother wearily clad and a little boy of five or thereabout, both lingering instinctively as they passed the wealth of warm clothing displayed so temptingly. Presently the little boy, "and she and soft, mummy." "Very warm, dear, very nice and soft," answered the young mother, with unconscious repetition as a blank face was come from the child that river, making them both shiver as they walked slowly on. It was only a chance scrap of conversation heard as the crowd carried by.

As it is such the irregularities of fate, the glance of the little mother and her boy were immediately filled by two young girls glowing with health and spirits, and evidently enjoying the keen wintry air. "Then are going for early morning hours," remarked one of them to her companion. "I am going to get a new hat and muff, although I really do not need them at all, but they look so pretty and soft and warm that I cannot resist them." Almost the same words as those used by the shivering little child, but with what a difference!—New York Tribune.

A Big Hole in Arizona.

G. K. Gilbert and Marcus Baker, the former chief geologist of the United States geological survey, with a force of men, have returned to Flagstaff from Canyon Diablo, where they were sent by the government to take observations and make a map of the region where an enormous meteorite has recently been found. They spent sixteen days investigating the immense hole in the ground supposed to have been made by a meteor. The hole is 600 feet deep and 2½ miles in circumference.

The theory is that from the appearance of the walls and the fact that they have found many pieces of meteoric iron around the hole, the meteor penetrated the earth to a depth of 700 or 800 feet before it exploded, and the scrapers for the strange phenomenon. Three pieces of the meteor, weighing 700, 400 and 300 pounds respectively, were found on the mesa within two miles of the crater and are now in the Smithsonian institution. Besides these they found many pieces weighing from one ounce upward.—Tempiston Epitaph.

Has a Coffin in Sell.

For some time past Michael Berry, of Detroit, an old man, has been lying at the point of death, and he decided to arrange all the details of his funeral. He was accustomed for his coffin to be, and the order was placed in the hands of a firm, where the old man could feast his eyes upon it. Berry made all preparations, including carriages for the mourners. He never had he satisfied his mind that everything was ready for his demise, and he began to wonder if he is now able to walk, and is willing to let the coffin go at a bargain.—Kalamazoo Telegraph.

A Mustered Story.

A colored youth who had, a few weeks ago, served a short term in the Roanoke, Va., jail, was summoned to appear before the grand jury to answer another charge. He informed some of his friends that he was going to be sent immediately, and make things lively for the sheriff and his assistant. He performed his promise to perfection, and today is a raving maniac in earnest.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Indians in the Regular Army.

A noteworthy experiment has been made in the regular army of the United States. Seven hundred Indian cavalry soldiers, three of cavalry and four of infantry, have been recruited and added to an army regiments and more complete are now being recruited, so that ultimately every regiment distributed west of the Mississippi will have an Indian company.

A telephone has been tried on a new telegraph line erected between Melbourne and Adelaide, which are 500 miles apart. Conversation was carried on easily and the chimes of the Adelaide parliament clock were distinctly heard in Melbourne.

The oil of grape seeds has been found to be as reliable for certain purposes as that used in extraction of cocoanuts, oil, and a new industry will soon be developed.

A little daughter of a San Francisco millionaire was buried the other day with water lemons especially from the river Jordan in a basin of immortal grad.

Canada feels only 247,000 square miles to be as large as the whole Continent of Europe. It is nearly thirty times as large as Great Britain, and Ireland, and is larger square miles larger than the United States.

Paint spots can be removed from wood by covering them with a thick cotton compound a darker shade, or should remain on for twenty-four hours and then be washed off with warm water.

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