The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, MARCH 2, 1897.

To insure publication in this paper, volunteered communications of a controversial character MUST BE SIGNED FOR PUBLICATION by the writer's true name. To this just rule we cannot hereafter make exception.

A Veto to the Point.

The message in which Governor Hastings announces his disapproval of the joint resolution restricting to citizens of Pennsylvania the right to compete with labor or materials for employment in the building of the new capitol is clear and to the point. It dissects the unwisdom of that resolution in a masterly manner.

In addition to the inexpediency of such a restrictive policy in that it would be likely to invite retaliatory action by other states, to the manifest detriment of Pennsylvanians, the further fact should be noted that Pennsylvania builders and artisans do not need to make such a confession of imaginary inferiority. The brain and brawn of this rich commonwealth are both ready to meet all fair competition, and especially ought they to feel confident when the battleground is on their own territory.

Sectional legislation of any kind falls short of the true American spirit. The citizens of each state are at the same time citizens of a common country, with common interests and a common welfare. Of all the states, Pennsylvania, which gave to liberty its greatest Declaration of Independence, and to the Union its first capital and many of its ablest and bravest defenders, should be the very last to think of putting around its borders a commercial trocha.

The governor has vetoed well.

The report is made and denied that Weyler has resigned. He had better go while he can do so with some prestige. The day is coming when Spain's representative in Cuba will leave Havana in much the same mood as that in which Lord Cornwallis sailed homeward from New York.

The McKinley Programme.

The discovery in Philadelphia of the complete and regular papers of naturalization of Dr. Ricardo Ruiz makes imperative not only a searching official investigation into the circumstances attending his imprisonment and death in the Spanish jail at Guanabacoa, Cuba, with punishment of those revealed in guilt, but also such demands upon Spain for reparation as shall approach to a satisfaction of justice and possess exemplary significance. This programme is demanded by every consideration of national honor and good faith to the holders of American citizenship, and should necessity arise, it would be forcibly supported by every male American fit to bear arms.

The carrying through of this programme by the McKinley administration will not be inconsistent with a prudent, careful and conservative domestic policy looking to the readjustment of the national revenues and a revision of the currency system. The one is logically complementary to the other. "Protection to American interests, at home and abroad" is the comprehensive motto of Republicanism, and there need not be in either style of such protection real menace to the other. It is true that the first duty of the new administration will be to that large bulk of American citizens who are now the victims of economic injustice at home; but it is to the glory of American institutions that they permit simultaneous and ample safeguarding of American citizenship, be it within domestic jurisdiction or temporarily on foreign soil.

Positive intervention in aid of Cuba is of secondary importance and can be deferred until the arrival of an auspicious occasion. But should congress after next Thursday see fit, in its discretion, to urge upon the president formal recognition of Cuba's belligerency or independence, the executive, we fancy, will not regard such action as an affront nor feel impelled arbitrarily to defy the wishes of congress and country.

In all fairness to Hon. Richard Olney, we incline to the opinion that he was a victim of circumstances and Grover Cleveland.

Be Honest About It.

If civil service reform is to be established in Pennsylvania in state, county and city government, in accordance with the pledge of the Republican state platform, we trust that it will not be of the kind of that which Congressman Grosvenor had in mind the other day, when he said in the national house of representatives: "A Democratic head of one of the great bureaus of this government boasted under oath before one of the committees of this house that out of seventy-one men certified to him by the civil service commission, he was 'enabled' (to use his language) to get seventy Democrats."

The fact that a bill is now pending at Harrisburg to create a state civil service commission which shall formulate the rules and put in operation the necessary machinery to establish the so-called merit system throughout the commonwealth renders it opportune for us to suggest that it were better a thousand fold that the present system of political appointment and utilization were maintained in honorable frankness than that the same thing should be done behind a screen. If we are to have the business system of appointments to public office let us have it in all its integrity, with every bit of humbug stripped off. If not, let us go on as we are and not play the hypocrite.

There is room for debate as to the desirability of a sham enforcement of civil service reform, but there is no room for honest opposition to an honest application of that reform. Such an application will not necessarily run to abstruse geometrical or algebraic tests nor will it hold out for examinations of applicants in matters alien to the duties to be performed. But it will insist upon competency as the indispensable essential and it will not tolerate partisan influences which imperil the character of the service. On these foundations true civil service reform stands unassailable. It is on these foundations only that it should be established in Pennsylvania.

During Sanguilly's incarceration in the Havana fortress, so the report goes, he alone among the prisoners was denied the privilege of walking for half an hour each day in the open air, under guard. Consul General Lee himself asked Weyler to grant Sanguilly this privilege, offering as a reason Sanguilly's broken health. Weyler did more than ignore this request. General Lee himself was deprived, by order of the captain-general, of the right of entering the cell of Sanguilly, when he called at the fortress. The American consul could not see the American citizen except at a distance of eight paces, through the grated window of Sanguilly's dungeon and in the presence of four armed soldiers, who had instructions to fire on either one of them at the least suspicious movement. No wonder General Lee is indignant at his treatment.

An Over-Confident Reformer.

Recently The Tribune printed a paragraph to this effect:

According to G. C. Bidwell, the anti-treating crusader, there are 240,000 saloons in the United States to only 165,000 churches, and three-fourths of their receipts come from the custom of treating. But it is one thing to state such a fact and another to change it.

This having come to the notice of Mr. Bidwell, he sends us the following letter:

I did not inquire, when in your state, whether you have local option in Pennsylvania as we have in Connecticut and Massachusetts. If you have and will get me there one month before the next election, I will carry your town for no license. I will do it by my new practical method of getting the public to understand the reason why. There is no use of enacting any law upon these subjects until the public mind is prepared for and understands the reason for it—then the law may not be needed. But it would be best to clinch public opinion by a law on the South Carolina plan.

This is certainly a brave proposition. But we fear that Mr. Bidwell overestimates the efficacy of his plan, whatever it is. The effects of local churches, temperance societies, schools and other moral agencies are being strenuously put forth to check the growth of intemperance in this community, and not without success, as is shown by the steady decline in inebriety as compared with the condition prevalent fifteen or twenty years ago. But the combined power of these agencies is not sufficient perceptibly to decrease the number of places where liquor is kept for sale, much less do away with them altogether. In fact, if the proposition of "no license" were to be carried in Scranton at a public election—which is a conjecture almost too far fetched for consideration—it would be likely to mean, not a decrease in the gross volume of the drink traffic, but simply a loss in revenue and a corresponding increase in the number of speak easies.

The first practical step toward temperance reform in this county would be in the direction of abolishing the speak easies by making them take out licenses. This could be done if the records of the internal revenue office were compared with the records of the county license court and the differences taken as the basis for an effective crusade. No speak easy fools with Uncle Sam. Why should the commonwealth of Pennsylvania be more lenient?

Why did Grover Cleveland bluster like a jingo in the Venezuelan matter and then let little Spain walk all over him? Who can fathom the eccentricities of the human mind?

Sunday Newspapers.

We notice that Rev. John R. Davis, formerly of this city but now pastor of the Fourth Avenue Presbyterian church of New York, is preaching vigorously against the Sunday newspaper. "The little news it contains," says he, "might just as well be kept over until Monday." It publication on Sunday, he contends, has a tendency to secularize a day that should be kept different from the other days of the week.

There is substantial truth in this view of the question. The Sunday newspaper is not worse than the Sunday railway train, excursion steamer, street car or many other forms of established secular activity on the Lord's day and should not, if it be intrinsically meritorious, be singled out for special condemnation. But, along with these other phases of misplaced enterprise, it is wrong in that it tends to rob the community of its one day of weekly respite from customary pursuits and cares, and merits discouragement quite as much on sanitary and economic as on distinctively moral grounds.

The news in a Sunday paper is rarely of such great importance as to justify its being permitted to push over humanity's need of rest. During war times, when the Sunday paper came into being, there was some excuse for it in the uncontrollable tension of public interest in the movements of the troops. Nowadays, the Sunday paper, from a strictly news standpoint, is a good deal of a bore and its lately superadded character as a receptacle for all kinds of literary scraps and slop adds to its unattractiveness among readers of discrimination. True, most persons buy it, but a good many of these are afterwards more or less ashamed therefor.

The Sunday paper is probably here to stay, and should therefore be made as good as possible. But we may be permitted to remind those who care not for its ill-timed visits that The Tribune prints no Sunday edition and yet manages to supply its growing circle of readers with all the really important news.

There is a better way to bring about international peace than to let another nation kick you down its back stairs.

The endeavor of certain persons to get congress to enact a law forbidding the carriage by mail or interstate commerce of detailed reports of prize fights exhibits a worthy motive linked to an impracticable method. If this questionable law were passed its only effect would be to cause sufficient time to intervene between the occurrence of prize fights and the publication of ample reports to enable correspondents to convey the news in person. The effect on morals would be nothing at all. The better plan is to educate the public above a taste for prize fights and the literature thereof.

The Streator-Paine turnpike discussion is bringing before the public some valuable information. Do we understand Mr. Paine to say, for the company, that under his offered plan of toll reduction for wide tires, the privilege of eight round trips can still be bought for $1, as heretofore, by drivers whose wagons are equipped with narrow tires? In other words, is the ticket system to be continued?

It is interesting to recall that the understrappers at Washington and elsewhere who now call Consul General Lee impetous, indiscreet and demagogical were the ones who sounded his praises the loudest when he was appointed. Has it taken them all this time to discover his alleged unfitness for the place?

Let us see. An Ohio man is to be president; an Ohio man has been named for secretary of state; an Ohio man is slated for assistant secretary of state, another for assistant secretary of agriculture and a fifth—Colonel John Hay—for ambassador to England. And Pennsylvania, poor, old Pennsylvania, gets—what? Not left, we hope.

Upon what theory of justice or expediency the city councils of Scranton drive the night lunch wagons off the street and yet permit itinerant barrel-organ grinders to turn the daytime into a period of vociferous torture we do not know. Can any one tell us?

Just a Word or Two of Casual Mention

Colonel J. Armoy Knox, the humorist who for the past year has contributed to the excellent editorial columns of the Truth and made himself an agreeable speaker at banquets and other local social gatherings, and who in that time has made many warm friends in the city, left yesterday afternoon for New York city, where he will soon begin the publication of a new thing in journalism. He purposes to issue a weekly eclectic magazine, called The "Good Things" of the Week, which is to contain, as the prospectus informs us, "the choicest, the most attractive, the most interesting, and the most amusing news stories of current events that can be found in the daily and periodical press of the world—not paragraphic items, nor a summary of the news, but descriptive stories of the most important and interesting affairs of the day." It is well known that some of the best eclectic monthly magazines consist of collections of the cream of the fiction to be found in the other monthly magazines, so will this magazine, "The Good Things of the Week," be eclectic—the best of the best. Its selected contents will come from the daily newspaper press of the world, a field in which more brilliant, more interesting, and more valuable matter can be found than can possibly be contained in the narrow scope of the monthly magazines. There is no other magazine of a like character published. "The Good Things of the Week" will consist of 64 pages and cover—exclusive of advertising pages. The page will be about the size of the Century magazine, with two columns in minion type to the page. No special feature will be made of illustration, although in each issue, some will be used, when necessary to illustrate the text. The price will be five cents a copy, and the publication office in New York.

On March 10 a highly interesting and instructive course of lectures will begin in St. Thomas College hall, on Wyoming avenue. They have been arranged for by Rev. D. J. MacGoldrick, the president of the college, who will deliver the first lecture of the course on the night of March 10. His subject is "Irish Character Described by Irish Poets." On March 24 Rev. F. P. McNally, of the West Side, will speak on "The Church and the Republic," and the third lecture of the course, on April 7, will be by Hon. John E. Barrett, editor of the Truth. His topic will be "John Boyle O'Reilly." Probably the most notable of the series will be the lecture of Rev. D. J. Stafford, D. D., of Washington, D. C., on "Hamlet." The course will conclude on the evening of May 5 with a discussion on "Agnosticism and the Future Triumphs of the Church," by Rev. George J. Lucas, D. D., of Blossburg. The subjects that will be dwelt upon by the five lecturers are as varied as they are interesting, and the course should prove a rich intellectual treat. Much interest is felt in the lecture that Editor Barrett will deliver. He was a warm friend and ardent admirer of John Boyle O'Reilly, and his address will no doubt shed new light on the life and work of the man who for so many years presided with such distinction over the destinies of the Boston Pilot and gave the world so many gems of verse. Mr. Barrett has been at work for several years compiling the information that is contained in the lecture, and we may be sure that his facts have been knit together with the brilliant and poetic periods that flow so readily from his gifted pen.

He is walking from New York to Chicago as a fool advertisement for a sensational Gotham newspaper and looks intelligent enough to be in better business. His name is Edward J. Edwards and he reached Scranton yesterday morning, a little over forty-eight hours out from New York city. Edwards is to make the journey in ninety days and will receive $50 if he succeeds; at least that's a part of the story he told a party of men in a barber shop, where he went to have his face scraped. He is well dressed, is 28 years old, 5 feet and 10 inches in height, weighs 170 pounds and is fairly good looking. He said he was a few hours ahead of time and expected to reach the Windy City in sixty days or less. Edwards is supposed to travel the entire distance along the railroad tracks via the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western to Buffalo, and thence via the Lake Shore route. He claims to have walked the entire distance from San Francisco to Chicago and to be an all around wonder of pedal endurance. He wasted a half hour in the barber shop while dissertating on his great traveling speed.

Arrangements are being perfected for the banquet with which the birthday of the sweet singer of Ireland, Thomas Moore, will be celebrated in Scranton this year by a number of patriotic Irishmen. The banquet will be served at the Jermyn, and its promoters are determined that it shall equal anything of the kind that has taken place in the city. Superior Court Judge P. P. Smith will be toastmaster of the evening, and toasts will be responded to by Colonel F. J. Fitzsimmons, Rev. D. J. MacGoldrick, Editor John E. Barrett and others.

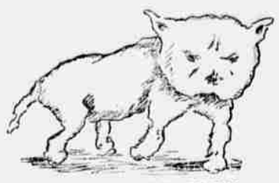
Last Sunday's issue of the New York Herald contained portraits and brief biographies of the members-elect of the Fifty-fifth congress. Concerning the representative of this district it said: "William Connell found Nova Scotia, land of his birth, too new and too canny; came to Pennsylvania and worked as a mine boy; followed the injunction to put money in thy purse, and now has it full; is a philanthropist, a Republican and reputed candidate for governor of his state."

M. J. Coyne and James J. Flynn have written a drama entitled "The Native Exiled," which will be produced at the Academy of Music after Lent.

Notwithstanding there is a bill before the state legislature calculated to suppress the mesmerist, the number of mysterious individuals who astonish the scientific and feeble-minded alike seems to be on the increase. Undaunted by the expressions of indignation from persons who take no stock in the strange incantations of the men "who make passes," the followers of the Sages and other exponents of the "unseen forces," continue merrily along the line of scientific research, throwing the magic spell over victims wherever they may be found. Hypnotism is as yet a comparatively unknown science, or whatever it may be called. There is a question about the benefit of a proceeding that temporarily clogs the wheels of nature. Although the operator declares that hypnotism is positively harmless there are those who have doubts. It may be possible to throw a subject into a state of lunacy and make him do all sorts of idiotic things and suffer pain without injuring his nervous system. It may be possible to stick his hide full of needles and pins without unpleasant results, but most of us would rather see the pins inserted beneath the cuticle of the other fellow. As the supply of victims for hypnotists seems to indicate that the fools are not all dead yet, probably the legislative act calculated to check the career of these unclassified men of science is a move in the right direction.

* * *

Another victim of the vicious dog is reported. This time the individual who has suffered from the fangs of a canine pet hails from Factoryville. Following the account of his injuries comes the cheering intelligence that the dog which mangled him is probably the victim of a mad dog that ran through that section of the country some time ago. As in the majority of cases, it is altogether likely that the owner of the dog did not know that the animal was loaded. Is is seldom that



SOMEBODY'S DARLING.

a dog owner can be persuaded that his pet is cross or dangerous. He may be a snarling, snapping cur to the rest of humanity, but to the guardian the brute is always the ideal of the faithful dog of fiction, who seldom exists in reality. Dogs have their uses, and under proper conditions are valuable members of the household. But it is my opinion that except for taxidermal purposes the supply of dogs greatly exceeds the demand.

* * *

President-elect McKinley has already been honored by having his name applied to several new babies, and it is probable that other counties may be heard from before his term of office has been fairly entered upon. The fad of naming babies after high officials is a dangerous one, and the unfortunate victim of parental patriotism is often ashamed of his name when he arrives at the age of discretion. Many illustrious characters in the past have left names that no young person would like to assume. Imagine a fiery silver advocate of the Democracy of the future being obliged to answer to the name of "Grover Cleveland Jones!" Yet this is possible. I know an atheist who signs himself "Henry Ward Beecher ———." And many other instances of misfit titles might be cited. While it is not probable that any mistake is made in applying the name of Major McKinley to a child of today, yet a change of politics might make papa wish that "he hadn't." If the family name is not good enough for a promising offspring, it is better to select from the long line of illustrious lights of history, who are not in a position to do anything that would be in opposition to the political or religious sentiments of the namesake.

THOSE LIBEL SUITS.

From the Philadelphia Times.

It is an absolute necessity for the officials who are implicated in the grave charges made by Dr. Swallow to proceed in the criminal courts where full justice can be done to themselves without injustice to Dr. Swallow. A provision of the constitution protects publishers and forbids their conviction for libel in a criminal court, if they shall show that they had credible evidence as to the truth of the publication made and exercised due diligence and care in reaching their belief in the truth of the accusations. Under this mandate of the supreme law of the state, whether the charges he made are true or false, if he can present to the court credible sources from which he received the information, thus showing that he acted in good faith and from a conscientious belief in the truth of what he published, the law would acquit him for his unintentional error, and at the same time fully vindicate the accused parties.

The criminal actions in this case are, therefore, equally just to the prosecutors and to the defendant. If Dr. Swallow had sufficient reason to believe in the truth of his published statements, he can show the sources from which he received his information and thus justify himself. If he cannot prove the truth of the charges, and cannot prove to the satisfaction of the court and jury that he was warranted in believing them to be true, he would deserve conviction and the severest punishment. It is much better that this scandal should be tried in the courts than by any legislative committee. The trial of one of these cases in the criminal courts of Harrisburg would clearly determine the question as to the truth or falsity of the serious accusations made against the state officials, and if false it would show whether Dr. Swallow had such information as warranted him in believing the charges to be true. Those who were really responsible for Dr. Swallow's publication would thus be brought before the court and the public, and if Dr. Swallow has been imposed upon the infamy would attach to the scandal mongers who misled him into a grievous wrong against responsible public officials.

If Dr. Swallow has not ample defense going to the truth of the charges, or to the credibility of the evidence that misled him if they are untrue, his high position as a minister would be regarded by the law as an aggravation of the offense rather than a plea in extenuation. Let these cases be promptly tried in the Harrisburg courts, which command the general confidence of the public, and let the guilty suffer.

SCRANTON POINTS THE WAY.

From the Philadelphia Times.

The first County Good Road league in Pennsylvania has been organized at Scranton. It is a branch of the Association of Good Road leagues of the United States and is connected with the national department of agriculture. The object of the league is to awaken general interest in the improvement of public roads, determine the best methods of building and maintaining them, secure such legislation as may be necessary for their establishment and support and to foster the formation of county, township and district road improvement associations throughout the state. This platform covers the whole subject of good roads. A league like the one organized at Scranton should be formed in every county of Pennsylvania. Lackawanna has shown the way; let the other counties follow speedily.

GET DOWN TO BUSINESS.

From the Philadelphia Times.

Two months of the session of the Pennsylvania legislature have passed, and not a single public measure of importance has even approached final consideration. The present legislature has the most important legislative problems to solve of any legislature under the new constitution. It must fail in the performance of a plain duty if it does not pass congressional and legislative apportionments. It must provide for the erection of a new capitol, and that will doubtless involve at least a temporary revision of the tax laws of the state. It must amend he ballot law that has become so complicated and odious to the people that the legislature would be universally condemned if it failed to simplify the ballot, with every provision tending to maintain the purity of our elections. The question of inaugurating a better road system in the state is earnestly pressed by a large majority of the different sections, and it is a problem that requires the most intelligent care in solving it. Such legislation would not be a mere enactment for today. If it is to be of any value it must be the foundation of a system to be maintained and enlarged with the growth of the state. The question of appropriations to charitable institutions will require the utmost fidelity to the people to bring the expenditures within the resources of the treasury. Altogether the duties of this legislature are graver than those presented to any previous legislative body of the state since the amendment of the constitution in 1874.

Let our legislators now get down to earnest, practical work. They cannot pursue their legislative duties with fidelity when diverted by junketing every week and their labors broken by special adjournments. They have great duties to perform. They represent the greatest state in material resources of any of the commonwealths of the union; a state that needs the wisest and the most enlightened legislative policy, and now that the demoralizing effects of politics may be regarded as ended, we sincerely hope that both branches will settle down to systematic and persistent work, and continue it until all the great questions before them shall have been fully considered and justly disposed of.

OUR NEW PRESIDENT.

From the New York Sun.

In our new president we shall have, at the least, a man who is not destitute of reason, who is not superheated with personal vanity, who has had valuable experience as a legislator, who is largely imbued with the spirit of Americanism, and who, in other years, made it manifest that he possesses the valor which is native to his country. It will be the privilege and duty of every good American citizen to support President McKinley so long as he shall prove worthy of his office; so long as he shall give the country an administration of intelligence, virtue, strength, honor and valor.

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajacchus, The Tribune Astrologer.

Astrolabe cast: 4.18 a. m., for Tuesday, March 2, 1897.

A child born on this day will be of the opinion that it is about time for another afternoon newspaper story to circulate.

A good many persons who experience a "change of heart" do not allow the change to affect anything but their hearts.

An unlucky man in some respects resembles a spoon. He is always in the soup.

Corned beef has been recommended as a suitable diet for chiropodists.

Quail on toast should be avoided by nervous men.

Ajacchus' Advice.

Remember that the admonition to keep Lent does not mean that you should never return that which has been lent.

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Every garment that we offer for sale is closely examined to see that it is well made and strictly up-to-date. We will not handle any ill-shaped, poorly-made or shoddy garments. Our Cloak and Suit business has been built up by selling reliable garments at reliable prices and on these lines we will continue to work.

We are now showing a special lot of Ladies' Tailor-made Cheviot Serge Costumes, both jacket and skirt, silk lined throughout at..... $9.98

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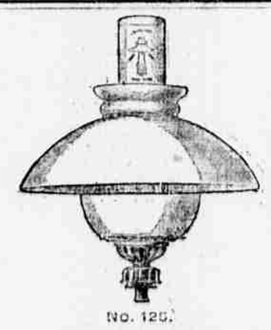

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