

The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, NOVEMBER 24, 1898.

A PROCLAMATION.

The month of November brings to mind the custom of our ancestors, hallowed by time and rooted in our most sacred traditions, of giving thanks to Almighty God for all the blessings He has vouchsafed to us during the past year.

“Few years in our history have afforded such cause for thanksgiving as this. We have been blessed by abundant harvests, our trade and commerce have been wonderfully increased, our public credit has been improved and strengthened, all sections of our common country have been brought together and knitted into closer bonds of national purpose and unity.”

“The skies have been for a time darkened by the cloud of war, but as we were compelled to take up the sword in the cause of humanity, we are justly rejoiced that the conflict has been of brief duration and the losses we have had to mourn, though grievous and important, have been so few, considering the great results accomplished, as to inspire us with gratitude to the Lord of Hosts. We may laud and magnify His Holy Name that the cessation of hostilities came so soon as to spare both sides the countless sorrows and disasters that attend protracted war.”

“I do, therefore, invite all my fellow-citizens, those at home, as well as those who may be at sea or sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe, Thursday, the twenty-fourth day of November, as a day of National Thanksgiving, to come together in their several places of worship, for a service of praise and thanks to Almighty God for all the blessings of the year, for the millions of seasons and the fruitfulness of the soil, for the continued prosperity of the people, for the devotion and valor of our countrymen, for the glory of our victory, and the hope of a righteous peace, and to pray that the Divine guidance which has brought us heretofore to safety and honor may be graciously continued in the years to come.”

“In witness whereof, etc. (Signed) William McKinley, By the president John Hay, Secretary of State.”

Two sentences in Judge Smith's opinion granting a new trial to Rev. Dr. Swallow are worthy to be framed and hung in every home. “The repetition and circulation of a defamatory charge cannot,” said the judge, “be recognized as a ground for belief in its truth. Dereliction in public duty is not to be redressed by calumny.”

A Timely Decision.

The recent decision of Judge Woodworth that the Salvation army has no more right than any ordinary collection of persons to violate the city ordinance against the making of annoying noises upon the public street accords with common sense. The judge politely remarked, in effect, that while the court had no part in doctrines, faiths or forms of religious worship it could not grant to one class and withhold from other classes of citizens exemption from the penalty for clear violation of municipal law.

The decision ought to be studied in every city in America. It marks a necessary step toward the reversion to the rear of foolish abuses in Christian evangelization. The bass drum method of drawing attention to religious activities is not an essential. It can be spared without weakening the real good that is done by such organizations as the Salvation army. And it will be a distinct gain to public peace and to public order when the keepon is learned in our leading cities that the lively of religion carries with it no special license to make public disturbances and disregard public rights.

Whatever political significance attaches to the dramatic resignation of Judge Gordon, of Philadelphia, and its prompt acceptance by Governor Hastings, it will be generally admitted that his retirement from the bench is a good thing for the bench. Judge Gordon is a man of brilliant ability and good scholarship but he has not the first scintilla of the judicial temperament, and he is obstinate, opinionated and incurably vindictive; the place for him is in the ranks among the fighters.

The Cuban Army.

According to General Jose Gomez, one of the Cuban commissioners in this country, he and his colleagues are desirous of securing such recognition from President McKinley as will give them authority to borrow money as representatives of the Cuban people. One of the greatest difficulties in the way of disbanding the Cuban army is that the soldiers have never been paid. It was promised them on enlistment that they should have \$30 a month, and now that the war is over a great sum is owing to them. If they are sent to their homes, where their families are starving, without any money, the leaders of the army feel that much bitterness is sure to ensue.

“We can never persuade them,” said General Gomez, in the course of an interview in the New York Sun, “that the officers have not stolen the money. They have seen the standards do this and they will suspect us. We will certainly lose our authority over them and many of them are likely to take to the hills and become brigands. It is really essential for the good order of the country that the soldiers should be paid. If President McKinley will recognize us as the representatives of the Cuban people we will be able to borrow money enough to pay off the soldiers. There is a syndicate of capitalists here in New York with whom negotiations have been opened, and they are willing to loan the money as soon as this commission shall have been recognized by the American government. We hope to show the president the necessity for this action on his part.”

Be our theories on this point what they may, it will soon be understood by the authorities at Washington that it is a condition which demands their attention in Cuba. Theoretically it may be argued with some plausibility that no debts should be contracted in the name of the Cuban republic which is to be until that government shall have been created after a fair

canvass of the sentiment of all the population to be governed. But practically we have to effect first of all the pacification of the island; and any expense made necessary in execution of this purpose is a fair charge upon all the people of Cuba. The insurgent army did not free Cuba, but it did enough to earn the respect of the United States and the gratitude of all Cubans. Those members of it who are not directly employed under American supervision in police work or other public employment should be given at least enough pay to enable them to turn from arms to pacific pursuits. This will be both justice and economy.

In speaking of our duty to the Philippines one is reminded that there has been a neglect of duty in not looking after the inhabitants of shotgun regions of the Carolinas.

Colonel Roosevelt told the war investigators that he hoped they would call for and read the letters which he sent from the front to the secretary of war. Those letters ought to be published in full.

Meaning of the “Open Door.”

The announcement of the American peace commissioners at Paris that the Philippine islands, under American control, will observe the “open door” naturally justifies a definition of this phrase. Secretary of State Hay announces as his understanding of the term that a tariff system will be put in force in the Philippines which will operate equally against the products of all nations. No nation is to have any advantage, not excepting the United States itself. The products from this country are to pay the same rates of duty as similar products from Spain, England, Germany or any other country in the world.

It will be perceived that this implies, not free trade, but a uniform tariff. It gives the United States simply the advantage which grows out of the administration of Philippine affairs. If with our law prevailing there and our officers administering them our merchants are not able to hold their own in competition with European competitors, it will be the first time that American enterprise has failed. The advantage of relinquishing the chance to enforce tariff discriminations in the Philippines is that it gives us a powerful argument to use against the interposition of discriminating duties at any of the European-owned ports or inlets into China. We can say that as we have dealt with Germany, France and Russia at Manila so shall we expect they will deal with us in their Chinese “zones of influence.” Possessing as we shall the cooperation of England and possibly Japan, a hint from us on this subject will hardly require to be reinforced by a kick.

There will be opposition in this country to the “open door” policy in the Philippines. There will be trade interests which will be shortsighted enough to want to cut off their nose to spite their face. Near-sighted politicians, too, may play this issue in the hope of making capital against the Republican party. But the thoughtful people of the country, when they have studied the subject as the president has studied it and are made familiar with the causes which have impelled him toward this broad-minded conclusion, will sustain him, and, as heretofore, his critics will be confounded.

Such proceedings as characterized the Corbett-Sharkey prize fight will do more to break up pugilism than a round of resolutions from law and order leagues. When 10,000 Americans pay \$45,000 in admissions to see a fake there is likely to be a reaction.

Roosevelt on the War Management.

The stonographic report of Colonel Roosevelt's testimony on Tuesday before the War Investigation commission published in Wednesday's New York papers fills in some interesting detail which were necessarily omitted from the cursory summary distributed yesterday by the Associated Press. Here is an especially vivid excerpt:

“Through no fault of the doctors, the condition of the wounded in the rear, during and immediately after the fight at San Juan Hill was appalling. I went down there three days after the fight was over to look for some of my men. I saw terrible sights. I didn't blame the doctors in the least. I saw them working at operating tables when they had to jerk their heads to keep themselves awake. There were not enough doctors there, and not enough supplies. I saw some of my own men right after they were operated upon, having legs or arms amputated, or some of that sort, taken right out in the jungle and left in the grass. Sometimes, I know, they stayed there twenty-four or thirty-six hours, with a leg or arm off, and with nobody even to come to them to give them a drink of water. But about half to be taken there. There was no cot for the wounded. After being operated upon, if they had blankets, they lay in the mud on their blankets. If they didn't have blankets they lay in the mud without blankets.”

Colonel Roosevelt told of many similar sights and shortcomings—some enough to make the blood boil; but he accused nobody, on the contrary, he explicitly declared that he thought these faults were the faults of a faulty system, that needed radical improvement, and not the result of wanton neglect by any one in a position of authority. On this subject he offered the suggestions which follow:

“From what I saw I believe that if our army were exercised in peace, as I think the foreign armies are, very much of this trouble would have been avoided. I do not see how we can expect to avoid serious trouble in the future if we are not accustomed to handle over three hundred men at a time. I believe that if in time of peace you could get together one year ten or fifteen thousand men, march them from San Antonio to Galveston, 225 and then embark them for Tampa, all of the defects in the quartermaster's department, medical department and commissary department will be made evident and will work their own cure. It will cost money, but it is the thing to do. Now, I would like to say this as the result of my

experience in the navy department: I feel that the ordinance and quartermaster's bureaus should not be separated, but that they should be united in the same which he built when he was head of the ordinance bureau of the navy. I believe it would be the greatest advantage if we could have our ordinance men and our quartermasters in the army detailed for some years and sent back to the navy, and these sent back to the army, if necessary. I believe it would be for the advantage of the line and for the advantage of the army and the navy. As for the other matter, the need of exercising the army in peace, I am sure it is the only practical way of working out all the reforms you need. You cannot sit down and plan out on paper. Practice in the field is necessary. I could see that in the improvements that came with experience in the field. Each year an army should be actually put through in peace what it would have to go through in war.”

The testimony of Colonel Roosevelt is by far the most practical and luminous of any which has been elicited since the war commission began its investigations. It makes clear that the country was not ready to go to war; that it rushed in without system or plan and fought its way to victory in spite of gross delinquencies and inconceivable obstacles; and that if this is not to be repeated in future public opinion must brace itself to demand a complete overhauling and modernization of American military plans and methods, so as to give us a regular force of adequate size constantly kept up to the highest efficiency and a volunteer reserve for whom good weapons, good clothing, good camps of mobilization and good officers, line and staff, are provided, not after war is declared, but all the time.

According to the records of the surgeon general's department, we lost in the five months of the war with Spain 1621 men out of every 1,000 reported present by medical officers serving with them, and in the first five months of the rebellion 1721 out of every thousand. Carry the news to the yellow journals.

In the letter of Rev. J. L. Williams, of Forest City, in yesterday's Tribune, an error of the types made him say the average salary of ministers of the gospel is \$100 a year; the figures should have been \$100.

Admirals Dewey, Schley, Sampson and others will be obliged to remain in seclusion a few days until the efficiency of the foot ball coach has been fully demonstrated in the daily papers.

General Miles is arranging to give a dinner in honor of General Garcia. This will be a good occasion for General Slaughter to have another sudden indisposition.

There is no reason why Spain should not be thankful today. An offer of \$20,000,000 for something it does not own ought to make any nation happy.

Unless something is done to cultivate the anti-imperialists of the “Hub” it may yet be necessary to send a warship to annex Boston.

There is a suspicion that some of the noted pugilists of the day are cultivating historic rather than fighting abilities.

Spain would like to wave aside that proffered \$20,000,000 but the temptation is irresistible.

It looks as though a Mugwump party is already in existence at Manila.

NEWS AND COMMENT

The subjoined account of some of the actual conditions in Cuba is taken by the New York Sun from a private letter written by the wife of an officer of our navy in Havana. It was not intended by the writer for publication: “I am glad you cannot see the misery here. One does not mind the children up to two years of age with not one rag on—perhaps that is comfortable—but when you can see every joint in their bodies, and they fall down in the street from weakness, it's dreadful. There are a thousand people in the Pinos, which is the place where the reconcentration camps are, and they are starving, absolutely, and many more in Havana. In the last days of October the Spanish authorities decided that so many starving people could not be kept in the camps, so they sent out carts and a guard and took them up, putting the babies in one cart, the older children in another, and the grown people in a third, and calmly sent them in entirely different directions, regardless of the fact that they were starving families. They sent the babies to the Maternity hospital, where people are already starving; the children to a big empty building, with no beds nor straw or rags to lay on for beds, and no food. That I know, for a doctor here went there and found them and fed them with some of my money and stores. No one seems to know what became of the mothers. They were getting some sort of a living in the streets, and now they are in the camps, and Spanish authorities. We are feeding here at this house, all the poor of Vedado, about one hundred people a day, which is something, say they, and we have done a good deal in Havana, but the misery is too widespread to be much helped by private means. The government must come down here and take hold, for it is the same all over the island.”

CERTAINLY.

From the New York Sun. If the southern states reduce their electorates so largely by the exclusion of the negroes from the franchise, eight they will, in fact, reduce their representation reduced accordingly, as was the case with them before the civil war?

Just a Home.

Tanko—What a beautiful charity is this home for habritists! Mrs. Tanko—Oh, yes, poor fellows! How sad it would be had they no home to stay away from!—Detroit Journal.

been going on for so long that they are discouraged and care only to be left in peace regardless of political exigencies, but that will be only for a time. When the first crop comes there will be money to handle and to begin to pay debts with. In addition there is not a town in Cuba which will not have to be taken in hand and made to observe sanitary laws. Then, capital will have a chance. There is hardly a foot of Cuban soil that will not produce crops, and there will be plenty of room and plenty of opportunities. Then, too, the Cubans, will revive an interest in their political conditions, and I believe will want their independence, with freedom of speech, press, etc., and the right to govern themselves.”

Getting up early the other day after having been up late at a reception the night before, Governor-elect Roosevelt ate a hasty breakfast, hurried to the station, rode into New York city, rushed to Wall street, visited Ellihu Root, went from Root's office to Joseph H. Choate's office, after a conference there called on his cousin, W. Eustis Roosevelt, where there was another conference, and on public matters; conferred next with General Fitzgerald on National guard reorganization, lunched at the Downtown Club, went to the Fifth Avenue for four separate conferences with different classes of men, testified for half an hour before the war investigation commission, dressed for a swell dinner at the Metropolitan club and wound up with a political speech. Being famous has its drawbacks.

The report of the surgeon general of the navy shows that on the thirty-one vessels of the north Atlantic squadron commanded by Admiral Sampson there were only twelve deaths out of a total of 2,536 men, which was at the rate of 2.17 per 1,000, and only three of the twelve died from disease—one from pneumonia, one from consumption and one from alcoholism. Three were killed or died from wounds and six were drowned. In Admiral Dewey's squadron of eighteen vessels and 2,231 men there were only six deaths, at the rate of 2.65 per 1,000—one from cholera, one from pneumonia, one from consumption, one from alcoholism and one from drowning, one from self-poisoning, one from alcoholism and one from wounds. This is the most remarkable record that has ever known in any navy in the world.

In “Spanish-American War Songs,” a handsomely printed volume of 1,000 pages compiled by Sidney A. Witherbee, of Detroit, Mich., and containing the representative American war songs generated during the late unpleasantness Scranton is represented by two selections, “A Song for Cuba,” by John E. Barrett, printed originally in the “Down the Dewey's Way,” by John Courter Morris, which first saw type in The Tribune and was subsequently set to music and extensively sung on patriotic occasions. These are the only verses accredited to Northeastern Pennsylvania.

The attention of the Anglo-American commission has been drawn by the Manufacturers' association of Canada to the recent ruling of the United States bureau of immigration that the commercial travelers of Canada fall within the restrictions of the alien labor law and that they cannot carry their wares on their side of the border. In bringing the matter before the Anglo-American commission the statement is made that if this country intends to exclude Canadian salesmen it will be necessary to retaliate by excluding American salesmen from Canada.

Assistant Secretary of State Hill, who was in Europe during the war, says the European nations were astounded at the achievements of this country. They thought us entirely unprepared for hostilities. That this country should pretend to be able to raise a vast army in the course of a few weeks to cope with the immense standing army Spain maintained in Cuba indeed seemed ridiculous to the French people especially. They haven't yet recovered wholly from their surprise.

Joseph A. Gitt, of New Oxford, Pa., during forty years' activity as a civil engineer, has traveled 47,000 miles, in these forty years, according to Mr. Gitt's diary. It has cost \$2,000,000, smoked on 20, while 6,200 days were cloudy and 6,200 clear.

Every member of the old Postland, Oriskany, Dutch and Simons, has been elected to the United States senate. Mr. Mitchell is retired. Mr. Dolph is dead, and Mr. Simons was elected last month.

According to Correspondent Paper the first American institution to establish itself in Cuba here was an American bank, and it wasn't solicited by the Cubans, either.

THE STATE MILITIA.

From the Philadelphia Times. Governor Bloxham, of Florida, has issued a circular letter as executive of the fact that such a militia organization is proposed at Tampa, Florida, on the 8th of February next, to discuss methods for placing state troops on the main line of footing. All questions relating to arms, equipment, tactics, clothing, food and transportation are to be discussed by experts, and the subject of camp sites, sanitation and all precautionary measures that modern science can suggest to insure the comfort and health of troops. There should be a very general and hearty response to this call from Governor Bloxham. Our recent war with Spain developed the fact that such as we have improved our militia system in most of the states, our national guard was utterly unfit for the field. Neither officers nor men were equal to the emergency, and the result was great suffering and the sacrifice of many lives simply for want of a thoroughly organized military system. It is idle to say that we shall have war soon again. We may or may not; most likely not, but henceforth nearly or quite every citizen of the Union will maintain a militia organization, and no man no more to make it as perfect as possible than it would to keep it in a state of discipline and readiness for military duty. In view of the fearful sacrifices recently suffered by the impetuous of our militia system, the call of Governor Bloxham is one that should enlist the interest and attention of all connected with our militia organizations.

4 Things

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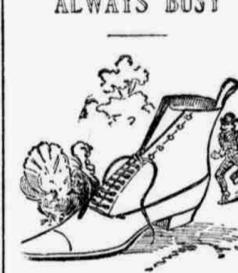


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