

THE COLUMBIAN.

BLOOMSBURG, PA.

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HARRISBURG LETTER.

Special Correspondence.

Harrisburg, Pa., April 22, 1907. Some wise guy who lived before those of us who read this were born, prayed "Lord save me from my friends." A more modern philosopher, with probably a keener understanding of conditions, amended the proposition by invoking the protection of heaven against his "fool friends." If Senator Penrose would work both propositions to the limit, he could hardly get square within the measure of a life time. What his "fool friends" have been doing to him lately is more than plenty. If they haven't put him out of the political game for all time, the signs are misleading.

The instrument with which Senator Penrose's "fool friends" have worked this result is their opposition to the McCord bill which provided for an expression of party sentiment on the United States Senatorship. Whatever the author of that measure had in mind, the result of it would have been the endorsement of Penrose, if his friends had supported the bill. They had the machinery which operates the primary elections and easily could have made it their policy. If that had been done their opponents would have been without a leg to stand on. The average man as well as the machine politician would have supported Penrose in appreciation of his magnanimity, whether he had previously been friend or enemy.

But things are different now. Penrose's "fool friends" have aligned him against the popular will and the ranks of his opponents have been augmented by all those who favored a "square deal." They say that he was afraid of the popular will. They allege that he would deny the people the right of expressing their opinion upon questions upon which they were vitally interested. Those who know Penrose thoroughly will be slow to thus interpret recent events. But as a matter of fact the Senator is somewhat austere, only a few know him intimately and the minds of all others are open to any adverse notion that comes along. It may safely be said, therefore, that the defeat of the McCord bill by the friends of Penrose has dug a grave for Penrose's ambitions.

A MEANINGLESS MEASURE.

The McCord bill was the silliest of demagogic expression. It meant nothing and was incapable of achieving anything. It proposed the regulation of the Senatorial election by the popular vote. The constitution of the United States fixes another way for regulating that election and that instrument is the fundamental law of the land. The framers of that constitution believed in the principle of State sovereignty. They provided for a Congress in two branches, one to represent the people and the other the States. They arranged that that branch which represented the people should be chosen by the people and the branch which represented the States should be elected by the Legislatures of the States. There was nothing incongruous about that arrangement. It was the logical solution of the governmental problem which was most intricate and involved. It was Jefferson's antidote for Hamilton's imperialistic poison.

The strangest, not to say the most startling, feature of modern political development is in the fact that Republican statesmen are compelled to defend cardinal Democratic doctrine against assailants of other party faiths. For example within a few months Foraker, of Ohio, to all intents and purposes the most uncompromising opponent of Democracy has been obliged to defend the principles of Democracy against the attacks of Populists and Democrats led by Roosevelt, the official head of the Republican party. The same anomalous combination of circumstances had made Harriman, Hill and other representatives of monopoly and plutocracy the champions of cardinal principles of popular government. It is not so surprising, therefore, that Penrose, who is governed by no principle but expediency, should appear in the arena as the champion of a Democratic idea.

But while the McCord bill was of absolutely no value or utility, it was completely innocuous and devoid of harm. It couldn't affect the question of electing Senators in Congress in any way and for that reason the Democrats in the Legislature might have voted for it unanimsously. In fact all those who voted on the question supported the measure not because they

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believed it expressed any vital principle but for the reason that it erected a rock upon which the machine Republican ship might split and sink. Those absent without reason were recant. It is only just to say that Senator J. K. P. Hall was not among this number. He was absent but unavoidably so. He was ill at his home, but if he had been able would have been with his associates on the floor of the Senate.

INCRIMINATING EVIDENCE PLENTY

The capitol graft probers developed some interesting facts last week. The first session of the commission was held on Wednesday and the collusion between Architect Huston and Contractor Sanderson was again clearly shown. One of Huston's draughtsmen testified that some months before the contract was let he was employed designing furniture and fixtures for Sanderson, who appeared to have known in advance that he was to get the contract. Another witness testified that Payne & Company, had "padded" bills for glass and the session of that day was wound up by the reading of a letter from former Governor William A. Stone repeating his previous denial of complicity in the contract with Congressman Cassell's company for the steel filing cases and expressing the opinion that the contract was invalid, because the Board of Public Buildings and Grounds has no right to make contracts for future delivery. He intimates pretty strongly that the minutes of the Board meeting were doctored by Secretary Stott who was at the time a clerk in the State Treasurer's office as well as Secretary of the Board of Public Buildings and Grounds.

This fact brings to mind an incident of the time of the transfer of the Treasury Department from Mathews to Berry. The greatest pressure was brought to bear on Mr. Berry to retain Mr. Stott in office and when that earnestly expressed desire was disappointed Governor Pennypacker insisted on his retention in the office of Secretary of the Board of Public Grounds and Buildings. He was probably familiar with the frauds which had been perpetrated with the consent of the then Governor, if not by him, and they couldn't afford to let any one else into the secrets. It would be hardly possible to get better evidence of the culpability of the late Mr. Quay's "cousin Sam." He tried to cover up the evidence by keeping in office those who had guilty knowledge of the crimes just as he tried to deceive the public after the disclosure by his penny-amile excursions. He knew that the people would be dazzled by the magnificence of the bogus French plate glass and veneered pine imitation of mahogany. He imagined that the success of the Republican ticket last fall would prevent an investigation and thus guarantee him immunity from punishment.

FORMER STATE TREASURER HARRIS TESTIFIES.

The principal witness on Thursday was former State Treasurer Frank G. Harris, though the testi-

mony of some other witnesses was interesting. Harry Calvert, of Pittsburg, one of the Secretaries of the commission testified that he had purchased from a firm in that city a set of andirons precisely like those put into the capitol as specially designed. They were not specially designed, the dealer said, but had been in the regular stock list for ten or a dozen years: The price he paid to the Pittsburg firm was \$23 a set though the State paid \$73.60 a set and allowed Huston four per cent. on the entire amount for specially designing them.

The testimony of Frank Harris was really pathetic. He simply pleaded the baby act. Huston completely deceived the Board, he declared and did whatever he pleased with the State funds. They were all hypnotized by the brilliant and dashing young architect, he added substantially, and that gentleman was to blame for everything that went wrong. Huston's story would be interesting, in view of this "confession," but Huston will not be permitted to testify. As Justice Moody of the United States Supreme court stated it during the trial of one of the Beef trust conspirators, putting criminals on the witness stand during preliminary proceedings is equivalent to giving them an "immunity bath." Probably Governor Pennypacker will not be summoned to testify for the same reason. He is anxious for a summons, according to gossip, and would probably tell a curious tale of woe. But he is so directly in line for criminal prosecution that it would be a pity to open up a way for his escape.

Harris made a poor witness. He contradicted himself and confused everybody. But he made it clear that the conspirators had set out to loot the treasury to the last dollar and would have achieved the purpose if the election of William H. Berry to the office of State Treasurer had not interfered with their plans. He admitted that the law had been violated and the people defrauded. He acknowledged having signed orders for "trimmings" which would have cost \$16,000,000. One contract, that for a granite wall around the capitol park at an expense of \$3,000,000, was revoked because the people of Harrisburg kicked, he said. But he was fooled, he added. "I am innocent," he despairingly declared, at the close of his testimony, "and I did not know until now that the State was so defrauded."

LOADED IRON FOR SOLID BRONZE.

Probably what Harris said is true but nobody ever imagined that he was such a stupid. Pennypacker encourages that sort of impression about himself but Harris took pride in his reputation as a keen business man. He was humiliated, he said, not because the treasury was looted and the people plundered, but for the reason that the methods were unbusinesslike. His testimony was no more incriminating than that of other witnesses, however. William F. Sauter, of Philadelphia, president of the Williamson Brothers Company, brass and iron founders, swore that his firm had furnished loaded iron frames for the bronze chandeliers and that instead of being solid bronze as required by the specifications and represented to the State, they are "loaded" iron with a thin sheet of bronze as a coating. The value of these fraudulent chandeliers was four cents and the charge to the State about four dollars and a half a pound.

G. D. H.

Due to Overwork.

More accidents involving loss of life have taken place on the railroads in the past year or two than in any previous period of equal duration. In this particular the United States has won a bad pre-eminence among the great countries of the world. There are several times more fatalities in this country on the railways every year than there are in England, Germany or France, in proportion to the number of persons traveling. Overwork on the part of employees has been the cause of many of these casualties. Physical torpor due to excessive hours of labor of railway workers is accountable for the failure, in many cases, to make use of the mechanical devices to prevent accidents.

TO WORK WELL DON'T WORRY.

It Adds Years to the Face and Accomplishes nothing.

The thing that kills effective work is worry. Don't worry. The way to kill worry is the way to kill weeds. No two objects can occupy the same space at the same time. If you indulge yourself in worry you fan the worry into a fury.

As a proof that you can experience moments in which worry is not absent just mark this present moment. You are thinking what you are reading, worry is absent, for no two things can occupy the same space at the same time.

When we worry everything is distorted. Nothing appears natural. The world looks dark to us. Our friends do not seem near us.

There is no hard luck in the world except sickness. All other so-called hard luck is temporary. If you lose your money, do not worry, make some more. If you lose a friend, do not worry, show him he was mistaken. If you lose an opportunity, do not worry, be ready for the next one.

Life is short. The end of life is death. What's the use of worrying? Worry is like drink; the more you give in to it, the more it fastens on you. Cultivate a cheerful disposition. Mix with people who are cheerful; learn to look at the bright side of things. Do not allow the garden of your mind to grow up with worry weeds.

Occupation kills worry. If your mind is occupied with uplifting work or brainmaking you can't worry.

CONCERNING WOMEN.

Queen Maud of Norway is called "Harry" in her own family.

The two best-known women playwrights are Madeline Lusette Ryley and Martha Morton.

Cashmere shawls are not nearly so costly as they were years ago; but there are many worn by women of rank and fashion which have cost \$2,500 or even \$5,000.

Miss Mae Kenneday was the first woman to go before a board of legal inspectors and successfully pass the examination for steamboat pilot on the Mississippi river.

There are almost no white women in the Congo state—none at all, in fact with the exception of the women in the missions. The Belgian officials do not take their white wives, if they have them, into the country.

A Real Ghost Story.

An experience wherein phantoms presented themselves to view in prodigious numbers simultaneously is related by a young lady whose name, at her request, is withheld, the narrative being endorsed by her sister, who was with her at the time. She writes:

One autumn night my sister and myself, with our maid, were returning from evening service in the village church. There was a thick fog; the moon was full, but it made a sort of steam in the fog, instead of shining brightly. Suddenly I saw a man at my sister's side, who had come there without making a sound. I pulled her sleeve, whispering, "Let the man pass." As I spoke the man disappeared. In another moment we were all bewildered at the sight around us. It was as if we were in a crowded street, innumerable figures surrounding us. Men, women, and children were moving briskly about, some singly, others in groups, but all without a sound. Some seemed to rise out of the grass on either side of us, others to pass through us and to come out on the other side. The women were dressed in bygone fashion, with high bonnets and shawls, and large flounces on their dresses. There was one very tall man who took great strides, though perfectly noiseless; he wore a kind of cape. We approached our own gate, where we should turn in, and then we had a long driveway to walk up before we could reach the house. I think that by the time we had reached the gate all the figures had disappeared except this one tall man. He had quite a different look from any of the others—more horrible altogether. As we entered our gate, to our intense relief, he passed by along the road and vanished. Of course we were all very much frightened. The maid and my sister were crying aloud."

In a case like this, where the same spectral phenomena are witnessed by several persons, the value of the testimony, obviously, is multiplied a hundredfold. For, while one individual may be the victim of a hallucination, such an illusion can hardly be shared by many. What, then, is to be said in answer to such evidence, furnished by deponents of unimpeachable character and reputation for truthfulness? To suppose that they are combining in the manufacture of a lie is scarcely reasonable.—Joseph M. Rogers in *May Lippincott's*.

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