

SCRANTON TRIBUNE
F. E. WOOD,
General Manager.

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THE SCRANTON TRIBUNE.

SCRANTON, JANUARY 3, 1894.

RIGHT IN THE LEAD.

The best state convention reports; the best society news; the best correspondence from neighborhood towns; the brightest illustrations; the snappiest presentation of news and comment and the happiest family of readers in this section.

THAT'S WHY WE LAUGH.

ONE REDEMPTIVE feature about this mild winter is that when snow falls on sidewalks solar rays do not let it linger there.

MR. PLATT'S enemies may control the hangwump press, but Mr. Platt's friends are evidently in the lead at Albany, which is where the leadership counts.

THE POPULISTIC Kansas official who wants the hours of daily toil generally reduced to two will have a large following among the workers on morning newspapers.

REPUBLICANS of Scranton who are not allied with any other organization could execute no better new year resolution than to join the Central Republican club.

THERE HAS never been a better field for the expert Republican platform maker than will be presented at Harrisburg today. The resolutions should ring with wholesome doctrine and righteous wrath.

THE LOGIC of events is against the Democratic party. It was against it in '91, and it will be against it in the future just so long as the Democracy shall typify sectional autocracy and un-American political economy.

LEADERS of a reconstructed Prohibition party who have just been in session at Pittsburg figure out a popular vote for their cause of seven hundred thousand the very first pop. Let it not again be said there is no elasticity in figures.

ONE of the most carefully compiled of local almanacs is that issued each year by the Wilkes-Barre Record. Editors Johnson and Powell know how to put accurate facts into compact space as well as any other publishers in the business.

THE LATEST thing in memorials is a fund for the erection in the national capital of a monument to General Washington's mother. It would seem to most persons that the son himself is the best tribute her maternal fame could ask for.

IT is rather distressing to observe Chicago is again boasting lustily about its population, when such a large portion of it is destitute. The great city should lay aside its tin horn until the winds of spring warm up its poverty fits.

THE NOMINEES of today's convention for congressman-at-large, whatever his name, will have the enthusiastic support of his party and the triumphant indorsement of the great majority of Pennsylvania wage earners. Too much is at stake in the election that will follow to permit of any capricious weighing of mere personalities.

ONE of the new year's judicial changes in which there is reminiscence of interest occurred in Carbon county Monday, when Allen Craig ascended to the bench in place of John B. Storm. Mr. Craig conducted himself with propriety during his spirited canvass; and begins his new relation enjoying general confidence.

REMINISCENCES of the Garfield-Clarking feud, revived by Senator Dawes' article in the January Century, threaten to become almost as numerous soon as were war annals some time ago. But it is well. History will be the gainer. The present should prepare to grin and bear the ordeal as martyrs who benefit posterity.

GOVERNOR MITCHELL, of Florida, appears to have made up his mind to interfere with the arrangements to have "Jimmie" Corbett ascertain the density of "Charles" Mitchell's skull and the power of his biceps and triceps. The governor does not approve of the tendency of sporting men to turn the state into a prize ring and a Monte Carlo.

IF the Carbonade board of trade truly desires to establish a new county, with Carbonade as the county seat, it should hasten to correct the error of deliberating in secret. New counties are formed because the people have good, public reasons to want them; not because any coterie of persons thinks the secession would be individually profitable.

SEVERAL DAYS ago the Philadelphia Times told the Democrats of Philadelphia's second congressional district not to waste energy in opposing the Republican nominee, because Adams was sure to win. Now, with singular inconsistency, it wants the party to put on its war paint in the campaign for congressman-at-large. Are not the second odds just as hopeless as the first? Is any more principle at stake in the later case than in the former? Whether, indeed, is the Keystone Democracy drifting?

ACCORDING to the latest census less than one thousand square miles of virgin forest remain of the vast Adirondack wilderness, and even this lingering remnant is disappearing with relentless speed. One of the first things that New York's Republican legislature should do is to make adequate provi-

sion for the preservation of this magnificent survival of primeval days, in the shape of a state park. A law for this purpose should be enacted with such sincerity and skill that the milling and carrier corporations will not be able to drive a coach and six through every clumsy section.

PERHAPS AFTER all Grover, Carlisle and Gresham have not sought the solitude of the Potomac marshes to hunt ducks. Indeed, Grover might have lured Carlisle into the wilderness, in order to learn from him the wisdom of a financial policy that calls for the issue of \$300,000,000 of bonds to wipe out a deficit of \$33,000,000.

WILLIAM EWART GLADSTONE, premier of England, 84 years of age, has been in parliament for sixty-four years. The people of the United States wish the "Grand Old Man" a happy birthday, and are hopeful he will be spared to his country to enjoy many more of them. Mr. Gladstone is one of the foremost figures of all the world. He is greater than any king, queen or emperor, and his ways are the ways of patriotism, progress and peace. Long life to the old hero.

TODAY'S STATE CONVENTION.

The convention which will assemble in Harrisburg at noon today will possess far more than local and state significance. Its work will have an interest even beyond the circles of the party under whose auspices it is held. Its nominee, whatever his name or location, will be, in the public eye, a national figure; the solemn choice of the majority party in that state which has given to the cause of protection some of its most illustrious champions and which owes to that cause an allegiance that has never wavered.

At this period of prostrate industry and labor thrown idle under the gratuitous base of tariff agitation, an assemblage of the representatives of uncompromising Republicanism, undaunted in defeat as they have been fearless in victory, is brought together for the purpose of adding a voice and a vote to the minority in congress which today represents, in brain and patriotic impulse, if not in sheer force of numbers, the real sentiment of the American nation. It is congregated under the shadow of the worst business crisis that our country has ever known—a crisis certainly intensified, if not directly produced by Democratic ascendancy, linked to the Siamese twin of Democratic incompetency. It is proper to expect from such a convention, at such a time, proceedings that will offer cheer to idle thousands throughout the land; that will strengthen the lines of protection in every center of dispute, and render easy the pathway to a sweeping victory in February.

It seems happily probable that such expectations will be realized. They certainly will be if the popular sentiment of the state shall be respected in its call for the nomination of Galusha A. Grow. The inclination of those leaders of the party who have been variously accused of slighting the popular wish to permit a free and frank selection, unhindered by covert advice, is one to be applauded as indicative of hopeful results. But whatever shall be the name of the convention's nominee, provided, of course, he be worthy and fit—and no other has yet even once been proposed—he will receive a hearty support; and will be elected by a majority that will establish a new high water mark in the civic uprising against free trade.

ACCEPTED AND RECIPROCATED.

The following pleasant comment is taken from the Lebanon Report: "In point of everything that goes to make newspaper enterprise, the SCRANTON TRIBUNE is easily one of the leading papers of the state. The Report details to exchange compliments with it in the spirit of controversial courtesy which characterizes it, and begs to wish it a happy, a prosperous and a successful New Year." The esteemed Report will kindly accept our cordial return of its graceful compliment. In its function as a public instructor, THE TRIBUNE sometimes finds itself compelled to differ from the positions assumed by its aggressive Lebanon contemporary, but it is the amiable difference of a friend who recognizes his adversary's ability, sincerity and lively zeal while failing to perceive at all times the wisdom of his opponent's course.

Nevertheless, the Lebanon Report is a most welcome guest; and to its energetic publishers and its gifted editor, are extended the felicitations of the season.

TIME FOR PRACTICAL WORK.

The exigencies of the times demand strong, earnest and persistent practical endeavor on the part of those who are really interested in the welfare of their fellows. The testing of the fine-spirited theories and the wrestling with unsolved problems in the solution of which the interests of humanity are involved, are most worthy subjects when they do not interfere with the present active duties of life; but on occasions like the present this reaching for the unknown while ignoring the imperative demands that are all about us, tends to weaken faith in human nature. The suffering who are appealing to their fellow men throughout the country have a stronger claim than any unsolved question of science in any of its branches. The efforts of the humanitarian should for the present be devoted to the emergency that appeals to the sympathy and generosity of every nature.

In other words, this is a time for the fortunate among our American citizens to be doing business. There will be time enough to determine the possibility of a universal religion after the men, women and children now in want are saved from starvation. It is even better to rescue them than to crowd the work of sending missionaries and palm-leaf fans to the over-heated heathen of darkest Africa. It is a time to apply the professions of Christianity and humanitarianism. The golden rule was never more binding as a canon of morality. It is not meet to fume and perspire for the greater enlightenment of unborn generations when those all about us are crying for bread and wherewithal to keep warm.

The beautiful attributes of charity are now to be exemplified. The prayers for blessings upon all are to be answered by those who have been so long

offering them that their significance was lost sight of. Good people must move and pass around material assistance, instead of good advice and verbal consolation. They are confronted by conditions which will enable their measure to be taken by the unbelieving, and if they are willing to make no sacrifices they cannot supply the default by sympathetic tears nor any amount of heroic work upon the future of the race. There is no better nor more homely advice for the hour than to "saw wood."

THE ODDIOUS INCOME TAX.

The advocates of an income tax urging that the exigencies of a period justify it, refer to its imposition during the war period, arguing that the deficiencies in revenue recognizes only the special emergency of a balance to be supplied in the easiest manner, irrespective of peaceful or warlike eras. The war ended twenty-nine years ago. The income tax which was levied to maintain it, was abolished a quarter of a century ago.

Just at this moment, of all moments in the century, the men charged with the execution of the will of the people in revising a war tax, quietly propose to restore the most odious war tax of all. The people of all parties are opposed to it. It is impossible to explain this preposterous proposal.

The only reason assigned for it is that there is a shortage in the treasury and more money is needed. There are many ways of securing a revenue. It is only sufficient to say now that the legislative house, the executive department, the administration, which should make itself responsible for the renewal of the unjust, the unequal, fraudulent, inequitable income tax, would go out of office the first day popular opinion secured a chance to assert itself.

THE UNEMPLOYED are treading upon rather unpopular ground in assuming the airs of a corporation. Less mooning with Cushing's Manual and more hustling for assistance or work would be more seemly.

AS THE Coffee Cools.

THIS is truly an age of enterprise. Our old friend Sam Speck of "Smith Family" renown, now six hatted as to his headwear and bediamonded as to his glossy shirt front, is giving a free building lot to each purchaser of a reserved seat in his Standard theater, Philadelphia. The ticket costs a dollar or two and the lot is "worth fifty."

We all know what competition has driven the newspapers to offer in way of premiums and the like—albums, cameras, coupons, dictionaries, encyclopedias, free insurance, free food and fuel, trips to Washington, trips to Chicago, trips around the world. Up in Carbonade they've begun to throw in handsome magazines; and by and by it will be proper to expect free house rent and, if Democrats prevail, perhaps even free trade. It's certainly a warm-hearted world when business grows so generous. But what is there to do? When one begins another has to follow. The foremost wins the race and the public gets the benefit. Nevertheless, I think friend Speck is doing it pretty furiously when realism in theatricals becomes free reality.

AN odd incident in the history of a notable newspaper is about to be commemorated in the discontinuance of the daily edition of the West Chester Village Record, which has recently passed from the management of ex-Senator Evan's estate. The Record's new proprietor, recognizing the fierce competition now prevailing among daily newspapers, has decided, it is said, to concentrate his energies upon the weekly edition, which years ago was raised as one of the two best weekly newspaper properties in the state. This was when Bayard Taylor, as a bare headed boy, addressed wrappers in its office; and when ex-Chief Justice Paxton sat on a three-legged stool in its composing room plying his art as a printer's apprentice. The experiment of reviving the old time weekly in a community where every household takes at least one daily local and one large city paper will be viewed with interest, if not with complete confidence.

THERE was a time—and is yet, for that matter—when the Norristown Herald was as widely quoted as the Danbury News, in which Bailey's unique wit scintillated and amused; or as the Burlington Hawk Eye, in which Frank Hutton and Bob Burdette, an indomitable team of journalistic gems, polished off the oddities of human nature in rib tickling paragraphs. "Gene Field" was at that time irradiating the solemn expanse of great American table land in and around Denver; Bill Nye was reaping fame and wealth on the Laramie Boomerang; Joe's billings was pouring the quintessence of his dialectic philosophy into Robert Bonner's Ledger; Charles B. Lewis, under the pseudonym of "M. Quid," was making the Detroit Free Press a household word; and David Ross Locke, as Edmund V. Nesby, was cutting the vitals out of Democratic pretenses from the mythical vantage point of "Confederate X. Roads, which is in the state of Kentucky."

BAILEY BECAME rich and famous; Hutton is flashing his satirical ascendance in his brilliant independence as editor and part proprietor of the highly profitable Washington Post; Burdette, grown serious, preaches at intervals and lives on the fruits of his ample past earnings; Field, with interlarded renown, is wooing back wasted adipose on the sunny slope of California; Nye, with his humor vein long ago worked out, manages nevertheless, to eke out a sylvan existence on the strength of past renown. Josh Billings—rest his soul!—is in the domain of the great beyond; Lewis, lured to Gotham by the false light of Palliser's capricious favor, is relying now upon syndicates for his bread and tea; and Locke, before his death, had made the Toledo Blade a property worth hundreds of thousands.

BUT the Norristown Herald man, what of him? Who knows his name? Who recalls his brilliant work? O yes, here's a line of news just flashed over the telegraph wire. Read it, ye hopeful ones, and then answer me "What is fame?"

John H. Williams, the man who gave the Herald a national reputation, will very likely be the next Burgess of Norristown. If you have made up your mind to buy Hood's Sarsaparilla, do not be persuaded to take any other preparation. Be sure to get Hood's Sarsaparilla, which possesses peculiar curative power. Hood's PILLS cure all liver ills, biliousness, jaundice, indigestion, sick headache.

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