

SCRANTON TRIBUNE

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General Manager.

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THE SCRANTON TRIBUNE.

SCRANTON, MARCH 9, 1894.

A very little thing, when other things are ready, sometimes causes great results. The bullet that killed Robert Ross at Troy may get the death of thugism at elections.

IT MUST BE MET.

There are scarcely to be two opinions as to the character of the indiscretion, to use a mild term, committed by those who were responsible for the importation, into Monroe county, of the ignorant and vicious class of southern workmen who hewed the wood and drew the water in the construction of the new railway line that was lately projected through this region. This importation condemned itself in the first place through the slight that it imposed on the abundant labor resident in this state—labor which, although possibly more expensive, because better skilled and better educated, has nevertheless a prior claim upon the consideration of the railroad's contractor. Even though the experiment had not been attended by scenes of violence, accident and disorder, the giving of precedence to southerners could not have been defended on any plea of business equity and fairness.

But the experiment, in all its consequences, has not proved successful. On the contrary, it proved commercially undesirable to the importers, and most disastrous to the security and the morals of the community through which the road penetrated. It left a direct trail of bloodshed and accident never before known in the history of eastern railway construction; and it has been the indirect means of foisting upon the people of Monroe county a collection of vicious vagrants and unrestrained evil-doers whose crimes are of almost daily occurrence. The atrocity of many of these crimes, the aggravated character of the frequent assaults and of the kindred abominations of lawlessness directed toward peaceful residents of sparsely settled country districts where the machinery of police protection is almost unknown, are monuments to the folly of this cheap labor policy amounting, in the aggregate, to a crying public evil.

The brutal murder of Christian Ehlers by an offshoot band of these straggled southern desperadoes is merely one conspicuous instance of the kind of work that they have been engaged in, from the moment of their arrival until now. Many of their misdeeds have never been reported in print. The minutiae of their midnight prowling, repeated thefts and continual terrorization of women and children form altogether one of the blackest pages in the history of Pennsylvania crime. That the perpetrators themselves are penniless, and must resort to violence as the only alternative from starvation is a striking commentary upon the conscienceless cruelty of the contractors who deliberately brought them to this sorry plight and then left them to get out of it as best they might.

While, therefore, the provokers themselves are less guilty, in morals, than the intelligent and cold-blooded agents of their enticement into this critical condition; and while the law ought, in justice, to mete out to the real culprits the punishment which is obviously their due, it cannot be believed that the good people of Monroe county must sit complacent under such jeopardy and provocation as now surround them. The arming of the villagers of Tannersville the other day, and their descent upon a camp of tramps which had been a prolonged source of disturbance is the kind of the action which must seemingly be taken in many similar communities unless some speedy solution to the problem may be devised which will obviate the necessity of a recourse to mob justice.

PAINT POLITICAL THUGISM in its true colors and it will soon sink off in sheer self disgust.

THE PRESIDENT who could conceive the Hawaiian policy of infamy and peddle patronage in a fight to beat two senators as Mr. Cleveland did in the Hornblower and Peckham incidents, is not a safe bulwark against the oncoming Populist tide in favor of an inflated currency. Business men took desperate risks when they rejected Benjamin Harrison.

GENERAL HASTINGS has things his own way because the people want it thus. And the men who roll up 100,000 pluralities are good persons to consult in these matters.

NOT A SAFE TRUST.

After all that Mr. Cleveland has done to destroy the confidence once imposed in him by the business interests of the country, it is his peculiar luck to have people yet say, apropos of the Bland bill: "Well, let the senate pass that bill if it wants to; the president will promptly veto it."

We should like to be able to believe, honestly, frankly and fully, that this supposition is true. We should be delighted to feel, despite his incomprehensible and his almost innumerable blunders, that Grover Cleveland, in this one item of regard for the stability and the integrity of our monetary system, is still the same strong, sturdy and immovable man that he was so fleetly pictured to us in years that have fled. The knowledge of this fact, or even the unwavering suspicion of it, would give us renewed courage and inspire us with rekindled hope. Not only that; could this assurance be generally shared by the business interests of the land, as applied to tariffs as well as to coinage bills, it would be the signal of a revival that would fairly dumbfound the pessimists.

The great moneyed interests of the nation, whose securities have shrunk during the critical moments of Popu-

listic rampage and agrarian revolution, and whose mills and factories and workshops have sounded the depths of stagnation and despair are not anxious to stay down. They find no solace in the mere petulant act of sulking and pouting. The economist who charges—and there are many of such filling Democratic editorial chairs—that these great shut-downs and curtailments are the work of capitalistic malice, vengeance and spite insults the intelligence of the public and brands himself an ass. There is no marasmus to anybody in the prevalence of depression and panic. The victims of such a condition find no enjoyment in prolonging their misery.

The simple truth of the matter is the Democratic party in all its roots, trunk and branches, is proving itself so utterly incompetent to transact necessary public business, and to keep from transacting that which is hurtful, vicious and unwise, that the cautious and conservative business factors of the country have no heart to push out into renewed activity; and they will not get that encouragement until the entire jobbing, speculative and moon-baying Demo-Populist coalition is hurled with every mark of popular disfavor from the trust that it has betrayed.

VOTES in Troy Tuesday cost \$20 apiece, and bullets were thrown in.

IT IS A suggestive evidence of the high renown enjoyed by Scranton that the mayor and chief associate municipal officials of Newark should have selected this city for purposes of study in preference to the many other municipalities within an equal distance. In many particulars Scranton today is without a superior in the list of American cities. She is certainly unsurpassed in her predilection for progressive business men when in need of progressive municipal officials.

THE ESTEEMED Wilkes-Barre News-Dealer cannot make a successful assault of ballot stuffing or hired assassination; and it ought to have better judgment than to try.

THE POLLARD SUIT.

Viewed from any standpoint rendered possible by present evidence, the one conclusion is inevitable that brilliant public gifts in men to whom are confided great public trusts carry with them the requisite of a proper private life, upon penalty of failure, complete and dire, at the least expected moment. History is full of lamentable incidents in proof of this inflexible moral law; but to go no farther back than the downfall of Charles Stewart Parnell, which all can remember, we have an example vivid and painful in all its aspects. The fact that Representative Breckinridge did not take this lesson to heart, but instead relied upon his reputation as an orator, the eminence of his blue-blooded Kentucky ancestry and the remarkable warmth and fidelity of genuine friendships among his people, only illustrates anew the blind fatuity with which genius is so frequently allied.

In the flattering unctious he unquestionably laid to his troubled conscience that the Pollard suit for breach of marriage promise, with its attendant scandal and unenviable revelations, would "blow over" as soon as he could prove the woman to be his equal in guilt. Mr. Breckinridge apparently overlooked the one fact destined to be his inexorable Nemesis; and that fact is the sublime chivalry and spirit of defense that Kentuckyans of the superior social order instinctively pay to women. To raise more calm in temperament this delicate sentiment may seem to be lacking somewhat in discretion when its beneficiary chances to be a daughter of Eve who has not, as it appears from the evidence, followed undeviatingly in the path of strict propriety. But to the patrician nobility of the famed "blue grass" belt it matters little what Miss Pollard's recreancy has been; she remains in its eyes a woman like unto those who comprise its mothers and sisters and daughters. The defense they pay is to an ideal; and the profanation of this ideal by a man supposed to be conspicuous for chivalry and true politeness is a crime against the social canons for which there is no atonement.

And it is well that it is so. Fantastic though our cruder northern sentiment may at times regard it, this polished courtliness and scrupulous nicety of social etiquette remain nevertheless two of the finest inheritances that we as a nation owe to the colonial aristocracy; of which they are the later fruits. There can be no doubt of the saving grace that they have implanted into our natures and social customs. Filtered through the firmer conscience and the sturdier morality of the Puritan stock, they have given to us the finest examples of virtuous domesticity, as typified throughout the north and west in new-grown settlements where the American home is rooted in purity and unconquered by terrible honor. Rather than tarnish this invaluable ideal, it were better to sacrifice a thousand Breckinridges, though each were infinitely this one's peer in eloquence, experience, fluent diction and polished suavity.

TENNYSON, the last poet laureate, has been dead eighteen months and his successor is not yet in view. Mr. Gladstone seemed to think that rather than have the honorable and honored position lowered by an inferior poet he would leave it vacant. Whether this view will be shared by Lord Rosebery remains to be disclosed. The position of poet laureate was one of honor, indicating that the poet thus honored possessed genius and merit as a poet, character as a man and dignity as a representative of the royal court. The successor of Wordsworth and Tennyson should indeed be chosen with much care and consideration.

IT IS A MISTAKE to suppose that because the Populists are economic in their financial notions, they are devoid of influence with this administration. Friends of an honest currency have no license to play with the opposition.

THE FORMAL announcement of the candidacy of George S. Ferris, of Pittston, for Orphans' court judge in Luzerne county confirms a prediction made several weeks ago in THE TRIBUNE. Mr. Ferris makes the third Republican to express a willingness in this direction, his competitors being Captain Darte, the veteran war-horse

of Luzerne Republicanism, and Isaac P. Hand. Mr. Ferris is well known to Scrantonians as a gentleman of modest merit who annually adds to the enjoyment of the New England society's dinner. He is excellently qualified to preside with dignity, fairness and scholarship upon the Luzerne orphans' court bench.

NOTHING so well becomes a city as clean streets, neatly paved. But to realize the full effect of this artistic aspect, the cleanliness and the neat paving should not be confined to any particular locality.

BRIDGE PROGRESS.

The advancement last evening in select council on first and second readings of Mr. Roche's ordinance giving the mayor discretionary power in the negotiations for the bridge approaches, supplemented by the adoption of Mr. Connell's amended resolution authorizing an immediate preparation of the bridge plans evinces a hearty and healthy legislative enthusiasm in the subject of the bridge progress.

There is evidently a general desire in council to push the work along with all due speed, and this fairly reflects the uppermost wish of the people. Haste is wise when it is deliberative; what is done must, of course, be well done.

It ought, from present appearances, to be possible to walk placidly across the Lackawanna at Linden street and the Roaring Brook at Platt place before snowfall next winter.

WE SHOULD like to call the attention of those few hide bound Democratic journals that think it their duty to apologize for every sin which a Democrat commits, to this robust utterance of the Buffalo Courier, the pioneer exponent of Erie county Democracy, apropos of the Trojan election outrage:

The tragedy at Troy will stir the state. Public sentiment will be irretrievably demanding that election booths hereafter shall be scenes of order and obedience to law. Is government to be turned into a ghastly mockery by the bulldozing and the bullets of political bullies, the hired agents of party machines controlled by unprincipled bosses? In the face of such dangers party this will be thrown off, and the people, unincumbered, will stand forth in defense of the integrity of the ballot box. The rights of American citizenship in New York must be vindicated. Compared to this duty other state and local issues are insignificant and paltry. The Democratic party must, by reorganization put itself in accord with the stern, earnest public sentiment on this subject; otherwise it will be driven to defeat and disaster.

There is no obligation of partisan loyalty which binds a man until he becomes an accessory, after the fact, to wilful and cruel murder. The journal or the orator that propounds such an abhorrent doctrine will soon find out the temper of the people.

OCCASIONALLY THERE drift into Scranton specimens of the rural bully who, when reprimanded by town constables, are accustomed to peel off their coats and "have it out" with the officer on the spot. It would save them some unpleasantness if they would realize that Scranton has a police force under training for just such emergencies. The fact that an officer wears a uniform does not rob him of the common right of self-defence. It is only when the exercise of this right is pushed to an extreme that the officer is subject to censure.

MR. HINES has recently been hobnobbing with Philadelphia journalists and they have been worming from his bosom the information that he knows, but will not say, who will be the next congressman from Luzerne. This is aggravating in William. We had suspected it would be Hon. Morgan B. Williams; but perhaps, after all, Mr. Hines knows it may be Hon. Charles A. Miner.

EDITOR LENNON is certainly picturesque in his expression of opinion with reference to the Oliphant sewer issue. He is not satisfied with one drainage pipe, but wants another in which "to carry away some of the anti-sewer men," who are described as "too rotten to be allowed to float with respectable refuse." It strikes us that it is time for the board of health to cast some chloride of lime into this discussion.

TWENTY-FOUR HOURS before his downfall the man who would have predicted a prison cell for autocratic Boss McKane would have been laughed at. But McKane was landed in Sing Sing before the ink on his fraudulent registration lists had begun to pale. Let Edward Murphy and others of his kind reap profit by McKane's example.

MURPHY MORALLY RESPONSIBLE.

It would not be correct, probably, to say that Edward Murphy, Jr., is responsible for the bloodshed, but it is certain that for many years he has had absolute control and command of all the Democratic thugs, repeaters and ballot box stuffers in the city he has ruled through their aid. If he had so willed and ordered, the election yesterday would have been no more bloody than an ordinary gathering of reputable citizens.

Time for an Accounting.

It is high time that the greater villains, whose dirty work is being done by these thugs, and who sit in the high places, should have the mask torn away from their villainous faces so that the people can see them as they really are. Aiders and abettors of ballot box stuffing, falsifying tally sheets, riots and murder, should not be allowed to represent the people in the councils of the nation. They should be hurled from the positions they disgrace by an angry, outraged people.

One of Lincoln's Stories.

Most of the dull stories attributed to Abraham Lincoln are supposed to be apocryphal, but Robert Bonner makes public a letter he received years ago from Henry Ward Beecher, in which the Plymouth pastor says concerning a visit to Lincoln: "Abraham told me three stories, two of which I forget and the other won't bear telling."

A Suggestive Co-Incident.

While counting the votes in the mint, maybe Dr. Townsend's attention will be struck by the fact that the heads on most of them are cut off at the neck.

Very Carefully Edited.

New York's French bell carried very plain evidence of the result of Dr. Parkhurst's blue pencil.

An Ungracious Omission.

Queen Victoria might at least have said she was sorry. If she wasn't sorry she should have been.

AMONG Music Lovers.

Director Watkins announces that an elaborate Easter programme is being rehearsed by the Penn Avenue Baptist Church choir. The list of musical numbers will include the triumphal march from "Nauman," an anthem by Schaeffer and several other selections. A special chorus of twenty-five voices will take part in the service. The quartette at present is composed of the following: Mrs. Lizzie Hughes Brundage, soprano; Miss Margaret Jones, contralto; Daniel Stevens Tenor; and John T. Watkins, bass and director.

The Scranton Liederkreis will give a sacred concert on Sunday evening at Music hall under the direction of Professor Kopp.

Rehearsals for the "Crimson Scarf," an opera to be given at the Elks temple on April 13, are progressing rapidly under direction of John T. Watkins. The characters will be assumed by Mrs. Edith Heckel, Miss Julia Allen, Thomas Johns, John T. Watkins, Will Watkins and Thomas Layton, assisted by a chorus of twenty-five voices.

Miss Annette Reynolds, solo contralto, will remain with the Second Presbyterian Church choir another year.

D. P. Thomas, Professor Protheroe, John Courier Morris and Thomas Marshall were in New York this week making arrangements for the transportation of the Cambro-American society to Wales, where they will attend the Carnarvon eisteddfod.

Miss Lillian A. C. Hammett is visiting friends in Carbonate. Upon returning to this city Miss Hammett will accept a position in the music store of Stelle & Seely.

Artist Frey has taken an excellent group of the members of the Scranton Choral union, which he will have copyrighted before issuing. The photo contains the faces of about 175 members of the World's Fair choir.

Miss Alice Murphy, of Dunmore, and Miss Gertrude McKean, of Providence, are among Professor Protheroe's most promising vocal pupils. They possess fine soprano voices that are rapidly developing.

Spiced Well Its Far Ing.

It is said that the Columbian stamp will be retired about April 1. It never was popular although a great many persons were stuck on it. The new smaller stamp expectorates higher in public esteem.

Possible Loss of a J. b

There's a faraway look in the cuckoo's eye. There's a chill in the cuckoo's breast. As he watches the days pass wearily by, That give no sign of rest. Oh, sweetest heart is the cuckoo bird, And he is not ill. For he knows his feathers will all fall out, When passed is the Wilson bill.

—Wilkes-Barre Times.

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