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PUBLISHED DAILY AND WEEKLY IN SCRANTON, PA., BY THE TRIBUNE PUBLISHING COMPANY.

NEW YORK OFFICE: TRIBUNE BUILDING, FRANK B. GRAY, MANAGER.

Entered at the Postoffice at Scranton, Pa., as Second-Class Mail Matter.

THE SCRANTON TRIBUNE.

SCRANTON, APRIL 5, 1894.

WHAT WITH Breckinridge, this Rice business and the measles, life in Scranton is not without its occasional annoyances.

The Trouble With the Legislature. Correspondent Whitney wants to know why the Pennsylvania legislature doesn't save the state \$700,000 a year by not meeting.

It is unhappily true that a good deal of the newspaper pleasantries aimed at legislative bodies in general, and at the Pennsylvania legislature in particular, has something more tangible behind it than a playful fancy anxious for something to write about.

We might as well face this fact fairly and squarely, first as last. The temper of the controlling forces of our citizenship has undergone a change since the time when it was considered party treason to lift a whisper against the particular individual who chanced to represent the leadership of the party.

THE BRECKINRIDGE kiss, which he swears did not betoken love, is not new in history. It originated with Judas.

WHETHER the lieutenant governorship be captured by Lyon or Robinson, a good deal of admiration will reward the latter for his plucky fight. Against odds which would discourage many men he has entered into the present contest with a vim which is surprising those who fancied he would possess comparatively little strength.

THE HABIT of throwing mud at Lackawanna's courts ought not be permitted to become a fad.

We Need That Viaduct. It is to be regretted that at the final session of the outgoing councils a discovery of technical defects in the West Lackawanna avenue viaduct ordinance necessitated that measure's defeat.

Inquiry has satisfied us that this suspicion is incorrect. The introduction of an amended ordinance will command strong support in the new councils, and the ordinance itself, if as drawn as to evade the former technical objection, would, it is believed, pass both branches. It is said that a letter has already been formulated by the officials of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad company formally confirming the proffer of a \$10,000 contribution made informally by General Manager Hallstead; and with the Scranton Traction company's equivalent donation available at any time, it is difficult to see how a properly worded viaduct ordinance could be open to objection.

There certainly cannot at this date be any uncertainty as to the need of a viaduct at this dangerous and much traveled portion of our leading business thoroughfare. Nor can the immunity from serious accident with which a kind destiny has endowed us of late be reasonably expected to continue forever, in defiance of the multiplying risks. This proposed viaduct has become a settled public necessity; and its construction dare not much longer be delayed.

THE POINT is raised by the Pittsburg Times that all this nauseating testimony as to the relations existing between Colonel Breckinridge and Madeline Pollard is irrelevant to the fundamental question whether or not the defendant, while sane, promised to marry the plaintiff. Breckinridge himself concedes that he did; and in this concession he is corroborated by Mrs. Luke Blackburn, Major Moore

and other witnesses of equal repute. Why, then, beat all around this large legal bush? To a layman it seems very much like an unjustifiable waste of time and money. The depicting of Breckinridge in his true colors may serve the useful moral purpose of an awful example, but it has, as we view the matter, no legal relation to the one fact upon which the jury will be instructed to center all their deliberations; namely, the fact of a violated civil contract.

Let's Have It Settled. Yesterday afternoon, before Trial Judge McPherson, Attorney Cornelius Smith renewed his attack upon the fairness of the jury system in this county, taking as a method the presentation of a motion directed against Deputy Probationary Kesson, and objecting to his manner of drawing a jury.

The question now arises, what will the president judge of this court, who may with entire propriety take cognizance of its practice, and who, in fact, is in a sense bound to take cognizance of alleged abuses or irregularities when they have attained proportions calculated, if not officially noticed, to bring the court into disrepute, do in the matter? Is he not in honor obligated to call Mr. Smith before him, give opportunity for the presentation of evidence, if there be any, in support of Mr. Smith's reiterated imputations, and then to deal with the subject in such a manner as will leave no further doubt in the public mind?

Interpreted in the light of contemporaneous events, Mr. Smith's motion raises a point of manifest importance. Whatever may be the soundness of his motion legally, it is in its influence upon popular opinion sufficiently weighty to make desirable a speedy and a definite decision. It scarcely needs to be said that the method by which jurors are drawn in Lackawanna county ought to be in strict conformity with the law. Any irregularity, or any alleged irregularity would be a dangerous supplement to the inherent viciousness of a jury system that appears to prefer ignorance to intelligence and that occasionally admits to the juror's box, with power over property and life, illiterates unable to read, write or reason.

No DOUBT if the present senate could find any reasonable pretext for rejecting the credentials of Mr. Colquitt's journalistic successor, they would seize it with eagerness. Patrick Walsh is not the type of man that finds favor in the upper chamber of congress. He has a distasteful habit of speaking his thoughts in terse Anglo-Saxon. He is no courtier, no sycophant and no coward. The worst that can be said of him is that he is a Democrat; yet even here he is better than his party, because he is a Protectionist and a trenchant fighter of Democratic sham. Mr. Walsh is the kind of man we ought to have in the senate; but like Murat Halstead, he is not the kind of man that the senate takes to. And the chances are that he will kick up a big hornet's nest before he gets through with it.

Responsibility of Mine Foremen. In an action recently brought in the Schuylkill county court of common pleas by two widows against the Lehigh Coal company for damages resulting from the death of their husbands in the company's mines, Judge Rice, of Luzerne, presiding in Schuylkill temporarily, last week rendered a decision of general importance. It is particularly noteworthy since it affects a large proportion of the suits for damages brought by widows and orphans against mining corporations as a result of subterranean accidents. Counsel for the coal company in this case submitted for approval the following points which, it appears, covered without dispute the case:

That the defendant company in operating its collieries is not liable to its employees for the injuries sustained by them caused by the negligence of a fellow servant engaged generally in the same business, provided there be no negligence in the appointment of such servant or in the retention of such servant after notice of his incompetency.

That when an owner or operator of mines has employed a competent mine foreman and assistant, and an accident results to a workman in the mine from the negligence of such foreman or assistant, the common employer is not liable in damages for the injury arising from the accident. Such a negligence is held to be one of the risks of the business, which the workman takes upon himself.

Judge Rice, by deciding in favor of the defendant company, endorses the foregoing contentions, and points anew to the need of increased care in the selection of mine officials. Inasmuch as the conditions of successful mining are constantly becoming more perilous and severe, there should, if possible, be a corresponding increase in the standard of efficiency governing the selection of mine foremen and their assistants. If negligence can be established either in the selection or in the retention of unfit foremen, there would by this decision be a clear liability to compensatory damages. Examinations for mine foremen ought therefore to be frequent and rigid. It does not pay to take chances in this matter.

HEREAFTER it will be in order to provide our susceptible congressmen with male chaperones.

The Exposure is Complete. One of the pleasing features of the Breckinridge trial, if anything connected with that unfortunate affair can be said to be pleasing, is the honest and candid tone of numerous influential Democratic journals in Kentucky which might, through partisan reasons and considerations of state pride, be expected to let the defendant down easily. Very noteworthy in its vindication of the fairness of the press is the attitude of the Louisville Courier-Journal. While it has said nothing editorially, out of deference to the belief that outside comment during the trial of a case constitutes an impropriety, its headlines have been sufficiently suggestive.

Take these, for example, "Mr. Breckinridge Tells the Story of His Shameful Life;" "No Remorse for His Own Duplicity, No Pity for His Weak Victim;" "Soft and Silvery Were the De-

nia's That Fell From His Lips;" "Denies the Promise of Marriage, Denies That He is the Father of Her Children;" "He Has the Tongue of a Saint and the Blood of a Satyr." The lesson taught by the prompt exposure of a now notorious hypocrite is not without value to a generation which seems at times to doubt that eternal truth hauled down from venerable days: "Be sure your sins will find you out."

THE REFUSAL of the house yesterday to pass the Bland seigniorage bill over the president's veto ends for a time, at least the struggle of a section to get rich at the whole country's expense. Without doubt the free silver issue will figure largely in future politics. The seeds of false argument scattered broadcast by men like Teller, Stewart and Wolcott have been cunningly devised and ingeniously placed. Every man who has failed to properly invited to take free coinage for a cure; and there are many of such malcontents in these Democratic days. But right is bound to triumph in the end; and the delusion that fat makes wealth, killed once in this country, will eventually be re-killed.

TO-NIGHT'S MASS meeting in the armory, under the auspices of the committee in charge of the Sheridan monument fund, ought to witness a liberal outpouring of enthusiasm and funds. The hero of Winchester is one of the great generals of the century who has as yet received somewhat scant recognition in the direction of memorial statues. The fane of Lincoln, Grant and Sherman is secure beyond all doubt; and Scrantonians may therefore enter upon the movement to honor Sheridan with the assurance that they are practically leading the van in one of the truly creditable projects to-day before the American people.

NOW THAT Evangelist Rice has been discharged by the court, it is hinted that he will sue the mayor of Scranton for false imprisonment. —Wilkes-Barre Record.

And thus we should have the spectacle of a man not only defying the law but seeking damages from an official who did his duty by trying to enforce the law. But Rice has not yet got the better of law and order in this municipality, and Mayor Connell has not yet been sued, although for that we owe no thanks to the Record, or to the maudlin sentiment it endeavors to create.

WE DESPAIR of being able to convince the evidently obstinate Wilkes-Barre Record that the reason Mr. Rice was arrested in this city was not because he preached the gospel, but because he deliberately violated a city ordinance and resisted an officer. If, however, the Record can send a representative to the rearmament of the case next Saturday morning, we suspect it will get some of its mental kinks pretty thoroughly straightened out.

AMONG the Musicians.

Miss Jean Slee, of Morristown, N. J., who has been engaged as solo contralto at the Second Presbyterian church, possesses a voice of marvellous sweetness, which is under good control, and sings with dramatic effect. For some time past Miss Slee has acted as a supply at Grace church in New York. She was second choice for the position as solo alto in S. P. Warren's choir and has rendered solos during the absence of the regular contralto. The young vocalist, upon advice of physicians, has been obliged to seek a home away from the sea coast to avoid throat troubles, and it is upon this account that the Second church music committee has been enabled to secure her services. Miss Slee's voice was first heard in Scranton a year or two ago at a soiree given at the residence of Mrs. Thomas Dickson, where her singing was greatly admired. Her efforts at the church on Sunday last evoked many enthusiastic compliments from various members of the congregation possessing ability to criticize.

E. E. Southworth has removed his studio from Lackawanna avenue to rooms in Powell's building, which have been reconstructed especially for his use. In the matter of general arrangement and acoustic properties Mr. Southworth's studio is probably the most desirable of any in Scranton.

Miss Annette Reynolds, who has resigned her position as solo contralto at Second Presbyterian church, expects to continue her visits to this city during the summer to give instruction to numerous pupils in this vicinity. Miss Reynolds will assist George Carter at several organ recitals to be given in the near future.

Alfred Wooler, solo tenor at Elm Park church, is one of the most enthusiastic students in the city. Mr. Wooler's voice is constantly improving under tuition that he is receiving from Mrs. Kate Wilcox, the well known exponent of the Marchesi method.

Miss Annie Durkin, of the South Side, who won the first prize for piano solo at the Wilkes-Barreistedford recently, is one of the promising pupils of Haydn Evans.

Miss Lillian Hammett now has charge of Steele & Seelye's sheet music department.

John Howard, of New York, originator of the celebrated Howard system of vocal culture, will open a studio in Scranton in a few weeks.

The Only Real Remedy. The unlicensed grog shop thrives in defiance of the law and openly defies its authority. There is only one way to deal with it. Arrest and jail every proprietor of an unlicensed gin shop. In this way only will the community be rid of those moral pest houses.

Society's Incurable I Justice. Wayne Independent.

One of the curious phases of human opinion is that which sets up two different standards of morals for two persons equally involved in the commission of a sin or crime that one could not have committed alone.

One of the Season's Mysteries. Wilkes-Barre News-Dealer. The Scranton Times's serial story, "No. 10," has been substantially advertised, and its publication should begin without delay. The public are anxious to know what it is, and how it will be handled.

Merely a Moral Poem. New York Tribune. Instead of being a pillar of the Presbyterian church, it is now asserted that Colonel

Breckinridge was never more than a rhetorical minaret, pointing the way upward, not going himself.

Platt's Long Drawn Out. New York Commercial-Advertiser.

Cleveland has again demonstrated how easy it is for him to say in two columns what ordinary people can express in two paragraphs.

It Himself Once More. New York Commercial-Advertiser.

By introducing a bill for the free coinage of silver Senator Stewart has succeeded in exciting a suspicion that he has got his second wind.

Their Self Claim to Fame. Washington Post.

There are a great many men who would never be handed down to posterity if it were not for the illustrated patent medicine ads.

Doesn't See Its Way Clear. Minneapolis Times.

The Whitelaw Reid gubernatorial boom has withdrawn its prospectus pending propositions for a new series of guaranteed stock.

His Cue to Escap. Washington Post.

The present rush of important news matter gives Hon. Josiah Quincy an excellent opportunity to slip to the rear of the stage.

TO THOSE WHO FAIL. Courage, brave heart; nor in thy purpose falter; Go on and win the light at any cost. Though sick and weary after heavy conflict, Rejoice to know the battle is not lost.

The field is open still to those brave spirits Who nobly struggle till the strife is done, Through sun and storm with courage all undaunted, Working and waiting till the battle's won.

The fairest pearls are found in deepest waters, The brightest jewels in the darkest mine; And through the very blackest hour of midnight The star of Hope darts ever brightly shine.

Press on! press on! the path is steep and rugged, And storm clouds almost hide Hope's light from view; But you can pass where other feet have trodden; A few more steps may bring you safely through.

The battle o'er, a victor crowned with honors; By patient toil each difficulty past, You then may see these days of latter failure But spurned you on to greater deeds at last. —Solie Barlow in Chamber's Journal.

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