

SCRANTON TRIBUNE
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General Manager.

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THE SCRANTON TRIBUNE.
SCRANTON, APRIL 18, 1894.

WHEN THE Wilkes-Barre ball club ascends to play ball, it is possible that Scranton will favor it with a trouncing.

For the Young Who Toil.

The one reform in modern evangelism which is conspicuous above all others is the church's recent recognition of the need of greater social and secular usefulness. Followers of all sects and creeds are realizing in ample measure the need of a practical promulgation of the gospel which shall not feed the souls of men while their material bodies are starving and shall not confine its attention to spiritual truths while confronted with the intensifying sociological fact of growing poverty, increasing crime and multiplying secular evils.

In a thoughtful leading article in the April number of St. David's Guardian, Rev. M. Horace Mill, rector of St. David's Protestant Episcopal church on the West side, gives the outlines of a local project which admirably illustrates Christianity's latest mission. Noting the limited incomes of many families in Hyde Park, whereby hundreds of boys and girls are under the necessity of working for a livelihood in the different coal breakers, factories and mills instead of being in attendance at school, and recognizing the inadequacy of street corners and other vicious places of resort in the furnishing to these young toilers of wholesome recreation and amusement, Rev. Mr. Mill proposes, if assisted, to provide "a large, commodious building, containing bath rooms, reading rooms, an entertainment room and a gymnasium; to furnish it plainly and substantially; to invite the young to spend their evenings here instead of on the street or in the low places of amusement; and finally, to offer these opportunities entirely free of charge."

It affords THE TRIBUNE sincere pleasure to lay this proposition before such of its readers as may not have received the Guardian in the hope that an enterprise so manifestly praiseworthy may not languish for want of practical support. As an auxiliary to the intellectual and moral development of Hyde Park's young boys and girls we do not see how this proposed home could be improved. It would be the means of doing for the people of that portion of our city virtually what has been so well done for other portions by the Central City Young Men's Christian association, and as it would doubtless crowd its hours without reference to creed or race, there would exist in it a field of practically unbounded usefulness.

LAST FRIDAY the union printers of Williamsport went out on strike. For two days the four daily papers in that city were forced to suspend publication. But on the third day they had offers from 350 little compositors, or 300 more than were needed. Without assuming to discuss the merits of the Williamsport difficulty, it can be said that this is decidedly a poor season for a printers' strike.

A Vindication of Justice.

The recent prompt conviction of Antonio Ferro, the man who on the evening of Jan. 16 last shot and wounded Contractor Timothy Burke as the latter was standing on the rear platform of a crowded street car, furnishes a sharp rebuke to the mob spirit which, at the time of the shooting, sought to take Ferro's case out of the hands of the regularly ordained courts, in order that it might be committed to the passionate adjudication of Judge Lynch. Every charge pressed against this would-be assassin has been sustained by the ordinary and lawful processes of justice; and the people of Lackawanna county are freed from the unpleasant feeling which would have been their had the court been brushed aside for no reason and to no purpose.

Without doubt the circumstances of that crime were uncommonly aggravating. As in the case of the incendiary who, to gratify a grudge against one man, impelled the property of many men, this deed of Ferro's did more than to harm its immediate victim; it jeopardized the lives of many persons, who, had their indignation led them to administer instant punishment, might not inaptly have entered the plea of self-defense. But, however strong this provocation, it remains always to be considered that the effects of sudden mob law lead to a disorganization of law and order which more than offsets any temporary gratification of the excited spirit of revenge. In the present case such an arbitrary administration of punishment would have not only weakened the respect due our local courts, but it would, through widespread publication, have incited similar lawlessness elsewhere and brought a grave stigma to rest on Scranton's fame in the eyes of the entire world.

One fact should always be closely understood in this connection, and that is that if the regular courts do not meet popular requirements of efficiency, the people have none but themselves to blame. This is a government of the people; the courts are creations of the people; and sooner or later the standard of efficiency set by the courts will correspond with the standard demanded by the people. Thus when a community insults its courts

through an appeal to vigilante justice, it virtually insults its own citizens and delivers a blow which inevitably recoils on itself. Looking back at the crime of Antonio Ferro, dastardly and villainous as it undoubtedly was, there is probably no reflective Scrantonian who is not profoundly glad that it was committed to the calm adjudication of the authorized courts; and who would not have been profoundly sorry had the first impulse of vengeance swept away the dictates of reason.

JUDGE ALBRIGHT has established a rule that in all cases where the costs are put on either the defendant or prosecutor, the unfortunate one must serve the usual term of imprisonment before being allowed to escape the payment of costs. The effect of this rule in counties where a lenient insolvency act enables litigants to saddle heavy expenses on the taxpayers would be a sweeping step toward justice. In our own county one of the fruitful causes that have necessitated an increased tax levy for county purposes has been the facility with which petty complainants, after being sentenced to pay costs, have heretofore avoided such payment. A reform in the insolvency act is needed; but until that can be secured, Judge Albright's precedent offers a practical method of rectifying one of the greatest of court evils.

Our Dust Laden Streets.

The careless throwing of store and office sweepings out into the street, where gusts of wind pick the refuse up and hurl it into the faces of pedestrians, is doubtless responsible for a part of the constant dustiness of our asphalted avenues. The proposition submitted by Mr. Pond to the board of trade pledging that body's earnest cooperation with the mayor in his enforcement of the city ordinances relating to this nuisance is, therefore, wise and timely. In the case of Lackawanna avenue, for example, the casual tossing of waste paper into the gutter, indulged in thoughtlessly by several hundred persons each day, amounts in the aggregate to a real and formidable evil, which would be largely suppressed if each storekeeper and each passerby could be induced to desist from this practice.

But there is a difficulty which goes deeper into the question than this. It may be unhesitatingly affirmed that the asphalted business thoroughfares of Scranton will never be reasonably clean, no matter what the system of cleaning employed, so long as the cross streets that contribute to the traffic of these thoroughfares are paved with rotting wooden blocks, set in a plaster of dirt or mud. Every vehicle that passes over one of these stretches of jolty and primeval paving carries forward a collection of mud, dust and microbes which goes to swell the volume of filth on the asphalt surface. Every current of air that sweeps over these streets picks up a portion of the filth and deposits it on the smoother paving, where it is an easy prey to the eddy winds.

Under the law several years must unfortunately elapse in many localities before the property-owners along the line of this wooden-block paving can be compelled to contribute to new street repairs. But it is not too soon to bring prominently before the public the necessity of modern pavements throughout the city's business center. If those streets that are already satisfactorily paved are to be kept satisfactorily clean, it can be done in no other way than by paving with brick or asphalt the contributing streets. This may be followed by or preceded by the purchase of satisfactory street-cleaning apparatus; but it is in itself an indispensable step toward clean streets.

ONE OF THE sharpest political fights ever waged in the Pennsylvania judiciary is now on in Delaware county, the opposition aiming to defeat Judge Clayton for re-nomination. In the twenty years that Thomas J. Clayton has been on the bench it is charged that his percentage of blunders, as indicated in supreme court reversals, is 27, while of 55 judges whose work has been collated, he is placed 45th in inferiority. In addition, his opponents say that there are 2,000 naturalization cases which throw discredit on his candidacy, not to speak of other charges of a less interesting nature. The fact that such accusations can be brought with impunity by foremost Republicans against this president judge would seem to leave no further question as to his usefulness. L. K. Casar's wife, a judge should be as nearly as possible above even suspicion.

THE WORST thing about the Wilson bill, next to its income tax, is its utter abandonment of reciprocity. Commerce and trade has already been made with Brazil, the Dominican Republic, Spain for Cuba and Porto Rico, Guatemala, Salvador, the German empire, Great Britain for certain colonies, Nicaragua, Honduras and Austria-Hungary; and during the first year of their operation our export trade in wheat, flour, meat and dairy products, lumber and products of iron and steel manufacture increased \$20,772,621, or an average of 35 per cent. The goods which we were getting in exchange for these growing exports were goods that we could not produce at home, and upon which, therefore, a tariff duty added itself to the cost price. Yet the Democratic party abruptly abandons this magnificent policy, not, indeed, because it is not a good policy indorsed by the wisest statesmen in our history, but because it happened to be formulated by a Republican congress.

IN ACCEPTING his election as Chairman of the Democratic state committee, Mr. Stranahan, who, as deputy attorney general, took no serious action to dissolve the tri-partite Reading lease, which was afterward voluntarily dissolved because of its conceded conflict with the Pennsylvania constitution, has the sublime audacity to charge the Republican party with neglecting that constitution. Mr. Stranahan is far and away the most perfect political comedian in the state.

MR. DEFEW is supplying an abundance of readable copy for the inquisitive western reporters. He has been interviewed within three days upon nearly 400 different subjects, and has had something bright to say with reference to each. The latest Depewism

is emphatically the best. Quizzed in respect of Lawyer Phil Thompson's defense of Breckinridge, Dr. Osuncey promptly replied: "Thompson's philosophy is false and the statements which proceeded it are untrue. Ninety-nine per cent of the American people of both sexes are true and pure in their home lives. His accusation of general immorality is a slander, and his charge that all men are libertines is a sweeping falsehood." All honor to Depew, the champion of virtue!

KEEP AN EYE on Field Marshal Stranahan, and you will be rewarded by seeing regular dray loads of fun.

GOSSIP
Of Politicians.

The Philadelphia Press, commenting upon the near expiration of Judge Archibald's present term, says: "Judge Archibald's services on the bench are such that he is entitled to an unopposed re-election and the Democrats of the county could not do themselves a better service than to elect him for his third term. Judge Gunster, a Democrat on the bench of that district, was given his first election by the united action of Democrats and Republicans in his favor, and this is a good time to repeat that demonstration of non-partisanship in the election of a judge."

A question of some interest just now is how the Stewart delegates will stand after the complimentary stage of the lieutenant governorship fight. Those elected in Montgomery county declare they are for the genial secretary of internal affairs first, last and all the time; but this talk is perhaps for effect. The general opinion seems to be that Robinson will be Colonel Stewart's legate.

If Carbon, Monroe and Pike counties can be combined against Northampton, Howard Maitcher will be defeated for re-nomination. If political notions were to be discovered there would be a great collapse in certain values. The one contingency is about as probable as the other.

Representative Robinson is far from being discouraged. In a current interview he is quoted as saying: "There is not a politician in the state from Quay down to the ward workers who does not know that I can beat Lyon if they will only let us go on our own merits. There was never a convention at Harrisburg in the history of the Republican party that had so many young, active and brilliant spirits as will be gathered together May 23, who will have their wits about them and their lances in place. You can put it down that there will be no 'skull-jugery' in Harrisburg, and that the field for nominations shall be fair and open, as Mr. Quay promised me it should be, and as he intends it shall be."

One of the effects of Lancaster county's strong vote against Cameron's re-election will, in the opinion of many, be to project Senator Quay's personality still more prominently before the politicians of the country. Those who hold this opinion profess to see in his re-election against the Wilson bill, with its startling proposition of silver monometallism and a 100 per cent. ad valorem tariff of exchange, one step toward the occupancy of a more conspicuous role in national affairs than has been his until now. It is pointed out that while the Republican masses dislike Cameron they have never, in any number, withdrawn their personal admiration from Colonel Quay.

At the recent Lancaster county primary a proposed amendment to the rules governing Republican primary elections was voted down by several thousand majority. It provided that any Republican who had not the local, county, state or national ticket should be barred from the primaries.

The feeling of a great majority of the average Republican voters of Pennsylvania is that the Republican candidates for the offices there are in it and who are influenced in their political faith by the same honest and upright lines of reasoning that make them free traders or Protectionists, Darwinians or believers in the Mosaic account of creation, admirably expressed in the following words by the Wilkes-Barre Record: "Cameronism is clearly on the wane. It has reached the apex of its power, and every day it steps must be downward. It has done a great deal toward the unification of the party in Pennsylvania, and for this is entitled to its full share of praise. But the people have outgrown all this, and are beginning to discover that Republican success does not depend upon any one man or set of men; but it is not necessary to lay down before a political faction in order to win at the polls, and that it is not so much men as principles that the party should cleave to."

Democracy's new state chairman, James A. Stranahan of Mead, is a native of Philadelphia and 53 years old. He studied law under Saml. I. Griffin and Judge John Truiper, was admitted to the bar in 1864 and since has been largely in a narrative and growing practice. In 1873, in a district strongly Republican, he was elected to the legislature as a Democrat; in 1876 was a national delegate to the convention that nominated Tilden; in 1891 he supplied the six votes needed to nominate Pattison for governor, for which good turn he got coolly thanked, and when, at the Scranton convention in 1893, he again conducted the Tilden campaign, he was rewarded with an appointment as deputy attorney general to a chief to whom he could give no face words and trumps in legal learning, and still beat him hands down. Mr. Stranahan is probably one of the most popular yet dignified politicians in the state. He has a great intellect; but owing to his English ancestry he has earned the sobriquet of "Slippery Jim."

POLITICS IN SMALL DOSES: The Democratic State convention will meet in Harrisburg Wednesday, June 27. Elliott P. Rice of Lehigh county, the new county project is emphatically not dead.

Among the state press the county commissioning has seemed to be growing in favor; and its application to cover smaller counties is undoubtedly a growing possibility. State Chairman Stranahan will at once open Democratic headquarters in Harrisburg. Benjamin M. Reed, of Harrisburg, will be continued as secretary, a position he has filled for five years. S. F. Long of Philadelphia, formerly of Bucks, is a candidate for the Republican nomination for secretary of internal affairs. He once came within 500 votes of carrying Bucks county for state senator. The Seventh district of those into which Pennsylvania is divided in order to accommodate ambitious Democratic politicians anxious for a title of some kind will this year be presided over, in a partisan sense, by John M. German, of Nantcoke, Luzerne county's easy-going district attorney. It

includes the counties of Bradford, Columbia, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Northumberland, Schuylkill, Sullivan, Susquehanna and Wyoming, all of which, under District Chairman German's able leadership, ought next fall to give largely increased Republican pluralities.

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