

The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, MAY 30, 1894.

REPUBLICAN STATE TICKET.

- For Governor: DANIEL H. HASTINGS, OF CENTRE. For Lieutenant Governor: WALTER LYON, OF ALLEGHENY. For Auditor General: AMOS K. MYLIN, OF LANCASTER.

WE WISH to congratulate the Scranton ball club upon its apparent rejuvenation from a prolonged attack of last place.

Where Sleep the Brave.

There is something far deeper in the reverence evinced today for fallen patriots than a perfunctory sentiment. The people are learning nowadays to appreciate patriotism—not necessarily that which is loudest in its noise and rattle, although that has its uses; but rather that firm, true kind which backs its convictions if need be by the shedding of its very life blood, and counts no sacrifice which inures to the perpetuity of our free institutions.

In all ages men have acclaimed their military chieftains. There has never been a lack of deference for wearers of the shoulder straps. We honor them living and we defy them dead. It is the special glory of the memorial anniversary which befalls today that it is almost the only national testimonial offered in any country to the heroic, long-suffering and ill-paid rank and file. America thus supplies its grandest tribute to those centuries of foundation in which rank and caste and aristocratic privilege sought to rob the masses of their natural and divine rights.

A day so hallowed in its origin and in its import should be kept clean. It is not a fit day for boisterous and vociferous pastimes. Even innocent merriment becomes by contrast with the pathetic seriousness of its true meaning almost a profanation. The idle and thoughtless sportiveness which selects for its particular occasion this sublime anniversary of a nation's reverent grief, and which unwittingly commingles its vain noises with the sound of eulogy and the sob of sorrow is so obviously inappropriate as to call for strong dissent.

Fortunately, a past tendency toward unthinking merry making is receiving check and correction.

It was scarcely necessary for John Leisinger to deny the transparent charge of an erratic Wilkes-Barre contemporary that he had made improper use of money in his candidacy for the Republican nomination for congress. Apart from the fact that his own character is as clean as that of any Republican competitor, the animus of the charge was too apparent to give it seriousness. The worthy gentleman in whose behalf it was made, but who we do not believe was responsible for the break, might well pray to be saved from his friends.

A Newgatherer's Responsibility. An interesting discussion is waging in certain newspapers with reference to the attitude assumed by Congressman E. J. Edwards toward the special senate committee which is investigating the accusations written by him and printed in the Philadelphia Press touching the relations of the sugar trust toward Secretary Carlisle, the senate finance committee and the management of the last Democratic campaign. The charges made by Mr. Edwards, in his function as a newgatherer and by the Press, in its function as a publisher, upon the authority of informants in New York whose names both correspondent and the newspaper decline to make public without permission, are already known to our readers and were, indeed, known to some of them even prior to their original publication in the Press. In brief they were that in exchange for a cash contribution to the Cleveland campaign fund amounting to about \$500,000, received from the American Sugar Refining company or its agents, the Democratic managers agreed, if restored to power, to make such changes in the tariff schedule relating to sugar as would be satisfactory to that company, through its political representatives; and that the overhauling which the Wilson bill got when it reached the senate was, so far as related to protection dicker. Mr. Edwards, summoned to testify before the senate investigating committee, re-affirms the accuracy of his original report so far as it purports to be the result of confidential interviews with prominent and well-informed men; but declines to recognize the power of the committee to exact or extort from him, by legal process, the names of these informants, claiming it would violate compacts of confidence and impair his future usefulness as a gatherer of news much of which is similarly obtained with the understanding that the identity of the news givers is to be kept secret.

Very naturally, from such a promise it follows that differing partisans draw different conclusions. Republican journals, as a rule, applaud Mr. Edwards for his loyalty to his pledge of secrecy; while Democratic journals wax antipathetically indignant at what they term his baseness in uttering allegations which he cannot or dare not sustain. To even the superficial observer it is evident that there is something of justice in both these contentions, considered theoretically. If everything in this fallible world moved with the precision of logic, it would be morally wrong and practically reprehensible for a man to write as coming

from another that which he is not legally convinced is the truth; or for that informant to say things which he is unwilling to stand out in the open and unequivocally acknowledge. It is unhappily a different condition which exists in real life. From a common sense standpoint which includes a reasonable recognition of the fact that men and conditions are as yet imperfect, it would seem to be a sufficient responsibility to place upon a newgatherer to insist that he shall exercise due diligence in inquiring into the truth of reports which come to him, and shall write for publication only that to which circumstances known to him may give the appearance of credibility. Reports thus prepared should stand or fall on their own truthfulness or lack of truthfulness. The libel law in most states gives to any aggrieved person ample opportunity for establishing a just claim for damages, and further than that, provides for the adequate punishment of those who utter a libel, with criminal intent.

In the particular case which serves us as a text for these general remarks, it is to be observed that, wholly independent of Mr. Edwards' so-called confidential interviews, circumstances and duly credited assertions point to a conspiracy practically identical with that outlined in Mr. Edwards' article. Even though Mr. Edwards had falsified in the attributing of fictitious interviews to unnamed "prominent men," the case against the Democratic party would still be sufficient, in most minds, to convict it of duplicity, corruption and flagrant breach of trust. Although interesting, the senate investigating committee's pursuit of "Holland" is wholly apart from the main issue. That issue is whether or not Secretary Carlisle and other Democrats did make or recognize a deal with the sugar trust; and endeavor to carry that corrupt bargain out, Mr. Edwards, in massing circumstantial affirmative evidence into a printed article of dangerous import to future Democratic hopes, is merely one of sixty million citizens who begin to suspect that this charge is true. Although he should be made out a falsifier, there would yet remain unimpaired 30,000,000 witnesses who view with amazement a Democratic series of economic flip flops explicable only upon the ground of hypocrisy or idiocy; and who would yet utter the same arraignment at the polls, that Mr. Edwards formulated in a communication to the Philadelphia newspaper.

It is not contemplated in a republic that certain citizens may select at will such laws as they may choose to obey, and then deliberately break the remainder.

The Saratoga Assembly. In no important particulars has the Saratoga general assembly disappointed expectation or departed from the predicted routine of its work. It not only gave no encouragement to those who, under the plea of higher criticism, sought to invalidate the very essentials of orthodox Presbyterianism, but it demonstrated, kindly yet effectively, that the sentiment of sectarian opinion has described its heretical congress and is now reverting to the immemorial traditions.

To those who concur in the beliefs and teachings of Drs. Briggs and Smith this is only superficially a misfortune. It can in no wise retard what they believe to be the progress of the truth to insist, as the Saratoga general assembly has practically insisted, that if truth implies disrespect to denominational obligations voluntarily assumed, then it must be preached outside the orthodox pale.

The World of Religions thought is ample for the accommodation of all shades and phrases of faith and belief. It is the decision of Presbyterians that what Professor Briggs teaches as Presbyterianism is not Presbyterianism. They, and not he, ought to be the judges. He, in all fairness, ought not to call by their name teachings which they repeatedly disavow. It were wiser, manlier and better to select a new denominational alliance where the utterance of his beliefs will not work havoc to the integrity of that sect.

In holding "Holland" in contempt the Democratic senate is giving a lucid object lesson in reciprocity.

The Soft Coal Strike. The reported decision of bituminous coal operators representing three-fourths the output of northwestern Pennsylvania, to replace the labor now on strike by labor imported from other states, and possibly to some extent from other countries, will, if executed, be a real misfortune. The sentiment in this country against the introduction of foreign contract labor is not to be mistaken. It exists not only as sentiment, but also as law; and though that law may, as charged, be full of loopholes, it must at no remote date be effectively overhauled and strengthened. If, then, it be objectionable to import labor from another country, under contract, who shall say that it is less objectionable, other things being equal, to bring it in by wholesale from distant states? No doubt these bituminous coal operators feel that they have provocation. Their mines are idle because their old employes have refused to remain at work. They are losing money; at least, their former income has been interrupted. But have they exhausted all reasonable efforts to effect an amicable settlement? Is their present action the last recourse after genuine and earnest, yet fruitless, determination to discuss the points at issue with the men, frankly and candidly, in a spirit that takes due account of the occupational penitence of men who are also sufferers from widespread business depression, and who lack the reserve funds necessary to "hide them over the crisis"?

riers of anthracite. Should it prove to be the true one, it would supply another emphatic argument for effective regulation by congress of interstate commerce; and the lesson would be intensified if this rumored intention to import other miners should be the means of throwing thousands of men with families into permanent idleness and want.

Vindicating Outraged Law. Judge Craig's prompt order for the arrest of those known to have been participants in the recent lynching at Stroudsburg of the negro Furyear promises wholesome results. Only the merest fraction of Monroe county's citizenship really sympathized with that barbarous resort to a more barbarous arbitrament. It is natural in the excitement of an aggravating crime for persons to say things which their entire judgment will not approve. Within twenty-four hours after the taking of Puryear's life by a mob it must have been apparent to all reflecting citizens at or near the scene of the outrage that a grievous error had been committed, which compromised not only the reputation of those responsible for the deed, but also reflected in a measure upon the entire commonwealth.

The bringing to justice of these lynchers is not urged in a spirit of resentment or pique. There is in it a sense rather of profound compassion that ordinarily upright men and good citizens should have been so far swayed by momentary passion as to add crime to crime. But law cannot be ignored with impunity even by excited avengers. The exacting of an exemplary penalty for violations of law is a fundamental rule, not more of human courts than of divine institutions. Statutes are repressive rather than vindictive. The lynchers who pay no reasonable penalty for his crime becomes a standing incentive to repetitions of that crime, and to that extent achieves the dignity of a public menace.

It has been intimated that past hesitancy in official action in this instance had for its inspiration to some degree the exigencies of politics. We do not know and hence do not charge that this is true. But if it were, it would illustrate a common fallacy in urgent need of popular correction. That time is disappearing when neglect of official duty can be excused under the idea that it coincides with good politics. There is forming a sure conviction that the safest claim to honest civic support is comprised in duty fearlessly performed, let the chips fall where they may.

MAY 30.

Hang out the flag, the dear old flag, upon the outer wall. I hear again the fife's shrill notes, the bugle's mellow call. Once more the veterans fill the ranks, in files not serried, though, As when they marched into the south some thirty years ago. I hear the sound of marching men, the tramp of myriad feet, The steady footfalls echo all along the paved street. They follow where "Old Glory" leads, with solemn step and slow, Not light and springy as they marched some thirty years ago. Year after year they fewer grow, their ranks are thinning fast, And more graves dot the hillside slopes as every May goes past, And gray heads nod along the line where dark hair used to grow. When marching down in Dixie's land some thirty years ago, I seem to view again the scenes when men went marching forth; I seem to see again the grand uprising of the north; I hear again the echoing cheer, the plaudits of the crowd, And see the boys march to the front with valiant men and proud. I see the father's brief farewell, the mother's fond embrace, I note the lover's sad goodbye, the torn wife's tear stained face; The children's hair bewildered look so suited to their years, When tinseled and display so ill seem cause for mother's tears. I hear the ringing cheers for those who're marching forth to meet Honor and fame and victory, perchance death or defeat. Some went to meet a chattered life, with valiant hearts and brave, And some, like those who march today, were marching toward the grave. I seem to see again arise the clouds of sulphurous smoke; I hear again the clanging hoofs, the saber's vigorous stroke; I hear the p-p-p of minie balls, the cannon's loud muffled roar, The clash of steel, the human yells, the fiery hate of war. I see the comrades' parched lips wet from the same canteen; I see men die for other men; I see the true and brave Form comradeship and brotherhood that lasts beyond the grave. I hear again the battery that rang at Malvern Hill, The cheer that rose at Round Top, the shout at Chancellorsville; I see again the sailor men sweep up through Mobile bay; I see the flights on Lookout Heights and Allatoona's fray. I see the famous seaward march; I see the bummers' navy; I see the mine at Petersburg burst up with columnary glory. The panorama passes on, with shriek and yell and rattle, The pandemonium and din and carnage of the battle. Now all goes calmer once again, and Johnnies' homeward march, And flags are waved, and cheers are given, and towns their highways arch. Sweet peace unites on the land once more, but many sad tears flow. For those who staid in Dixie's land some thirty years ago. The panorama's passed away; the years have sped along; I hear again the tramping feet, the murmur of the throng, 'Tis not a gala day parade, nor yet a martial show, As when they marched to Dixie's land some thirty years ago. Hang out the flag, the dear old flag, upon the outer wall. When sounds again the shrill toned fife, the bugle's mellow call. Once more the veterans fill the ranks and tramp with footsteps slow To honor dead, who tramped with them some thirty years ago. They hide no hatred in their hearts for those who wore the gray, But comradeship of bygone years will bind brave hearts for aye. With those who struggled side by side fraternal love must grow As ranks grow thin of those who marched some thirty years ago. HARRY J. SHELLMAN.

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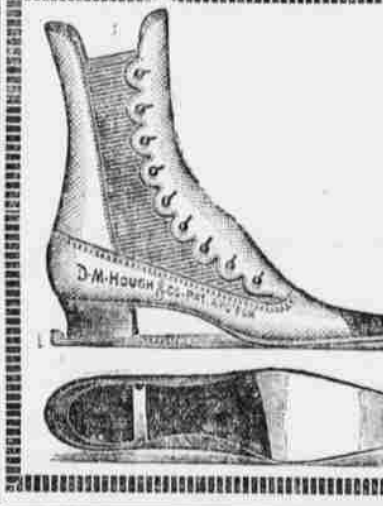
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