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UNION LABEL

SCRANTON, MAY 10, 1895.

The Bar Banquet.

The annual banquet of the Lackawanna County Bar association at the Hotel Terrace last evening, like all the festive occasions conducted under its auspices, was enjoyable, both physically and intellectually. Such pleasantries and such good fellowship soften the asperity of professional rivalry and ease the routine of the daily struggle for subsistence. And even the more serious features of banquets such as this are remembered and put to profitable use long after the conviviality itself shall have passed into oblivion.

We have no doubt, for instance, that the address of ex-Congressman Amerman will survive its immediate occasion, because it strikes at a vital defect in our entire judicial system. The exaltation of precedent over equity, of statute over justice, natural to mediaeval ages, becomes odious in an era of public intelligence, and constitutes, in the judgment of a growing minority of thinkers, a serious blemish on our present judicature. We cannot add force to the many examples which Mr. Amerman cited, some close to home, wherein, under existing forms, the execution of law has been synonymous with the official perpetration of gross injustice; but we can say to the Bar association of Lackawanna county that the attorney who does not constantly strive to promote justice, regardless of technicalities, is not an ornament to his profession, and will one day discover that that profession has left him behind.

The time is ripe for a vigorous uprising of the progressive element of the legal profession in favor of reformed methods and simplified codes. Of all the vocations, that which the lawyer follows lags farthest in the rear, is most burdened with the accumulated barnacles of outworn tradition and lifeless precedent, and offers the finest field for intelligent purification. It will not be presumptuous to expect that in the inevitable work of reformation, Lackawanna county will perform, as usual, an honorable part.

More Income Tax Idiocy.

The announcement that coal companies which own their own coal land, or mine under an absolute title to mineral deposits, are exempt from the income tax, while companies which lease coal on the royalty plan are taxed, supplies a new illustration of the beautiful consistency of this beautiful tax. In the one case, wealth escapes; while in the other, enterprise often not backed by much wealth is made to pay. But in either case, the owner of the land itself goes free, although it is nowadays usually he who realizes the most lucrative percentage of the transaction.

The plan of Bertie Vanalstyne, in the play "Henrietta," for gambling in Wall street is simplicity itself compared with the plan underlying the present income tax. Bertie tossed up a coin; if the date fell odd, he bought stock, if even, he sold it. In deciding who shall and who shall not pay an income tax, the government appears to have lacked Bertie's lucid logic, and to have selected for mulcting those upon whom its levying would seem most unjust.

It probably, however, does not make a great deal of difference how this tax would operate, since there is abundant reason to expect that the Supreme court will, after the present rehearing, knock it wholly senseless.

Getting Excited.

One of the speakers at a gold rally in Chicago, the other evening, after lustily denouncing as "demagogues" and "flatists" all who believe, with the last national Republican platform, in the use of both gold and silver as standard money, proceeded to paint the following prophetic picture:

If, in November of next year, the calamity of an election declaring in favor of free coinage of silver should befall this country, it would take at least six months before the mandate of the people could be formed into a law. Every debt due on demand, or which falls due during that time, would have to be paid in full. No creditor, in a position to demand payment in full, would renew his debt and risk payment in 50-cent dollars. All bank deposit accounts are payable on demand. Every depositor would ask immediate payment. The banks in the United States generally hold a reserve in currency equal to no more than 30 per cent. of their deposits. Their reserves would therefore be unable to pay 70 per cent. of their deposits. In other words, an election in favor of free coinage would immediately result in the bankruptcy of every bank in the country. There is not one that would be strong enough to weather the storm. What this means can better be imagined than expressed in words. Europe would send back our bonds and take all our gold, and a good deal of our silver. There would be a money famine. We would have a panic to which none in the history of the world could be compared. Credit would be absolutely destroyed. Business would be at a standstill. Factories would be closed, labor thrown out of employment, and, to judge from past experiences, it would take many years before commerce and industry would again reach its equilibrium. In the eyes of the world we would be a bankrupt nation.

What perplexes us, in this connection, is to know how excited this speaker will become in July, judging from his state of mind in the mild month of May. If the discussion of the silver question is to degenerate into a concerted and indiscriminate calamity howl, then the sooner it is ended, the better.

Hypnotism and Therapeutics.

The assertion of Dr. William Lee Howard, in a paper read before the American Medical association, that hypnotism is the best possible remedy for insomnia, dipsomania and alcoholism; and that its skilful application for anaesthetic purposes is preferable to the use of drugs brings up for discussion an interesting scientific question. While only one well-authenticated death is on record as due to the employment of hypnotic suggestion, Dr. Howard believes that the use of this powerful agency for therapeutic purposes should be strictly regulated by law. All public demonstrations should be suppressed by legal action, and the courts take cognizance of citizens being subjugated by any unqualified experimeter. He cites the recent Briggs-Pickens case at Eau Claire, Wis., and the Anderson-McDonald case, just decided by the supreme court of Kansas, wherein the hypnotized or automatic murderer was acquitted and the hypnotizer sentenced to death, and asserts that crime could be committed through hypnotic suggestion.

He also claims that hypnotism is a justifiable inquisitorial agent for finding clews and quotes a number of cases where the proof was gotten from hypnotized persons. He dissents from the view that a person who commits a crime by post-hypnotic suggestion is punishable, because he might have seen the possibility of such suggestion, but admits that "if the hypnotized party knew previously that the hypnotizer had this power and was a man of criminal habits and inclinations, and that he himself was subject to hypnotic influence, and yet, while in full possession of his will, he placed himself in such a position as to be within the scope of hypnotic influence, I am strongly of the opinion that a certain degree of legal responsibility attaches to him for any crime he may commit, either under the influence of hypnotic or post-hypnotic suggestion. His position might fairly be held to be somewhat analogous to that of an engineer by whose carelessness a passenger was killed, the absence of criminal intent being the same in either case."

It is obvious that the general acceptance of these views by the medical profession will open a new field almost limitless in its possibilities. The impossibility, under present standards, of putting hypnotic phenomena upon the plane of fixed evidence, will becloud its use quite as seriously in medicine as in law. And if we admit that a physician, by means of the exercise of his will power upon a patient, may conquer disease, who will dare take issue with the Christian Scientists, who make the even more plausible claim of Divine intervention apart from drugs? While honest investigation of new theories is to be encouraged, it is well not to be too precipitate in exchanging a familiar system of therapeutics for one which as yet is only nebulous and uncertain.

Reasonable Dissatisfaction.

We doubt if it is fair in any newspaper to assert that those who are dissatisfied with the present condition of this government's currency are trying to prevent the recovery of trade or have any wish to retard the forward progress of prosperity. We should be extremely reluctant to believe that any considerable number of persons in the United States would deliberately seek to rob a creditor or cheat a debtor by legislative enactment. Hence we deprecate the use, by any person, of harrowing rhetoric tending to reflect upon the morality of the American people.

If those who advocate a single gold standard wish to make converts, we suspect that they will have to offer convincing proof (1) that there is enough gold in the United States to serve as a safe basis for our currency, and (2) that that gold will preserve a comparatively stable commodity value, neither appreciating or depreciating to any perceptible extent, over a long period of time. We do not believe that they can make many converts simply by calling the other side names. On the other hand, friends of silver will do well to confine their remarks to proving, if possible, that a prolongation of the present single gold standard will mean a less stable and therefore a less honest standard than a bimetallic standard would afford, wherein the two metals, gold and silver, operate each as a check upon the other's tendency to fluctuate. They will not win many adherents by the employment of offensive epithets.

At a time when the government's receipts are so much lower than its expenses that the government has to sell bonds so as to get gold to do business with, dissatisfaction is to be expected. The American people would be lacking in spirit if they should fail to evince marked dissatisfaction over so anomalous a condition of their fiscal affairs. They have a right to expect a balance of trade in their favor. They have a right to expect a sufficiently ample and elastic volume of sound currency to render it possible for them to transact business with a reasonable chance for profits. And when these things are both lacking, they have a right to consider how they may best correct the deficiency.

It seems fair to argue that if we continue the gold dollar as the standard of value in this country, our standard will fluctuate every time gold fluctuates. On the other hand, if we make the dollar itself our unit, whether of gold or silver, and decree a ratio bringing the metals to a parity at the mints, we shall have a stable currency, no matter what the market fluctuation in gold or silver may be. Those who call this "flatism" should realize that a government like the United States has other wealth than its precious metal wealth; and that whatever 60,000,000 honest Americans say they will back with 100 cents' worth of value will be quite likely to pass current as a dollar, the world over.

Now that the railway committee of common council has reported with a favorable recommendation the Seamans' ordinance requiring the Scranton Traction company to equip their cars, within 60 days, with safety fenders, the public will expect this common-sense measure to pass both branches and speedily become a law. Fenders fend elsewhere; they should be made to fend in Scranton.

The personnel of the Philadelphia probing committee assures that when the committee gets down to business, the fur will fly. The compliment paid to Senator Hardenbergh in his appointment as a member is a happy and at the same time a deserved recognition of his worth. There will be no quarter for trickery where he has a voice.

The Scranton Traction company would confer a favor on many persons if it would supply sufficient cars to accommodate those who wish to go to the base ball park without hazarding life or limb in a frantic stampede for insufficient standing room. This remark applies, also, to nearly every other occasion.

The form in which the Farr bill has reached the governor differs in no material sense from the form in which that excellent measure originally passed the house. Executive approval of it will mark a new era in the progress of popular education in Pennsylvania.

The proposed tax of 24 cents per barrel on beer would yield the state about $825,000 annually. It is a tax which would be felt by few persons other than brewers; and in an emergency like that which now confronts the commonwealth it would seem to be an advantageous source of revenue.

"Fighting Jack" Robinson has just emerged victorious from a spirited local political scrimmage with ex-Collector Cooper. Whatever may be true in other sections, there does not appear to be much doubt of Mr. Robinson's supremacy in Delaware.

Representative Harvey, of the Second Luzerne district, says he has been a consistent and persistent opponent of Quay county. How will this affect Mr. Harvey's standing with the esteemed Pittston Gazette?

It is simply stating the truth to say that from recent embarrassments Senator Penrose has emerged bearing the stamp of a man. He is a figure in the politics of Pennsylvania worth keeping in view.

It is possible that when a certain Philadelphia politician declared, soon after Mayor Warwick's election, that he intended to retire from politics he spoke more truly than he then realized.

Now that Mayor Strong has signed the bi-partisan police bill, it will be in order for the reforming to begin. It will have to proceed with rapidity if it expects to make up for lost time.

Bimetallists who want an international agreement will not be likely to have that want supplied while a Democratic president is doing his best to ignore it.

There can be very little doubt that the Toronto Base Ball club has achieved its present standing in the Eastern league race by sheer deserving.

Mr. Cleveland's evident touchiness in the matter of newspaper criticism is a happy compliment to the properly-exerted power of the press.

ANNETTE.

I.

With dimpled chin upon her hands,
Her elbows on the balustrade;
Upon the balcony she stands
And leans to hear my serenade.
Down in the dusk with my guitar,
I sing with all my soul astir,
About a flower—a bird—a star,
And how they all resemble her.
"Annette! Annette!!
My soul is set
To win you for my own, my pet!"

(I think she smiles—Oh, Cupid's wreath!
She smiles—I think I see her teeth!)

II.

Ah, might I touch her tangled curls,
And put a kiss on each blue eye;
Ah, could I clasp this queen of girls
I think I'd be prepared to die!
I know a pair of other chaps
Who find in her the same delight;
And I suspect that one, perhaps,
Will call on her this very night.
"But yet, but yet,
You can't forget,
That you are mine, my own Annette."

('Tis thus I sing, and thus conceal
The sad uncertainty I feel.)

III.

The darkness grows, but still I thrum,
And with my song beslege my dear;
She rises up! Ah, will she come,
My rosebud girl, and join me here?
She rises up, and, half withdrawn,
She lingers, loth to break the charm.
I wonder what she's leaning on—
By George! it is my rival's arm!
"Annette! Annette!!
You sly coquette,
My soul is bitter with regret."

(I'm angry, mortified, and so
I'll bag my damp guitar and go.)

—Howard S. Taylor.

ONE LAW OF NATURE.

The Cost of Production Is Bound to Decrease, and No Artificial Effort to Stop This Decrease Will Be Effectual.

An extremely interesting comparison of the mechanical aptitudes of different nationalities is given in an interview with Hiram S. Maxim, published in the New York Sun. Among some of the deductions made by Mr. Maxim, the Journal of Commerce notes the following: The work that the English mechanic used to have a monopoly of is fast going to France and Germany, according to Mr. Maxim, because the English mechanic will not do a fair day's work, and the mechanics of the continent are willing to do that. Once it was necessary for the workman to hold the iron turning lathe. Of course one man could only tend one lathe. Now the lathe is automatic. The article to be turned is automatically fed to the cutting instrument, and except to change the cutting instrument, which is done quickly and not very often, the man in charge has nothing to do. Yet the labor unions will not allow one man to tend more than one lathe, while in France and Germany one man will tend four or six. In the Maxim-Nordenfeldt factory the labor unions refused to allow one man to tend more than one milling machine, and insisted that only skilled workmen should be employed. After having had a strike in their shops the company discovered that one unskilled laborer could tend four milling machines perfectly well, and in a French shop Mr. Maxim found a woman tending six milling machines which were running about twice as fast as the machines ran in England.

The English labor unions regulate the amount of time that must be spent, or squandered, upon each piece of work. In the mechanism of the Maxim gun is a piece of metal called a gib, which weighs but half an ounce. When the Maxim guns were made singly this piece was forged, rough-shaped and filed to fit, and the labor unions rated it at the work of one day and a half. When the guns were made by the hundred the gibs were produced by machinery and required only a little filing. Yet it was still rated at a day and a half, and no member of a union dared finish one in less than a day and a half. A German mechanic was set to work on these things, and he made eleven the first day and twelve daily thereafter. When testing one of the guns in this country a gib broke and Mr. Maxim went to a local machine shop to have it replaced. From the time the steel was cut from the bar till the gib was finished was exactly two hours and a half.

Machine-made lace used to come almost entirely from England; on account of repeated strikes and the interference of the labor unions much of this work has gone to France, where there has been no strike in the lace works. Strikes are said to have driven the manufacture of crepe from England to Germany. A firm in England had almost a monopoly of the manufacture of a printed linen fabric that looked like wool and was extensively sold in tropical countries; a large order having been obtained, but at a low price, the men struck for an advance in wages which would have wiped out the profit and left the manufacturers in debt on the contract. They went over to France and got the fabric made, and it was so much better than that which had been made in England than when, after a time, the English workmen were willing to take wages that would render it possible to have the work done in their country, it was found that the English goods were no longer acceptable; the French work was much better. Several other instances of this sort are mentioned by Mr. Maxim.

It is a law of nature that the cost of production should be decreased. It is only along the line of diminished cost of production that civilization advances, and if the labor unions of England or of the United States are determined to make production as costly as possible, they will certainly find occupation slipping away from their members.

IN LIGHTER VEIN.

There was an old woman who lived in a shoe;
She had so many children she didn't know what to do;
But when the shoe and leather trusts put up the price on hides,
She sold the shoe and bought a house and had money left besides.

—Washington News.

We met—'twas in a crowd;
We ne'er may meet again;
My heart with grief is bowed—
He stole my watch and chain!

—Life.

The bird now tunes his merry lay
With many a trill and twist;
And the mosquito, sad to say,
Is next upon the list.

—Washington Star.

"I don't deny," said Bibulus,
"That whishkey is my foe;
Thatsh jesser reashon that I liksh
The poison stuff (hic) so;
The good book saysh that we muz love
Our enemies, y' know."

—Kansas City Journal.

* * *

DISQUALIFIED:

Paynter—What was the reason that the committee of judges refused to exhibit Pallet's new picture in the salon?

Krayon—Why, everybody who saw the picture could tell at a glance what its subject was.—Chicago Record.

* * *

CO-OPERATION:

The happy youth and maiden fair
Rode out, the summer through,
For charming runs the country o'er
On a cycle built for two.

They married when the autumn came,
And now they try to run
A little house in Lonesomehurst
On an income built for one.

—Brooklyn Life.

* * *

NOT MEANT LITERALLY:

Dora—Have you decided what you will wear at the hotel hop tonight?

Cora—Do you know, I have thought of absolutely nothing.—Clothier and Furnisher.

Mason—Why does Jason prefer taking a walk on Fifth avenue on Sunday morning to going to church?

Payson—He says he likes to read sermons in stones rather than listen to sermons from sticks.—New York Herald.

"Ah, poor John!" sighed Mr. Cynicus, "he's been working hard for the last three weeks!"

"Ah? What's he driving at?"

"Heard a new financial theory and has been hunting a reason for not believing it."—Cleveland Plain-Dealer.

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajacchus, The Tribune Astrologer.

Astrolabe cast: 2.28 a. m. for Friday, May 10, 1895.

Moon rises 10.22 p. m.

A child that's born upon this day,
Perhaps, will on the trombone play,
While weary victims of his craze
Will be in anguish nights and days,
And make remarks, 'tis safe to hint,
That never would look well in print.

In other words the offspring of this day will have a taste for music. In nine cases out of ten, however, it will be of the kind that should be cultivated in a padded room or locality far from human habitation.

If this weather continues, there seems no reason why the summer girl should hesitate about assuming the three-decked sailor hat and tan shoes.

Pitcher Crane, no doubt, has arrived at the conclusion that there was a good deal of undeveloped territory behind him at the Base Ball park yesterday.

Ajacchus' Advice.

Keep cool.
Court electric fans.
Do not talk politics.
Breathe by proxy if possible.