

The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, JUNE 15, 1895.

"We ought to realize by this time that we should not do our work nor make our loans in Europe. Let us place what options we have with our own capitalists, and our orders with our own manufacturers, who, in the past, have been always abundantly able to meet every need and demand of the government and of the people."—Governor William McKinley, at Hartford.

Placing the Responsibility.

We do not know to what extent personal disappointment may have contributed emphasis to the subjoined comment in the Scranton Republican of yesterday; but we do know that the sentiment of it, so far as concerns Governor Hastings, is utterly unjust: Extravagance was the distinguishing trait of the recent legislature. Offices were multiplied, salaries increased and unnecessary expense piled on expense.

It is not only not true that Governor Hastings "scarcely lifted a hand to prevent the willful waste of the people's substance," but it is a slander so easily refuted that we are amazed to see it printed in a newspaper assuming to speak to and for any considerable number of Republicans. At the very outset of the recent legislative session, in a message of uncommon force and directness—a message which, at the time, indeed, brought down upon its author's head not a little criticism among members of the legislature, but which subsequent events have thoroughly justified—the governor impressively warned the lawmakers against the temptations to extravagance likely to arise because of the overwhelming magnitude of the partisan majority.

In every way becoming to the head of a co-ordinate, but not constitutionally a superior branch, Governor Hastings, from the moment of his inauguration, has striven to promote an economical and efficient administration of the commonwealth's affairs by the body charged with originating the laws which govern the administration. He has not assumed to dictate to representatives or senators. He has not issued ukases to them, commanding them to do this and so, as has been the wont of certain politicians in times past.

Fair play for Governor Hastings, even if he did not make terms with the editor of the Scranton Republican!

The Microbian Craze.

It will be noted with reference to the exceedingly readable discussion of the microbe theory of disease by Dr. Alexander Wilder, condensed on another page from a paper in the Metaphysical Magazine for June, that while he utterly rejects the accepted version of the morbid influences of micro-organisms upon the human system, he does not dispute the existence of the germs themselves. He is too shrewd for that, since a negation on this point would array against him all the microscopists in the country.

Dr. Wilder may be over-skeptical in doubting the possibility of communicating any disease by means of germ transmission. His assertion that the popular ad over possibilities of contamination in drinking water is without justification, in fact, requires to be better bulwarked by scientific evidence than it is in the article from which we have quoted. But there will be little gainsay of the fact that the germ scare has been overdone. When science can do no better service for mankind than to draw frightful pictures of evil consequences resident in the hitherto satisfactory habit of kissing; and even lays its irreverent finger of warning on the single communion cup, it strikes us that some message of protest is quite in order.

Its history is full of proof that the medical profession is by no means im-

mune from the contagion of successive scientific fads. Within a decade we have seen mesmerism superseded by inoculation and that in turn crowded into relative obscurity by a sporadic prevalence of fictitious reverence for hypnotism and mental suggestion. It is not outside the pale of possibility that inside of another decade new advances in the healing art will have established the comparative harmlessness of the now dreaded microbe, and will have demonstrated that the microbe is a result and not a cause of disease.

At any rate, the doctor's article is worth thinking over.

McKinley to Business Men.

It has been said concerning Major McKinley that, as an orator, he is unable to speak with success on any subject other than the tariff. If true, this assertion would involve no disgrace, since to acquire his mastery of that intricate and difficult subject would be an ample achievement for any man.

But it is not true; and the speech by him which we reprint elsewhere in this issue of The Tribune shows conclusively that it is not. We do not remember ever to have read, from any public official, a better and more manly statement of the duties of American citizenship, and particularly, the duties of American business men toward politics than is embodied in this address of Ohio's chief executive to representatives of the boards of trade of the Buckeye state.

We recommend every reader of these lines to read and then re-read Governor McKinley's remarks upon these pertinent and timely subjects. There can be no better expression of wise public policy than he has given in them; and there are few other men in public life in this country today from whom such words could come with equal propriety. William McKinley can speak them without blushing, for William McKinley, whether in public or in private life, is a scrupulously honest, candid and upright man. He is one of the small number of public men of the day whose characters are absolutely without blemish or stain.

The Battle for Social Purity.

A combination of the regular practitioners of medicine has been formed in Allegheny county for the purpose of fighting the vendors of certain notorious quack nostrums the sale of which is prohibited by law. If success shall attend this crusade in Allegheny, the battle will be extended over the entire state. The alleged remedies in question deal with diseases to which only immoral persons are subject, and of course are utterly worthless. To suppress their sale without striking at the evil which makes that sale profitable will be a difficult task; but in any event it is one which thoroughly deserves to succeed, and which will have the cordial support of decency everywhere.

This determination of the Allegheny county physicians, albeit founded in part on selfish interest, is one of a number of contemporary signs which indicate a vigilant and wholesome activity on the part of those forces which tend to preserve society from disintegration. The serious effort now discernible in many cities to suppress or minimize the social evil; the deep interest taken by recent conventions of physicians in plans to prevent the commission of crimes by obstetricians and to drum unworthy practitioners out of the medical profession; and, more important than all else, the tendency of fair-minded men and women to frown down the iniquitous double standard of morals maintained for centuries in judging male and female offenders as conspicuous tokens of moral progress, which he who runs may read. It is impossible for any rational critic to view these things and then decide adversely upon the proposition that the moral tone of society is steadily improving.

It is not to be inferred that the millennium is yet near; but it is a fair inference that cleanliness of morals and manners is distinctly on the up grade, and that every good citizen is justified in pushing it along.

Walter Wellman quotes one of Civil Service Commissioner Proctor's stories in proof of the fact that Proctor is a Democrat first, and a civil service reformer afterward. "Down in Proctor's part of Kentucky," he says, "a fellow was placed in nomination in a Democratic convention for some local office. Objection was made to him on the ground that he was not a Democrat, and his friends knowing that this meant defeat unless something decisive were done, rushed out and found their man and brought him into the hall. 'Mr. Chairman,' he shouted, and every eye was fixed upon him, 'Mr. Chairman, I understand some one has made the charge here that I am not a Democrat. Let me say, sir, that for twenty-five years I have been a justice of the peace down on Coon Creek, and I challenge the world to show where in all that time I have ever given judgment against a Democrat.' We fear there is a good deal of this kind of thing in Democratic civil service reform.

The Spanish minister at Washington, Senor Dupuy De Pom, regards the president's proclamation forbidding American citizens to aid the Cuban patriots as "giving a death-blow" to the uprising in Cuba. What a queer coincidence it is that the Cleveland policy seems all the way through to be trying to give death blows to the struggles of weaker nations for liberty; and to get very neutral whenever a big nation like England plans a new theft of territory.

In Europe, to become a leading ambassador or a minister of foreign affairs requires years of arduous train-

ing and incontestable proof of fitness. In the United States, most any old fossil can get a job as a consul or minister resident; and a number of no-bodies have been made secretaries of state.

According to Washington advices the administration has been "very much embarrassed" because of the attitude of "at least one of the Florida United States senators" on the Cuban struggle. What a pity that under our unfortunate constitution Grover cannot summarily order that senator's arrest.

Ex-Governor Campbell, of Ohio, says he wouldn't take a renomination if it were to be offered to him on a silver platter. He evidently knows when to keep under cover, which is more than a good many other Democrats appear yet to have learned.

The fact that a Center county political convention the other day passed vitriolic resolutions honoring Senator Quay would possess greater significance were it not for the fact that it was a Democratic convention.

The newspapers which represent General Harrison as moving heaven and earth to get renominated appear to overlook the fact that of all the candidates he can best afford to let matters take their own course.

Of course the tariff will be an issue in 1896; but the men who three years ago voted themselves out of work will not need extended argument to convince them which economic policy is best.

The anti-Cameron people appear to be doing all the talking, just now. Is Donald sawing the wood?

The American state department certainly needs some elixir of life.



Hello! Is that The Tribune? Yes; what's the matter? I want the bureau of information. Well, let 'er go. Every man on the staff is a walking encyclopedia.

All right. But this is not for publication. You see, it's this way. I've sworn off on beer, and I'm tired of it. I'm so dry now that I'm afraid to go out in the sun for fear of spontaneous combustion. And I want a good excuse to break the sweat-off. Now, I understand they're going to push the Sunday observance law this summer as they did last. If they do, I can celebrate tomorrow. Last summer they had it down so fine that the only kind of a store you could get into on Sunday was a beer store. See? And— Z-z-z-ling!

Z-z-z-ling! ling! ling! Who's that? Editor Powell, of the Wilkes-Barre Record, would speak with thee. What is it, brother? Do you think a few trained nurses could be obtained in Slocum Hollow to go to Wilkes-Barre on princely salaries? I presume so. Is it a case of emergency? Yes. The Rice for judge boom is very, very sick. Z-z-z-ling!

Is that the Scranton Times? Yes. Is the musical editor in? The musical editor is at the phone. Can you give me the name of the composer of that "popular American opera, 'Pinafore,'" mentioned in your valuable publication yesterday? Dunno, unless it was Willie Spenser or Max Frankel. Z-z-z-ling!

Hello! Is that you, Charlie? Yes. How is your Uncle Jabez? He's dead. Dead? Why, I thought he was being cured by Plum's Patent Preservative Compound. It was. The medicine cured him, but he died. It is a satisfaction to us all to know that he died cured. Z-z-z-ling!

What is it? Say! Is this The Tribune? Yes. Is the boss in? The department head is speaking. What is wanted? I want a situation as a reporter. What are your qualifications? I am an ex-ball player and umpire; went through a mine explosion without a scratch; have jumped the Brooklyn bridge and Hotel Jersey; I am an all round "scrapper" and can break cobble stones against my face. I can stand grief, I can. Consider yourself engaged. I'll assign you to the council meetings and you can report Jo Oliver's speeches. Z-z-z-ling!

THE THAT EISTEDDFOD.

This Is the Proper Spirit. Wilkes-Barre Times: "The result of the late eisteddfod, while not especially favorable to the local choirs in respect to prizes won, was entirely satisfactory in a many ways. Scranton took away a great proportion of the cash prizes because their singing was better; not better to any alarming extent but just a shade to turn the scale with the extremely critical and unusually competent adjudicators. Our singers have nothing to be ashamed of or regret in the outcome, as the singing of all the parties competing was far and away above that possible to be heard anywhere else. Our defeat should only act as an incentive to greater activity and more earnest endeavor to excel all previous efforts and the next time Saranton is met in the musical field to give her second place."

Artistically a Success; Financially, Not. Wilkes-Barre Record: "The results of the musical festival can be summed up in a few words—it was an artistic success and a financial failure. Why so magnificent an affair was not better attended must be ascribed to the poor times. Those who are acquainted with the people who usually can be depended upon to patronize the divine art, say they are too poor just now to indulge in anything they can do without, all their money going to buy the bare necessities of life."

One Live Senator's Work. From the Montrose Republican. Senator Hardenbergh has succeeded in passing through the house a bill which will, if it becomes a law, place a neat sum of money annually into the treasuries of Susquehanna and Pike counties. The Erie Railroad company pays a bonus of \$10,000 for the privilege of running through the two counties named. Heretofore the money was paid into the state treasury.

Under the Hardenbergh bill the \$10,000 will have to be paid by the state treasurer to the treasurers of Susquehanna and Pike counties in proportion to the number of taxables in each. Susquehanna will get the lion's share of that \$10,000, for which our taxpayers will be duly thankful. A vote of thanks to Senator Hardenbergh.

NO LONGER SPEAK.

Dan Hart, in Wilkes-Barre Leader. It is said that two of our most prominent attorneys no longer touch glasses at the close of a busy day, nor do they sit on each other's verandas and smoke each other's cigars. And all because of the little chatter of a little boy. On Sunday evening Mr. Franklin Street with wife and child visited the home of Mr. River Street. During the evening the boy said to Mr. River Street: "Your house is made of bricks, ain't it?" "Yes, my boy." "Why I heard papa tell mamma that you lived in a glass house." A ghastly silence stole over the room and when the visitors shortly afterward arose to depart, the host did not accompany them to the door. Now they meet as strangers.

Her Letters Will Be Missed.

From the Wilkes-Barre Kodak. Miss Kaiser, who has been abroad studying hard, and, it is learned, successfully, in the art of which she is so delightful an exponent, has been compelled to abandon the pleasing Saturday letters she has been supplying to the Scranton Tribune for a year past, because of the necessity to give all her time to musical culture. Her interesting communications will be missed, but a stronger desire will possess the community to welcome and hear her when she returns.

Here's a Story for You.

From the Wilkes-Barre Leader. In Pittston city a man who bought a goat for \$5 received a tax bill soon after for \$8. On protesting to Lafferty, the assessor, the latter insisted the tax was right. He said he had read his instructions very carefully and it said that "property abutting on the street shall be taxed \$2 a running foot."

Suitably Named.

From Life. He—Wasn't Brown's wife named Stone before she was married? She—Yes; and it was a very suitable name. He—What do you mean? She—Oh, nothing; only she threw herself at his head.

A Peculiar Fact.

From the Washington Star. "Keep out of debt, young man," said the philosopher. "People will think better of you for it." "Perhaps," was the thoughtful reply; "and yet I've noticed that the more I owe people the gladder they always seem to see me."

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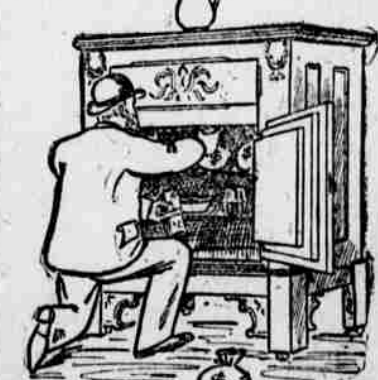
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