the Scranton tribune

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THE WEEKLY TRIBUNE, Issued Every Saturday, Contains Twelve Handsome Pares, with an Abun-dance of News, Fiction, and Well-Edited Miscel-iany. For Those Who Cannot Take THE DALLY TRIBUNE, the Weekly Is Recommended as the Best Bargain Going. Only \$1 a Year, in Advance.

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SCRANTON, NOVEMBER 22, 1895.

The Scranton Tribuna is neither a Mugwump nor an Independent paper. It stands or falls with its party. . It is Republican in politics every day in the year.

An interesting Case of Libel.

The suit of the treasurer of the Girard Trust company against the Philadelphia Press for \$100,000 damages, followed by an action in criminal liber directed against the distinguished editor of the Press, Charles Emory Smith, who had no more to do with the publication of the mistaken report about Mr. Ely than the man in the moon, and who knew even less about it at the time, the whole supplemented by a suit for \$250,000 damages brought by the Trust company itself forms, separately and together, a most interesting episode, which exhibits with singular vividness the faultiness of the present libel law. At the outset it should be said that

the Press uttered a grave libel, for which it should be held duly accountable. But that it did this maliciously or in any spirit of mischief is not only not proven, but is also utterly at variance with that careful and conscientious newspaper's long record of fair dealing. By remote chance and rare accident the mistake occurred, and, to the fullest possible limit of equity, should be atoned for; but it is indescribably preposterous that an enlightened community should approve the absurd law which, for a subordinate's error which he led all others in regretting, would now permit the hauling of Mr. Smith from a distant state and the lodging of him, if possible, in jail. That the owners of the Press should pay reasonable damages for actual inunfortunate mistake is one proposition; but that the absent editor of the fournal, the peer of any man living in his regard for the sanctity of private character and in his endeavor to be scrupulously just and fair, should be arraigned in criminal court as a common felon for the blunder of one of a hundred fallible subordinates is quite another. In the opportunity which it affords for such gross perversions of justice as this, the Pennsylvania libel law is an infamy and a reproach.

The character of an honest man or of an honest corporation is rarely spoiled by one adverse breath. It will be for a jury to decide whether, in the case in question, a newspaper error. promptly acknowledged and corrected, inflicted \$350,000 worth of loss. Our private opinion is that if the plaintiffs' own estimates be accepted, the character market will experience a boom. Be that as it may, however, the bringing of a criminal action against Mr. Smith by the victims of the Press' mistake will, by its absurdity and manifest injustice, do much to forfeit the sympathy which ordinarily pertains to those who suffer from unjust accusa-

The citizens of Hazieton and vicinity. becoming alarmed at the great growth of crime in the regions near to them, are discussing the advisability of holding a public mass-meeting, with a view to formulating plans for the better enforcement of law. It would be interesting to know what the authorities of Luserne county think about this. Are they themselves powerless in the prem-

Must Save the Nation.

mournful confession is made in Washington that the satellites and servants of Grover Cleveland are disappointed. Things have not gone their way and they are sore and sad. "They have not." to use the graphic language of their mouthpiece extraordinary, Mr. Walter Wellman, "been able to discover any enthusiastic desire on the part of the Democratic party to give Mr. Cleveland a fourth nomination." The expected hurricane of eager and frantic calls has not materialised. The voice of the country, on the contrary, is calm and even cold. And hence the poor

The idea of these interested pleaders for a third term was that the nation merely needed a hint of Grover's willingness to rise up and demand his renomination. They knew, of course, that it could not get along without him; but, are far too easy-going. more than this, they suspected that it knew that, also. Imagine, therefore, their chagrin when, the opportunity having showily been given, there came from the multitude at large no thunderous reverberation of vociferous acclaim; no deafening crash of inspiriting applause-but, instead, an agonising flence unbroken even by the cuckoo chirp. No wonder their strut has wilt-

ed. No wonder their strut has witted. No wonder they look dased.

To be sure, this does not end the matter. It would have facilitated the third
derm ambition had the vast mass of
people yearningly clasped it to their
great warm bearts. But their farmst-

fulness of this privilege is simply a detail, a non-essential. The people are ickle. They know not their own minds. It becomes more than ever Mr. Cleveland's sacred duty to take the burden of their responsibilities again into his own strong hands. Though they turn from him yet must he do his duty. Though in a transport of ingratitude they spurn him, yet must he recollect the solemnity of his reiterated conse cration. He is indispensable to them.

He knows it if they don't. Perish, then, all thought of wavering, Tis duty calls, and he must obey!

A guilty conscience is its own acuser. The haste with which J. A. Scranton has applied to himself certain general statements recently made in this paper would seem to imply, despite frantic denials, that the shoe is recognized and that it fits.

Going in Debt.

There is probably no other nation in he world which equals the cheery energy and unconcern with which the American people go in debt. In a national sense this is well shown in the amazing patience with which the public has permitted the present administration, in a time of profound peace, to go in debt in order to pay the running expenses of the government, when its only excuse for such an anomalous condition was that it wanted to hack at home industry and start the mills going on the

But the same characteristic also dominates individual transactions. In Europe the great mass of people pay as they go, and go only so far as they can pay. In America, the going is the paramount consideration; the matter of paying a mere-and often a forgottendetail. The accumulation of debts appears to be the steadlest and most active American industry. The man in this country who is out of debt is a rarity. In fact, we are not certain that he is not pretty generally looked down upon. Debtlessness in the accepted commercial view, means cowardice. The progressive citizen gladly assumes debts because he has confidence in his ability to pay them-confidence in the might of his brain or his brawn so to say that he was old enough to know shape matters that he, as well as his better. creditor, will profit as a result of the obligation between them. Going in debt is a man's notification to the world at large that he has begun life's battle; it is a challenge to the fates to get ready for a tussle.

In 1880 the total private indebtedness of the American people amounted to \$6,750,000,000. In September, 1892, it had reached \$19,000,000,000, a gain of 200 per cent. in twelve years. This was perhaps an unwise inflation of indebtedness. If in those twelve years Americans had kept their debts down onehalf there would probably have been no panic. This, of course, is the great danger; that the pastime of going in debt will be overdone. Yet the very fact that our countrymen are eager to accept such risks is proof that they still have plenty of good, red blood in their veins, which, though it may now and then drive them to excesses, will upon the average keep them well to the front in all honorable lines of business competition.

Garfield had the right idea when he counseled the young man to jump overboard, assuring him that if he was worth saving he would somehow be able to swim safely out. The man who fears to go in debt will never become a great man. He is more likely to become a clam.

Chairman Wellington, of Maryland, is at it again. Says he: "Quay denied that he had aided Gorman, but I know that he did in more ways than one, and when the proper time comes I shall be prepared to prove it. People in Pennsylvania, from whom we had every right to expect aid, refused it on Quay's account." The "proper time" for proving such direct assertions would seem to be now. Mr. Wellington can earn a reputation if he will make his statements good.

The Waller Case Up to Date.

The refusal of the French government to supply Ambassador Eustis with a transcript of the testimony in the snap trial of ex-Consul Waller, who is now in a foul prison in Marseilles thanks to the machinations of greedy colonial rivals who were envious of his concessions, brings this interesting case to a head. The fact that Waller is a negro should not cause the state department to overlook the other fact that he is an American citizen, and as such is entitled to the very utmost support of the United States government in all things fair and right.

The refusal of the French authorities to perform an act of common courtesy in the furnishing of a transcript of the alleged evidence has very obviously a suspicious look. It lies within the discretion of France either to honor our request or to dishonor it. Since she has chosen the latter we can make no reprisal, and will have to pocket the affront with the best grace possible. But it is none the less a discourtesy, doubtless based upon the idea that American diplomacy lacks sufficient coherency to make the slighting of it a thing of

danger. The incident is humiliating in its incidental suggestion of our national weakness. Had Waller been a British subject, the chances are he would never have been arrested; but if arrested and imprisoned, England would not have sked twice for his release. One refusal half as exasperating as that which France with complacency vouchsafes to the United States would have brought to the government at Paris from the government at Downing street such a lessage of protest as would have carried the point and secured the prisoner's prompt restoration to liberty.

In some matters the American people

Replying to a sneer by the Philadelphia Inquirer at General Harrison, the Lancaster New Era well says: "About the last man in this country at whom Republican, and especially a journal that professes to be an exponent of Republican principles, should make disparaging remarks is Benjamin Har-rison. As president he gave the country one of the cleanest administrations it ever had; there was not a breath of scandal during the whole course of his administration; and the only Republicans offended were those who failed to control him in making appointments. to office and those who failed to get We assure our contemporary that if the Republicans in this third strongest Republican district in the solidest Republican state in the Union were allowed to vote their perference of candidates for the presidency in 1896, General Harrison would win more than two to one." There certainly is no just reason why the holding of a preference for some other worthy presidential candidate should lead any Republican o wish to belittle the Indiana ex-president. To attempt such tactics would be to make votes for Harrison in the next convention.

Although the Democratic membership in the next congress will scarcely muster a baker's dozen it is already split into factions over the empty honor of the minority nomination for speaker. The gold standard Democrats, constituting about one-third of the minority representation, are hostile to Judge Crisp because of his partiality for silver; and threaten to name a candidate in opposition to him. Thus at the outset our friends, the enemy, begin with a row on their hands. There will doubtless be plenty of fun ere the session ends.

The spectacle at Washington of various clergymen making a political fight for the office of chaplain of the house, which pays \$1,200 a year, is somewhat distasteful. They might at least put praying under a civil service classifica-

The Wilkes-Barre Times nominates ex-Attorney General Palmer for the United States senatorship to succeed Cameron. General Palmer has the requisite ability.

Word comes from Washington that one Matthew Stanley Quay already has a large percentage of the available game shot, cleaned and hung up to dry. The man with a closet full of skele-

tons behind his own drapery should not be too brash in his threats to lift the curtains of others. Concerning several pasages in Senator Sherman's book it is permissible to

Without impugning the sultan's sincerity, it would be well to "cinch" it by means of a fleet of anchored war ships.

It makes a difference whose ox is gored, doesn't it, Mr. Scranton?

MAY CAUSE TROUBLE.

Wilkes-Harre Times.

Mrs. Harriet Clay Penman writes the Scranton Tribune in a most enthusiastic strain concerning the celebration of Pennsylvania Day at the Atlanta exposition and is particularly pleased at the impression made on the south by Pennsylvania's official delegation. Mrs. Penman has no doubt told the exact truth in every particular, but we fear that she has metaphorically put her foot in it and created trouble where she intended to pay deserved compliment. Her statement concerning the attentions paid the members of the governor's military staff has local application in Luzerne and Lacksawaina counties and may lead to personal inquiries as to whom she considered the "more frivolous" among the handsome and soldierly young men who "had not taken their wives along."

HISTORY OF THE GREENBACK

Chicago Times-Herald: It is not likely that the coming congress will take definite action concerning retirement of the greenback. But the probability that Secretary Carlisle and President Cleveland will use this next month as the only means back. But the probability that secretary Carlisle and President Cleveland will urge this next month as the only means of melting the endless chain by which the gold reserve is periodically impaired indicates the day cannot be far off when the people of the United States must determine whether or not the life of this form of American currency shall be extended or terminated. Must the greenback "go?" There is no chapter in the history of any country, ancient or modern, more dramatic than that of the greenback. Though it took its name from printers' ink, a drop of a nation's blood coursed in its delicate but potent veins, and with the almost fatal tragedy of a nation's crisis its immortality is identified. Its history presents probably the only instance in which government paper money, unsecured except by faith in a nation's destiny and in the honesty of its people, proved to be superior to the accepted principles of finance, carrying a colossal cause from impending disaster to enduring success, and, after vicisitudes appalling to its holders, not only reaching par with gold but at times in exchange carry a premium above the most precious of metals.

Long as is the history of the greenback,

but at times in exchange carry a premium above the most precious of metals.

Long as is the history of the greenback, its story is a short one. When the civil war began the government of the United States owed less than its debt under the administration of Washington after the revolution. At the beginning of the year 1861, when the government was confronted with civil war, the treasury was empty. Various devices were suggested as a means of raising money. One of these was the unconditional pledging of the public lands for the ultmate redemption of all treasury notes that it might become necessary to issue. Mr. Vallandingham, of Ohlo, discussing the general question of revenue, said, "Your expenditures are 500,000,000, your income \$50,000,000." Customs and direct taxation proved inadequate. Lincoln asked for \$400,000,000 in money and 400,000 men. Loans were authorized. Prior to 1801 no notes not bearing interest had been issued by the United States. July 17, 1861, congress authorized the issue of \$50,000,000 of demand notes in denominations less than \$50 in exchange for coin or in payment of debts due the government, the notes to bear no interest, but to be receivable for customs and all public dues and to be reissued. They were to be redeemable at the sub-treastes in New York, Philadelphia or Boston. Feb. 12, 1862, the issue of an additional \$10,000,000 was authorized. Feb. 25, 1892, congress directed the issue of \$150,000,000 of notes, making them a legal tender for all debts, public and private, excepting customs duties and interest on the public debt. June 11, 1862, congress increased the issue to \$300,000,000 and March 3, 1893, to \$450,000,000. The highest amount of these notes outstanding at any time was \$449, 338,802—Jan. 3, 1864.

The great debate connected with these

The great debate connected with these notes outstanding at any time was \$449, \$33,902—Jan. 3, 1864.

The great debate connected with these notes was upon making them legal tender. The bill was reported Jan. 2, 1862, by E. G. Spaulding, a banker, of Buffaio, In reporting the bill Mr. Spaulding characterized it as "a war measure," "a mensure of necessity, not of choice." Mr. Spaulding said: "Our army and navy must have what is far more valuable to them than gold or silver. They must have food, clothing and the material of war. Treasury notes, issued by the government on the faith of a whole people, will purchase these indispensable articles." Chase, then secretary of the treasury, has been too generally accredited with the paternity of the greenback. In fact, its opponents asserted that he was opposed to making the notes legal tender, and it was not until he wrote a letter saying that he did not wish to conceal his great aversion to making anything but coin legal tender, but that the believed it impossible to procure sufficient coin, that he was reckoned a supporter of the measure. A personal note from Secretary Chase to Mr. Spassiding said that he "came with reluptance to the conclusion that the legal tender clause is a necesity," but that "he came to it decidedly and supported it earnestly." The London Times halled the legal tender proposal as the "dawn of American eredit."

The average gold value of these notes

out, constitute the "endless chain" which torments the treasury of the United States. Whether for legitimate trade or speculation only, the greenback can be used to reduce below legal limit the gold reserve of \$100,000,000 by law required to be kept in the treasury. Inasmuch as there is no authority for destroying the paper, it can be used indefinitely to depose the gold reserve. The question therefore is before the country for discussion. Having accomplished its purpore ought its career to cease? In other words, must the green back "go?"

COMMENT OF THE PRESS.

Railrond Cars of the Future.

Philadeiphia Bulletin: "The new style of mail car, which is without piatforms and couples up close to the cars before and behind it, though designed merciy to circumvent train robbers, may be one of the needed steps in the development of the rapid railway train of the future. As is wen known, the resistance of the air, which counts for nothing in the movements of a body at low speed, becomes of more importance as the speed is increased, until finally it has to be reckoned with as a very considerable factor in the problem of getting the highest possible speed out of a railway train or any other fast-moving body. So well is this understood that inventors have proposed to build locomotives, with a sharp prow, like the bow of a ship, in order to part the air and prevent its banking up against the front of the engine, as it does with the broad surface presented at present by the boller-head and cylinders. Experimental trips with a train of the new postal cars proved that they made less resistance at high speed than a train of the ordinary pattern, and the difference coulid only be accounted for by the fact that they were coupled so close together that the air could not 'pack' over the platforms between them, and so retard the train. Had they been drawn by one of the proposed wedge-front locomotives, no doubt the train would have gilded along still more easily and rapidly."

Grover Cleveland's Strength. Railroad Cars of the Future.

Grover Cleveland's Strength.

Chicago Times-Herald: "Looking the facts in the face, it must be admitted that Grover Cleveland is more esteemed by the American people than any other man in the Democratic party, and is stronger today than the party itself. This is not saying that he has not made grievous mistakes, or that he is not sadly out of touch with public sentiment on important questions; that his bump of self-esteem is not abnormally developed, or that he is an ideal president. The point is that despite these things he is regarded as honest, fearless and on vital matters right at heart. Business men forget his free trade proclivities, his defective foreign policy, and all those things in recalling his firm stand against spoilsmen and demagogues, his firmness when riot raised its hands against the national authority, and his soundness on the money question." Grover Cleveland's Strength.

Wanted, a Suow Cleaner.

Wanted, a Syow Cleaner.

The Philadelphia Record "desires to call the attention of inventors and ingenious artisans and mechanics to the need of some quick mechanical method of melting snow in large cities. It seems that a combination of the present apparatus used in repairing asphaltum pavements, by which the asphaltum is melted so that a perfect joint is made between the old and the new material, could be adopted on a larger scale to melt the snow in the gutters and between the car tracks and the pavements, when the slush could be speedily run into the sewers. A contrivance of this kind would be a great boon to the large cities of this and more northern latitudes, and it seems to be worthy of attention of men with an inventive turn of mind." Thomas C. Pintt's Ambition.

Thomas C. Platt's Ambition.
Syracuse Post: "We can state on authority that cannot be challenged, that Mr. Platt is not a candidate for United States senator. He is not ambitious to return to his old seat in the senate. He has ambition, however, which he is quietly cherishing, and he hopes to see it realized in the month of March, 1897. The Hon. Thomas Collier Platt would like to be the lawful occupant of the chair of the secretary of the treasury under the Republican administration that begins the 4th of March, 1897. This is Mr. Platt's ambition and its realization would make him extremely happy. Keep your eye on the presidential combination and see the puzzle worked out."

When Coal Is No More. When Coal is No More.

Washington Post: "Practical science has made great progress in devices for economizing the heat and force derived from coal. We may reasonably expect such inventive progress as will make a single ton do the work now performed by five-possibly ten-tons. And if, in some far-away age, the last ton of coal shall five disappeared in smoke, is it not problem. have disappeared in smoke, is it not probable that the heat of the sun will be available for all the uses to which fuel is now applied? Is storage of the surplus heat of the sun more impracticable than storage of electric force appeared to be a hundred years ago? Possibilities are being transferred to the column of certainties with great rapidity."

Status of the Allison Boom. Chicago Times-Herald: "Senator Allison will not engage in a scramble for the presidency. At the same time if the scramble happens to take place in the Iowan's immediate vicinity he will not deem it his duty to gather up the skirts of his toga and run away."

America Against the World. Philadelphia Press: "Senator Morgan's politics may not be of the right sort, but when it comes to the question of America against the world he has sand and grit by the ton, and a backbone that projects about three feet above his head."

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