## the Scranton Tribune

nd Weekly. No Sunday Edition

E. P. KINGBBURY, PAGE. AND GEN'L MOR. W. W. DAVIS, BURINESS MANAGER. W. W. YOUNGS, ADV. MANG'S

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SCRANTON, NOVEMBER 25, 1895.

One week from today the honorable Thomas B. Reed will count a quorum without half trying.

### The Ingrate Rattled.

The Scranton Republican, apparently imagining that its readers are specially interested in the personality of the editor of The Tribune, prints an alleged blography of him notable chiefly for its lack of facts. The editor of The Tribune is too modest to agree with the Republican in its overestimate of his importance, and therefore will say, in reply to the personal part of its Saturday editorial, simply that he does, as accused, work for pay; that he expects to continue in this guiltiness as long as health and strength will permit; and that, for the present at least, he is actually happy in the knowledge that his pay reaches him, in cash, every second Friday afternoon. He trusts that his fellow workers in the employ of the Republican enjoy the same punctual bless-

The temptation to reply to Mr. Scranton in his own dirty coin by fertilizing gress from this district with certain career at Washington, whereby his conmaudlin conduct better suited to an crooked relationship which he has long the subordinates in its employ. chief plotter and beneficiary: the tricks, conclusions are inevitable. The first is the intrigues, the sell-outs, the dickers; that Editor Smith cannot possibly be the money borrowed and never repaid; guilty of malicious libel. His absence the promises broken; the friends in another state at the time relieves Republican. The policy of permitting abused;-all these things and many him of all personal responsibility for foreign bankers to hand together and more besides are so well known to those the appearance of the article. It folbe superfluous. It is really provocative a spirit of revenge and injustice utterly of pity to reflect that the man of whom uncalled for and unworthy. these things are true bears a name which, in spite of his persistent efforts | maligned treasurer demand s\$100,000 and to disgrace it, is deservedly held in the company he represents claims \$250,highest honor, because of those who | 000. There is not a sane man in the city bore and bear it worthily and well.

The profligate who has wasted his substance in riotous and extravagant living may fancy that those who have toiled and saved are leagued against him, but it is not so. The Tribune, begun on its own merits as a legitimate business enterprise, stands to-day flatly and firmly on that honorable basis; asks and seeks no special favors, and is abundantly satisfied was its achievements and its prospects. If this were not true; if the case were as Mr. Scranton paints it, it would please him so well that instead of getting mad and frothing at the mouth he would wreathe his Machiavellan face into one of those seemingly cherubic smiles with which he is wont to beguile assistance from thrust, and execute a clog dance for

Charles Emory Smith's refusal to purchase immunity from prosecution for criminal libel by revealing the names of the already punished subordinates who permitted the Ely falsehood to get into print is characteristic. The fact is that, take him most any way, Mr. Smith will be found 100 per cent. man.

## For a Six-Year Term.

The latest phase of the third-term discussion in the newspapers takes the form of a prediction that Mr. Cleveland, realizing the impossibility of expecting a third tenure of the presidency, will try to manoeuvre for historical prestige by causing to be introfuced in the coming congress a joint resolution authorizing the submission of a constitutional amendment extending the presidential term to six years and making a second consecutive term impossible.

That Mr. Cleveland will take this course we deem improbable. But that it should be taken by congress itself is indisputable. Along with it there might be passed a joint resolution requesting the next president to apportion among his various cabinet officers the work of filling the various offices coming within their respective jurisdictions, thus leaving the executive himself free to consider broad questions of public policy in seclusion from the incessant importunities of place-hunters. Such a distribution of the presilency's routine duties would take from that position its greatest single burien, and more thoroughly than hitherto enable its occupant to realize the constitution's grand conception of the

thief magistracy of a free people. We do not see that there would be any impropriety in re-electing an expresident after an interval of six years. etimes such a course would seem to manded in the interest of poetic

tion had by an error of popular judgment been unjustly censured. This rule of eligibility after an interval has worked well in city government and would doubtless work no harm if applied also to the presidency. Rut there should be no temptation for any president to exhaust the opportunities of his first term in a frantic bid for a second one, and hence the need of a constitutional amendment limiting the eligibility and diminishing the number of disracting presidential campaigns.

It is shameful that the large papers in Philadelphia and Pittsburg should continue to asperse Judge Smith and insult the voters of Luzerne and Lackawanna countles by their baseless accusations of fraud in the late election The fact that their favorite Democratic candidates were unexpectedly defeated does not justify the waging of a subsequent campaign of wholesale calumny against the man and the friends of the man who was successful. Let lecency and fairness now have an inning in this matter, and let the slander-

An Object Lesson. The newspapers generally are deeply interested in the suits brought against the Philadelphia Press for libel by the officials of one of the large financial institutions of that city. In order to fully present this case for impartial disussion it is necessary to repeat some statements already familiar to the readers of The Tribune. At a late hour and after the earlier editions of The Press had already been printed the night editor in charge received from a source, not yet made public, the startling intelligence that the treasurer of one of the leading financial concerns of the city was a defaulter and had absconded. This announcement appeared in a small portion of the city edition of The Press. There was no foundation whatever for this announcement. The accused official was not a defaulter and on the same morning the defamatory article appeared he was at his office attending to his duties as usual. The editor-inchief, Hon. Charles Emory Smith, was in Boston at the time of the libelous publication and could have had no knowledge of it, but notwithstanding this fact a warrant for his arrest on the charge of malicious libel was sworn out. Civil suits for damages were also commenced by the aggrieved party for \$100,000, and by the company for \$250,-000 against the owners of The Press.

The attorney for the maligned treasurer subsequently addressed a letter to the biography of the member of con- Editor Smith proposing that if he would mood of the country, after its three give to the attorney the names of the malodorous incidents in his official night editor in charge of The Press and of the reporter who furnished the damstituents were shamed by gross and aging article the criminal prosecution against Mr. Smith would be abandoned. asylum for inebriates than to the hall To this Mr. Smith replied that he would of the national house of representatives, not secure immunity for himself on the the details of which are readily acces- conditions proposed. In the meantime, sible, will be resisted as falling beneath | however, The Press had in the fullest a reputable journal which enters the manner corrected its error and made as circle of home. Anyhow, this man's complete reparation as a newspaper character is pretty well known. The could possibly make for the blunder of

borne to public affairs; the political Viewed from an impartial and in every rascality in which he has figured as way disinterested standpoint certain have been brought into contact lows that those who are pressing such a bit of Democratic bungling unlikely with him that detailed repetition would prosecution are themselves manifesting be soon repeated.

As to the question of damages: The

of Philadelphia who for a moment believes that any such damages have been sustained-or any damages at all, for that matter. The aggrieved treasurerhas not suffered an iota in character or pocket. He stands just as high in the estimation of his fellow citizens as he ever did, and he holds the same position with the same salary as previous to the libelous publication. No single person in the world believes him guilty. The financial institution concerned has not been and will not be damaged to the extent of a single dollar in its vast business operations in consequence of the falsely alleged dishonesty of its treasurer. Upon what principle of justice, we ask, should Editor Charles Emory Smith be punished for a criminal libel men secretly marked for his dagger's of which he could not possibly be guilty; or upon what reasoning in equity should The Press company be required to pay \$350,000, or any other sum, as damages

that were not sustained either by the libeled treasurer or the company he represents?

There is a moral as well as a legal side to an issue of this character. The Press has fully demonstrated that the libel was not uttered with malice. A subordinate of that paper was not sufficiently careful, and committed a grave blunder. The Press has sustained infinitely greater injury as the result of that blunder than has the libeled bank official or his institution. The person directly aggrieved, and the president of the bank indirectly involved, are manifesting a spirit of revenge in the civil and criminal cases they are pressing that will not commend them in the estimation of just and fair-minded men. Editor Smith has shown himself a manly man in declining to purchase immunity for himself on the terms proposed. In protecting his erring subordinates he is right. If any person maliciously deceived any one connected with The Press by imposing upon them false information, such person should

not, however, be shielded by Mr. Smith. This seems to us to be the common sense view to take of the case under consideration. It is one that concerns

all publishers. "The Republican party," observes the Philadelphia Inquirer, "wants a presidential candidate who will hold New Jersey, Maryland and Kentucky in the Republican column and who can carry New York and keep on carrying her." In that event, why not urge the nomination of that gallant leader and peeress plurality-getter, General Daniel H. Hastings? He would come as near to ping both North and South as any other living Republican.

to scan the newspaper files for the

Indeed, it seems safe to assert that for by due process of law thus far in 1895, two criminals have been executed lawlessly. And yet it is the traditional supposition that Americans are a civilized and a law-abiding people, so well situated morally that they may with propriety send missionaries to foreign countries to convert the heathen!

No Jugglery with Duty. Well-defined rumor has it that Mr. Cleveland, in his message, will ask congress to increase the revenue by adding fifty cents a gallon to the tax on whisky and one dollar per barrel to the present tax on beer. If he does this congress should promptly call his attention to the fact that the loss in revenue is due to his party's wanton slashing of protection, and that, therefore, the best and shortest way to a remedy for that deficit is through the restoration of the sacrificed duties.

A large proportion of the Republican members of congress are represented in the Washington dispatches as having expressed the belief that their party ought for political reasons to let the publican daily in Lackawanna county." tariff severely alone this coming session, even though the government shall thereby be compelled to peddle another issue of bonds in order to secure money for current expenses. They argue, as Correspondent Curtis puts it in his letter to the Chicago Record, that "the Republicans are not responsible for the present condition of things; that the existing revenue laws were passed by them. a Democratic president and his secretary of the treasury; that they received timely and frequent warnings from the Republicans that the decrease of duties they proposed would not afford a sufficient revenue to sustain the government, but they insisted upon having their own way and should now be compelled to take the consequences even though they roll up the public debt at the rate of \$100,000,000 a year. They insist that the country should have the benefit of this example of Democratic misgovernment, and that the Republican congress cannot be expected to correct the mistakes of President Cleveland and his party unless he is willing to admit their errors and beg

Perhaps such an argument as this is no more than natural; but we seriously doubt whether it will be satisfactory to the people. There is at all times an ample amount of duty-dodging in connection with national legislation; the years' experience with Democratic incapacity, is decidedly favorable to straightforward performance of duty by the incoming Republican majority. It will be a inexcusable mistake if the paramount question of revenue replenishment be not considered, from the session's first moment, solely with a view to the nation's needs. The politics of the subject will in such an event take care of itself.

That the treasury tangle will eventually be solved by the issue of shortterm three per cent, bonds subscribed for by the public, and by the restoration of protection is almost as certain as that the next president will be a loot the American treasury at will is a

Secretary Morton is unable to see why the president of the United States should not be as eligible to repeated reelections as a careful president of a bank. The trouble with the present president of the United States is that if he were to run a bank as he has run this government, he would be ousted inside of six months.

The treasury deficit on Friday of last week amounted for the month to \$3,-663,417.23; for the fiscal year, to \$20,1.9,752,-41 and for the Cleveland administration to \$131,988,021.43. Another bond issue is exceedingly probable, and the chances are that Wall street will again pocket the profit.

The Philadelphia Inquirer advances as a reason why Pennsylvania Republicans should sneer at General Harrison the alleged fact that C. L. Magee is for him. Is not this line of reasoning a triffe weak?

Senator Sherman was a pretty old hand to be shocked at the efforts which he says were made in 1888 to corral Southern delegates. Does he wish to be considered as an innocent in polities?

Secretary Olney's "vigorous foreign policy" has been at last revealed in the case of ex-Consul Waller; and its vigor is exhibited chiefly in backing down.

Now that Schlatter, the mysterious healer, has again been discovered, we advise the Democracy to lose no time in putting itself under his treatment.

The nawab of Basoda is now a visitor in these United States, but the ahkoond of Swat, alas, is dead.

## OUR DISAPPEARING SHIPS.

OUR DISAPPEARING SHIPS.

The annual report of the national bureau of navigation, which has just been issued, is an interesting document. Among the facts disclosed by it are that the numbers and tonnage of our merchant fleet are both smaller at this time than they were a year ago. On June 30 last the American fleet comprised 23,240 documented vessels of 4,635,360 tons, while on June 30, 1894, the tonnage of 23,460 vessels was 50,000 greater.

The report strongly emphasizes the need of a free ship bill. It says the fact that the Americans cannot buy ships where they please and sail them under the American flag is the chief reason that the United States and Italy alone, among marltime nations, have a smaller carrying capacity on the ocean than they had twenty years ago, when President Grant urged congress to pass the free ship bill. The significant fact is adduced that last year going and coming the voyage between the United States and Europe was made only 23 times by vessels under the American flag is the chief reason that the sels under foreign flags. A table showing and describing the American exsels which visited flity of the world's chief seaports exhibits graphically the reduction of the sea power of the United States. Comparing the fine demonstration of our naval power at Kiel with the fact that only five American merchant vessels, with crews all told of barely 150 men, visited Germany during the entire year, Commissioner Chamberlain quotes Captain Mahan's attement that a navy cannot long exist without a large merchant marine as a reason for its maintenance. reason for its maintenance.

Assuming that the free ship bill may no pass this session, Commissioner Chamber alin proposes as an alternative the extension of the act under which the New Yor and Park were admitted to register an the St. Louis and St. Paul were bill it the United States, Leading shipbullder

this proposition. The good resuits of the experiment in the case of the four steamers named, it is declared, proves that the principle can be made general with entire safety. The subject of subsidies is discussed briefly. The report asserts that subsidies have little support in this country, and a full translation is given of the report of President Faure, Minister Siegried, and other French statesmen, showing the meagre results and great expense of the French subsidy system. The aboliahment of compulsory pilotage on coasting vessels in the ten states from Maryland to Texas is recommended as being a discrimination against American saling vessels and in favor of foreign steamers.

That congress will be expected at the

vessels and in favor of foreign steamers.

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That congress will be expected at the coming session to take measures looking to the restoration of our merchant marine is undentable. There will be strong opposition to the free ship bill, but the alternative proposed in the report would seem to offer a fair and desirable basis of compromise. One thing at least is certain: the future expansion of American trade and American ideas depends almost wholly upon the development of an American merchant marine not last but first in the list of the world's commercial navies.

### JOE AS A MUGWUMP.

It Calls Itself an Independent Organ. Carbondale Leader: The Scranton Trib une has these words in large black letters over the head of the paper on the first page: "The only Re-The Republican has always been affiliated with that party, but The Tribune evidently thinks that the Republican is henceforth to be classed as an independent organ, since Mr. Scranton has declared that he will stick to candidates he has already named for the municipal election next February no matter whether or not others support

### COMMENT OF THE PRESS.

The Nicavagus Canal.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat: "Senator Frye points out that the opening of the Nicaraguan canal would place us as near Hong Kong as England, 1,200 miles nearer all the northern ports of China than she, 1,300 miles nearer Japan, and 1,600 miles nearer Australia. Furthermore, the time between New York and San Francisco by steamer would be reduced about one-half with a large reduction in freight charges. These considerations seem to him sufficient to justify our government in giving all possible encouragement to the enterprise."

True, Likewise, in Lackawanna. Wilkes-Barre Record: "It is the general belief that a recount of the votes would confirm Judge Smith's right to the seat and effectually set at rest the rumors which have been rife since his election. We have no hesitation in saying that as far as Luzerne is concerned, the figures will bear the closest scrutiny."

Would Serve Grover Right. St. Louis Globe-Democrat: "The general Democratic feeling with regard to the third term is that it would only be serving Cleveland right to give him the nomination when there isn't the ghost of a chance for him to be elected."

They're Willing He Should. Chicago Times-Herald: "Up to this writing none of the Republican leaders appear to be lying awake at night trying to devise means for preventing Mr. Cleveland from running for a third term."

The Cause of the Slump. Chicago Times-Herald: "Mr. Roosevelt pulled several of the ugly teeth of the Tammany tiger, but they were replaced by the New York reformers who could not get along without Sunday beer."

Cut It Short, Thomas. Chicago Times-Herald: "As to Hon. Thomas B. Reed's presidential chances, much depends on his ability to pull off a short session of congress." Each Wants the Best Cut

Chicago Times-Herald: "The powers are not able to agree as to a policy for Turkey. The difficulty is that all of them prefer the white meat." Willingly Paying the Freight. Chicago Times-Herald: "The reports of the railroad companies show that the peo-ple are willingly paying the freight on the return of prosperity."

Conversion by the Sword. Detroit Journal: "The right kind of missionaries for Turkey are those who go in regiments."

## THE CITY OF PROGRESS.

From the Wfikes-Barre Times. Through the instrumentality of the Scranton board of trade that enterprising scranton board of trade that enterprising city has secured another new industry, a company for the manufacture of uphotstered furniture which is expected to give employment to 200 skilled workmen and to distribute annually about \$200,000 in wages. And thus the good work goes merrily on—in Scranton.

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