

The Scranton Tribune

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Scranton, Pa., December 6, 1890.

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adps and cruisers could perform among English merchantmen on the high seas. These considerations, added to the aggressions which Russia would make upon English possessions in the orient under cover of an Anglo-American conflict, will be ample to incline Lord Salisbury's mind toward ways of conciliation.

The British papers think the Monroe doctrine has validity only prior to American presidential elections. Let England ignore it and see.

Mr. Guernsey's Mistake. Last evening's Times, in its report of the police inquiry, contained the following:

"We had better not talk on that matter any more," said Mr. Guernsey, "that which I said yesterday was badly distorted today." Picking up a copy of this morning's Tribune he said: "When Mayor Connell asked me if I knew anything about the truthfulness of the charges, I said 'I did,' and not that 'I did not' as stated here. I further told him that I make a charge, while this paper makes me say that I would not."

Mr. Guernsey, if correctly reported in this excerpt, must be the victim of an after thought. The report of his language given in yesterday's Tribune was literally correct, as can be proved by witnesses. The Tribune's standing instructions to the reporters detailed to report this and all similar investigations are to present the exact facts without color or bias. To that end the report of last night's hearing in the mayor's office includes a stenographic transcript of the principal evidence, so that there may be no question of the report's fairness.

The sentiment of the country without reference to locality or party is well expressed by Henry Clow, the well-known financier, when he says: "I do not quite agree with those members of congress who recommend non-action, while the needs of the country call for vigorous action, so as to give us a strong revenue government to supersede the present deficit-revenue government. We want, and want quickly, the best legislation that will produce that result. The election of last November meant, if it meant anything, that the country's best interests must have a do-something congress to take the place of a do-nothing one." We cannot believe that a majority of the members of the Fifty-fourth congress will decide to sit idle in a great emergency merely because the president is a Democrat.

Plain Words for Congress. The intimation comes from Washington that inasmuch as the president in his message made no specific request for congressional action in immediate relief of the treasury deficit, such action will not be forced upon him. This is said to be the policy which will be followed by the Republican majority upon the supposition that if as a president the president's obstinacy a new set of bonds shall be required to meet current expenses, the country will know where to place the responsibility.

In our judgment such a policy would be exceedingly injudicious. It would reduce to the dimensions of a paltry partisan game of battledore and shuttlecock an issue which is of the utmost gravity and importance to the whole country. The solvency of the national treasury and the adequacy of the national revenues are not party questions merely, they reach to the dignity of the national necessities. The responsibility for the present unfortunate condition of both has already been placed by the voters of the nation. They properly located it when at the last two general elections they administered to the administration in power the severest rebukes known to the history of American politics. No further partition of strategy or manoeuvring is needed to direct public opinion to its duty in the premises. For the Republican majority in congress to waste time on such political artifices would be simply to trifle with public confidence as expressed in those two elections and to ruin the needless risk of sacrificing it in the presidential election next year.

Say what you will, ineffectively means cowardice and covetous will mean a loss of public respect. The people did not choose a Republican congress instead of a Democratic congress in order that it might, by its refusal to meet serious national emergencies, subject the country to as great a strain as it has already sustained by reason of Democratic incompetency. The swift and radical revulsion of public confidence exhibited in the elections of 1894 and 1896 had more than a negative meaning. It meant that the nation perceived itself that it had lost hope so far as Democracy was concerned and was determined to give the Republican party a new chance to prove its worth. Such proof must be supplied, manfully and without unnecessary delay. The tactics of evasion will not suffice. Performance, not promises, is demanded.

It should not too confidently be taken for granted that the next president will be a Republican. A good deal may depend upon how this session of congress lines up to its duties. The American people are learning to hold their public servants to a more rigid accounting than formerly. They are learning to pass swift judgment upon those they find unworthy. If the Republican leaders in the lower house of congress want to make the election of a Republican president difficult next year they need only adhere to their announced programme of idleness and inactivity. It will work like a charm.

Another Spanish victory has been won in the Havana telegraph office. What a field Ananias would have found could he have lived in modern Cuba!

That New Libel Law. At a meeting of the state editorial association to be held in Harrisburg next month, the committee recently appointed to frame a new libel law will offer its report. Among the objects sought are these: To confine civil or criminal suits for libel to the counties in which the newspaper is printed; to prohibit the recovery of punitive damages in civil actions; to require malicious libel to be proved in criminal actions for libel; to require notice to the publisher of the alleged libelous publication, so that a full correction and retraction can be made as a bar to criminal prosecution; to prevent recovery in all civil actions when the publication is substantially true in every material respect, and when the plea of justification

MORE ABOUT SCHLATTER.

The Tunkhannock New Age yesterday printed an exceedingly interesting letter from Edward J. Barwell, who is now in Denver, concerning the singular actions and experiences of the now celebrated hand-healer, Francis Schaller. Many of the facts embodied in Mr. Barwell's biography of Schaller have already appeared in the Tribune, but several are new. It was in Denver, in the fall of '88, that Schaller received his "call" to heal the sick. After noting this fact, Mr. Barwell writes: "He came from Des Moines, Iowa; was arrested at Hot Springs, Ark., as a lunatic because found barefooted and bareheaded, and claiming to have guided 'The Father'; was kept five months in jail; when first put in the prisoners tried him in the 'Kangaroo Court' and let him go, not being able to pay the fine. He was lashed on his bare back, after that the prisoners treated him kindly and he was released. He returned to Iowa in May, 1889; went to San Francisco 'healing' as he went; left there barefooted and bareheaded, and was arrested at Hot Springs, Ark. (the greatest desert in North America); in March, 1890, reached Flagstaff, Ariz., where he headed off the 'Kangaroo Court' and was let go. He lived in New Mexico, living five days with the chief of the Navajo Indians, many of whom he healed, and then returned to Hot Springs, where he began his forty days' fast."

Concerning this fact, Mr. Barwell thus quotes from the well-known Denver journalist, James McCarthy ("Fitz Mac"): "The most remarkable thing about this man's case was that at the close of his ministry of healing throughout the whole period, at first walking about from village to village, and then from Hot Springs, New Mexico, and during the latter part at the residence, in Albuquerque, of J. A. Summers, deputy clerk of the probate court, a family of great intelligence and eminent respectability." Mr. McCarthy further says: "I happened at Albuquerque on the day of his fast and spent the concluding hours of the trial with him, holding his hand while he gave me an account of his life and the events which had determined him to try for the Christ life. I remained till he sat down to the meal prepared for him. The brief and half-finished supper he offered me standing at the table with eyes uplifted before sitting down, was absolutely the noblest dramatic effort I have ever seen—simply, unassuming and grandeur. The scene was inexpressibly moving, and the last moments were ones of compassionate safety to all of us who were permitted to remain with him. We felt, of course, that there was danger in his eating a substantial meal, but he ate, and he ate very heartily of fried chicken, beef-steak and fried eggs, served with a hot-biscuit. He ate another meal of bread and milk, and I understand suffered no inconvenience from it. The table was beautifully laid for him alone, friends having brought flowers, which were spread about on the immediate table. Of the dozen or so who stood about, perhaps all feared the result, but I was the one of least faith. I was so sure that I would kill him that I could not remain. 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