

The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, DECEMBER 16, 1895.

In view of the deliberate failure of the Scranton Republican to join this paper in a pledge to support the nominees of the next Republican city convention, regardless of individual preferences, is not the Tribune thoroughly justified in calling itself "the only Republican daily in Lackawanna county?"

Good for Venezuela! It is repairing its forts, strengthening its defenses and otherwise getting ready to give the English territorial robbers a warm reception. Unless we are greatly mistaken in this congress, Venezuela, if the worst comes to the worst, will not have to face John Bull single handed.

The Verdict of the Mayor's Court. The verdict of the mayor's court of inquiry in the matter of the recent charges against Lieutenant Davis and Patrolman Block is not unexpected, because it is the only verdict possible in view of the evidence in the case. The hearing having been public, the facts are well known and need not be retold. Indeed, the public, as the real jury, had already arrived at a decision exonerating Officer Davis entirely, and acquitting Officer Block of intentional wrong-doing, although finding him guilty of indiscretion in speech.

No doubt the outcome of this inquiry will be an improved quality of public service on the part of the city's police force, because the case has shown that popular vigilance is keen and that detection is exceedingly subject to public arraignment and exposure. Because the circumstances of the original accusation in this case were such as to invite criticism of the manner of its utterance, it is not to be inferred that policemen or other servants of the municipality should be immune from public scrutiny, or that a detection by any citizen of official negligence or culpability should not be promptly brought to the notice of the proper authorities, and, if then necessary, to the attention of the public at large.

We think, finally, that the city of Scranton is entitled to congratulate itself upon the fact that at a time when many municipalities are in the throes of grave and serious public scandals, the worst thing which has been made public concerning its own government is that one policeman out of a force of fifty has grown garrulous to passers by.

The Scranton Republican on Saturday issued a special holiday edition of twenty-eight pages, with lithographed cover. It was a good number of its kind, if you like the kind; and showed what the Republican can do, at times, in the way of expansion.

Dr. Parkhurst's Visit. The visit of Dr. Parkhurst to this city tomorrow night should be the occasion of a generous welcome. To Dr. Parkhurst more than to any other living man this country is indebted for the widespread impetus which has recently been given to the subject of municipal renovation and rehabilitation. At the time when, from his pastor's study this modest preacher stepped forth, all unheralded, to take the leadership in the most notable battle of the century against entrenched vice and rottenness, the subject of reform in city government was a theme largely of sophomoric disquisition and academic debate. Plunging without an instant's hesitation into the very thick of the muck and mire and the stenchful putrefaction of unheralded municipal partiality, he bore the search light into places of unsuspected infamy and darkness, and when his feet landed once more on undefiled ground, behold, the mighty engine of public opinion already had the hose turned on, and it is turned on yet, although much of the filth has since been washed away.

It has been objected to Dr. Parkhurst that he chose an unglorified way of beginning, because, instead of depending upon inaccurate hearsay he got his evidence at first hand. The objection is a quibble, because in war the path way of dignified dalliance is the path way to defeat. The general who would send men where he would not dare to go himself would perhaps ornament dress parades, but he would not win battles. It is the chief of Dr. Parkhurst's claims to respect that, in the teeth of puny precedents, he led in person the advance upon the enemy, neither hiding behind the back of deputized parishioners nor jumping at conclusions upon the strength of unauthenticated rumors. It was, perhaps, an audacious thing to do; but it was the audacity of calculated wisdom, absolutely safe in its ground.

The visit of such a man to Scranton, therefore, is rightly regarded as an event of moment. The general purport of the lecture which he will deliver is fully familiar to close readers of the temporary press; but there is that in the personality and in the inspiration of the man himself which can be seen and felt only through direct mortal and spiritual contact. The opportunity thus to meet the most successful reformer of his day, and to learn from his lips some of the lessons of his own memorable endeavors will, therefore, prove a welcome one, which we should fancy no thoughtful citizen would wish to neglect.

The proposition to give a testimonial concert in behalf of Mr. John T. Watkins, who desires to enter the London Royal Academy of Music, with a view to preparing for the operatic and concert stage, is one to which the music lovers of Scranton will, we should imagine, gladly give their assent. Mr. Watkins has ever been generous to them; it is time for reciprocity.

A Problem of Magnitude. A point of moment was raised by Rev. E. L. Miller in his sermon upon "Inequality" last evening when he ascribed much of the prevalent laxity in social morals to the lack in American cities of proper places of cheap or free entertainments for the masses. The problem of what to do with spare time in the evenings may be easily solved for the affluent classes, who may attend the private club room, the concert, the opera or the play house; but these avenues of recreation are closed to the great majority by their expensefulness, if by no other cause; hence it is forced to seek its amusement at street corners, along the traveled thoroughfares or in the alluring places where vice imports to imperceptible its first degree in the progress to ruin.

The tenor of Rev. Mr. Miller's argument was that on purely economic grounds, to say nothing of religion or morals, it would be wise to provide, if need be by public taxation, for the free amusement of the drifting masses. Were there whole nations but existing in this country, as there are in some European countries, where the people at the close of a busy day could rest their wearied bodies in comfortable chairs within sight of elevating stage performances or within sound of noble music, altogether at slight and even trivial expense, he contends, with not a little plausibility, that there would be here, as there are in those foreign places, a cleaner moral atmosphere and less inclination towards the haunts of vice. Large, free amphitheatres, filled with beautiful plants and flowers, and provided with amusement booths and playgrounds, the whole made pleasant by instrumental music and song, come within the scope of this suggestion, as in fact do all other approved expedients for the reaching of humanity's better nature through the senses.

ers, to be bestowed by them upon some favorite lieutenant irrespective of the public wish or preference, than as a position of high responsibility and honor, to be won by commanding ability and merit. If this widely prevalent view of the conditions of the competition be correct, it no doubt would effectually deter men of the first rank from entering the field as candidates, and leave the contest clear for mediocrity.

The Scranton Sunday World, an independent newspaper, made its first appearance yesterday and attracted favorable attention. Its editor and manager is John H. Blackwood, once city editor of The Tribune. Mr. Blackwood has put much of his superabundant energy and versatility into the new journal. He has also marked out a promising pathway for the paper's future, and there ought to be no question of the World's progress. While the Sunday field has no lack of occupants, originality, feateness and continuity of purpose will not fail to win a satisfactory place for one more. The Tribune wishes the World all possible success.

The esteemed Wilkes-Barre Record advises the Republicans of Luzerne to put up a fight for Palmer for senator, not so much out of regard for Palmer as just to show the rest of the state what Luzerne can do when she is roused. Such a basis would indeed be an interesting one for a senatorial campaign.

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Washington Bureau. Tribune Bureau, No. 515 Fourteenth St., N. W., Washington, Dec. 15. It will be two weeks on Monday since congress convened and neither house has done a tap of work except the introduction of a few hundred bills. The house, of course, has passed a bill for the reorganization of the post office, but the senate has done nothing in that direction except talk about reorganization. Whether it will make a clean job of it when it begins is a question.

The Pennsylvania delegation at St. Louis ought as a unit to support Governor Hastings for president as long as there is a reasonable chance of his nomination. Such action on its part would establish a desirable precedent, cement party divisions and put the grand old party in this commonwealth in splendid trim to face the future.

The Next Senatorship. The Republicans of Philadelphia could with propriety unite upon one candidate for the senatorial succession and present him to the state at large as the representative of a populous and important community which, for the past six years, has not been represented by one of its citizens in the United States senate. Such a union of aspiration and interests, if personified by an attractive candidacy, representing an attractive straightforward Republicanism, high personal character, pleasing address and thorough command of the subjects likely to require senatorial consideration, would doubtless appeal strongly to the support of other sections of the commonwealth.

It is to be desired that every community wishing to participate in the contest for the succession to Mr. Cameron shall put forward its worthiest representative, so that, whosoever wins, the commonwealth will be well served and honored. In the case of Philadelphia this is especially desirable, because of the likelihood that such a concentration would insure success. We do not hesitate to say that all of the Philadelphiaans suggested, the candidacy of Charles Emory Smith represents in our judgment by far the highest qualities of manliness and culture, and the largest measure of all-round fitness. Mr. Smith, as an orator, has no superior in the state; as a student of public questions his prominence is already national; as a Republican his voice has always been heard upon the side of clean methods and lofty ideals of public profession and performance; while in the graces of personality and in the essentials of breeding, tact and character he stands conspicuous as one of the best living types of intelligent American citizenship. These are not mere words of facile flattery; they are truths, recognized as such by discerning Pennsylvanians everywhere. Hence it is our conviction that the claim of Philadelphia would be very markedly strengthened were it coupled with the single name of Philadelphia's concededly ablest and worthiest senatorial possibility.

Whether the Republicans of Philadelphia can rise superior to factional differences and unify their energies in the manner indicated is another question. There unfortunately seems to be little probability of such a consummation. In Philadelphia, as in other portions of the commonwealth, the senatorship seems to be regarded by many rather as the property of one or two influential lead-

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