the Scranton Tribune

P. KINGSBURY, PAGE, AND GEN'S MORE. E. M. RIPPLE, See's AND TARAS. LIVY B. RICHARD, EDITOR. W. W. DAVIS, Business MANAGER. W. W. YOUNGS, ADV. MANO'S

AT THE POSTOFFICE AT SCRAHTON, PA. AL

THE WREELY TRIBUNE, ISSUED EVERY SATURDAY, CONTAINS TWEIVE HANDSOME PARTS, WITH AN ADMINISTRATIVE ROWS, PICTOR, AND WELL-EITHE MISCHIAMY. FOR THESE WHO CHINOI TAKE THE DAILY TRIBUNE, the Weekly Is Recommended as the Beet Bargain Going. Unly \$1 a Year, in Advance.

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SCRANTON, DECEMBER 21, 1895.

REPUBLICAN STATE CONVENTION. Headquarters Republican state committee, 1231 Walnut street,
Philadelphia, Pa., Dec. 12, 1885.
To the Republican Electors of Pennsyl

The Republicans of Pennsylvania, by their duly chosen representatives, will meet in state convention, Thursday, April 23, 1896, at 10 o'clock a. m., in the Opera House, city of Harrisburg, for the pur-pose of nominating two candidates for representatives at large in congress and thirty-two candidates for presidential elec-tors, selecting eight delegates at large to the Republican national convention, and transacting such other business as may be

By order of the state committee, Attest: Jere B. Rex. W. R. Andrews,

Secretaries. Representation in this convention will be the same as in the last state conven-

In a war with Great Britain Uncle Sam would not cut very much of a figure with his seventy warships pitted against the more than five hundred floating the flag of John Bull, But when it comes to land forces Uncle Sam would be right there with all the men he could supply with guns.

Cleveland's Latest Message.

The day after it had been asserted by Mr. Depew in New York that American securities had sustained an estimated aggregate shrinkage of \$400,000,000 in consequence of the president's Venezuelan message, Mr. Cleveland gives the feeling of uneasiness a new stimulus by a special communication to congress greatly magnifying the gravity of the financial situation and raising uncalled for suspicions as to the business integrity of the American nation. Some one ought to inform Mr. Cleveland that he is doing more to discredit American securities by constantly harping on the undisputed need of honestly meeting very national obligation than any other single agency; and that of all his indiscretions this last one, considering its circumstances, is the least excusable.

.The present message, whatever its author's purpose, is simply a breeder of new alarm. It offers no specific suggestions. It outlines no plan of action. It is wholly the cry of the alarmist, no doubt well meant, but nevertheless certain to do more harm than good. It looks as if Wall street were getting eager for a new bond issue and, what is worse, as if its eagerness on this point has enkindled a responsive feeling in the breast of the present occupant of the White House. There is no necessity for the executive's periodical reiteration of the insinuation that his countrymen contemplate cheating their creditors.

The authorities of Philadelphia have been able to restore law and order. The mob appears to have exhausted itself after one day of rioting and then suppressed itself, a very sensible proceeding on the part of the mob.

The Board of Pardons.

The Pennsylvania Board of Pardons has been frequently criticized with more or less severity by the press of the state for its leniency in cases where clemency was not deserved, and where the punishment meted out by justice was in strict accord with the evidence and the laws. Every Board of Pardons, since that tribunal was created by the present constitution, has at one time or another exceeded the powers which the framers of the constitution manifestly intended to confer upon it. The Board of Pardons was never intended to be a court of last resort, nevertheless every Board has at some time assumed such functions, actually overriding not only the lower court, but even the Supreme court. While the Board of Pardons can do no more than recommend a pardon or commutation of sentence as a rule the governors of the state have compiled with its recommendations without question. Governor Pattison, we believe, was the only executive who ever disregarded a recommendation of the Board, and refused to grant a pardon as recommended. On one or two occasions, he, believing that the

In a number of instances the Board has commuted sentences of death to imprisonment in cases where there was not even the semblance of an excuse for such action, and in rare instances has entirely defeated the ends of justice by recommending the pardon of redhanded murderers. A careful review of the operations of the several Boards of Pardons during the past twenty-five years would constrain almost any thoughtful man to ask the question whether it would not be wise, if it could be legally done, for the legislature to enact a law defining and limiting the powers of the Board of Pardons. In the first place the framers of to the Supreme court, and after an exthe constitution undoubtedly erred in haustive consideration that tribunal constituting the Board as it did. Un- may have confirmed the judgment of der constitutional provision it is com- the court below; but this does not end posed of the attorney general, lieuten- the case; then comes the board of entant governor, secretary of the com-monwealth and secretary of internal that has been done and throw the murirs. Three of these four are not derer back upon the community.

Board had erred, declined to act.

necessarily learned in the law, and may possess no fitness whatever for the delicate duties devolving upon them as members of the Board of Pardons. A still greater objection is that, as a rule the Board as constituted, is composed of men in active politics, and it is only the truth to say that political influence too frequently figures before the

Board. The Board of Pardons should be con posed of men possessed of special fitness for the delicate duties devolving upon them, and they should not be officeholders and politicians. Some day the thoughtful people of Pennsylvania will realize the full force of this and demand an amendment to the constitution providing a radical change in the direction indicated. We have no criticism to pass specially upon the present Board, inasmuch as it appears to be neither better nor worse than its predecessors. We only take occasion to call attention to the fact that the Board as frequently interposes to defeat the ends of justice as to grant deserved clemency.

Dispatches from Washington allege that President Cleveland will tender to ex-President Harrison the presidency of the Venezuelan commission. If this is really contemplated the country and Mr. Cleveland are to be congratulated. Mr. Cleveland are to be congratulated.
Such an appointment even if General
Harrison should feel constrained to
decline it, would show level-headedness
on the part of President Cleveland. No
man in the United States would disman in the United States would discharge such a responsible and delicate duty more intelligently, more conscientiously, or more patriotically than General Harrison. Partisanism has happily been entirely eliminated from the controversy that has arisen between the United States and Great Britain. If the president should feel the inclination to appoint two Republicans on that commission another great man to select would be ex-Senator George F. Edmunds, of Vermont.

Our Defenseless Condition.

A contemplation of the figures printed on the sixth page, showing the strength of the British army and navy as compared to the visible defense of the United States, must have the effect of dampening the warlike enthusiasm of sanguine patriots about us who are possessed of a burning desire to wipe the English from the face of the earth. As the figures demonstrate, the United States regular army numbers only about 25,000 men, and by rallying the national guard this country would be able to place only 114,930 equipped soldiers in the field on short notice. Against this force England can place 1,039,760 trained warriors. The American navy numbers 64 vessels, all told, while Great Britain's flag floats over 501 boats of the most approved designs.

This spectacle not only illustrates the necessity of proceeding with caution in dealing with the Venezuelan question, but it also demonstrates the need of a standing army for America. For the past twenty years through the efforts of reform and economic demagogues and sentimentalists, who propose to reply wholly upon arbitration to settle questions of national importance, the United States army has been dwindling away and the implements of defense in which every nation should take pride have gone to decay. Our forts and coast defenses have crumbled and fallen away and our standing army has been reduced by Democratic retrenchment to a handful of men scarcely able to control the wandering savages of the west. The ship-building industry had, until recently, become one of the lost arts, while the ancient hulks of other days that constituted the United States navy have rotted on dry docks for want of proper attenpenses in the ship-building and other

tion. By constant reduction of exdepartments under government patronage thousands of artisans have been thrown out of employment and cast adrift to help swell the army of tramps that infest the rural districts or breed anarchy and disorder in the large cities. It is no exaggeration to say that the results of the action of Democratic tariff tinkers and reformers who have sought to save money for the nation by reducing government expenses, have been largely responsible for the unrest occasioned by the hard times of the past quarter of a century. In addition to the suffering and general disorder caused by this penny wise and pound foolish policy this country is placed in a position that would make it hazardous for the government to invite war

from any source, most of all Great Britain. It is of no use at present to mourn for the mistakes of the past, but it is to be hoped that the facts of the present situation will open the eyes of congress to the necessity of providing an army and navy that would make some sort of a showing on more serious occasions than dress parade. A standing army of one hundred thousand men would not be too large for a country of the magnitude of the United States. The military service would afford occupation for many of the unemployed. The revival of the ship-building industry, and the manufacture of government armament would also serve to stimulate trade in many sections and have a healthy effect upon business everywhere. Whatever may be the outcome of the Venezuelan controversy it will probably prove beneficial if it has the effect of impressing upon economic cranks and sentimentalists the need of heeding the injunction "in times of

peace, prepare for war." It is never safe to assume that a murderer will be hanged in Pennsylvania, until after the board of pardons has had the opportunity to sit as a court of last resort on the case. A murderer may have had a fair and exhaustive trial and the evidence may have been all one way; the jury may have returned a verdict of murder in the first degree, in accordance with the evidence; there may have been an argument for a new trial and the motion denied; the case may have been carried

WASHINGTON GOSSIP.

Tribune Bureau, 515 Fourteenth street, N. W., Washington, Dec. 20.

Washington, Dec. 20.

The senate is apparently not as full of fight as the house. Instead of taking immediate action on the president's Venezueian message, as the lower branch of congress did, the senate, after debating the question at some length on Thursday, took no action, and the house bill apday, took no action, and the house bill applied. day, took no action, and the noise an appropriating \$100,000 for a commission to be appointed by the president to locate the boundary line, went over until some future time. The fact that the senate took no immediate action does not mean that the members of that body are any less patriotic than their brethren in the house. The senate is a deliberate body and it The senate is a deliberate body and would have been in violation of a time would have been in violation of a time-honored custom to have gone off half-cocked, as it were. When it does act the senate will no doubt endorse the senti-ments expressed by the house.

experts in the state departmen are at work on maps with the view of determining the line between Venezuela and British Guiana. This looks a little and British Gulana. This looks a little like business. It is a well-known fact that Secretary Olney is possessed of a war-like disposition. He is more of a fighter than a diplomat. During the Hawaiian trouble Mr. Olney, who was then attorney general, coposed the president's policy, and more than once threatened to leave the cabinet on that account. If there is not a scrap with England, or a square backdown by that country, it will not be Secretary Olney's fault. He is in favor of twisting the lion's tail at any and all times.

senate with some interesting as well as startling information concerning the cost of congressional funerals. Now Senator Peffer wants to know from Postmaster General Wilson what employes of the postoffice department are prohibited from suggesting legislation in their interest and "conferring thereabout" with members of congress. He also wants to know by what authority the postmaster general levies fines on employes of the postofflee department for mistakes and errors in their work. He has introduced a resoluwith the view of ascertaining the facts in the cases.

Colonel Alexander McClure, editor of th Philadelphia Times, was here yesterday, and "broke bread" with Senator Cameron at the latter's table last night. The colonel and the senator are old friends, and while dining and wining they talked over times when both were boys together up in southern central Pennsylvania. While discussing the political situation with me Colonel McClure said that the Democratic party in Pennsylvania was in bad shape. This, he said, is particularly true regarding the party in Philadelphia. "There is practically no Democratic party in Philadelphia," said Colonel McClure, "and if the warring factions of what is left of the Democratic design of the Democratic design. Democracy do not soon declare peace here will not be a corporal's guard left of hat party throughout the entire state. The colonel ought to know what he is alking about. He has done his share of he wrecking.

Marshall Cushing, ex-private secretary of ex-Postmaster General Wanamaker, and now editor of the Capitol, a weekly paper published in Washington, has been sued for libel. Captain Thomas H. Mc-Kee, who was secretary to the last conression committee, is the plaintiff. Captain McKee was a candidate for sergeant at-arms of the house and during his cam paign Cubsing printed an article reflecting on the captain's honesty and character in general. The aforesaid alleged libelous article not only appeared in Mr. Cush-ing's Capital, but it was extensively circu-lated by a printed letter which was mailed to every Republican member of congress Captain McKee was defeated for sergeant-at-arms. In fact, he was never considered in the fight to any great extent. He is now an applicant for the position of jour-nal clerk of the house, with a \$3,600 salary attachment. There is a hitch about his appointment, and he is under the lingerin the Capital, is going to knock him out.

The matrmonial fever has broken out among the Washington correspondents. Charles B. Lockwood, correspondent of Charles B. Lockwood, correspondent of the Pittsburg Leader, was the first one to be stricken. He succumbed to the charms of Mrs. Nellie Taber Robertson, of this city. Edward W. Barrett, corre-spondent of the Atlanta Constitution, was married on Wednesday to Miss Jane Suth-erland Smith, of Danville, the acknowl-edged belle of Virginia and the possessor of a large stack of wealth. Mr. and Mrs. Barrett will spend their honeymoon on the Pacific coast. Mr. and Mrs. Lockwood settled down to housekeeping in this city. settled down to housekeeping in this city. They intend spending their honeymoon at the seashore next summer, John L. Cohen, the correspondent of the Atlanta Journal, Secretary Hoke Smith's paper, will marry an Atlanta girl in February.

Orignal pensions have been granted to John Kolb, of White Haven, Luzerne county; William Edminston, of Harwood, Luzerne county; Nathan Drunbore, Leighton, Carbon county, and John Beimer, Ferndale, Lehigh county, W. R. B.

POLITICAL POINTS.

Some of our Republican contemporaries some of our Republican contemporates in other parts of the state are worrying unnecessarily about the political situation in Lackawanna county. There is no occasion for uneasiness. Lackawanna has been increasing her Republican majorities right along and there will be no interruption in the immediate future. The Republican majorities of the country o lican masses of this county know exactly what they want in the way of party mangement and are getting it.

The Truth remarks that "It is natural Senator Cameron should wish to have a successor of his own choosing in the successor of his own choosing in the United States senate, but it is altogether likely that the people of Pennsylvania will have something to say in the subject." Well, if they do, it will be the first time in a great many years. As a rule they have had no hand in the making of senators.

State Senator McCarrell, to whom Sen-ator Cameron addressed his letter with-drawing as a candidate for re-election, has publicly declared in favor of J. Hay Brown, of Lancaster, for United States senator. This is the same Mr. Brown who

declined the appointment of Superior court judge when tendered him by Governor Hastings, and it is alleged be then knew of Cameron's proposed retirement and ex-pected to be his successor.

The latest move on the presidential ches The latest move on the presidential chess board is said to have for its object a combination between Morton, of New York, and Bradley, of Kentucky. Piatt is supposed to be the mover, but it is safe to say that Platt has no intention whatever in making the ticket Morton and Bradley. The New York manipulator makes his moves jointly with Senator Quay, and Morton is not their man for president.

Governor B:=dley, of Kentucky, has been in office only a few days and has been overwhelmed with applications for the pardon of criminals. Up to date he has refused all applicants. He decimes to act without knowing all about each case. He has announced that mere political pressure will have no weight with him. He starts

Since the Republican party was organsince the Republican party was organ-ized only twice has the name of a Penn-sylvanian been brought before a national convention for the presidential nomina-tion. The first was Simon Cameron in 1860, and the second General Hartranft in 1875. It is time Pennsylvania had another tuning in great facts.

President Cleveland ought to admonish Ambassador Bayard that this is not the season for him to induige in apologies for our people or our government when re-sponding to toasts. Better still, the pres-ident might intimate that a vacation would be beneficial to Mr. Bayard.

The Philadelphia Bulletin's Harrisburg correspondent expresses the opinion that the senatorship lies between Colonel Watres, of Lackawanna, and J. Hay Brown, of Lancaster. He adds that Cam-eron favors Brown, but Quay's prefer-ence is not yet known.

Ex-Senator Ingalis, of Kansas, denies hat he has declared himself in favor of Harrison for president. The presidence is not worrying Mr. Ingalis half so much as the succession in the United States senate when Peffer's term expires,

The Monroe doctrine is more lively than ever these days, and when the Venezuela question is finally adjusted even England may be constrained to admit that the fonroe doctrine is something more than a myth.

President Cleveland has heretofore been the British ideal of an American presi-dent, but he is so no longer. He has given the lion's tail a twist and all England howls in sympathy with the llon.

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