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UNION LABEL

SCRANTON, JANUARY 7, 1896.

It will again please the citizens of Lackawanna county to learn from the quarterly report of the county constabulary, presented yesterday, that there has not during the past three months been a single discovered violation of the liquor laws in the county. In this respect we are quite ready for wings.

For the Relief of the Starving.

The decision of the City Pastors' union to make a special appeal to the public for contributions in relief of the starving Christians as yet unmassacred in Armenia deserves a generous response. By all accounts there are thousands upon thousands of followers of the Cross in Asia Minor—the remnant vouchsafed life by the murderous Turkish followers of Mohammed—who at this time are literally upon the verge of starvation. Their harvests have been destroyed by barbarian uprisings; their homes have been broken up or else turned into the scene of rapine and outrage; and the coming of the winter season has found them literally helpless and without means of subsistence in a land filled with the graves of their massacred associates and held with ruthless firmness by their merciless enemy, the Turk.

While the Christian powers of Europe are by their inactivity virtually protecting the assassins of the Crescent in their campaign of Armenian extermination, it is proposed that far-off America shall freight a vessel with supplies and send it as an offering to these suffering brethren in the Christian faith. To this end an appeal is made to Scrantonians, in order that this city, which was one of the first in the country to make a protest against Turkish barbarities, may sustain its word with fitting deed, and prove that a sympathy which can talk can also act. There is no resident of Scranton so poor that he cannot give something for the relief of these starving Christians of Asia Minor, who, though spared by the sword with no thanks to the so-called Christian powers, may, if not soon rescued, yet perish by the slower process of famine. If every Scrantonian should give only 5 cents, the price of one loaf of bread, the total would be $5,000, and it would not take many Scrantons to fill a ship. But whatever is done it will need to be done quickly. Hunger and want will not wait our convenience. A delay of a week may mean the death of hundreds of human beings whom prompt relief would avail to save.

We have had heretofore chiefly the rhetorical side of this Armenian question. People have read of the wholesale butcheries, which have ineffaceably stained and damned the archaic sway of the Mohammedan sultan. They have voiced a casual thought or two of sympathy and regret; and, perchance, have wondered whether Christian Europe would take steps in redress. But there the subject has dropped. It has remained for the closing decade of the nineteenth century, three hundred years and more since the last recorded wholesale religious massacre, to produce the spectacle of 100,000 Christians deliberately done to death—babes slain at their nurse, mothers first dishonored then slaughtered; and old men tortured—by the minions of a sovereign ostensibly under the thumbs of four Christian rulers without any actual step taken in their defence, or any organized effort yet put forth, except in the manner now under consideration to save from massacre or starvation the remnant thousands whom the Turk in his madness overlooked.

Rhetoric, however, must now give way to fact. There can in decency's name be no further justification for hesitancy. Let all who can do so send at once their contributions of money, clothing or provisions to Colonel H. M. Boies, who will act as treasurer of the Armenian Relief fund. Let Scranton show that she can do as well as talk; and an example thus set will not fail to have influence elsewhere.

The confession of McGough that he and not "Bat" Shea, murdered Robert Ross at the Troy election may be all wool and a yard wide, but it has every appearance of a trick to save Shea's worthless life.

The New Bond Issue.

In deciding to make the latest bond sale a popular loan, the president has wisely deferred to a public sentiment which, had it been ignored, might have involved him in very unpleasant consequences. Ninety-five citizens out of every hundred are by this time determined that the scandal of the previous humiliating secret dickers with representatives of foreign syndicates shall not be repeated while there exists any alternative method of replenishing the wasted gold reserve. They agree with Senator Sherman that the spectacle of the richest nation in time of profound peace being forced by its president to appear before the other nations of civilization as a mendicant for financial favors is too dear a price to pay for the interested applause of Wall street.

But how does this belated concession to public sentiment leave the administration with regard to the prior bond issues? Is it not equivalent to a public confession that those issues were unwisely managed? If the people of the United States may be trusted in January, 1896, why were they not similarly trusted in 1894 and 1895? Though it may be profitless so far as existing obligations are concerned to recur to these pioneer exploits of Messrs. Cleveland and Carlisle as financiers, it must not be overlooked that the present action of the administration amounts to conspicuous and humiliating self-stultification. No argument can be adduced in its suport which would not have had equal weight upon the preceding occasions when the American people were ignored and the bonds of the nation turned over at enormous cost to the speculative manipulation of a private syndicate.

Fortunately, the time is not far distant when there will be an end to this whole shameful chapter. As one of the prices of the change of 1892, this bond scandal will be borne by the people with the same sturdy patience that they displayed during the free trade panic; but its effect will be educational, and the mistake which called it into existence will not soon be repeated. The supposition in some quarters that Mr. Cleveland could by foreign heroics blind the country to the shameful failures of his domestic policy and thereby secure his own re-election involves an insult to the popular intelligence. In fourteen months the era of deficits and debt-multiplication will come to an ignominious close, and a period of adequate revenues supplemented by requisite protection will be inaugurated coincidently with the inauguration of a Republican president.

Until then, the public will have to endure its trials as best it can.

Now that the Cuban patriots have whipped the flower of Spain's army into the last ditch, why should the American president withhold his official recognition of the Cuban republic? One would think that this would be just the time for the United States to do the elegant.

A Warning.

Information was received last night of an attempt by persons representing the Moir ticket to seduce some of the delegates elected at Saturday's primaries in the interest of Messrs. Ripple, Williams and Widmayer. In one case the promise made was so generous in its terms as to lead to the belief that a wholesale project of attempted bribery is in progress. The plan of operation is to endeavor to secure the delegate's credentials and transfer them to some creature of the Scranton combine who will deliver the vote in convention in accordance with the combine's directions.

It is not believed that any of the Ripple delegates can be influenced to commit a breach of trust; but the attempt to effect such a result affords an interesting commentary upon the sincerity of the Moir men's cry that they have been the victims of corrupt political methods. The information in our possession is positive. The details of the various overtures are fully known. This much by way of warning!

England and Germany.

There does not seem to an unbiased observer to be adequate reason for the wave of passion said to have swept over England in consequence of the Kaiser's letter to the president of the Transvaal republic congratulating him upon his successful resistance of the Jameson filibustering expedition. If this constitutes an insult to England then the fault must be with England, in which event it will not benefit her case to get mad about it.

The Transvaal republic is a free state settled principally by Germans and the Dutch. Its territory lay within the circle of British covetousness, and one day Dr. Jameson, representing the British South African company, a chartered corporation invested with all the rights of a British colony, made a descent upon it. There are conflicting reports as to his ostensible purpose in leading this invasion, but there is no difference of opinion as to his real aim, and very little doubt as to the fact that he was encouraged in this projected land steal by Cecil Rhodes, who yesterday resigned as premier of Cape colony, a circumstance which lends color to this suspicion. When Dr. Jameson and his thieving band of mercenaries were beaten back by President Kruger and the freemen of Transvaal, and Jameson himself captured and imprisoned like any other highwayman caught in the act, why should not the emperor of Germany, many of whose kinsmen were in the defending army, congratulate the victors? What honest man would fail to feel glad that these brave Boers had preserved their own?

If the Kaiser's message is an insult to England, it must follow that every time an English robber is nabbed while plying his dishonest arts an indignity is offered to the British empire. Surely the Salisbury government would not care to assume a position so preposterous as this. There is one thing of which Americans can rest assured; and that is that if the British government so far yields to the testiness of the popular British temper as to express a demand for the withdrawal of the Kaiser's objectionable message, it will be met by a negative so plain and blunt that war will be England's only escape from abject humiliation. A war between Germany and England on any basis would be deplorable; but on such a basis it would assure to Germany the sympathy of the entire world, Great Britain alone excepted; and it would probably end in England's getting the most beautiful trouncing that any nation has received since the gala days of the great Napoleon.

Under the Monroe doctrine America is forbidden to take an active part in the international politics of Europe. But the wholesale butchery of Armenian Christians by Turks is not a question of politics. It is properly a question of morals, of common humanity. It is certainly a humiliation that Christian America has as yet voiced no official protest against this crowning infamy of the nineteenth century.

The political philanthropist is the man who puts his hand into his pocket and pulls out something substantial when the contribution box goes 'round. The Armenian question, by all accounts, has reached the stage where it will have to make its appeal direct to the practical philanthropist.

One is scarcely surprised to learn that Senator Sherman's speech does not receive the approval of the Wall street bond speculators. As a matter of fact their criticism is the highest possible compliment.

The fact that the English papers do not like the president's Venezuelan commission is something that the American people will manage to survive. They will probably like it less when it makes its report.

If the esteemed Wilkes-Barre Record will bestow a glance on Scranton next month it will see a Republican municipal victory which will set at rest all its present futile fears of party defeat.

Kruger of Transvaal, Dole of Hawaii, and Gomez of Cuba are a trio of men who seem to have the right stuff in them. This is a bad year for bullies.

WASHINGTON GOSSIP.

Tribune Bureau,
515 Fourteenth street, N. W.,
Washington, Jan. 6.

This promises to be a "Do Nothing" congress, and an early adjournment is among the possibilities. The house is not expected to pass any important legislation outside of the general appropriation bills, and they will be kept down to the lowest possible notch. This will not be a "Billion Dollar Congress." Speaker Reed has served notice on the Republican members that no extravagance will be tolerated. He has his eye on the presidential nomination, and he is not going to allow legislation to injure his chances.

The senate is expected to follow in the footsteps of the house on economic lines. Record-making is to be the watchword of both bodies.

It is believed that private legislation will get very little consideration. This will be a blow below the belt for the "parliamentary solicitors" who make their living, and a mighty good one at that, by lobbying through congress legislation for private corporations and individuals. Some of these "solicitors" or "promoters of legislation" have become immensely wealthy. So have many members of congress as well as senators, whose consciences are of the elastic kind. From my own personal knowledge one lobbyist has made in the neighborhood of half a million dollars in the past ten years through his ability to manipulate legislation for various corporations.

Utah is now a state. President Cleveland on Saturday attached his signature to the proclamation which elevated that territory to statehood. The pen with which the president signed the document was afterward secured by Governor West. It will be taken to Salt Lake, where it will be placed on exhibition and then preserved as a historical relic. The instrument used by the president was an ordinary wooden holder with a steel stub pen.

It is said President Cleveland, while on hunting expeditions, rarely, if ever, misses the object he shoots at. He would rather let a dozen ducks get away from him than to fire and miss the target. Ex-President Harrison is a different sort of sportsman. He blazes away at everything in sight, and at the end of a day's hunt finds that he has used enough ammunition to have killed five times as much game as he has bagged. But that does not worry Mr. Harrison. He seems to get as much pleasure out of shooting and missing as Cleveland does in bringing down everything he shoots at.

The Venezuelan boundary commission has organized and will get down to business at once, Justice Brewer was chosen chairman. The commission will have headquarters in the building of the bureau of American republics in this city. The building is just across Pennsylvania avenue from the state department and white house, and for that reason will be quite convenient.

The police picked up a man near the Baltimore and Ohio depot in this city a few evenings ago who gave his name as Rev. Richard J. Rooney, and who claimed to be one of the priests in charge of St. Patrick's church in Philadelphia. When found Father Rooney was in a stupefied condition. He was locked up for the night, and the next day was released. When searched by the police $9 in cash and a gold watch were found in his pockets. After he had recovered from his stupor he told the police that the last time he was in condition to think he had nearly $300 in his possession. It is believed that Father Rooney was the victim of "knock-out drops" administered by a thief. He said he was on his way to the Gethsemane seminary in Somerville, Ky., but after his experience in this city he returned to Philadelphia.

The great clamor for a popular loan of bonds will not likely be heeded by the president and the secretary of the treasury. All the arrangements of the New York syndicate to take the bonds are said to have been completed and they will likely be disposed of in a few days, unless congress can convince the administration that it can furnish a panacea for the sick treasury.

Alfred Henry Lewis, who has become famous as a Washington correspondent by his articles in the Chicago Times, Washington Post and other metropolitan newspapers, will shortly remove to New York to accept a position on the Morning Journal of that city at a salary of $5,000 per year. Mr. Lewis is one of the most forcible as well as pleasing writers Washington has had in years. The boys on "Newspaper Row," while they regret losing the companionship of "Al," are pleased to know that one of their number is so rapidly climbing the ladder of fame in the newspaper profession.

The Pall Mall Gazette, one of the biggest and most powerful newspapers in England, evidently believes the Venezuelan boundary commission, just appointed by the president, is of sufficient importance to Great Britain to keep an eye on. It has sent a special representative to Washington to watch the progress of the boundary controversy from this end of the line. His name is Thomas J. Fielders. At one time he was the New York Herald's London correspondent. Before that, he was connected with the Pottsville Miners' Journal.

On last Friday, Saturday and Sunday Washington experienced the coldest weather of the season. The thermometer fell nearly twenty degrees in a few hours on Friday and has been hugging the zero mark pretty close ever since. A high wind prevailed, which added to the discomfiture of the thin-blooded natives of this ordinarily mild climate. Old "Probabilities," however, predicts a softening of the weather by the middle of this week. Everybody hopes he is telling the truth.

Judging from the results of the primary elections in Scranton on Saturday the cold wave followed Congressman Scranton to his home. W. R. B.

THE TRIBUNE ANNUAL.

Has a Right to Feel Proud.

Scranton News: The Scranton Tribune gives out an art annual and political hand book for 1896. The illustrations, which are numerous, are in the highest style of the modern engravers' art, and the figure and names matter, which is understood to have been collected mainly by Colonel J. D. Laclar, attests the industry and skill of that gentleman in a line of work the difficulties of which are only properly appreciable by those who have undertaken it. The Tribune has right to be proud of the issue, for the subscribers fully recognize its value.

Full of Valuable Information.

Taylor Herald: The Tribune Almanac, issued for '96, is full of valuable information and is a compendium that answers many questions.

COLONEL RIPPLE'S VICTORY.

From the Scranton Truth.

In the spirited preliminary battle at the primaries, in this city last Saturday, Colonel E. H. Ripple won an emphatic victory for the mayoralty nomination to be made formally tomorrow at the Republican city convention. Of the seventy-six delegates elected forty-seven were chosen for Colonel Ripple, according to the reported returns, and his success in all parts of the city was so pronounced as to make further factional opposition to his candidacy futile.

This is no mere accident or machine victory, but the popular triumph of a man who enjoys, in an exceptional manner, the confidence and respect of the entire community, and whose personal integrity and manliness are beyond reproach. The qualities which commend Colonel Ripple to his fellow-citizens are not those usually associated with the successful politician. His broad mind and big heart are not confined to the narrow groove of a pinched partisanship, and people of all classes recognize in him a man eminently worthy of being the mayor of this large, growing and cosmopolitan city.

We need big men in office these days, when big questions are looming up on the horizon of public opinion, and we disparage no one in saying that Colonel Ezra H. Ripple is deservedly recognized as belonging to this class. His opponent for the nomination, Captain Moir, is also a gentleman held in merited esteem for his worth and intelligence, and there could be no better proof of his standing than the creditable showing he made in the contest against such a formidable candidate as Colonel Ripple.

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajacchus, The Tribune Astrologer.

Astrolabe cast: 1.49 a. m., for Tuesday, Jan. 7, 1896.

A child born on this day will be of the opinion that it is useless for Editor Lynett to look for any floating Democratic mayoralty Moses while the ice is so thick on the ponds.

It becometh more apparent at each reassembling of court that the constables of Lackawanna county know not the smell and taste of liquor.

Individual Horoscopes.

[Ajacchus has undertaken the task of giving advice to a few readers who have enclosed samples of hair and date of birth.]

Jamie, Scranton.—You will live to a good old age, if you can break off from the unpleasant habit of whistling. Otherwise it is not safe to wager upon your existence. You are quite popular with the ladies, and during the present leap year may receive proposals. Do not marry a girl born in December, unless your pocket book is deep enough to allow you to pose perpetually as Santa Claus. A December girl's stocking will usually hold material enough to equip the four cent store for a holiday rush.

"Tiger Lily," Carbondale.—You are evidently of an excitable disposition and need to be kept as quiet as possible. You should court soothing influences at all times. Look over the back files of the Leader and read Sam Jones' editorials whenever you feel nervous. You should also beware of fickle lovers. They are liable to swarm about you. Eat fried onions upon the evenings that you best young man is expected to call. If he continues to visit you after two or three sittings you may be certain that his affection for you is sincere.

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BASKETS
BASKETS

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We intend to close them out quick as possible to make room for new spring stock.

There will be some real bargains. If you are in need of anything in our line it will pay you to visit our store.

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Fine China, Crockery,
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House-keepers and House-builders, now is your time to save money. Don't take our word for it, but come and see for yourselves. We have many short lengths, ample to cover small and fair-sized rooms, that you can buy way below cost, so bring the size of the room with you.

This is an opportunity that you will not get again this season, as the tendency is toward higher prices. See window for prices.

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just when you need a given article and are in a hurry for it, is not the time to buy. Look around your office and see what you will need soon in the way of Paper, Blank Books, Letter Files, Typewriter Paper, Ink, Pens, or anything in the way of office supplies, and give us your order now. Then you will never be entirely out of stock.

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They will take the picture of a candidate for a city office, ears and all. So your ears will get in all right, too.

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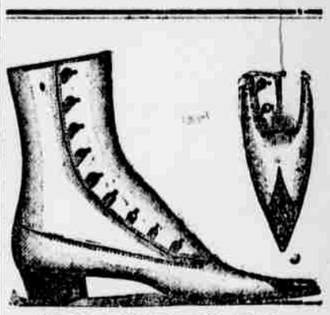

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