the Scranton tribune

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The Tribune has no wish to discount the enterprise of any of its contemporaries, but speaking for itself alone it again assures the public that it will

not inflict upon advertisers or readers chucked-together, heavy-weight Christmas edition. It will instead devote its energies to a continual improvement of its regular issues, secure in its belief that such a policy will tell to its advantage in the long run. Merchants who wish good positions for advertisements that, when printed, will be read, will do well to keep The Tribune in mind.

The Senatorship.

An estimable Archbald subscriber, Mr. W. A. Beecher, has addressed us the following letter:

As a long time subscriber of your esti-Monday morning against John Wanamaker. In denominating him an "arrant hypocrite" without giving a single tangible instance to prove the charge, but simis the case it in nowise incriminates him unless it can be proved that it has been done with his knowledge and approval, which your insinuations do not attempt to show. I must, therefore, from an entirely disinterested point of view, for the sake of good morals, protest against your unreasonable and apparently malicious criticism of a man who is a most worthy, heads in shame? consistent, and devoted member of one of the most active and philanthropic Christian churches in this land. Let us in the interest of good citizenship have no more of this kind of talk. I have no axe to grind in the senatorial contest, but only wish that the man best fitted for the place, whoever he may be, may be sent to Washington. If Senator Penrose is free from athelstic views and the drink habit, etc., let those who have made the charges be prosecuted and suffer the full penalty of the law. But let no self-re-specting citizen or newspaper that desires the patronage of good people attempt to defend Penrose by defaming a Christian gentleman like John Wanamaker.

Let us see whether Mr. Beecher's statement of the case is a correct one. Can he point to any place in its files where The Tribune has indulged in "flings at religion?" The editorial in point certainly admits of no such construction. Its only "fling" was at the type of self-assertive phariseeism which employs or without protest permits men to blacken an opponent's private character while it is itself guilty, unless sworn testimony be false, of conduct which does violence to public morals. We cannot see wherein we "outrage Christian sentiment" when we unmask tuch hypocrisy as this. The quibble that Mr. Wanamaker does not know that such lieutenants of his as Kauffman, Leach and Van Valkenburg are using his campaign contributions in a vicious manner may excuse him in law, but does it exonerate him in morals? Can he keep a clear conscience while, without objection from him, understrappers, feed with his cash, are circulating outrageous scandal against his political opponent and bidding like auctioneers for purchasible legislative

We ask Mr. Beecher to read the following affidavit by Hon. Clark T. Baldwin, of Fayette county, a member-elect of the next legislature, and then inform us whether its revelations sustain the moral pretensions of Mr. Wanamaker:

"On or about Oct. 26, 1896, while canvassing in Connellsville, I was introduced to sing in Connellsville, I was introduced to Captain Edmund Dunn, and in the coarse of his conversation with me he said it would be to my interest to be at Connellsville at the Wanamaker meeting on the 28th of October. I told him I would be there. On the morning of Oct. 28 I went to Connellsville and accompanied the Wanamaker party on a special train to Dunbar, and on our return to Connellsville, about noon, I met Mr. Wanamaker at the entrance of the Smith House, and after shaking hands with him House, and after shaking hands with him he invited me in. After entering the room, Mr. Wanamaker introduced me to a Mr. he invited me in. After entering the room, Mr. Wanamaker introduced me to a Mr. Van Valkenburg. When I started to go out Mr. Van Valkenburg called me back and said he would like to have a talk with me after the meeting was over. At the appointed time I met Mr. Van Valkenburg in a back room of the Smith House, Connellsville, no one being present but him and myself. After talking over the cam-paign generally, he said Mr. Wanamsker was a candidate for United States senator and he thought that I could get some help by promising to cast my vote in case of my election for Mr. Wanamaker, and he then referred me to Edmund Dunn. I met Mr. Dunn in the hall just as I stepped out of the room and he said. 'I want to see you at a quarter past 9 o'clock.'
"At the appointed time I met Mr. Dunn,

who was accompanied by W. Howard Thomas, in a room in the Smith House, Mr. Van Valkenburg being in the room when we entered. In conversation the gentlemen present told me that this was a business campaign, and that the people wanted Wanamaker elected, and that they proposed to help me if I promised to vote for Mr. Wanamaker. In considera-tion of this agreement I was to receive \$500. They then proposed for me to write an agreement or statement to that effect, omitting the consideration I omitting the consideration I was to re-ceive. I said: 'Mr. Van Valkenburg, you write it and I will sign it.' He said: 'No, you write it and I will dictate it.' He drew a paper from his pocket and as he read from this paper I wrote it, and after signing it placed it in an envelope and gave it to Mr. Dunn. Mr. Van Valken-burg and Edmund Dunn left the room toburg and Edmund Dunn left the room together, leaving Mr. Thomas and myself
in the room. I asked Mr. Thomas how
about the other two members from Fayette. He said that they had been seen and
fixed; and that two members from Westmoreland county had been fixed, and that
the other two would be. Mr. Dunn came
back into the room and counted me out
\$200 in 20-dollar notes and told me to come
back on the following Thursday and he
would give me \$200 more. I returned to
Connellsville the following Thursday.
"I met my colleague, Mr. G. W. Campsell, on the street. He told me that our
other colleague, George Hopwood, was
in town; that he had seen him standing
opposite Dunn's store as he (Campbell)

opposite Dunn's store as he (Campbell) came out of Dunn's store. I went to Dunn's store as arranged, and on enter-

hands of the same gentleman, and on each occasion made a full statement of what took place and said that the matter should at once be exposed, but after fur-ther consideration I concluded to let the matter drop and at the proper time return the money. Overtures were made to me by other persons, having reference to my support of Mr. Wanamaker, long before I was approached by the persons named in this statement, and it was only after numerous invitations that I concluded to numerous invitations that I concluded to whom it was deposited at the time."

An affidavit is in evidence from the Captain Edmund Dunn above referred to in which the substance of the foregoing testimony is corroborated, with the qualification that Dunn claims he and some friends, instead of Wanamaker, furnished the money. That that qualification is unimportant will be doubted by few who have had practical experience in politics, and who therefore know that rarely does a candidate himself superintend the detailed

Our point with reference to Mr. Wan-

amaker is simply this. In our judg-

ment he pretends to be better than he

disbursement of his "fund."

is. We are not disposed to take him at his own valuation when we believe that that greatly overrates his real worth. We consider him an inferior and unfit candidate for United States senator, and therefore we oppose him. We do not defame him unless it be mable paper, I must earnestly protest against such "flings" at religion and good men as are contained in your editorial of methods. We do not seek to elevate methods. We do not seek to elevate Penrose by pulling Wanamaker down. We merely insist that before the hue ble instance to prove the charge, but simply calumniating him by mean, subtle, underhanded instnuation, you not only do gross injustice to the man himself, but you ourrage the Christian sentiment of the whole country. That unprincipled politicians in certain localities should resort to unworthy means to boom Wanamaker would not be strange. But if this is the case it in powies incriminates him leaves it in the case it in the and cry is permitted to extinguish Penby any vestige of evidence and denied by their victim under oath, is it an unwarranted conclusion in the judgment of fair-minded men that they are hypocrites, who, instead of posing as models of righteousness, should hang their

> The Scranton board of control is evidently determined to make its sessions as interesting as a three-volume novel.

Pingree on the War-Path. In another space in this issue appears

an interesting interview with the governor-elect of Michigan, in which he outlines some of the reforms which he proposes to battle for at Lansing. Many of his statements, that at first seem revolutionary, simmer down, upon careful analysis, to simply bits of common sense. Take his citation of a two-cent rate for railroad travel when the traveler advances to the company \$20 for a 1000-mile ticket. If it be possible to haul such passengers for two cents at a profit, why should the poor man pay three cents a mile-particularly when the interstate commerce statistics show that the average cost of hauling a passenger one mile is between 7 and 8 mills? The railroad companies no doubt have reasons of their own, but are those reasons adequate?

Again, take the case of freight charges between points where there is railway competition and ale between points where there is none. Shippers of anthracite who recall the discriminations practiced before the Coxe suit and before the formation of protective combinations among coal shippers will appreciate what Colonel Pingree has to say on that point and-unless they be larger holders of railway shares-will wish him luck in his battle for the public's rights. And so on through the list. In almost every particular Pingree is in line with fairness to the masses. Especially opportune is his suggestion of a popular vote on franchises. This plan, as another has well said, is "practicable and feasible and offers a very effective device for depriving the boodler of his occupation and for pre-

venting corruptible councilmen from bartering away the people's streets without adequate compensation for the public." Tax-dodging by corporations, which he proposes to stop, if it can be stopped.

is a story too long for more than casual reference. We will not tread on local corns, but will go to far-off Missouri for an illustration. The labor commissioner of that state has been computing the earnings and taxation of street railway properties, and he finds, according to the Times-Herald, that the street railway corporations have been guilty of tax dodging on a gigantic scale. It is ascertained, for example, that the Missouri Street Railroad company has a market value of \$4,440,000, yet according to the assessor's figures this company's property is only worth \$622,000. "Such gross undervaluation," adds our Chicago contemporary, "is all the more reprehensible when the value of the franchises recklessly do mind, brain, and thought curers, hypnotic, mated to these corporations is taken into consideration. It is estimated that the cost of constructing the street rail-the cost of constructions are constructed by the cost of constructions are constr \$38,000,060, which means that the value of the franchise voted to the companies by the servants of the people was \$30,-000,000. Upon a 3 per cent. basis the public should receive from this property at least \$900,000 a year. It is ascertained that the total sum received in taxes is only \$47,000."

Pingree, to be sure, is a radical sort of fellow, seemingly, who isn't averse to getting his name in print; but, after all, could these evils be cured or even checked to any appreciable extent, without radical men and more or less radical measures? They certainly are not going to cure themselves; and from the enthusiasm stirred among the masses by aggressive men who strike out along Pingree's line it is pretty safe to assume that the day of recoil from the abuse of corporate privileges is nearer than some interests appear to recognize.

It is worthy of note that the only personal scandal injected in the present senatorial fight has been aimed by Dunn's store as arranged, and on entering I saw Mr. George Hopwood and Dunn in the back part of the store at the desk. I turned and went out; shortly after I returned to the store and met Mr. Dunn, who gave me the balance of the \$500 agreed upon, which was \$200. He said. 'Now, take this money; keep it quiet, and vote for John Wanamaker; that's all I ask you to do.' The \$300 I received on the night of Oct. 25 I placed in the hands of a gentleman at Uniontown within three hours after having received it, and after receiving the other \$200 I placed it in the Wanamaker supporters at Penrose. The

tory is full of such instances-our greatest senators. Clay and Webster. occur at once to mind. But the man who holds civic preferment as so much merchandise, to be bought and sold by those who have the price, may be in private life a miracle of pretended says that while conversing with the saintliness and yet be in his public representations a menace to the republic.

Senator Quay's remarks in the senat-Monday upon the Mitchell joint resolution proposing an amendment to the constitution so as to provide for the election of United States senators by a direct vote of the people possesses significance. He said: "I do not know that I shall desire to discuss the resolution at any period of its progress through the chamber, and I rise merely to suggest to the senator from Oregon that he shall not be hasty in calling it up and putting it upon final passage because it is possible that there may be a few occurrences in my own state that may be developed before the senate, which will reinforce his theory. It doesn't take a great deal of shrewdness to guess to what "occurrences" he refers.

The Philadelphia Press in its Harrisburg correspondence, upon the authority of Captain John C. Delaney, announces the withdrawal of ex-Lieuten ant Governor Watres from the sena torial race, and adds: "Senator Vaughan, who was instructed to vote for Watres, can vote as he pleases now and it is said that he is for Penrose The members of the house from Lackawanna will vote for Wanamaker, and the Luzerne members, who were for Watres first and Hastings second, will also yote for Wanamaker." We should like to know where the Press gets its authority for its statement with ref-Frence to the Intention of the "members of the house from Lackawanna.

The spirit of Christmas, with its cry of "peace on earth and to men, good will," mets with hideous burlesque in both Armenia and Cuba, and civilization ought not to stand it in either

Dr. Giffin's remark about the fallure of modern fiction to treat ministers reverently is true in general, but it overlooks Ian Maclaren's stories. These stories not only are decent, but they also sell.

We must say that we don't covet Consul General Lee's job at Havana.

A blind man can see now that Maceo death is to be Cuba's salvation.

With Weyler the bribe is mightier than the sword.

Just a Word or Two of Casual Mention

On Christmas Day a big eisteddfod wi be held in Pittsburg at which the Pitts-burg papers announce that choirs from this city will compete. For the benefit of our Pittsburg contemporaries we might say that Scranton will not be represented by contestants at the Christmus Day eisteddfod. The singers of this city and its vicinity have on several occasions particlpated in the musical contests in the Smoky City and much money was ex-pended to transport large choirs to that place. The Pittsburg singers never returned the compliment by entering con-tests hereabouts, and for this and other reasons the local singers decided not to enter in any of the competitions at the ap-proaching Pittsburg eisteddfod.

Secretary D. B. Atherton, of the board Secretary D. B. Atherton, of the board of trade, received a letter yesterday from Ray Stone assuring him that he will be in the city next Monday to address the board of trade on the subject of good roads. Mr. Stone is the special agent and engineer of the road inquiry division of the United States department of agriculture and his beadquarters are at Wash. ture and his headquarters are at Wash-ington, D. C. He is considered one of the leading authorities of the country on the subject of good roads.

The board of health of New York city propose, if it can secure the necessary appropriation, to appoint medical examiners for all the schools—public, private, and parochial—in New York, with a view to prevent the spread of contagious diseases, especially diphtheria and scarlet fever, among children. It is the opinion of the medical officers of the board that the greatest source of transmission of in-fectious and contagious diseases among children is through their contact with one another in schools. It is also believed that a material reduction in the number of cases of sickness and death from contaglous diseases can be secured by a daily inspection of the pupils of each school by a medical inspector, and by ascertaining whether children absent from school are sick with contagious of infectious disease. How would this scheme work in Scran-

Speaking of the Medical Record-which, by the bye, is good reading for the lay-man as well as for the practitionerdraws a pessimistic picture of the physi-cian of the future, calculated to dampen the ardor of Scranton's several dozen young "medleos" who hope in due time to add themselves to the more than three score and ten M. D.s already in the local many who should be going to his own or to his brother's office, and who will to-morrow run off to 'a divine healer' and leave a bank bill on his table in return for the benefits they hope will come from the laying on of hands."

Speaking of public baths here goes for a resurrection of the swimming pool at Nay Aug park. It can be built in a satisfactory manner for \$5,000. It can be mad-ideal for \$10,000. Its maintenance would be scarcely worth considering. The bone fits are so many they can scarcely be catalogued. The desirability need not be discussed. We want it. We should have it. We can have it. We will have it.

If, as the firemen claim, the Clarency bill intended that each city's share of the revenue from the tax on foreign fire insurance companies should be set aside for the relief of disabled firemen, this city could do many a worse thing than to stretch the law a little and allow this money to be devoted to the purpose for which it was meant. Councils under-stand thoroughly how, on account of the antiquated statute against civic pensions, the framers and promotors of this bill could not include its real purpose among its provisions and had to have it passed with the verbal understanding that its revenues should be devoted to pensions for firemen. They can easily satisfy themselves on this point and after doing so their only duty before turning over this money is to assure themselves that it will be properly taken care of.

M'KINLEY'S WISH.

Washington Letter, Pittsburg Dispatch. The arrest of a peregrinating preacher by Hon, Boles Penrose on a Carge of libel has excited a great deal of attention here. has excited a great deal of attention here, and one cannot mix among politicians and members of congress for a moment with-

out hearing a discussion in some form of the senatorial contest. A member of con-gress who visited President-elect McKin-ley within the last few weeks volunteered a grist of information to the correspondent of the Dispatch today which may be not without interest, stipulating that his identity shall in no way be indicated. He says that while conversing with the tioned, and Mr. McKinley expressed an carnest hope that the contest will not involve any lack of harmony between Senator Quay and the successor of Senator Cameron, whosever the latter might be. He intimated that such inharmony between senators would be inevitably very disagreeable to the executive in making necessary appointments, and hoped the relations between so eminent a leader us Quay and the new senator might be thor-oughly cordial. Of course the president-elect well understood the impossibility of the growth of any profound sentiment of affection between Senator Quay and Brother Wanamaker.

THE SUPERIOR COURT.

From the Pittsburg Chronicle-Telegraph. There is some absurd talk about repeal-ing the act of the last legislature estab-lishing the Superior court of Pennsylvania. It is not stated who will have the temerity among legislators to introduce such a bill, but that the rash and senseless impulse will meet with the strong disap-probation of the great majority can easily be prophesied. This court has taken away about half the cases from the Su-preme court, and the findings have met with a surprising degree of acceptance. Very little grumbling is heard on the part of litigants. There was at first, naturally, ome indisposition to take the Superior court's decisions as final, but this has melted away with the observation that these were based upon adequate and just conceptions. The general public takes it as a blessing of great value that the prompt dispatch of legal business is thus assured, and also that the more thorough consideration which the removal of pressure insures, enables the Supreme court to strike at some evils disclosed by the oper-ation of our laws with more force and certainty.

QUAY AND HANNA.

Wellman, in the Times-Herald. The day after Mr. Quay's manifesto against rich men appeared in the papers Mark Hanna met him. "Blast your eyes, you old hypocrite," exclaimed Mr. Hanna, "I see you are against men who have a little money. You would keep me out of the senate, would you, you old Pecksniff." Mr. Quay only laughed and winked that peculiar wink of his. It is needless to add that there is no quarrel between Measra. that there is no quarrel between Messrs Hanna and Quay. They are so friendly they can talk to one another just as they

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajacchus The Tribune Astrologer. Astrolabe cast: 2.28 a. m., for Wednesday

Dec. 16, 1896. E 95 A child born on this day will notice that in modern times those whom the gods wish to destroy they first make "hot in Scranton has not, like Wilkes-Barre, a champion bleycle rider, but the city can

evertheless boast of some very rapid young men. It is barely possible that Uncle John

Wanamaker may yet escape from the hands of his friends who are pressing responsibilities upon him. A man's ignorance of a matter of public interest can sometimes be guaged by his anxiety to enlighten the rest of mankind

upon the subject. Hazleton wants a cavalry troop. Hazle-ton will do well to beware of General Gobin.

Speaking of the party pursuing the school board, it is hoped that she will Sparh'em further trouble. Ajacchus' Advice.

Do not attempt to pick a quarrel with your best girl before the 25th instant. After that date, however, it will probably

Do not wait until the last minute but come and select your gifts before the rush.

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All Make Nice Presents.

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which will entitle the pur-

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