

The Scranton Tribune

Daily and Weekly. No Sunday Edition.

Published at Scranton, Pa., by The Tribune Publishing Company.

New York Office: Tribune Building, Frank S. Gray, Manager.

ENTERED AT THE POSTOFFICE AT SCRANTON, PA., AS SECOND-CLASS MAIL MATTER.

SCRANTON, DECEMBER 17, 1896.

Quite a number of Democratic newspapers in Pennsylvania and elsewhere are again predicting Senator Quay's downfall. It is the force of habit.

Occasion for Pause.

There is one feature in connection with the senatorial canvass which, long after that contest shall have been decided, will cause the judicious to grieve. We refer to the apparent indifference with which many honest and sincere persons, including, alas, some ministers of the Christian religion, accept and act upon the anonymous charges that have been spread broadcast against the private character of one of the candidates for Senator Cameron's position.

These charges, as soon as they could be fastened upon any responsible circulator, have been explicitly and emphatically denied, under oath, by the gentleman at whom they were aimed, and two men, purporting to be ministers, have at his instance been bound to court on an indictment for criminal libel. Yet still the poisonous character goes on; the poison has been so expertly placed along the channels of irresponsible dissemination that it would take a detective force larger than the population of Pennsylvania to hold it in check. Senator Penrose, the victim of this work, comes of one of the first families in Philadelphia, has been for fourteen years the representative at Harrisburg of one of the most discriminating and cultured constituencies in the commonwealth; has repeatedly received its endorsement at the polls; has been honored by its fellow senators with their unanimous vote for president pro tempore of the senate, and stands among those who know him well as the peer in ability of any of the younger public men in the Keystone state. Yet twice have the scoundrels who work under cover set going among professed believers in Christian justice reports which none of them dared father in the open, and on these lying, skulking charges, fought by him and by his friends to the fullest extent of their ability, he was once slaughtered for mayor of Philadelphia and is now marked for sacrifice in another ambition. If such a result can again be achieved by repetition of the same contemptible methods.

The present struggle will soon draw to a close, and in the course of time pass from public memory. It may result with the cowardly and character-assassins triumphant, and with their unctuously pious candidate confirmed in his bid for honor, thus ignominiously—although we doubt it. But whatever the immediate outcome, there is one consequence that may reach much further; and it will be realized if they who stand for religion and morals lend their aid and become the misguided accomplices of others who, under the shelter of anonymity and by methods which dare not face the open daylight, strike down with falsehood and scandal an opponent whom they cannot conquer in manly battle. The immediate victim may be Penrose, but the ultimate loser will be Christian decency and fairness, and in such an issue we had far rather go down in defeat with Penrose than to win by the sly tactics of the opposition.

This afternoon at 4 o'clock the senate will vote upon the Lodge bill to restrict immigration by denying admission to foreigners who cannot read at least one language. There is no need to rehash the arguments on this subject; it is enough to say that the country expects this bill, or a better one, to pass.

Ballot Improvements.

The recommendations made by Secretary Reeder in his annual report relative to needed amendments in the ballot law are being widely discussed. The recent election brought out two conspicuous faults—first, in the shortness of time between the last day for filing nomination papers and election day (a brevity which in a complicated election might easily endanger the printing of the ballots in sufficient time for use on election day); and secondly, in the present facility for complicating the ballot by the inclusion of really unnecessary and fruitless columns. Anyone who unfolded the last blank ballot in this state will bear testimony that a vast deal of white paper was wasted on it, to the voter's confusion as well as to his cost.

The first fault is easily remedied; no objection will arise to doubling the time; but the second one is likely to lead to war. When the Baker act was framed an attempt was made to have the names of all the candidates grouped together under the offices to be filled, thus necessitating one column and that not more than two feet long in a presidential year. The politicians for obvious reasons, opposed this and stood out for the barn-door ballot. They won, and they will probably win again in the same issue. But just the same the single-column ballot is the common sense solution of the difficulty, and it will eventually be demanded.

In the event of Brother Kohlsaat persisting in his refusal to accept office from McKinley, we dare say the quota can be filled in other quarters.

A Useless Functionary.

The effort which is to be made in Michigan this winter to secure the abolition of that state of the office of coroner, by placing the necessary duties thereof—which are relatively few compared with the number of coroners' returns—in the hands of the district or prosecuting attorney, will doubtless call general attention to this subject.

We agree thoroughly with the Chicago Times-Herald that so far as the taxpaying public is concerned the coroner is a useless functionary. As that journal says, "his office, which was taken from the English constitution, is a relic of other days when the country was sparsely populated and when the circumstances attending accidental

death were difficult of ascertainment. It was deemed necessary in those days that the causes of a mysterious or accidental death should be promptly inquired into and duly recorded for use in subsequent criminal proceedings in case there might be evidence of foul play or culpable responsibility for the accident on the part of some one. The desirability of such a post-mortem inquiry is just as strong today as it was then, but the changed conditions of our modern life have removed the necessity for a public functionary and a jury for that purpose."

The district attorney could, in person or through agents, do all that needs to be done in such an emergency, with greater celerity and thoroughness, and with much greater economy. A finding by the district attorney would have a weight with the courts not now exerted by the verdict of a coroner's jury and it would enable him, in case of crime, to follow the thread of evidence from its very beginning to the moment of its final presentation in court. In other words, the Michigan proposition is instinct with first-class common sense.

At one moment we are told that Pennsylvania will under no circumstances be represented in the McKinley cabinet, and at the next we are informed, "upon the highest unofficial authority," that J. Hay Brown, of Lancaster is to be the next attorney general. Whatever the truth, Mr. Brown's appointment would be in every respect a fit and praiseworthy one. As the head of the federal department of justice Mr. Brown would be one of the most efficient and industrious cabinet officials the country has ever seen.

The Time Near at Hand.

It was to be expected that when Spain cooled to a realization of its impetuous blunder in making a holiday over Maceo's death there would be an official denial that Maceo had been assassinated. The cablegram of the Spanish foreign minister to Spain's representative at Washington repudiating the story of betrayal and asserting that Maceo fell in open battle in itself cuts no figure whatever in the situation so far as congress and the American government are concerned. We have our own sources of information in such an emergency, and in governing our official action they take precedence over those of the Spanish minister.

The attempt of Senor Dupuy de Lome to make it appear that the betrayal story was a deliberate creation of the Cuban junta at Jacksonville, Fla., deserves no attention until reinforced by unquestionable proof. While it is probably true that much of the news which has come through the junta's hands has been colored for a purpose, the junta in this respect is as a milk-white lamb in comparison with the official Spanish war news bureau in Havana. The junta may have underscored reports of patriot victories and doubtless has also minimized reports to the contrary; but in the meantime, Weyler's censures at the Cuban capital have utterly divorced themselves from the truth. While, therefore, Cuban testimony may reasonably inspire independent investigation, Spanish official evidence is simply incredible on its own merits and dare not be believed until thoroughly corroborated in every essential particular.

But suppose Maceo was killed, as the Spaniards claim, in a fair fight. How does that modify the situation? The Spanish gloating over his death, the turning of that grim tragedy into a provocation for a general festival and jubilee, condemns Spain as unfit to govern a people living within the inspiration of American institutions. It convicts Spanish authority of enough to warrant our stopping its brutality in the American hemisphere. It leaves the Spaniard stripped of the last vestige of a claim to our respectful consideration. One more year of war, according to Cleveland's message, means Cuba's utter ruin. For Cuba and for humanity, therefore, this republic ought soon to interfere.

A bill has been introduced and favorably reported in congress providing that each session of congress commencing with the next one shall convene for the first session the first Monday after the fourth day of March of the year next succeeding the election of the members, instead of nearly a year after as now, and shall convene for the second session on the first Monday after the first day of January of the year following, and shall convene the third Monday in February of the year following each presidential election, this last named session being for the sole purpose of counting the electoral votes for president and vice president. The purpose of the proposition is plain—to facilitate the enactment into law of the popular will as expressed in general elections. It is a purpose whose mere statement is its justification.

In all, 6,126 persons were killed and 22,748 persons were injured on the railroads of the United States last year, according to the interstate commerce commission, yet it is reported only 49 were killed and 97 injured in actual collisions, and only 47 were killed and 84 injured by derailment. The great bulk of accidents were at highway crossings and at stations, and were due as much to the public's carelessness as to that of the railroads. The records of the interstate commerce commission and of the accident insurance companies show that a man is safer in a moving car than on a city street corner.

The late General Maceo was a mulatto and an outlaw. He was also a great general and a patriot, but race and social caste in Cuba was against him. His successor, General Rivera, is a native Cuban, a full-blooded white, and a man of unquestionable standing. If he can equal Maceo in the field, he can surpass him in the ability to enlist influential support among the better class of Cubans.

The Tribune has received, with the compliments of the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, a pretty illustrated pamphlet giving numerous half-tone views of that newspaper's office and equipment, together with a detailed description of its daily production. The latter is not different from many similar descrip-

tions with which the lay public is nowadays familiar; but it is fair to the Globe-Democrat to add that it has one unique characteristic—it is the most truly national newspaper in the country. Its telegraphic and special news services cover every section with unsurpassed fullness and accuracy, and its area of distribution comprises a third of the United States, territory it is clean, able, Republican and progressive; in other words, it is one of our greatest institutions.

In the county of Philadelphia there are 28 members of the state house of representatives and 8 state senators—36 in all. Of these 29 representatives and 7 senators have declared for Penrose. Only 9 of the remaining 19 have pledged themselves to Wanamaker. This simple statement of fact would seem to answer the question, "Which of the two senatorial candidates is Philadelphia's choice?"

It is reported that Governor Morton, of New York, has suggested to President Cleveland the advisability of inviting President-elect McKinley to a conference on the Cuban problem. We don't know whether this is true or not, but the idea in any event is an appropriate one. There is no reason why it should not be acted upon.

The Northwestern Christian Advocate of Chicago has made inquiries of officials of nineteen representative railroads as to their rules concerning the use of intoxicants by employees, and it finds that in every instance the habitual or even occasional drinker is held subject to discount or discharge. That is prohibition in a practical form.

Representative Dingley's newspaper, the Lewistown Journal, denies upon the authority of both Major McKinley and Mr. Dingley himself that the latter is to be the next secretary of the treasury. This would seem to be decisive.

The Times last evening printed an interesting Xmas edition of 24 pages. While in general we do not believe in such special issues, this particular instance calls at least for the fair admission that it was well done.

Reports from Havana are to the effect that American citizens there are in continual fear of assassination. It is a pity there isn't a Yankee warship in the neighborhood.

Just a Word or Two of Casual Mention

The police are generally willing to tell newspaper men every good story that comes under their noses. In the case of going the rounds of the force just now that they are not giving to the reporters; in fact, they are endeavoring to keep it from them. We would not wonder if they were, but it is all right to tell it here in strict confidence. A family named Blank lives in the front of a large frame building on W. Lackawanna street. The rest of the family is not named. The family lived on the street for some time, but one night recently Chief Robling and a squad of officers made a raid on the place. Up they went and in a few moments a terrible row was going on and women were surrounded by officers and told to get ready to accompany the officers to the station house.

"What for?" asked one of the men. "Read the warrant, John," said the chief to Lieutenant Davis. "This is what for," said the lieutenant, as he read a process from Alderman Miller's court alleging the offense of keeping a disorderly house. Two of the women faintly; some of the men showed indignation and fight. Blank, for it was his apartment, the police had gotten into, soothed his family and callers by explaining the mistake, and the chief and his greatly outnumbered squad crawled out through a knot hole. They made the raid on the Smith place, but it was with heavy hearts and without the dash that generally characterizes these bold achievements.

A number of men who assist in making the daily papers of the city were seated in Lehigh's naturally newspaper work was the leading topic of conversation. "Every newspaper has to do some very nervous things at times," said one of the group. "But I don't think the city has ever produced a man who could so completely ignore all personal feeling when in quest of the elusive item as could W. W. Gallagher during the days when he helped to edit the columns of the Scranton papers. Gallagher was going to Dunmore one afternoon to cover an assignment and on the car which he was riding saw several persons whose gay attire led him to believe were members of a wedding party. He scented an item, and picking out the brown suit which accuracy introduced himself and obtained the facts with reference to the wedding. The couple were married that morning in a neighboring town and came to Scranton with several friends to begin the wedding tour. They had to wait several hours for a train and employed the time by taking in the sights of the city by the trolley route. That may not appear to have been a very great exhibition of nerve," concluded the speaker, "but I'll wager the dinner of the next morning there is not a 'scowp' hunter in this party that would be equal to such an occasion."

No one offered to take the wager. George Jones, Scranton's colored letter-carrier, may not be a horse trainer by profession but he has trained so well the horse used in making some of the letter box collections that he has been looked upon as quite a wonder. No matter how crowded the streets may be, Jones is so crowded to dismount his horse and vehicle at the postoffice collection trip has been made, leaving the animal to pick his way alone through the traffic on Washington avenue until he reaches Cuck's livery stable where he is stabled. If there is much travel on the street the horse picks his way along a slow trot until the sidewalk in front of the stable entrance when he slackens pace and walks sedately along the long carriage-way leading to the barn. He does this every day. Frequently a policeman may also be seen starting to halt the animal and often he has been stopped. When this occurs he shakes his head in protest until the policeman on that beat or some one who knows his custom obtains his release. Then he trots off with ears erect and a graceful nod of his head.

Says the Pittsburgh Chronicle-Telegraph of Tuesday: "A. J. Colborn, Jr., esq., a prominent member of the Lackawanna county bar, is in the city on professional business. Mr. Colborn is an applicant for appointment as United States attorney for this district, and has the endorsement of many counties in the northwestern part of the district."

That there is still employment herabouts for the fool killer was demonstrated Monday at the Academy of Music. That popular play house was crowded from pit to dome to see the "Mammoth" and "Mammoth" and during the intermission which preceded the last act two enthusiasts in the gallery began to wrangle about the rights to occupy a seat. A slight commotion resulted.

Then some blithering idiot yelled "fire!" and it was not for the prompt action of the cool, trained employee of the house a panic might have resulted. During the momentary excitement the man who yelled covered in front his identity in the crowd. He should have been thrown through a convenient window.

Not the least striking at night-of the many evidences of Christmashood about the city is the evergreen tree outside a window of the Suburban Electric Light company's offices on the third floor of the Commonwealth building. It attracts particular attention after dark when, high above the street, it is lighted by two scores or more of tiny incandescent lights of many colors. Seen from a distance from many points on Court House square the tree and its brilliant decorations are cheerful reminders of the holiday.

We think we are within limits in saying that all who know Professor O. P. Williams will regret to learn of the business of the day which yesterday compelled him to suspend activities at the business college which bears his name. What the reason for this is, we do not know. We only know that during his residence in this city Professor Williams has conducted himself in a manner to win many sincere admirers and that he is a man of great ability and a most favorable one.

Frank J. McCann can see and appreciate a funny incident about as quick and as thoroughly as the best of them. He can also tell what he sees in a way to make it decidedly entertaining. In fact he is one of the best of our local story-tellers and has a place in the same category with Myron Kason, Andy Bedford, Dolph Atherton and Frank Phillips. His fund of stories and utterances is limitless and the best of it all is they are every one's own.

DISGRACED HIS CALLING.

From the Lebanon Report (Anti-Quay). When Harold Frederic introduced into his "Damnation of Theron Ware" the life story of Brother and Sister Soule, it was true to life. There are, it would seem, just such evangelists as the Soules in the world now. There will no doubt continue to be. There are worse ones than these, however, and of one such we have been reading all too much. He has been circulating in the southeastern corner of the state and under the livery of the gospel, has been indolently besmearing the character of a public man. We profess no admiration for State Senator Penrose. He is Quay's chosen candidate for United States senator, which is enough to cast a serious reflection on his political character. More than that, even Senator Penrose was rejected by the people of Philadelphia, when he aspired to be their mayor, and the alleged cause of that rejection was grave defects in his moral character. But if even all is true of this man, who will possibly be Pennsylvania's representative in the United States senate the next six years, that does not in the least condone the alleged and infamous ends. He disgraced the high calling he represents.

ENGLISH PLUM PUDDING.

From the Times-Herald. From the English recipe for the real English plum pudding, without which no Christmas dinner is complete. Thoroughly wash half a pound of large currants, pick them over carefully and dry them. Stone a half-pound of the best raisins, cut them in halves, and slice a half-pound of candied citron into thin shreds. Chop finely the quarters of a pound of suet, and grate three-quarters of a pound of stale bread into very fine crumbs or dust. Mix currants, raisins, citron, suet and bread crumbs together, stirring over them a wineglassful of brandy and eight eggs, beaten until light. Put in a cloth bag, tie tightly, and boil six hours. If you have a pudding mold you can press the mixture firmly into that, being careful to butter the mold first. Turn the pudding out, pour two tablespoonfuls of brandy about it, and let the brandy just as it is brought to the table. Serve brandy sauce with it, and place a little sprig of holly on the top.

SENATOR QUAY'S TIE.

The other day Senator Quay, who usually is dressed very modestly, appeared in the senate wearing a gorgeous colored necktie, whereupon one of the newspaper wits in the press gallery postulated as follows:

The parrot with his gaudy plume,
The rainbow in the sky,
The lights that flame in frozen north,
The opal's flashing eye,
The peacock with resplendent tail,
The ruddy pumpkin pie—
Not all these frigid things
Can ever hope to vie
With half the gorgeous colors in
Matt Quay's Tie.

WANAMAKER WAS UNFRIENDLY TO MCKINLEY.

Parker L. Walter, in Pittsburg Dispatch. Mr. Wanamaker was at no time either by voice or influence friendly to the nomination of Mr. McKinley, and as an absolute proof of this I may say that but a short time before the St. Louis convention he was busy to get out a card favoring the nomination of Benjamin Harrison. He visited a number of prominent public men on this errand and among others Senator Quay, to whom he offered absolutely a place in the cabinet of Mr. Harrison in return for the support of the friends of Quay in Pennsylvania and elsewhere.

DAVID'S LAMENT.

From the Washington Post. I mourn the fate that gives me pause!
The Fourth of March is drawing nigh—I hate to think of it because I have to turn to my city.
—From "Unpublished Laments" by David B. Hill.

A BRILLIANT SPEECH.

From the Washington Post. Senator Culberson's speech on Cuba, as printed in the Record, is full of brilliant literary and dramatic effects, particularly one and he closed by declaiming this beautiful tribute to the United States from the pen of Bayard Taylor:

Now, in her most secure,
Where distant menaces no more can reach her;
Our land in unshaken freedom pure,
Becomes the unwilling world's unconquerable teacher:
And day by day beneath serene skies,
The nations of her palace
Those Doric shafts that lightly upward press,
And hile in grace their giant massive forms.

Her once war-wasted arm,
Put forth to shield a sister land from
Frequently a victor's hand,
Ere the last blood on her blade had dried,
Shall still be stretched to succor and to guard.
Beyond our borders, answering each need,
With counsel and with deed—
Along our Eastern and our Western wave,
Still strong to smite, still beautiful to save.

SANTA CLAUS
Sends his box orders to our
HOLIDAY STORE
211 Wash. Ave., Opp. Court House.
BEIDLEMAN, THE BOOKMAN
437 Spruce Street.

GOLDSMITH'S BAZAAR.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL.

This is a time when hearts expand and purse-strings loosen; when our greatest happiness is in making others happy. At no time in the round year is this store (your store) so attractive to you as now. Time, money and brains have been taxed in collecting this array of Christmas Merchandise.

Full preparation has been made to fit your gift-giving needs. The store has donned its holiday attire and bids you kindly welcome.

Books,
Dolls,
Toys,
Games,
Rugs,
Cushions,
Glass,
Silver,

Albums,
Stationery,
Jewelry,
Carpet Sweepers,
Handkerchiefs,
Umbrellas,
Mufflers,
Kid Gloves,

Aprons,
Leather
Goods,
Fur Sets,
Nobby
Neckwear,
Fine Shirts,
Etc., Etc.

Store Open Evenings Until Christmas

THERE ARE OTHERS

BUT NONE IN SCRANTON which can compare in any way with our mammoth tailoring establishment. Our line in Suits, Trousers and Overcoats is as complete as you will find in any city. Our patterns and fashions are up-to-date and the very latest—only. Should our prices be too low let us know and we will make the necessary correction. Our work and fit we guarantee. We don't allow a garment to leave our place except perfectly satisfactory. Buying facilities enable us to sell at much lower than lowest prices, hence here, like everywhere else, our immense success.

GREAT EASTERN SUIT AND PANTS COMPANY, D. LOWENSTEIN
Branch 14. 427 Lackawanna Avenue, Scranton, Pa. Proprietor. Branch 14.

SKATES A GREAT CHANGE

For two days only we will sell a

Large Bible
Divinity Circuit Binding,
Very Fine Paper,
For \$1.75

We have the Largest and Most Complete Line of

Holiday Goods
in the city.

Reynolds Bros.,
Stationers and Engravers,
HOTEL JERMYN BUILDING.

Philadelphia Manufacturers of Cloaks and Suits
421 Lackawanna Avenue.

HAVE YOU VISITED OUR WIDE-AWAKE STORE
Where new and attractive goods are offered every day at prices exceptionally low. If you want to buy a good, sensible Christmas gift you can find it here.

BEAVER AND BOULE JACKET, well tailored; silk lined, latest effects, equalled to the best \$7.50 coat ever retailed; marked by us... **\$3.98**

FINE ASTRACHAN CLOTH JACKET—dressed effects, new shield fronts; silk lined; splendid \$9 value; marked by us... **\$4.98**

ASTRACHAN BOULE AND KERSEY CLOTH JACKET, best tailoring, silk lined throughout, most correct styles, equal to the regular \$15 coats sold elsewhere; we mark these... **\$7.98**

SPECIAL LOT OF LADIES' DRESS WAISTS in stylish checked effects, dress-maker made, all lined, usually \$1.49; this week... **\$.98**

EXTRA FINE SILK PLUSH CAPES, full sweep, trimmed with Thibet, 33-inch lined throughout, most correct styles, good value at \$15; our price... **\$7.98**

Very fine curl Astrachan Cape, lined throughout, trimmed with Thibet fur, cheap at \$12, our... **\$5.98**

No Charge for Alterations
Z. WEINGART, Proprietor.

WOLF & WENZEL,
531 Linden, Opp. Court House.

PRACTICAL TINNERS AND PLUMBERS
Sole Agents for Richardson Boynton's Furnaces and Ranges.

HILL & CONNELL,
131 & 133 Washington Ave.

DR. C. W. GREEN, PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON,
Electrical Treatment a Specialty. Offices, 607, 608 and 609 Meigs Building, SCRANTON, PA.

C. W. GREEN, M. D.,
607, 608 and 609 Meigs Building, Scranton. Hours—9 a.m. to 12, 1 p.m. to 5; 7:30 to 9.

MALONEY OIL AND MANUFACTURING CO.
CALL UP 3893.

OFFICE AND WAREHOUSE,
421 & 423 ABERDIN STREET.

M. W. COLLINS, Manager.